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VermontJournal

NOVEMBER 15, 2023 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 46

Tired but grateful

BY PAULA BENSON

The Vermont Journal

LONDONDERRY, - The collective fatigue of the southern Vermont business community is palpable, if you take the time to speak to any local shop owner impacted by the July floods. But remarkably,

the feeling most evident is

gratitude.

A strong sense of community and an overwhelming display of generosity flooded the state within hours following the waters that devastated so many communities, as people quickly mobilized efforts to help their neighbors who needed it most.

In Londonderry, two long-standing establishments took a hit, and are just now, five months later, getting back on their feet. Beverly Jelley, owner of Jelley's Deli, a fixture on Main Street since 1990, said this is the third flood event she's experienced as a Vermonter, and second time she's had to put her store back

"And the last," Jelley added with a laugh.

'There was an actual cur-

rent," Jelley said of the more than four feet of water that came rushing through the store. "In Irene the water rose, then receded. This was much, much worse."

ing

came

hours,

days,

what

could

was

Jelley

to secure

some grant

able

funds, but has seen no in-

surance money yet, and

admits she would have had

to call it quits if not for the

a source of strength and

joy for Jelley, but when the

July flood caused so much

damage, she couldn't imag-

ine dealing with everything

without her husband, Clar-

ence "Butch" Jelley, who

through it all," said Jel-

ley. Those women are her

"Five women were here

died in 2020.

Family has always been

volunteers' hard work.

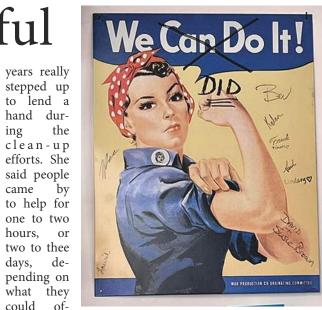
Jelley and her daughter Susan were at the store on Monday, July 10, as the waters started to rapidly encroach. There wasn't much time to waste, and as they evacuated, Susan watched as her 80-year-old mother drove through several feet of water on a flooded Route 11 to make it home to Andover. "It was scary. I didn't breathe," Jelley recalled. "I just hung on and maintained my speed. And Susie was just praying for me to make it."

The next morning, after a surprisingly restful night's sleep, Jelley said she took out a yellow legal pad, sat down at her table, and started to make a list.

She got a call from Susan. "I'm at the store. It's bad," Susan told her.

"My motto has always been 'family first," Jelley stated. "So, I said, 'Let me get my boots on."

According to Jelley, the community she has faithfully serviced for over 30



A Rosie the Riveter sign altered by the ladies at Jelley's Deli.

PHOTO BY PAULA BENSON

daughter Jess, niece and deli employee Sarah, employee Kelen, and niece Lindsay. The women worked seven days a week at first, then realized they needed to take weekends. Four months later, Jelley's Deli welcomed customers again.

About those boots, they've got rainbow designs on them and were the subject of some friendly teasing once Jelley arrived at the store that day. Her response to the ribbing?

'You know how after every storm there's a rainbow? Well, I'm the rainbow!"

A few doors down from Jelley's Deli is Mike & Tammy's Main Street Market, and the Maple Leaf Diner, both owned by Tammy and Michael Clough since 2007.

As the West River breached its banks twice on July 10, Tammy watched her establishment destroyed via security cam-

five feet of raging flood Everything the water touched had to be discarded, said Clough, and any market items that were placed high enough on shelves to escape flood

damage had expired by the

era, the market and

diner ravaged by almost

time the market reopened. With help from volunteers, the interior was ripped apart; insulation torn out to be replaced, walls demolished, and all kitchen appliances removed. During the process, Clough recognized the importance of restoring the historic elements of the building. She said friends and neighbors were scrubbing the plank floors and supervising renovations. When asked if the state had any input on the rebuild

shook her head. Clough's business has so far received no assistance from FEMA, and no government aid, but, as with Jelley's, the community has come forward in a huge effort to help them rebuild. A GoFundMe was started, and nonprofit social ser-

and restoration, Clough

vices organization Neighborhood Connections was incredibly supportive, helping with grant applications and securing unemployment for staff.

WHO HELPED HAPPE

Mike & Tammy's sign thanking the community.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Frequented by locals and seniors, servicing mostly working-class folks but also visitors passing through, Mike & Tammy's and The Maple Leaf Diner are vital to the local community and economy, and Clough feels incredibly dedicated to continuing to provide a service to the town.

"We open at 5:30," Clough shrugged. "Where else are workers going to get an affordable breakfast, or a cup of coffee?"

Clough was determined to open by Oct. 21, the first day of Youth Deer Weekend. Mike & Tammy's is an official big game weigh-in station. They were able to open their doors, with a full deli, homemade baked goods, and a market that is still operating at about half-stock, according to Clough. The increase in sales during hunting season is a welcome boost for the market and diner, and Clough is hoping for a successful winter season.

Plymouth discusses Money Brook storm damage -

BY SHAWNTAE WEBB

The Vermont Journal

PLYMOUTH, Vt. - At the Nov. 6 Plymouth Selecthoard meeting. Marie Caduto, watershed planner, was in attendance to discuss the damages of Money Brook. She provided an overview of the brook, and said damages from July were just as bad or worse than Hurricane Irene.

The brook is very small, Caduto explained, the watershed being about one square mile. The major landslide area encompassed about eight acres, with the major issue being how steep the brook is, having a slope of about 18%. Water plummets almost 2,000 feet from the top of Salt Ash Mountain in under two miles, which causes a lot of damage as it falls, and when it reaches the bottom and enters the Black River.

Another issue was the fact that the Black River was already high, causing a dam where Money Brook couldn't enter into the river, causing a backup in the

Mudslides date back to 1927, and flooding at Route 100 and Bridge 108 has been a historic recurring problem. "Mudslides have been going on a long time," Caduto stated, "and it's not going to change moving forward." She continued to explain that the excess water is likely due to climate change, and potentially going to get

Over the years, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has performed assessments of many flood-

prone areas, funding the also slowing water from Lake Rescue Association crashing down. But the and other associations to banks will continue to fall complete sediment studies on Lake Rescue, proj- that is gradual enough ect scoping on Money and stabilizes, where trees Brook, and slope planting on Money Brook to start catching sediment that falls before it comes down and reaches the lake. Since 2006, the DEC has invested over \$300,000 to such projects.

They have removed sediment from river ways such as the Black River, and created berms with the materials, which helps protect surrounding land. The state has purchased the development rights from the Pingrees for a portion of their land, to create a permanent protection from development. This helps to provide a 50-foot vegetative buffer, becoming floodplain protected wetlands, allowing the land to absorb the excess waters and collect sediment before it reaches the rivers. The more locations along the Black River they can do this, the more they can trap sediment. There isn't much the DEC can do about the slope of Money Brook, which is a "massive failure." It would cost \$10-15 million to address the slopes of the brook, and the state only appropriates a statewide budget of \$5 million for such

projects. Caduto explained that mudslides continue to occur at Money Brook because the slope is so steep. Trees cannot take root, and therefore cause dams. Caduto explained that at the top of the brook, this can be beneficial, stopping sediment from clogging the lower portion of the brook, and until they reach a slope and vegetation can take root and survive. That is a "natural process."

A resident's concern was the inadequate area for water to get past the highway at the bottom of the brook. "They need to change how they allow water to get under the

highway." Caduto agreed, explaining that bridges and culverts were not built big enough to handle such bodies of water. Newer bridges that are in good shape are likely not going to be replaced with larger structures until they need repairs, when there are plenty of bridges throughout the state that are in major disrepair. She also noted that after Hurricane Irene, the DEC fought with FEMA for almost a year to urge them that you cannot replace with "like" bridges and culverts, they urged for bigger and better.

Not a terrible amount can be done about Money Brook, Caduto expressed, which is why FEMA has implemented buyout programs to help get residents out of hazardous areas. FEMA is also now offering funding of up to 100% of pre-storm appraised property value. Caduto and the board urged residents to reach out for assistance.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m.

ESBR Grateful for fall 2023 Community Expeditions —

LUDLOW, Vt. - The School Expeditionary at Black River (ESBR) is grateful to share that this school year has been quite an exciting community exploration thus far. As the school year was set to begin, the focus was determined to delve into all the workings of the community. This included visiting and/or speaking with different departments within the town, including the water treatment facility, dam sites, and the Ludlow Transfer Station, all of which were able to offer unique perspectives on how the town was affected by the July flooding. ESBR even went so far as visiting the Springfield Dam early in the school year on what turned into a beautiful sunny afternoon. Students also spoke with Ludlow Town Manager Brendan McNamara, which offered further clarification on the effects of the flooding on the community and the progress of rebuilding the town. Furthermore, students also interviewed various organitown, such as Black River Action Team, Black River Good Neighbor Services,

and Okemo Valley TV. Students also partook in several fundraising exchanges. Throughout last spring and over the summer, Aubuchons advertised the opportunity for patrons to round up their bill, and the extra change would be donated to ESBR. The final tally would be matched by Aubuchons for a double donation. A couple students were able to venture to the hardware store and organize a photo op with a large presentation check for a total of \$2,447.54. ESBR made sure to pay it forward as well, donating a \$1,000 share to the Black River Good Neighbor Services' (BRGNS) Flood Relief following a successful chicken barbecue in August with the amazing support of the Ludlow Legion, raising just over \$2,000 to split with BRGNS. Students were present at BRGNS for the donation, and later reflected in their journals on the importance of BRGNS and the support they provide for the community. As one student explained, it was "to help them give back to and to help the community

after the flood." ESBR continues to be awed by this community. For such a small and quaint town, it is tremendous how many groups, organizations, and departments make up this area. The ability to allow students to explore these various factions first hand and the flexibility to put weight to this as an educational opportunity is the foundation of what the Expeditionary School means. ESBR is forever grateful, and looks forward to future expeditions around town. Lastly, stay tuned for updates on ES-BR's Giving Tuesday 2023 Fundraising Campaign. It

takes a village. Further information on ESBR is available at www. esblackriver.org. If you would like to learn more about the school or get involved, please contact Gary Blodgett, chair of the board, at gblodgett@esblackriver. org or 802-558-3147. A Giving Tuesday 2023 link is available at the Expeditionary Committee Facebook Page. Donations can be made on the ESBR website, or by mailing a check to P.O. Box 485, Ludlow, VT

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CAFC Empty Bowl Dinner

CHESTER, Vt. - On Saturday, Nov. 18, from 4:30-7 p.m., the Chester-Andover Family Center will hold its 5th annual Empty Bowl Dinner at the American Legion Hall, 635 Vermont Route 103S in Chester, Vt. Entry is by donation. You will enjoy signature soups, breads, and desserts donated by local chefs, as well as a hand painted bowl to take home. The evening will include live music by guest folk singer Vinnie DiBernardo. You will also have a chance to bid at the silent auction, and buy tickets for our raffle baskets. Returning this year, our thrift shop fashion show promises to be better than ever. It will be a delightful evening you don't want to miss. All donations support our food shelf and financial assistance program.

A special thank you to our sponsors: One Credit Union, M&T Bank, Chester American Legion, and Endless Creations Pottery Studio.

Send inquiries to cafc302@gmail.com, or call and leave a message at 802-875-3236. You can also visit our website at www.chester-andoverfamilycenter.org, or follow us on Facebook.

Legislative forum in Weston

WESTON, Vt. - Saturday afternoon, Nov. 18, from 3-5 p.m., at the Walker Farm Theater, New Thought Vermont will host a legislative forum for Weston, Londonderry, and Andover, as neighboring mountain towns. Come listen to and dialogue with our state legislators as they give us a preview of the upcoming legislative session. You are invited to share your

current issues and matters of interest or concern.

Vermont State Senators Alison Clarkson, Dick Mc-Cormack, and Becca White will be on hand from the Windsor District, along with Vermont State Representative Kelly Pajala, who represents these mountain towns. This will be a facilitated discussion.

While this is a free event,

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ing so, please do.

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Walker Farm Theater

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thoughts with them about making a reservation would be much appreciated. To do so, please email movement@sover. net, or call 802-824-3810. If you are available and in the spur of the moment, and would like to just come without do-

will be served.

is located at 705 Main Street in Weston, on the campus of the Weston Theater Company. Visible from Route 100, it is a large red contemporary structure on the east side of the road. On the inside it is a beautiful, simply elegant space with natural light and comfortable seating.

Family selected for the Bob Perry Lane House

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - Martha Dale and Patty Eisenhaur, co-chairs of the Mountain Towns Housing Project (MTHP) Steering Committee, are excited to announce that a family has been selected to purchase the Bob Perry Lane House. "This is indeed a joyous and significant event," stated Martha Dale. "Kara Corlew and her two children, Isaiah who is 8, and Eden who is 6, are unbelievably excited, and all systems are go to get them into the house by the end of the year or early 2024," Martha continued. "Kara has served in the Army Reserves with the engineers for 14 years, and was deployed to Kuwait in 2021. She teaches at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams, in the radiology program, and works at the Carlos Otis Clinic at Stratton Mountain on a per diem basis. The family is connected to our mountain community in many ways...Kara volunteered with flood recovery and cleanup, and organized her Army Reserve unit to help clear away pallets of wood pellets from the Stove Depot on Main Street that were destroyed in the July flood. She has put many hours of volunteer work into the construction of the Bob Perry Lane house, helping with sheetrock, painting, and more." Martha concluded, "The Corlew family is a perfect match for the house. The children will attend Flood Brook School, and will remain

town for years to come." When notified that she and her family had been selected to purchase the home, Kara said, "This is incredible, and I had a moment of disbelief until

actively involved in our

would be able to stay in this area, close to our family." She continued, "Laurie and Scott Rawson, the children's grandparents, will be right around the corner, and that is important as they have such a close relationship with Isaiah and Eden. They are so involved in their lives and help out a lot with childcare." Kara concluded, "We are so deeply grateful to all those who made this possible for us, the couple who donated the land, the donors who provided the funds, the volunteers who have helped build the house, and the local contractors who have donated their products and services; it truly is remarkable."

The house was intended to go to a family of modest means, more commonly referred to as the "missing middle" - those who are working full-time, but are unable to afford the high real estate prices in our communities. Several families applied to purchase the house, and to qualify, certain salary requirements had to be met, along with a satisfactory credit rating, a connection to the local community, and a commitment to investing "sweat equity" into the house. In partnership with the Windham and Windsor Housing Trust, the house will also remain affordable in perpetuity due to covenants and restrictions.

In addition to the couple who donated the land for the project, MTHP is incredibly grateful to over 156 individual donors, organizations, foundations, and businesses who have made a gift in support of this project. This includes local contractors such as Hunter Excavating, Homestead Landscaping, Wadsworth Design Build, Frost Wells & Pumps, Record Concrete, Brown Enterprises, VT Foam Insulation, Marquise & Morano LLC, and Weston Island Logor pledged services to help complete the project." For a complete list of donors, please visit www.mountaintownshousing.org.

This project is truly a grassroots effort. While there is a critical need for many more units, this is a starting place. Once the house is completed and sold to the family, the MTHP will have funds to reinvest in another project. This could be another house like the Bob Perry Lane home, or possibly the construction of a duplex, or a rehab of an existing home purchased outright or from a tax sale. Ultimately, the MTHP is building a legacy organization that will continue to help provide affordable housing options well into the

Patty Eisenhauer stated, "Our focus now is to cover the cost of materials needed to complete the interior of the house, and to finish the exterior with clapboards and trim." She continued, "We still need to purchase all manner of construction supplies, but we are confident we can get there as we have such a generous community that we know wants to see this home completed." Patty concluded with, "Having selected a family puts real faces on the beneficiaries of this project. We can't wait until we can hand over the keys to the house to Kara and her family, and know that one family has stable and affordable housing and can continue to build roots in our community."

If you would like to make a gift to support this project, please make your check payable to "Mountain Towns Housing Project," and mail it to P.O. Box 538, Londonderry, VT 05148. If you prefer, vou can make a gift online by visiting secure.myvanco. com/YGY2/home, the website of the Second Congregational Church, then select the "Perry Lane Project." You can also donate to this project through the Community Fund for Londonderry; make your check payable to "Community Fund for Londonderry," note that it is for the "Perry Lane project", and mail it to P.O. Box 399, Londonderry, VT 05148. To sign up to volunteer to work on the site, visit the website and fill out the form or send an inquiry to mountaintownshousing@gmail.com.



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Albert DeCell and Christmas trees

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119 ronpatch27@gmail.com

Saturday, Nov. 11, I left my place and noticed a tractor-trailer with open sides and top. It was loaded with bound Christmas trees. It got me to thinking. In high school I worked summers for Albert and



Christmas postcard, circa 1910.

Carne DeCell in Weston. They ran a very successful house painting company. As summer turned to fall, Albert would lay off summer employees, including me. He had just enough interior work to keep his regular men working through the winter.

In November of 1969, Albert kept me on cutting

Christmas trees. Albert had a large Christmas tree farm. I worked with a man named Hart. I don't r e m e m b e r his first name for sure, but it might have been Charlie. Sometimes Charlie and I would get horsing around. This happen when you are unsupervised. It began with us

throwing snowballs. Then Charlie chased me and pushed me down in the snow. It was wet under the snow. My buckskin gloves instantly iced over. I was chopping with a hatchet when it flew out of my hand, nearly hitting Charlie. The look on his face was priceless!

Some mornings were very cold with snow on the ground. It didn't take us long to warm up. Physical labor has a way of doing

We cut trees all day. Nearby was an open 40foot trailer. By open, I mean sides and top, like I saw last Saturday. It's a long time ago now, but I remember how we loaded trees. It was important to load as many trees as pos-

Today when you buy a tree, they run it through a mechanism that wraps and compresses the tree down to a smaller diameter. We didn't have such a unit in

We would lay a course

of trees on the floor of the trailer, butt forward. Then we laid down another course. Then we carefully stepped on branches, compressing the trees down. We did this course after course until the trailer was full. With a little practice we became very good at it. You developed a feel for how much pressure to ap-When the trailer was ful-

ly loaded, the tractor was driven into the woods and hooked up to the trailer. I don't remember now how long it took to cut and load trees onto the trailers, but it kept two men busy most of November and some of December. Albert shipped his trees to the city.

In Londonderry, on Hell's Peak Road, Albert had the Christmas shop. Here, mostly women worked. They made hundreds of Christmas wreaths of all sizes.

I vaguely remember the garland-making machine. Albert had several princess pine pickers in the area. He always had an ad in the paper, "Buying princess pine." He bought princess pine by the pound. One year when I was younger, I picked princess pine. I think Albert paid me 20 cents per pound.

The garland machine used something like baling twine.

The women would feed the princess pine into this machine, where it was wrapped around the baling twine. It came out the other end as finished garland. Albert sold garland everywhere, including the city. I remember hanging garland around all of the stores in the Londonderry Plaza. Albert had the contract, and probably other contracts I have forgotten.

Albert let me stay in an old farmhouse he owned. I



Christmas postcard, circa 1912. PHOTO PROVIDED BY PAUL COOK

think it was on Piper Hill Road. It was a large, drafty farmhouse, but I didn't mind. I was about to turn 18, and Dad couldn't tell me what to do anymore.

Albert and Carne were excellent business people, and kept many people working.

This week's old saying was heard when someone asked when you would arrive: "Between 11 and Thursday."

Windham installs solar

array-

WINDHAM, Vt. - A solar array was recently installed on the town office roof in Windham that will generate enough electricity to pay for the power in the town's three buildings. With an annual production of 20.76 megawatt hours, the array will cover the electrical usage of the town office, the town garage, and the meeting house, including anticipated future heating changes from fossil fuels to green energy.

Installed by Southern Vermont Solar, the solar array will be paid for with federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and a federal energy tax incentive credit. The ARPA funds, which are provided to promote recovery from Covid, allow for a variety of expenditures to benefit communities. The incentive specifically supports clean, renewable

energy. Like all Vermont towns, Windham received ARPA funds that were passed through the state government to the towns based on their population. With a little more than 400 residents, Windham received \$118,380. As required by the state, recommendations for the use of the funds were made to the Windham Selectboard by a committee created for that purpose.

"The amount we received seemed like a lot until our committee began thinking about all we would like to do with it," said Mary Mc-Coy, chair of Windham's ARPA Committee. "Part of our mission was to maximize the funds through grants and other means." The solar array is expected to cover the town's GMP bills for 25 years, saving the town an estimated \$120,000.

McCoy said the committee of 10 people was formed in early 2022, and each member had a different project in mind. Over that summer, they agreed on a



Solar array installation on top of Windham town offices.

list of projects, and in that autumn, they conducted an online survey asking Windham residents and parttime homeowners to prioritize the projects. During 2023, they began making recommendations to the selectboard, and all recommendations were approved by this September.

In addition to funding the solar array, Windham's ARPA funds are being used to buy protective gear for members of the Windham Volunteer Fire Company, and to ensure that all homes in Windham will be able to connect to DV-Fiber, a nonprofit provider of high-speed internet now installing fiber optic lines in 24 southern Vermont towns. The DVFiber designation was matched by another state grant, doubling the ARPA allotment.

The survey showed widespread support for improvements to Windham's meetinghouse. Yet, the 221-year-old building needed far more work than could be paid for, even with the entire amount of Windham's ARPA funds. Cathy Fales, a committee member with a background in municipal facilities, found various grant opportunities related to improving the energy usage of the meetinghouse, its historic preservation, and its use for public events. Some of the ARPA funds were then designated to pursue these opportunities. Fales has already submitted five grant applications, with three accepted so far.

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town's ARAP funds, about 37%, was set aside for any needed improvements to the meetinghouse that cannot be funded by grants. Two meetings were conducted, one for town leaders and one for all of the town's people, to consider the future of the meetinghouse. More than 150 suggestions were received, and Fales has consolidated this information for planning and grant application

purposes. Smaller amounts of the ARPA funds were recommended and approved to pay an administrator to manage ongoing grants related to road repairs and improvements, to buy an Owl audio-visual system for town meetings, to support the digitalization of town records, and to cover the ARPA committee's administrative costs.

"Right now, the most visible result of the funds is the solar array," said McCoy. "Although the town was divided in the past about locating a wind farm here, there was little opposition to the array or anything else ARPA is funding. This money can help pull us together." She said work on the meetinghouse is expected to continue until its 225th anniversary in 2027. "We all value that building. It is the center of our community and a source of unity."



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"1800 and Froze to

Death"

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -On Thursday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m., join Howard Coffin at the Springfield Town Library for his presentation of "1800 and Froze to Death."

1816 has long been known as the year without summer. Vermonters still call it "1800 and Froze to Death," a year of frosts every month, dark skies, and mysterious lights that caused a widespread belief that a higher power was displeased. In this talk, historian Howard Coffin includes scores of anecdotes on the dark year of failed crops, scarce food, and religious revival. The horrible weather also came in the aftermath of the War of 1812, which produced shortages and an economic crisis. Vermonters coped with the cold year with neighbors helping neighbors. However, some greedy merchants sought to exploit shortages by charging higher and higher prices.

This is a Vermont Humanities Council event hosted by Springfield Town Library, located at 43 Main Street Visit our calendar of events to sign



Archival photograph of winter in Vermont.

PHOTO PROVIDED

up at www.springfieldtownlibrary.org/calendar. If you

have any questions, please call 802-885-3108.



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community news

OPINION

SEVCA Community

Needs Survey

WESTMINSTER, Vt. -Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Inc. (SEVCA) was founded on the belief that all people can be empowered to rise out of poverty, and that the strength of our communities is measured by the quality of life of everyone within them.

Every three years, SEV-CA conducts a community assessment to discern current and emerging community needs in the areas of employment, education, income and asset building, housing, health and social behavior development, civic engagement, and com-

support to help us recover

from our \$60,000 flood

damage. Everything was

very much appreciated.

Thanks to all who helped

us out repairing the damage

and removing debris.

Dear Editor,

munity involvement. The resulting data will be utilized by SEVCA's strategic plan committee, who are working with Bright Minds Consulting, Inc. of Columbus, Ohio, to develop a multi-year workplan. Community action agencies like SEVCA are required by

their funders to regularly engage in strategic planning, to assure that their programs and resources align with the needs of the communities they serve.

The survey can be found online at www.sevca.org, or by scanning the QR



Scan code to take the survey.
PHOTO PROVIDED

code with this article.

Paper versions are also available at SEVCA locations in Brattleboro, Westminster, and Springfield. The survey will be live from Nov. 9 - Dec. 8. More information is available by emailing kdevlin@sevca.

As the region's designated Community Action Agency (CAA), SEVCA works with local and state partners and in coordination with CAAs nationwide to help resolve crises, create opportunities for all people to thrive, build strong, resilient communities, and work toward a more equitable society. SEVCA was founded in May 1965, and has been meeting needs and changing lives in southeastern Vermont for 57 years. More information is available at www.sevca.org, www.facebook. com/SEVCAorg, or by calling 800-464-9951.

We owned Tapper We wish to thank the folks who sent financial

Plumbing for over 50 years, so some people know me as "Mr. Tapper."

Thank you, Van Guilder Family, Herb and Sandy Ludlow, Vt.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Subject to space. May be edited for clar-ity, grammatical errors, and libelous statements. Must be kept under 400 words. Must include name and town for publication. Viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal & The Shopper.

AS OF MARCH, 2023, we will charge for POLITICAL LET-TERS at the rate of \$75 for 200 words, and \$0.50 per word thereafter.

Senior Solutions updates

Memory Cafés

REGIÓN - A Memory Café is a wonderfully welcoming place for caregivers and their loved ones who are challenged with forms of dementia or other cognitive disorders. It is a safe and comfortable space where caregivers and their loved ones can socialize, listen to music, play games, and enjoy other appropriate activities. Cafés provide mutual support, allow for the exchange of additional resources, and provide an opportunity to enjoy the company of those with common experiences. For more information on these programs or to be included in our upcoming cafés, contact Valerie Stuart at 802-338-6578, or email memorycafe@

seniorsolutionsvt.org. A new Memory Café will be starting in Chester, Vt., on Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. This will be hosted at St. Luke's in Willard Hall. Parking is in the back, and it is an easy walk to the door. It is open to the public at no cost. If you would like to attend or volunteer as an activity assistant, please contact Joann at jerenhouse@seniorso-

Join Senior Solutions lutionsvt.org, or text/call 802-733-7988. Volunteers will receive a short training session on Friday, Nov. 17, between 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. We ask only that you help one day a month for two hours. The more volunteers we have, the more we can do to make it a wonderful experience for the caregivers and their loved ones. The Memory Cafés will be held on the first Thursday of each month. Snacks and drinks are provided. We look forward to meeting each and every caregiver and loved one.

Senior Solutions 50th Anniversary Annual Meet-

The annual meeting will be held on Nov. 29, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Coffee hour will be from 9-10 a.m. Dr. Renee Pepin, an assistant professor of community and family medicine at Dartmouth's Centers for Health and Aging at the Geisel School of Medicine, will share her insight into the importance of social connectedness. Our staff, community volunteers, partners, and friends will be on hand to share the memories and accomplishments of the past year. We will award our Successful Aging Award in recognition of an outstanding individual who is at least 80 years old and lives in one of the 46 towns that we serve. We look forward to celebrating our 50 years of service, and to planning many more years of working with community partners to help Vermont adults age successfully. To RSVP, contact the front office at 802-731-9468, or go to www.seniorsolutionsvt. org and click the RSVP link in the article about our annual meeting.

Bridges Out of Poverty workshop

The Bridges Out of Poverty workshop hosted by Senior Solutions provides social service providers and community members with key insights into supporting individuals who have previously experienced or are experiencing poverty. Topics include increasing awareness of the differences in economic cultures, and how those differences affect opportunities for success. This workshop is designed for educators, community organizations, law enforcement, health care, and social service providers.

The event takes place Nov. 30, from 8:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m., at the American Legion in Chester, Vt. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information, email llintner@seniorsolutionsvt.org.

AI scams can be convincing

REGION – This scam has been in circulation for years: "Hello, Grandpa? It's me, Melissa (or Jimmy or Amanda)." It can take a number of different paths: "I'm in jail and need money," or, "I was in a terrible accident



37B Main St, Ludlow, VT 05149 Hours: Monday-Friday, 10 AM-3 PM Phone: 802-228-3663 www.brgn.org

"We are here to help" Serving Ludlow, Mt. Holly, Belmont, Cavendish, Proctorsville & Plymouth and I'm in the hospital," or, "I've been kidnapped and they want money." While it goes by the name "Grandparent Scam," you can substitute best friend, family member, or practically any other name for the supposed victim. This is a version of the imposter scam, and it's growing in frequency and sophistication.

In the past, criminals had difficulty replicating the supposed victim's voice, but were clever enough to make their phone calls at strategic times of day such as mealtime or bedtime, when people are distracted or tired. Often the voice of the caller was muffled or unclear, but the message was urgent and

required immediate action. Let's turn the clock forward to 2023 and focus on how things are different. Today the new tool for the criminal is artificial intelligence (AI). A basic definition of AI: computer systems able to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between languages. In terms of fraud, AI can search the internet in a matter of minutes and collect all information, including social media posts, photographs, voice sound tracks, and videos from places such as YouTube and TikTok. AI can collect information from databases,

and from persons posting content online. The concern related to AI scams is so great that both the Federal Trade Commission and the FBI issued warnings that, "Artificial Intelligence is no longer a far-fetched idea out of a sci-fi movie. We're living with it, here and now."

For a criminal, it means access to everything you uncover, as well as anything posted on social media, video sharing, and online databases. An audio clip of less than 10 seconds can reveal enough of a person's voice pattern to synthesize their voice. Now the voice and image of a "kidnapping victim" can be replicated for use in a scam. Piecing together profiles from online data can provide criminals with a wealth of personal information to commit scams. Online digital photographic and video images can be used to create a synthetic visual for committing extortion. This is exactly what happened to at least eight senior citizens, according to law enforcement officials in Canada. Over \$200,000 was stolen in three days by a criminal using AI-generated voices from social media. AI adds a new dimension to the phrase "seeing (or hearing) is believing," especially when considering the creation of fake news and so-

cial media posts. Legitimate software companies, security systems, and government agencies are working aggressively to combat the threats. For now, there are steps you can take for self-defense. Update your device operating system and any malware software you use to the most recent version. With audio messages, listen for abnormal voice tones and patterns or unclear speech. Criminals will tug at emotions and use urgency to achieve their goals. Slow down. Tell the person you will call back, then use the time to verify the caller's number. Look for inconsistent details with photos or videos such as incomplete or blurred images; for example, does the person cast a shadow?

If you sense a scam, report it to the FTC (www. reportfraud.ftc.gov), FBI (www.IC3.gov), or your state Attorney General.

Elliott Greenblott is a retired educator and coordinator of the AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Network.



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CHURCH SERVICES

obituaries

Paul T. Kane, 1952-2023

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. -Paul Tyter Kane died on Oct. 21, 2023. He passed peacefully, while being comforted by Jaime Kamel (daughter) and Rodney Stowell (son).

Paul was born Nov. 8, 1952, to Hilda (Wright) Kane of Charlestown, N.H., and Harold Edward (Darb) Kane of North Walpole, N.H. He was born in Bellows Falls, Vt.

Paul was raised in Bellows Falls for the first 11 years of his life. The family moved to Palatka, Fla., where they resided until 1967. Again, for Harold's career, Paul and his family moved to Cumberland, R.I.

After high school, Paul continued his studies in psychology and sociology at Northeastern University (Boston, Mass.), New England College (Henniker, N.H.), and two semesters in Arundel, Sussex, England.

Upon returning to the U.S. and graduating, Paul began his career in social services in South Carolina with the Department of Youth Services.

In 1978, Paul returned to graduate school. He studied at New York Univer-

ASCUTNEY, VT.

brownsvilleumc-vt.org.

CHESTER, VT.

66 Brownsville-Hartland Rd.

Brownsville Community United Methodist Church,

Sunday service is 9:30 a.m., held in the church with

facebook.com/brownsvillecommunitychurch and www.

Worship is Sundays at 10:30 a.m. For more information,

First Baptist Church, 62 Crescent St., S. Londonderry

including online streaming, go to www.chesterbaptist.

reduced occupancy or streaming online at www.

Chester Baptist Church, 162 Main St.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

org or call 802-856-7266.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

@PrecisionValleyBaptistChurch.

Worship service is Sunday at 10 a.m. at the

church. Services will still be live streamed at www.

Precision Valley Baptist Church, 69 Rt. 106

Springfield Assembly of God, 269 River St.

of-God-156583214402910 for links and more

Join our worship service every Sunday at 10 a.m.

firstbaptistslondonderryvt.org/streaming-worship.html.

For more information, visit www.firstbaptistlondonderryvt.

Women's Study group meets on Tuesdays at 6 p.m., and

Mens Study Group meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. All

are welcome! For more information, check out Facebook

Sunday morning service is 10 a.m. Evening service is 6

Springfield United Methodist Church, 58 Harvard St.

United Methodist Church welcomes everyone! The church

Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. Springfield

p.m. Go to www.facebook.com/Springfield-Assembly-

sity (NYU) in their graduate school of social work. Paul continued studying at Georgia State University (Atlanta) in the counseling program. Paul continued to work in social work/ counseling/corrections, and started a business, P.K.'s, in 1988. He married Marie (Madore) Stowell, who predeceased him.

He is survived by his daughter Jaime Kamel, married to Jim Kamel, children Peter, Laura, Sam, and Jake; son Rodney Stowell, married to Dawn Stowell, children Noah, Zander, Eric, and Kaley; and nephew Martin Bartlett.

Visiting Hours will take place on Friday, Nov. 24, from 4-6 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Saturday, Nov. 25, at 10 a.m., at St. Charles Church, Cherry Hill in Bellows Falls. Burial will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery.

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

Robert C. Lynds, 1937-2023

PLYMOUTH, Vt. - Robert Carl Lynds, 86, died peacefully at his home in Plymouth early Wednesday morning, Nov. 1, 2023.

Robert was born on March 21, 1937, in Ludlow, Vt., the son of Laurence and Gladys (Sanderson) Lynds.

Educated in the Plymouth schools, Robert went on to work many years operating heavy equipment for Killington Ski Area. He married Katherine Woodward on June 4, 1967. He served a number of years as a Plymouth Cemetery Commissioner.

Robert is survived by his wife Katherine, a son Joseph C. Lynds, a daughter Elizabeth Lynds, nine grandchildren, a brother Glenn Lynds, and many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by three brothers John, Arthur, and Ray Lynds; and a sister Janetta Deveau.

A graveside service was held on Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Plymouth Notch Cem-



Robert Lynds, 1937-2023.

etery in Plymouth, Vt. In lieu of flowers, those wishing may make donations to the Shriners Hospital or the Plymouth Memory Tree.

The Lynds family is extremely grateful for the loving care given to Robert by Almira Blanchard, and the caregivers of Bayada Hos-

Arrangements are under the direction of the Cabot Funeral Home in Woodstock, Vt. An online guestbook can be found at www. cabotfh.com.

Mary Jane Tetreault, 1955-2023

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. -It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Mary Jane Tetreault on Nov. 5, 2023, at her home in Perkinsville, Vt.

She was born on Dec. 3, 1955, to Leslie and Eleanor (Barnes) Spencer in Springfield, Vt. She attended school in Perkinsville, and graduated from Springfield High School in 1973. She went on to study nursing at the Thompson School of Nursing in Brattleboro, Vt.

Mary Jane was first married to Alexander Chadwick in June of 1979, and then second to Jeffrey Tetreault in October of 2002. Mary Jane's life work was caring for others. First, as a nurse, she cared for patients at the Springfield Hospital. Later, she cared for geriatric patients at several local nursing homes. Lastly, she was the primary caregiver for her husband Jeffrey, and then her mom.

She is survived by her sister Nancy Bladyka (Paul); nephews Tyler (Keturah Hammond), and Jesse (Michelle Anariba) and their daughter Paulina; her niece Crystal Tetreault; friends and caregivers Amanda Knight and Stephan Cota and family; feline friend Zipper and canine friend Ace; and many cousins.

online at www.VermontJournal.com.

INSURANCE



Mary Jane Tetreault, 1955-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

She was predeceased by her parents, her sister Victoria Besst, and both husbands Alex Chadwick and Jeffrey Tetreault.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, Nov. 24, at the Community Church in Perkinsville, Vt., at 1 p.m., to be followed by a graveside service at the Grout Cemetery in Perkinsville, followed by visiting and refreshments at the

church. Her family is grateful for the love and care that Mary Jane received from her hospice team at Bayada. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Lucy MacKensie Humane Society, P.O. Box 702, Brownsville, VT 05037, www.lucymac.org.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Davis Memorial Chapel, Springfield, Vt.

Stephen Plunkard, 2023

LUDLOW, Vt. - With great sadness we inform you that on Oct. 22, 2023, Stephen Plunkard, at the age of 72, passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home, with his wife close by his side. He leaves behind his wife Becky, his sister Diana, sons Chris and Michael, and his four grandchildren.

He was Born in Romford, England, and moved to the U.S. at the age of 13. He met his wife Becky in Colorado, where they started their journey in life and were happily married for over 50 years. After graduating From LSU school of landscape architecture, they worked their way up north, eventually residing in a quaint town in southern Vermont.

Stephen was a distinguished businessman, landscape architect, urban designer, and a professor over the course of his career. He had an immeasurable passion for his work and his involvement in landscape architecture, was exemplified by what he accomplished in his decorated career and what he gave back to the professional community. He was part of countless organizations, fellowships, and committees that promoted integrity, change, and recognized greatness within the community. Stephen won awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects, American Institute of Architects, Urban Land Institute, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and was invited to the White House as winner of the Small Businessman of the Year for the State of Vermont. At the end of his career, his passion truly lied in teaching, where he was able to work with students at Norwich University and personally instill the fundamentals for future generations of landscape ar-

He was a proud man. Proud to be a husband, father, grandfather and very proud of his British heritage.

chitects and designers.



He took great pleasure in the finer things in life, a good cigar, a nice glass of scotch, a picturesque building, a breathtaking landscape, and nice cars. He never took a beautiful thing for granted. To anyone who knew Stephen, he was always the sharpest guy in the room. He was never a man that was afraid to speak what he truly felt. His sarcasm and dry sense of humor combined with educated and witty responses would often leave one speechless or laughing.

In life he was an amazing father that tried to be everywhere at once, from being a boy scout leader, to coaching and sponsoring sports teams while his kids were young, all while running a successful business. As a father, it was important to him to instill values in his children of working hard, being a good person, having a big heart, and putting family first. It was never hard for him to tell you how proud he was of you and what you had become.

It was important for him to be a great man and he was. He will truly be missed by all.

The family will be holding a Celebration of Life ceremony on Dec. 2, from 3-6 p.m., at Calcutta's Restaurant at the Fox Run Golf Course in Ludlow, Vt. All are welcome at this Celebration of Life, but RSVPs would be greatly appreciated and can be sent to celebrate.s.plunkard@gmail.

Marion E. Tenney, 1931-2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -Marion Tenney passed away on Nov. 4, 2023, in Springfield. Marion was born on Sept. 8, 1931, in Grafton, Vt., to Horace and Rosie (Wyman) Whidden, one of nine children, and graduated from Rockpoint Girls Academy in May 1950. She married James W.G. Tenney on Aug. 12, 1950; together they had four children. Marion enjoyed hunting, fishing, and later in life playing bingo and being with her bingo friends. She is survived by one brother Frank (Joan) of Florida and Vermont: one sister Iverna of Chester; three daughters Joyce (Ed) of Athens, Susan (David) of Grafton, and Addie (Charles) of Athens. She is also survived by nine grandchildren, 13 greatgrandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Marion was predeceased by her husband James, her three brothers and three sisters, one son David, and one great-grandson Roger. Honoring her wishes, services will be private at Houghtonville Cemetery in Grafton.

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



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99 Summer St, Springfield, VT www.DavisMemorialChapel.net Owners Scott and Angela Page

per word thereafter. A black and white photo is an additional \$10. Email to editor@vermontjournal.com by Monday at 12

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CHURCH SERVICES: We run Church Services on an

alternating schedule. Subject to space. All services are posted

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information.

First Congregational Church of Walpole UCC, 15 Washington Sq.

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, or via Zoom. For Zoom links, please call 603-756-4075. For more information, go to www.walpolenhucc.org or www. facebook.com/FirstCongregationalWalpoleNH.

WESTMINSTER, VT.

First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 US Route 5

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in our historic church and on Zoom. For more information, call 802-518-0321, email us at westminstercongoline@gmail. com, or find us on Facebook at www.facebook. com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Westminster-Inc-1506511432980057.

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.

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DAN

calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

NOV. 16 -

LUDLOW, Vt. – There will be a free community lunch on Thursday, Nov. 16, at 12 p.m., at the Ludlow Community Center Cafeteria, 37 Main Street. This will be a full-course turkey dinner, with Bingo to follow the meal. All are welcome.

NOV. 18 -

S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. -The South Londonderry Free Library invites kids of all ages to a Thanksgiving workshop with Casey Junker Bailey on Saturday, Nov. 18, at 10:30 a.m. We'll be making crayon print wall hangings and hand bound thankful books for Thanksgiving festivities. The program is free of charge and, thanks to a generous grant from the Stratton Foundation, each family will receive the storybook "Thankful," to keep. For more information on our monthly programs for kids, contact the library at 802-824-3371.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. –
The Springfield United
Methodist Church is
having a bake sale during
the farmers market on
Saturday, Nov. 18, from
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. We look
forward to seeing you at
the Springfield UMC, at 10
Valley Street, Springfield,
Vt. Everyone is welcome.

WALPOLE, N.H. – On Saturday, Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., the First Congregational Church of Walpole on the Common will be revitalizing their much loved Mistletoe Mart. Among items offered will be candy, baked goods, a pet table, a make-andtake card station, jewelry, holiday gifts, coffee and donuts, and the always anticipated white elephant room. The expanded seating Holiday Luncheon is from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., with a choice of soups, a variety of sandwiches, and three dessert selections. Do some early Christmas shopping and enjoy a festive lunch.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. -The Charlestown Senior Center will host a Christmas Bazaar and Cookie Walk on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. There will be beautiful items for gifting, or just for you. Come for our famous Cookie Walk, and stay for soup and a sandwich. There is hot chocolate and also free coffee. Look around at our gifts and Christmas items. Take home baked goodies. We have many gift baskets for the raffle. We also have a hand made quilt to raffle off. Come take a chance. Winning tickets will be drawn on the day of the Bazaar at 11:30. a.m.

NOV. 22 -

WALPOLE, N.H. – The First Congregational Church of Walpole will be having their annual Pie Sale on Wednesday, Nov. 22, at the Walpole Post Office, starting at 9 a.m. Come get your Thanksgiving pies and other baked goods.

NOV. 23 -

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Toonerville Trail Turkey Trot 5k Run and Walk will be held on Nov. 23, starting at 9 a.m., at the Toonerville Trail. This event is a fundraiser for Meals on Wheels of Greater Springfield, and Springfield High School cross country. The registration fee is discounted if you register in advance. To register, go to www.runlikeardy.com/ races/toonerville-trailturkey-trot.

NOV. 24 -

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. -Join us for the annual post-Thanksgiving Community Contra Dance and Social at the Weathersfield Center Meetinghouse, 2579 Weathersfield Center Road, on Friday, Nov. 24, from 6:30-10 p.m. There is a beginner session at 6:40 p.m. Dancing will go from 7-9 p.m., with a potluck and snacks to follow. No special clothing, footwear, or experience is required. Bring your own beer, wine, seltzer, or whatever you fancy. Legendary caller Dudley Laufman will guide everyone through the dances, with live music provided by Naomi Morse.

DEC. 3 -

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -St. Mark's Church on Fairground Road will hold a free organ recital on Sunday, Dec. 3. We will accept donations to be given to Kurn Hattin Homes, for the children's Christmas gifts. Karen Engdahl from Springfield will perform a variety of musical renditions. Karen has lived in Springfield for 40 years, and has taught piano to many folks, and played the organ for 30 years at Baptist Church in North Springfield. Even though she is retired, she still enjoys playing for several events,

including senior day care.

Refreshments will be served following the program. Please join us for a festive, sing along afternoon.

SUNDAYS -

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

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

MONDAYS -

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

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. –
Overeaters Anonymous
12-Step Recovery Program
is Mondays, from 7-8 p.m.,
at Parks Place, 44 School
Street Extension in Bellows
Falls. The program is free.
For more information go to
www.oa.org.

WALPOLE, N.H. – Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in St. John's Parish Hall, Walpole.

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.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Free Gentle Hatha Yoga classes for ages 50 and over are held on Mondays from 10-11 a.m., at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street. All equipment is provided.

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.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -Senior Solutions is again sponsoring two Fall Prevention Tai Chi classes in the Great Hall, on Pearl Street in Springfield, on Tuesdays. The advanced class will meet from 9:30-10:30 a.m. The beginner class will meet from 10:40-11:40 a.m. When practiced regularly, Tai Chi not only helps to lower the risk of falling, but also improves concentration, leg strength, balance and coordination, reduces joint pain and stress, and builds a sense of belonging. For more information or to register, contact Sue Rubel at suerubl@ aol.com, or Sophia Blanchard at SBlanchard@ seniorsolutionsvt.org.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Free Chair Yoga classes for ages 50 and over are held on Tuesdays from 9-9:45 a.m., at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street. All equipment is provided.

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.

TYSON, Vt. – The Tyson Ladies Aid Library
Association meets the first Thursday of each month, typically at the Tyson Library. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. and meetings start at noon.

New potential members are always welcome.

Please call Janine Norman at 802-228-8764 for more information or to verify meeting location.

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

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.

CHESTER, Vt. – Alcoholics Anonymous meetings held every Friday at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church, located at 96 South Main Street in Chester. If you have a problem with alcohol, this is an understanding place to come to.

SATURDAYS -

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

DAILY -

REGION – If you want to drink that's your business, but if you want to stop, that's ours. Contact Alcoholics Anonymous at www.aavt.org or call your local hotline at 802-802-2288 and join a meeting. You are not alone.



Town of Plymouth Public Notice of Hearing Before the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment

A Public Hearing before the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Town of Plymouth will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Meeting Room located at 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, VT, to consider an application for the Conditional Use Permit for:

Applicant: Shipman, Henry Shipman, Cheryl

Location: 7867 Route 100 South Plymouth, VT 05056

Parcel id: 000929

Proposal: Remove old farmhouse and replace it with a

modern cabin
Application: #2023-30

TOWN OF GRAFTON Equipment Operator/Truck Driver

The Town of Grafton, Vermont is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time Equipment Operator/Truck Driver. Job duties include snow plowing, salting, and sanding in the winter months, and general highway maintenance and construction work in the other months. The employee must be able to perform general labor duties and minor repairs and maintenance to the highway equipment. Ability to communicate in a courteous manner to co-workers and the general public is required. Must have a valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

The Town of Grafton is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer and does offer an excellent benefits package.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Appy to: Morgan Wilbur, Town Administrator, PO Box 180, Grafton, VT 05146, or by email at townadmin@graftonvt.org

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD HELP WANTED TRANSFER STATION/RECYCLING FACILITY MANAGER

The Town of Springfield, VT is seeking an experienced individual to fill a full-time Transfer Station/Recycling Facility Manager position at the Transfer Station/Recycling Facility. This position is the first line supervisor over the operations and maintenance of the Transfer Station/Recycling Facility. The Facility Manager is responsible for the supervision and direction of all Town employees and volunteers at the Facility and manages daily operations of the Facility. The Facility Manager is responsible for the basic maintenance and safety of the Facility. Applicant must have proven ability to lead and supervise employees both by example and direction and possess the knowledge of materials, equipment and techniques commonly used at the Transfer Station/Recycling Facility. Applicant must have proven knowledge of general bookkeeping skills. Applicant must have a High School or (GED) Degree and/or experience which demonstrates the ability to carry out the duties of the job. Pay Grade 18, Pay Scale \$20.96 - \$22.67 per hour. This is an exempt position with an excellent benefits package. Apply at the Human Resources Office, 96 Main Street, (802) 885-2104 (toshr@vermontel. net). Applications and a complete job description can be found at springfieldvt.gov/jobs. The Town of Springfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF ANDOVER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Andover Select Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 27, 2023 for the purpose of receiving comment on the reclassification of Markham Mountain Road (TH #54), Israel Road (TH #45) & Marsh Cross Road (TH #33) currently Class 3 Town Roads. The site visits will begin at 3:00 p.m. at Markham Mountain Road. The hearing will convene immediately following the site visits at the Andover Town Office.

Dated at Andover, Vermont this 5th day of November, 2023 Jeanette Haight, Town Clerk

Town of Plymouth, Vermont Lister Position Available

The Town of Plymouth has an opening for a part-time Lister. Applicant must be a resident of the Town of Plymouth. This position is approximately 15-20 hours a week with a flexible schedule. Initially, there will be in-depth, outside, training provided to maximize Listers time with a review within six (6) months.

- A Lister plays an important role in the Town as it is the official who is charged with determining the value of real property in the Town on which the Select Board will set a tax rote.
- Listers will appraise all taxable property in the Town at the fair market value. The
 estimated fair market value is the price that the property will bring in the open market when
 offered for sale.
- Listers must set all real property in the Grand List at one percent of its listed value on April
 1 of the year of its appraisal.
- Listers will provide an annual abstract of the Grand List to the Town Clerk for forwarding to the Vermont Department of Taxes Division of Property Valuation and Review. Timely filing is necessary for the receipt of State Highway and Education Aid.
- Listers hold grievance hearings for tax payers who wish to grieve their appraised value.
 The decisions of the Listers may be appealed to the Board of Civil Authority, and the Listers may appear before the Board to defend the appraised values in question.

 The Listers sit as part of the Board of Tax Abatement to determine whether a taxpayer may
- have his or her taxes abated.

 Many of the Listers' job responsibilities have requirements concerning timing, notification.
- Many of the Listers' job responsibilities have requirements concerning timing, notification, and format, as well as substance, which must be strictly adhered to. Towns have lost appeals because procedural details were overlooked. You must carefully read, understand and follow the statutes.
- Assist the public by answering questions and explaining everything from the valuation process to homestead/house site values as well as the appeal process.
- Be able to unravel complex questions regarding mapping and parcel data.
 Data organization and filing from appeals, bills, purchase requests, etc.
- Building permit data entry and spreadsheets when the CAMA System AssessPro is in place.
 Be able to find a value for each parcel in ownership of multiple parcels.
- Correspondence
 Stay up to data by
- Stay up-to-date by attending classes, seminars and webinars.
 Knowledge of NEMRC, VTPie, word, and excel a plus, but not mandatory.

Please submit your resume and/or a completed application to the Plymouth Town Clerk's Office at 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, Vermont 05056 or email clerk@plymouthvt.org. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Plymouth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

classifieds

Featured pet: Sloan -



Meet Sloan today.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -There is no greater love then that from a coonhound, and Sloan is waiting to show you all the love. Sloan is a long-legged, 3-month old hound mix that is an active boy longing for a loving home, and we have reduced his adoption fee to make that happen even faster. We are open Wednesday-Saturday, from 12-4 p.m., for walk-ins, or call 802-885-3997 for more information.

Springfield Humane So-401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, Vt. 802-885-3997 www.spfldhumane.org

Weekly SUDOKII

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BUYING/ SELLING

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

FIREWOOD

Firewood for sale, 1 ton log load truck, 1 cord at 8-10 foot length, \$130 a cord. You cut and split. Delivered to Chester and Londonderry. 802-875-2646.

Free firewood, must have your own pickup truck and saw, Windham, Vt. 802-875-2646.

FOR SALE

PHOTO PROVIDED

MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. - Pella 3 wide casement fixed cntr. RO. 63 3/4 X 41 3/4. Interior Shaker style 4 panel doors 2X6 and 2X4

walls, French door, pocket door without framing. Call for RO sizes 802-259-2239.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - 2012 Bashan Edge Sport 150 Scooter, new tires, battery, air filter, lights all work, includes cover, lockable luggage, color yellow, odometer is 2,233. Fires right up. Asking \$900. Call 802-885-2370.

MERCURY MARQUI, 2004, mint condition. This car was owned and maintained by one owner. 113,000 miles, clean inside and out. \$4,500. Please call for photos 802-770-0569

GUNS WANTED

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

HELP WANTED

Chef wanted. Part-time, 4-5

days/month, includes menu planning, prep work, cooking, and serving local community meals. A program of Black River Good Neighbor Services, meals are offered twice monthly. Experience with large quantity cooking necessary, 20-24 hours/month. Competitive salary offered. Please contact Krey Kellington at 802-228-3663.

PT Manager for the Chester Andover Family Center Thrift Shop, 25-30 hours per week, \$25/ hour. Full job description at www. chester-andoverfamilycenter.org. Email resume to cafc302@gmail.

Looking for a reliable person to snowplow and take care of sidewalks. Snow Blowers on site to use. Easy plowing, apartment complex. Must be able to salt and sand. Salt provided for walkways. Willing to do a contract price or per plow. Readsboro, Vt. Call 802-388-6174.

Seeking a maintenance position for an apartment complex, full/ part time with a monthly salary along with hourly billables. Call 802-338-6174 for details.

RON PATCH

Buying Antiques

Photographs, Military, Clocks, Guns, Coins

802-374-0119

Bugbee Street, White River Junction, VT

Accepting Applications for 2 Bedroom Units

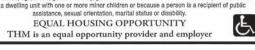
BROOKVIEW APARTMENTS

Utilities, snow, trash removal included. Laundry facility on premises for tenant use only.

USDA guidelines do apply

Call or Write to: **THM Property Management** 129 Lincoln Ave. Manchester Center, VT 05255 802-362-4663 or 802-367-5251 Hearing Impaired 1-800-545-1833 ext. 326

We do not discriminate against tenant applications on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, The control determined or the description of the de





ADAIR HEIGHTS APARTMENTS BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT

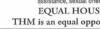
AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY TWO-BEDROOM UNIT

Utilities, Snow & Trash Removal Included Laundry Facility on Premises for Tenants Only USDA Guidelines Do Apply

Call or Write to: **THM Property Management** 129 Lincoln Ave. Manchester Center, VT 05255 802-367-5252 802-367-5251 Hearing Impaired 1-800-545-1833 ext. 326

We do not discriminate against tenant applications on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, age, creed, gender identity, gender related characteristic or because a person intend to occupy a dwelling unit with one or more minor children or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, sexual orientation, marital status or disability.

EOUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



THM is an equal opportunity provider and employer





yellow page BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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

Art Crafts Gifts

GALLERY AT THE VAULT

Vermont State Craft Center Art Crafts Gifts & Workshops 68 Main St., Springfield 802-885-7111 OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5 & Fri. til 7

Workshops, details/register http://galleryvault.org

Painting the Winter Landscape in Watercolor w/ Rob O'Brien 1/13/24

Perspective Drawing Basics w/Chris Mix (Zoom) 2/4/24 Pet Portraits w/ Mindy Fisher 2/24/24 Pine Needle Basket w/ Irene Dizes 3/8/24 & 3/9/24 Wire-wrapped Pendant w/ Thomas Alyxander 4/6/24

Flowers in Texture & Color w/ Julie Crabtree 4/27/24

Current Shows: Wonders of Fall by VAULT Artists, Open Wall- Autumn Color/Winter White (01/24/24 - TFN - 13)

Builders/Contractors

HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC

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We handle a variety of projects, from home repairs, restorations on up to full renovations, and new construction too. Our clients can expect professionalism, proficiency, customer care, and quality. Call or email today at 802-376-3275 edwin. mortensen@gmail.com.

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Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville. 802-558-5267. (11/15/23 - 13)

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Chiropractor

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Dr. Denise Natale 58 Parker Avenue, Proctorsville, VT 05153, 802-226-7977 Hours: Tuesday 1pm-6pm, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-6pm.

Masonry

DRC STONE DESIGN

Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 32 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or $stone art 49@gmail.com\ or\ visit\ drcs tonedesign.com.$

Okemo Valley TV

LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

- Yoh Theatre Players: Tech Week & Performance A Seed for the Future: Access to Farmland in VT
- Gov. Scott Weekly Press Conference
- Talk with Paula: Addiction Recovery
- West River Guy weather forecasts

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) (01/03/24 - TFN - 13)

arts & entertainment

FOLA performance of "Love Letters"———

LUDLOW, Vt. - On Saturday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m., Friends of Ludlow Auditorium (FOLA) will present the play "Love Letters," at the Heald Auditorium in Ludlow Town Hall. It will star Linda and George Thomson, who previously performed the production to a standing-room-only audience in Rutland.

"Love Letters" is a heartwarming and timeless play that has touched the hearts of audiences around the world for decades. Written by A.R. Gurney, this play is a poignant exploration of love, friendship, and the enduring power of the written word. "Love Letters" tells the story of Andrew Makepeace Ladd III and Melissa Gardner, two lifelong friends whose connection is primarily sustained through letters they write to each other. Through their correspondence, the audience gets an intimate glimpse into their lives, struggles, and the evolving nature of their relationship. This simple yet profound narrative resonates with people of all ages and backgrounds.

The themes explored in "Love Letters" are universal and enduring. Love, friendship, ambition, and the passage of time are topics that resonate with everyone. The play's ability to touch the audience's emotions and provoke self-reflection is a testament to its enduring relevance.

In our modern age, where communication has become increasingly digital and fleeting, "Love Letters" serves as a reminder of the beauty and power of the handwritten word. It reminds us of the depth and sincerity that can be conveyed through personal letters, which is something that can be easily forgotten in our fast-paced lives. "Love Letters" is a play that speaks to the heart and soul of its audience. It's a production that transcends time, and continues to captivate and move people with its beautiful, heartfelt narrative. Whether you're a seasoned theatergoer, or someone looking for a meaningful and emotional night out, attending a performance of "Love Letters" is an experience you won't want to miss. So, mark your calendars and embrace the opportunity to be swept away by this enduring and enchanting play.

The play is free and open to everyone. Donations are appreciated, and will be forwarded to the Michael I. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Disease in honor of Janet Pace, longtime secretary and founding member of FOLA, who recently passed away from Parkinson's. For information, call 802-855-8883 or visit www.fola.us.

Art show introduces transparent pricing -

Vt. - Canal Street Art Gallery presents the Art For All Seasonal Group Show, sharing the gifts from the many artists of this region and marking the gallery's seventh year. The show is curated to be reflective of what artists are currently creating, with a mission to make art appreciation accessi-

ble and affordable to all. The Art For All Seasonal Group Show opens Nov. 17, and is on view through Jan. 6. Join the gallery for Third Friday Gallery Night in historic downtown Bellows Falls, Vt., from 5-7 p.m., on Nov. 17, to celebrate and meet the artists. All gallery events are free and open to the public; for wheelchair accessibility, call 802-289-0104.

This year's show includes artwork by 23 artists: Penelope Arms, Taffi Brown, Jean Cannon, Spaulding Dunbar, Len Emery, Jaqueline Evans, Nancy Fitz-Rapalje, Lesley Heathcote, Medora Hebert, Deedee Jones, Theresa Karinski, Carol Keiser, Charlotte Lacoste, Patricia Magrosky, Jeanne Mc-Mahan, Pat McPike, MC Noyes, Phyllis Odessey, Phyllis Rosser, Roxy Rubel, Gretchen Seifert, and Marianne Shaugnessy.

The Art For All Seasonal Group Show offers affordable, easy to fall in love with artworks. This year, the show introduces transparent pricing. Each artist gives a price for the artwork, and a price for the frame. The gallery takes its commission percentage on the artwork price only, in an effort to help artists with rising framing costs. Identifying labels also show the amount the artist is paid from the sale. The use of transparent pricing for the Art For All Seasonal Group Show is to make the purchase of original art even more accessible, user friendly, and easily under-

This holiday season, Canal Street Art Gallery announces the reintroduction of its sliding commission scale by taking a lower percentage on artwork priced under \$200. This effort makes art more affordable, and directly supports the artists. The gallery also continues to consign new inventory from its 34 represented artists of unframed works for sale in its flat file.

Canal Street Art Gallery is located at 23 Canal Street, in historic downtown Bellows Falls, Vt., and is open Tuesday-Saturday, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information about the Art For All Seasonal Group Show or Canal Street Art Gallery, go to www.canalstreetartgallery. com, call Mike at 802-289-0104, or email artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com.

MSA 35th Anniversary Celebration

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. -On Saturday, Nov. 18, from 5-7 p.m., the community is invited to celebrate Main Street Arts' 35th anniversary. The event is free and open to the public.

A multimedia exhibit, titled "All Through the Years," will feature paintings, puppets, and a slideshow of historic photographs of Saxtons River and Main Street Arts (MSA). There will also be an interactive timeline encouraging visitors to add their own experiences.

In addition, there will be

PAINTING PAINTING

homemade sweet and savory finger foods, wine and beer, entertainment, and an opportunity to learn more about MSA and its current and future offerings.

The entertainment will feature performances by MSA's Children's Chorus, as well as veteran performers singing songs from shows such as "Kiss Me Kate" and "HMS Pinafore." They will be accompanied on piano by Maryann McArdle.

"This party will celebrate friendships, giving us the opportunity to reconnect

DERK BEARDMORE

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Excludes Holidays

beardmorepainting802@gmail.com

284 River Street • Springfield, VT • 802-885-2200

with the past and meet those new to the community," said Anne Manner-McLarty, a member of the party planning committee. "Come to share a story, revisit a fond memory, and experience how Main Street Arts fosters wellness and connection."

Main Street Arts began in 1988. Located in Saxtons River, it soon grew to be a beloved place where members of the community came together through the arts. Over the years, old and young people have gathered for parades, dinners, music, classes, and

MSA's mission is to be a catalyst for arts and community, fostering creative expression through artistic

American Legion

DINNER

Chicken

Hosted by the

Post #37

42 Rockingham St.

Bellows Falls, VT

802-463-9700

experiences, accessible to all. In recent months, the MSA board and new program director Ashley Storrow have been hard at work addressing building renovations, and introducing new free or low-cost programs for families, teens, adults, and older Vermonters.

MSA has fostered collaborations with Senior Solutions, Greater Falls Connections, Rockingham Free Public Library, the WNESU, and many performers, artists, and teachers from around Vermont.

Currently, MSA offers 14 programs in the areas of performing arts (music, dance, and theater), wellness, and community events.

For more information about the party or making a donation to support MSA, please visit www.mainstreetarts.org, or email info@mainstreetarts.org.

Argentinian duo Lerner and Moguilevsky to perform

PUTNEY, Vt. - Next Stage Arts presents Argentinian duo César Lerner and Marcello Moguilevsky's unique musical fusion of klezmer, tango, jazz, and South American folk music at Next Stage on Saturday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

"Lerner and Moguilevsky are masters of their craft, threading various cultural ideas together into something new and exciting," says Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts. "Bringing an artist to Putney from Argentina is an exciting opportunity. The thought that we're bringing artists

from around the world to our region feels positive for our community."

For over 40 years, César Lerner and Marcello Moguilevsky have been creating their unique musical fusion of klezmer, tango, jazz, and South American folk music.

César Lerner is an Argentinian composer, pianist, accordion player, and percussionist. Internationally renowned, he has composed the music for some of the most successful films in Argentina. For over 20 years, he has been directing "Drum Circle," a platform for inclusion through music in areas of social services, art, and education.

Marcelo Moguilevsky a multi-instrumentalist musician (clarinet, bass clarinet, soprano sax, recorder, harmonica, and piano), composer, singer, and teacher. Since 2011, he has been director of the music department of the National Fund and professor of musical language in fine arts of the Universidad Nacional de La Plata in Buenos Aires.

This performance is supported in part by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, and by AARP Vermont.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance at www. nextstagearts.org. There is also a livestream option. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar. For more information, call 802-387-0102 or visit the website above.



The MSA Children's Chorus rehearsing.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Early Bird Specials 11:45-9 Mon-Sat and 12-8 Sun Now Taking Reservations SHRIMP & JR. PRIME All Meals are Served with House Salad, Caesar Salad,

Weekly SUDOKU

or Veggie of the Day

by Linda Thistle



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

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love

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Corporate & Production Office: 8 High Street • Ludlow, VT 05149 802-228-3600

Journal, LLC is a member of the Vermont Press Association

holiday happeninas

Springfield Thanksgiving | BRGNS Holiday Gift Farmers Market

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – As you prepare for the holidays, be sure to stop in at the Thanksgiving Farmers Market on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the United Methodist Church in downtown Springfield, Vt.

Our vendors offer everything you need to make this an unforgettable holiday. For the table, choose fall vegetables, natural meats, freerange eggs, artisan breads, baked goods and pastries, fudge, holiday pies, and stunning floral arrange-

For your gift-giving, choose from authentic batik

clothing and accessories, beeswax candles, unique wooden gifts, fabric creations, home and holiday décor, honey, jams, jellies, pickles and relishes, handcrafted wooden kitchen accessories, unique gifts of art, and a full range of maple products.

Ludlow Streetscapes Holiday Wreath Fundraiser

LUDLOW, Vt. - Volunteers of Ludlow Streetscapes are excited to announce that they are having a Holiday Wreath Fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 18, in front of Brewfest Beverage Co. on Main Street in downtown Ludlow, starting at 10 a.m. The 16-inch wreaths will also be decorated with a bow, giving a nod to the winter greens hanging baskets the organization provides on the decorative lampposts that adorn the downtown corridor during the winter season. The sale will continue as weather permits and while supplies

Over 20 years ago, a group of volunteers worked together to plant a few trees in the village and town. As the scope of planting expanded, so did ideas and plans on how they could positively impact the community. 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of officially titling the group "Ludlow Streetscapes, Inc." By creating a nonprofit



Get your holiday wreath.

status to make donations tax deductible and holding community events to raise money for fixtures and decorative features, they felt it would ensure a look of vitality to the town and village and foster a sense of pride in its appearance.

Most known for the decorative hanging baskets and bridge hayracks, the group, which has at times struggled to maintain these commitments, is experiencing a spark of new energy. They hope to not only continue these decorations, but honor past accomplishments by revitalizing those works that are now in need of some attention. Funds raised by the wreaths will go towards Streetscapes' efforts of making Ludlow a beautiful place to live, work, and play.

Volunteers are also planning to have some refreshments available to warm you up. They invite everyone to stop by and learn more about the organization directly from folks that are giving their time and energy to its cause. A huge thank you to the William Raveis Vermont Properties Team for sponsoring this event. If you are not in need of a wreath or able to stop by on Nov. 18, but would like to learn more about Ludlow Streetscapes, please visit www.ludlowstreetscapes.

Program —

LUDLOW, Vt. - The holiday season is close at hand, and many folks look forward to planning time with family, friends, and celebrations. However, not all our neighbors are so lucky, and many do struggle to keep adequate food on the table, heat in the house, and holiday gifts for their children.

Black River Good Neighbor Services (BRGNS) in Ludlow helps those who need a helping hand each year with food and children's gifts through its Holiday Gift Program, reaching out to over 100 adults and children with holi-

food and gifts.

To participate in the Holiday Gift Program, application is required. If you or s o m e o n e you know needs sistance this season, please call

Krey at 802-228-3663. Applications are available at the thrift store, food shelf, and at www. brgn.org. The deadline for submitting an application is Friday, Nov. 24.



Give a give this holiday season.

STOCK PHOTO

BRGNS, located at 37B Main Street, Ludlow, serves the towns and villages of Ludlow, Cavendish, Proctorsville, Plymouth, Mount Holly, and Belmont.

2023 Generosity Fair

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. - Nonprofit organizations associated with the greater Rockinghgam area will be gathering on Saturday, Nov. 25, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., at the 24 Main Street Community Building in Saxtons River, to showcase their activities and provide the opportunity to turn your generosity into meaningful holiday gift-giving. The public is invited to attend to learn more about charitable work done near and far by those living in our area. The Gen-

erosity Fair has been organized by the 24 Main Street Community Building and Anne Manner-McLarty, a nonprofit consultant who now lives in Saxtons River.

Please join us and consider making donations in the name of your friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers. For each donation made, attendees will receive a gift card provided by the nonprofit organizations, and an ornament will be placed on the holiday tree inside the community building. Some organizations will have other items for sale, and benefits for different levels of giving. Light snacks and general holiday cheer will be shared with all.

Please remember to bring a checkbook or cash, as not all organizations accept credit cards in person or through online giving. You may want to attend the Generosity-TEA before the fair. Visit www. mainstreearts.org/comefor-tea.html for more infor-

Next Stage Holiday Show-

Hughes with their quartet, performing songs of the season at Next Stage on Friday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Kat Wright and Brett Hughes, two of Vermont's most beloved songbirds, join forces once again this December for their 10th annual Vermont holiday tour. The show, a true Christmas gift featuring Tyler Bolles (Swale, Rough Francis) on upright bass and multi-instrumentalist Will Seeders (Carling & Will, Caitlin Canty), offers songs of holiday heartbreak and holiday cheer. It is bejeweled with storytelling, originals, and beloved classics alike. It's guaranteed to warm your heart, pique your nostalgia, and create a loving container for those good old holiday blues that we all know so well.

If a holiday is an opportunity to journey within, Kat and Brett are the perfect lighthearted guides. For over a decade they have cultivated a show that ushers in the yuletide season, and has become a beloved tradition not to be missed for their growing audiences. Showcasing what each are known far and wide for - soaring harmonies, intimate tender moments, timeless songwriting and arranging, and expert showmanship - it's easy to see how, for almost a decade, the Kat and Brett Holiday Fête has had audiences singing along, throwing their heads back in knowing laughter, and of course wiping away a sentimental tear or two.

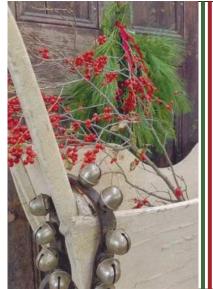
Next Stage production director Barry Stockwell notes that "an incredibly versatile and gifted singer, Kat performs with her eight-piece soul band, her rootsy, funky trio, her folk duo with Brett, and the Vermont Symphony Orchestra - we're thrilled to bring

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage her back to Putney for one Arts and Twilight Music of just a handful of annual present singer-songwritholiday shows that she's doers Kat Wright and Brett ing with her quartet, featuring equally talented singersongwriter Brett Hughes."

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance. There is also a livestream option. Advance tickets are available at www.nextstagearts. org. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar. For more information, call 802-387-0102 or visit the website above.







Ninth Stone House Holiday Open House

November 18 & 19, 2023 10 am - 5 pm

Stone House Antique Center 557 VT Route 103 South, Chester, VT 802-875-4477 - shac@vermontel.net Facebook.com/StoneHouseAntiqueCenter

Get an early start to your Holiday Season at our ninth "Stone House Holiday" Open House.

Join us Saturday, November 18th and Sunday, November 19th for a festive start to the season!

Light Refreshments will be served. See you there!



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