NOVEMBER 2026 VOL. 65

BARNSTEAD BANNER

Good News from a Small Town

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT AN EVENT OR CLASSIFIED FOR THE BARNSTEAD BANNER, PLEASE EMAIL DANIELLE@OSCARFOSS.ORG WITH THE DETAILS.

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NAME THAT NAME

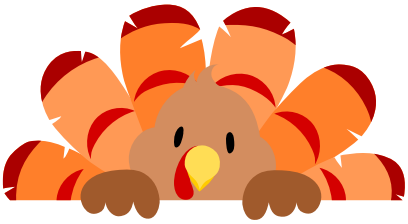
by Kristina Schram

I've never been good at remembering names, and as I've aged, it's gotten worse. I've actually developed namenesia, a devastating condition where you know someone's name, have known it for years, and suddenly, when under pressure to produce it, it's gone, like kids at chore time. This is especially embarrassing when it's my own child's name. I've learned to laugh about my memory glitches, but judging by the look on my kid's faces when I go blank (or call them by a sibling's name), you'd think I'd just threatened to sell their body parts to fund a trip to Vegas.

Namenesia doesn't just hurt feelings, it hurts bodies. One time I was playing basketball and passed the ball to someone who turned away just before seeing the rather large, hard object racing toward her unsuspecting noggin. I went to warn her, but her name had disappeared from my brain. The ball, however, did not disappear, and it smacked her upside the head.

She called me plenty of names after that happened, but none of them are listed on my birth certificate. So maybe she has namenesia, too.

Really, names are just hard all around. In my early years, I went by Kris because that's what my family called me (and still does), and then in high school I changed my name to Kristi because I thought it sounded more sophisticated. When I went to college, I decided to go by my full name to elevate my classy status even higher because I had somehow convinced myself that being classy would get me a boyfriend. I've since learned that while being classy has a certain appeal, it's probably not the definitive trait my husband first noticed when approaching me. I believe it was my leather boots that caught his eye. (His first words to me were, "I like your boots." At least I think he said boots.) Anyway, over the years I've been called Kristine, Kristen, Kirsten, and Kirs (that last one is courtesy of my little sister–and yes, it rhymes with curse, and yes, she's the same one who used to call me a dumb dumb poopy butt). But on the plus side, I now have a number of aliases, making it harder for the government to track me down (not that they have any reason to).



Nicknames create even more problems.

Why do humans even bother giving their newborns long formal names only to shorten them, or add a 'y' two minutes after they're born? It seems we want our children to have these impressive names, like Montgomery or Phillip and Elizabeth or Egberta, to gain respect, but the moment they're born, we can't seem to help ourselves and start calling the little potatoes Monty and Pippers or Bitsy and Eggie. In college and grad school, my friends decided that Kristina was too classy for me–ouch–and proceeded to give me a name more befitting the type of person they thought I was (not classy, apparently). In college they called me Mookie (after a short basketball player, because I was a short basketball player) and in grad school it was Cookie (because I innocently shared with my housemates that one of my favorite Christmas gifts as a child was a homemade Cookie Monster doll, and also because I really like cookies). Not the most imaginative group, but certainly persistent, because my grad friends still call me Cookie. (If any of you try to call me Cookie, I will throw a basketball in your general direction.)

f I were to choose a name for myself, I would be called HRH Queen Kristina, Magnificent Ruler of the Universe and All Its Lesser Inhabitants. It's a mouthful, I know, so I grant you permission to just call me Queen Kristina (now that's a nickname I can work with!). And to help you remember my new name, I will start wearing a crown. Hey, anything to combat namenesia…

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BARNSTEAD PARADE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Worship Service 9:00 A.M.
Rev. Sandy Pierson—483-2846

BE THE CHURCH
Protect the environment. Care for the poor.
Forgive often. **Reject racism.**
Fight for the powerless.
Share earthy and spiritual resources.
Embrace diversity. Love God. **Enjoy this life.**

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NORTH BARNSTEAD - UCC
504 N. Barnstead Rd. Center. Barnstead, NH
ccnorthbarnstead.com
Worship with us in-person or join on Zoom at 10am

CENTER BARNSTEAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Worship Service - Sundays @ 10AM

www.centerbarnsteadcc.org

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ARTISANS SHOP
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OVER 60 AREA ARTISANS - ALL NH MADE PRODUCTS

1009 Upper City Rd, Pittsfield, NH
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Check our Facebook page for hours of operation
Facebook - page: sugarslocal or visit the Barnstead Business Uncensored group for updates!

NOVEMBER LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Good to Know Info: Voting is Tuesday, Nov. 3, at BES. We are closed for Veteran's Day on Wednesday, Nov. 11. We are closed for staff training on the second Thursday of every month until 3:00 (Nov. 12). We are also closed Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Home School Group: Run by group members, it takes place at the library meeting room on Fridays from 10:30-12:30. Involves a mix of stories, simple science/learning activities, and a creative art/craft activity that all go along with a theme for the week. The activities are geared towards kids ages 4 and up, and younger siblings are welcome to come along. There will be an event posted ahead of time on the group's Facebook page (Barnstead NH Library Homeschool Group) for each weekly meet-up, so you'll always know what to expect and if you need to bring anything.

Music and Movement Storytime, aka Littles Love to Learn! Join us on Tuesdays at 10:30 for an interactive storytime filled with group singing, dancing, imaginative play, crafts, and stories, all designed specifically for babies and toddlers.

Every Wednesday at 10:30 is Children's Storytime. Visit us at the library for stories, crafts, and singing. Then experience the cozy ambience in the children's area, which has all sorts of neat things to do. Make new friends. Set up playdates. Check out books, movies, and games, play with the trains, Legos, and puppets. Come for the learning, stay for the fun!

Start your week off with Yoga Monday! Gentle Hatha-Flow runs from 10:15-11:40, Senior/Beginner/Chair Yoga is 12:00-1:00, and Intermediate Hatha-Flow lasts from 5:30-6:50. Classes are by donation (suggested $8). All are welcome and encouraged to attend, regardless of ability to donate.

Playing a musical instrument alone at home is fun, but it's more fun to make music with others. Adult musicians of all ability levels are invited to join our small group. We meet in Barnstead's library meeting room from 6:00 to 8:00 pm every first (Nov. 3) and third Tuesday (Nov. 17) of the month, and play acoustic (non-amplified) instruments like guitars and ukuleles. Other instruments that might round out our sound would include the harmonica, fiddle, mandolin, etc. (Unfortunately, horns and other instruments that can't be played softly would overpower our softer sounding instruments.) We play various kinds of songs including folk, country, Irish, rock, and more. Sessions are very informal, and the goals are to meet people, share skills, and have fun. Check the calendar on the library website to confirm dates. Please join us!

Our Read the Room Book Club (ages 18+) takes place on the first Wednesday of the month (Nov. 4), from 6:00-7:30. This month's book will be "The Genius Bat" by Yossi Yoval. Next month's book will be "A Psalm for the Wild-Built" by Becky Chambers. Books are available at the library. Bring food, bring thoughts, bring a friend!

Calling all Mahjong fans - come join us at the library! Players meet the first (Nov. 5) and third (Nov. 19) Thursdays of the month at 1:30. No registration or expertise required. Please note that we play the Chinese version, not the American one.

Come join us at the library for a "Blueprint for Bedtime" presentation on Thursday, Nov. 5, at 12:30. Sleep is essential to your physical and emotional well-being. Granite VNA Community Health Educator, Brooke Noonan, will talk about how much sleep we really need, provide ideas for getting a quality night's sleep, and suggest strategies for speaking with your healthcare provider about difficulty sleeping. Registration is required.

NEW! We are starting a Chess Club! Join us at the library every 2nd (Nov. 12) and 4th Thursday (we will not have Chess Club on this day due to Thanksgiving) of the month at 6:00. No registration required–this is a drop-in program hosted in the adult fiction area. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Please bring your own board if you have one, or use one of ours!
Join us on Thursday, November 12, from 6:00-8:00 for Teen Holiday Card Making. Spread a little holiday cheer! Come make your own festive holiday cards for friends and family. We'll provide all the supplies you need to get creative—you just bring your imagination and take your finished cards home to share!

Hey, everyone! We are hosting a "Handmade Harvest" craft fair on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10:00-1:00. Come browse locally made art, crafts, gifts, and creative goods throughout the library and find some unique gifts for the holidays. The Friends of the Library will be operating Oscars Elves gift wrapping service in the library meeting room during the craft fair, as well. Vendors, be sure to email or call the library to reserve a spot if you're interested in participating.

We are hosting a Tea-Time Storytime on Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 10:30! Children and their grown-ups are invited to dress up as their favorite storybook characters and join us for a delightfully good time. Enjoy a special storytime tea with a guest reader, along with crafts, activities, and treats! We hope to see you there!

NEW! Introducing Young Readers Book and Art Club! Held the third Wednesday of each month at 3:00 (11/18), this program is designed for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss their favorite books and enjoy crafts or art activities. Light refreshments will be provided.

On Thursday, Nov. 19 (temporary day change: we typically meet the last Thursday of the month, but that's Thanksgiving this month!), from 6:30-8:00, join us for Books & Banter. Read what you want, then come talk about it! Books & Banter is an 18+ book club with no assigned reading. Discuss whatever you've been enjoying lately, whether it's new, old, borrowed, or rediscovered. Share what stood out, hear what others are reading, and find your next great recommendation in good company.

Our "Let's Write a Novel!" writing group is looking for fresh faces (16+) to join our "Hero's Journey" experience. This structured group will help take your MG, YA, NA, or Adult story idea from concept to can-do! This class runs 6:00-7:30, typically on the last Friday of the month, but will meet early this month due to the holiday (Nov. 20). No writing experience necessary.

On Saturday, Nov. 21, from 12:00-2:00, join your neighbors at Barnstead Elementary School for a free, traditional Thanksgiving meal as we come together to celebrate the community of Barnstead. This special event also provides information about local programs and resources, along with door prizes and activities! To make this event a true community gathering, we kindly ask that if you are able, to sign up to bring at least one of the items on the list. Note: If you are contributing to the meal, please have food delivered between 9:30-10:30 so that we can serve the meal promptly at noon. Please be sure to label your crockpot or dish (including lids) with your name. This year, we're adding something special: a community photo display to celebrate the many ways we've grown together as a community. If you have captured photos of memorable community moments from this past year, please send them to mellodale53@gmail.com by Nov. 9 so we can include them in the display. And for our generous local business owners, if you'd like to contribute a monetary donation or provide door prize items to help support the feast, please contact Melissa McKeen at melcmckeen@gmail.com. For the latest information on joining, contributing, and to RSVP, or if you are in need of transportation, you can phone or email the library. There is also a QR code on fliers around town. We look forward to celebrating with you and are grateful that you are a part of our community. See you there!

NEW! Join us on Thursday, Dec. 3, at 6:00, for the first meeting of Booked for Investigation: A True Crime Book Club (18+). Each month, we'll explore a fascinating true crime book, listen to a related podcast, examine the known evidence, and discuss theories and unanswered questions. Our first book is "The Five: The Untold Lives of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper" by Hallie Rubenhold. Copies can be picked up now at the library. Curious minds and armchair detectives are all welcome—come ready to read the book and follow the clues!

For events that require registration, please contact us at 269-3900 or ofmlstaff@gmail.com to reserve your spot!

CHIMNEY FIRE AWARENESS

A FIRE SAFETY MESSAGE FROM THE
BARNSTEAD FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
BARNSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

KEEPING YOUR HOME WARM AND SAFE

As the temperatures drop and the heating season begins here in New Hampshire, many families turn to fireplaces, wood stoves, and other wood-burning appliances to keep their homes warm. While these provide comfort during our cold New England winters, they can also pose a serious fire hazard if not properly maintained.

The Barnstead Fire Rescue Department wants to remind residents that chimney fires are dangerous, often preventable, and can occur without homeowners even realizing it.

CHIMNEY FIRES BY THE NUMBERS

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, heating equipment was responsible for an estimated 27,200 residential building fires nationwide in 2024.

27,200	145	475	$445.9 MILLION
Residential heating fires	Deaths	Injuries	in property damage

These figures include all heating equipment fires, not just chimney fires.
Source: U.S. Fire Administration – 2024 Residential Building Heating Fire Estimates.

WHAT CAUSES A CHIMNEY FIRE?

The leading cause of chimney fires is the buildup of **creosote**, a highly flammable substance that forms when wood burns. Over time, creosote accumulates along the inside walls of a chimney. If temperatures become hot enough, these deposits can ignite, resulting in a chimney fire.

Other contributing factors include:

- Burning wet or unseasoned wood
- Restricted airflow
- Improper stove operation
- Damaged chimney liners
- Failure to have chimneys regularly cleaned and inspected

WARNING SIGNS OF A CHIMNEY FIRE

- A loud roaring, rumbling, or popping sound coming from the chimney.
- Thick, dark smoke or sparks coming from the chimney top.
- An unusually strong, hot, or smoky odor.
- Excessive heat radiating from the fireplace, stove, or chimney.
- Smoke backing up into the home.

IMPORTANT: Not all chimney fires produce obvious warning signs. A chimney fire may occur without being noticed and leave behind damage that increases the risk of a future house fire.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SUSPECT A CHIMNEY FIRE?

- Get everyone safely outside and **CALL 911 immediately.**
- **Do not attempt** to extinguish the fire with water or climb onto the roof.
- Do not open the stove or fireplace door unnecessarily.
- Once outside, remain at a safe distance and wait for firefighters to arrive.
- Never assume a chimney fire has extinguished itself simply because the noise or smoke has stopped.
- Do not use the chimney again until it has been inspected and cleared for safe operation by a qualified professional.

PREVENTING CHIMNEY FIRES

Many chimney fires can be prevented by taking a few simple precautions:

- Have your chimney **inspected** annually and cleaned whenever necessary.
- Burn only dry, properly seasoned firewood.
- Never burn trash, cardboard, treated lumber, or other inappropriate materials.
- Avoid allowing slow, smoky fires to smolder for extended periods.
- Keep wood stoves and fireplaces operating according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Install working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms throughout your home.
- Keep combustible materials a safe distance from heating appliances.

A clean chimney is a safer chimney.

From all of us at the Barnstead Fire Rescue Department, please have a safe and warm heating season!

Historical Society Page

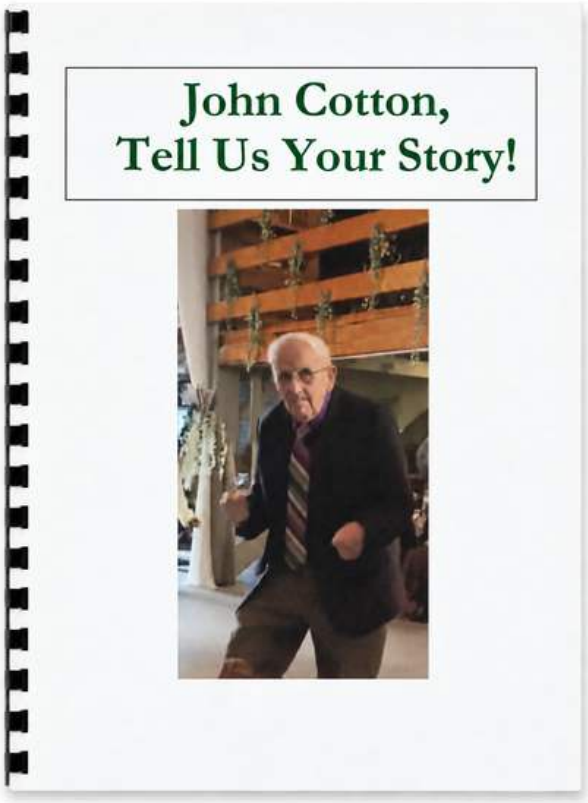
New Items from the Historical Society

We are pleased to offer two new items! Both will be available to purchase at the annual **Christmas Sale on December 5, from 9am-1pm**, at the Parade Fire Station.

2027 CALENDAR

In honor of Barnstead's tricentennial celebration, a calendar has been produced using many historical pictures of town locations, including descriptions of each photo.

Available for $15.



JOHN COTTON, TELL US YOUR STORY!

From Barnstead's own John Cotton comes his memories of growing up in a small New Hampshire town in the mid-1900's.

Available for $10.

Barnstead Historical Society
Christmas Sale
Saturday, December 5, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Parade Fire Station
305 Parade Road

BARNSTEAD
COMMUNITY
FEAST
NOVEMBER 21 | 12 – 2PM
Join us for a delicious meal and warm company as we come together to celebrate being a part of the community of Barnstead and share a traditional Thanksgiving meal together.
Get more information and RSVP
tinyurl.com/BarnsteadFeast2026
Questions? Contact (603)269-3900

Community Events

Board of Selectmen Meeting is weekly on Tuesdays starting at 6PM.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held Tuesday evenings at the Center Barnstead Christian Church and Sunday at the American Legion Post #42 at 1078 Beauty Hill Rd, Barnstead, NH 03218 starting at 7PM

The Milfoil Committee meets at the library on 11/14 at 8:30AM

Barnstead Tricentennial Committee meets at the library on 11/2 at 7PM

Election Day is on 11/3. Voting will take place at the Barnstead Elementary School from 7AM to 7PM.

Veterans Day is 11/11.

The Barnstead Community Feast will be held on 11/21 at Barnstead Elementary School from 12-2PM. All are welcome.

Thanksgiving is 11/26.

For more information about Barnstead Events, use the following links:

Community Event Calendar: https://teamup.com/ksojztyx6jsgmd92n2

Barnstead Elementary School Calendar: https://bes.pmsau.org/o/bes/events

Prospect Mountain High School Calendar: https://pmhs.pmsau.org/o/pmhs/events

Barnstead Town Calendar: https://www.barnstead.org

JOIN THE BARNSTEAD POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR

SENIOR BINGO NIGHT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2026
12 PM - 2 PM

Barnstead Town Hall
108 S. Barnstead Rd.
Ctr. Barnstead, NH 03225

RSVP by 12/12/26 - (603) 269-8100

Jeannie's Recipe Corner

Roast a Perfect Turkey

Everyone will gobble it up!

A little planning makes Thanksgiving less stressful—and leaves more time to enjoy the people around your table!

Turkey Roasting Guide

Set the oven to 325°F. These approximate times are for a fresh or fully thawed whole turkey. Always use a food thermometer to check doneness.

Turkey weight	Unstuffed	Stuffed
8–12 lbs.	2¾–3 hours	3–3½ hours
12–14 lbs.	3–3¾ hours	3½–4 hours
14–18 lbs.	3¾–4¼ hours	4–4¼ hours
18–20 lbs.	4¼–4½ hours	4¼–4¾ hours
20–24 lbs.	4½–5 hours	4¾–5¼ hours

Know When It Is Done

Check for 165°F in the thickest part of the breast and the innermost thigh and wing, avoiding bone. Stuffing must also reach 165°F. Clear juices and meat color are not reliable safety checks—keep a food thermometer on your shopping list! Let the turkey rest for 20 minutes before carving.

Less Stress Thanksgiving Prep

Three weeks before: Choose your recipes and plan your menu.

Two weeks before: Choose your turkey size and decide on fresh or frozen. Plan refrigerator thawing at 40°F or below: allow about 24 hours per 4–5 pounds. A 20–24 lb. turkey needs 5–6 days; cook within 1–2 days after thawing.

The weekend before: Make a detailed shopping list and check your pantry, serving dishes, and supplies.

Tuesday: Make cranberry sauce and other suitable chilled dishes. Cover and refrigerate.

Wednesday: Take inventory before that last store trip—don't forget the turkey! Chop onions and celery; peel squash and potatoes. Keep peeled potatoes covered in cold water in the refrigerator. Prep stuffing ingredients separately and refrigerate perishable ingredients; mix just before cooking. Prepare desserts and get a head start on side dishes as recipes allow.

Thanksgiving Day: While the turkey roasts, cook your sides. Bake stuffing separately for easier, more even cooking. While the turkey rests, make gravy and get everything ready to serve. Refrigerate perishable leftovers within two hours.

Use pretty paper plates if they make cleanup easier—and don't be afraid to ask for help!

Eat, enjoy, and save room for a lovely dessert. Have a safe and wonderful holiday! — Jeannie

Safety guidance and roasting times: USDA FSIS and FoodSafety.gov.