

## Proprietor of new Belmont baking company just can't shake her family's love affair with the kitchen

BY ADAM DRAPCHO  
THE LACONIA DAILY SUN

BELMONT — Debbie Cousineau grew up in a catering family. "On your 13th birthday, you got a cake. The next day you got your butt in the kitchen."

With many siblings working in the family business, Cousineau had to find her niche, which turned out to be baking. As adulthood approached, though, she turned toward the world of marketing, where she worked at a desk and didn't go home with flour in her hair. But the world of baking wasn't through with her.

Cousineau, through no fault of her own, started a baking company AbraCaDebra's at the end of 2011. Originally working out of her Manchester home, she recently moved into the basement of the Osborne's Agway gift shop building in Winnisquam, which had previously been the home of a catering company. Despite her near lack of marketing or business planning, she finds herself baking like a mad woman, pulling all-night shifts and wondering how she was going to keep up with the growing demand.



Debbie Cousineau didn't plan to start her own baking business, demand for her products grew like a word-of-mouth wildfire. She now operates AbraCaDebra's out of the basement of a building in the Osborne's Agway in Winnisquam. (Laconia Daily Sun photo/Adam Drapcho)

A year ago, though, Cousineau wasn't working at all, having left work to be a full-time mom. The only baking she did was for her family — and if there were leftover cookies or an extra pie, she'd give them to her daughter's bus driver. That proved to be her undoing — the bus driver, a kind woman, cajoled Cousineau into baking several pies for her Thanksgiving gathering. Her pies were powerful advertisements, and by the next major holiday several more

people wanted to buy her products. "I was so busy the week before Christmas I didn't sleep for three days," she said.

The orders continued to flow in, this time for Super Bowl parties. With the interest growing, and her daughter old enough for her to go back to work, she figured, "It's time to go big or go home — word of mouth was just spreading." The bakery market

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### Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

WORSHIP SERVICES AT 8AM & 10:15AM  
[www.goodshepherdlnh.org](http://www.goodshepherdlnh.org) — All Are Welcome!

Pastor Dave Dalzell  
2238 Parade Rd, Laconia • 528-4078

### Weirs United Methodist Church

35 Tower St., Weirs Beach. 366-4490 F.O. Box 5268

Sunday Service & Sunday School at 10AM

Reverend Dr. Festus K. Kavale      Childcare available during service

### Grace Presbyterian Church

Discover the riches of Reformed Christianity



For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16)

Sunday worship services at  
10:15 am and 6:00 pm

174 Province Street, Laconia, NH 03246  
[www.gracepcanh.org](http://www.gracepcanh.org) / 528-4747  
[pastorandy@gracepcanh.org](mailto:pastorandy@gracepcanh.org)

### First United Methodist Church

18 Wesley Way (Rt. 11A), Gilford 524-3289  
Rev. Dr. Victoria Wood Parrish, Pastor

10:30AM — Worship & Children's Faith Quest  
Sermon: "What I Have Learned ...  
During 50 Years of Ministry"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Richard Evans

Music Ministry:

Karen Jordan, Soloist

Professional Nursery Available



### St. Joseph Parish Roman Catholic Church

96 Main St. Belmont, NH • 267-8174

Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:30 pm

Sunday 8 am & 10:30 am

Reconciliation

Saturday, 3:30-4 pm

Weekday Masses

Mon., Tues., Thurs. — 8am; Wed. 6pm



Rev. Paul B. Boudreau Jr., Pastor

### EQUIPPED

WHAT GOD WANTS IN A CHURCH

Acts 2:42-47

Sunday Worship Services  
8:45 & 10:30 am

Evangelical Baptist Church  
12 Veteran's Square, Laconia  
603-524-2277

[www.ebclaconia.com](http://www.ebclaconia.com)



### The United Baptist Church

23-35 Park St. Lakeport 524-8775 • Rev. Sharon Lamotte  
Amy Powell & Ben Kimball - Youth Directors  
Emily Haggerty - Organist / Choir Director  
Anne Parsons - Choir Director / Emeritus

Exodus 31:12-17 • Matthew 16:24-28

Message:  
"Do What?????"

Guest Preacher: Rev. Linda Overall

Morning Worship - 9:30am (child care provided)

— Handicap Accessible & Devices for the Hearing Impaired —  
Food Pantry Hours: Fridays from 10am to 12 noon

### Roman Catholic Faith Community of St. André Bessette Parish, Laconia

**Sacred Heart Church**  
291 Union Ave.  
Laconia, NH  
524-0609

**MASS SCHEDULE**  
Saturday.....4:00pm  
Sunday.....8:00am, 9:30am & 5:00pm

**Confession**  
Tuesday.....5:30pm  
Saturday.....3:00pm

Rev. Marc Drouin, Pastor

**St. Joseph Church**  
30 Church St.  
Laconia, NH  
524-0609

**MASS SCHEDULE**  
Saturday.....5:00pm  
Sunday.....7:00am & 10:30am

**Confession**  
Saturday.....4:00pm

Rev. Matthew Mason, Associate Pastor

### Faith Alive Christian Fellowship

**Faith Alive**  
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
Where Miracles Happen!

(603) 273-4147

[WWW.FAITHALIVENH.ORG](http://WWW.FAITHALIVENH.ORG)

**Sunday Worship 10:00 am**  
Pastor John Sanborn

Services held at Laconia High School Auditorium

Inspiring Message  
Contemporary Worship  
Local & Missions Outreach  
Refreshments & Fellowship  
Word of Faith — Full Gospel Church  
Teen & Children's Ministry

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gest fans put her in touch with the Osborne family, which operates Agway stores in Concord and Hooksett, was preparing to open a new store in the Winnisquam area of Belmont, and had a fully-furnished kitchen they were looking to rent.

Along with a kitchen full of industrial-grade equipment, the lease deal also came with three big customers. Cousineau bakes pies, muffins and cupcakes to be sold at all three of the Osborne's Agway stores. She will also add items such as cookies, brownies, whoopie pies and sticky buns. AbraCaDebra's will also take custom orders, and Cousineau said she's willing to take a crack at whatever a customer desires. "A lot of this is researching old family recipes, which is a lot of fun."

When possible, she plans to use locally-sourced products, such as eggs, apples and maple syrup. "I'm looking for other local suppliers," she said. She's done a vegan cake already, and added that she can do gluten-free items for customers who wish.

Explaining her sudden success, she thinks her business is one that has benefited from the sluggish economy. People are restraining from costly indulgences but still want a little sweetness in their lives. "There aren't buying the expensive homes, the expensive cars, but they treat themselves to a \$3 cupcake."

Cousineau originally planned to renovate the kitchen and open it to the public as a retail shop, but decided that current demand is all that she can handle for now. After all, she wasn't even intending to start a business, it was the business that found her. The demand appeared as if by magic, as the business name implies.

For more information, visit [www.abracadebranh.com](http://www.abracadebranh.com).

## EURO from page one

Reserve and at the Treasury Department in the Obama administration. "The tone has changed, in part because the German economy has not been doing as well recently."

Merkel has come under rising pressure to give ground on key pro-growth measures.

"We say that growth and solid financials are two sides of a coin," she said. "Solid financials are not sufficient."

Monti, who met with his fellow leaders at a government villa in Rome, is trying to build a bridge between Merkel's insistence on fiscal discipline and the focus on growth by recently elected Hollande. He acknowledged that steps taken so far have not been sufficient, and that markets and European Union citizens alike need to view the euro currency as "irreversible."

"We maintain that if four countries as important and diversified as ours can find a convergent line, this can help force a strong consensus at the EU Council," Monti told a closing press conference.

Monti has warned of severe consequences for the 17 countries that use the euro and the world economy if next week's summit fails.

"A large part of Europe would find itself having to continue to put up with very high interest rates, that would then impact on the states, and also indirectly on firms. This is the direct opposite of what is needed for economic growth," Monti said in an interview with six European newspapers published Friday.



## Lucky duck

Gary Drake and Cale Laurent (pictured) of Drake Electric were working at Laconia High School on Friday morning when they discovered a duckling that had fallen through a grated area and become trapped. With the aid of a ladder, the bird was rescued and has been named "Lucky Drake" by school personnel. The duckling is said to be resting comfortably while waiting to recover from his traumatic adventure. (Courtesy photo)

## — WORSHIP SERVICES —

**First Congregational Church**  
4 Highland Street, off Main Street, Meredith  
The Reverend Dr. Russell Rowland

Join us Sunday at 10 a.m. for worship  
Sunday School and Fellowship

Sermon - "Who Then is This?"  
Scripture Readings:  
Job 38:17 - Mark 4:35-41

279-6271 • [www.fccmeredith.org](http://www.fccmeredith.org)

**LifeQuest Church**  
Sunday School, 9:30am • Worship Service, 10:30am  
A Christian & Missionary Alliance Church

115 Court Street - Laconia  
Pastor Bob Smith  
524-6860

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BELMONT**  
9:00am Sunday School  
Worship Services at 9:00 & 10:00am  
Rev. James Smith - 49 Church St., Belmont 267-8185

**Gilford Community Church**  
19 Potter Hill Road  
"In the Village"  
524-6057

[www.gilfordcommunitychurch.org](http://www.gilfordcommunitychurch.org)  
Childcare in Amy's Room  
The Reverend Michael C. Graham

Join Us for Sunday Worship 10:00 am

**ST. JAMES CHURCH**  
878 North Main St. (Rt. 106) Opp. Opeechee Park  
The Episcopal Church Welcomes You  
524-5800

What is your view of God?

St. James Preschool  
528-2111  
The Rev. Tobias Nyatamba, Pastor  
[www.stjameslaconia.org](http://www.stjameslaconia.org)

Holy Eucharist at 9AM

**First Church of Christ, Scientist**  
136 Pleasant St., Laconia • 524-7132

10:30am Sunday Services and Sunday School  
7 pm Wednesday Services  
All Are Welcome  
Reading Room Open Mon, Wed, Fri 11am-2pm

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA**  
Veterans Square at Pleasant St.  
Rev. Dr. Warren H. Bouton, Pastor  
Rev. Paula B. Gile, Associate Pastor

**Fear or Faith**  
Mark 4: 35-41

9:00am  
Summer Worship

Wherever you may be on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!

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available in  
Parish House

[www.laconiaucc.org](http://www.laconiaucc.org)

**THE BIBLE SPEAKS' CHURCH**  
40 Belvidere St., Lakeport, NH

Tel: 528-1549 Dial-A-Devotional: 528-5054

Head Pastor: Robert N. Horne

PUBLIC ACCESS TV - LACONIA  
SUNDAY/MONDAY 11AM CHANNEL 25

Sunday School Classes 9:30 am  
Morning Worship Service 10:45 am  
Evening Service 7:00 pm

**The Lakes Region Vineyard Church**  
175 Mechanic St., Lakeport, NH • 603-527-2662

Empowered Evangelicals, who proclaim the Kingdom of God, minister in the power of the Spirit and bear Christ at the center of life.  
"It feels like coming home."

Sunday morning celebration - 8:30am & 10:30am  
Contemporary Worship  
Sunday School & Nursery • Tuesday night Youth  
Mid-week Bible studies.  
Christ Life Center Food Pantry  
Thurs. 9am - 12pm • 524-9089  
[www.lakesregionvineyard.org](http://www.lakesregionvineyard.org)

**Immaculate Conception Catholic Church**  
(Traditional Catholic Latin Rite)

The Traditional Latin Rite Mass has been celebrated and revered by the Popes of the Church from time immemorial to POPE JOHN PAUL II who requested that it have "a wide and generous application."

Confessions:  
One Hour Before Each Mass  
Benediction of the Blessed  
Sacrament and Rosary each  
Daily Mass: 8:00 a.m.  
Mass on Holy Days of Obligation:  
7:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.  
Marriages & Baptisms by  
Appointment

500 Morrill Street,  
Gilford 254-9499  
Sunday Mass:  
7:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m.  
Daily Mass: 8:00 a.m.  
Mass on Holy Days of Obligation:  
7:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

9:00am  
Summer Worship

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603-415-4000  
[www.gccnh.com](http://www.gccnh.com)

BUILDING PEOPLE FAMILIES & LEADERS

**The Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia**  
172 Pleasant Street • Laconia • 524-6488  
[www.uusl.org](http://www.uusl.org)

**We are a Welcoming Congregation**

Sunday Services 9am

Steve Copithorne -  
Leading a discussion on  
Prayer from the book,  
"Some People Say That God  
Is No Laughing Matter"  
by Julia Cameron

Wedding Chapel Available