



Summer Camp Page 10



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Go to summer camp

BY KYLE LAURITA-BONOMETTI

The Shopper

Drawing on personal experience, I can't say that summer camp is all fun and games. I remember my grandmother picking me up from Tanglewood, a summer camp in Maine, when I was ten years old, muttering obscenities as she examined my mosquito-ravaged skin, a real impressionist painting of insect bites. I remember making friends, but also

meeting kids I didn't like; I remember not getting into the activity group I wanted; I remember not enjoying the food. But I wouldn't trade that experience for anything, because, in my opinion, that's exactly the point of summer camp: It's a dose of life away from home.

In a report conducted by the American Camp Association in 2005, results indicated that children who attend camp experience significant growth in self-esteem, independence, so-

cial comfort, adventure and exploration, and values and decisions, to name a few. I think most would agree – it makes sense. Kids need time away from home in new environments to develop and grow. New situations give rise to new skills, unfamiliar challenges establish character.

I don't think I can say that ten-year-old me particularly relished the idea of making new friends, but in a situation where you're surrounded by people your

own age and you don't know anyone, it's bound to happen. Experience encourages confidence in one's abilities and instinct, and that's not something that can be taught. While I may have been embarrassed at first when I accidentally put mayonnaise on my peanut butter and jelly instead of fluff, it certainly made for a fun story as I entered fifth grade.

Be it fishing camp, theater, aviation, crafts, or what-have-you, summer

camp provides a chance for children to step outside of their comfort zone in a safe, nurturing environment. In the 2005 ACA report, 92% of campers reported that "Camp helped me feel good about myself." In this sense, summer camp is an invaluable tool in fostering self-confidence in children. Like school, summer camp is an environment outside of the home where kids can get to know themselves, along with others, by overcoming challenges.

No, I didn't want to wake up the camp counselor to ask for bug spray at ten o'clock at night, but I did it anyway. Yes, I would have preferred to be in the "River" activity group over the "Trail" group, but I learned I could have fun wherever I was. And, honestly, I still enjoy pizza bagels to this day. The point is, we all need to stretch ourselves. Why not give your child the opportunity this summer?

SUMMER CAMPS on Page 10

Town looks to purchase, restore Bellows Falls Train Station building

BY JOE MILLIKEN

The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Back in early February, the Rockingham Selectboard discussed the possibility of a new business, possibly a brew pub and restaurant, to be located at the historic Bellows Falls Train Station. On Town Meeting Day, Bellows Falls residents voted overwhelmingly to purchase the building, which is currently owned by Vermont Rail Systems.

Nearly two years ago, Rockingham residents had approved a more than \$12,000 environmental feasibility study of the Train Station Island location just below The Square in Bellows Falls, while leveraging matching funds from the Windham Regional Commission. Subsequently, during 2021's Rockingham Area Wide Plan discussions, the general feeling was of support for the possible addition of a brew pub (or other business) alongside the current train station.

The Selectboard recently reviewed an analysis presented by architectural designer, Matt Giffin, of Banwell Architects in Brattleboro. Giffin's initial design offered a potential restaurant and three-to-five-barrel brew pub facility, describing a full building renovation including a new barrel room, restaurant area and kitchen, while decreasing the size of the bathrooms and waiting

room. The designs offered a historical feel as well, featuring various artifacts and memorabilia being collected throughout the train station facility.

Although the basic structure of the historic building is good, including the recent replacement of the roof, the renovations needed would include masonry and exterior brickwork, as well as electrical and plumbing work, insulation, and new replacement windows. However, it was also stressed that every effort would be made to restore the historic character and integrity of the original building.

"Bellows Falls has a long and proud history of the railroad providing passenger and freight services to the community, and especially supporting 'the island' and changing industrial partners over many decades," Bellows Falls Town Manager Scott Pickup said in a recent interview.

"The re-invigoration of the historic train station space would be yet another opportunity to enhance our local heritage, and position the building to serve as a focal point for new investment and development."

Although the initial floor plans presented revolved around a potential "brew-pub business," both Giffin and Pickup indicated that this particular idea was not locked-in and certainly not the only viable option, with Giffin indicating that the designs were created to

simply support the idea of the train station only requiring 20% of the building space in order to function, leaving adequate space for a new business, of any kind, to operate.

"Last year, there were some talks put together by the local development office about the future of 'the island,' and the idea of a 'brew pub' in the station was a popular one," said Bellows Falls resident and artist, Charlie Hunter. "Therefore, this was the model consultants used as an example to show that, indeed, such a mixed-use (of the building space) could work well, logistically.

"The question is seemingly whether there is currently enough local business [to support the idea], however, what might make sense is having a fledgling brewing operator initially become tenants as a wholesale/go-to operator, with the intention to expand into having a retail space in the future.

"That said, I think voters were very wise to approve purchase of the depot, and that renovations should take place, in concert with the ongoing development of the island. With proper planning, the retail aspect of the business could come to the depot at the same time the new bridge [Vilas Bridge renovations] comes into use."



Bellows Falls discusses the restoration of the Train Station. PHOTO PROVIDED

The total renovation of the building will cost an estimated \$4 million, which is part of a \$30 million overall upgrade to area road and bridge infrastructure. The first phase of the project, which involves the purchase of the building, is estimated at \$350,000.

Joint Board discusses possibilities for 66 Atkinson Street lot

BY BETSY THURSTON

The Shopper

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – At the Joint Board meeting on Tuesday, March 29, the Boards heard a proposal for the vacant lot at 66 Atkinson Street.

Municipal Manager Scott Pickup updated the Board on next steps, including working with archeologists and grading and seeding the lot. Considering future options, he said, "The lot itself has a lot of constraints." Pickup acknowledged that Central Elementary School had purchased two flashing beacon stop signs for the crosswalk at School St. and Atkinson St. that will address some of the safety concerns about the intersection.

Michael Stack explained that he was there representing the nonprofit Bellows Falls Trades, which includes Board member Jeff Dunbar and Bellows Falls Union High School representative Sean Murphy. Bellows Falls Trades submitted a proposal for \$75,000 on a ten-year lease to build a community garden at 66 Atkinson Street.

Stack said that Bellows Falls Trades focused on

a work-based learning experience, partnering with schools, students, and local businesses. He explained that 70% of high school graduates after four years do not have college degrees. Bellows Falls Trades would create job experience in the garden, offering students the education and skills needed to design, landscape, and build the benches and raised beds. Stack also said that this could create an opportunity for renters to have a garden.

Chair Peter Golec said the Town and Village wanted to recoup the expenses of roughly \$85,000 and preferred to sell it to an entity that would pay taxes.

Stack said this lot would maximize educational opportunities and offer a community space.

Susan Hammond said a ten-year lease gives the opportunity to utilize the space. She said, "I like having that space open."

Elijah Zimmer favored looking at infill development at that location.

Stefan Golec said it was a lucrative offer and agreed that the green space would enhance the property.

Jeff Dunbar said he too was in favor of infill development, but this was an opportunity to use the lot now, bring folks together

and give time for zoning changes. He said this "provides a contribution... ten years from now we [would] have a trade program that is thriving."

Village President Deborah Wright was concerned about the heavy traffic, exhaust fumes, and safety on the corner lot.

BFUHS Assistant Principal and Bellows Falls Trades partner Sean Murphy said, "This particular garden will tie the elementary and middle school into what we're doing at the high school." He said students will have opportunities to access education outside of the classroom. Murphy mentioned that in-school training would give high school graduates the experiences and licenses needed so they are "contributing to the greater Bellows Falls community even sooner."

Central Elementary School Librarian Jody Hauser said CES had completed its first year of the "Farm to School" program. She said the goal of the program is to establish a lifelong positive relationship with food, by improving nutrition and supporting youth and the connection between where their food comes from and how food

See LOT on Page 2

Second Rockingham ARPA fund discussion

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – Rockingham residents, please join us for the second public meeting on Wednesday, April 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the Lower Theater of the Bellows Falls Opera House for a follow-up session on the proposed projects for the region's ARPA funds.

Residents will be invited to "rank" the more than 50 projects based on potential impact on the community and the vision as discussed at the Take Action Rockingham meetings in 2020 and updated at the ARPA public engagement meet-

ing of March 16, 2022.

Camoin Associates have categorized all projects into themes: infrastructure, housing, climate change, business, and economic development, and organized them to show the overlap of project details within the goals and community vision. The Development and Planning Offices will rate alignment with the Town Plan and the Project team will add filters for short, medium, and long-range planning, project readiness, and investment already made.

The sorted and organized list and an agenda for April

13 public engagement session activities will be posted April 5 on the Town website and on local Facebook Groups, in preparation for the April 13 meeting.

On April 13, participants will break into groups for projects related to each municipality: the Villages of Bellows Falls, Saxtons River, and the Town of Rockingham, and work with the list of the projects specific to their municipality, to focus projects on priorities for the final report of ARPA projects to the Boards.

There were 50 projects

See ARPA on Page 2

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Winners of Rotary Speech Contest

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Rotary Club held its annual “4-Way Speech Contest” at this week’s meeting. The contest is for Springfield High School students to speak on how the Rotary “4-Way Test” applies to situations in their lives. SHS Sophomore Zada Grant was the winner of the \$100 first prize for her speech about the current national political climate for women’s rights and laws relating to abortion. SHS Junior Angelina Woychosky and Senior Alicia Ostrom received \$75 and \$50, respectively, for second and third place. Grant will represent the



SHS students Zada Grant, Alicia Ostrom, and Angelina Woychosky, flanked by Rotarian Bob Flint and SHS English teacher Rebecca Nadeau.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Springfield Club in the Rotary District Semifinals this weekend in Henniker, N.H. The top four finishers from

that event will compete in the District Finals in Hanover, N.H. later in April.

BF Woman’s Club holds monthly meeting

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The members of the Bellows Falls Woman’s Club will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at the United Church, School St., beginning at 1:30 p.m. Member Eileen Charboneau-Gullo will present a program on Native American Art and Story.

At the March 8 meeting, Dr. Timothy Johnson,

local optometrist, gave a presentation on light and how it affects what we see, including color. During the meeting, preliminary plans for the afternoon tea fundraiser, to be held on May 1 at the Masonic Temple from 2-4 p.m., were presented. Details of this event will be discussed at the April meeting. A limited number of tickets for this public event are available at Village Square Booksellers as of Friday, April 1. A raffle of gifts and certificates from area businesses will be held in conjunction with the tea. Proceeds are earmarked for the high school scholarship.

The Bellows Falls Woman’s Club is a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, an international women’s organization dedicated to community improvement through volunteer service.

Organizations call for Diaper Drive donations

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Chroma Technology and Parks Place Community Resource Center are partnering to host a month-long diaper drive in April to stock up on much needed diaper sizes for the Time for a Change Diaper Bank.

Decorated donation boxes will be available inside Chroma for employees to donate diapers and wipes, and a box for

public donations will be available during business hours on Parks Place’s front porch, located at 44 School St. Ext., next to Central Elementary School in Bellows Falls.

The Time for a Change Diaper Bank was founded in 2016 by a Vermont Community Foundation Spark Grant, and is a collaborative effort between Building Bright Futures, Youth Services, the Springfield

Area Parent Child Center, WNESU, and Parks Place. Housed in the Parks Place building, it provides community members access to free diapers and wipes and was heavily utilized during the pandemic lockdown. Because of this, the drive is seeking to replenish diapers in larger sizes, specifically sizes 4-6, along with pull-ups and wipes.

For more information, call 802-463-9927.

Springfield Rotary scholarships

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Applications for the 2022 Springfield Rotary Club Scholarships are now available. The Rotary Club is offering

two \$2,000 scholarships for Springfield High School seniors, as well as a new \$500 Lew Baldwins Memorial Industrial Trades scholarship. Applications are available

through the Springfield High School Guidance office or by emailing bobf@springfielddevelopment.org. Deadline is Friday, April 22, 2022.

Cheryl Wilfong to speak to Garden Club

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Wednesday, April 13, 2022, the Springfield Garden Club will host VT Extension Master Gardener and author Cheryl Wilfong from Putney, Vt.

Cheryl teaches mindfulness meditation at Vermont Insight Meditation Center when she isn’t rearranging one of her twenty-eight flower beds or tending her out-of-control vegetable gar-

den. She will speak about mindfulness in our gardens year around. There is a “Meet and Greet” social hour at 6 p.m. to welcome new garden club members.

The event is open to the public and membership forms will be available for anyone wanting to join. The Garden Club is hoping that some of its Facebook friends will step forward and consider joining as members.

There is no charge for the



Cheryl Wilfong. PHOTO PROVIDED

talk, which begins at 7 p.m. inside the Nolan Murray Center, Pleasant St., Springfield.

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LOT

From Page 1

choices affect their bodies, communities, and environment. Hauser said this program builds time in the curriculum and incorporates cross-curricular learning in the

garden.

She said a stipend paid by the program will ensure garden maintenance through summer camp activities. Hauser acknowledged that this community garden would “support what we are doing at Central.”

The next Joint Board

meeting on Tuesday, May 31 includes the Saxtons River and Bellows Falls Village Trustees and the Rockingham Selectboard to discuss the final reports of the Area Wide Plan and American Rescue Plan Act funds in the Lower Theatre of the Bellows Falls Opera House at 6 p.m.

ARPA

From Page 1

proposed by nonprofits, town officials, and individual residents ranging from dire needs to bright

ideas. Some of them are easy to implement and can be accomplished this year, while others need tremendous support and funds, and a few of these projects might take decades to come to fruition. Most of them sit

in the middle of the road and many are infrastructure related and can save taxpayer money for future project proposals.

The boards will have the final say on how ARPA funds are spent within their communities, but your support will be integral in achieving the community vision and Rockingham’s goals for the future.

The final presentation will be held on the Joint Board meeting on Tuesday, May 31. Visit www.rockinghamvt.org after April 5 for project list and agenda; email questions to development@rockbf.org

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Gov. Scott and VOREC fund outdoor projects

REGION – Governor Phil Scott and the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative announced on Monday, March 28 the twenty-four recipients of the VOREC Community Grant Program. In announcing this round of grant recipients, the Governor restated his support for outdoor recreation as an important means for economic recovery and development.



Recipients of the 2022 VOREC grant program.

PHOTO PROVIDED

The grant recipients, announced at an event in Danville on March 28, joined the nine other communities who have received funding through the program since it was established by Act 194 in 2018. A historic investment from the Governor in 2021 grew the grant program from a granting capacity of \$100,000 – \$200,000 to

a total of \$5 million. This investment has allowed the program to nearly triple the number of communities who are benefiting from the program and spurred some notable changes to grant program requirements. Changes included expanding eligibility from only municipal entities to include nonprofit organizations and setting a

\$50,000 minimum with no maximum potential award. The two projects to gain funding in Windsor County are Ascutney Outdoors, awarded \$262,088 to fund the development of new trails, free equipment rentals, and other projects, and the Town of Ludlow, awarded \$190,500 to fund the redevelopment of the Dorsey Park Skatepark.

New Sandy MacGillivray Memorial Scholarship

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Garden Club would like to announce a scholarship now available to graduating seniors from Springfield River Valley Technical Center, Class of 2022. The \$1,000 scholarship will be given to one student per year for the next five years. A large portion of the scholarship's funds have been donated in memory of Sandy MacGillivray to the Garden Club by friends and family, SGC friends, and those in the community who recognized Sandy's dedicated commitment to her hometown.

This scholarship is being offered in honor of Sandy's long commitment to serving her community in a variety of ways. For over twenty years she was an active member of the Garden Club, serving as President in 2006–2008 and again in 2011–2013. She produced the members' program book for many years and was Co-chair of the Festival of Trees fundraiser. In recent years, she also served as the Civic Beautification Chair. She was actively involved in other groups and committees, all with the intent of improving and beautifying the town of Springfield. She was a very positive person who saw the best in people. She carried out her duties, always with a smile and an encouraging word for everyone.

Mrs. MacGillivray taught business courses at Springfield High School Tech Center for many years. She was extremely organized and applied herself diligently to any task given to her. She loved to work with students, encouraging them and guiding them into living productive lives. Her scholarship will be offered to a promising student who

has been known to demonstrate similar qualities of work ethic and character.

The scholarship is open to students who have successfully completed two years of study at RVTC. Seniors may be going on to post-secondary educational institutions or to further training in the workplace, which may require monetary assistance. Interested candidates should visit the guidance office at RVTC to

apply. Completed applications are due Friday, May 13, 2022.

This scholarship is in addition to the normal scholarship program offered by the Garden Club to students from Springfield High School, Green Mountain High School, and RVTC who are pursuing further education in the field of horticulture, forestry, or environmental science.



LOCAL HISTORY

BY RON PATCH

Ron Patch is a Chester native, Chester Historical Society president, and a lifelong antiques dealer.

He can be reached at 802-374-0119 or email ronpatch27@gmail.com

Things I know

My article on water pipe last week generated a lot of questions and comments about balsam pump logs. I know balsam trees well. My father and I cut a lot of pulpwood in the early 1960s in Shrewsbury.

I was a scrawny kid, but that didn't stop Arnold from working me. Dad limbed and cut the balsam trees into 4-foot lengths. My job, with the aid of two pulp hooks and a peavey, was to stack the 4-foot lengths in long rows.

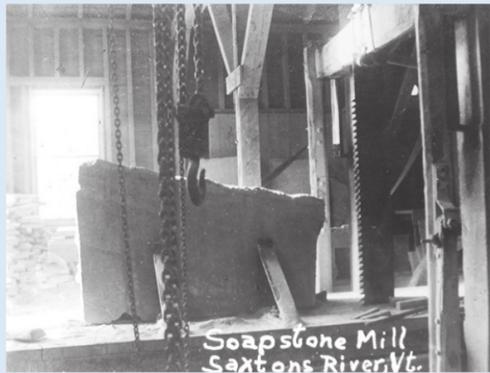
A pulp hook is held in each hand. Pulp hooks have a very sharp point that you stick into each pulp end, and lift.

A cord of wood is 4 feet deep, 4 feet high, and 8 feet long. Once, I had 20 cords stacked on the landing. Some butts of the balsam were 2 feet or more in diameter and 4 feet long.

These butts were more than a scrawny kid could handle. This is when I used a peavey. A peavey is a tool used for rolling logs. A peavey has a round wooden handle maybe 3 feet long. The business end is two parts affixed together. The main end is pointed. Attached to the peavey head is an iron, half-round hook that swivels, with a sharp point to bite into the log.

I used the peavey with the curved hook-point biting on the underside of the pulp. With the long handle on my shoulder, I would push forward as hard as I could. The pulp would roll forward. After a while I got pretty good at it.

Because I've handled so much balsam and have seen many stands of balsam while hunting, I know how pump logs were selected. When balsam is growing in a stand fairly close together, the first 20 feet or so of the



Soapstone Mill in Saxtons River.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

trees will be straight as an arrow with the smallest branches. Because the trees grow close together, branches don't get very large until the upper half, where tips of branches have less competition for sunlight from neighboring trees. If you selected an 8-foot log from a 9-inch diameter butt log, there would be the slightest taper in the log, making it ideal for a pump log. Further, because of the small branches, knots were small, making boring with the pod auger possible.

For those who don't know, a knot in a board is where a branch was on the tree. Small branches equal small knots. These smaller knots tend not to grow into the center of the tree where the pod auger did its work.

More on soapstone
The photo with this article is a real photo postcard. It shows a slab of soapstone about to be cut. On the right you'll notice a vertical saw with coarse teeth. The saw cuts with an up-and-down motion. Each downward pass of the saw blade would rip a half-inch or more deep. Notice the heavy chain falls in the center foreground for lifting large pieces of soapstone on to the table.

I know
I know I have eaten just about everything that crawls, walks, flies, or swims at one time or another. I've eaten woodchuck, rattlesnake, hedgehog, squirrels,

and believe it or not, I have eaten some crow. I have eaten muskrat, but had never eaten any beaver. I recently inherited a beaver back strap. I was surprised how bright red the meat was. There's a thin membrane you need to remove before cooking.

I fried it in a little butter in the cast iron skillet for a few minutes on each side. I baked a potato with broccoli for a veggie. I was impressed with the meat. It didn't have a strong gamey taste at all and very lean.

I know both baseball and trout fishing start soon. There's a little brook I like to fish for trout. These are small trout, averaging 3 or 4 inches in length. What fun they are to catch. I did catch a lunker there last summer. He was 6 inches. Too big, so I threw him back.

I caught my limit of these short trout. What I like about these little trout is they are so small you can eat bones, tail, the crispy skin and all as a finger food. I sprinkle them with flour and fry in butter in the cast iron skillet. I have a lady friend to whom I sometimes give the days catch. She's hooked.

This week's old saying is meant to confuse: "Let those going out first."

Rockingham Republican Town Committee hosts potluck

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – The Rockingham Republican Town Committee will be hosting a potluck dinner Saturday, April 30 under the theme "We the people." Guest speaker will be Rick Morton of Brattleboro, candidate for the State Senate. Bring your favorite food and beverage. All are welcome. The doors open at the K of C Hall above the People's United Bank on The Square in Bellows Falls at 6 p.m.



Join the potluck dinner April 30.

STOCK PHOTO



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opinion

Dear Editor,

We would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all the firefighters, emergency personnel, and back up stations who came to our rescue on March 25 when our chimney chase caught

fire. Your quick response, courage, and knowledge is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Ned and Cindy Bowen,
Ludlow, Vt.

Dear Editor,

Last Thursday, March 24, 2022, the Somerset Integrated Resource Project 2022 Status Update held at Mount Snow's Grand Summit Hotel attracted approximately 65 attendees. Presentations focused on progress made on the US Forest Somerset 2019 IRP and plans for the remaining three years. As the group organizer of this event, our Trout Unlimited chapter wishes to recognize the following individuals and organizations for their meeting contributions and for their concern and commitment to conserve, protect, or restore the Deerfield River Watershed region:

US Forest Service/Green Mountain National Forest, Manchester VT Ranger District: Martina Barnes, District Ranger: "What's planned, completed & scheduled;" John McCann, Watershed Program Man-

ager: "Fisheries, Watershed & Wildlife;" Casey Merritt, Recreation Program Manager: "Recreation & Transportation;" Stacy Stratton, Timber Management Assistant: "Vegetation Management & Forest Health." Also, Marie Levesque Caduto, Watershed Planner, VT Department of Environmental Conservation, Springfield VT: "2020 5-Yr Tactical Basin Plan in the Deerfield River;" Lael Will, Fisheries Biologist, VT Fish & Wildlife, Springfield VT: "Fishery Highlights in the Deerfield Region;" and Tracy Bartels, Vice President/General Manager, Mount Snow Vail Resorts, Dover VT: "Plans for Removal of Snow Lake and Its Dam."

We also thank Mt. Snow/Vail Resorts for hosting this event and thank attendees for their questions and participation.

Sincerely,
David Deen, Jack Widness, Kevin Stine
Trout Unlimited
Westminster, Wilmington, Dover, Vt.

Dear Editor,

A "third place," a term coined by sociologist Ray Oldenburg in his 1989 book "The Great Good Place," refers to a location where people spend the majority of their time after home and work - their first and second places.

Third places are informal public gathering places that serve as social anchors and safe places. They are a home away from home, a place where people feel that they belong.

Fans of the fictional Springfield of "The Simpsons" will recognize that Moe's is definitely Homer's third place. And those of us who watched the television show, "Cheers," know that Sam and Coach provided such a space - "where everybody knows your name" - to their regulars. In Vermont, general stores may have historically played this role.

A third place should be comfortable and ap-

proachable - like a living room for the community. It is a reprieve from home and work, which are often structured and require a time commitment.

Oldenburg suggests that third places are the heart of a community's social vitality and the foundation of a functioning democracy. They promote social equality, provide a setting for grassroots activities, create habits of public association, and offer support to both individuals and communities. Status and class, which can be major points of stress or contention in our first or second place, are simply not relevant at our third place.

In contrast to the structured social experiences of home and work, third places offer a neutral public space for a community to connect and establish bonds. Third places, according to Oldenburg, "host the regular, voluntary, informal, and happily anticipated gatherings of individuals beyond the realms of home and work."

Oldenburg defines the following characteristics for a third place: It is a neutral ground, a leveling place, conversation is the focus, it's accessible and accommodating, has a playful atmosphere, and there are regulars.

A third place is a powerful antidote to isolation and exclusion. It restores our connection to others and to our community. It is haven for nurturing strong relationships, which are our greatest social asset and vital to our individual health and happiness.

In Springfield, do we have third places? Perhaps the fraternal organizations like the Moose and Elks and veterans organizations like the VFW, or American Legion? The Town Library, especially with its varied programs, could certainly fill this role. For young people, the Community Center and The SPACE are here. Some research even suggests that a local McDonalds can become the equivalent of the

English pub or public house for gatherings.

Strengthening social networks is a crucial step to reviving our neighborhoods and addressing social problems. Having third places can do much to help stabilize the Springfield community and reduce its social problems.

Third places are critical components of a neighborhood or of a town like Springfield. The creation of these spaces, however, is not accidental. They are the result of careful consideration, intention, and planning.

Our town planners and leaders need to help foster and encourage third places in Springfield. And citizens need to support them. Because, in the end, having a third place may be the key to reviving our connection to each other and to our town.

Sincerely,
Larry Kraft
N. Springfield, Vt.

Bitcoin: Fad or the Future?

REGION - If someone told you about an investment that has made some people millionaires overnight, would you be tempted to invest? What if you were told that the same investment could lose most or all of its value overnight? This is the debate surrounding the digital phenomenon known as Bitcoin. Bitcoin is an alternative currency that exists strictly as digi-

tal code, and has received a lot of attention. If you're wondering what all the fuss is about, here's a brief introduction to Bitcoin, how it works, and some of the potential pitfalls it presents.

Bitcoin as currency
Bitcoin isn't a company, but rather a virtual currency supported by a peer-to-peer, computer-based electronic cash system first outlined in 2009 by an anonymous person or group. Bitcoin

is created by "mining," using complex software to solve mathematical computations. Solving these problems creates so-called "blocks," and the computer that solved it is rewarded with digital bitcoins. The number of solutions that can be discovered globally per hour is limited by the system's software code. The eventual total number of bitcoins available to be mined is said to be limited to 21 million. However, most users acquire bitcoins by buying them with physical currencies or accepting them as payment for goods and services.

Advocates of Bitcoin argue that the advantages of the system are that, one, it's not controlled by any government's central bank, two, a global virtual currency facilitates global commercial transactions, three, every Bitcoin transaction is recorded in a public ledger, and four, the payer and payee are anonymous. However, some say that it is because of that anonymity that it is dangerous, as it has attracted charges that its chief use so far has been for illegal activities such as money laundering.

Just as a physical wallet holds paper money, a digital wallet stores the private software keys that are bitcoins. It makes or receives pay-

ments by communicating with the network of other Bitcoin wallets. In fact, some well-known merchants and services now accept Bitcoin as payment.

Speculating in Bitcoin
To say that Bitcoin as an investment is volatile is an understatement. Its value has fluctuated wildly as speculation and confidence in it have ebbed and surged. At the beginning of 2017, one bitcoin was worth about \$1,000, and in March 2021, the price topped \$60,000. In between, Bitcoin investors have experienced gut-wrenching price declines. As a result, the amount in your virtual wallet can fluctuate from enough to buy a Tesla or enough to buy a tank of gas.

Obviously, virtual currency still faces a lot of challenges. If you're considering exploring Bitcoin, either for transactions or as a speculative investment, you should become far more familiar with it than simply relying on this discussion. And because of the issues outlined above, you should be prepared for dramatic price swings and only use money that you aren't relying on for something else.

Written by Huntley Financial Services. For more information, contact Mark Huntley at 802-228-5774.



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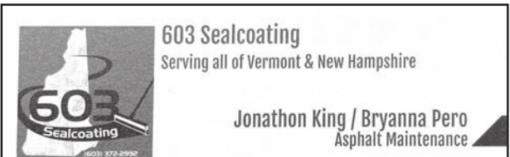


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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

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ACROSS

1 Justice Dept. agency
4 Physician's nickname
7 Grating
12 Vintage
13 Away from WSW
14 Mountain crest
15 Set afire
16 Yosemite peak featured in "Free Solo"
18 "CSI" evidence
19 Dewy
20 Billboard
22 Swiss peak
23 Bloke
27 Author
29 Fleming
31 Planet circlers
34 Heart line
35 Coffeehouse bill collector
37 L-P link
38 Utah ski resort
39 "Yoo- o!"
41 Pottery oven
45 Quotable Yogi
47 Eastern path
48 Bygone
52 Cadillac
52 Copper head?
53 Tierney of "The Affair"
54 Superlative

55 Texter's chuckle
56 Velocity
57 Irish actor
58 Decade parts (Abbr.)

7 Engrossed
8 "Exodus" hero
9 Fixed
10 Sch. org
11 Hankering
17 Nile vipers
21 Martial arts warrior
23 Swindler
24 Guffaw syllable
25 Suitable
26 Green shade
28 Simile part
30 Paint contain-er
31 1959 Kingston Trio hit

32 Texas tea
33 Choose
36 Mother of Zeus
37 Gloomy
40 Sequence
42 Tuscan setting
43 Hard work
44 Seasonal songs
45 Thin nail
46 Nick and Nora's dog
48 Ambulance initials
49 Napkin's place
50 Payable
51 Mine material

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CHURCH SERVICES

obituaries

Walter Stewart Allbee, 1943-2022

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Walter Stewart Allbee, 78, passed away March 25, 2022. Walt was the son of Stewart and Margaret (Perry) Allbee, born Sept. 26, 1943 in Bellows Falls, Vt. He was a graduate of Bellows Falls Union High School Class of 1962.

On Nov. 30, 1968, he married his wife Priscilla (Cote) in Saint Johnsbury, Vt. They were married for nearly 54 years. They made their home in Westminster, Vt. and enjoyed summers together at Miles Pond in Concord, Vt.

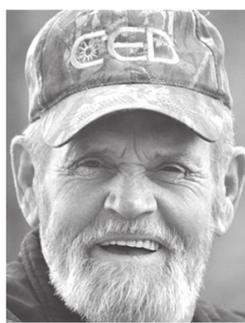
Walt had very fond memories of growing up on his family's farm in Westminster. He raised pairs of oxen and told many stories of life on the farm, his horses, and working in the woods with his Father and Grandfather. As a teenager, Walt worked at Brooks Sales Stables getting horses off the train and caring for them. He loved animals, and they loved him.

Walt was a lover of the outdoors. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and riding his ATV. He loved spending time at his favorite place, Miles Pond in Concord, Vt. He loved to work with his hands and could fix anything. He made beautiful birdhouses and loved to tinker in his shop.

Walt was an active member of the Top of the World ATV Club in Concord, Vt. He enjoyed working on the trails and riding all over the Northeast Kingdom. He loved a good burn out! He loved diesel pickups, loud Harleys, and big rigs with lots of chrome.

Walt worked summers building and maintaining pools. When pool season was over, he was a school bus driver for the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union for forty years.

Walt was always there with a chuckle, a mischievous grin, and a joke. He tooted his bus horn at different places around town every morning and afternoon. He



Walter Allbee, 1943-2022. PHOTO PROVIDED

loved to laugh, loved a good story, and had an old Yankee sense of humor. He loved good food and lots of it, especially Cilla's homemade bread.

Walter will be dearly missed by his family and friends. He had no idea in life how loved he was by so many. He will also be missed by the thousands of kids that grew up riding his bus.

Walter is survived by his wife, Priscilla, a son Jason Allbee and wife Andrea (Brattleboro, Vt.), a daughter Alisa and her husband Andy Daigneault (Westminster, Vt.), his brother David and wife Claude Allbee (Westminster, Vt.), sister-in-law Lori and husband Dick Miller (Westminster, Vt.), sister-in-law Linda and husband Gerry Veilleux (Charlotte, Vt.), brother-in-law Paul Cote (Concord, Vt.), and several nieces and nephews that thought the world of him. He is also survived by his dog, Patchie, and cat, Molly, whom he adored. He was predeceased by his parents and his sister, Ginny.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests sending a donation to Westminster Cares, 3534 US-5, Westminster, VT 05158.

Arrangements were made at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

Services were held Saturday April 2, 2022 at the Westminster Congregational Church.

Katherine Lena Starks, 1942-2022

LUDLOW, Vt. – Katherine Lena (Wilkins) Starks transitioned early Tuesday morning March 22, 2022 surrounded by her loved ones.

Born Aug. 23, 1942 in Ludlow, Vt. to the late Charles and Mildred (Holcomb) Wilkins, Kathy was a 1960 graduate of Black River High School in Ludlow.

She and John Todd Starks were married from September 1963, until his death in December 2007. During their marriage they owned and operated Starks Restoration & Rental in Chatham, N.Y. She became very talented at hanging complicated patterned wallpaper. She also enjoyed restoring old furniture to its original splendor. In her younger years, bingo beckoned her often.

Thrifting at shops, flea markets, and yard sales was her hobby. She loved a bargain except when it came to coffee. It was Folgers with her Pall Mall or it was none!

If you knew Kathy you knew her true passion was her family, immediate as well as her large extended family. Her love and unending generosity was her trademark. Her fierce independence paved the way and was a great example for her future generations. Kathy's death is a huge loss to all. There was only one Kathy.

Surviving are her children, Donald Starks Sr (Mary VanAlstyne) and Laurie Johnson, both of Chatham N.Y. She was predeceased by her daughter Tammy in 2013.

Also survived by grandchildren Charles Bost III (Audra MacFarlane) of Valatie, N.Y., Donald (Stephanie) Starks Jr, Candice Dutcher, Amber (Robert)



Katherine Starks, 1942-2022. PHOTO PROVIDED

Snyder, William VanAlstyne (Christina Elmendorf), and Randy VanAlstyne, all of Chatham N.Y., Samantha-Marie VanAlstyne (Matteo Hampton) of Hudson, and Nathaniel (Niki) Bost of Kingston N.Y.,

Her sisters; Sandra (Billy) Tyrrell and Nancy Brown, Proctorsville, Vt., Sue (Ron) Bates, Cavendish, Vt., brother Kenneth Wilkins, Ludlow Vt., sister-in-law Joyce Wilkins of Proctorsville, Vt., and son-in-law William Vanalstyne of Chatham.

She will be missed by ten great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Kathy was predeceased by brothers Donald and Albert Wilkins; sisters, Doris and Delores Wilkins; and lifetime friends, Ana-Mae, Maria, and Arlene, "The Coffee Klatch."

She will be forever missed. Graveside services will be announced.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory can be made to Our Community Cares, 25 Hudson Ave., Chatham NY 12037 www.ourcommunitycarescc.org/. Condolences may be conveyed at www.frenchblasl.com.

Errol Davis Heald, 1951-2022

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – Errol Davis Heald, 70, of Perkinsville, Vt. passed away on March 28, 2022. He was born in Springfield, Vt. on July 14, 1951, the son of Alfred and Katherine (Gould) Heald. He graduated from Springfield High School, class of 1969, in the Machine Tool Coop Program at Fellows Corporation.

He worked as a machinist for J&L, Whitney Blake Company, Vermont Precision Engineering Co., and Data Materials. He also worked in construction, masonry, and logging. When he wasn't working, he loved going to the car races and to Hampton Beach.

Errol is survived by his daughters: Jodi (Heald) Goldsmith and Amy (Heald) Bedi; his sisters, Sharon (Heald) Hannah and Judith (Heald) Brown;



Errol Heald, 1951-2022. PHOTO PROVIDED

and his grandchildren, Jackson Goldsmith and Freyja Bedi; also by nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Donations in Errol's name may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478 Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with the arrangements.

Margaret St. Sauveur, 1923-2022

CHESTER, Vt. – Margaret (Bourey Snide) St. Sauveur passed away peacefully at the Jack Byrne Center at Dartmouth – Hitchcock on March 27, 2022.

Born Margaret Lorraine Bourey on April 19, 1923, she was one of four daughters born to George and Ardell Ella (Ordway) Bourey of Proctorsville, Vt. She married Leon Snide on June 1, 1940. They spent much of their early years on the Jewett Farm in Chester, Vt. and had seven children – Burnham, Melvin, Everett, Beverly (their only daughter), Carlton, William, and Barry. The family spent many enjoyable hours out on the river fishing or playing cribbage and other card games with family and friends. After the passing of her first husband, Leon, Margaret remarried twice to Rupert Cole and Theodore St. Sauveur.

Most of all, she loved playing bingo and dancing to country music. She enjoyed socializing and was a member of the Moose and American Legion auxiliaries. She adored flowers and chocolate and her sons, who would bring them to her when they visited. She is predeceased by her three husbands – Leon Snide, Rupert Cole and Theodore St. Sauveur; her children – Melvin Snide, Everett Snide, and Beverly Wright; three sisters – Norma Lafluer, Ruth Davey, and Alfreda Snide; her parents – George and Ardell Bourey; a son-in-law – Charles Wright, and three daughters-in-law – Ruth (Carpenter) Snide and



Margaret St. Sauveur, 1923-2022. PHOTO PROVIDED

Donna (Shepherd) Snide and Silvia (Session) Snide. She is survived by four generations of loving family members too numerous to count (her great-grandchildren have children), including her sons Burnham (Barbara), Carlton (Debra), William (Susan), and Barry (Regina) and two daughters-in-law, Doris Snide and Stacia Moriarty.

Special thanks go out to the Sullivan County Nursing Home and The Jack Byrne Center at Dartmouth – Hitchcock for the loving care she received in her final years. There will be a graveside service on Saturday, May 21 at 10 a.m. at the Pine Grove Cemetery in North Springfield, Vt. The family is planning a lunch and celebration of her life directly following the service with details forthcoming. Memorial donations can be made to the Sullivan County Health Care Activities Fund or the Jack Byrne Center at Dartmouth – Hitchcock.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Florence Lindgren, 1924-2022

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Florence M. Lindgren, 97, passed away on March 26, 2022 at Springfield Hospital. She was born on July 28, 1924 in Concord N.H., daughter of John and Helen Morrison.

She moved to Springfield, Vt. as a child and graduated from Springfield High School in 1942. She was married to her high school sweetheart, Theodore "Ted" Lindgren, for over 77 years. She worked for Jones & Lamson Machine Tool Company as a panel wiper for 22 years, including three years during World War II while her husband was overseas.

After Ted returned from the war, they decided to go into farming and Flossie was an integral part of the farm in addition to caring for their seven children. She was a longtime member of Calvary Baptist Church and volunteered many hours supporting church activities. She also was a 4-H leader, Sunday School teacher, and a cub scout leader. Flossie loved to read, garden, make jam, and watch for birds and identify them. With much delight, she shared these interests with her children and grandchildren, fostering their interest and love for them too.

The most important and proudest part of her life was her family and she gave of herself selflessly to her husband, children, and grandchildren. While her husband was in the legislature, she was a member of the ladies auxiliary and traveled to Montpelier weekly to be with him. Ted and Flossie traveled all over the country to visit their children, and attend graduations and weddings for family members. They also loved going to Wells, Maine and



Florence Lindgren, 1924-2022. PHOTO PROVIDED

vacationed there for many years.

She was predeceased by her husband, their son Jack Lindgren, and her two sisters, Eileen Austin Neal and Elizabeth Tenney.

She is survived by her children, Linda Fletcher of Port St Lucia, Fla., Karin Greenawalt and husband Wayne of Aurora, Ill., Lance Lindgren and wife Betty of S. Newfane, Vt., Jeff Lindgren and wife Kathleen of Johnson, Vt., Ted Lindgren and wife Marge of Renfrew Pa., and Jennifer Anderson and husband Kevin of Springfield, Vt. She has 16 grandchildren; Gary, Todd, Shelley, Chrissy, Robbie, Tara, Melissa, Chad, Oscar, Brooke, Tara, Teddy, Jake, Jess, Annalisa, and Erika. She has many great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

A funeral service will be held at Calvary Baptist Church on Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 11 a.m. and burial will follow at Oakland Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her honor to Springfield Humane Society at 401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, VT 05156 or Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main St., Springfield, VT 05156.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Ludlow Baptist Church
on the Green
Easter Sunday, April 17

6:30 pm on Friday - Good Friday Service
7:30 am - Easter Sunrise Service at the Gazebo
8:15 am - Breakfast in the Church
9:30 am - Sunday School - all ages
11:00 am - Morning Worship Service

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LEGAL NOTICES

APRIL 9 – CHESTER, Vt. – Chester American Legion Post 67 Children and Youth Breakfast on Saturday, April 9, from 8 a.m. to noon. Kids under 12 eat free. Come meet first responders and see the vehicles that keep you safe. Enjoy games, face painting, giveaways, and American Flag discussion. Surprise Easter Bunny visit and egg hunt finish the day.

APRIL 10 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Kirsten Manville and Tim Foley will co-headline the Stage 33 Live listening room at 33 Bridge Street in Bellows Falls on Sunday, April 10 in a limited-seating 3 p.m. matinee. There is a recommended donation for the performers; advance donations through www.stage33live.com double as chair reservations.

APRIL 13 – WHITE RIVER JCT., Vt. – Monty Python's Spamalat at Northern Stage opening Wednesday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. and running through May 15 at the Barrette Center for the Arts in White River Junction. Experience the legend of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table as you've never seen it before. For details and tickets, visit www.northernstage.org.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – DIY Creative Notebook craft will be held on Wednesday,

April 13 at 5 p.m. at Springfield Town Library. Adults and teens/children will creatively decorate their very own composition notebook to use as a daily journal or jot down favorite poems. Register asap as spaces are limited. For more information, please contact Sue Dowdell, library director, at 802-885-3018 or email springfieldlibrary@hotmail.com.

APRIL 14 – LUDLOW, Vt. – Community lunch at Black River Valley Senior Center on Thursday, April 14 at 11:45 a.m. Menu includes homemade beef stew, bread, and apple crisp with ice cream. Seating is limited. Registration required and donation requested. Located at 10 High St. in Ludlow.

APRIL 16 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Organic master gardener Henry Homeyer is hosting a free webinar on growing vegetables in VT on Saturday, April 16, from 9-10 a.m. via Zoom. Free to attend but donations accepted to support garden education programming offered by the Southeast Chapter of University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Master Gardeners. To register, go to www.henryhomeyer2022.eventbrite.com. Participants must be signed into Eventbrite to participate.

BROWNSVILLE, Vt. – Great

Brownsville Community Church Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16 at 10 a.m. at Tribute Park adjacent to the church, and will continue until all 1,500 eggs are found. Each egg will contain a treasure or two, special to youngsters.

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – "The Perennials," a six-piece jazz ensemble, will perform in concert on Saturday, April 16 at 6 p.m. at St. James Methodist Church in Proctorsville. Enjoy cool jazz and good old tunes. There is no admission charge but donations will be accepted.

SUNDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Six Loose Ladies hosts Odd Bobbins Spinners the second Sunday of each month from 1-4 p.m. at their location on the Common in Chester.

CHESTER, Vt. – Chester American Legion Post 67 hosts Bingo every Sunday. Doors open at 12 p.m., and games start at 1 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Catamount Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol meets Sundays, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., at Hartness Airport in Springfield. The Civil Air Patrol is the

auxiliary unit of the U.S. Air Force tasked with the mission of supporting America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space, and cyber power. Cadets as young as 12 and senior members of any age make up this diverse group of volunteers.

MONDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Free Tobacco Quit class led by Sarah Doyle, Mondays, from 6-7 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Ext., Bellows Falls. Dinner included. Call or text Sarah at 802-289-0045 or email sdoyle@springfieldmed.org.

TUESDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Meals on Wheels serves a senior community lunch every Tuesday, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the meal site, which is located on the corner of Union and Southridge streets in Springfield. All-you-can-eat buffet includes milk, coffee or tea, and dessert. Suggested donation. For more information, call 802-885-5879.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

REGION – Game schedules are subject to change. For more information about an individual game or team, go to the schools' athletic department websites. If you would like to submit sports news or photos from a recent game, please email editor@vermontjournal.com.

Thursday, April 7 –

Unified Basketball
Springfield at Burr and Burton, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 12 –

Unified Basketball
Brattleboro at Springfield, 4 p.m.

Thursday, April 14 –

Unified Basketball
Mill River at Springfield, 4 p.m.

Boys Baseball
Springfield at Proctor, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 16 –

Boys Baseball
Springfield at Mill River Union, 11 a.m.

Tuesday, April 19 –

Boys Baseball
Springfield at White River Valley, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 23 –

Boys Baseball
Springfield at Leland and Gray, 11 a.m.

WEDNESDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Wednesday, from 10-11 a.m. Classes will be held in the First Universalist Parish of Chester community room. Classes are free and open to all. Drop-in class, no registration needed. For details, contact Barbara at bwquilter1778@gmail.com.

THURSDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Knit Knite at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common Thursdays, from 5-8 p.m., and via Zoom, from 7-8 p.m.

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Support group for parents of pregnancy and infant loss on the first Thursday of the month, from 6-7 p.m., at Springfield Area Parent Child Center, 6 Main Street in North Springfield. For details or to register, email dominiquer@sapcc-vt.org or call 802-886-5242 ext. 258.

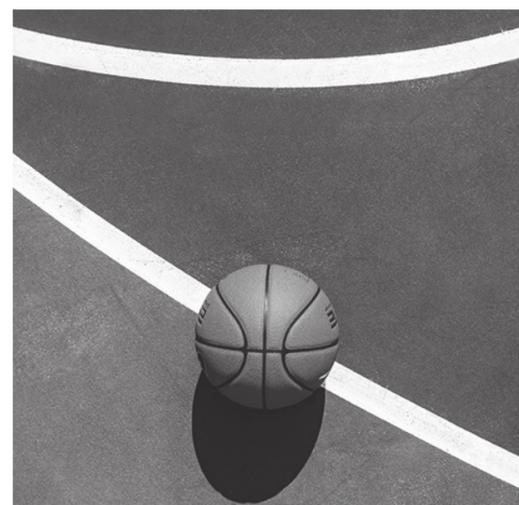
WALPOLE, N.H. – Alcoholics Anonymous women's meeting, a 12-step recovery program for women who have a desire to stop drinking, is happening every Thursday

at 6 p.m. at the St. John's Episcopal Church at the corner of Westminster and Elm streets in Walpole, N.H. For more information, call Viva at 802-732-8330.

FRIDAYS – WALPOLE, N.H. – Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous Fridays from 7-8 p.m. in St. John's Parish Hall, Walpole.

SATURDAYS – GASSETTS, Vt. – Gassetts Grange hosts breakfast the second Saturday of every month, serving from 8-9:30 a.m. There is a fee per person. Menu includes bacon, sausage, eggs, sausage gravy, plain and blueberry pancakes, home fries, toast, juices, coffee, and tea. Eat in or take out. Hope to see you all there. For more information, call 802-591-4290 or 802-875-1051.

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS LUDLOW, Vt. – Yoga classes at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Yoga Stretch with Kathy Saturdays at 10 a.m. and Slow Flow Yoga with Lisa Sundays at 10:15 a.m. Drop in rates apply. Open to all. For details, call the Spring House at 802-228-1419 or visit www.okemo.com.



Spring sports begin!

STOCK PHOTO

Tuesday, April 26 –

Boys Baseball
Woodstock Union at Springfield, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 28 –

Unified Basketball
Hartford at Springfield, 4 p.m.

Boys Baseball
Springfield at Bellows Falls, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 30 –

Boys Baseball
Otter Valley Union at Springfield, 11 a.m.

TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN NH OPEN POSITIONS



DEPUTY BUILDING INSPECTOR:

This position is responsible for inspection of commercial and residential buildings during various stages of construction and remodeling to ensure compliance with applicable codes, ordinances and regulations. Inspect foundation, concrete, steel, masonry, wood construction, framing, plastering, routine plumbing, heating and electrical installations and a large variety of other complex and routine building system elements. Respond to citizen complaints and concerns; serve due process letters to violators as necessary. Issue notices to comply on violations; maintain records of history of facts for possible legal actions. Signing and issuing of permits and certificates of occupancy. This is a part-time position with no benefits. REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma or Equivalent. Proven work experience as a Building Inspector - Specialized training in the building trades and/or code enforcement desirable. Possession of an appropriate, valid building inspector certificate - or ascertain within the first year of employment with the NH Building Officials Association. Knowledge of construction design techniques and understand blueprints and construction designs. Ability to travel and work irregular hours

BUILDING MAINTENANCE and CUSTODIAN:

This position will be responsible for performing a variety of maintenance work for all Town buildings to include: Working with vendors, contractors, electricians, plumbers concerning building repairs and upkeep. Cleaning all Town owned buildings as needed, including trash removal. Painting and general maintenance. Seasonal work such as raking leaves, snow removal, sanding. Ensure proper maintenance of all Town AED's, fire extinguishers and sprinkler systems. Assist in annual maintenance of all heat and AC units. This is a full-time position with benefits: Health, Dental, Life, Disability and Retirement.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/ TRUCK DRIVER/LABORER:

Duties include but not limited to snow plowing with plow and wing, and general labor. Previous experience with heavy equipment and road maintenance required. Additional requirements are a good working ethic, positive attitude, hard worker and a team player. High School Diploma or GED required. Must pass a physical, and a drug & alcohol test. A CDL License is required. This is a full-time position with benefits: Health, Dental, Life, Disability and Retirement.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT MECHANIC:

Previous experience working on heavy equipment a plus, as well as any combination of education and experience which demonstrates possession of the required knowledge, skill and ability to be a highway department mechanic. Must have a CDL Class B license. Successful applicant will be subject to a drug/alcohol screening. High School diploma or equivalent is required. This is a full-time position with benefits: Health, Dental, Life, Disability and Retirement.

RECREATION DEPT. – LIFEGUARDS AND POOL HELP:

These are part-time seasonal positions. June through September.

LIFEGUARDS: Maintain constant surveillance of patrons while in the stand; act immediately and appropriately to secure safety of patrons. Enforce pool rules. Provide emergency care and treatment until emergency medical services can take over. Must be at least 15 years of age. Must have a LifeGuard Certificate and CPR Certificate.

POOL HELP: Sign in patrons. Work cash register. Sell snacks. Answer telephone. Perform maintenance and pool cleaning duties.

Interested candidates in any of the above positions should complete an application and/or resume and submit to: Charlestown Town Office - Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 385, Charlestown NH 03603 or email it to Ddezan@charlestown-nh.gov. An application may be found at www.charlestown-nh.gov or at the Town Office 233 Main St. Charlestown, NH.

The Town of Charlestown is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, VERMONT POSITION AVAILABLE PART-TIME POLICE DISPATCHER

The Town of Ludlow invites applications for the position of a Part-Time Police Dispatcher. Applicant must be organized and able to communicate effectively in written and in oral form. Must be able to work all shifts, including midnight. Computer experience is required. Send resume in confidence with references to the Chief of Police, Town of Ludlow, PO Box 359, Ludlow, VT, 05149 or email to: Jeffrey.Billings@vermont.gov. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Ludlow is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



TOWN OF WESTMINSTER
P.O. BOX 147 WESTMINSTER, VT 05158
Tel. 802-722-4255 Fax 802-722-9816

The Westminster Selectboard is seeking an individual interested in fulfilling the remaining term of a vacant seat on the Selectboard. The remaining term is approximately 11 months, at which time the appointee could choose to run for the full term if desired. The board meets two times a month. The candidate must be a resident of the town of Westminster. Interested individuals should send a letter of interest to Kelley Thayer, administrative assistant at assistant@westminstervt.org



WESTMINSTER ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Annual Town Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 10:00 AM at the Westminster Town Hall to elect Town Officers by Australian Ballot. To be recessed to Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 10:00 AM for the in-person Town Meeting on the Westminster Institute Lawn. ***Rain location will be in the bays of the Westminster Fire District # 3 on Grout Avenue

TOWN REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN HALL / BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY WESTMINSTER WEST LIBRARY

LMHUUSD MOWING BID

The Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District is seeking bids for lawn mowing at the Mount Holly Elementary School. Those interesting in submitting a bid need to be fully insured and should contact Cheryl Hammond, Business Manager at cheryl.hammond@trsu.org (802) 875-6433 or Craig Hutt Vater, Principal at craig.huttvater@trsu.org 259-2392.

School Bus Driver

Green Mountain Unified School District has a position open for a Full Time Bus Driver starting immediately. Driving will be approximately 4 - 6 hours a day split between the morning and afternoon. This is a School Year Position. Requirements: CDL Class B with school bus and passenger endorsement, as well as current DOT Medical Card. Background Checks and a pre-employment drug test are required as well as being in a pool for random drug testing. EOE.

Job Type: Full-time Pay: \$22.87 per hour

Send Resumes to: Michael Ripley at michael.ripley@trsu.org

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD, VT FULL-TIME DISPATCHER POSITION

The Town of Springfield is seeking to fill a Dispatcher position. This is a Full-Time position with an excellent benefit package. The starting pay is \$20.29 per hour for no prior dispatch experience (training rate). Otherwise, starting pay is \$20.63 depending on prior experience level. This is a second shift position, 3:00 to 11:00 PM. Training will be provided. Applications and additional information on the position, benefits, and union contract may be picked up at the Springfield Police Station, 201 Clinton Street, or by calling the Department's Administrative Assistant at 802-885-2113. Applications may also be downloaded at www.springfieldvt.org. Complete applications should be forwarded to the Chief of Police, Mark Fountain at the Springfield Police Department. Applications will be accepted until April 22, 2022 or until the position is filled. The Town is an equal opportunity employer.

community

HELP WANTED

Springfield Hospital accepting scholarship applications

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Hospital is now accepting applications for the 17th Annual Eileen Austin Neal Nursing Scholarship of \$1,000. This scholarship is open to any student who has been accepted into a nursing program of study. Applicants will be judged on interest in and commitment to the field of nursing. Determination will be based on merit and need.

Eileen Austin Neal was a registered nurse at Springfield Hospital for 64 years,

retiring in 2005. She was the first recipient of Springfield Hospital's Community Health Award in 2003. In 2004, the Hospital established the Spirit of Nursing Award in recognition of her many years of dedicated service.

Upon her death in February 2006, at the request of Eileen's family, Springfield Hospital established a nursing scholarship fund in her name with the gifts received in her memory. "This scholarship continues the positive influence Eileen had on both nursing and the community," said Lyndsy McIntyre, VP of Patient Care Services at Springfield Hospital.

The application deadline is June 24, 2022. Scholarship applications are available by visiting www.springfieldhospital.org. If you would like more information, please contact Sandy Peplau in the Marketing & Development office by emailing speplau@springfieldhospital.org, or call 802-885-7686.

Senior Solutions receives grant for pet programming

REGION – Senior Solutions has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from Meals on Wheels America and PetSmart Charities to expand their existing "Foxy Fund" to provide emergency veterinary care and pet food for Meals on Wheels recipients with pets. Senior Solutions was one of only 27 grants awarded nationally, and the only one in the northeast.

"We are incredibly excited about this opportunity," said Outreach Specialist Thom Simmons. "In April we will be working out the logistics in a test pilot with the Springfield

Meals Center, so clients in Andover, Chester, Perkinsville, and Springfield with pets should keep watch for information in their meal deliveries. Once it is operating smoothly, we will offer to expand it to other towns across southeastern Vermont by working with the other meals centers. This will greatly transform our existing Foxy Fund program and help many of our clients keep and care for their pets."

Vermonters have the highest pet-ownership rate in the country at 71%, and many think of their pets as family members. Studies have shown that pets positively impact both the physical and emotional health of seniors in significant ways, especially those at risk of social isolation. Pet ownership may not only stave off loneliness, but can also reduce blood pressure, provide mental health benefits, and offer unconditional love and acceptance. Unfortunately, many people on fixed incomes have difficulty keeping up with the rising costs of owning a pet.

The Foxy Fund was established in 2019 as a result of a bequest by a client whose life was changed by having a pet. To read more about this story or donate to the fund, please visit www.seniorsolutionsvt.org/giving/the-foxy-fund/.

You Can Be the Difference
Chester-Andover Family Center is recruiting new board members

Learn more at our Open House
 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, April 13
 or email: cafc302@gmail.com

908 Rt 103 South in Chester

CAFC is a 501(c)3 charitable organization

Affordable health screenings

WHITE RIVER JCT., Vt. – Residents living in and around the White River Junction, Vt. can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Hartford High School will host this community event on Thursday, April 14, 2022. The site is located at 37 Highland Ave., White River Junction, VT. Screenings can check for:

- The level of plaque build-up in your arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke, and overall vascular health.
 - HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels
 - Diabetes risk
 - Bone density as a risk for possible osteoporosis
 - Kidney and thyroid function, and more
- Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available. Consultants will work with you to create a package

that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1354

or visit the website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

Call for May Festival vendors

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The 11th May Festival will fill the outdoors around the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse on 21 Fairground Rd., Springfield, Vt. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 21 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. It will be so good to see each other outdoors on what will hopefully be a beautiful Spring day, enjoy some food and music and buy and sell from flea market, plant, or craft tables.

This prime location is a great spot to set up your flea market or craft table. Flea market and craft booth vendor spaces are available for a small fee. Vendors may park at their booth space.

Contact Deb at uuspringfieldvt@gmail.com or Diane at dkemble@vermont.net, or call 802-324-9465 to reserve a booth space. Please include a short description of what you'll be selling.

The 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. festival is a rain or shine event. Vendors must provide their own canopies and plan accordingly for the weather. Set up time is on May 21, 7:30 – 8:45 a.m.

Family Operated Country Store
 looking for
Manager - Food Products

Responsibilities include fudge making, inventory, ordering processes, develop new vendor relationships & intergrate new products

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 or stop in our stores
 on Main Street in Weston.

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 660 Main Street • Weston, VT 05161
 (802) 825-5477
 Email: info@westonvillagestore.com

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Grafton, VT
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802-869-2333

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MACK IS HIRING!!!
\$3,000 Signing Bonus for Qualified Hires

Mack Molding, the leading provider of contract manufacturing services to a number of industries, including medical, energy and robotics, is hiring at its Cavendish, Vt., plant. Current openings include finishers, molders, painters, technicians and supervisors. With a \$3,000 signing bonus available to qualified candidates and the potential for hourly wage increases up to three times a year, it's a great time to join the Mack team!

Apply in Person During On-the-Spot Interviews!
 8 a.m. — 5 p.m. | Thursday, April 14, 2022
 Mack Cavendish Plant
 2044 Main St, Cavendish, VT

Apply online!
www.mack.com



Licensed Dental Hygienists Needed!

VT licensed dental hygienists needed for a rapidly growing general dentistry practice in Chester, Vermont. Qualified candidates will enjoy the benefits of a small high-end established practice in a brand new building with all the latest technology, and the freedom to carve out your own career path. Flexible schedule, paid vacation, holidays, continuing education, and 401k. We have a golden retriever therapy dog on site so you must love dogs!

Generous sign on bonus available for commitment to two days per week or more.

Please send a cover letter and resume to info@drchristopherfauver.com, attention: office manager, or call 802-885-3191 for a confidential interview.

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arts & entertainment

Next Stage Arts presents “Into the Woods”

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Join the Wild Goose Players as they present Stephen Sondheim’s masterpiece musical, “Into the Woods,” April 22, 23, 29, and 30 at 7:30 p.m., and April 23, 24, 30, and May 1 at 2 p.m. at the Bellows Falls Opera House.

Nominated for ten Tony Awards and winning three, this epic musical adaptation of the Grimms’ Fairy Tales covers multiple themes: growing up, parents and children, accepting responsibility, morality, and finally, wish-fulfillment and its consequences. Time Magazine reviewers wrote that the play’s “basic insight... is that at heart, most fairy

tales are about the loving yet embattled relationship between parents and children. Almost everything that goes wrong – which is to say, almost everything that can – arises from a failure of parental or filial duty, despite the best intentions.” Stephen Holden wrote that the themes of the show include parent-child relationships and the individual’s responsibility to the community. The witch isn’t just a scowling old hag, but a key symbol of moral ambivalence. James Lapine said that the most unpleasant person, that is, the Witch, would have the truest things to say and the “nicer” people would be less honest. In

the Witch’s words, “I’m not good; I’m not nice; I’m just right.”

Featuring haunting music, fantastical sets and costumes, giants and witches and more, this show will keep you spellbound from start to finish. The production includes the creative team and company that brought Chicago, The Secret Garden, and Jesus Christ Superstar to the Opera House Stage.

Due to continuing Covid concerns, masks will be required. For tickets and reservations visit www.bellowsfallsoperahouse.com. For further information, email dstern@wildgooseplayers.com.

VAULT offers Traditional Chinese Calligraphy class

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the VAULT is offering a Traditional Chinese Calligraphy class with Jonathan Root on Saturday, April 23 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Learn the basics of Chinese calligraphy by focusing on the work of Ou Yang Zun, one of the great calligraphers of the Tang Dynasty. Attendees will learn the basics of character development, stroke order, and structural integrity.

Calligraphy is a meditative practice, which



“Jonathan on Virtue.”

PHOTO PROVIDED

Springfield Community Band seeks new players

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Community Band is seeking new players. The Band is a dynamic and fun group that plays a varied repertoire, from classic rock and ballads, to music from movies and musicals and traditional marches. If you can find time for our schedule, we’d like to have you as a band member – even if it’s been quite some time since you

last played. There are no auditions.

Rehearsals are every Sunday, 6–8 p.m. from April 3 to June 19. The concerts are Tuesday evenings in the summer, starting June 21.

For more information, please email us at info@springfieldcommunityband.com, or call Barb Rodgers at 802-875-2079.

Beekeeper offers workshops

ALSTEAD, N.H. – Charles Andros, a former New Hampshire and Vermont apiary inspector, will be holding beekeeping workshops on April 23, May 21, July 16, and Sept. 10, all from 1–4 p.m., at 18 MacLean Rd., Alstead, N.H. Topics of discussion will vary by workshop but include: early spring management, locating apiaries, equipment, handling bees, feeding syrup and supplements,

making nuclei, reversing, finding queens, pollen collection, supering, queenening, treatment of mites and foulbrood, and winter preparations.

Bring a veil if you have one, as the workshops involve the opening of some colonies. Water and sunscreen recommended. Look for the “BEE” sign on the south side of Walpole Valley Rd. Registration is required. Email lindenamel@gmail.com or call 603-756-9056.

focuses the spirit into the brush, each stroke reflecting the writer’s state of mind.

Jonathan Root grew up in Chester, Vt. He learned calligraphy in China, where he lived for two years. He has been practicing and studying calligraphy for six years and currently lives in Chester. Interested parties can see samples of his work in the Open Wall Room.

Attendees are to bring their own brushes. Ink, paperweight, and felt mat will be provided. Separate costs for members and nonmembers. Register by Wednesday, April 20 to attend. For more information, call 802-885-7111 or visit the webpage at www.galleryvault.org. Gallery is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Handicap accessible. Masks required.

VT Trout Unlimited Fly Fishing Summer Camp

MONTPELIER, Vt. – Vermont Trout Unlimited announces the tenth anniversary of their fly fishing camp for Vermont teens ages 13–16. Teens interested in either learning the art of fly fishing or improving their basic skill level along side some of Vermont’s most accomplished fly anglers, are invited to apply. The camp is scheduled for Sunday, June 19 through Thursday, June 23 at Jackson’s Lodge in Canaan, Vt.

Chris Herrick, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioner, supports TU’s educational efforts. “TU’s Fly Fishing Camp for Teens is an incredible program dedicated to educating our next generation of fly fishermen and women to help ensure that

our precious coldwater fisheries here in Vermont will be taken care of well into the future.”

Participants in the five day and four night comprehensive program will learn and practice casting, basic fly tying, knot craft, insect identification and imitation (entomology), fish identification and behavior (ichthyology), safe wading techniques, angling ethics, and coldwater conservation. Campers will hone their skills on local lakes, ponds, and streams, including the Connecticut River.

Our host, Jackson’s Lodge, is located in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom on Wallace Pond and is a short five-minute drive from the Connecticut River.

Prospective campers are encouraged to apply no later than April 15, 2022 to secure a spot for this year’s program. Scholarships may be available on an “as-needed” basis.

Trout Unlimited is a non-profit organization that has dedicated over 50 years to the conservation, protection, and restoration of North

America’s cold-water fisheries and watersheds.

For complete information about the TU Fly Fishing Camp, an application form, and many videos of the camp, go to www.vermonttroutcamp.com or e-mail Kurt Budliger, camp director, at vermonttroutcamp@gmail.com.

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Children & Youth Month Breakfast
April 9, from 8am - 12pm
\$8 per person, kids under 12 Eat Free

Come meet the First Responders of Chester, see the vehicles that keep you safe. There will be games, face painting, give aways, and talk about the American Flag. A surprise visit by the Easter Bunny and an Easter Egg Hunt to finish the day!

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Climb, swim, and explore at Edgar May

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Edgar May Health and Recreation Center invites children ages 7–14 to participate in our 2022 Adventure Summer Camp, which will run five days a week from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Adventure Camp is available for six weeks this summer: July 5–8, July 11–15, July 18–22, Aug 8–12, Aug 15–19, or Aug 22–26. Each week has an option for after camp care, which is available from 4–5 p.m.

“We’re really excited to offer this summer program to our community,” says Olivia Satti, Camp Director. “It’s super important that we bring kids back together outside the classroom in an environment where they will work on important life skills such as team work, communication, critical thinking, and self-confidence.”

On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, campers will get a chance to use our 40-foot rock-climbing wall and learn important skills, terminology, and safety measures. This dynamic activity is a total body workout with many

health benefits including increasing range of motion and flexibility, building strength and endurance, and boosting brain function. Campers will also cool down in our pools with engaging water games, swim lessons, and BOGA classes. During their swimming times, they will also develop new skills as well as learn how to be safe in the water.

On Tuesday and Thursday, campers will travel offsite to Vermont State Parks, art exhibits, museums, nature centers, and more. Tuesday’s trips will focus on outdoor education and exploration while Thursday’s trips will be sites full of real-world experience and education. An example of a few of these locations are Vermont Institute of Natural Science in Quechee, Endless Creations in Chester, Billings Farm and Museum in Woodstock, Grafton Nature Museum, Montshire Museum in Norwich, and New England Center for the Circus Arts in Brattleboro.

Students ages 13–15 also have the opportunity to par-

ticipate in camp as Counselors in Training. CITs will assist counselors with leading activities for the younger campers as well as learn valuable leadership and management skills. “The CITs of this year will develop the skills needed to be the camp counselors of the future,” adds Satti.

Registration and additional information is available at www.edgarmay.org/summer-camps. Scholarships are available. For more information, call 802-885-2568, email info@edgarmay.org, or visit www.edgarmay.org.



Campers work together rock climbing at Edgar May. PHOTO PROVIDED

Fletcher Farm School Young Artist Program

LUDLOW, Vt. – For decades now, the Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts in Ludlow, Vt., has afforded local children and summer visitors from 7–17 years old the opportunity to learn a new skill and socialize with other children in a safe, nurturing environment. This summer, we offer classes in art, clay, silver fabrication, mixed media, creating greeting cards, making “junk journals,” learning hand stitching, working with parents to weave a small stool, and learning to upcycle old clothing with appliqué.

There is plenty of time to play in the fresh air and explore our expansive campus. At the end of each class, students display their work for parents and other students on campus, both children and adults.

All children are welcome in our Young Artist Program.

For local schoolchildren (Ludlow, Cavendish, Chester, Mount Holly, Shrewsbury), we have a scholarship program that offers up to one-half of tuition. The Fletcher Farm Foundation subsidizes the other half of tuition for students from Ludlow or Cavendish. Par-

ents from other communities are responsible for the balance of tuition. Parents are also responsible for our registration fee, and the materials fee of the class. Students bring their own lunches and snacks. Classes generally run from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Scholarship applications will be available through the local schools after April 1, and after parents complete them, the applications are returned to the child’s art teacher for recommendations. The art teachers return the applications to us by May 1. We process applications and notify scholarship recipients by May 16.

Weston Theater Company registration for “TheaterLab”

WESTON, Vt. – Weston Theater Company announces open registration for “TheaterLab,” an immersive technical theater experience for students ages 12–18. Under the instruction of top industry professionals, participants receive an up-close look at creating live theater through backstage tours, tech rehearsals, actor/director talkbacks, and more – they also will attend all of Weston’s summer productions together and meet most Sunday afternoons and an occasional weekday evening between June and August.

Says Director of Education and Engagement, Susan Haefner, “Weston Theater Company is thrilled to offer TheaterLab in person for the first time in two years. I’m so excited to give students an opportunity to experience theater in this unique way.”

Tuition includes: one

ticket to all four shows of summer season, one additional ticket per student per production, participation in post-show talks, workshops, and more, and the opportunity to meet other students who share a passion for theater.

Participants should be able to attend at least two of the Sunday matinee performances, workshops, and talkbacks, which will last from approximately 1:30 – 6:30 p.m., and will be expected to share their experiences through conversation, content creation, and social media during the season and when they return to school.

2022 TheaterLab Sunday matinee dates, subject to change: July 3 – Shrek; July 17 – Marry Me a Little; July 31 – Hair; August 21 – Steel Magnolias. Enrollment is capped at 15 students. Space is limited. Register at www.forms.office.com/r/kcwik-0MebK by June 15, 2022.

Weston Theater Company builds on and enhances the unique assets of its Vermont village campus to produce a diverse, entertaining, and challenging season of live professional theater and high impact events; enrich the theater-going experience with education and outreach programs for all ages; and make significant contributions to the American theater through training programs, play development, and retreats. It is a non-profit organization supported in part by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and an ever-growing family of individuals and organizations who believe in the impact the performing arts make on its community. Learn more at www.westontheater.org.

Bethany Birches Camp

WHO WE ARE A community of love where kids are nurtured and encouraged. A really fun place where the wilderness around us is explored. A place to meet & develop faith. Located in the heart of the Green Mountains in Plymouth, Vermont. Offering 1 & 2 week overnight camps for ages 6-16.

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weston THEATER COMPANY

Registration is now open for: **TheaterLab**

Get an up-close and personal look at creating live theater through backstage tours, tech rehearsals, actor/director talkbacks, and more – all under the instruction of top industry professionals and in the company of like-minded peers.

*Includes tickets to all of Weston’s summer productions + \$10 tickets for an accompanying adult.

Sunday afternoons June-August
Students Ages 12 - 18
Tuition: \$55
Space is limited

More info at: westontheater.org/theaterlab

2022 Adventure Summer Camp

Climb. **Swim.** **Explore.**

EdgarMay.org/summer-camps

Edgar may Health and Recreation CENTER

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