

# THE **Vermont** Journal

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## “Singin’ in the Rain” to close out a short season —

BY PAULA BENSON  
*The Shopper*

WESTON, Vt. — Executive Artistic Director of the Weston Playhouse Susanna Gellert, also the show’s director, welcomed the audience to the Walker Farm Theater on Friday, Aug. 4, for opening night of the musical “Singin’ in the Rain.” Gellert emphatically thanked the cast and crew, and everyone who pitched in to make sure the show would go on.

On July 10, the Weston Playhouse location, like much of Vermont, flooded. The damage was extensive, and as crews still endeavored to clean up, the team behind the musical reworked blocking and choreography in order to present the show at Walker Farm. The newer, more modern theater space, completed in 2017, has less than half as many seats as the playhouse, with 118 as opposed to 306.

Said Gellert, “We were in the midst of rehearsals when we realized that it would need to move to our more intimate theater, and so we’ve been imagining the show anew even while we are in process. I see this as a real opportunity for everyone to see a great, grand Broadway musical in an intimate setting. We’ll be focusing on the magic and brilliance of our amazing company of actors, this glorious music, and stunning choreography. There may be fewer bells and whistles than we originally planned, but I believe the show will be all the more magical for it.”

Gellert was correct — the premiere felt kind of magical and urgent. The tap-dancing routines were vibrant and impressive, and everyone in the talented cast brought heart, humor, and joy to their performances.

“Singin’ in the Rain” was first a 1952 movie starring Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds, and Donald O’Connor, featuring classic songs such as “Fit as a Fiddle,” “Make ‘em Laugh,” and “Good Morning.” The stage musical was adapted from the film, and premiered in 1983.

The iconic lamppost scene where Gene Kelly taps and sings the title track was of course included, and one wondered if, when the stage door opened, it was actual rain or, ironically, did they have to use a rain machine.

In the role made famous by Kelly, Eric Sciotto hit all the high notes. A Broadway actor, director, and choreographer, Sciotto had to do a lot of the heavy lifting during the fast-paced show. As silent film star Don Lockwood, alongside his co-star Lina Lamont, played by Amy Jo Jackson, the pair find themselves struggling as film “talkies” become the new trend. It doesn’t help that Lamont, a darling of the silent film era, has a shrill voice and an accent she can’t shake. Lamont is stunned to realize her so-called relationship with Lockwood is only for publicity, and when Lockwood meets and falls in love with Kathy Seldon, a young actress, Lamont selfishly tries to stall the ingenue’s career. Jackson is per-

fectly ditzzy and devious in their portrayal of Lamont.

In her second performance with the playhouse, Cameron Anika Hill brings an earnest confidence to the role of Seldon. Unlike Lamont, Seldon has a beautiful singing voice, and speaks without sounding like a cartoon character. Hill was last seen as Dionne in the 2022 season’s production of “Hair,” and has appeared on Broadway in “Dear Evan Hansen” and in the first national tour for the musical “Oklahoma!”

Conor McShane plays Lockwood’s pal Cosmo Brown, and brings a goofy humor to the sidekick role. McShane showcases some incredible dancing expertise, and he and Sciotto create a fun, believable camaraderie as lifelong friends.

Kara Mikula as gossipy announcer Dora Bailey, and Isaiah Reynolds, who plays Roscoe Dexter, bring especially exuberant performances to the show. Reynolds last appeared at the playhouse in “Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story,” as Tyrone.

The rest of the ensemble cast fills out the production wonderfully, all consummate performers who made the dance numbers look almost effortless.

“Singin’ in the Rain” runs through Aug. 20, and, due to the venue change, tickets are limited, but still available at the Weston Theater website.

## Chester revisits STRs, talks damage repair funds —

BY NICK GIBERTI  
*The Vermont Journal*

CHESTER, Vt. — At their Aug. 2 meeting, the Chester Selectboard revisited the topic of short-term rentals (STR). Chester passed an STR registry ordinance in December 2022, and has been collecting data since then, in an effort to determine how best to address the increasing number of STRs.

“There’s a lot of concern from citizens in this town that short-term rentals are... taking up housing from people that live in this area,” said Selectboard Chair Arne Jonynas, “and now that we have this information, I want to have a discussion about... how we want to proceed.”

Planning Commission Chair Hugh Quinn informed the board that, while Chester had passed a STR registry that was intended to take effect April 1, the registration of STR units had yet to begin, due to the inability of the company contracted to create the registry to appoint a project manager to the project. As such, data about STRs in Chester was currently based on information pulled from websites such as AirBnB, not on actual reg-

istrations by property owners. There were currently 64 STRs in Chester identified in this manner, though Quinn did note that the number can fluctuate seasonally. He also told the board that a project manager had been assigned to the Chester STR registry project as of the meeting, though zoning administrator Preston Bristow explained that the letters informing property owners of the need to register with the town “may not go out until November,” with a registration deadline around the end of the year.

A number of Chester residents expressed their worries that the number of STRs was changing the nature of Chester as a community, with effects ranging from empty houses with strangers coming and going at random, to the effect on school systems and local non-tourism related businesses, to pricing longtime residents or those looking to move back to the area in which they were raised out of the housing market by forcing them to compete with money from those purchasing properties exclusively for the purpose of renting them out. “Look what happened to Ludlow,”

said resident Jan Moot, “they’ve been bought out. There’s hardly any Ludlow residents...it’s sad. I hope we don’t get to that.”

The board wrestled with how to proceed, with several members voicing support for potentially limiting the number of unhosted STRs — those which do not have the owner or a caretaker living onsite. The central issue was whether or not it would be possible to set the limit lower than the current number of STRs already in the town, and the resulting fallout from such a decision, including the possibility of a lottery to determine which STRs are allowed to continue operating.

Selectboard member Peter Hudkins suggested that limits should also be proportional to the neighborhoods or areas they are in. “If you just said ‘we’re going to limit [STRs],’ but there’s already five [in one neighborhood]...you’ve created a neighborhood of rentals,” Hudkins said.

Ultimately, while the board agreed that they did

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## Lake Rescue Association’s 90th annual meeting —

BY SHAWNTAE WEBB  
*The Vermont Journal*

LUDLOW, Vt. — The Lake Rescue Association (LRA) president Bruce Zanca opened their annual meeting on Aug. 5 by acknowledging the recent flooding, and getting right to their agenda.

Board treasurer Kevin Golmont went over assets and expenditures, stating the board had \$359,809 in cash and investments as of June 30. “It looks like we’re cash rich at the moment,” Golmont said, “but we have some big expenditures coming up,” which included milfoil maintenance that started in June, and can cost the board over \$60,000 in one year. They still encourage donations, which are tax deductible, to the non-profit organization.

Zanca explained that milfoil is an invasive plant species, and lakes that haven’t been mitigated are unusable for swimming and boating. The Lake Rescue Association has trained milfoil inspectors,

a professional dive team who deploys bottom barriers that blanket the bottom of the lake, and a Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) boat. They have suspended all of this work for the rest of the summer, as the condition of the lake is too bad to see the bottom from the recent flood.

They also typically dredge the channel between the Lake Rescue lakes, Round Pond and the larger lake, as sediment builds up and makes the channel impassable for boaters. They have suspended this work as well, as they would remove about 500 dump truck loads of material, and didn’t want to add that traffic to the current temporary roads.

The board announced they would like to set Aug. 12 and 19 for cleanup dates. A sign up sheet was passed around.

The last order of business was board re-elections for president Bruce Zanca, who hoped to retire this year, secretary Natalie Fisher, and treasurer Kevin Golmont, who all agreed to renew their seats.

Zanca moved to dis-

cuss the devastation of the flooding that impacted the region. “Neighbors took it upon themselves to help fix the roads.” Zanca formally recognized four people who stepped up and helped the town: Trevor Benson, Greg McGowan from McGowan Landscaping, Mike O’Neil from M&M Excavating, and Doug Rose from Green Mountain Sugarhouse.

Ludlow municipal manager Brendan McNamara is optimistic that from this we can build back better — the road infrastructure, culverts, and river management — but it’s going to be a long process.

FEMA representatives said they opened seven disaster recovery centers throughout the state in Ludlow, Rutland, Londonderry, and Springfield, and encouraged residents to apply for disaster assistance. You can also apply by phone at 1-800-621-3362, or online at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov). The FEMA application deadline is Sept. 12.

Tim Baker, FEMA infrastructure director, said to consider FEMA relief as the

See **RECOVERY** on Page 2

## Ludlow Selectboard raises stipends, talks merger —

BY NICK GIBERTI  
*The Vermont Journal*

LUDLOW, Vt. — The Ludlow Selectboard met on Monday, Aug. 1. Updating the board on the continued flood recovery efforts, municipal manager Brendan McNamara explained that, at this point, the town is trying to “look at our infrastructure as a whole,” but that the extent of the damage continued to reveal itself as time progressed.

“It feels like...every time I turn around, something else has gone wrong,” McNamara said, using as an example the retaining wall in the Black River beneath the senior center and Black River Academy Museum. “The bottom half of it is now gone,” McNamara told the board, saying the damage had been noticed on Friday, Aug. 4, and that engineers were scheduled to assess the damage in the coming days.

McNamara also said that, through the “unbelievable” efforts of various crews, Ludlow’s wastewater treatment plant was running at a “summer capacity,” though there was much more work to be done before it would be able to handle the full capacity required for the winter tourist season. McNamara also suggested that, during the rebuilding process, the board and others involved with reconstruction projects would need to think creatively in order to prevent such catastrophic damage from occurring during inevitable future floods.

The selectboard also addressed several other issues, including increasing the stipend for members of the planning commission. Prior to Monday’s meeting, members of the Ludlow Planning Commission were paid \$25 per meeting, amounting to \$300 per year, with deductions for missing meetings. Selectboard member Scott Baitz noted that the developmental review board (DRB) was also relatively underpaid at \$1,200 per year, and that these amounts had not, he believed, changed in 25 years, and were “ridiculously low.” Baitz introduced a motion to raise the stipend for the planning commission to \$900 per year, and the DRB to \$2,000 per year. The motion passed. Ludlow resident Eric Alden added that both boards should also be supplied with town-owned laptops for the work that they do, in order to protect board members from the potential for their personal information to be exposed, and enable any FOIA requests, subpoenas, etc., to be complied with easily. The board agreed, and McNamara pledged to investigate purchasing equipment.

The board heard an update from Gary Blodgett of the Expeditionary School at Black River (ESBR). Blodgett said the ESBR had been approved by the State of Vermont as an independent school on June 29, allowing them to accept state tuition from school choice towns for students attending ESBR. Blodgett indicated that this would allow the school to grow, though because of the late date of approval, some students and staff who were at the school for the previous

school year had made the decision to go elsewhere prior to approval, due to the uncertainty of the school’s future at the time. However, the state approval allows for the stability to ensure that the school will remain operational from year to year. Currently, ESBR has 10 students.

McNamara also sought and was granted consensus from the selectboard to begin discussions regarding the merger of the Town and Village of Ludlow. “Some of the things we run up against with the separation of town and village, at a point, are comical,” McNamara said. He used as an example the paving of the Okemo access road, for which a grant had been awarded to the town, but not the village. This meant that the paving had to stop at the trestle, below which the road is the village’s responsibility, and necessitated procurement of a second grant, a seam in the road paving, and getting contractors and equipment out to the road a second time.

Alden noted that many Vermont villages were incorporated during industrialization in the late 19th and very early 20th centuries, and that nearly two-thirds of them have subsequently unincorporated in the time since, as municipal services such as fire departments expanded their coverage to entire towns. “You have 50 examples of villages that have unincorporated to look at,” Alden noted, “so it shouldn’t be difficult.”

The Ludlow Selectboard set its next meeting for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 4, at 6 p.m., in the Ludlow Town Hall.

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THE **Vermont** Journal

— & —

THE **SHOPPER** NEWSPAPER

**DEADLINES**

The deadline for all content is **Friday at 12 p.m.** for the following **Wednesday** publication.

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# Meet GMUHS Principal and Assistant Principal

**CHESTER, Vt.** – Meet the new principal and assistant principal, hear about our goals for the 2023-2024 school year, and ask us questions on Aug. 16, from 5-6:30 p.m., in the Green Mountain Union High School library.

Parents and guardians may also be able to pick up their child's laptop and class schedule. Snacks and refreshments will be served. We look forward to meeting you and sharing our vision for Green Mountain!



**John Broadley.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED



**Kate Leathe.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

## Chester Pig Roast on Aug. 19

**CHESTER, Vt.** – Celebrate summer, rain or shine, with a southern-style pig roast and accompanying favorite picnic foods on Saturday, Aug. 19, from 4-7 p.m., on the lawn (or in Willard Hall, if raining) at St. Luke's Church, 313 Main Street, Chester, Vt. Reserve by Aug. 14 for a discount.

Barbecue master Henry Jesse Pixley will smoke the beast on location, and offer several of his homemade sauces. Prepared by additional seasoned cooks,

favorite side dishes will include potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, and cookies, plus rolls and hot and cold drinks. Enjoy delicious food at tables on the back lawn of the church while playing lawn games, or do take out for the gang to enjoy at home. With summer heat and picnic pests in mind, side dishes will be organized ingeniously so distribution will be fast, clean, and perfect for transporting to a table or back to your house.

Reserve early to guarantee

a spot. Ages 5 and under are free. Early Bird reservations made and paid by Monday, Aug. 14, receive a discount.

To make a reservation, contact David or Marjorie Carey at 802-875-4235. Make check out to St. Luke's Church, write PIG in the memo line, and mail the check in advance to St. Luke's Church, P.O. Box 8, Chester, VT 05143. For more information, visit [www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org](http://www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org).

## STR

From Page 1

want to take action beyond their original registry ordinance, they put the discussion on their next agenda, pending Bristow's meeting with the new registry project manager on Friday, Aug. 4.

The board heard updates regarding damage and repairs from the July 10 floods. Town manager Julie Hance noted that Chester has now had their first applicant briefings with FEMA, having officially applied for public assistance.

"Right now...we probably have about 82 projects," Hance told the board, explaining that each project

must be documented and shared with FEMA. While FEMA's reimbursement portion would be 75%, another 12.5% was available from the state if Chester met certain emergency and mitigation requirements, leaving the town paying for 12.5% of the damages. "That doesn't necessarily mean that we will be outlaying 12.5% of our cash," Hance explained. "In Irene, the town was out nothing... I am hopeful that this will be the same."

Hance also told the board that the Chester Reservoir Dam was "undersized," as was the spillway, and that, while FEMA would fund repairs of the dam, a project would need to be engineered to increase the size of the

dam and spillway, as well as all culverts downstream, to accommodate the potential for increased flow. Hance said that, while the reservoir created by the dam was once used as a water supply, it was now primarily used for recreation. "If we're going to make a million dollar project out of recreation," Hudkins replied, "maybe the way to approach this is to take the dam out."

"A properly operating dam is a flood control item," Jonynas added. Hance determined to include a cost-benefit analysis in the project scope when the time came to get the project underway.

The Chester Selectboard will next meet Sept. 6, at 6:30 p.m., in the Chester Town Hall.

## RECOVERY

From Page 1

"last resort" if other options don't work out, such as insurance. He also thanked local property owners, stating, "As much as you're struggling to go through this, Vermonters have been incredibly polite."

Representatives encourage you to contact your insurance; if they don't cover your claim, then present that documentation to FEMA. It's very important to document everything to get assistance and the coverage you need. Don't settle for the first offer,

negotiate a better one with receipts, bills, and quotes to make your case.

Joe Woody, USDA advisor for recovery, also stated that the income requirements for home repair loans and grants went up, and the age requirements have been waived.

It was also stressed that FEMA doesn't take the lead on your projects. They ask you what you're going to do, and make sure it fits with the rules and regulations they have.

There were many questions and comments from concerned residents about their

properties, and the lakes and rivers. Zanca said sediment from neighboring towns is washing into our rivers and lakes, and we're paying the price for it.

LRA Vice President Spencer Rubin said we have to come together as a town – the Lake Rescue Association, homeowners, officials – and make a master plan to fix everything that needs addressing.

McNamara said we're all shooting at the same target. We don't have an answer today, but we're going to try to work together so we're not doubling back on each other to address the same issues.

Zanca reported that 20 samples were taken from Lake Pauline and Lake Rescue, but "I don't want the liability of saying it's safe or not safe," he stated. "Only you as individuals can make that decision. I am not going in the lakes for any appreciable amount of time." He also encouraged everyone to get their well water tested.

Suzanne Garvey asked about the rivers getting wider and more shallow over the years. She asked if, given the circumstances, some areas could be excavated to prevent future floods and washouts. McNamara stated he had met with Scott Jensen, river management engineer, and there were six or more areas they discussed dredging for the betterment of the town.

Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce has a disaster relief fund, which has collected over \$200,000, in an effort to help residents and businesses. Crown Point Board of Realtors is working to disperse the funds directly to businesses and homeowners. Garvey handed out applications, stating the deadline is Friday, Aug. 11.

The next annual meeting is the first Saturday in August 2024.

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# TDS Telecom donates to flood relief

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – TDS Telecommunications LLC, which maintains an office and services in Ludlow, has made a donation toward local recovery efforts after the community experienced massive flooding earlier this month.

The \$2,000 donation was made through the Okemo Valley Chamber of Commerce, which has set up a disaster resources page.

TDS' office at 111 Main Street was among the buildings that sustained water damage. TDS ser-

vices remain intact for the Ludlow area as associates temporarily work out of other locations.

Ludlow, a community of about 2,100 people, was among the locations hardest hit by the extensive flooding throughout Vermont, which began July 10 amid sudden heavy rains. Up to 10 inches of rain washed out several major roads, and sent floodwaters surging through the community's business district.

"Our thoughts are with

all those who have been impacted. Recovering from such a devastating event will be a long process, but TDS stands ready to help the community in any way we can," said Butch Saracco, senior field service technician – network specialist and manager of the Ludlow office.

TDS has served Vermont for 53 years, with services available in Cavendish, Ludlow, Northfield, Perkinsville, Proctorsville, Roxbury, and Weathersfield.

# Abby Childs of Wavy Grape Studio raises flood recovery funds

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – Abby Childs of Wavy Grape Studio has successfully raised \$3,429 through her "Together We Are The Higher Ground" apparel fundraiser. 100% of the proceeds are being donated to the Vermont Flood Response & Recovery Fund by the Vermont Community Fund. The donation will benefit Vermonters in need across the state, from nonprofit organizations to farmers. The original goal of selling 100 T-shirts, hoodies, and crewnecks was quickly met, with 184 items purchased at the end of the fundraising campaign. With \$1,748.50 in product sales, the remaining \$1,680.00 were additional donations made at check-out by customers.

"I wanted to give back to my state after the flooding, and the only way I knew to do that was to create art and sell it as a fundraiser," says Childs of Wavy Grape. "The outpour of additional donations that nearly matched the product sales was what really made my heart sing. I'm so happy to see people sharing their new T-shirts and sweaters, and hope it continues to spark the 'Vermont Strong' power."

The tagline of the apparel, "Together We Are The Higher Ground," was inspired by Smith and Vaughn Rose, the grandchildren of the Green Mountain Sugar


House owners Ann and Doug Rose, and sons of Jamie and Josh Rose. The toddlers created a sign the day after the flood, with the tagline hand-drawn across the paper as their nighttime arts and crafts project. Inspired by the image of the kids standing with Vermont's future ahead of them, Childs turned it into the headline of the fundraiser.

Childs moved to Ludlow in 2017, after graduating from The University of Vermont, and owns a local graphic design studio, Wavy Grape. She works with many local businesses, such as Main+Mountain, Teaselwood Design, and Tacos Tacos, and is offering

her design services to the new Blue Duck Deli in order to aid in their opening after being hit hard by the floods. She and her friend, Noah Schmidt, also operate Unofficial Okemo, and will be offering more fundraising opportunities this winter. She can be contacted at [abby@wavygrape.com](mailto:abby@wavygrape.com), or on her website at [www.wavygrape.com](http://www.wavygrape.com).



Abby Childs wearing the "Together We Are The Higher Ground" sweatshirt. PHOTO PROVIDED



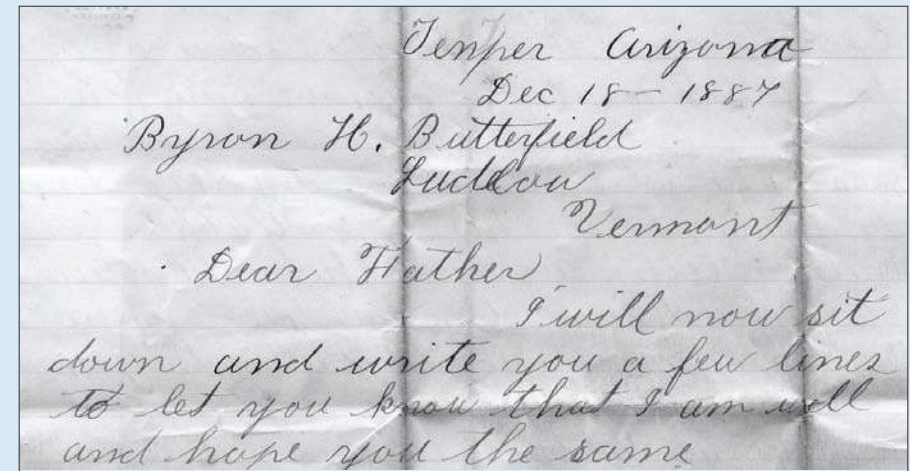
## LOCAL HISTORY

**BY RON PATCH**

Ron Patch is a Chester native, past President of Chester Historical Society, and a lifelong antiques dealer.

He can be reached at 802-374-0119 or email [ronpatch27@gmail.com](mailto:ronpatch27@gmail.com)

# 1887 Old West letter



1887 Ludlow letter. PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Here is an interesting letter in the Chester Historical Society collection. This letter is an eyewitness account of life in the old West. I transcribed it years ago.

The connection to Ethan Allen I found interesting. Many Confederate soldiers went west after the Civil War to escape the Union. Our Ludlow boy accurately describes the dangers and challenges.

I also enjoyed his mention of Dead City. It is a subject of which I was aware. The west was settled mainly by people from the east. Years ago, I used to find 1849 gold rush letters. These letters were mailed home to family and friends, from Vermont prospectors in California. There is no better record.

The New England pioneer spirit was still alive in those days. I copied this letter as written, including errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar, which I believe add authenticity. The photo with this article is the headliner.

Temper, Arizona  
Dec 18, 1887  
Byron H Butterfield  
Ludlow, Vermont  
Dear father

I will now sit down and write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope you the same.

I am now all alone the Dr. has gon to Tucson to be gon about two weeks took the train last night he has a revolver that he caried with him that would be canon beside of those you have East.

I am left to look after things I have a revolver laying by my side that I should enjoy very much if I could show it to my East-

ern Friends. I don't think I shell like but dont know the country is fool of Indians and Mexicans Eastern people ar pretty scirse only fore or five in the place. We have one man living in the back of the Drug store from Main by the name of Allen he sez his Grandfather and Eathen Allen wer brothers he hasnt been East sence he came hear some 45 years ago. He sez that all of those that crossed the plains with him in 1843 have been killed by the Indians and he has halfed to bury them all.

He will go out into the hot sun and work all day bair headed then go to bead and hollar all night Sunday hear isent much as it is in the east all the Mexicans go to their church in the morning and then they all begin to flock in to the village men and women and they spend the day drinking gambling horse resing shooting and every thing they can think of to pass away the time

I was some what surprised when I went to church and find as meny as their was their. Their ar lots of them who go and seam to tak an interest in what is sed but as soon as they get out side they forget it all and in less then an hour they ar as drunk as the rest.

In politics a man has to

be all mity carful what he sez. Most of the people ar strong democrats and their ar lots of southern soldiers hear and they ar just as bitter against the North as they wer in war time

You may tell Stella that our school marm rides back and forth from school on horse back and that she carries her revolver just as regular as her dinner

The Dr. and I have visited the Ded City where they ar at work digging up the skeleton of bodies houses and crockery that has been sposed to have burried by an earthquake thousands of years ago."

I have met many people through the antiques business. I think back on a few crazy ladies I have known. Just for fun, I will be telling some crazy lady stories in the near future.

To protect their identity, all will be known as the "Crazy Lady." You'll burst out laughing at some of their comments and antics!

*This week's old saying is from Groucho Marx: "Alimony is like buying hay for a dead horse."*

## Londonderry Music Monday for relief

**LONDONDERRY, Vt.** – The proceeds from the Aug. 14 Music Monday concert, 4:30-9:30 p.m. in Pingree Park, will be donated to the Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad (LVRS), and the fire departments for Londonderry, South Londonderry, Weston, and Peru. Saints & Liars will be headlining the concert.

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– Tim Philbin, Radio host WJJR

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# opinion

# COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear Editor,

Discussion has ensued on two provisions following the Plymouth Selectboard's decision in May to amend elements of the Short-Term Rental (STR) Ordinance currently in place. These changes were intended to make the regulations more reasonable, and to encourage better compliance.

Though not a voting resident of town, I am a fifth generation Plymouth property owner and taxpayer who offers our family property as a vacation rental, and I have actively participated in the selectboard's discus-

sions.

Fire inspections, health condition controls, state lodging tax remittal, respect for neighbors – these are all things that should be embraced and followed by all rental businesses.

The amendment to make Knox Boxes “recommended” instead of “required” is fair and reasonable, and should be adopted. The rationale being put forth for Knox Boxes being required is based on concern for renter safety and ease of first responder entrance. If this is the case, then it should

be a requirement for all residences in town, so that all residents' safety is safeguarded equally.

The choices surrounding homeowners insurance is a personal matter, and the details should not be dictated by the town. I choose to maintain a full commercial rental policy because that's what I want for myself and my guests. If others choose to be underinsured, they put their property and family assets at risk, but this does not impact the community.

Parking restrictions based on bedroom count are outdated and ineffective methods for addressing the relevant community concerns. Preventing people from parking in the street can easily be enforced with a town-wide regulation that prohibits on-street parking. The current occupancy

provision limits the number of people staying in a house due to the concern for septic capacity. The Standards for Responsible Hosting set out by the Vermont Short Term Rental Alliance (VTS-TRA) recommend to “limit occupancy to the legal limit determined by a State Fire Safety Certification, or limit occupancy to two people x number of legal bedrooms + two (to prevent sewer/septic damage, control wastewater management, and prevent neighborhood disturbances).”

Requiring every vacation rental to complete a full, in-person inspection in every year is excessive and impractical for Vermont's limited fire safety resources.

Sincerely,  
James Tepper  
Plymouth, Vt.

## Rite for Christian Initiation

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – The Rite for Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) begins in September for Holy Family Parish, which includes St. Mary's Church in Springfield and St. Joseph's Church in Chester, to be held at St. Mary's Church, Springfield, Vt.

Do you have questions about the Catholic Church? Are you searching for a sense of community, or a desire to hear more of the Good News of Jesus, the Gospel?

RCIA provides the opportunity to ask questions about “things Catholic,” such as “what do Catholics believe?” and “what do Catholics do?” This is the opportunity

to raise the issues that are on your mind or in your heart. This is a chance to get information with no commitment.

Those who have never been baptized can investigate what it means to be Christian. Those baptized in another Christian tradition can explore the process to come into full communion with the Catholic Church. And those baptized Catholic as infants but never raised as Catholic can learn about being Confirmed and receiving the Eucharist.

RCIA begins in September, and culminates with the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) that are celebrated at the Easter Vigil in April.

**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.



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## Vermont Apple Festival sponsors

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Plans for the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce's 39th annual Vermont Apple Festival and Craft Show are well underway, and it's sure to be another wonderful event at Riverside Middle School in Springfield. This year's festival will be held on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The chamber is currently accepting sponsorships – the deadline for Apple Barrel, Golden Apple, and Red Apple level sponsorships to be listed on the iconic red reusable shopping bags, which are distributed to the first 275 families at

the event, is Sept. 7. Green Apple and Apple Seed sponsorships will continue to be accepted through the end of September. Sponsoring is a great way to support this wonderful event, which is a longstanding tradition in the community, a fantastic opportunity to get your business name out there, and a way to support the chamber and the ongoing work they are doing to support area businesses and the community. For sponsorship information, please email [taylor@springfieldvt.com](mailto:taylor@springfieldvt.com), or visit [www.springfieldvt.com/apple-festival](http://www.springfieldvt.com/apple-festival).

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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:** ♦♦

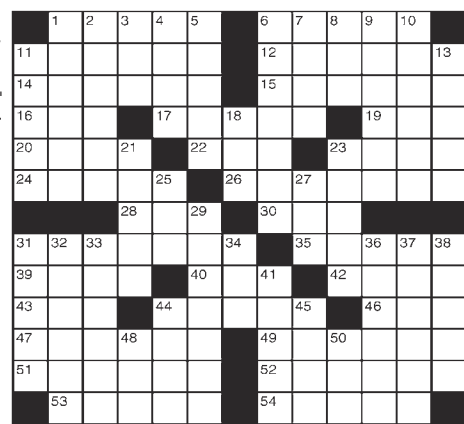
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Glasses, slangily
- 6 Acid type
- 11 "Cut that out!"
- 12 Alphas' opposites
- 14 He loved Roxane
- 15 Not certain
- 16 PC key
- 17 Blue Grotto isle
- 19 Hearty quaff
- 20 Floral rings
- 22 Vat
- 23 Peevish fit
- 24 Song of praise
- 26 Olympic skater Brian
- 28 "Certainly!"
- 30 Away from SSW
- 31 Mexican chili pepper
- 35 Labrador explorer
- 39 Nashville venue
- 40 "A spider!"
- 42 "Breckinridge"
- 43 Fib
- 44 King of Judea
- 46 Taunting laugh
- 47 Captivate
- 49 Comic Ray



### DOWN

- 1 Fashions
- 2 Shakespearean heiress
- 3 Ecol. watchdog
- 4 Title akin to POTUS
- 5 Brown ermine
- 6 Kentucky brew
- 7 Hotel chain
- 8 In medias
- 9 Big lizard
- 10 Comedian George
- 11 Overcharge for tickets
- 13 Handle
- 18 Tavern
- 21 In a sneaky way
- 23 Fulton's power
- 25 – culpa
- 27 Business mag
- 29 Showed scorn
- 31 Fishing rods
- 32 Speaks one's mind
- 33 Chicken serving parts ...
- 34 – the ram-parts ...
- 36 Manually
- 37 Arboreal apes
- 38 Western resort lake
- 41 Imam's holy book
- 44 Abode
- 45 Peace symbol
- 48 Astronaut
- 50 Mal de –

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- Kidney Cancer
- Kidney Stones
- Pediatrics
- Peyronie's Disease
- Prostate Cancer
- Prostatitis
- Testicular Cancer
- Testosterone Deficiency
- Urethral/Penile Cancer
- Urinary Tract Infection
- Undescended Testicles
- Varicocele
- Vasectomy

# obituaries

## Colleen Hadley, 1952-2023

**CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas** – Colleen Cray Hadley, 71, also known as “Coco,” died Monday, July 24, 2023, in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Mrs. Hadley was born in Bellows Falls, Vt., on March 16, 1952, to Basil and Rosie Mangan Cray.

She graduated from Castleton University in Castleton, Vt., with a bachelor’s degree in education.

On Aug. 9, 1975, she married William “Billy” Hadley in Bellows Falls, Vt. They moved to Texas the day after their wedding, and lived in El Paso, San Antonio, Houston, Copperas Cove, and settled in Abilene, Texas. She began teaching English at Abilene High School in 1987, and was the head of the English department for six years before retiring in 2013. She was respected for her leadership, and loved by her students. She moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, in 2022. She was an avid reader who loved to travel, spend time with her family, and meet with her “Lunch Bunch” friends. She was one of 11 members of the Lunch Bunch who met monthly. The group has a combined 300 years in education!

She was preceded in death by her father Basil Cray in 1963, her mother Rosie Mangan Cray in 2010, and her husband William Hadley in 2004.

She is survived by her sons Trevor and wife An-



**Colleen Hadley, 1952-2023.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

nabell Hadley, and Trent Hadley of Abilene, Texas; granddaughter Taylor, and great-grandson Aiden, all of Corpus Christi, Texas; her brothers John Cray and wife Kathy of Walpole, N.H., and Kevin Cray and wife Judi of Bellows Falls, Vt.; sister-in-law Ann Hadley of Bellows Falls, Vt.; brother-in-law Ken Hadley and wife Aynn of Washington, N.C.; several nieces and nephews; and countless friends.

A funeral service was held at 9 a.m. on Monday, July 31, at Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home in Abilene, Texas. Burial followed in Elliott-Hamil Garden of Memories Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations for continued research to Lewy Body Dementia Association at [www.lbda.org](http://www.lbda.org).

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.elliott-hamil.com](http://www.elliott-hamil.com) for the Hadley family.

## Frances Watkins, 1925-2023

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Frances Baker Watkins, 97, originally from Springfield, Vt., died peacefully on Aug. 3, 2023, at DHMC, surrounded by loved ones.

On Oct. 13, 1925, Frances Louise Baker was born at home to Milton and Gladys (Chapman) Baker of North Springfield.

She grew up on a farm in a large, loving household. Born with compromised hearing and sight, she consistently pushed through the many challenges with motivation, determination, laughter, and happiness. After high school, she was accepted into the Perkins Institute for the Blind, but left soon after because she “felt so bad for all the other kids who couldn’t see as well as her.”

In 1949, she married Jesse Watkins of Springfield. They raised five loving, appreciative children. Her favorite job was being a housewife and mother, but she also enjoyed serving food at the Riverside Middle School cafeteria for many years. Being the pianist for the Southern Vermont Old Time Fiddlers, she was thrilled to have made two albums, been on TV, sang, and played for many state and local fairs and talent competitions. The sound of her piano playing rang through the house almost daily, and we still hear the echo of it now. She wrote many, many songs, including her highly requested waltz. On any given day, it was hard to find her without her crocheting, and thousands of people were overjoyed to have received her homemade treasures. She donated hundreds of items to places like David’s house, Red Cross, schools, humane societies, churches, and senior centers. She greeted every day with gratitude. She never had a lot,



**Frances Watkins, 1925-2023.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

but would always give what she had to others. Without judgment or hesitation, she gave. She was devoted to her children and to God.

She is predeceased by her parents; siblings Gertrude, Ruth, Doris, Helen, and Robert. She is survived by her children Sharon, Samuel, Carol, Andrew, and Camilla; 13 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren.

Last month, she became the longest living person in her recorded family history, to which she commented, “I didn’t do anything special, I just lived!” She will definitely be missed, and will surely leave a hole in all our hearts.

A memorial service was held on Tuesday, Aug. 8, at 10 a.m., at the Charlestown, N.H. Senior Center.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt. is assisting the family with the arrangements.

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## Emily F. Hedal, 1926-2023

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – On Aug. 5, 2023, Emily F. Hedal, loving mother of three children, passed away, having lived a rich and full life of 97 years.

Emily was born on Aug. 12, 1926, in Greenville, Miss., to Benjamin and Vera Feld, and grew up in Memphis, Tenn. She had an older sister, Suzanne Salkovitz, who predeceased her in 2010. Emily was married for 66 years to Alfred J. Hedal, who predeceased her on Aug. 5, 2014. She met her husband in New York City, and together they raised their family in Montclair, N.J. Her children are Jane Hedal-Siegel (husband Miles), Laura Plaze (husband Bob), and Joe Hedal (wife Jane Wojick). Emily has four grandchildren, Melanie and Brian Hedal, Rosemary Plaze, and Harrison Siegel, as well as nieces, nephews and cousins. Her undergraduate degree was from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and she had a master’s of science from New York University. She was a biochemist.

Emily had a passion for nature and gardening, and these were some of the in-



**Emily Hedal, 1926-2023.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

terests she pursued during her retirement years with her husband Al at their home in Ludlow, Vt. In addition to her love of family, she loved animals, and especially dogs. She enjoyed music, art, and intellectual pursuits, although her raw musical abilities were not tapped beyond her weekly recorder group at her house in New Jersey (a 1960s thing). She believed in the power of education, and was infused with a strong sense of social justice from her experiences growing up in the South during the 1930s. Those who knew her were keenly aware of her golden heart. Family services are private.

## Marilyn McMillan, 1929-2023

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – Marilyn McMillan, 93, passed away on Wednesday morning, Aug. 2, 2023, at Gill Terrace in Ludlow, Vt. Born Nov. 9, 1929, the daughter of Matthew and Alice (Christine Harlow) McMillan.

Marilyn attended Quincy High School, and received her bachelor’s degree in marketing at Boston University in 1951. She had a long, successful career with Brigham’s, Market Forge, and Star Market. She later moved to Braintree and Hingham, Mass., where she worked as a real estate agent for Coldwell Realty in Hingham.

Upon retiring, Marilyn moved closer to her favorite ski resort in Ludlow, Vt., to be closer to her good friend from college, Martha Quinlan (deceased April 28, 2023). For many years, she continued to put her business expertise to good use as a volunteer at the Black River Good Neighbors thrift store in Ludlow, Vt. Marilyn also enjoyed weekly bridge games, and was an avid world traveler.

Marilyn was universally loved by all who knew her



**Marilyn McMillan, 1929-2023.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

for her kindness to friends and extended family. She was extremely intelligent, hardworking, and far ahead of the times, working as a female executive in corporate America since the 1950s. An excellent storyteller, she often regaled people with endless stories of her first-hand knowledge of almost a century of history, politics, and her world-wide adventures. She inspired many, and will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Donations in memory of Marilyn can be sent to Black River Good Neighbor Services, 37B Main Street, Ludlow, VT 05149-1025.

## Joseph Renfro, 1944-2023

**ROCKINGHAM, Vt.** – Joseph “Joe” Renfro, 79, of Rockingham, Vt., passed away on July 31, 2023, at Albany Medical Center, following a long battle with many illnesses.

Joe was born on May 26, 1944, in Portland, Ore. He was the first son of Julian M. and Mary (Manasco) Renfro. Joe spent his childhood years in the tiny town of Wheeler, Ore., a town he loved. He recounted his adventurous and mischievous times as a boy there with fondness.

When Joe was a teenager, his father built a homemade trailer, packed up their belongings, hitched it to their 1936 Ford, and drove across the country to settle in Connecticut. Joe attended trade school, and became a long-distance truck driver. He spent many years driving throughout the country, and was especially partial to Interstate 40.

Eventually settling in Chester, Vt., Joe started R&R Trucking, running several trucks as owner-operator, his favorite being “long nosed Peterbilts with CAT engines.” A proud member of truckers “Million Mile Club,” Joe easily exceeded several million miles on the road. Driving and working on his Peterbilts is where he was most comfortable.

Joe was a tough, strong, and hard-working man. Intelligent and mechanically gifted, Joe could problem solve and repair most anything. He loved conversation, always punctuated with his dry humor. He loved the road, truck stops, his trucking buddies, and his cats Edie, Prue, and Tex. Tex adopted Joe when



**Joseph Renfro, 1944-2023.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

he jumped into his cab at a truck stop in Texas, becoming a traveling companion on many trips.

Most notable was that Joe had a big heart. He loved his family, and was very close with his son Scott. He wasn’t shy bragging about Scott, and was proud of his athletic accomplishments and career as a P.E. teacher.

Joe was predeceased by Elinor Jones, his wife of many years. He is survived by his son Scott Renfro (Reiko) of Andover, Vt.; sister Ruth O’Hara of Laconia, N.H.; and brother Bruce Renfro (Bonnie) of Hartland, Vt.

## Shirley M. Muther, 1942-2023

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Shirley M. Muther, 81, passed away on Monday evening, July 31, 2023, at the Springfield Hospital. She was born April 15, 1942, in Springfield, Vt., the daughter of Leon and Gladys (Kendall) Metcalf. She grew up in Baltimore, Vt., and attended the one room school house.

On April 21, 1978, she married Brahm E. Muther. He predeceased her on Nov. 29, 2013.

Shirley was employed as a supervisor with Newsbank in Chester, Vt. for 27 years, retiring in 2006.

She loved motorcycle riding, and traveled cross-country with her husband Brahm. She grew up on a farm and loved horses, cats, and animals of all kinds. She enjoyed crocheting and loved to read.

She is survived by her children Sharon Tufts, Marcellus Knight Jr., Shawn Knight, Donald Muther, Geoffrey Muther, and Adam Muther; one sister Barbara Welker; 25



**Shirley Muther, 1942-2023.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was predeceased by her parents, her husband, daughter Darlene Knight, son Richard Knight, two sisters Loreen Metcalf and Jane Fuller, and one granddaughter Kelli Knight.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23, at the Springfield Elks Lodge.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with arrangements.

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# classifieds

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## FOR SALE

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Brand new inogen for sale. Never used. All paperwork included. Discuss price to help someone who needs it. Call 802-885-6796.

ANDOVER, Vt. - 2009 Explorer for sale, Eddie Bauer, third row seats, good tires, one owner, very good condition, 165,000 miles. \$6,900.00. 802-875-4440.

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## After School Program Site Coordinator

Two Rivers Supervisory Union is seeking a skilled educator or after school professional to be the Site Coordinator at Cavendish Town Elementary School. This is a school year position Monday-Friday from 2:50pm - 5:00pm. An Associates Degree or higher, relevant experience and a fingerprint supported background check are required. Pay rate is \$20-\$25/hr based on experience. For more information or to apply please go to School Spring Job ID: 4358797

## Notification of Management Plan Availability

Date: August 7, 2023

To: Parents, teachers, employees, other personnel or their guardians

From: Two Rivers Supervisory Union (LEA/Supervisory Union) Todd Parah (Designated Person) 716 VT Route 103S (Address) Chester VT 05143 (City, Zip) 802-875-2146 (Phone)

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) 40 CFR 763.93 [g] [4] requires that written notification be given that the following schools/buildings have Asbestos Management Plans for the safe control and maintenance of asbestos containing materials found in their buildings. These Management Plans are available and accessible to the public at the administrative office of each facility listed below.

School/Building	Address	Phone #
1. Green Mountain Union High School	Chester, VT	802-875-2146
2. Chester-Andover Elementary School	Chester, VT	802-875-2801
3. Cavendish Town Elementary School	Cavendish, VT	802-226-7758
4. Ludlow Elementary School	Ludlow, VT	802-875-5151
5. Mount Holy School	Mount Holy, VT	802-259-2692

Todd Parah

Signature of the Designated Person

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	P	E	C	S	B	O	R	I	C		
S	T	O	P	I	T	O	M	E	G	A	S
C	Y	R	A	N	O	U	N	S	U	R	E
A	L	T	C	A	P	R	I	A	L	E	
L	E	I	S	T	J	U	B	S	N	I	T
P	S	A	L	M	B	O	I	T	A	N	O
Y	E	S	N	N	E						
P	O	B	L	A	N	O	C	A	B	O	T
O	P	R	Y	E	E	K	M	Y	R	A	
L	I	E	H	E	R	O	D	H	A	H	
E	N	A	M	O	R	R	O	M	A	N	O
S	E	S	A	M	E	A	V	E	N	G	E
S	T	E	E	D	N	E	R	D	S		

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STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT Windsor Unit PROBATE DIVISION Docket No.: 23-PR-01902

In re ESTATE of: Antoinette Joyce

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Antoinette (Nancy) Joyce Decedent

late of Ludlow, Vermont Decedent's Town of Residence

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: 5/5/2023 Signature of Fiduciary: *Richard P. Joyce, Jr.*

Executor/Administrator Richard P. Joyce, Jr.	Mailing Address 13 Sunshine Drive
Phone Number	City, State, Zip Pittstown, NJ 08867

Name of Publication: The Vermont Journal  
Publication Date: August 9, 2023

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court - Probate Division - Windsor Unit  
Address of Probate Court: 12 The Green Woodstock, VT 05091

## Public Hearing Notice

### Village of Ludlow Zoning and Flood Hazard Regulation Amendments

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4441 and §4444, notice is hereby given of a public hearing by the Ludlow Village Trustees to hear comments regarding proposed amendments to the Village of Ludlow Zoning and Flood Hazard Regulation Amendments. The public hearing will take place during the Village Trustees meeting on **Tuesday, September 5, 2023, beginning at 6:00 pm.**

You may attend the Public Hearing in-person at the following address:  
Ludlow Town Hall  
37 Depot Street  
Ludlow, Vermont 05149

Comments regarding the proposed amendments to the Village of Ludlow Zoning and Flood Hazard Regulation Amendments may be submitted verbally at the Public Hearing. Written comments may also be submitted via email to Terry Carter, Ludlow Planning Commission Chair, at [tmgcarter@gmail.com](mailto:tmgcarter@gmail.com), or Martha Harrison, Mount Ascutney Regional Commission, at [mharrison@marcv.org](mailto:mharrison@marcv.org), or Bob Brandt, Village Trustee, at [bobjbrandt@gmail.com](mailto:bobjbrandt@gmail.com). Pursuant to the requirements of 24 V.S.A. §4444(b):

**Statement of purpose:**  
The purpose of the proposed amendments is as follows:

- to ensure that employee housing meets the needs of employees, employers, and abutting property owners;
- to clarify the difference between residential and commercial structures and uses;
- to establish permitting and review processes for employee housing and changes of use;
- to allow for reductions in minimum parking requirements for employee housing under certain circumstances;
- to add Boarding House/Rooming House to the Village R-C as a permitted use;
- to incorporate new and modified definitions in Article 7.
- to modify Section 520.14 Conversions and Changes of Use

**Geographic areas affected:**  
Portions of these amendments apply to all areas of the Village.

**List of section headings affected:**  
The proposed amendments make the following modifications to the Village of Ludlow Zoning and Flood Hazard Regulation Amendments:

- Article 4, Section 430 is modified to include, Boarding House/Rooming House to the permitted uses of the Village R-C District.
- Article 5 (General Regulations) is modified to include new Section 520.14 Conversions and Changes of Use, and new Section 520.15 Employee Housing.
- Article 7 is modified to include the following new definitions: employee housing, transient, short-term.
- Article 7 is modified to include the following revised definitions: Bed & Breakfast, Boarding House/Rooming House, Inn.

The full text of the amendments to the Village of Ludlow Zoning and Flood Hazard Regulations is available online at <https://www.ludlow.vt.us> The proposed amendments can be reviewed in hard copy format in the Town Clerk's Office in the Ludlow Town Hall located at 37 Depot Street, Ludlow, VT 05149.

**\$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

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68 Main St., Springfield 802-885-7111  
Art Crafts Gifts & Workshops  
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[galleryvault.org](http://galleryvault.org)

Extraordinary Wildlife of Our Planet Photographs by Tiffany Soukup and Chris Brader

Dance of Color Open Wall Show  
(10/25/23 - TFN - 13)

## Builders/Contractors

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### PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION

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(11/22/23 - 52)

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(08/09/23 - 13)

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(08/11/23 - TFN - 52)

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## Okemo Valley TV

Watch on TV: Community Channel: Comcast 1076 & VTel 166 Education / Gov't Channel: Comcast 1086 / VTel 167  
Watch Online: OKEMOVALLEY.TV (live streams & video-on-demand) & YOUTUBE

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)  
(10/04/23 - TFN - 13)

# arts & events

## LEGAL NOTICES

## Weston Theater Company presents “Singin’ in the Rain”

WESTON, Vt. – Weston Theater Company takes audiences on an enchanting journey back to Hollywood’s Golden Age in “Singin’ in the Rain.” The production will take place at Weston’s Walker Farm theater, due to the damage wrought in The Playhouse by this month’s devastating floods.

A celebrated classic of stage and screen, “Singin’ in the Rain” is a delectable treat of swoon-worthy songs, rollicking tap and dance, and charming storytelling. Based on the “greatest movie musical of all time,” this joyous show takes a look at 1920s Hollywood, when silent films gave way to “talkies” and the electrifying 20th century was on the move.

The show is directed by Weston’s own executive artistic director Susanna Gellert, whose previous Weston directing credits include “Hair” (2022), “Ring of Fire” (2021), and “The Fantasticks” (2019). Prior to leading Weston, Gellert was associate producer and director of the studio at New York’s acclaimed Theatre for a New Audience, producing award-winning productions of Thornton Wilder’s “The Skin of Our Teeth,” and Branden Jacobs-Jenkins’ “An Octoroon.”

Says Gellert, “‘Singin’ in the Rain’ is a timeless, enchanting musical about how we navigate change

and pursue our passions. It reminds us that our wildest dreams and truest loves can come to life in the midst of transition and transformation – something that we’ve been reminded of ourselves as we navigate the devastation brought on by this month’s floods. And of course, the show arrives at a fortuitous moment, as so many of us are reminded to find joy despite adversity, resiliency against all odds, and the glorious feeling of singing together in the rain.”

Gellert considers the move to Walker Farm exciting in its challenges, “This is a show that was designed for all the scope and scale of our mainstage space. We were in the midst of rehearsals when we realized that it would need to move to our more intimate theater, and so we’ve been imagining the show anew even while we are in process. I see this as a real opportunity for everyone to see a great, grand Broadway musical in an intimate setting. We’ll be focusing on the magic and brilliance of our amazing company of actors, this glorious music, and stunning choreography. There may be fewer bells and whistles than we originally planned, but I believe the show will be all the more magical for it.”

With over 500 film and theater credits, Michael Cassara of the Casting So-

ciety of America casts the show. Cast members include Eric Sciotto as Don, Cameron Anika Hill as Kathy, Conor McShane as Cosmo, Amy Jo Jackson as Lina, David Bonanno as Simpson, Isaiah Reynolds as Rosco, Alex Hayden Miller as Rod, Kara Mikula as Dora, and Jessica Ann Lawyer as Zelda.

The ensemble is composed of Mia Davidson, Markelle Leigh, and Weston’s 2023 Young Company, fresh off their run of “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown.”

The creative team includes music director Larry Presgrove, set designer Frank J. Oliva, choreographer Felicity Stiverson, costume designer Jessica Crawford, lighting designer Scott Zielinski, sound designer Joanna Lynne Staub, and projection designer Lianne Arnold. Michele A. Kay is the production stage manager, and Meghan Emanuel is the assistant stage manager.

“Singin’ in the Rain” began its run on Aug. 3, and will run through Aug. 20. Due to the venue change from The Playhouse (306 seats) to Walker Farm (118 seats), and reseating all current ticket holders, new ticket availability is extremely limited. Contact the Weston box office for more information at 802-824-5288.

## Springfield Community Band final concert

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Community Band will present its final concert of the summer season on Tuesday, Aug. 15, at 7:30 p.m., at the Hartness House, 109 Front Street, Springfield, Vt.

Congratulations go out to trombonist Vaughn Hadwen who, with this

concert, will be completing the unparalleled achievement of 70 years with the band.

As the season ends, the band thanks the proprietors and staff of the historic Hartness House for making their very beautiful inn available as a concert venue, and for so readily accommodating the band’s every request.

Many thanks also, of course, to the band’s wonderful and loyal audience, whose enthusiasm lights up the evening and makes it all fun.

As always, the band reserves the final concert of the season for those pieces in the repertoire that the band members have enjoyed the most. Come hear what’s been chosen as band favorites.

## The Silverbacks to perform

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – The Town of Cavendish and the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association invite everyone to spend an evening listening to the sounds of The Silverbacks at the Svec Memorial Green in Proctorsville on Wednesday, Aug. 16, at 6 p.m., weather permitting.

Based in Brandon, Vt., the Silverbacks mix authentic blues and rock classics, managing to sound fresh and familiar at the same time. At the root of nearly all classic rock songs is the blues. The Silverbacks illustrate

this foundational link with every song they play, from Albert King’s “Born Under a Bad Sign” to “Black Magic Woman.” The band features Rob Zollman (drums), Sean Barrett (lead guitar and vocals), Scott Totten (harmonica), Peter Kennedy (bass, vocals) and Tom Van Sant (rhythm guitar and lead vocals).

Cavendish encourages all area residents and visitors to join their friends and neighbors in front of the gazebo on the green. Bring a blanket or a comfortable chair, have a picnic, or just lie back and relax on the grass. It’s a fun way to enjoy the sum-

mer weather and either reconnect with old friends, or make new ones. Murdock’s Restaurant and Singleton’s each offer takeout, so please patronize the local establishments.

This concert is sponsored by the Holy Name of Mary Altar Society.

As always, the concerts are free and open to everyone. For more information, please email cavendish-communityconservation@gmail.com. In the event of rain, postponement information will be reflected on the Cavendish Community and Conservation Facebook page.

## Grilling for Good in Claremont

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Opera House and Claremont Soup Kitchen invite foodies across the region to attend the third annual Grilling for Good fundraiser on Aug. 19, at 5 p.m. Arrowhead Recreation Area, at 18 Robert Easter Way, serves as a natural amphitheater for this benefit concert and live grilling competition. This year’s presenting

sponsor is Claremont Growers Collective. Additional sponsors include Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, and Century 21 Highview Realty.

Local amateur cooks Dennis Boyer, Lisa Demers, and Sonya Kennett Woodhams have thrown their spatulas into the ring for the live grilling competition. Each competitor receives a basket of four secret ingredients, and 25 minutes for an appetizer round. One competitor is eliminated after the first round of judging by select Claremont-area chefs and restaurateurs. The entrée round then commences with a 45-minute countdown, and final judging to award the reigning Grilling

for Good Chopped Champion 2023 title and prizes.

Between judging rounds, sit back and relax or dance to live music by variety duo Mark & Deb Bond. Guests can enjoy casual lawn games, as well as food and drink offered by donation and purchase.

Tickets can be purchased at www.cohnh.org, or at the box office at 58 Opera House Square. Funds raised from the event will benefit the Claremont Opera House and Claremont Soup Kitchen. Rain or shine. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets. Questions may be directed to 603-542-4433, or boxoffice@cohn.org.

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### TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN ASSISTANT WATER & WASTEWATER OPERATOR

Assistant Water & Wastewater Operator – The Town of Charlestown is seeking applicants for a full-time position in its Water & Wastewater department. Previous experience in municipal water and/or wastewater operations is highly desirable but the Town is willing to train the right applicant. Wages commensurate with qualifications and experience. Full Benefit package including paid vacations and holidays.

Interested candidates may obtain an employment application in the Selectboard office at 233 Main Street, Charlestown, NH or on the Town Website. Applications and Resumes should be emailed to Ddezan@charlestown-nh.gov.

The Town of Charlestown is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT LABORER

The Town of Charlestown is seeking a qualified individual to fill the position of Highway Department Laborer.

This position is full-time, year-round. Duties include but not limited to snow plowing with plow and wing, and general labor. Previous experience with heavy equipment and road maintenance. Additional requirements are a good work ethic, positive attitude, hard worker and a team player. Must pass a pre-employment physical.

Applications can be dropped off at our Selectmen’s Office located at 233 Main Street Charlestown, NH, mailed to P.O. Box 385 Charlestown, NH 03603, or emailed to Ddezan@charlestown-nh.gov.

The Town of Charlestown is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN RECORDING SECRETARY

The Town of Charlestown is seeking an individual to be the Recording Secretary for the Selectboard. The Board meets every Wednesday night anywhere from 5:00 to possibly 9:30 p.m.

This part-time position is to attend and take minutes of all Selectboard meetings/workshops and produce and deliver meeting minutes within legal time frames. Knowledge of how to take and prepare minutes and the ability to attend weekly meetings each month required. Accuracy is very important. Minutes must be completed within 5 days of the meeting.

Applicants must possess a High School Diploma or GED and strong typing/keyboarding and note taking or shorthand skills. Experience with municipal record keeping preferred, but not required.

Job Type: Part-time  
Hours per week: Less than 10  
Rate of pay per meeting: \$100.00 (this would include your time at the meeting and producing and delivering the minutes)

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume & completed application to Ddezan@charlestown-nh.gov.

### TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/TRUCK DRIVER/LABORER

The Town of Charlestown is seeking a qualified individual to fill the position of Highway Equipment Operator/Truck Driver/Laborer.

This position is full-time, year-round. A CDL License is required. Duties include but not limited to snow plowing with plow and wing, and general labor. Previous experience with heavy equipment and road maintenance. Additional requirements are a good work ethic, positive attitude, hard worker and a team player. Must pass a physical, and a drug & alcohol test.

Applications can be dropped off at our Selectmen’s Office located at 233 Main Street Charlestown, NH, mailed to P.O. Box 385 Charlestown, NH 03603, or emailed to Ddezan@charlestown-nh.gov.

The Town of Charlestown is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN FIRE FIGHTER AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

The Charlestown Fire Department is seeking candidates for the positions of on call Fire Fighter and Rescue Department Members. The Charlestown Fire Department is a multi-hazard department providing fire prevention, fire suppression, basic hazardous materials response, vehicle rescue and extrication, basic rescue, and first response EMS services for the citizens of Charlestown New Hampshire.

The ideal candidate is a team player, self-motivated, honest, trustworthy, and dedicated. They will be committed to lifelong learning, will be safety conscious, and able to take constructive feedback and incorporate it into future activities.

All candidates will need to have a valid driver’s license and will undergo a background check.

There is a particular need for candidates that have the ability to respond to calls for service during daytime hours Monday through Friday.

There is a preference for candidates interested in obtaining both Firefighting and EMS certifications. Candidates will be expected to be enrolled in either a Firefighter 1 course or an EMS course leading to certification within 18 months of hire.

Interested parties are encouraged to stop by the station to meet with members of the department and ask questions. Applications for employment are available at the town office and on the Town Website at www.charlestown-nh.gov.

The Town of Charlestown is an equal opportunity employer.

**Town of Westminster**  
P.O. BOX 147 WESTMINSTER, VT 05158  
Tel. 802-722- 4524 Fax 802-722-9816

### DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (DRB) WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL Westminster, Vermont Legal Notice

The Westminster Development Review Board will meet at 6:30 pm on Monday, September 11, 2023 to consider the following:

**Application # 24-02** Lyanne Woodward (Owner & Applicant) property located at 3892 US Route 5. The Applicant is requesting to replace half of the shingled roof with a metal roof to match the other half of the existing roof. The Applicant is also requesting the replacement of six windows. Application will be reviewed under Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 445 Historic Village District; and Article IX Historical Preservation Overlay District of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

**Application # 23-25** Anthony Perri & Elaine Ingraham (Owner & Applicant) property located at 3338 US Route 5. The Applicant is requesting a major subdivision. Application will be reviewed under Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 445 Historic Village District; and Article IX Historical Preservation Overlay District; Article X Agricultural Overlay District; and Article VIII Subdivision of Land (Major Subdivision) of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

Participation in the proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeals.

The application is available for review in the Westminster Town Hall, 3651 US Route 5 Westminster, Vermont 05158, Monday – Friday from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.



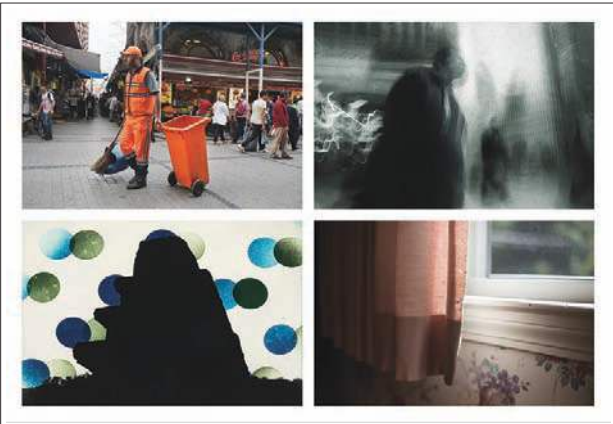
# arts & entertainment

## NXT Gallery photography exhibit

PUTNEY, Vt. - NXT Gallery presents an exhibit of works by Vermont Center for Photography Artists.

This small group exhibit, entitled "Four Perspectives," represents the work of Al Karevy, Davida Carta, Joshua Farr, and Vaune Trachtman, four different local artists who are members of the Vermont Center for Photography in downtown Brattleboro. Each of these artists create photographic work covering a diverse range of styles and subject matter, though unified via a shared passion for the photographic arts and its many expressive possibilities. Each of the four artists will be displaying a small selection from a body of work, giving a greater context to their creative vision and process.

"Next Stage's art gallery is a critical piece to our programming, as it's



Some of the images on display.

PHOTO PROVIDED

one of the primary ways we are able to highlight the visual arts of the region," says Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts. "The Vermont Center for Photography's group show is an opportunity for us to highlight a peer cultural organization, and the range of talented visual artists within that

medium."

The exhibit will be in place Aug. 19 - Nov. 12. The NXT Gallery, on the second floor of Next Stage Arts, at 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, is open during events in the theater and by appointment. An opening reception will be held in the gallery on Sunday, Aug. 27, from 3-5 p.m.

## VAULT Open Wall Show

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Gallery at the VAULT is delighted to present a new Open Wall show, "Dance of Color." This show includes beautiful paintings, photographs, mixed media, wood sculpture, digital art, crochet and knitted fiber art, resin, and magic wands. This is a wonderful and diverse show. Thank you to all the participants. The works will be on display until Oct. 11.

Open Wall is a non-juried show for any artists living in a 30-mile radius of Springfield. For more information, please call 802-885-7111, or come into Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main Street in Springfield. The gallery is open Wednesday and Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Friday, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.,



"Button Wild Flowers" by Donna Tardiff.

PHOTO PROVIDED

and is online at [www.galleryvault.org](http://www.galleryvault.org).

## SOTH presents Blackstone Valley String Quartet

WESTON, Vt. - Sundays on the Hill concert series is celebrating its 25th anniversary, and is proud to have the talented Blackstone Valley String Quartet warm up the stage on Aug. 13 in the Church on the Hill (Community Church) in Weston, Vt., at 4 p.m.

Admission is still minimal, thanks to generous support from Patrons of Sundays on the Hill concert series and other anonymous donors. Children 12 and under may attend at no charge. Please be aware that the doors open at 3:30 p.m., and there are no reserved seats, no advance tickets, and admission is paid at the door. For more information, visit [www.sundaysonthehill.org](http://www.sundaysonthehill.org).

The Blackstone Valley

String Quartet presents a program of great string quartet favorites of the past, along with some favorite modern string quartet arrangements. The string quartet has long been a classic ensemble for composers and arrangers, and composers today continue to

utilize the string quartet to communicate musical ideas. From Mozart to Billie Eilish, enjoy a program of eclectic favorites performed by string quartet. For more information about the Blackstone Valley String Quartet, visit [www.blackstonevalleyquartet.com](http://www.blackstonevalleyquartet.com).

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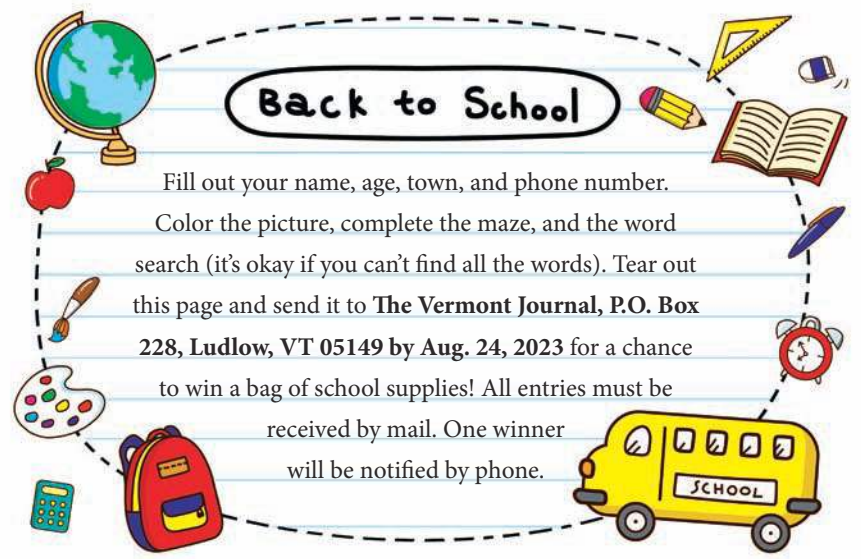
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# Hey Kids!

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## Back to School

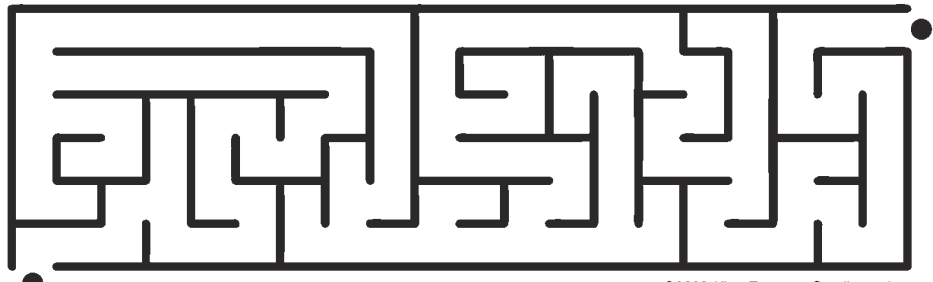
Fill out your name, age, town, and phone number.  
Color the picture, complete the maze, and the word search (it's okay if you can't find all the words). Tear out this page and send it to **The Vermont Journal, P.O. Box 228, Ludlow, VT 05149** by **Aug. 24, 2023** for a chance to win a bag of school supplies! All entries must be received by mail. One winner will be notified by phone.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

### Kids' Maze

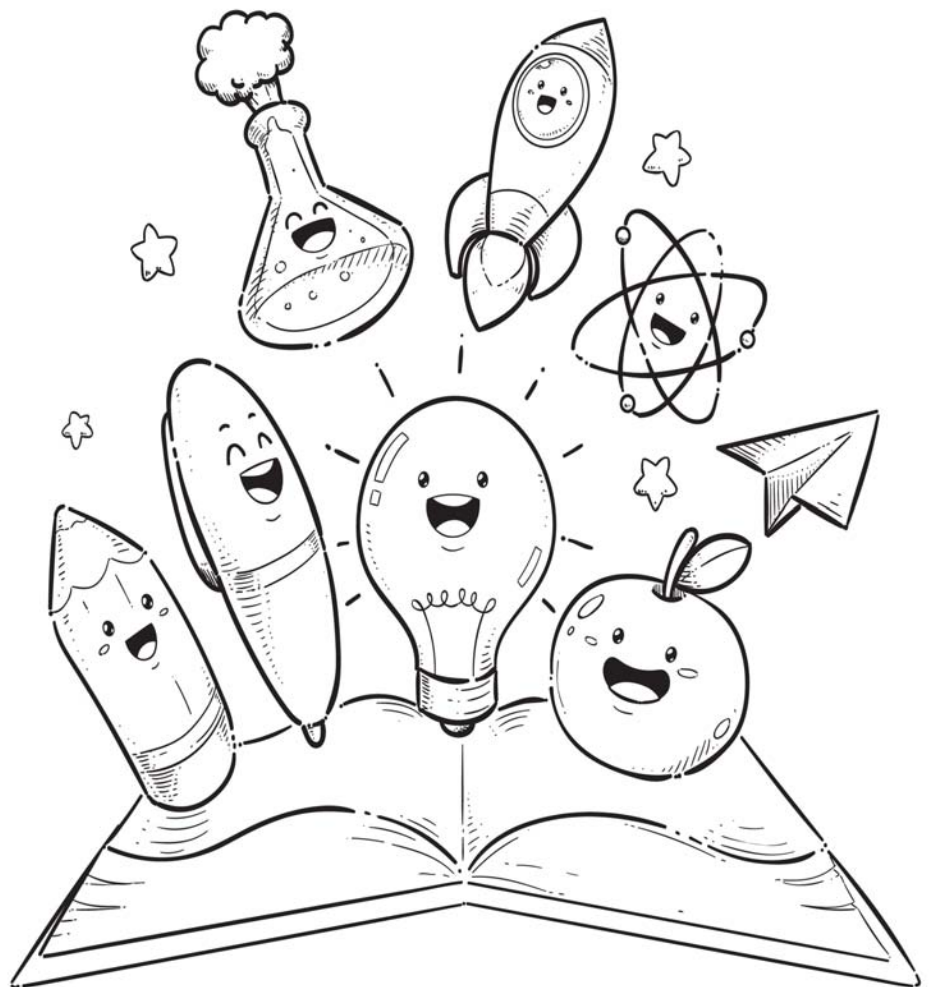


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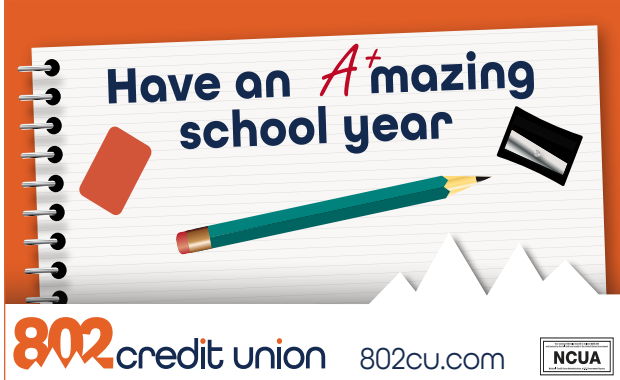
### Puzzles4Kids by Helene Hovanec

APPLE	S	P	O	N	G	E	L	P	P	A
BANANA	A	E	T	U	N	O	C	O	C	T
BLACKOUT	B	A	V	P	O	I	R	W	U	E
CHIFFON	L	R	N	E	W	A	B	O	D	V
COCONUT	A	L	L	I	N	A	V	L	C	L
KIWI	C	I	K	G	N	L	A	L	H	E
LEMON	K	M	E	A	E	M	A	E	C	V
LIME	O	E	N	M	K	E	U	Y	A	D
MANGO	U	A	O	G	N	A	M	L	E	E
ORANGE	T	N	O	F	F	I	H	C	P	R
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PLUM										
RED VELVET										
SEVEN LAYER										
SPONGE										
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