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Frustrations boil over at GMUSD meeting

BY PAULA BENSON
The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – “This is not okay!” It took only 20 minutes for the Wednesday, May 24, special meeting of the Green Mountain Unified School District (GMUSD) School Board to devolve into angry shouts from some of the more than 20 people attending in person at Cavendish Town Elementary School (CTES), and over 80 participants who appeared via Zoom. Steve Perani was the only board member in attendance at CTES.

School Board Chair Deb Brown charged forward, at times speaking over objections, or ignoring motions made by board members. After a brief explanation about the change in agenda due to CTES principal candidate Donna Bazyk dropping out just hours before the open forum was to begin, Brown presented the board instead with the resignations of members Dennis Reilly and Katie Murphy for consideration.

Board member Josh Schroeder waved his hands in protest and demanded that he be given a chance to read the letters of resignation. “Had I known we were going to discuss this,” Schroeder said, addressing Brown, “I would have come to the meeting. I haven’t had the chance to read any letters, has anybody else?”

“[The letters] were sent out,” Brown responded. “The fact remains that

[Reilly and Kate Lamphere] walked out of the meeting, and resigned in public, so that should be enough right there. Actions have consequences.”

“I think it’s my turn to talk,” Schroeder maintained, and requested again to have the chance to review the letters.

Brown then read Murphy’s letter aloud, which explained that Murphy resigned from the board after the May 18 meeting, due to the Chieftains name being in direct violation of state law.

Without input from Murphy or Lamphere, the board voted to accept the resignation of Dennis Reilly. Brown then moved to vote on Murphy’s resignation.

Fighting for Brown’s attention, Perani pointed out that Kate Lamphere was trying to log in on Zoom, that she was not going to resign, and until the board officially accepted her verbal resignation, she was still a member, and should be allowed a vote.

Brown pushed back, “I have not heard from Kate [since] she walked out of the last meeting and resigned.”

Lamphere joined the meeting and responded to Brown. “I sent you an email...” quoting the date and time of the communication.

“I have not received any such email,” Brown quickly replied, which generated moans and protestations from the crowd. “You can

ask Shawn Cunningham,” Brown continued, “he has access to all of my emails.”

Brown asked Lamphere to state her current intention, and Lamphere specified, “I rescind my resignation. Given the situation, I think a revote is in order. Had I known the will of the board was not to violate the law, I would not have submitted my resignation,” she said, referring to Murphy’s request to reverse her vote to say that the mascot is in violation of the law.

Brown questioned whether Murphy’s claim of a misunderstanding was factual. “At least four times I explained what the motion was,” Brown said. “I stated very clearly, I asked Katie, ‘Do you understand?’ I will not entertain that she did not know what she was voting for!”

“And I trust her word!” Lamphere exclaimed.

Interrupting Brown, Lamphere declared, “I make a motion to accept the withdrawal of Katie Murphy’s resignation, and that she be reinstated to the board.”

Brown insisted the board vote on accepting Murphy’s resignation first, pressing ahead as Lamphere shouted, “I was mid-motion!”

There were more objections, with some residents unmuting themselves to shout at the board, “This is a dictatorship!” Others called the proceedings “ugly,” “disgusting,” and “shameful.” Brown ignored the comments, and continued forward with rollcall. When Brown’s vote broke the tie and she announced the board’s acceptance of Murphy’s resignation, the meeting erupted.

A confusing and contentious discussion continued for several minutes, with everyone speaking and yelling over each other. Ultimately, Brown agreed to “entertain Kate’s motion,” adding, “which should make everybody happy.” The motion was seconded by Rick Alexander.

Vice Chair Adrienne Williams asked Murphy to turn her camera on and address the board, since they had not heard directly from her. Murphy obliged. “I want to be back on the board,” she said. “I don’t want to resign. I want to stay and fight for my community, and my children, and the rest of the children in the community.”

The board agreed to Murphy’s reinstatement with a vote of 7-1, with Scott Kendall the only member to vote no.

The response of the collective community was not a positive one, evidenced by the public comments.

Amy Hamblett, teacher at CAES shared, “Like many of my colleagues, I was completely disheartened at the meeting on Thursday night. I want the board to understand the impact your actions have on teachers, and what they are trying to do with students. Your actions on Thursday night leave us completely leaderless. I can-

not overestimate how difficult this is for us.”

Amanda Tyrrell introduced herself as “the lone Cavendish Town principal candidate left. I was asked to be here for that purpose, and I realize plans changed. I want to acknowledge how many people are in attendance here, and on Zoom... I had something else to say, but right now, this is about respect. This is about children. Please be respectful, please be good role models for our children. Right now, I’m standing before you as a grades 5-6 teacher, and I would want them to see something different.”

Several citizens pointed to Brown as the cause of the board’s troubles, including former CTES Principal Amy Bohren, who commented, “I have been at every board meeting this year, and there was a precise moment where things started to go really bad. This is not personal, this is professional. That precise moment was when there was a change in the board president.” Bohren stated further, “I don’t see a way out or a way forward in collaboration until that elephant is taken out of the room.”

The Brauchts addressed Brown directly. “[We were] really disappointed [with] the way you handled the board members today. On public record, [we] would like to say your combative nature is not helpful to the collaboration of this community.”

Brown attempted to move away from public comments to enter executive session, but Perani interrupted, and suggested that no decision on the CTES principal position be made yet. He felt it would be unfair to Tyrrell. “Given the tone of tonight’s meeting, she has been set up to fail. I want her to feel we are behind her,” Perani explained.

Brown clarified that the executive session’s purpose was to get the board’s input on Tyrrell, and discuss the next steps, not to make a final decision. Brown suggested they entertain a motion to adjourn, but was met with shouts of “More public comments!”

Commenting as a “private citizen,” Reilly added, “The only way the board can move forward is for the board to consider new leadership on the board.”

Abraham Gross expressed his thanks to “the majority of the board that voted to stay out of an illegal executive session...The board made a lot of mistakes this evening, but that was not one of them.” Gross suggested training in Robert’s Rules, or to “hire a parliamentarian to be on site to provide the necessary guidelines.” Gross also said, “Public sessions are mandated by statute. And the tendency of the chairwoman to limit the speech, to limit participation, is all in violation of the statute. I really encourage

See **GMUSD** on Page 2

Proposed park in Londonderry endorsed

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – On Monday, May 15, the Londonderry Selectboard endorsed a plan to enhance the vacant lot on the northeast corner of the intersection of Route 11 and Route 100. However, there is still necessary work to be done before it is fully approved. Proposed by a subcommittee of the One Londonderry Village Main Street Group, the simple but dynamic plan would allow people to come, sit, and relax. Trees, shrubs, and perennials, with benches and pea stone walkways will be installed once financing is obtained. A great deal of attention was paid to the required zoning setbacks and right-of-ways, in addition to the deed restrictions for this site.

The focal point of this green space is a 30-foot diameter circular design, the center of which is a grouping of three vertical native stone monoliths. The next circular ring is a pea stone path, surrounded by eight native stone benches in a circular format. The outside border is a band of perennial ground cover, with allium bulbs popping up throughout. A low hedge of evergreen yew was selected to be planted along the wall bordering the Mill Pond, which the Vermont Department of Transportation has

to approve. A grouping of three evergreen trees will be planted for “seasonal holiday decoration” in one corner, and a crabapple in the south east corner, with three season appeal. Along Route 100 and Route 11, on the setback lines, there will be a 4-foot hydrangea hedge, giving the site a bit of privacy and protection. Three elm trees, couched in a row behind the hedge, mimic those planted previously on the other side of the street, to provide continuity throughout town. Care was taken in the design to not obscure views of oncoming traffic at the intersection. The “environmentally compatible Vermont bird-and-pollinator-friendly plants” were selected for their sequential bloom times and “minimal upkeep,” according to the written proposal.

One goal of the initiative is to offer residents and visitors a landmark gateway “coming into Londonderry from the east along Route 11 and from the north on Route 100.” As an articulated objective in the town’s master plan, this destination at the south end of Main Street is a “spark” that begins the designated process of walkability and connectivity in our village. The green space would also compliment the Coffee

Bar(n) being built on the corner across Route 100, and be a place Farmers’ Market customers could eat and enjoy the view of the Mill Pond and the village.

The total cost is estimated to be \$30,000, including \$5,000 for five years of maintenance. Donations will be welcomed once matching grants for the program are set up. More information on this thrilling project and its funding opportunities will be forthcoming.

One Londonderry is a citizen-led organization whose mission is to serve Londonderry and the surrounding communities by maximizing our strengths as a regional hub, a four-season recreation destination, and a beautiful place to live. Wholly independent of the Town of Londonderry municipal government, One Londonderry volunteers work in concert with the town and other organizations and agencies on projects geared toward community betterment, with the aim to create and sustain a thriving, healthy, and vibrant community for our residents, neighbors, and visitors.

Stryhas inducted into VPA Hall of Fame

MONTPELIER, Vt. – A former Black River Academy three-sport standout, who went on to star on the St. Michael’s College basketball team, has been inducted into the Hall of Fame for the Vermont Principals’ Association. Bruce Stryhas was honored for his incredible high school career on the basketball court and soccer and baseball fields in Ludlow.

He was among 12 people honored – including seven student-athletes – at a sold-out banquet at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Montpelier.

Stryhas, a 1962 Black River graduate, played soccer, was a great pitcher and hitter in baseball, and really shined on the basketball court. He was Black River’s first player to score over 1,000 career points, leading the Presidents to three appearances in the Division II basketball finals, though the Presidents came up just short each time. Stryhas was a great passer as well, and had 21 assists in one game.

He thanked his teammates, coaches, and the community for the ongoing support through the years. He said Ludlow was



Bruce Stryhas (far right, back row) and fellow VPA inductees. PHOTO PROVIDED

a special place to grow up.

Stryhas went on to play basketball at the University of Connecticut for his freshman season, before transferring and being a standout starter for some of the top nationally ranked basketball teams for St. Michael’s College in Colchester.

Since the creation of the Hall of Fame in 2001, the VPA has honored more than 280 student-athletes, coaches, advisors, administrators, officials, media members, and contributors for their efforts on behalf of students across Vermont.

Each year, nominations are accepted throughout the year from the general public, to honor those that have helped with sports and activities at VPA-member schools. The VPA’s Hall of Fame Committee considers the nominations based on the criteria outlined on the website.

For more information about the nomination process, the criteria for selection, the current list of inductees, the committee, and more, please visit www.vpaonline.org/athletics/vpa-hall-of-fame.

CORRECTION

In the “GMUSD Board in chaos over mascot” article in the May 24 edition of The Vermont Journal, the name of the student who first proposed the Chieftains mascot is Randy Vincent, not Randy Benson.

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Alumni Association gala at BRAM

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River High School Alumni Association and the Black River Academy Museum hope you will join in the gala activities scheduled for June 10, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Call it a homecoming if it fits your fancy.

You can enjoy games, barbecue, hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream, and music, all on the grounds of the museum and the Ludlow Senior Center next door on High Street. For a small fee, you can enter the cornhole tournament, winner take

all.

Admission to the museum will be free. Don't miss the new displays of memorabilia and other items on the top floor, especially if you graduated from Black River High School, dedicated to the history of the school. A selection of duplicate photos and trophies will be for sale.

Calvin Coolidge, who graduated from the Black River Academy in 1890, will make special appearances in several places in the museum. He will briefly

describe portions of his life, and will welcome questions.

Don't let this be a last blast from the past. Come and enjoy the festivities and connect with old friends and classmates this month, and in years to come.

Stay tuned for more information, and mark your calendar. For more information, contact Georgia Brehm at the Black River Academy Museum at 802-228-5050.

Okemo Valley TV seeks board nominations

LUDLOW, Vt. – Okemo Valley TV, the nonprofit community access TV station and media center, is seeking nominations to its board of directors in advance of its annual meeting. The election will be held during the annual meeting on Tuesday, June 20.

Any resident of Andover, Ludlow, Mount Holly, Plymouth, Reading, or Cavendish, who is at least 18 years of age, is eligible to serve on the board. Visit the board page on Okemo Valley TV's web-

site at www.okemovalley.tv for more information. The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, June 13. Voting, open to all residents of the aforementioned towns ages 14 and up, will be offered electronically, through the station's website, from June 14 until the start of the annual meeting on June 20. Physical ballots will also be made available for those who attend the meeting.

The public is invited and welcome to attend the annual meeting, which – in addition to the election – will also include a brief

awards ceremony recognizing community producers and volunteers. Anyone interested in becoming a candidate or nominating someone they know should email Executive Director Patrick Cody at pcody@okemovalley.tv, or call the station at 802-228-8808.

New trees at Ludlow Dog Park

LUDLOW, Vt. – Tim Calabrese, Fletcher Farm Foundation board member, planted three Fall Fiesta Sugar Maple trees at the Ludlow Dog Park, located on the Fletcher Fields. The foundation is pleased to have donated the cost of the trees and planting.

The foundation generously supports many organizations with monetary donations, as well as use of the Foundation's properties located in the towns of Ludlow and Cavendish. Organizations include the Fletcher Memorial Library in Ludlow, the Fletcher Community



Fletcher Farm Foundation Board members Frank Provance and Jean Strong and Executive Director Doug LeMire.
PHOTO BY NICK MIELE

Library in Cavendish, the Ludlow Community Gardens, Stepping Stones Preschool, Fletcher Farm Craft School, hiking trails, snow

mobile trails, and the soccer field in Cavendish on the Fletcher Fields.

Written by Jean Stong.

Chester Alumni Parade

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Green Mountain Alumni Association will be hosting the annual alumni parade on Saturday, June 10. The parade lineup is at 10 a.m., starting at the Chester Town Hall. Contact John Clark at 802-353-6043 to regis-

ter a float or participate in the parade.

Immediately following the parade, all alumni are asked to gather at the Chester American Legion for the annual barbecue.

Also, on Friday, June 9, all alumni are welcome and encouraged to gather at

Chester American Legion. A band, Mean Toad Band, all local alumni, will be performing a mix of 70s, 80s, and 90s music.

Any donations to the Chester Green Mountain Alumni Association can be mailed to P.O. Box 882, Chester, VT 05143.

Fletcher Memorial Library awarded \$75,000

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) announced a Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization grant of \$75,000 to the 1901 Fletcher Memorial Library for the restoration of the interior finishes.

Long recognized as one of Vermont's architectural gems, the building was modeled after the Winchester School in England, and features oak paneling and trim, and exquisite marble work in its walls, cir-

ulation desk, floor, ceiling, and staircase.

"On behalf of the Board of Trustees at Fletcher Memorial Library, Ludlow, Vt., I am thrilled and most appreciative of our library being awarded a Bruhn Grant by PTV," says Director Jill Tofferi. "We cannot wait to have our library restored to its full 1901 glory for the continued use by the communities we serve."

When complete, the restored elements will mean

that the library can continue to serve the public, offering not only library services, but also community rooms for personal, public, and nonprofit organizations to meet or hold programs during and after hours, and 24/7 open internet connection.

"The Preservation Trust of Vermont, in partnership with the National Park Service, is excited to support projects such as the Fletcher Memorial Library that preserve and revitalize Vermont's rural communities," said Ben Doyle, PTV president. "We congratulate the community champions who are leading this work, and thank Sen. Sanders, Sen. Welch, and Congresswoman Balint for their support of this wonderful program. We would also like to acknowledge former Senator Leahy, for his work in establishing this impor-

tant national program, and proposing that it be named after his good friend and former PTV President, the late Paul Bruhn."

The Fletcher Memorial Library project and the Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant program are supported by the Historic Preservation Fund, administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

"These grants will provide meaningful support to preserve historic sites in rural communities throughout Vermont," said Sen. Sanders, Sen. Welch, and Rep. Balint. "We are honored to have helped bring this funding home to Vermont, and look forward to seeing the role these historic community sites will play for generations to come."

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GMUSD

From Page 1

the board to follow Robert's Rules, not some form of it that you think might work. It has to be done right."

The Chieftain's team name was an ongoing topic as well, with some residents calling it "illegal."

Tara Laughlin, a mother with two children in the school system, addressed Brown. "We need to be better. This school has numerous problems with racism and sexism. This is one small step we can take to lead these kids in the right direction."

Former GMUHS student Sarah Devereux related her experience at the school. "I feel there was not a lot of education around how disrespectful the mascot is. There is a lot of racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and overall bigotry at Green Mountain, [which] has definitely affected me and my peers and something should be done about that."

Superintendent Lauren Fierman and Brown said they will meet to take the next steps to reset and schedule a meeting for next week. Fierman explained that when they were left with a single candidate, they felt it wasn't appropriate to go forward with the open forum.

Fierman stated, "We can have Amanda speak in an open forum, if a quorum of the board can be present, then the board will hold an appropriate executive session, and allow for an additional interview if they think it's necessary."

The school board agreed to find a time to reconvene and give Tyrrell an answer by the end of next week. The next regularly scheduled school board meeting will be June 15.

I love stories

BY RON PATCH

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ronpatch27@gmail.com

From Dorothy Canfield Fisher:

Henry LaBatt's Stroke

Arlington, [Vt.] of the twentieth century has not at all lost its habit of turning small everyday chance happenings into a good-humored laugh, which passes around the community and ends by leaving in our minds – well what? Perhaps each one ends by giving us a little more accurate idea of how life affects human beings.

Only last summer Henry LaBatt (he and his wife, both now elderly members of my own age group, live in what was the old Lawyer Harmon Canfield house) walked up to the barber shop between the two villages to get his hair cut. He's not very well, and it seemed like quite a distance; but it was a pleasant summer day and the errand not a disagreeable one. Having your hair cut by the barber is apt to be a sociable event with a chance to talk over neighborhood news with other men waiting for their turn in the barber's chair. Laying down his hat and cane and taking off his glasses, Henry sat down for a pleasant chat with some neighbors. Before his turn for a haircut came, he had time to hear the latest news and to talk some politics. After his hair was cut, he started home, in very good spirits.

But when he reached the house after this he was in a dreadful state. Wavering on unsteady feet, stepping high, leaning hard on his cane, he barely managed to get up on the porch, staggered into the living room, took off his hat and glasses, let his cane drop and sank down on the couch, white-faced and dizzy. "Something awful's happened to me," he said solemnly to



Dorothy Canfield Fisher at home in Arlington. PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

his wife. "I don't know what! But something terrible. My mind's not right. The ground has been coming right up at me all the way home. And now I feel sick—seasick, you know. Do you suppose I've had a stroke?"

His wife was alarmed. She hovered over him anxiously, took his pulse which was normal, took his temperature which was normal. She sat down perplexed, beside the couch. "Perhaps you got too tired," she said. "It's quite a walk from here up the hill to the barber's. Do you feel anything queer anywhere?"

"No," Henry said. Now that he was lying down, the unearthly feelings of total uncertainty of everything – the strange symptoms – dizziness, seasickness – they all seemed to be fading away.

Much cheered, his wife said, "Maybe you'll be all right after you've had a rest."

So he lay there quietly. He really felt much better. They were both relieved, thinking that the attack, whatever it had been, might have passed away. He reached again for his cane and glasses and stood up on his feet, but cried out at once that it was worse than ever. He staggered wildly, almost lost his balance. Now the floor rose up in waves, and the walls of the room spun around. He reeled so that his wife caught at him and steadied him, as

he fell, so that it was on the sofa that he once more collapsed. She was really alarmed now and said anxiously, "Look, Henry, this is something very serious. Take my arm. We'll go right across the street and ask Dr. Russell."

But as, arm in arm, they started toward the door, they saw a little boy was standing there. He had been knocking, but in their agitation they hadn't heard him. He held up his hand with something in it. "Here are your glasses, Mr. LaBatt," he said. "The barber said you took somebody else's by mistake when you left the shop."

Not a year has gone by since that absurd little episode, but already it has shown itself no mere dry pebble, no mere comic anecdote. Like others which we repeat laughingly, it has turned out something living, a root which has begun to sprout meanings beyond the incident itself. It is one of our footnotes on life. Just the other day I heard somebody say impatiently, "Seems to me that the children nowadays aren't anything like as bright as they used to be when I was young. Nor as reliable! Makes me sick to see how foolishly they carry on."

A man who was with him said neutrally, "Maybe you've got on those glasses Henry LaBatt wore away from the barber shop."

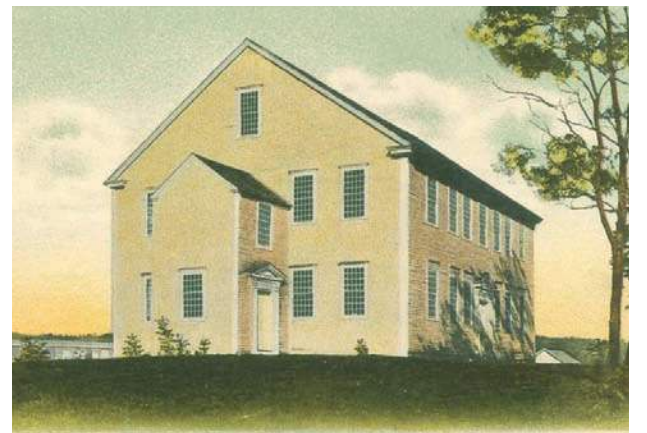
This week's old saying: "My future's so bright I gotta wear shades."

Rockingham Meeting House 2023 season

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – The Rockingham Meeting House opened for the 2023 season on Saturday, May 27. Visitors are welcome daily through the end of October, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Built in 1787, the meeting house remains in its original form, and is the oldest public building in Vermont that remains unchanged. It is designated a National Historic Landmark.

It served as both a place of worship and the town hall until 1869, and was then abandoned for several decades. In 1906, the building was restored to its current state – one of the earliest historic preservation projects in Vermont – leaving intact its king-post timber framing, finely detailed woodwork, and its "pig pen" box pews. The building hosts an annual pilgrimage in August, as part of the town's "Old Home Days" celebrations.



The Rockingham Meeting House shown on a vintage postcard. PHOTO PROVIDED

The meeting house is owned by the Town of Rockingham and operated as a museum, with docents on hand to tell the story about the architecture and history of the building. The adjacent cemetery, which continues in use today, contains more than 1,000 graves, and is a treasure trove of information about the lives and deaths of the

town's early settlers, as well as some of the finest gravestone art to be found in New England.

The meeting house is located just north of the Village of Bellows Falls and Interstate 91 Exit 6, just off Vermont Route 103.

For more information, contact the Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission at clg@rockbf.org.

LAHS 2023 season looking bright

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The 2023 season at the Londonderry Arts and Historical Society (LAHS) is looking bright thanks to two bits of good fortune.

First, LAHS received \$16,500 in ARPA funding from the town of Londonderry.

The Londonderry Arts and Historical Society is now able to proceed with important upgrades at its historic headquarters, the Custer Sharp House. The award will enable the society to replace the outdated wiring on the second floor, and repair chimneys that

are crumbling. "Maintaining this historic home for future generations is an important part of our mission," says Hilary Batchelor, president of LAHS. "We are so grateful to the town for recognizing its importance, and supporting our preservation efforts."

Second, The Londonderry Arts and Historical Society is also pleased to welcome Trystan Bates as its new collections manager.

A Weston resident, Trystan has substantial experience in managing art galleries in New York and Argentina. He is also an art-

ist in his own right, with a degree from Parsons School of Design. In addition to managing LAHS's collection of art and historical artifacts, Trystan looks forward to exploring new ways to bring art into our community. Stop by and say hello to Trystan at the Londonderry Arts and Historical Society's headquarters, Custer Sharp House, 2461 Middletown Road.

For more information about LAHS, its programs, and exhibits, visit the society's website at www.lahsvt.org, or email them at LAHS1780@gmail.com.

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opinion

COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear Editor,

On this Memorial Day of 2023, the Green Mountain Submarine Veterans Chapter of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc. (USSVI), remembers the following Vermonters that lost their lives in the Submarine Service during war and peace time. These men who volunteered to serve in the Submarine Service have not been forgotten:

Richard K. Clough, 26, Randolph, 1942; Sam Kane, 19, Burlington, 1943; Gene R. Rice, 21, Springfield, 1943; Frederick M. Briggs,

24, Bristol, 1943; Melvin C. Phillips, 25, Moretown, 1944; Romeo A. Laramee, 21, Burlington, 1944; Robert H. Roby, 24, Bellows Falls, 1944; John F. Durant, 21, Burlington, 1944; Leslie A. Wilcott, 18, Montpelier, 1944; Alexander Ferrario, 28, Montpelier, 1944; Charles H. Taylor, 21, Brattleboro, 1945; James P. Ritchie, 22, Burlington, 1963; Edward A. Johnson, 34, Hardwick, 1963; Michael J. Bailey, 21, St. Johnsbury, 1968.

If anyone remembers our fellow Submariners and

would like to contact us, please do by e-mail at cmattoo@vermontel.net. We would like to hear from you. Though we are highlighting our submarine shipmates here, we extend our sincere gratitude and heartfelt sympathy to all that have lost loved ones in protecting our country.

Sincerely,
C. William (Bill) Mattoon
Green Mountain Base,
U. S. Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Dear Editor,

Thank you again for spending time in Plymouth at our selectboard meetings so that the citizens have a modest record of the town's business. I will continue to thank the members of the press who do the right

thing in recording what they witness.

Sincerely,
Nancy Kessling
Plymouth, Vt.

NSNEW visit Kurn Hattin

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – After their annual Congress in Plymouth, Mass., a diverse group from the National Society of New England Women visited Kurn Hattin Homes for Children, whom they've supported since 1950. They were given a special musical performance by the children, dinner, and a tour of the school and campus.

The NSNEW brings women of New England ancestry together to engage in patriotic, educational, and chari-

table work. There are over 40 local colonies nationwide, and member-at-large status is available for those who reside in areas where there is no colony.

Visiting from New Haven Colony, Conn., were Lynn Alexander and Jennie Rehnberg; from Deacon Jacob Roote Colony, Colo., Heather Miller and Susan Cameron; from Chicago Colony, Gayle Coan, Teri Ellen Rogers, Honorary President General Jane Schleinzer, Jessica Schleinzer, and Lorna

Wright; from Sarah T. Seamans Colony, Samatha Seamans-Frizzell and Maragaret Superneau; from Diamond of Arkansas Colony, Linda White and Jayne Spear; from Abigail Adams Colony, Mass., Marla Suter; from District of Columbia Colony, Barbara Carpenter; from Sarah Josepha Buell Hale Colony, Georgia, NSNEW President General Shannon Logue; from Deacon John Tenney Colony, Texas, Pat Williams; from Virginia Company Colony, Margaret Stromberg; and from Wisconsin Voyageurs Colony, Karen Wills.

Kurn Hattin Homes deeply appreciates the devoted support of all the colonies, and the many individual NSNEW members who have given generously both during their lifetime and through a bequest to the Homes.

Exchange-Traded Funds

Exchange-traded funds (ETFs) have become increasingly popular since they were introduced in the United States in the mid-1990s. Their tax efficiencies and relatively low investing costs have attracted investors who like the idea of combining the diversification of mutual funds with the trading flexibility of stocks.

What is an ETF?

Like a mutual fund, an exchange-traded fund pools the money of many investors and purchases a group of securities. Like index mutual funds, many ETFs are passively managed. Instead of having a portfolio manager who uses his or her judgment to select specific stocks, bonds, or other securities to buy and sell, both index mutual funds and ETFs attempt to replicate the performance of a specific index.

However, a mutual fund is priced once a day. The fund's net asset value (NAV) is calculated based on the value of the underlying securities when the market closes. If you buy after that, you will receive the next day's closing price. By contrast, an ETF is priced throughout the day and can be bought on margin or sold short — in other words, it's traded just as a stock is. But an ETF can trade at a price that's higher or lower than its NAV (a premium or a discount), due to supply and demand.

How ETFs invest

Since their inception, most ETFs have invested in stocks or bonds, buying the shares represented in a particular index. For example, an ETF might track the Nasdaq 100, the S&P 500, or a bond index. Other ETFs invest in hard assets — for example, gold. With the rapid proliferation of ETFs in recent years, if there's an index, there's a good chance there's an ETF that tracks it.

More and more new indexes are being introduced,

many of which cover narrow niches of the market, or use novel rules to choose securities.

Pros and Cons of Exchange-Traded Funds

- Pros**
- ETFs can be traded throughout the day as price fluctuates.
 - ETFs can be bought on margin, sold short, or traded using stop orders and limit orders, just as stocks can.
 - ETFs do not have to hold cash or buy and sell securities to meet redemption demands by fund investors.
 - ETFs can be used to build highly customized portfolios at a lower cost
 - Because ETFs typically trade securities infrequently, they have lower annual taxable distributions than a mutual fund.
- Cons**
- If an ETF is organized as a unit investment trust, delays in reinvesting its dividends may hamper returns.
 - Bid-ask spreads may be wide for thinly traded issues or in volatile markets.

The new wave of ETFs
New and unique indexes are being developed every day. As a result, ETFs that might seem similar — for example, two funds that invest in large-cap stocks — can actually be quite different. Many indexes define which securities are included based on their market capitalization — the number of shares outstanding times the price per share. However, other indexes and the ETFs that mimic them may select or weight securities within the index based on fundamental factors, such as a stock's dividend yield.

Why is weighting important? Because it can affect the impact that individual securities have on the fund's result. For example, an index that is weighted by market cap will be more affected by underperformance at a large-cap company than it would be by an underperforming company with a smaller market cap. That's because the large-cap company would represent a larger share of the index.

The cost advantages and tradeoffs of ETFs
One of the reasons ETFs have gained ground with investors is because of their low annual expenses. Passive index investing means an ETF doesn't require a portfolio manager or a research staff to select securities; that reduces the fund's overhead. Also, investing in an index means that trades are generally made only when the index itself changes. As a result, the trading costs required by frequent buying and selling of securities in the fund are minimized.

ETFs and taxes

ETFs can be relatively tax efficient. Because it trades so infrequently, an ETF typically distributes few capital gains during the year. There can be times when some investors find themselves paying taxes on capital gains generated by a mutual fund, even though the value of their fund may actually have dropped. Though it's not impossible for an ETF to have capital gains, ETFs generally

can minimize the ongoing capital gains taxes you'll pay.

Just how much impact can reducing taxes have over the long term? More than you might think. Even a 1% difference in your return can be significant. For example, if you invest \$50,000 and earn an average annual return of 5% (compounded monthly), you would have a pre-tax amount of \$82,350 after 10 years. Even a 1% increase in that return would give you \$90,970 at the end of that time.

Make sure you consider how an ETF's returns will be taxed. Depending on how the fund is organized, and what it invests in, returns could be taxed as short-term capital gains, ordinary income, or in the case of gold and silver ETFs, as collectibles; all are taxed at higher rates than long-term capital gains.

What are some other reasons investors use ETFs?

- To get exposure to a particular market sector, trend, or strategy. Because the minimum investment in an ETF is the cost of a single share, ETFs can be a low-cost way to make a diversified investment in a single industry, geographic region, alternative assets, or an investing style.

- To limit losses. Being able to set a stop-loss limit on your ETF shares can help you manage potential losses. A stop-loss order instructs your broker to sell your position if the shares fall to a certain price. If the ETF's price falls, you've minimized your losses. If its price rises over time, you could increase the stop-loss figure accordingly. That lets you pursue potential gains while setting a limit on the amount you can lose.

How to evaluate an ETF

- Look at the index it tracks. Understand what the index consists of and what rules it follows in selecting and weighting the securities in it. Be aware that the performance of an unmanaged index is not indicative of the performance of any specific security. Individuals cannot invest directly in any index.

- Look at how long the fund and/or its underlying index have been in existence, and if possible, how both have performed in good times and bad.

- Look at the fund's expense ratios. The more straightforward its investing strategy, the lower expenses are likely to be. An index using futures contracts is likely to have higher expenses than one that simply replicates the S&P 500.

- Before investing in an ETF or mutual fund, carefully consider its investment objectives, risk, fees, and expenses, which can be found in the prospectus available from the fund. Read the prospectus carefully before investing.

All investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal, and there can be no assurance that any strategy will be successful.

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Subject to space. May be edited for clarity, grammatical errors, and libelous statements. Must be kept under 400 words. Must include name and town for publication. **EFFECTIVE MARCH, 2023, we will be charging for POLITICAL LETTERS.** Viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal & The Shopper.

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

	5				7	9			
6	3		1					4	
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		5		9					3
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	2		9				6	8	

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

ACROSS

1 Modern taxi alternative
5 911 responders
9 ER workers
12 Zero, in tennis
13 Scurry
14 Actor Kilter
15 Wharton Sch. offering
17 506, in old Rome
18 Charon's river
19 Speedy
21 Devil's domain
24 Topples
25 Writer
26 Quindlen
26 Circus gymnasts
30 Call — day
31 Kathy of "Misery"
32 Pro vote
33 "No worries ..."
35 GI dining hall
36 Cries of discovery
37 Third rock from the sun
38 Gantry of fiction
40 Stable diet
42 Napkin's place
43 Coll. entrance considerations
48 Oahu or Maui (Abbr.)

DOWN

1 Einstein's birthplace
2 Short 'do
3 Actress Longoria
4 It had a big part in the Bible
5 Jittery
6 "Das Kapital" author
7 Three, in Rome
8 Sound systems
9 Movie buff's purchase
10 Sitarist Shankar
11 Lost traction
16 Roswell visitors
20 Cleric's tunic
21 It grows on you
22 Initial chip
23 Crime lab specimen
24 Glenn of the Eagles
26 Very small batteries
27 Dol. fractions
28 Try out
29 Merit badge holder
31 Endures
34 Common title start
35 Brick workers
37 And so on (Abbr.)
38 Yale students
39 Cium
40 Elevator name
41 "The Thin Man" dog
44 Blackbird
45 Tier
46 Epoch
47 Actor Waterston

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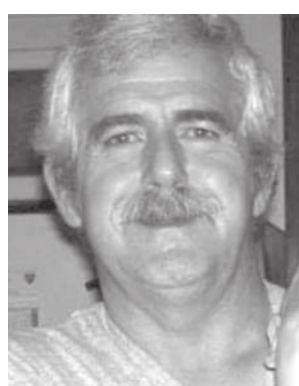
Ralph Barber Sr., 1956-2023

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Ralph Barber Sr. passed away suddenly on April 25, 2023, at his home. Ralph was born in Procter, Vt. on Jan. 26, 1956, to Ralph and Elizabeth (Regimbald) Barber. Ralph grew up in Danby, Vt.

Ralph received his education in Wallingford, Vt., and later resided in Westminster.

Ralph loved spending time with his kids, loved teaching his grandson Mason everything he knew, and loved playing cards with his granddaughter Sophia. He also enjoyed working and fixing anything, hunting, fishing, and playing video games. Ralph was hilarious. He loved to joke and make people laugh.

Ralph is survived by his four daughters Jennifer (Barber) Riviezzo of Perkinsville, Tasha Barber of Westminster, Stephanie Barber of St. Albans, and Nicole Barber Zielonko of North Adams, Mass., as well as his son Mitchell Barber of Brattleboro. Ralph is also survived by his three brothers James and Robert Sherman, both of Brattle-



Ralph Barber Sr., 1956-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

boro, and Charles Sherman of Vermont. Ralph has three sisters Robin Hale of Rutland, Pamela Johnson of Brattleboro, and Rhonda Fitts of Bellows Falls. He has 16 grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces and cousins. Ralph was predeceased by his son Ralph Barber Jr., and three nephews.

A Celebration of Life and burial will take place at a later date.

Donations may be made to the American Lung Association.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.

Francis Young Service Notice

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Services for Francis Young, who passed away Dec. 31, 2022, will be held on June 5. A visitation hour will be held at the Davis Memorial Chapel at 10 a.m. The Funeral Mass will be at St.

Mary's Catholic Church at 11 a.m., followed by a burial with military honors at the St. Mary's Cemetery. Following the burial, a reception will be held at the Crown Point Country Club.

Keith Young Graveside Service

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – A graveside service for Keith Young, who passed away on Dec. 29, 2022, will be held on June 4, at 1 p.m.,

at the Oakland Cemetery in Springfield, Vt. A reception will follow at the Cooper Fox, 56 Main Street in Springfield.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St.

Services are held most Sundays at 10 a.m., in-person. Masks are optional. Please join us. All are welcome. For more information go to Facebook @ ImmanuelEpiscopalChurch or to our website www.immanuelepiscopal.org.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

North Charlestown United Methodist Church, 471 River Rd.

Worship is Sundays at 9 a.m. Holy communion is celebrated the first Sunday of every month. Go to www.facebook.com/UMCOFNorthCharlestown for more information.

CHESTER, VT.

Andover Community Church, 928 Weston-Andover Rd.

Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and worship service 10:45 a.m. For more information, go to www.andovercommunitychurch.org.

GRAFTON, VT.

Grafton Community Church, 55 Main St.

Worship begins Sunday at 10 a.m. Masks are requested if unvaccinated and suggested for all singing and response. View sermons on Zoom. For more information, go to www.graftoncommunitychurch.org or call 802-843-2346.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

Second Congregational Church of Londonderry, 2051 N. Main St.

Worship service is at 9:30 a.m. in person or online. Fill out a form at www.2ndcongregationalchurchvt.org to be sent a link to the live stream.

LUDLOW, VT.

Ludlow Baptist Church, on the Green, 99 Main St.

Weekly worship services are in-person. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for all ages, and Sunday worship is at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday's prayer meeting is at 6:30 p.m. For more information, go to www.ludlowbaptist.org.

Tyson Community Church, Corner of Rt. 100 and Dublin Rd., opposite Echo Lake Inn.

Services are Sundays at 10:30 a.m. No service last Sunday of the month. Email terry.bascom@pm.me or call 802-228-2480.

MOUNT HOLLY, VT.

Village Baptist Church, 32 Church St.

Masks recommended, but we welcome all to come and worship with us Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call 802-259-2440.

WALPOLE, N.H.

St. John's Episcopal Church, corner of Westminster and Elm St.

Sunday services are 10 a.m. in person or via Zoom. For more information, go to www.stjohnswalpole.org, email pastor@stjohnswalpole.org, or leave a message at 603-756-4533.

Richard A. Johnson, 1956-2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Richard (Rick) Allyn Johnson, 66, of Springfield, Vt., passed away on May 20, 2023, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was surrounded by his loving family.

Rick was born to Allyn Johnson and Rosabel LaFrance Prouty on Nov. 4, 1956. He was raised in Springfield, and graduated from Springfield High School in 1974.

Rick worked for over 30 years for Fellows Gear Shaper, holding many different positions. After his career at Fellows, Rick moved on to work for the Town of Springfield for the Highway Department, where he retired from.

Rick never met a stranger. He talked to everyone that he met, and often became fast friends with that person. When Rick spoke with you, it was without judgment. He genuinely liked people, and he enjoyed getting to know them better. Given this, there was never a quick conversation with him. Rick would ask about you, your family, your work, and anything and everything else. He truly was one of a kind, and was always happy.

He was a man of many hobbies. One of his favorites was camping with his family. Rick loved riding his motorcycles and snowmobiles. He had several of each, so the biggest decision wasn't where to ride, it was which one to ride. There were many stops along the way, as Rick liked to stop to chat with everyone that he rode with. A short ride meant distance, not time. Rick loved the art of buying and selling vehicles. If he was not at a dealership looking at a new one, he was at his dining room table looking over advertisements. He loved sports. He was an avid fan of the Boston Celtics, Boston Red Sox, New England Pa-



Richard Johnson, 1956-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

triotics, and the Springfield Cosmos. Rick frequented many sporting events on both the professional and local level. You may have seen Rick running a score board, or being part of the "chain gang" at football games. Rick was a family man through and through. He loved his family fiercely, and was especially proud of his son Carl. Rick would light up and grin ear to ear telling stories of Carl. He was proud of the young man that he was becoming. Rick found great pleasure watching Carl swim, play baseball, and fish.

Rick is survived by his loving wife Michelle (Merrill), his son Carl, his sister Debra Richardson, his niece Amy Mitchell, and his father Allyn.

He was predeceased by his mother Rosabel, whom he absolutely loved with all his heart.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to Springfield Foster Care Association at 302 Cherry Hill, Springfield, VT 05156. Foster care was very important to Rick, and he would be proud to have donations sent there in his honor to help in this very worthy cause.

Calling hours will be on Friday, June 2, 6-8 p.m., at Davis Memorial Chapel.

There will be a Celebration of Life on Saturday, June 3, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the VFW in Springfield.

Mary Thompson Graveside Service

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – A graveside service for Mary Thompson, who passed away February 15,

2023, will be held on June 10, at 4 p.m., at the Pine Grove Cemetery in North Springfield, Vt.

Alice Winot, 1928-2023

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – Alice M. Winot, 94, passed away on Friday morning, May 19, 2023, at the Gill Odd Fellows Home in Ludlow, Vt. She was born June 28, 1928, in Lincoln, Vt., the daughter of Walter and Violet (Lattimore) Cram. She attended schools in the Lincoln area, and graduated from Springfield High School with the class of 1947.

She married Kenneth Winot. He predeceased her in December 2015.

Alice was employed as a machinist at Mack Molding in Cavendish for 30 years.

She was a wonderful cook, she enjoyed knitting, crocheting, and needlepoint. She also enjoyed flower gardening and making wedding cakes.

She is survived by her four sons Robert Winot, Vernard "Joe" Winot and his wife Darlene, Walter Winot and his wife Susan, and Kevin Winot and his



Alice Winot, 1928-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

wife Debbie; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was predeceased by her parents; her husband; and her siblings Kenneth, Howard, Charles, Jim, and Marylou.

Burial will be in the Hillcrest Cemetery in Proctorsville, at the convenience of the family.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield is assisting with arrangements.

Ray Massucco Celebration of Life

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – Family, friends, colleagues and musical acquaintances are invited to join together for a Celebration of Life for Ray Massucco on Sunday, June 11, at 12 p.m., to be held at the Rockingham Meeting House in Rockingham, Vt. Ray passed away suddenly on Sept. 27, 2022, leaving the community in shock from losing someone who was so close and so connected to many people in our little town in southern Vermont. Ray spent many weekends in search of undiscovered talent, in hopes of bringing those voices to Bellows Falls.

The Rockingham Meeting House was one of Ray's favorite venues for acoustic music, which he shared with many people over many years on the second Sunday in June as another Roots on the River Festival was winding down. It's a perfect place to recall a

memory, share a story, and pay tribute to Ray for all that he gave us during his time on this earth.

Ray was not only a husband, father, brother, and friend, but also a skilled lawyer, a tireless community advocate, a seasoned festival promoter, and a lover of music of almost every kind. He made a difference in many people's lives, and if you didn't have a chance to tell him what he meant to you before, then please join us for this unfiltered show of love for Ray.

The Meeting House does have a maximum seating capacity, so limited seating inside the building for the general public will be available on a first come, first served basis, while gathering on the grounds is open to all who attend. Some of Ray's favorite snacks will be served outside (food and drink are prohibited inside the Meeting House).

Sandra M. Parker Memorial Service

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – A memorial service for Sandy Parker, who passed away on Nov. 14, 2022, will be held on Sunday, June 4, at 1 p.m., at the Second Congregational Church on Main Street in Londonderry. Sandy's family invites you to join them for a social gathering of remembrance immediately following the service at the Black Line Tavern at Magic Mountain.



Sandra Parker, 2022. PHOTO PROVIDED

George B. Spaulding, 1954-2023

ANDOVER, Vt. – George B. Spaulding of Andover, Vt., passed away on February 20, 2023, at Springfield Hospital, from diabetes complications. He was born in Weymouth, Mass., on November 3, 1954, son of John and Ann (Baker) Spaulding.

He graduated from Thayer Academy in 1973, and attended Norwich University.

George summered in Landgrove from age 3. By the late 1970s, he was living full time at Lost Brook Farm, and was an active farmer, mowing, haying, raising sheep and chickens, maple sugaring, and selling wood.

The farm was sold in 1999, and he moved to Andover.

He is survived by his older



George Spaulding, 1954-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

brother Jack of Longmont, Colo., his sister Mardee of New London, N.H., and his nieces and nephews.

A memorial gathering will take place on June 11, 2023, at 2 p.m., at the Landgrove Meeting House, located at 88 Landgrove Road, Landgrove, Vt.

Donald Wilcox Jr. Service Notice

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Services for Donald Wilcox Jr., who passed away Nov. 2, 2022, will be held on June 10. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Davis Memorial Cha-

pel in Springfield, Vt. Burial with military honors will follow at the Pinecrest Cemetery in Charlestown, N.H.

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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

JUNE 2–
ANDOVER, Vt. – Community Cares Network of Chester/Andover, Inc. will be holding a fundraising dinner at the Andover Town Hall from 5-6:30 p.m. The menu will include spaghetti with a choice of sauces, salad, bread, dessert, and beverages. Admission is by donation at the door. CCN is a community volunteer organization whose mission is “helping seniors stay in their homes longer, safely.”

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – First Baptist Church, 9 Church St., will hold their First Friday Supper from 5-6:30 p.m. The menu consists of chicken, pasta salad, green salad, dessert, and a beverage. Vegan and gluten-free options are available. For takeout, call 802-463-3220 between 3:30-5 p.m. Proceeds benefit Westminster Cares.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – A Ballroom Dance will be held in the Claremont Senior Center’s beautiful Owens Hall, 5 Acer Heights, from 6:30-9 p.m. Live music will be provided by the Gerry Grimo East Bay Five-piece Dance Combo. Pay at the door. There will be no dance instruction this night. Bring your favorite non-alcoholic beverage. Snacks and water will be provided. The dance is for the benefit of the Claremont Senior Center. For information, call Betsy Child at 603-504-6671.

JUNE 3 –
LUDLOW, Vt. – There will be a basket raffle at the Black River Senior Center, 10 High St., from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., to benefit

the Gill Odd Fellows Home Activities Department. Participants will pay for a sheet of 25 tickets, which can be placed in the baskets they would like to win. Baskets include baby items, pet items, jewelry, toys, spa, and more. You do not have to be present for the drawing to win the basket. There will also be a raffle for a prize of a \$100 bill, and \$100 worth of scratch-off tickets, for which only 100 tickets will be sold.

JUNE 4 –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Vegan Potluck will be held outdoors at Commons Park, 63 Summer Hill St., from 3:30-5:30 p.m. All are welcome. If you are able, please bring a dish which contains no animal products (no meat, eggs, dairy, honey, etc.).

JUNE 5 –
LUDLOW, Vt. – Back by popular demand, Rust and Ruin will be performing retro 70s tunes at the Black River Senior Center, 10 High St., from 1-3 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Reservations are suggested. To make a reservation, call 802-228-7421. Everyone is welcome.

JUNE 6 –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Fearless Futures Summit on Tuesday, June 6, at the Bellows Falls Union High School in the gymnasium, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Get ready for your future and explore the possibilities. Entrepreneurship, two and four year colleges, volunteer service, high-wage and high-growth employers, public service, interactive job readiness stations, and more.

JUNE 10 –
The Black River Senior Center and Black River Academy Museum, located next to each other on High St. in Ludlow, will be hosting the Black River High School Alumni Gathering from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. There will be food, games, and music, and the new BRHS exhibit will be open for viewing.

JUNE 17 –
BENNINGTON, Vt. – The date has been set for the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Bennington County. The annual event will be June 17, and work is beginning now to build the celebration that will bring together passionate supporters who embody the American Cancer Society mission. To learn more about Relay For Life, visit www.relayforlife.org.

JUNE 19 –
LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Senior Center, 10 High St., will host bingo from 1-3 p.m. Refreshments will be served, and a door prize will be given. Reservations are suggested, as seating is limited. Call 802-228-7421. All are welcome.

JULY 14 –
CLAREMONT, N.H. – A Ballroom Dance will be held in the Claremont Senior Center’s beautiful Owens Hall, 5 Acer Heights, from 6:30-9 p.m. Live music will be provided by the Gerry Grimo East Bay Five-piece Dance Combo. Pay at the door. There will be no dance instruction this night. Bring your favorite non-alcoholic beverage. Snacks and water will be provided. The dance is for the benefit of the Claremont Senior Center. For information, call Betsy Child at 603-504-6671.

SEPT. 9 –
ALSTEAD, N.H. – Charles F. Andros, former apiary inspector for Vermont and New Hampshire, will hold a beekeeping workshop from 1-4 p.m., at 18 McLean Road in Alstead, N.H. Topics of discussion will include treatment of nosema and mites, winter preparations, winter

protein and carbohydrate supplements, and making beeswax and creams. Bring a veil if you have one. Registration is required. To register, call 603-756-9056, or email lindenamel@gmail.com.

SUNDAYS –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Loyal Order of Moose will be hosting a community breakfast on the first and third Sunday of every month downstairs at the Bellows Falls Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls, from 8-10 a.m. All you can eat for a minimal cost.

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – Sunday Soul: Vermont, a monthly dance party, occurs every first Sunday at Stone Church VT, located at 210 Main St., Brattleboro. Residents DJ Ozzie Mandias and DJ/Producer Leo Alarcon will be spinning the hottest house music, aka disco’s revenge from 5-11 p.m.

MONDAYS –
PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – On Mondays at 6:15 p.m., join Mikayla for a yoga class. Contact Lori Wright at 603-401-8123 or visit www.dgbodyworks.com for more information. Private classes are available.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Mondays at 6:30 p.m. there will be Pub Trivia Night at Vermont Beer Makers on River Street in Springfield. Up to five people per team. Free entry.

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – The Rockingham Library hosts a chess club each Monday from 3-5:30 p.m. led by Mike Sola. Drop-ins and all levels of player are welcome. This program is free and open to the public.

TUESDAYS –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Come check out TOPS – Take Off Pounds Sensibly. We are a nonjudgmental, affordable, and supportive weight loss group. The first visit is free. We are taking Covid precautions so a mask is required while attending the meeting. All are welcome; youth must be at least 9 to attend and

have parental permission. Meetings are every Tuesday at 25 Cherry Hill in Bellows Falls. Weigh-ins start at 5:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS –
CHESTER, Vt. – Knitting with Friends at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common, Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to noon.

THURSDAYS –
TYSON, Vt. – The Tyson Ladies Aid Library Association meets the first Thursday of each month, typically at the Tyson Library. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. and meetings start at noon. New potential members are always welcome. Please call Janine Norman at 802-228-8764 for more information or to verify meeting location.

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.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Genealogy enthusiast Wayne Blanchard will be at the Rockingham Library on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. If you own a laptop, please bring it along. Both beginners and seasoned genealogists are welcome.

Trex Plastic Challenge

REGION – On Friday, June 16, at 1 p.m., Join Emily from Trex for an informative Zoom presentation promoting bag and film recycling. The Trex Company has hosted the Recycling Challenge since 2006, with the objective of educating the public on the importance of plastic film recycling through school and community recycling programs. Participants collect plastic film with the goal of recycling a minimum of 500 pounds of plastic in a six-month period. If the goal is met, the group is awarded a

FRIDAYS –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Fridays from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., John Bohannon will teach Tai Chi and Qi Gong at the Rockingham Library in Bellows Falls, Vt. No special equipment or clothing is required.

SATURDAYS –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Edgar May Health and Recreation Center offers Springfield residents the opportunity to come for a free swim every Saturday, from 1-3 p.m. Participants may need to show proof of Springfield residency. For more information, call 802-885-2568, email info@edgarmay.org, or visit www.edgarmay.org.

WESTON, Vt. – Kinhaven holds concerts and events during the summer each weekend throughout the months of June, July, and August, on campus in our concert hall. Featuring world-class classical musicians, these concert are offered free to the public. Join us at 6:30 p.m. every Saturday for a complimentary wine and cheese before the 7:30 p.m. concert. More information at www.kinhaven.org.

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.

DAILY –
REGION – If you want to drink that’s your business, but if you want to stop, that’s ours. Contact Alcoholics Anonymous at www.aavt.org or call your local hotline at 802-885-8281 and join a meeting. You are not alone.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, VERMONT

2 POSITIONS AVAILABLE

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/TRUCK DRIVER

The Town of Ludlow Highway Department invites applications for the position of **Equipment Operator/Truck Driver**. This is a full-time, year round position. Principal duties will include plowing snow, sanding and salting roads, road construction and maintenance and other related duties. Must possess a valid VT Commercial Driver’s License and have experience operating a dump truck with plow, sander, loader and excavator, backhoe and/or grader. General knowledge of vehicle maintenance, fundamental construction and maintenance procedures, public works, and equipment operation are a plus.

Municipal Benefit Package includes health & dental insurance, retirement plan and paid vacations **PLUS** a \$2,000.00 Sign-On Bonus. Employment applications are available at the Ludlow Municipal Office or on-line at www.ludlow.vt.us. Please submit completed applications to the Ludlow Municipal Office PO Box 359, Ludlow, VT 05149. (802) 228-2841 or email to tmanager@tds.net. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Ludlow is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS Chester Village Wayfinding System RFP

The Town of Chester, VT will receive sealed bids for Chester Village Wayfinding System RFP. The sealed bid must be received in its’ entirety by the Town of Chester Town Manager, 556 Elm Street, P.O. Box 370, Chester, VT 05143, by Friday, June 9, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at which time they will be publicly opened and read.

The project work site is located within (or near) the Village boundary of Chester, Vermont. The project includes the provision of all labor, materials, machinery, tools, scaffolding, equipment, and other means of construction necessary and incidental to the fabrication and installation of wayfinding signage.

Copies of the RFP may be obtained from the Chester Town Manager, 556 Elm Street, Chester, VT 05143, or can be found on the Town’s web page at <https://www.chestervt.gov/>, under the link for” Bids & RFPs”. There is no fee for these documents.

Questions regarding the Contract Documents should be directed to Julie Hance, Town Manager, in writing, at julie.hance@chestervt.gov.

Addenda, if any, will be issued only to those persons whose name and address are on record with the Town as having obtained a bid packet. Addenda to the bid, when issued, will be on file in the Town Clerk’s Office at least five days before the bid opening date. If you have obtained a bid packet through the Town’s web site and would like to be on record for any Addenda, please email julie.hance@chestervt.gov with your name, bid packet obtained and email address.

The Town is seeking pricing on a lump sum basis, with deduct unit prices. Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of ten (10) percent of the lump sum base bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Labor and Materials Bond, each in the full amount of the contract price.

All bids must be made on the official bid form or an exact copy by reproduction and enclosed in a sealed envelope. No bidder may withdraw his/her bid within sixty (60) calendar days after the actual date of the opening thereof. After sixty days an offer may be withdrawn in writing.

The Town of Chester reserves the right to reject all bids, to waive all informalities and the right to disregard all nonconforming, non-responsive or conditional bid documents.

Town of Londonderry, VT Job Opening – Minutes Taker

The Town of Londonderry, Vermont is accepting applications for a new part-time (~10 hours per month) position for a person to take minutes for Selectboard meetings and other board and commission meetings as assigned. Requires attendance at evening and occasional daytime meetings and timely drafting of accurate, thorough, and informative minutes.

Job description and required application form is available on the Town web site: www.londonderryvt.org. The starting date is after 6/30/2023, and the position is open until filled. The Town of Londonderry is an equal opportunity employer.

May 23, 2023

TOWN OF ANDOVER
953 Weston-Andover Road
Andover, VT 05143

INVITATION TO BID

LOCATIONS: Bridge #6 on East Hill Road (43.32654, -72.72207) and Bridge #5 (43.284069, -72.712108) on Weston Andover Road near Horseshoe Acres camp-ground.

SCOPE OF WORK: Spot clean and paint beams, re-membrane and pave deck. This will include removing any loose portions of the concrete on the deck, sand blasting existing steel and repouring with 3,500 PSI concrete. Deck will be paved to 3” with Superpave Bituminous Concrete Pavement. Curb slots will be cleaned and filled.

CONTRACT COMPLETION DATE: The Contract shall be completed on or before November 1, 2024.

PRE-BID: A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Andover Town Garage.

QUESTIONS: During the advertisement phase of this job, all questions shall be addressed to Charlie Golden at (802)875-3247 or garageandover@gmail.com.

This is a Lump Sum project. There will be no progress payments for the lump sum bid, final payment will be issued after work has been accepted by the Town.

For complete bid packet, email clerk@vermontel.net

Town of Weston
Selectboard
PO Box 98
Weston, VT 05161
(802)824-6988

INVITATION TO BID

The Town Of Weston seeks bids on the following:
2017 Ford F550 truck w/ 6.7l diesel motor
62,000 miles
2-3 yd MG Side Dump Sander
Everest All Angle Highway Plow

**Note: engine may have blown head gasket - builds pressure in the cooling system

**Truck & Attachments are being sold as is
Truck can be viewed at the Weston Town Garage
48 Greendale Rd**

Sealed Bids must be presented, in person, by Noon on June 12, 2023, or postmarked by June 5, 2023
Bids will be opened and reviewed at Select Board meeting June 13, 2023

The winning bidder must present payment within three business days of being notified and must remove vehicle within five business days from Town Garage property.

Town of Weston is an equal opportunity employer
The Town of Weston reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive technical or legal deficiencies, and to accept any proposal that it deems to be in the best interest of the town.

HELP WANTED

classifieds

West River Valley Thrives Sticker Shock —

REGION – Spring is an exciting time of year, especially for teens, who are preparing to celebrate prom and graduation. Celebrating these milestones is pivotal for teenagers, as well as for their families and the wider community. It is the community's job to make sure these celebrations are safe and healthy. As families gather to celebrate, it is important for adults to stay vigilant with alcohol use, and make sure alcohol is not easily accessible to young people. This is why West River Valley Thrives, a local substance use prevention coalition, invites community members to participate in two national programs during this time of year.

You may have noticed the signs popping up around town. That is because Thrives has launched its annual lawn sign campaign to promote prevention of teen alcohol use during prom and graduation season. Read more about the campaign and why we do it on the Thrives Blog, www.wrvthrives.org/lawn-sign-campaign-encourages-safe-celebrations-and-shared-responsibility.

By sharing the responsibility of creating safe celebrations as a community, and educating ourselves and our children about the dangers of underage drinking, we can keep our kids safe. Newfane parent Gibbs Rehlen shares that, "By participating in this campaign, we are joining other families in a highly visible, community-wide reminder to show support for teens as

they make healthy choices while celebrating an important rite of passage. We chose to put a sign in our yard because we care about Vermont youth, their lives, and the health of our overall community."

You may notice new stickers at local retailers when purchasing alcoholic beverages. The stickers remind community members not to purchase alcohol for anyone under the age of 21. Sticker Shock is a national program where youth and caring adults get together to raise public awareness about the cost of providing alcohol to minors by placing stickers on beer, wine coolers, and any other alcohol products that appeal to underage drinkers. The goal of this project is to discourage adults and older peers from providing alcohol to minors by reminding them about the dangers and legal implications if caught. According to the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 70% of Windham County high schoolers think it's easy to get alcohol from other people or their homes.

West River Valley Thrives works with local youth groups to implement Sticker Shock twice a year, during end-of-year holidays and end-of-school celebrations. On May 18, Thrives teamed up with Scout BSA Troop 428 to complete a Sticker Shock project as part of their community service requirements. The stores included in this round were River Bend Farm Market in Townshend, Harmonyville Country Store, The New-

fane Store, Wardsboro Country Store, West River Provisions, and West Wardsboro Store.

Elon, a participating scout, stated, "I wanted to do [this program] because it's a good thing to do. It can keep kids safe and make it harder to access alcohol."

Scout Leader Jennifer Matheson sees this as more than a community service project. "It gives [the Scouts] ownership over this important issue, to stand up and say it's not okay to provide alcohol to kids."

Thrives staff would like to say a special thank you to all who participated in these programs, including local retailers, for being models for responsible beverage sales and use by encouraging all consumers of legal age to commit to keeping alcohol out of the hands of minors.

AUCTION

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Auction held on June 10, 2023, at 11 a.m. at 96 Rt. 106, N. Springfield, VT 05150. 802-683-7104. To be auctioned: Chris Gregory #161 Jessica Norton #63

BUYING/SELLING

BUYING-SELLING Coins, Paper Money, Vintage Sports-Postcards, Comics. See our displays at ANTIQUE CENTERS in Chester and Quechee. Open 7 Days. 802-379-2353. House calls available.

SELL YOUR STUFF! Buying books, magazines, and record collections. Local – Springfield. 443-858-6636.

FIREWOOD

Firewood for sale – 2 cords dried wood for \$550, 2 cords of green wood for \$470, 1 cord available. 802-376-3041. Free delivery within 10 miles from the Weathersfield Inn.

GUNS WANTED

REGION – Guns wanted. Hand-guns, rifles, or shotguns. Top

prices paid. Call Ray at 802-775-2859 or 802-236-7213.

WORK WANTED

Do you need the use of a pickup truck for any reason, particularly interested in barn, house, garage, yard, and apartment clean ups. Will do dirty work. Call 802-228-4916.

YARD SALE

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Multi-Family Yard Sale Friday and Saturday, June 2 and 3, from 9 – 2, 7 Parker

Hill Road (Scrabble 4 corners). Household items, Women's L, XL brand name clothing, furniture, sports equipment, books, linens, etc. Too much to list.

Submit your Classified Online!

VermontJournal.com

Click "Submit a Classified Ad" in the black navigation bar at top of the page

Wilson & Lawrence Inc. in Grafton, Vt. is hiring for our summer crews working on tennis courts paying \$20 per hour

Please call 802-732-8494 Mon-Fri



We Are Hiring!

The Vermont Information Center Division is seeking motivated self-starting individuals to work at the Hartford Information Center on 91 South, the Sharon Information Center on 89 North and the Randolph Information Center on 89 South.

This is a great opportunity for someone looking for a flexible schedule. The position is as needed.

The Department of Buildings & General Services is seeking individuals with strong interpersonal skills to promote Vermont and welcome visitors at our Welcome Centers.

Duties include a combination of customer service tasks involving greeting and providing information to visitors, map reading, and record keeping. Candidate should possess knowledge of and ability to use Microsoft Office software. These positions also require housekeeping/custodial tasks such as cleaning rest rooms, mopping, snow removal (including shoveling and/or use of snow blower) and the ability to lift up to 50 pounds.

There is no set schedule for the position, but shifts may include evenings, holidays, and weekends.

For more information, contact Bevan Quinn at bevan.quinn@vermont.gov

You must apply online to be considered. Apply at www.careers.vermont.gov, Sharon req #22062, Randolph req #47137, Hartford req #46843 application deadline: 6/11/23.



The State of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Like us on Facebook! @VermontJournal

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

4	5	8	6	3	7	9	2	1
6	3	2	1	5	9	8	4	7
1	9	7	4	2	8	3	5	6
2	1	5	7	9	4	6	8	3
9	8	3	2	1	6	4	7	5
7	4	6	3	8	5	2	1	9
8	6	9	5	4	1	7	3	2
3	7	1	8	6	2	5	9	4
5	2	4	9	7	3	1	6	8

King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 23 mins.

U	B	E	R	E	M	T	S	D	R	S
L	O	V	E	D	A	R	T	V	A	L
M	B	A	D	E	G	R	E	E	D	I
S	T	Y	X	R	A	P	I	D		
H	A	D	E	S	F	E	L	L		
A	N	N	A	A	C	R	O	B	A	T
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I	S	L	U	N	I	T	N	O	R	A
S	H	E	P	I	S	A	S	W	A	M

NEW PAY RATES
\$15.00 Housekeeping & Dietary Aides; \$17.00 Cooks RPT and SLP parttime/per diem \$20.00 LNA, higher with experience
MUCH HIGHER FOR NURSES
Second Shift and Weekend Differentials.
CALL TO HEAR OUR OPENINGS.
Gill Odd Fellows Home, 8 Gill Terrace, Ludlow, VT. 802-228-6857 Jessie HR; 802-228-6860 January, DON EOE

Do you enjoy helping people, learning, and working as part of a team? **Gill Odd Fellows Home, in Ludlow, VT is offering a paid LNA training program.** Earn a training wage while you learn entry-level nursing, caregiver and communication skills. In addition, you will learn how to provide compassionate care and work as a member of a skilled nursing care team.

Up to five (5) individuals will be selected and hired by Gill Odd Fellows Home, to become Nursing Assistants working in our facility. The training program is taught using a combination of classroom instruction, skills lab, and clinical training. If selected you will receive a training wage and the cost of the training program waived. Upon completion of the program and obtaining your Nurse Assistant license, you will be offered a full-time Licensed Nurse Assistant position within our facility (minimum 1yr commitment). Contact January Reichert, Director of Nursing at 802-228-6860 or jreichert@gofhvt.net, to apply, class will begin end of June. We are an equal opportunity employer.

yellow page BUSINESS DIRECTORY

\$150 for 13 Weeks • \$250 for 26 Weeks • \$400 for 52 Weeks
Prices are based on a 20 word listing. An additional 50 cents for each word thereafter.

Art Crafts Gifts

GALLERY AT THE VAULT
Vermont State Craft Center
68 Main St., Springfield 802-885-7111
Art Crafts Gifts & Workshops
OPEN Wed. 11-5, Fri. 11-7, Sat. 11-5
Ice Out Paintings by Dan O'Donnell Until June 7
Call to artists: **Open Wall Show On the Wild Side**
galleryvault.org
(07/26/23 - 1FN - 13)

Builders/Contractors

HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC
"Not just for bangin' nails."
We handle a variety of projects, from home repairs, restorations on up to full renovations, and new construction too. Our clients can expect professionalism, proficiency, customer care, and quality. Call or email today at 802-376-3275 edwin.mortensen@gmail.com.
Follow us on Instagram @nedthehammer
(11/22/23 - 52)

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Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville. 802-558-5267.
(08/16/23 - 13)

NEW ENGLAND HOME BUILDING AND REMODEL
802-779-3414 — Located in Weston, VT
Kitchens, Additions, and Remodels. Finish Carpentry and Cabinet Work. Property Maintenance. Fully Insured, Free Estimates.
Like us on FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM!
www.newenglandhomebuildingandremodel.com
(11/22/23 - 52)

Campground

CATON PLACE CAMPGROUND
2419 EAST ROAD, CAVENDISH VERMONT
SEASONAL SITES AVAILABLE FOR 2023! REASONABLE RATES!
802-226-7767, Catonplacecamp@gmail.com.
Full hook up sites, pull thru, and tent sites. Views of Okemo! Large Private Sites!
(08/09/23 - 13)

Chiropractor

FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC
Dr. Denise Natale 58 Parker Avenue, Proctorsville, VT 05153, 802-226-7977 Hours: Tuesday 1pm-6pm, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-6pm.
(08/11/23 - 1FN - 52)

Cleanouts

A BARE CLEANING
We do cleanouts of every sort, small and large. One room to entire estates. Free estimates, fully insured, lots of references. Call Reg at 802-376-4159.
(08/09/23 - 26)

Excavating

BOB N SON DIRT WORKS
Excavation/backhoe work, driveways graded/shurpak, ditches, and 45-foot lift rentals, keeping the homeowner in mind. Free estimates. Insured. Call or text Bob 802-345-3112.
(07/12/23 - 13)

Masonry

DRC STONE DESIGN
Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 32 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or stoneart49@gmail.com or visit drcstonedesign.com.
(08/23/23 - 13)

Okemo Valley TV

LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK
• Memorial Day in Proctorsville
• LES 5th Grade: What Does Service Mean to You?
• Story Times
• Funky Food with Dave
• FEMA Flood Buyout Program
Okemo Valley TV now has its own app on all of the main streaming platforms! Apple TV, Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Google Play, and mobile (iOS & Android)
(07/05/23 - 1FN - 13)

outdoor

Swimming hole dipping begins

REGION – With warmer temperatures comes the joy of jumping in the river, and the annual “Adopt-A-Swimminghole” campaign with the Black River Action Team (B.R.A.T.). Thanks to the ongoing generosity of local businesses, regular weekly sampling will be conducted on several popular swimming and recreation areas. Volunteers with the B.R.A.T. are trained to collect water samples every Wednesday morning between Memorial Day and Labor Day, which will be tested for E. coli bacteria at Endyne Labs in Hanover, N.H. Results are generated into simple charts by B.R.A.T., and are posted either on site or in the local town office. Results may

also be viewed at www.connecticutriver.us/it-clean, so anyone can check the trend at their favorite cooling-off spot before visiting.

Sites being monitored this summer through the Adopt-A-Swimminghole program are Buttermilk Falls, sponsored by Okemo Resort since the program began in 2012; the Black River at Greven Field in Proctorsville, sponsored again by Betty McEnaney of Bean Group Real Estate; Cavendish Gorge, sponsored by Green Mountain Power; Twenty-foot Hole, sponsored by the Greater Upper Valley chapter of Trout Unlimited; and the recreation pond on West Hill Road in Ludlow, sponsored again by Vermont

Co-Pack. The swimming area below the Tolles Power Dam off Maple Street in Perkinsville is being sampled again this year, but the site is still available for “adoption” through the Black River Action Team. The “adoption fee” of \$500 covers all lab testing and chart generation for the full 14 weeks of summer, as well as volunteer mileage.

Thank you to the wonderful sponsors and intrepid volunteers. To learn about B.R.A.T. and the Adopt-A-Swimminghole program, contact Director Kelly Stettner at blackrivercleanup@gmail.com, or leave your contact information at 802-738-0456.

Wolf Peaches, Poisoned Peas, Madame Pompadour’s Underwear

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On June 10, at 11 a.m., Rebecca Rupp will be speaking at Springfield Town Library for her presentation “Wolf Peaches, Poisoned Peas, and Madame Pompadour’s Underwear.”

Common garden vegetables have long and fascinating histories. Science and history writer Rebecca Rupp will discuss the stories behind many of our favorites, among them the much-maligned tomato and potato, the mostly popular pumpkin, and Vermont’s dynamic

duo of kale and Gilfeather turnip. Find out why a lot of people don’t like beets, how a 17th-century pirate named the bell pepper, how carrots won the Trojan War, and how George Washington was nearly assassinated with a plate of poisoned peas.

This talk is free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities. For more information, contact Tracey Craft at 802-885-3108 or stlvtprograms@gmail.com.

This event is a Vermont Humanities Council (VHC) program hosted by Springfield Town Library, supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions,

or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the NEH or VHC.

Cavendish E-tools workshop

CAVENDISH, Vt. – On June 5, at 6 p.m., the Cavendish Energy Committee will host a workshop at the Cavendish town office meeting room, located at 37 High Street in Cavendish, to learn about current advances in battery-operated tools for the yard and garden. Rick Vaughan from Bibens Ace Hardware in Springfield will discuss such brands as EGo, Stihl, and Makita, and will discuss the “MowElectric!” campaign, a grass-

roots initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the use of electric lawn care equipment.

The Cavendish Energy Committee has presented workshops on a variety of topics affecting the ecology of our town, state, country, and world. The committee believes that the switch from gasoline powered to electric powered tools – for the garden and yard, and for any other usage – represents a major step forward in battling the effects of climate change.

The workshop is open to all people. No registration is needed. Light refreshments will be served. The energy committee operates on behalf of the people of Cavendish, and is a committee of the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association, a nonprofit organization supporting projects and events in our town. For more information, see www.cavendishccca.org. For information on the workshop, please email CavendishCommunity-Conservation@gmail.com.

Gardens As Living Art

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Join us the weekend of June 10-11 for the Main Street Arts (MSA) Garden Tour, to experience three gardens and art in the Saxtons River area. Expand your knowledge and appreciation about a plein-air painting workshop by Kristen Murphy, a talk by landscape designer Samantha Anderson, sculpture by Deborah Bump, live music by Gordon Korstange, and

a labyrinth talk and walk by Rana C. Williams. Artist Mark Ragonese will demonstrate how to make a garden arch from saplings at MSA, where you can also peruse a flea market of used garden tools, books, and accessories. Information about the tour, refreshments, and restrooms are available at Main Street Arts, located at 35 Main Street in Saxtons River.

Tickets can be purchased in advance, or on the day of

the tour for an additional fee. The Garden Tour ticket price includes one raffle ticket for gift certificates generously donated by Gardeners Supply Company, Walker Farm, Allen Brothers, Harlow Farm, and Morning Star Perennials. Additional tickets will increase your odds, and are available online and at MSA on the tour days.

For more information about the Garden Tour, visit www.mainstreetarts.org.

Jamaica seeks volunteers for pollinator habitat

JAMAICA, Vt. – With nearly a year of groundwork behind them, the Water Street Land Use Committee seeks volunteers of all ages to bring to life a biodiverse wildflower meadow in Jamaica Village. Work dates for the Jamaica Community Pollinator Project are scheduled for three upcoming Saturdays, June 3, 10, and 17, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Folks of all ages are encouraged to show up at the empty lot on Water Street close

to Depot Street, for one or more work dates, to establish more than 2,000 wildflower starter plants. Native varieties include daisies, coneflowers, bee balm, milkweed, yarrow, and lupine. Available tools are limited. Participants are asked to bring hand tools, gloves, and water bottles. Refreshments and bug repellent will be supplied. While registration is not required, volunteers are encouraged to inform the group of intended participation.

The Water Street Land Use Committee, appointed by the Jamaica Selectboard in June 2022, was charged with making recommendations for the future of the town-owned, over two acre plot of land. It is the location along the Ball Mountain Brook where four homes were destroyed by tropical storm Irene in 2011. The Selectboard approved the committee’s recommendation to maintain the plot as a wildlife habitat, and improve it by establishing a biodiverse pollinator meadow along the popular pedestrian walkway. Committee members focused their efforts on creating a pollinator-friendly meadow after research and discussion on the importance of maintaining healthy habitats for insects such as butterflies, bees, and fireflies. “Natu-

ral pollinator habitats are under threat from climate change, invasive species, pesticides, real estate development, and fragmentation,” offered Committee Chairperson Jacki Brown. “Reserving space for these essential creatures is paramount to the survival of our ecosystem.”

The Jamaica Community Pollinator Project is supported by the Town of Jamaica, The Vermont Community Foundation’s Spark Connecting Community Grant, the New England Grassroots Fund’s Seed Grant, and Bee the Change. For more information on the Jamaica Community Pollinator Project, or to R.S.V.P. for a work date, search for @jamaicapollinators on Facebook, or contact the Pollinator Project at jamaicavtpollinators@gmail.com.



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Springfield Community Band 2023 season

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Community Band's 2023 concert season will commence on Tuesday, June 20, and will continue on Tuesday evenings in Springfield throughout the summer.

The upcoming musical repertoire will include a number of brand-new pieces, which are the product of the band's work throughout the winter months.

As many know, the Springfield Community Band plays a wide range of mu-

sic – marches, jazz, show tunes, selections from movie soundtracks, etc. And, new this year, some very appealing light classical and semi-classical pieces, whose melodies will be familiar to many.

Performance details are still being finalized, but, as in past years, community members can expect an announcement before each performance giving the specifics of time and place, along with information about the content of the evening's program.

As the concert season ap-

proaches, the band is very grateful for the past support of its loyal audience members, and hopes to see new faces in the audience this summer.

Springfield Community Band concerts are free. Please mark your calendars for Tuesday nights starting on June 20, and continuing through Aug. 1.

Interested players are welcome to contact the band at scommunity-band@gmail.com.

Gregorio Uribe at Cooper Field

PUTNEY, Vt. – The Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series is thrilled to announce that acclaimed singer-songwriter and accordionist Gregorio Uribe will be performing live at Cooper Field, located at 41 Sand Hill Road in Putney, on Saturday, June 10, at 6 p.m. The event promises an evening filled with unforgettable music and a celebration of cultural diversity.

Gregorio Uribe, known for his passionate performances and musical versatility, has captivated audiences around the world.

"Gregorio's career between New York City and Bogota is

legendary. He's becoming a shining star in Latin America and beyond," says Keith Marks, Executive Director of Next Stage Arts.

Uribe's latest album, "Hombre Absurdo," released earlier this year, is a testament to his artistic vision. Drawing inspiration from Colombian Caribbean minstrels and literary references, the album showcases a fusion of energetic rhythms, powerful percussion, and the signature sounds of the accordion. With influences from existentialist authors, Greek mythology, and post-modernism, Uribe delivers a truly remarkable musical creation

that demonstrates his expertise as a singer-songwriter and orchestrator.

The Bandwagon Summer Series is a family-friendly outdoor cultural performance series with over 20 performances. Free admission for children under 12 and a dedicated play area. Onsite refreshments, and guests are encouraged to bring their own picnic blankets or fold-up chairs.

Tickets are available discounted in advance, or at the gate. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.nextstagearts.org.

VAULT Open Wall Show

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the VAULT is proud to present a new Open Wall show, "On The Wild Side." This show includes paintings, photographs, mixed media, wood sculpture, paper sculpture, and digital art. The gallery is amazed at

the talent of our neighbors and friends around Springfield. Thank you to all the participants. The works will be on display until July 12.

Open Wall is a non-juried show for any artists living in a 30 mile radius of Springfield. Gallery at the

VAULT is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield. Contact the gallery at 802-885-7111, galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit the gallery on Facebook or their web page, www.galleryvault.org.

Acworth MusicFest

ACWORTH, N.H. – The Acworth Village Store's annual MusicFest is back. This year it is scheduled, rain or shine, for Saturday June 17, from 11 a.m. until dusk. Talented local musicians will be featured, and it promises to be another fabulous musical event. This year, MusicFest will feature Blue Collar Band, Best Revenge and Friends, Dan and Faith, Donnah in Flames, Pointless Culture, and more.

This year the grill will be cooking smoked ribs, hot dogs, hamburgers, and sausage, with lots of yummy sides. There will also be some homemade baked goods for sale. Along with

great music and food, there will be craft vendors. If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact Mary Lord at the Village Store by calling 603-835-6547.

Entrance is free for this event.

Summer Saturdays have begun as well, and continue through mid September, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Come on over for some good dinner food and great music every Saturday night behind the Village Store. Keep an eye out for menus and musicians on the Acworth Village Store's Facebook page.

The Acworth Village Store is run by the Acworth Community Project, which

is a New Hampshire non-profit organization. They hold one board meeting a month and have some interesting and fun plans for the upcoming year, which include historical and educational events and fundraising activities. If you'd like more information about this community-run village store, please contact Jim Neidert at 603-835-2453.

The Acworth Village Store is located at 1068 Route 123A, South Acworth, N.H. Contact 603-835-6547, or visit www.acworthvillagesstore.com, or find them on Facebook.

Bellows Falls Festival

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Summer is just around the corner, and the Wild Goose Players, the Rotary Club of Bellows Falls, and local sponsors Mascoma Bank and M&T Bank, have teamed up to create the first annual Bellows Falls Festival – "The BFF." Get ready for an unforgettable experience you won't want to miss, June 10, from 1-10 p.m.

The BFF is a one-day event, but promises to be packed full of excitement and entertainment. The festival will take place outdoors at the Waypoint Center, located at 17 Depot Street in Bellows Falls, Vt. Food vendors Jamaican Jew- elz, Bellows Falls Moose Club, Smokin' Bowls, and Tito's Taqueria will tantalize your taste buds. Adult beverages will be provided by Donavan's,

with lemonade and sweet treats available from Parks Place and the Bellows Falls Women's Club.

But of course, the real highlight of the BFF will be the music and performances. The lineup of artists is truly impressive, and you will find something for everyone's musical taste. From Ben Jennings Quartet's funky dance grooves, to the Americana stories and dual harmonies of the Milk House Heaters, you will not be disappointed. Gaslight Tinkers and Blue Motel will round out the afternoon, and as we move toward evening, The Mammals will bring their indie-folk ballads and fiddle and banjo driven foot stompers. Then singer-songwriter Sarah Borges takes the stage with a gritty mix of country, blues, and roots rock. Her music, described as "walking that fine line between punk and country," will get you out of

your seat and dancing in the street.

In addition to the music lineup, there will be plenty of other local artists performing throughout the day. Be sure not to miss the much-anticipated performances from the Wild Goose Players and Keene Pride.

Tickets are on sale now and are priced to be affordable for everyone. Visit www.bellowsfallsfestival.org.

This is a family friendly event, so bring the kids and introduce them to the joys of live music. Don't forget to bring a blanket or chair so you can relax and enjoy the music. Chairs under the big tent will be provided and will be on a first come, first serve basis.

This event promises to be a day to remember. So come on out, support the local music scene, and have a great time with family and friends.

Savings Bank of Walpole Concerts on the Green

WALPOLE, N.H. – Savings Bank of Walpole (SBW) is excited to announce the dates and bands scheduled to perform at their annual Concerts on the Green summer concert series.

The eight-concert series, which is held on the town green in Walpole, N.H., will kick off on Sunday, June 18, with the Westmoreland Town Band. All shows will be held rain or shine on Sundays, from 6:30-8 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Attendees are encouraged to pack a picnic basket and bring a blanket or lawn chair. This year marks the 40th year SBW has hosted the series of concerts.

"We're excited to once again host our Concerts on the Green summer concert series, and bring some great music to our Walpole community," says Mark Bodin, President of Savings Bank of Walpole. "In addition to showcasing some terrific local bands, the concert series provides a

fun-filled evening of family entertainment to our community."

For more information,

and a full list of concert dates and performers, visit www.walpolebank.com, or call 603-352-1822.

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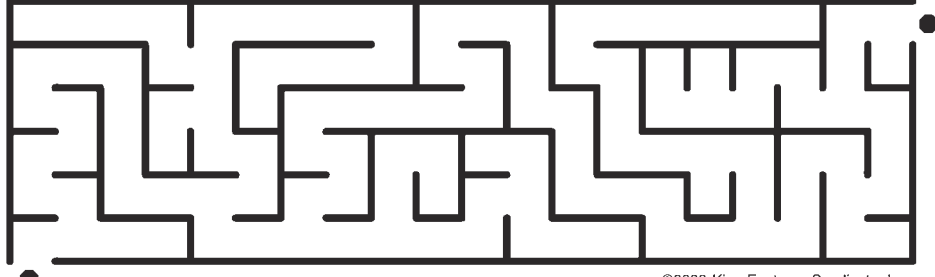
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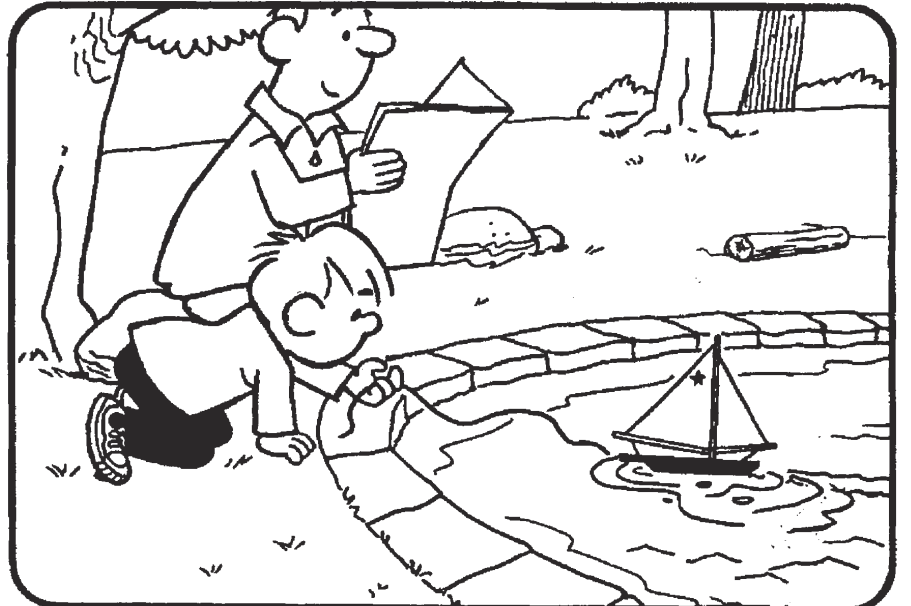
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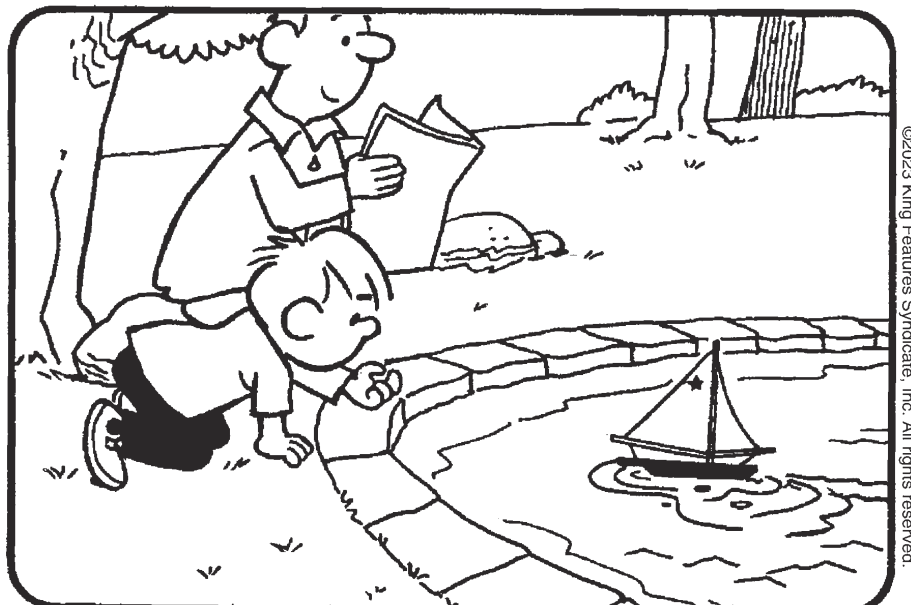
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Circle six differences in either image panel.



Differences: 1. Sneaker is different. 2. Sleeve is shorter. 3. Paper is smaller. 4. String is missing. 5. Sail is missing. 6. Log is missing.

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by Helene Hovanec

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