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A perfect fall day for Ludlow Harvest Festival

BY PAULA BENSON
The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. – Once the morning fog cleared, Saturday, Sept. 30, turned into a beautiful, crisp, Vermont fall afternoon, ideal for the 39th annual Ludlow Harvest Fair, held on the front lawn of the Expeditionary School at Black River (ESBR). 40 vendors, live music from Sammy B, spicy dishes from Jamaican Jewelz food truck, and the friendly goats of Karma Sanctuary in Mount Holly, made for a spirited celebration.

The event, benefiting the Ludlow Parent Teacher Group (PTG) and ESBR, hosts many crafters and specialty food makers, selling everything from candles to quilts, baked goods to barbeque sauces. 802 Heat was there with a

variety of their homemade hot sauces, while Pop's Biscotti and Chocolates offered sweeter options. Peter Hadeka of Peter's Folly Farm displayed a live beehive, and sold local honey. Kelly Hopkins from Singing Stones Jewelry showcased her one-of-a-kind jewelry designs, made from locally sourced, vintage materials and semiprecious stones. Richard Probst of Vermont Fire Rocks had his unique oil lamps, crafted from Vermont sourced slate, marble, and granite, laid out across several tables. The assortment of artisans seemed to provide something for everyone, or anyone looking to start their holiday shopping early.

The main event of the day had to have been "Doo-doo Bingo," where, for a donation of \$20 per



Goat from Karma Sanctuary attending the festival.
PHOTO BY PAULA BENSON

square, or 6 squares for \$100, visitors could place a guess as to in which square the goat would do his business. The game generated a lot of laughs, with all proceeds benefiting the Ludlow PTG.

ESBR began when a group of parents, community members, and local business leaders joined forces to form the Black River Independent School Committee, ultimately opening the school dedicated to innovation and forward thinking. The curriculum at ESBR is anchored by four educational pillars: global perspective, civic responsibility, community engagement, and environmental stewardship. The program's goal is to foster intellectual curiosity, resourcefulness, and self-confidence in their students.

ESBR also offers volunteer opportunities to enrich students' educational experience, and by partnering with local businesses, provide opportunities that could lead to future career potential. In 2023, the Vermont State Board of Education approved ESBR's application for state approval, meaning the school qualifies for state educational funds. Additional funds are raised through student enrollment, grants, and fundraising events, such as the annual Harvest Festival, celebrating 40 years in 2024.

Chester discusses library benefits, STRs

BY NICK GIBERTI
The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Selectboard met Wednesday, Sept. 20, taking up the issue of a benefits package for Whiting Library's two full-time employees.

Whiting Library Board of Trustees Chair Matthew Gorsky told the board that the library has had issues retaining personnel as a result of the lack of benefits provided to staff, noting that the previous director had left when offered a position with similar pay, but which included benefits. "We as an entity don't want to have a revolving door of personnel who...when a better offer with benefits comes along, goes out the door," Gorsky told the board.

While several members of the selectboard expressed that they would like to see the library's employees given benefits on par with town employees, there was a lack of clarity amongst the board concerning who actually had jurisdiction to enact benefits. The Whiting Library was established in 1888, and its relationship to the municipality is unique, leaving it both partially funded by the town, but also independent of the selectboard and town government. The Whiting Library Board of Trustees is independently elected by the voters of Chester.

Town manager Julie Hance noted that she had worked with previous iterations of the selectboard and trustees to provide a stipend to library employees, which was meant to be used to purchase health insurance on the open exchange, but that, due to the structure of the library's relationship to the municipality, the town could not directly provide health insurance in the way they do to town employees.

"Unless I can check the box that says they work for me, and are a town employee, they can't be on our health plan," Hance told the board. Board members Lee Gustafson and Peter Hudkins also raised concerns about the cost to the town of providing a benefits package, noting that while both would like to see it happen, it would be a significant expense to the town, and recent tax increases in Chester had already been met with opposition prior to enactment. Board member Heather Chase objected, saying that creative thinking may be needed to find ways to both keep costs to the town low, and still provide competitive benefits.

Several citizens of Chester also rose to voice their support for library staff, telling the board that the library was important to them personally, as well as an important aspect of life in Chester.

The board determined to create a working group, to include the library trustees and two selectboard members, to explore what options exist for providing library employees with a benefits package.

The board then once again revisited the topic of short-term rentals (STR) in Chester, saying that, of the 54 STR owners sent letters notifying them of the registration requirement prior to the last meeting, 21 had registered, and six were either no longer renting, or rented less than 14 days per year, which does not require registration. Of those 21 registered units, 9 were hosted STRs, and 12 were unhosted, meaning the property owner or a caretaker is not on-site while renters are present.

Board member Arianna Knapp, whose tenure began after the adoption of the original STR ordinance in October 2022, told the

board that she had revisited the original ordinance as passed, and believes that, at this point, it is adequate, and changes are not needed. "[The original ordinance] is pretty good," Knapp said, "what's missing is the reporting we requested from someone else, and our appetite to enforce it." The missing reporting to which Knapp referred is that from Granicus, the company with which Chester is contracted to enact its STR registry. The project has fallen behind schedule due to Granicus not assigning a project manager until recently.

Board Chair Arne Jonynas felt that the ordinance could potentially be expanded, asking why other businesses, such as hotels and inns, are subject to zoning restrictions, while unhosted STRs are not. "The location makes a big difference on what type of business you would allow in a neighborhood...if it was a car dealership or a car repair place, I don't understand why [unhosted STRs can be] in any district [in] town."

In the end, the board felt that they needed to allow more data to be gathered to be able to make concrete decisions, though they agreed to begin meeting with the planning commission within 30 days to review options which the planning commission had proposed. A planning commission meeting has since been warned for Oct. 2, noting that the majority of the selectboard may be in attendance.

The next meeting of the Chester Selectboard will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 6:30 p.m., in the Chester Town Hall.

Plymouth dog ordinance, Chloe's Market to open

BY SHAWN TAE WEBB
The Vermont Journal

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – The Plymouth Selectboard approved a dog ordinance at their Sept. 18 meeting, noting there had been some recent complaints about dog bites. The ordinance will allow the town to take action on dog conflicts and bites.

Town clerk Angela Kissell explained that they have constables that would handle possible situations, "but we can't because we don't have a dog ordinance to enforce it." In passing the ordinance, the town will follow any state guidelines and requirements.

Board Chair Jay Kullman moved to discuss town expenses and expenditures from the storm recovery. Town treasurer Elaine Pauley reported their current

expenses amounted to \$919,821. Road foreman Larry Lynds had estimated \$1.5 million, while FEMA had projected expenses to come closer to \$3 million. Kullman was happy to hear the town was doing "a pretty good job" keeping expenses down.

The town anticipates around 60-75% reimbursement from FEMA, with a possibility of an additional 12% from the state. They urged that FEMA will only refund projects that are 100% complete, and after the proper documentation is submitted.

Cherry Nicoll has been recently appointed to assist with the FEMA documentation process. She has detailed the damage on each culvert and bridge, and has gone through all of the receipts, itemizing all of their expenses, with the biggest project being the repaving of Kingdom Road at \$300,000.

"Cherry is doing a great job... it is a pile of work, and I'm impressed," reported board member Rick Kaminski. "Yes, I'm glad we've got her," Pauley agreed.

Kaminski reported they have two outstanding grants: one for \$200,000 for the Billings Bridge, and the second for \$190,800 for the Stickney Bridge.

The board then approved a liquor license for Chloe's Market. After a closure of 11 years, and a long renovation, the former Plymouth Country Store will be back in business. Store manager Hannah Davidson noted that they are still hiring, and Rick Martin announced their target opening date is Oct. 3. They pondered over their hours, saying, "We'd like to under promise and over deliver."

The Plymouth Selectboard recently met on Oct. 2, and their next meeting will be held on Monday, Oct. 16.

OVWC donates to Disaster Relief Fund

LUDLOW, Vt. – Penny Trick, president of the Okemo Valley Women's Club (OVWC) recently presented the Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce (OVRCC) Director Carol Lighthall with a generous donation of \$700 towards the Okemo Valley Disaster Relief Fund. The OVRCC launched the Okemo Valley Disaster Relief Fund after the devastating floods in July impacting their region. OVWC is also a member of the OVRCC.

In a few short months, the Okemo Valley Disaster Fund raised over \$200,000 from locals, second homeowners, and visitors. The local 501(c)3 fiscal agent for the fund is another chamber member, the Ludlow Rotary Club. Funds were distributed to both businesses and individuals. There was a grant application process for businesses. The Crown Point Board of Realtors assisted in distributing funds to individuals in need, as they had during Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. Those who wish to donate may do so online at www.yourplaceinvermont.com/accepting-donations-for-flood-relief, or mail in a contribution to the Okemo Valley Disaster Fund, P.O. Box 333, Ludlow VT 05149.



OVWC President Penny Trick (right) with OVRCC Director Carol Lighthall.

PHOTO PROVIDED

The local Okemo Valley Women's Club, with approximately 40 members, is affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer services. They host regular monthly meetings with speakers, as well as various fundraising events throughout the year, including the Tree of Remembrance in Veterans Park in Ludlow, as well as bake and tag sales in support of their scholarship program for local high school seniors. They are also hosting a food drive on Saturday, Sept. 30, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at two separate locations, the Okemo Mountain School in Ludlow, and Singleton's in Proctorsville, as part of the GFWC's "National Day of Service." You can find them on Facebook.

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DEADLINES

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

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Cavendish ARPA committee final call

CAVENDISH, Vt. – The Cavendish ARPA committee was asked by the Cavendish selectboard to recommend uses for the funds given to Cavendish under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The committee solicited input from the community via a questionnaire, and then sought project proposals for specific uses. The committee has received and is now considering applications from that

preliminary round, which closed on Sept. 30. The committee has announced that a final round of project proposal applications are due on or before Oct. 31. The ARPA Funds Application can be found on the home page of the Cavendish town website, under “Quick Links.” Completed forms can be emailed or mailed in accordance with instructions on the form. Since the U.S. Treasury

Department oversees how the funds are spent, and since that agency has placed time limits on spending the money, the committee expects to make recommendations to the selectboard before the end of this year. For more information about the ARPA committee or the proposal process, please call the Cavendish Town Office at 802-226-7291.

Weston Rod and Gun Club events

WESTON, Vt. – It must be fall, because the leaves are changing, and the Weston Rod and Gun Club’s annual Tag Sale sign is out. Come join your neighbors and bring a friend on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Set up occurs

on Friday, with a few tables still available for a small fee. To purchase a vendor table, call 802-824-3418. The Hunter Safety Course scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 15 is fully booked. Led by a Vermont Fish and Wildlife Game Warden, we plan to offer more classes in

the future. Mark your calendars for our Game Supper on Saturday, Nov. 4. Attention crafters: The first annual Holiday Bazaar is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 2. Call 802-824-3418 to purchase a vendor table. Follow the Weston Rod and Gun Club Facebook page for updates.

Yes, Monday Night Bingo continues. Doors open by 6:30 p.m., and play starts promptly at 7 p.m. The Weston Rod and Gun Club is located at 982 Route 100, one mile north of Weston. It was formed to promote and maintain the highest ideals of sportsmanship, and to instill those in our children. Monthly business meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month, at 7 p.m. Come be a part of your community tradition. All are welcome.

VAST honors Bruce Ingerson

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) is a statewide snowmobile club, which encompasses all of the town-level clubs. Once a year, VAST gives awards to some exceptional volunteers.

Bruce Ingerson could not make it to the VAST annual meeting earlier in September to receive his award, so we went to him. On Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 27, his local club, the Ludlow Side Hill Crouchers, hosted a lunch to honor Bruce for all he has done for us, and for neighboring clubs, for more than 20 years. We want to thank

him for being an integral part of our club, doing lots of hard work, and for being an endless source of knowledge. The event was well attended with friends from multiple clubs. Many thanks to all who helped to make the afternoon a success: Matt Tetrault for coming down from VAST to present the award, the Ludlow Senior Center for letting us use their perfectly set up space, all who attended and celebrated Bruce with us, the great

sandwiches and salads from Singleton’s Store, the mega delicious cupcakes from Whitney and Parker Ave Confectionery, and the Vermont Journal for taking photos. It all pulled together in a special way for a special person.



Bruce Ingerson (left) and Matt Tetrault. PHOTO BY NICK GIBERTI

BRAT Mud Puppy volunteers make impact

LUDLOW, Vt. – Just days after the devastating floods blew through many of the communities of the Black River watershed, the all-volunteer Black River Action Team (BRAT) swung into action. BRAT Director Kelly Stettner credits the outstanding efforts of two local ladies who reached out to her, Melissa Rockhill and Laurie Marechoux, to see how they could help. Many area organizations were in full response mode, and BRAT was able to partner with the Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, as well as Cavendish Connects, Ludlow Community Center, Black River Good Neighbor Services, Okemo Mountain School, and several others. Thanks to the incredible efforts of Melissa and Laurie, BRAT was able to intake offers of help that came by way of the State of Vermont’s portal, as well as through



BRAT Mud Puppies in action. PHOTO PROVIDED

the Chamber and the Okemo Mountain School. Over 400 volunteers signed up to be “Mud Puppies” for BRAT, coming from near and far, bringing trucks and trailers, cases of water, and cleaning supplies. Over the course of six weeks, more than 80 flood response projects were completed, many requiring return visits by the Mud Puppy crews. Work ranged from shoveling mud and removing flood-damaged furniture and appliances, to

hauling loads of trash and debris to the local transfer station. BRAT continues to provide and offer work on storm water management and flood resilience projects, conducting site visits and discussing options with private homeowners, as well as with any municipalities impacted by the flood. Contact Kelly Stettner at blackrivercleanup@gmail.com, or by leaving your contact information at 802-738-0456.

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Secrets, mushrooms, and peanuts

BY RON PATCH
802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

I write my articles on weekends. This past weekend I was distracted by the weather. Sunday morning I had a brain cramp and couldn't think of anything to write about. This is what I came up with.

If you asked a fisherman where a good beaver pond to fish was, he wouldn't tell you his secret beaver pond. Oh, he might tell you where there's a fished out pond. We closely guard these locations. It takes years spent in the woods to find these locations. Mushroom pickers are the same way.

For three weeks now, I have been watching for matsutake mushrooms. I have two secret locations where I find them. This past Saturday I went looking. One location is up Lovers Lane.

I parked the car to go look. The flood this past July tore

down through the valley. There will be no matsies at this location for a long time. I need to find another location this week.

At my second location, I found two matsies. One had just broken through the leaves, exposing its crown. The other was just pushing up through the leaves and hemlock needles. I carefully extracted them from the soil.

I gave one to John DeBenedetti, and kept the other. They will weigh a quarter pound each. John is one of the friends I give them to. John has a dehydrator. He slices and dries them to enjoy all winter. In a saucer with a little water, add the dried slices and place in the refrigerator overnight. When you add them to whatever you are preparing, add the water in the saucer too. More flavor.

Sunday morning, I made a three-egg omelet with Crowley rat trap cheese,



Scarface in Lee Decatur's hand. Something else bit Lee's thumb off.

PHOTO BY PAT DECATUR

vidalia onion, and green pepper. I sautéed the veggies and matsies, and added them to the omelet. It was the best.

Sinful

By the middle of this week, there should be dozens of matsies exposing themselves. One year I got 30 pounds. I gave away many, but kept enough for

myself. I feasted on them. It's almost sinful the way I devour them.

Where to look

Matsies grow under hemlock trees, often within 100 feet of a brook. They tend to grow on a steep bank on the northwesterly side. Sometimes it is so steep I have to wear clamp-on cleats.

There is no way of know-

ing how plentiful they will be this year. But with all the rain, it could be a record year. John will get the most. During the winter, he gives me baggies of dried matsies. So he's a priority.

I know a couple shroomers who are not familiar with matsies, so I want to turn them on to this delicacy. The lady at the bank wants to try them. Danny and others will take some.

There's an unknown underground of local people doing things the old way. My sharing matsies will be reciprocated. Some make wines or applejack in small batches. I am given venison, bear sausage, and different kinds of jams and jellies. It is an honor to be included.

Stonewall panthers

On Sept. 3, I had an antiques sale at my place. The stonewall panthers, aka chipmunks, entertained those who came. I was putting out sunflower seeds for them. I saw one lady taking

a picture of Harriet.

The next week I came home to find a container near the entry. I picked it up and brought it in. On the cover, it said, "Peanuts for the chipmunks. Charles Wright." Charlie must have seen the panthers when he was at my sale. Nice touch.

At first, Harriet liked the peanuts. But now she smells them, but doesn't eat them. She'll sit by the front door waiting. I'll take a handful of sunflower seeds out. How she does pack them in her mouth. When they are gone, she will then take the peanuts!

This week's old saying I heard at an auction about 40 years ago. The auctioneer sensed the crowd wasn't paying attention: "My first wife died eating poison mushrooms. My second wife died of a concussion. She wouldn't eat the mushrooms." Everyone laughed and paid attention.

SBA expands incident period for July storms

REGION – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced today that it has expanded the incident period for the July severe storms and flooding, making additional damages eligible to be covered by an SBA low-interest disaster loan. The incident period has been expanded to cover damages incurred from July 7-July 21, 2023. Previously, the incident period was July 7-17.

Private, nonprofit organizations (PNP) that provide non-critical services of a governmental nature that applied for a physical disaster loan by the filing deadline of Sept. 12, and which suffered damages from July 18-21, can seek a modification of their open application or approved

loan to provide additional funds to address the additional damages.

PNP organizations in the following Vermont counties with additional eligible damages may apply for additional funds: Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor. Examples of eligible, non-critical PNP organizations include, but are not limited to, food kitchens, homeless shelters, museums, libraries, community centers, schools and colleges.

PNP organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other busi-

ness assets. The interest rate is 2.37%, with terms up to 30 years.

Applicants may be eligible for a loan amount increase of up to 20% of their physical damages, as verified by the SBA, for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements might include insulating pipes, walls and attics, weather stripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows to help protect property and occupants from future damage caused by a similar disaster.

The SBA also offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) to help meet working capital needs, such as ongoing operating expenses for PNP organizations. EIDL assistance is available regardless of

whether the organization suffered any physical property damage.

PNP organizations are urged to contact their county's emergency manager to provide information about their organization. The information will be submitted to FEMA to determine eligibility for a Public Assistance grant, or whether the PNP should be referred to SBA for disaster loan assistance. Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the SBA's secure website at www.disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s, and should apply under SBA declaration #18026.

Disaster loan information and application forms may also be obtained by

calling the SBA's customer service center at 800-659-2955 (if you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services), or by sending an email to DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov. Loan applications can be downloaded from the SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster. Completed

applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155. The filing deadline to submit applications for physical property damage was Sept. 12. The deadline to submit economic injury applications is April 15, 2024.

Memory Café comes to Ludlow

LUDLOW, Vt. – According to Vermont Public Health Department statistics, there are more than 13,000 Vermonters aged 65 and older who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, the most common cause of dementia, and another 30,000 Vermonters who care for them. Caring for someone with dementia is a meaningful and important role, but it is also highly demanding, and has significant impacts. Caregivers of someone with dementia often feel isolated, stressed, exhausted, and financially burdened.

Caregivers are more likely to experience anxiety, depression, and lower quality of life than caregivers of people with other conditions. About one in four are known as "sandwich" caregivers, meaning they are both caring for an older adult and a child. More than half (57%) who are employed report having to take time off, go in late, or leave early, and 16% had to go from full to part time. Eighty-three percent of the help provided to older adults in the United States comes from family members, friends, or other unpaid caregivers. In 2021, 37 million unpaid hours, an estimated worth of \$758 million, were provided by family caregivers of people with dementia in Vermont.

Black River Good Neighbor Services has recognized the need caregivers have for social opportunities that provide a chance to improve the quality of their lives, and have established what is known as a Memory Café, taking place on the second Thursday of each month at the Ludlow Community Center,

37 Main Street. This event provides an opportunity to address isolation and loneliness experienced by caregivers and their loved ones within a communal, welcoming, and nonjudgmental setting, lifting caregivers' spirits by giving them a place to go with their family members. A variety of activities are offered that

include peer interaction, education on caregiver support, music, games, and snacks.

For anyone interested in attending the Memory Café or wanting more information, please contact Joan Franciose at 802-228-4145, or visit www.memorycafe-directory.com/what-is-a-memory-cafe.

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OBITUARY

Dear Editor,

With a successful Fall Rummage Sale behind us, Black River Good Neighbor Services (BRGNS) extends a warm and most sincere thank you to our community and beyond for supporting this fundraising effort. Your generous support has been overwhelming. This year we were especially aware that many folks shopped to supplement their family's needs, particularly winter clothing, and we intention-

ally kept prices level to help in supporting our neighbors in need.

To ensure that all of this comes together smoothly and efficiently, we rely upon many dedicated volunteers. An outstanding group comes together weeks in advance of the sale, meticulously setting up tents, clothing racks, department inventory, and ultimately working throughout the entire two-day sale. Devoted and hardworking,

volunteers keep the wheels turning throughout BRGNS rummage sales and beyond. They are engaged year-round to further our mission, lending skills, support, and resources, and all in their free time. We are most grateful for such an active volunteer force.

The result of these efforts keeps BRGNS programs available and strong, and includes our food shelf, financial assistance, monthly

community meals, and flood assistance. We remain dedicated to serving the community, which includes the towns of Ludlow, Mount Holly, Belmont, Cavendish, Proctorsville, and Plymouth.

Sincerely,
Krey Kellington
Executive Director
Black River Good Neighbor Services
Ludlow, Vt.

Jennifer Scott, 1966-2023



Jennifer Scott, 1966-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

WALPOLE, N.H. – Born and raised in Rye, N.Y., Jen made many friends attending public and private schools. Jen had no problem making it through the strict halls of academia up to graduation. A little wild and a little straight laced, she was a student when at school and a groupie with the band when not.

Jen grew up seeing and smelling the ocean – never taking it for granted, knowing that she would be close to it throughout her life. Having met Jen at Sapphire Beach on St. Thomas, she quickly informed us that she grew up at the beach and did not need SPF anything to avoid a burn. The zinc oxide ring around her lips and smothered on her nose at breakfast the next morning said otherwise. It was great fodder for many years to come – yes, we picked on her, and we all laughed together in remembrance. Jen was a good sport; she could receive some good ribbing, as well as dish it out with the best of them when needed. I am sure that Matt and Finnegan have been blessed with a great sense of humor.

Having a fair share of loss in life, Jen kept her closest things glued to her heart, even taking on hobbies such as fishing, sledding, and snowmobiling – which would have been a solid “no” if not for her two boys wanting her to come with them. I would even venture to guess that, to this day, Jen could still name more than a few Pokémon characters.

Many, many days, mornings, afternoons, evenings, sitting on the bleachers or in a comfy lawn chair, first watching a young Matty play, then watching Finnegan play, and a lot of time throughout the years watching them both play. All through it, Jen absolutely loved it – wouldn't have missed it for the world. Jen spent countless hours talking, planning, gossiping, travelling, eating, and confessing to her best friend Mel, with whom the time spent was made even more special. It didn't matter if they went on short trips or long trips. It also didn't matter what the trips were for – some for baseball, some for shopping, holidays, birthdays, all that mattered was they were together – Mel was the epitome of a best friend in Jen's eyes.

Beaches, sunsets, oceans, and warm sand, many vacations down to the Caribbean for wining and dining, songs with steel drums, and even dancing. I would not have pegged Jen as a get up and dance kind of girl, Jen was even overheard saying that she'd dance with Roland anytime. You don't hear that very often – what we heard more often than not was “Matty, where's your brother?” More than once we'd all form a search party and head off in different directions to find Finnegan, he'd be waiting for Matty to shoot hoops with at the court, or playing with some crabs found on the beach, and even once he was at the taxi stand trying to hail a cab into town – mind you he was 5 at the time.

First and foremost was everyone's safety and security. That being said, Jen and Mel were at their best putting together all the driveway parties for Matty and Finnegan's friends and teams – or just having friends and family over for a feast of food and drink. Jen was the bartender, the food-from-the-grill

getter, the ear to share a story with, or just a person to share a piece of cake with. Jen loved her cake, no reason needed – just a fork.

Trump has “The Art of the Deal,” Jen has the Art of Getting A Deal – a great deal. Shopping was not an activity, but an all-out sport, I think Jen had her own mouth guard (pink of course) which she would put in for those storewide clearance days at T.J. Maxx and Mr. G's before lunch, and the trifecta of Target, Kohl's, and Home Goods in the afternoon. It was not about the take for the day; it was more about the deal for the take. No deal, no take.

Jen also had an incredible love and knack for decorating and design; if you have ever been inside Jen's home then you know what I am talking about. Along the same lines, how could any of us look at another Lily Pulitzer clothing section again and not think of Jen. I will, as many of you will, smile every time I see someone wearing that type of fashion (color scheme) for many years to come.

Overcast rainy days are the best. Most brides would have been devastated with a forecast of rain on their wedding day. It poured on the morning of Jen and Sheldon's wedding, and the bride couldn't have been happier about it. Afternoon and mid-morning naps were only made better with the spattering of rain hitting the roof and falling to the ground. Jen would use the time prior to falling asleep, as well as the time just waking up from a nap, to catch up and reconnect by texting with family and friends. Unfortunately, the texts, and especially the loving emojis, became fewer and further apart. I sent lots of pictures and emojis in the hopes that Jen was looking forward to powering up her phone anticipating that some messages awaited.

Jen is undoubtedly lounging on the beach, in a hammock, with SPF 35 and 50 generously applied, just waking up from a nap and having a piece of cake - no fork needed.

Jennie passed peacefully at home on Sept. 4, 2023, with her family by her side. She is survived by her husband Sheldon Scott of Walpole, N.H., their two sons Matthew Wood and Finnegan Scott, her sister Suzanne Szemplinski, and nephews Taylor and Reed Szemplinski of Fairfield, Conn.

In lieu of flowers, Jen requested that memorial donations be made to Kurn Hattin Homes for Children, 708 Kurn Hattin Road, Westminster, VT 05158. Jen was very passionate about helping the children of Kurn Hattin.

There will be a Celebration of Life at Tempesta's Restaurant at 401 Winchester Street in Keene, N.H. on Oct. 8, from 1-4 p.m. Family and friends are welcome to attend.

Floridians speak at Living Hope Fellowship in Bellows Falls

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Two guest ministers from Florida will be speaking at Living Hope Fellowship on Sunday, Oct. 8, at 10:30 a.m. Both graduates of Rhema Bible Training Center, Olivia Moore and her father Stan Moore will lead the church service at 582 Rockingham

Road, about two miles north of Bellows Falls.

As a traveling minister and author, Olivia Moore passionately lives to see people be set free to enjoy the fullness and the newness that is found in Jesus. She grew up in a ministry family in southern Florida,

and began preaching at the young age of 15. Olivia has traveled to 34 nations sharing the Good News.

Stan Moore has served in various fields of ministry ever since his graduation from Rhema in 1980. Along with his wife of 42 years Teresa, and his parents, he

helped to found Words of Life Fellowship Church in North Miami, where he currently serves as an associate pastor. With a heart full of passion to see the lost saved and the broken restored, he brings healing and hope wherever he goes.

St. Francis Celebration at St. Mark's

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Now that Covid is mostly behind us and church restrictions lifted, St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Springfield will

be reintroducing an ancient custom. It is the celebration of the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. Although the actual feast day falls on Oct. 4, St. Mark's celebration will be on Sunday, Oct. 8.

On St. Francis Day it is the tradition that animals and pets be blessed by the parish priest. At St. Mark's,

it is the Rev. Betty Berlenbach. This year's blessing will happen after a service of Holy Eucharist, which starts at 8:30 a.m. People and pets are welcome to arrive for the service at 8:30 a.m., or at 10:00 a.m. for the blessing only, which will happen on the church lawn. In case of rain, the blessing will take place in the Parish Hall. Please do not leave any pets in your vehicle. We ask that all dogs be leashed, and cats and smaller animals in carriers; fish, turtles, and other pets of this type in their usual containers. Large beasts are also welcome, providing they are of gentle persua-

sion. This entire event is free, but if folks are as so inclined, they may bring pet foods, which will then be donated to the Springfield Humane Society. There will be light refreshments for both man and beast.

History tells us that St. Francis was born in Italy in 1181, to “privileged” parents. He was somewhat of a “hell-raiser” and “ladies-man” in his younger years, and it wasn't until he was in his 20s that he realized his calling, and took a vow of poverty. He is now one of the most popular saints.



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Sketch
5 Shock partner
8 Verdi heroine
12 Ms. McEntire
13 Scale note
14 Mosque VIP
15 Shakespeare title starter
16 Centennial State
18 Man's youth
20 San Francisco griddle
21 Newt
22 Take to court
23 Give a leg up
26 Madrid museum
30 Klutz
31 Author Tan
32 Have a bug
33 Swagger
36 Operamouthed
38 Mornings (Abbr.)
39 A Gabor
40 Painting of a scene
43 Public speakers
47 18th-century Spanish explorer
49 Loafer, for one
50 Scent
51 Nourished

DOWN

1 Colorless
2 Move, in realtor lingo
3 With skill
4 Cleanses
5 Fancy neckwear
6 Fireplace fuel
7 Right angle
8 More ventilated
9 One-named supermodel
10 Miami — County
11 Latin love
17 "Movin' —" ("The Jeffersons" theme)
19 Frequently
22 Devious
23 Short 'do
24 Galley item
25 Son-gun link
26 Comic Phillips
27 Small battery
28 Quick swim
29 Flamenco cheer
31 Billboards
34 Mists
35 Prayer ender
36 "Selma" director
DuVernay
37 Fitzgerald title character
39 Wear down
40 Garbage barge
41 Morse —
42 Yankee nickname
43 Praiseful pieces
44 Wheeling's river
45 Bakery buy
46 Hunt for
48 Sternward

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CHURCH SERVICES

obituaries

Fred Brooks, 1931-2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Fred Brooks, 92, of Springfield, Vt., passed away on Sept. 28, 2023, in Ludlow, Vt. He was born on Jan. 3, 1931, in Ludlow, Vt., to Nelson “Pat” Brooks and Viola Butler Brooks. Fred was known to his loved ones as “Bud.”

Fred was preceded in death by his beloved wife Lillian Ilene Butler Brooks on Sept. 19, 2007, after a marriage of 50 years.

Fred is survived by his sister Beatrice Walker; brother Douglas Brooks; and Fred and Lillian’s children George Brooks, Melinda Carroll, and Charlene Hale. He also leaves behind his cherished grandchildren Lisa Gomez, George Brooks Jr., Angela Castro, Frederick Brooks, Pamela, Randy, Hannah, Faith, Hope, Zoey Brooks, Jayden Chavez, Lorrie Gomez, Matthew Howe, and Jacob Howe, and step-grandson Jason Hale. Additionally, he was blessed with many great-grandchildren.

Fred’s military service was a significant part of his life. He proudly served in the U.S. Army as a private first class for two years and eight months, demonstrating his dedication and commitment to his country.

After his military service, Fred pursued a career as a master machinist at Fellows Corp. in Springfield, Vt. His expertise and skills in machining were highly regarded by his colleagues and peers.



Fred Brooks, 1931-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

Outside of his professional life, Fred had a passion for fishing. It was during these moments that he found true joy and contentment with his grandson Jake. Whether casting his line into a quiet lake or sharing fishing stories with friends, Fred’s love for fishing was evident to all who knew him.

Fred was also a man of many hats, and was first in line to help family and friends with his many skills.

A graveside service to honor and celebrate Fred’s life will be held at Pleasant View Cemetery in Ludlow, Vt., on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 1 p.m.

Fred Brooks will be dearly missed by his family, friends, and all those whose lives he touched. His memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

Arrangements are entrusted to the care of the Davis Memorial Chapel, Springfield, Vt.

ASCUTNEY, VT.

Open Bible Baptist Church, 168 Cemetery Rd.
Sunday services are being held in the church. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m., Sunday morning service is 11 a.m., and the afternoon service is 1:30 p.m. Wednesday evening service is at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call the church at 802-674-2266 or visit www.obbcvt.org.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church St.
Traditional Baptist Services held Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Handicap accessible. 802-463-3220.

Living Hope Assembly of God, 582 Rockingham Rd.
Pastor Brenda Farkas welcomes all to Sunday worship at 10 a.m., the message at 10:30 a.m. with Children’s Church for ages 3-7, and fellowship. Live streaming available at 10:30 a.m. at Living Hope Fellowship Facebook page, and Living Hope Fellowship Youtube. Services can also be found at www.sapatv.org and www.faci8tv.com.

CAVENDISH, VT.

Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St.
Sunday services are 10 a.m. online or in person. Online services are on Facebook at 10 a.m. Go to www.facebook.com/Cavendish-Baptist-Church-258814894244302. More at www.CavendishBaptist.com or call 802-226-7131.

CHESTER, VT.

Chester Baptist Church, 162 Main St.
Worship is Sundays at 10:30 a.m. For more information, including online streaming, go to www.chesterbaptist.org.

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.

LUDLOW, VT.

United Church of Ludlow (UCC and Methodist), 48 Pleasant St.
Sunday services are held in person and streamed online at 10 a.m. Email unitedchurch@tds.net for more information. Visit www.unitedchurch.us to receive updates on services and meetings.

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.

WESTON, VT.

The Old Parish Church, 644 Main St.
A diverse, informal, and welcoming congregation. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. For more information, contact Jon Bliss, minister, at 802-824-4452 or email easthillfarm@vermontel.net.

Lauress Johnson, 1960-2023

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Lauress C. Johnson 62, of Hagatna, Guam, and a former resident of Bellows Falls, Vt., died unexpectedly on Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023, in Hagatna.

His parents Corinne (Martelle) and Lauress J. Johnson welcomed their son into the world on Oct. 16, 1960, in Proctor, Vt. Lauress grew up in Bellows Falls, and was a 1979 graduate of Bellows Falls Union High School, where he was a proud member of the Terrier cross-country team, winning four titles. During high school, Lauress worked at HA Mannings and Steamtown USA.

He joined the Navy in October of 1979, and after graduating Navy basic training he was assigned to the Destroyer USS Barbey, where he served for four years. He was then transferred to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Stethem. After serving there for five years, he was ordered to the USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), where he proudly finished his naval career and was honorably discharged in 2003.

Following his active duty with the Navy in 2003, he went to work for the United States Navy in a civilian capacity, where he served on the USS Emory Land until the time of his passing.

Lauress was very proud of his Vermont roots, and never forgot where he came from as he traveled around the world. He was especially proud of be-



Lauress Johnson, 1960-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

ing a Bellows Falls Union High School graduate, and followed the high school sports teams from whatever country or sea he was in. He had the unique opportunity to visit almost every country in the world.

Lauress is survived by his daughters Lorina Johnson of Newport News, Va., and Laurissa of Bremerton, Wash.; his brother Brian (Paula) Johnson of Walpole, N.H.; his sister Alesia (George) Rainville of Highgate, Vt.; his aunt Eleanor Liimalainen of Myrtle Beach, S.C.; and his cousins, nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends.

A graveside service with military honors will be held on Thursday, Oct. 5, at 11 a.m., in The New Cemetery, Kurn Hat-tin Road, Westminster, Vt.

The Foley Funeral Home of Keene, N.H. is entrusted with Mr. Johnson’s care. To offer online condolences to the family or to share special memories, please visit www.foleyfuneralhome.com.

Patricia Robinson, 1939-2023

WALPOLE, N.H. – Patricia Ann (Judd) Robinson, 84, of Walpole, N.H., died peacefully on Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023, at Maplewood Nursing Home in Westmoreland, N.H. Pat was born May 21, 1939, in Bellows Falls, Vt., the daughter of Dana and Evelyn (Tole) Martin.

Pat attended schools in Walpole, N.H., and was a graduate of the Walpole High School. After high school, Pat attended nursing school, and received her nursing degree. Pat worked at the Rockingham Memorial Hospital in Bellows Falls, Vt., and later for the Visiting Nurses Association.

Pat is survived by two sons Paul (Donna) and James (Heather) Judd, two daughters Tracy (Ron) Dean and Holly (Brad) Piccirillo, two brothers Phil Morris and Larry Martin, two sisters Augusta Manzanera and Sharon Fish, her husband Tom’s daughter Terry (Dan) Dinan and son Christopher (Kelly) Robinson, 18 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren. Pat was predeceased by her two husbands Paul Judd and Thomas Robinson, one son Richard “Buddy” Judd, to whose care she devoted her life, her sister Barbara Clemens, great-granddaughter Adela Piccirillo, and husband Tom’s son Thomas (Alison) Robinson, Jr.

As a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Pat enjoyed taking care of, and being a part of, her large and growing family over the years, attending their local school programs and sporting events, and traveling for weddings and school



Patricia Robinson, 1939-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

and college graduations. She devoted her life to caring for her family and friends.

Pat was very active in the American Legion Auxiliary in Walpole, N.H., and the Bellows Falls Emblem Club, raising money for those in need, and making lifelong friends along the way.

Calling hours will be held Thursday, Oct. 5, from 5-7 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, Bellows Falls, Vt. A funeral Mass will be celebrated Saturday, Oct. 7, at 1 p.m., at Saint Peter Catholic Church, North Walpole, N.H., followed by burial in the Village Cemetery, Walpole, N.H. A Celebration of Life will follow at 45 Watkins Hill Road, Walpole, N.H.

Arrangements are entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home in Bellows Falls, Vt.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider donating to one of the following organizations which were important in her life: Bellows Falls Emblem Club, P.O. Box 205, Bellows Falls, VT 05101, or New Hampshire Special Olympics (www.sonh.org).

Peter N. Johnson, 1955-2023

MUNSONVILLE, N.H. – Peter Niles Johnson, beloved husband and father, died suddenly on Sunday, Sept. 17, at his summer house on Granite Lake in Munsonville, N.H. Pete was a kind and loving man known for his generosity in countless ways.

Pete spent many years as a human resource recruiter in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. Together with his wife Susan they raised their daughter Rachel in Sudbury, Mass., until their move to Walpole, N.H. in 2019, to be closer to Susan’s aging parents. Leaving his corporate life behind, Pete was gifted the opportunity to embark on his first love, home renovations. He bought and renovated several properties in West Swanzey, their home in Sudbury, Mass., a family homestead in Maine, their home in Walpole, N.H., and most recently a summer house on Granite Lake, with his dear friend Derek MacAllister. The 1823 colonial house on Fanny Mason Lane in Walpole needed complete renovations, including all new plumbing, electric, beams, floors, and more; but no project was too large for Pete. He had a wonderful vision for bringing each property back to its historic significance.

Among his passions, Pete was the chairman of the renovation committee for Whitcomb Hall in Swanzey, N.H. Under Pete’s watch, the first floor of Whitcomb Hall reopened in 2016, in time for the 100th anniversary of this community meeting house. Funds were raised from donations and grants with his committee’s efforts, and the second floor was reopened in 2020. He also proudly led the steeple renovation of the Community Church of West Swanzey.

Pete will be remembered as an extremely generous friend who was always lending a hand whenever needed; a genuine Christian who believed in



Peter Johnson, 1955-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

giving back to his community. His warmth and love will be forever remembered.

Pete was born on May 19, 1955, in Keene, N.H. In 1992 he married Susan Hubbard Johnson of Walpole, N.H., and in 1999 they welcomed Rachel to their family. Pete leaves behind his wife of 31 years Susan, daughter Rachel, brother David and his wife Patricia of Swanzey, N.H, brother Dale and his wife Ann of Belcher-town, Mass., niece Sandra Mit-aly of Embden, Maine, nephew Brian Johnson of Surry, N.H., along with numerous great-nieces, nephews, cousins, and close family friends. He was predeceased by his parents Rachel and Frank Johnson.

A memorial service will be held at the Community Church of West Swanzey on Saturday, Oct. 7, at 2 p.m., with a reception following at the Johnsons’ mountain retreat at 792 Route 12A in Surry. The burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Pete’s memory should be sent to The Community Church of West Swanzey (P.O. Box 5, West Swanzey, NH, 03469) or the Chill Foundation (www.chill.org/donate, or 180 Queen City Park Road, Burlington, VT 05401).

Pete will be greatly missed. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.

Lillian Rounds, 1934-2023

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Lillian Frances Rounds, 88, of Bon Aqua, Tenn., and longtime resident of Bellows Falls, Vt., went to Heaven on Sept. 22, 2023.

Lillian was born on Oct. 21, 1934, in Lindenhurst, N.Y., to the late William A. Blum and Frances Susan Ryan. In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her first husband Jacob Graf, second husband Wayne Rounds, her brother Robert Blum, and her son John Graf. Lillian had a passion for knitting and crocheting baby sweaters and blankets for all of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She saw only the good things in life, and lived life to the fullest. Lillian had a strong belief in her faith, which played a significant role in her everyday life. Faith can often provide comfort and purpose, and she found solace and meaning in hers.

Lillian’s love for her family highlights the importance of close relationships in her life. Family can be a source of support, love, and connection, and it’s clear that she cherished those bonds.

Lillian is survived by her daughters Dorothy (Brent) Gesick-Cheaney, Janet (Patrick) Kiniry, and Cynthia



Lillian Rounds, 1934-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

(Tim) Allen; and her sister Patricia Jones. She was blessed with 12 grandchildren Kristen (Jonathan) Gesick, Stephanie (Chris) Paquette, Paige (Michael) Gesick, John (Sam) Graf, Frannie (Seth) Ashworth, Maggie (Louis) Tremblay, Katelynn (Steve) Bashaw, Whitney (Matt) Zweeres, Brendan (Gabriella) Kiniry, Eric (Kelly) Allen, Audrey (Shawn) Allen, Abigail (Blake) Allen; and 14 great-grandchildren. Lillian is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will take place on Oct. 27, at 11 a.m., at St. Peter Cemetery in Drewsville, N.H.

Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street Bellows Falls, Vt., is assisting with arrangements.

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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

OCT. 6-7 – MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. – The Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department will run a haunted hayride on Friday, Oct. 6, and Saturday, Oct. 7, at Windy Acres Farm, 2204 Old Turnpike Road in Mount Holly, rain or shine. Tickets will be sold from 6:30-9 p.m., the first wagon will leave at 7 p.m. There will be refreshments for sale, and a fire to warm yourself by. If you have any questions, please call 802-259-2060.

OCT. 6 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The First Baptist Church, 9 Church St., will hold their First Friday Supper on Oct. 6, from 5-6:30 p.m. The menu will be chicken potpie, green salad, biscuits, dessert, and a beverage. Vegan and gluten free options will also be available. For take out, call 802-462-3220 before 5 p.m. The suggested donations will benefit the Vermont Farmers Relief Program.

OCT. 7 – BELMONT, Vt. – Colfax Lodge will hold their annual pork toast dinner on Saturday, Oct. 7, at 5 p.m., at the Odd Fellows Hall in Belmont. You may also pick up take out beginning at 4:45 p.m. There is a small fee for the meal, and children under 12 eat at half price. For more information, call 802-259-2460.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – St.

Mary’s Parish will hold their Old Time Penny Sale on Saturday, Oct. 7, at St. Mary’s Gym on Main Street in Claremont, N.H. Doors open at 5 p.m., drawings begin at 6 p.m. The grand prize is \$1,500 in cash (\$1,200 if not present). There will be over 300 prizes given, a free raffle for kids, and free door prizes, including two screen houses, two 32-inch televisions, a 20-inch Huffy kids bike, and a four-burner gas grill. Refreshments will be available from start to finish.

WALPOLE, N.H. – The Walpole Parent Teacher Group invites you to join their Fall Festival on Oct. 7, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. This will be a fun-filled day of games, food, music, a silent auction, and more. Event proceeds will help pay for activities and residencies benefitting the Walpole Schools and community.

WESTON, Vt. – Wilder Memorial Library is celebrating the arrival of October with a special program for children on Saturday, Oct. 7, at 10:30 a.m. Kids of all ages are invited to make Midnight Pumpkins and Wicked Pop-ups with art teacher Casey Junker Bailey. We hope you’ll come join the fun. The program is free of charge, and appropriate for all ages. For more information about this and other programs, contact the library at 802-824-4307.

OCT. 7-8 – GRAFTON, Vt. – Grafton Volunteer Firefighters will hold their 42nd annual Tag Sale under the tents at the firehouse, 711 Route 121 east of Grafton Village, Saturday, Oct. 7 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 8 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. There will be a large selection of items including furniture, housewares, tools, toys, linens, small appliances, books, recordings, and much more. Coffee, baked goods, and burgers by the Grafton School PTG will be served.

OCT. 14 – CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – River Valley Animal Protection League will be having a Poker Walk on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 1-3 p.m. The walk begins at the Silsby Library courtyard. Your donation enters you for a chance to win a fabulous prize basket. All participants are also eligible for additional prizes. For more information, call 603-826-3061.

OCT. 16 – LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street in Ludlow, will serve a community lunch on Monday, Oct. 16, at 12 p.m. The menu will be roast pork, roasted potatoes, vegetables, and a dessert. Reservations are required, as seating is limited, call 802-228-7421 to reserve a seat. There is no to-go option. All are welcome.

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

CHESTER, Vt. – The Gassetts Grange holds a dance and open mic night

on the second Sunday of every month, from 1-4 p.m., with live music by Green Mountain Express. Admission and food purchases are by donation. Call Doug or Donna with any questions at 802-591-4290.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Catamount Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol meets Sundays, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., at Hartness Airport in Springfield. The Civil Air Patrol is the auxiliary unit of the U.S. Air Force tasked with the mission of supporting America’s communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space, and cyber power. Cadets as young as 12 and senior members of any age make up this diverse group of volunteers.

MONDAYS – WESTON, Vt. – Bingo is Monday nights at 7 p.m. at the Weston Rod & Gun Club, 982 Route 100, 1.5 miles north of Weston Village. All are welcome.

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. All levels of players will be welcomed.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED

Springfield School District seeks citizen volunteers for this year’s budget committee.

Committee members help evaluate the administration’s budget proposal and advise the school board on final budget development for the voters.

The budget season runs from October through March. At least 3-4 evening meetings a month during that time.

Interested parties should submit a letter of interest at <https://tinyurl.com/SSD-FY25-Budget-Committee> by October 11th.

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD HELP WANTED

MAINTENANCE WORKER II/TRUCK DRIVER

The Town of Springfield, VT is seeking a highly motivated individual to fill a full-time Maintenance Worker II / Truck Driver position within the Public Works Department. Requires the ability to perform semi-skilled work related to the operation of trucks, light-duty motor equipment and manual labor. Must be able to make accurate reports of materials hauled and maintenance scheduled. A Maintenance Worker II/Truck Driver is often required to work independently and will occasionally supervise. Requires an understanding of job safety, a valid motor vehicle operator’s license, and a CDL Class B. Pay Scale of \$18.25 to \$24.94 per hour. This is a union position with eligible overtime and an EXCELLENT benefits package. Apply at the Human Resources Office, 96 Main Street, (802) 885-2104 (tosh@vermontel.net). Applications may also be downloaded from the Town’s website springfieldvt.gov/jobs. The Town of Springfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD

HELP WANTED

Maintenance Worker III/Vactor Truck Driver

The Town of Springfield, VT is seeking an experienced individual to fill a full-time Maintenance Worker III/Vactor Truck Driver position within the Public Works Department. Desired candidate must have the ability to perform semi-skilled work related to the operation of sewer collections. Must be able to make accurate reports of material hauled and maintenance scheduled. Operates Vactor truck and light duty motor equipment, and hand tools necessary to perform repair functions. Must possess all desired knowledge, abilities and physical capabilities necessary to perform heavy manual labor for long hours under varying and often rugged climatic conditions. A valid motor vehicle operator’s license and a valid CDL (with Tanker endorsement) is required. This position is non-exempt and requires the employee to be on call. Pay Grade 16, Pay Scale \$19.54 - \$26.82 per hour with an excellent benefits package. Apply at the Human Resources Office, 96 Main Street, (802) 885-2104 (tosh@vermontel.net). Applications and a complete job description can be found at springfieldvt.gov/jobs. The Town of Springfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Zumba classes, Mondays at 9:30 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. All fitness levels welcome. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Aquatic Aerobics, Mondays at 10:35 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

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

WEDNESDAYS – LUDLOW, Vt. – Cardio & Sculpt, Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Aqua Sculpt, Wednesdays at 10:35 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

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

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.

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

GRAFTON, Vt. – A free playgroup for children from newborns to age 5 will be held at Grafton Elementary School on Thursday mornings, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Activities will include songs, games, and arts and crafts. Contact Heather with any questions at 802-843-4792.

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.

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – On Saturdays at 9 a.m., join Lori Wright for a yoga class. Contact Lori Wright at 603-401-8123 or visit www.dgbodyworks.com for more information. Private classes are available.

Falls Area Community Television (FACT) Annual Meeting Notice

Falls Area Community Television (FACT) will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, October 18th, 2023, at 6:00 PM. The meeting will take place both in-person at the Greater Rockingham Area Services Conference Room, located at 1 Hospital Court, Bellows Falls, VT 05101, and virtually via Zoom.

The meeting is open to the public. For the Zoom link and additional information on how to participate, please visit FACT’s website at www.fact8.com or contact FACT via email at alex@fact8.com.

If you are interested in becoming a board member, we encourage you to email alex@fact8.com or visit our website to complete a board member application.

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. In-person meeting attendance is preferred, but remote attendance (either real-time or viewing video recordings of meeting) is acceptable. Meetings are normally held in the early evening with occasional daytime meetings, and the job requires 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 position is open until filled, and the Town of Londonderry is an equal opportunity employer.

SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT WATER MAIN FLUSHING NOTICE MONDAY, October 2 – FRIDAY, October 13, 2023

Periodically, in Springfield, Vermont, we clean water mains of harmless corrosion and accumulated foreign matter by opening hydrants and allowing the water to escape under high pressure. The flushing action is an important part of our program to maintain high quality water.

Although such flushing may produce temporary discoloration, the safety of the water is not affected in any way. HOWEVER, we advise you to schedule clothes washing and cleaning projects at other times.

All mains will be flushed between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. During the time this work is performed, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE ENTIRE SYSTEM WILL BE AFFECTED. It is suggested that restaurants, laundromats, etc. keep their use to a minimum until water clears. The water system will be riled and cloudy, but this condition will clear up upon completion of the work.

SPRINGFIELD WATER DEPT.

HELP WANTED TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD

Fulfilling Career as a Water Technician

The Town of Springfield, VT is seeking a Water Technician for a full-time position in the Water Department. The Water Technician is mainly responsible for operations dealing with all aspects of metering water, recording and maintaining flow data as well as routine maintenance of the supply pumping status. The Technician must have the technical skills and physical capabilities necessary to deal with the daily operation of the Water Division. Must have a High School Diploma or GED with associates courses and experience relating to the Water Division. Must possess a valid Motor Vehicle Operator’s License. Must be able to acquire a Commercial Driver’s License within one year of hire. Vermont Class III Water Certification or higher required. Pay is \$20.23 - \$27.84 depending on experience, CDL requirement and certifications. This is a non-exempt, Union position with an excellent benefits package. Applications and a complete job description can be found at <https://springfieldvt.gov/office2.com/jobs>. Apply at the Human Resources Office, 96 Main Street, (802) 885-2104 (tosh@vermontel.net). Equal Opportunity Employer.

classifieds

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.

ESTATE SALE

Estate sale Oct. 6, 7, 8, from 8 am – 5 pm, at 1600 Massey Road, Springfield, VT. 802-885-3050. Antiques, tools, fishing, furniture, second line collectibles of all kinds, no junk. Cash preferred.

FOR SALE

Saltlogg TGS-3 sand/salt tail-gate spreader. Used two seasons. For use with Sand/Bulk Salt, 8 cu ft Capacity, Spread Width 3 to 30 ft, Mounts in 2" Receiver Hitch, Hopper Material: Polymer, Powder Coated Steel Frame, Height 45 in, Width 38 in, Depth 38 in, Auger Type Horizontal Feed, Spinner Size 12 in, Includes Fitted Polymer Lid, Mounting Hardware, Wire Harness, spare motor, and Variable Speed Controller. Also includes mounted vibrator to aide in damp sand spreading. \$750. Email lcarbone@vermontel.net.

GUNS WANTED

REGION – Guns wanted. Hand-guns, rifles, or shotguns. Top prices paid. Call Ray at 802-775-2859 or 802-236-7213.

Ruffus



SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – If you are looking for a seasoned pro of a dog, look no further! This handsome boy is 8 years young. Ruffus has great leash manners, is good with dogs, and wants nothing more than his own person to chill with. Visit him Wednesday-Saturday, from 12-4 p.m. We will also have a low cost cat only spay/neuter clinic on Nov. 21. Call to pay and sign up. *Springfield Humane Society, 401 Skitchewaung Trail, Springfield, Vt. 802-885-3997. www.spfldhumane.org.*

HELP WANTED

WELDER/FABRICATOR experienced w/ MIG and layout, for custom ornamental steel and aluminum railings, gates, fences, fireplace items and more. Driver's license required for local installs. Full-time w/ benefits. Contact Hawks Mountain Ironworks, 50 Route 106, N. Springfield 802-886-8585.

Program Geneticist. Support poultry research and product development initiatives by conducting advanced analysis on key genetic and other poultry-related data. Employer: Hubbard, LLC. Job location: Walpole, NH, with some travel to scientific conferences and meetings required. Mail CV to Cindy Cox, Hubbard, LLC, 920 Explorer Blvd NW, Huntsville, AL 35806.

Full time carpenter's helper, must

have drivers license, \$28 and up/ will train. Call 802-674-5892.

Full time carpenter, must have drivers license, \$34 and up. Call 802-674-5892.

Seeking a Psychometric Technician and a Mental Health Clinician to administer psychological and neuropsychological tests and provide psychotherapeutic services at Twin State Psychological Services. Send Resume and References to: Twin State Psychological Services, P.O. Box 2003, Springfield, VT 05156, or call 802-885-5719. Providing Excellent Services with Compassion for over 40 years.

Local Business Coach for Artists/Creatives needs Virtual Assistant. Looking for help managing Email and IG/FB messaging for Creative Coaching Studio Website and Membership. \$15/hr for about 20hrs/Month to start. Apply at birdbranchandlantern.com/jobs.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

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Artful Flea in the Alleyway 9/30 10-5

VT Open Studio Weekend 9/30 12-2 Lynn VanNatta
10/1 11:30-1:30 Ren Brammer

Current Shows: Painted Silk Scarves by Teresa Hillary,
Wonders of Fall by VAULT Artists
Flowers in Texture & Color Workshop with Julie Crabtree 10/7
Raku Pottery Workshop with Andrew Berends 10/7 & 10/14
Pet Portrait Workshop with Mindy Fisher 10/18
Still Life in Oil Workshop with David Gordon 10/21
Painting the Vibrant Colors of Fall in Watercolor
with Rob O'Brien 11/4
Joyful Calligraphy Workshop with Jorika Stockwell 11/11

See <http://galleryvault.org> for workshop details and to register.
(10/25/23 - TFN - 13)

Builders/Contractors

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(11/22/23 - 52)

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(11/22/23 - 52)

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(08/14/24 - TFN - 52)

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(11/22/23 - 13)

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 & entertainment

Spencer Lewis at Grafton Meeting House

GRAFTON, Vt. – Spencer Lewis, a mainstay of the Vermont music scene, offers a soothing and meditative concert with solo guitar and violin at Grafton’s historic Brick Meeting House on Saturday, Oct. 7, playing three sets from 1-4 p.m.

Lewis’ music has been described by critics as “music that paints the rural landscape and quiets the mind.” The Times Argus describes it as “a soothing blend of folk, pop, and classical influences, where guitar and violin merge into an ambience of melody, with sounds building from ripples to brooks to rivers ending in oceans of music.” Lewis’s fans tell him that they listen to his music when they drive around Vermont,

describing it as “pure Vermont.”

Lewis currently has 21 instrumental albums in the digital pipeline of iTunes and Spotify. He started out as a folk singer-songwriter in the early 70s in Wilmington, Vt., playing The Old Red Mill and Fat City, and he was the first one to play at The Common Ground in Brattleboro after convincing them that they needed music.

His career has blossomed over the years, gracing many a farmers’ market, town green, wedding reception, or summer festival with his signature sound that reflects his love of Vermont and its rural traditions. His music is uplifting, soulful, and might be described as

a soundtrack to his own life living and growing up in Vermont. When he’s not playing music or recording albums in his home studio, he works as a stonewaller based in Bethel, Vt.

In addition to the Spencer Lewis Concert at the Brick Meeting House, one of three Grafton buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places, other activities during Indigenous Peoples’ Weekend include the Grafton Firefighters 42nd Tag Sale, a Community Pig Roast, and the Grafton Coronet Band Concert.

Admission to the Spencer Lewis Concert is free. The Brick Meeting House is ADA compliant.

For more information, please go to www.facebook.com/grafonbrickmeetinghouse, or call 323-627-4625.

Smokeshire Design Artisan Festival

CHESTER, Vt. – Smokeshire Design, 3630 Route 103 North in Chester, Vt., will be hosting a special Artisan Festival on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 4-7 p.m., featuring the works of local artists with live demonstrations and special promotions. Come support our talented artistic community of potters, jewelers, painters, and wood carvers. Enjoy wood fired pizza and complimentary beverages while you shop. Bring the whole family. The kids’ craft table will surely entertain while everyone enjoys live music from local musician Bill Brink. Find us online www.smokeshiredesign.com, or visit us on Facebook or Instagram, @smokeshire_design.

Creative Aging Open House on Oct 14

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Creativity is for everyone, including older adults. Whether you have been a lifelong artist, are returning to creative activities after a hiatus during your career, or are brand new to developing creative skills, Senior Solutions recognizes creative aging as an integral part of healthy aging. In pursuit of that, we have partnered with Main Street Arts in Saxtons River to provide arts opportunities for seniors, by instructors who are registered with the Vermont Arts Council and trained in working with our senior population.

On Saturday, Oct. 14, from 12-2 p.m., Main Street Arts will have an Open House to allow seniors to preview classes such as Memory Boxes, Art Journals, Mosaics, Photography, and more. The artists will be present, as will a string band for your entertainment. And to top it off, lunch will be provided to all seniors.

Humans have an innate desire for expression and creation. Arts projects help us communicate the human experience in fun, meaningful, and impactful ways. Sharing our creative work is a great way to connect with others and build new connections. The arts can also help people achieve a sense of purpose and personal growth, and can have a positive impact on social, emotional, mental, and physical health.

To RSVP, email Info@MainStreetArts.org, or call the Senior Solutions helpline at 802-885-2669.



PIN SEEKER PUB

802-463-9807
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Thursday Night Dinner for 2 \$55.00
soup or salad + 1 appetizer
+ 2 entrees + 2 specified desserts

Saturday Night Prime Rib Dinner
- Queen cut 8-9oz \$24.95
with soup or salad + 2 sides
- King cut 11-13oz \$27.00
same accompaniments

Wings are a buck a piece everyday

Please be patient, we make every dish to order

~ Booking Holiday Parties ~

Wednesday and Thursday, from 4-9
Lunch for parties of 10 or more can be booked in advance

Friday and Saturday, from 12-8
Sunday, from 12-6

Reservations are highly recommended; walk-ins could be turned away due to volume of business

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October 7 10am-3:30pm

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Hand Woven Journals	October 7
Introduction to Silver Fabrication	Oct 14-15
Feather Wool Trees	October 14
Shaker Pincushion Basket	October 21
Watercolor Open Studio	October 20-22
Weaving Children's Snowshoes	October 28
Liberated Log Cabin Quilt	November 10-12

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arts & entertainment

Traditional barn dance in Weston

WESTON, Vt. – A traditional New England barn dance is a community dance for young and old, singles and families, enthusiasts and skeptics. Live fiddle music is a must; a barn is bonus. At a community dance, no prior experience is necessary. Several simple moves are taught as the evening progresses, and

they are used in various combinations. Each dance is taught in a walk-through first. In some dances partners progress together, but in others one's partner changes, often in fun ways. On Oct. 8, 6:30-8 p.m., such a dance is being held in Weston, in an old barn. Jill Newton's band is providing foot-tapping live

music. "Hootin' and Hollerin'" (Ruth Holleran) is teaching and calling the dances. Space is limited, so please email Rob Fisher at wildtemple@aol.com to get on the list and get details. Wear layers, bring a water bottle, and come with finger food for the snack table.

Flat foot clogging and open mic at WTCS

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Liana Gabel will be returning to the West Townshend Country Store (WTCS) to do a flat foot clogging workshop and host an open mic and concert on Saturday, Oct. 7. Liana is a percussive dance teacher and performer, who first came to West Townsh-

end to help build our pizza pavilion. Flat foot clogging is a traditional form of step dancing, related to tap dancing, which is usually done to old time fiddle tunes. As you will see with Liana, it can be done to different types of music, anything with a good beat. It is lots of fun and very energetic. The workshop will be from 3:30-4:30 p.m., and there is a suggested donation. Liana is also a singer, musician, and songwriter. From 5:30-7, during pizza night, she will host an open mic. She will begin with performing a few of her own songs, where she often sings, plays guitar, and dances at the same time, then invite other musicians to share their music. The flat footing workshop and concert/open mic will be held outdoors behind the WTCS if the weather is nice, and inside if it is rainy or too cold. This is the last Saturday pizza night of the season. Come and learn to flat foot, then kick up your heels a bit during the open mic if you want to stay for pizza night. Bring instruments and voices to share a song or two with your neighbors during the open mic, or just eat pizza and listen. It should be a really enjoyable evening. If you want to attend the workshop, email sally.newton123@gmail.com.

Big Buzz Chainsaw Carving Festival

CHESTER, Vt. – The 14th annual Big Buzz Chainsaw Carving Festival will take place Oct. 6-9, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. each day, at 1126 Route 103 in Chester, Vt. There is a small price for admission. The Big Buzz is produced by Chester artist Barre Pinske, who started his chain-

saw carving career in Minnesota 40 years ago. Pinske is considered by many of his peers to be a pioneer of the craft. As an example of that fact, Pinske thought up the idea of the Quick Carve event way back in 1984. During a Quick Carve event, artists create an artwork in an hour, then

the pieces are auctioned off. Quick Carves are now done at carving festivals all around the world. Artists at the Big Buzz will be doing a Quick Carve at 1:30 p.m. each day. If you are looking for an interesting fall event, the Big Buzz will check that box. Carvers will be cre-

ating and selling work, and the Chester Andover Snowmobile Club will be providing food for festivalgoers. For more information, see the Big Buzz Facebook page.

Felipe Salles at Next Stage Arts

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts presents internationally renowned composer and 2018 Guggenheim Fellow Felipe Salles' groundbreaking multimedia work, "The New Immigrant Experience," on Friday, Oct. 13, at 7:30 p.m., at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt. "The New Immigrant Experience," Salles' remarkable eighth release, is a powerful multimedia work inspired by the lives of "Dreamers," the almost seven hundred thousand individuals currently protected by DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Written by Salles – who emigrated from Brazil to the United States in 1995 – and developed with the aid of a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation

fellowship, the work uses speech cadences and melodic motifs based on key words as its main source of musical material. It's an emotional musical journey through beautiful orchestral textures, carefully developed motifs, and intense solo features that combine the power of a big band recording and the dramatic landscape of a soundtrack. Since its inception in 2016, The Felipe Salles Interconnections Ensemble has brought together modern large jazz ensemble writing, contemporary classical textures, and Latin American rhythmic influences in a unique way. The music represents the interconnection between many cultural influences, ranging from Brazilian, American, Argentinean, and European musical sources. The approach

to composition, using layers of melodic and rhythmic counterpoint, also expresses the interconnectivity behind the musical product. In addition, the exploration of individual improvisation, as a contrast to collective playing, adds another dimension to the ensemble's sound. Tickets can be purchased online in advance, or at the doors for an additional fee. There is also a livestream option. Next Stage will provide a cash bar. Advance tickets are available at www.nextstagearts.org. For more information, call 802-387-0102, or visit the website above.

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Ludlow back on track and open for business

BY NICK GIBERTI
The Vermont Journal

UDLOW, Vt. – By now, everyone knows what happened in Ludlow on July 10; the sudden, devastating flooding that put people out of their homes, and shuttered businesses. That afternoon, as Main Street was temporarily part of the Black River streambed, it was difficult to envision how the town would return from the unfolding disaster.

Yet now, through the ceaseless efforts of the community over the three months since the waters receded, the prevailing feeling is that Ludlow is not only ready, but eager for the coming fall and winter seasons, when the town annually plays host to thousands of leaf peepers, skiers, and snowboarders.

“The town is ready with open arms,” says Ludlow town manager Brendan McNamara, expressing optimism for the months ahead. In the wake of the flooding, McNamara explained, many businesses in Ludlow suffered a double blow, being affected not only by the physical repercussions of flood damage, but losing out on summer business as



The flood devastation in Ludlow.



After the cleanup of our community and infrastructure.

PHOTO BY NICK GIBERTI

PHOTO BY NICK GIBERTI

well. However, despite the relatively short time that has passed, McNamara describes the situation in Ludlow as “all systems go.”

“Visitors aren’t going to notice any difference” in the town’s infrastructure, McNamara said, noting that most businesses are either open now, or on track to reopen by the height of the tourist season. In light of the town’s rapid recovery, McNamara told The Journal that, “We hope to see everyone for the fall and winter season.”

Greg Hart, who owns Blue Sky Trading Co. on Main Street, echoed McNamara’s sentiments. “July was slow, but things picked up in August,” Hart explained, saying reactions from recent visitors has varied, and the formerly unavoidable flood damage is now often going unnoticed. “Some people come into town knowing all about what’s happened; other people are like, ‘there was a flood?’” Hart expressed a positive outlook as the foliage season approaches, and hoped that the steady increase in visitors would continue into the traditional tourist time.

The Book Nook owner Scott Stearns also spoke to the uptick in business since

the late summer. “Sales have slowly ramped up after the flooding,” Stearns said. “The late summer has been busy as we head into foliage, so we hope for a good winter season.”

Weston Nicoll, owner of the restaurant GameBird, said that he was lucky, with minimal water damage and only a small amount of food stock lost. Nicoll also spoke of lost business, but reiterated what others have said, saying he has seen a steady increase since July, and that he hopes for a snowy winter.

In the wake of the flooding, GameBird provided free meals to workers who

were helping to dig out and reconstruct Ludlow’s roads and buildings. However, Nicoll expressed a sentiment that many in Ludlow share when he said, “I don’t want anyone thinking we feel like we did something grand here. We just did what folks do in times like this.” That feeling is widespread in the community, and has contributed to Ludlow’s speedy comeback.

Though the town still does not have a post office or grocery store, there is hope that residents and visitors will not have to go without much longer. As of now, the Ludlow Post Of-

fice is physically ready, and awaiting official approval to open its doors, which they hope to do in the next week. As for Shaw’s, at the recent Ludlow Selectboard meeting on Oct. 2, McNamara said that “signs point to” the grocery chain opening “before the ski season.”

Undoubtedly, there is still work to be done. However, in spite of the hardships of the summer, the resounding attitude in Ludlow is that the town, its residents, and its businesses are prepared and excited to welcome the influx of activity, which accompanies the Vermont winter in this small ski town.

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