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DECEMBER 30, 2020 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 52



Santa cruised down on his motorcycle to pick Jack up and bring him back to the North Pole. Happy New Year, Jack!

2020 End of the Year Review

Jan. 22 – Moose rescued from trestle bridge in Cavendish

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Thank you to Vermont Fish & Wildlife, Vermont game wardens, wildlife biologists, Springfield Fire Department, Vermont Rail System, and crewmembers who helped save a moose from the train tracks next to Route 103 in Cavendish Wednesday morning, Jan. 22. The moose was carefully tranquilized, lifted from the tracks with a boom truck, and transported to a safe location.

March 6 – Chester sends David Pisha into retirement with luncheon

CHESTER, Vt. – The town of Chester honored David Pisha with an open house and luncheon to mark his retirement at the Chester Town Hall Friday, March 6, which was also the final day of his tenure.
By Sharon Huntley, The Vermont Journal

March 15 – Gov. Scott orders closure of Vermont schools in response to Covid-19 pandemic

April 3 – Vermont banks implement the Paycheck Protection Program for business impacted by Covid-19

April 3 – Black River Independent School Committee announces pilot program

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Independent School revised and strengthened their strategic plan to open a privately funded pilot program in June 2020 serving 14 students with the eventual goal of opening a publicly funded independent school.

April 14 – Gov. Scott appoints Kelley Tully to fill Windham-3 House vacancy
MONTPELIER, Vt. – Gov. Phil Scott announced his appointment of Kelley Tully, Democrat, to fill the Wind-

ham-3 House District vacancy. Tully replaced former Representative Matthew Trieber (D-Rockingham) who resigned in February.

May 22 – The 158th Fighter Wing honors Covid-19 responders with flyover

REGION – On Friday, May 22, 2020, the 158th Fighter Wing of the Vermont Air National Guard honored Vermont's frontline Covid-19 responders and essential workers with a flyover. "Our healthcare professionals, emergency responders, and essential workers have served on the frontlines of this pandemic, putting the health and safety of their neighbors above their own and I cannot thank them enough for their commitment and service," said Gov. Phil Scott.

May 22 – Lisai's transitions to Smitty's Chester Market
CHESTER, Vt. – Lonnie Li-

sai and his wife Obe retired as of May 22, 2020, after almost 30 years of running the store. The community of Chester welcomed Smitty's Chester Market in the location of longtime Lisai's Chester Market.
By Shawntae Webb, The Vermont Journal

June 13 – Black River High School graduation triumphs with three-part event

LUDLOW, Vt. – The 25 graduates of the Black River High School Class of 2020, and the last graduating class of BRHS, celebrated their graduation with a three-part event that included a commencement address by Sen. Bernie Sanders, a celebratory car parade through downtown Ludlow, and an informal car rally with parents and community members in the Blue Lot at Okemo.

By Sharon Huntley, The Vermont Journal

Aug. 1 – Gov. Phil Scott re-

quired all Vermonters to wear facemasks outside their households

Aug. 13 – Chester officials break ground on the Emergency Services Building

CHESTER, Vt. – A small group gathered at the future site of the Emergency Services Building in Chester Thursday, Aug. 13 for a ground-breaking ceremony to kick off the building project on Pleasant Street that is the culmination of years of planning and preparation in Chester. The 15,000-square-foot building will house the police and ambulance departments, including personnel and equipment.

By Sharon Huntley, The Vermont Journal

Sept. 21 – Robert N. Gilmore Footbridge dedication honors three decades of service

LUDLOW, Vt. – The former Lamere Square Walking Bridge was officially dedicated

in memory of Robert Gilmore and renamed the Robert N. Gilmore Footbridge Monday, Sept. 21 in front of a gathering of Ludlow Village Trustees, Selectboard, town officials, and family and friends.
By Sharon Huntley, The Vermont Journal

Dec. 8 – Local bladesmith wins History Channel's "Forged In Fire" competition

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bladesmith Kyle Farace appeared on a television episode of the History Channel's "Forged In Fire." Farace, who had previously watched every episode of the show studying techniques and has only been refining his craft for less than two years, came out on top and took home the prize!
By Joe Milliken, The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

Dec. 10 – SMCS and Springfield Hospital emerged from Chapter 11



Members of the United Church of Ludlow hung hearts around town. PHOTO PROVIDED



Black River High School Class of 2020, the last graduating class. PHOTO BY SHARON HUNTLEY



Ludlow Rec Dept. hosted a creative scarecrows contest in Ludlow. PHOTO PROVIDED

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DEADLINES

The deadline for all content is **Thur, Dec. 31** for the **January 06** publication.

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Flooding caused road closure, town-wide damage

BY SHARON HUNTLEY
The Vermont Journal

CAVENDISH, Vt. – A week after Cavendish received nearly four feet of snow, warm temperatures and nearly two inches of rain over a two-day period resulted in Christmas Day flooding throughout Cavendish and Proctorsville, the worst of which caused the closure of Cavendish Gulf Road for two days.

According to Cavendish Town Manager Brendan McNamara, nearly every road throughout Cavendish and Proctorsville experienced some kind of water damage ranging from shoulders washing out to the extensive flooding and complete road washout on Cavendish Gulf Road.



Christmas day flooding in Cavendish causes damage. PHOTO BY SHARON HUNTLEY

Proctorsville Fire Department also helped move snow and clear drains along Route 131 to prevent damage from accumulating water. McNamara praised the Cav-

endish road crew for their tireless dedication throughout the last several weeks. “From four feet of snow to this flooding event, they have been working basically non-stop. Honestly, I’m at a loss for words...I am beyond grateful for their dedication to the town.”

Cavendish Gulf Road is now completely restored and has been reopened since Sunday, Dec. 27.

T&G Board to finalize fiscal year 2022 budget

REGION – The Taconic & Green Regional School Board meets online to complete its work on its proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. The spending level approved at this meeting will be submitted to the residents of the nine communities served by the T&G for a final vote Tuesday, March 2, 2021. The T&G FY22 Budget covers education spending for the year of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The public is invited to

attend the January T&G Board meeting online. The agenda, background materials, and a link to internet access can be found at www.BRSU.org. You can obtain this information by clicking on the “Events” quick links button on the BRSU homepage. Once on the Events page, select the T&G Meeting from the Calendar. This will give you a link to the Agenda as well as the Zoom meeting link information. T&G is one of three dis-

tricts administered by the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union. The Mettawee School District and Winhall School District complete the jurisdiction of the BRSU. T&G operates five schools and educates K-8 students residing in Danby, Dorset, Landgrove, Londonderry, Manchester, Mt. Tabor, Peru, Sunderland, and Weston. T&G also funds school choice tuition for secondary education.

GMUSD board decides to hold annual meeting in person

BY SHARON HUNTLEY
The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – During a special meeting Monday, Dec. 28, the Green Mountain Unified School District Board determined that they would hold their upcoming annual meeting in person at the Green Mountain High School auditorium, adhering to all Covid-19 health and safety protocols including social distancing and mandatory mask usage.

There were two possible options to consider: holding the meeting in person, which is their standard format; or having the voting on the various articles done via Australian ballot. The Vermont Agency of Education has determined that holding the meeting via Zoom was not an option. During the GMUSD annual meeting, the board votes

on articles to determine such housekeeping items as the annual “honorarium” or stipend for board members, the treasurer and the school district clerk, as well as electing members to those positions.

Board member Kate Lamphere was the strongest voice in opposition to an in-person meeting citing concerns for disenfranchising citizens from participating by posing a health risk due to the pandemic.

Other board members, acknowledging that there are typically few citizen participants at the annual meeting, felt that the safety measures that would be put into place, such as structured social distancing, mandatory mask usage, and additional cleaning of the auditorium, would be sufficient to mitigate health risks.

Several board members also agreed with TRSU Superintendent Lauren Fierman who said that the process and the ques-

tions being decided would be easier to understand in person and eliminate confusion from reading them on a ballot.

Learning about additional steps that would be required for tabulating the votes, outlined by Chester Town Manager Julie Hance, also helped sway the board’s decision.

The majority of board members voted to hold the meeting in person with Kate Lamphere being the lone “nay” vote.

Their decision on their annual meeting format does not impact voting for the upcoming school budget. The vote on the school budget and the school board directors has been, and will continue to be, voted on by Australian ballot following town meeting. There will also be an informational meeting on the budget, likely via Zoom, prior to the budget vote.

The next GMUSD board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 14 at 6 p.m.

The Chester-Andover Family Center thanks the community

CHESTER, Vt. – What does it take to provide over 100 households with supplemental food during the holiday season? For the Chester-Andover Family Center Food Shelf, it takes a community effort. Throughout the pandemic, since early March and leading up to the holiday season, the family center has been the recipient of many donations. A week has not gone by without a donation check or food items being dropped off at the center. We are very grateful for the generosity of so many who have helped keep the CAFC Food Shelf open and fully stocked with shelf stable and fresh food throughout these challenging times. We thank you for your monetary and food donations.

According to Hunger Free Vermont, in February 2020, prior to the pandemic, one in 10 Vermonters experienced hunger or food insecurity. By the end of March, that increased to one in three. Due to the pandemic response and CARES funding, Vermont saw a small but significant decrease in June 2020 to one in four Vermonters experiencing hunger or food insecurity. Food shelves throughout Vermont work tirelessly to address food insecurity by providing access to nutritious food.

While the broader mission of the Chester-Andover Family Center is to make a difference in our community by providing resources for financial assistance, supplemental, nutritional food, affordable clothing and household goods, a priority during



Stephanie Baker and Rich Woods of the Andover Mountaineer Snowriders deliver the proceeds of their food drive to the Chester-Andover Family Center Food Shelf.

PHOTO PROVIDED

the pandemic has been to provide reliable, consistent access to fresh food for our Food Shelf recipients.

In November and December, food drives sponsored by Chester Helping Hands, Andover Mountaineer Snow Riders, and Katsiroubous Produce donated over 1,000 pounds of shelf stable food items. Chester Helping Hands also donated 239 pounds of Christmas hams. Katsiroubous Produce donated over 2,000 pounds of fresh produce and set up a link to their website that helps friends of the Family Center donate produce boxes every week. Over 500 pounds of produce have been donated through the Katsiroubous website since November. Sometimes, it is simply a group of concerned citizens who want to make a difference. A group in Windham coordinated by Pat McLain conducted a food drive for us and delivered over 130 pounds of shelf stable food.

These food drives take a group effort, and we are grateful to the community volunteers who organize them. Thank you.

We also want to recognize and thank the Vermont Foodbank. As a VFB Network partner, the CAFC has received hundreds of pounds of fresh food at no or minimal cost to the Family Center. In addition to food, we are also grateful for their technical assistance and grant opportunities related to Covid-19.

Shaw’s in Springfield, through their Turkey Bucks Program, donated 24 turkey boxes at Thanksgiving. This donation helped us meet the goals of our Turkey Drive. We thank all who contributed to this community effort sponsored by Shaw’s.

This is much to be thankful for. The board of the Chester-Andover Family Center looks forward to a pandemic-free new year as we continue our work in support of those in our community who need our help. Thank you for being our partner in this work.

Please tell friends and family about our Food Shelf and Financial Assistance Programs. If you or someone you know needs our help, they can call us at 802-875-3236 and leave a message. A Family Center volunteer will return their call. You can also find out more about the CAFC at our website, www.chester-andoverfamily-center.org.



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LOCAL HISTORY

BY RON PATCH

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

He can be reached at 802-374-0119 or email knotz69@gmail.com

Eugene R. Wiggins fire

A couple weeks ago, I wrote about the 1888 fire that destroyed the Central Hotel and Chester Drug Store. In the accompanying photo I drew your attention to Orrick Ball's livery stable. I pointed out its classic New England rooflines.

Both the Central and drug store were rebuilt. But what became of the livery stable? In the photo with this article you can see the replacement as a large barn. The photo was taken from Cobleigh Field in 1923.

The exact date this barn was built eludes me for now. But it must have been rebuilt within a year of the 1888 fire. I don't remember E.R. Wiggins or the fire so I asked around.

John Arrison

John contacted me after reading the 1888 article. John remembers the E.R. Wiggins building occupying the same footprint as Orrick Ball's livery.

John remembered the Wiggins fire. He was at the carnival at the Catholic Church the day of the fire. John was on the Ferris wheel when he noticed smoke uptown. From this vantage you could see much of the village. John went uptown to find E.R. Wiggins ablaze. John said many people left the carnival to witness the fire.

Ted Spaulding

Ted remembers when Wiggins was a building supply store and cabinet shop. They carried supplies builders or homeowners might need, and built custom kitchen cabinets, counters etc. Ted was unsure of the year of the fire but knew it was in the 1950s.

Milan Cook

I called Milan to see if he remembered the fire. He did but wasn't sure of the year.



Ed Spaulding at Cobleigh Field with Yo-Semite hand-pumper. Wiggins barn can be seen on the right circa 1923.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY TED SPAULDING

We thought best to say the early 1950s. Some will remember Herbie Randall. Herbie lived where Milan lives today. Herbie worked as a cabinetmaker for Wiggins building custom kitchen cabinets etc. After the fire, Herbie worked at Wiggins in Springfield.

The photo

The second building on left background is the Masonic Lodge. The lodge was built in 1922 by E.R. Wiggins. To the right is the Chester Drug Store. This is the building we have today that replaced the drug store lost in the 1888 fire.

Further to the right, you can see the gable end of the Fullerton Hotel. Behind the drug store you can see the lumber shed. At ground level where the barn meets the lumber shed, right in the corner, is a small, attached building. This is the outhouse. The barn has a large cupola on one end. It's a sizeable structure of two stories.

Ed Spaulding

Ed Spaulding was Ted's father. Ed sits on our Yo-Semite Hunneman hand-pumper. I can make out part of the lettering on the tank of the pumper, "SEMITITE." The leather fire buckets can be seen hanging on the engine. The Spaulding horses, Chub and Ted, are trimmed out with Spaulding harnesses. Every year a firemen's parade with both fire companies participating was held in town. They played baseball after the parade and held a dance at Town Hall

that evening.

In our Yo-Semite ledger I see Ed became a fireman at Yosemite in 1916. From Ted's substantial donations of Chester artifacts are numerous Yo-Semite photos including the photo with this article. We have Ed's pocket journals he kept when he was a fireman at Yosemite. We have a 1930s to 1940s Yo-Semite ledger also from Ted. Here more recent fires are recorded.

Again from Ted are many artifacts from Earl Horton. Earl lived in the house across the street from Smitty's Chester Market. Earl was the chief at Yosemite for many years.

This coming spring we will publish our book, "History of Chester's Fire Departments." This will be a comprehensive book of both Yo-Semite, and the School Street fire departments. We have a tremendous amount of fire artifacts and histories to select from. The above story will be included. If I can find the date of this fire, I'll search local newspapers for their article and include that as well.

Instead of an old saying, I offer a ditty I found in a 1925 Carpenter's Store News: "Carpenter's Store News May 1925

"AT A SUMMER HOTEL
"I tell you that I won't have this room," protested the old lady to the bell boy who was conducting her. "I ain't goin' to pay my good money for a pig-sty with a measly little foldin' bed in it. If you think that jest because I'm from the country--"

"Profoundly disgusted, the boy cut her short. 'Get in mum. Get in. This ain't your room. This is the elevator.'"

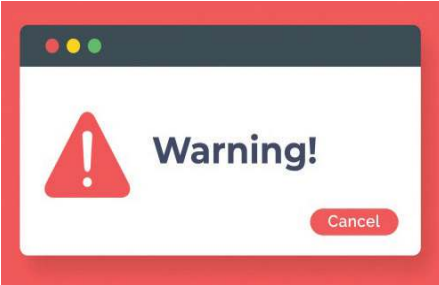
AARP Fraud Watch Network: Coping with barrage of calls and emails —

REGION – Scammers have a single appearing objective – making money. Spending money or wasting time is not part of the game plan. Technology works into their plan quite nicely. The barrage of emails and phone calls you've been receiving is testimony to this reality. Computers make thousands of calls or send thousands of emails at "virtually" no cost to the criminal. Here are some helpful tips on how to cope with this flood.

Unfamiliar calls appearing on Caller ID are best left unanswered. Let the call go to voicemail unless the number on caller ID is one you recognize. Either monitor the call or check the message, if one is left. If you answer the phone, hang up as soon as it's clearly a scam or robocall. The new breed of scam calls uses technology that provides verbal response recognition. The automated call uses a natural voice that asks you a question and responds to your comment.

The voice asks, "Would you like to save money on your car insurance?" If you respond, "Yes," the call is transferred to a "live" person. If you say "No," the voice may say, "Please press 2 to be placed on our do not call list." Any other responses may generate "Please repeat. I didn't quite get that." Just hang up! Never press any number when prompted, even one to be placed on a do not call list. That only confirms that your number is active. If you have registered for Do Not Call and still are receiving these calls, the callers are criminals.

Beware of email fraud and deception. Particularly, be aware of the Dirty Dozen attention getters: Congratulations, You Won, Surprise, Reward, Thank You, Free, Welcome, Attention, Abuse, Survey, Claim, Confirmation, Open Immediately. I tracked "junk" email collecting 12,000 messages since Sept. 1, 2020. The word Confirma-



Watch out for scam emails and phone calls. STOCK PHOTO

tion appears 279 times; Congratulations 620 times. I have 260 emails from Home Depot, many of which offer a \$500 reward. My list includes being the lucky winner of a PlayStation 5 over 200 times. Verizon, Chase Bank, Kroger, Lowes, Bank of America notified me of "valued customer" rewards several dozen times but I have never shopped or held an account with any. Get the picture? Those awards, gifts, rewards, and thank you notes are either phishing expeditions to collect personal information or outright scams. Responding to any will be an invitation to more.

Unless you are now turning 65 years of age, the enrollment period for Medicare has passed. I responded more than a dozen times over the last three weeks to people asking if Medicare Advantage Plans were scams. The answer is no, but the high-pressure sales pitches did not tell everything, including the actual cost of the plans. New subscribers did not conduct thorough investigations and discovered that the "free" benefits came at a higher expense than anticipated. Most shoppers responded to advertising from one specific company

and never engaged in comparison shopping. Think of this in the same way you would when shopping for a car. Do you comparison shop checking the features offered by different manufacturers or do you only shop one brand without really seeing what is avail-

able in the marketplace? Sadly, many who switched to new coverages only shopped one provider. Again, these plans are not scams; they are marketed insurance policies governed by government regulation and oversight.

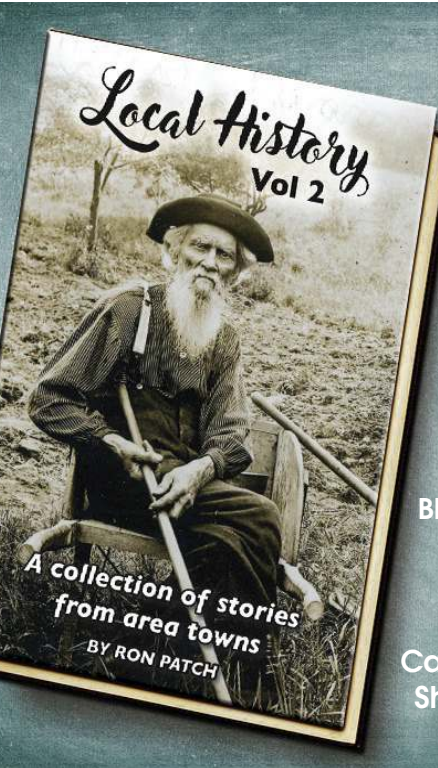
So, what do you do if today you feel you rushed to purchase a plan you now feel is not for you? Disenrollment can take place between Jan. 1 and March 31; you can switch Advantage plans or return to "original" Medicare and, if you wish, purchase supplemental coverage. You cannot move from original Medicare to an Advantage Plan, buy a Part D prescription drug plan, or change Part D plans. Before making any changes, do the research by visiting the Medicare website, www.medicare.gov. You can also contact the government-funded Senior Medicare Patrol in your state by visiting their website, www.smpresource.org.

Elliott Greenblott is a retired educator and coordinator of the AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Network. He hosts a CATV program, Mr. Scammer, distributed by GNAT-TV in Sunderland, Vt.



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Weathersfield names its streams

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. – The Weathersfield Conservation Commission is concluding its project of petitioning town, state, and federal officials for adoption of its proposed town stream and other waterway names. The purpose is to identify Weathersfield streams and standardize names to facilitate interagency planning for flood protection, infrastructure proj-

ects, emergency response, hazard mitigation, and the general use by all map users for work or pleasure.

A survey of many contemporary and historical maps and atlases found that very few streams are named, and in written histories, multiple names are sometimes used for the same stream. The Conservation Commission is fortunate that histori-

an Ernest Butterfield on his 1940 Map of Weathersfield named most streams, and the Commission has adopted most of these names as the starting point of this process.

The Commission is soliciting the help of all Weathersfield residents to bring to its attention any names they know of. Please contact any Commission member or Jeff Pelton at 802-885-9517.



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obituary/services

OPINION

William R. Taft, 1938-2020

WINDSOR, Vt. – William R. Taft, 82, a longtime resident of Windsor, passed away Monday, Dec. 21, 2020 at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon.

He was born Dec. 18, 1938, in Springfield, Vt., to the late Clifford and Dorothy (Martin) Taft. William worked for 46 years at Cone-Blanchard as a supervisor where he met the love of his life, Charlotte Dow, and they were married in Brownsville in February of 1973. Together they raised six children.

William loved the outdoors and nature, spending many days hunting, fishing, and camping with his friends and family. He took great pride in his honeybee hives and was always willing to share his knowledge of the craft with those willing and eager to learn through mentoring and teaching seminars through the Vermont Bee Keeper's Association. In the summers, they would spend time at Ten Acre Campground on Lake Champlain enjoying time with his friends and fishing for salmon and lake trout. His favorite time of the year was fall, when it was time to harvest the summer's honey and hunt turkey and deer. He would spend time carefully preparing the game he harvested to make sure it was done right.

He was predeceased by his parents; wife Charlotte Taft; two brothers Clifford and Curtis Taft; and his special dogs JR,



William R. Taft, 1938-2020. PHOTO PROVIDED

Max, and Archy. He is survived by two sons David Taft and James Taft and his wife Leesa, all of Windsor; four daughters Melany Peters of Bonneau, S.C., Shari Taft of Windsor, Kim Paquette and her husband Mike of Brunswick Springs, Vt., and Kathy Smith of Windsor; two siblings Robert Taft and Betty Knight of Florida; his Brittany Spaniel George; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

A graveside service for both William and Charlotte will be held in the spring of 2021 in the Ascutney Cemetery in Windsor. Condolences may be expressed to Williams family in an online guest book at www.knightfuneralhomes.com.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Windsor Coon Club, 2126 Hunthill Rd., Windsor, VT 05089.

ASCUTNEY, VT.

Vision of Light Church of Spiritualism and Healing, P.O. Box 133, Windsor

The Sunday service is at 10 a.m. with Lay Pastor Dawn Hancy via Zoom. Sign up for the Vision of Light newsletter and Zoom links on Facebook @VOLChurch.

CAVENDISH, VT.

Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St.

Sunday services are 10 a.m. online or in person. If you attend in-person, please wear a mask and practice physical distancing. Extra masks are available. Online services are on Facebook at 10 a.m. Go to www.facebook.com/Cavendish-Baptist-Church-258814894244302. More at www.CavendishBaptist.com or call 802-226-7131.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

North Charlestown United Methodist Church, 471 River Rd.

Go to www.facebook.com/UMCOofNorthCharlestown for daily prayers and more information.

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, 99 Sullivan St., Claremont, N.H.

Weekday services are available online Wednesday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 5 p.m. If you plan on attending Sunday's 9:30 a.m. service, please email the church ahead of time as there is limited attendance. For more information, go to www.hroc.org.

CHESTER, VT.

Chester Baptist Church, 162 Main St.

Sermons are available live Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on the streaming page at www.chesterbaptist.org.

GRAFTON, VT.

Grafton Community Church, 55 Main St.

Worship begins Sunday at 10 a.m. Masks must be worn in the sanctuary and maintain a safe distance from others. View sermons on Zoom. For more information, go to www.graftoncommunitychurch.org or call 802-843-2346.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

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

Worship service is at 9:30 a.m. online only. Fill out a form at

www.2ndcongregationalchurchvt.org to be sent a link to the live stream.

LUDLOW, VT.

Annunciation Catholic Church, Corner of Depot and High St.

Church has reopened for Sunday and weekday masses: Saturday at 4:30 p.m., Sundays at 8 a.m., and 10 a.m. For more information, go to www.okemovalleycatholicparishes.com or call 802-228-3451.

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

Sunday school and service at 11 a.m. are in person. Sunday evening worship is canceled. Mid-week prayer will continue over Zoom. For more information about social distancing guidelines, go to www.LudlowBaptist.org or call Pastor Jerry Scheumann at 802-228-7600.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Church of Christ, Rt. 11, 972 Chester Rd.

Sunday services are streamed online at 10 a.m. For more information, go to Facebook @SpringfieldVTChurchofChrist.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 90 Park St.

Sunday Liturgy has resumed at 9:30 a.m. and Saturday vespers at 5 p.m. Please note, the church is limited to 50 participants. For more information, call 802-885-2615.

Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Rd.

Sunday services have resumed at 10 a.m. with Rev. Mellen Kennedy via Zoom. For more information, go to www.uuspringfieldvt.org.

WALPOLE, N.H.

Walpole Unitarian Church, corner of Union and Main St.

Sunday Service begins at 10 a.m. via Zoom. For links and updates, go to www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org.

WESTMINSTER, VT.


The First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 US Rt. 5

Sunday services are online. For more information, call 802-772-4148, or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Westminster-Inc-1506511432980057.

All services listed online at www.vermontjournal.com.

OBITUARIES:

A basic 200-word obituary is \$50, and it is \$0.20 per word thereafter. A printed black and white photo is an additional \$10. Please email submissions to editor@vermontjournal.com by Monday at 12 p.m. for that weeks Wednesday edition.



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to coordinate our vaccination efforts in accordance with state of Vermont and Centers of Disease Control guidelines and will make every attempt to keep our communities informed as designated groups are identified for vaccine eligibility.

We also want to express our sincere appreciation to the board members and especially to our staff who have shown great determination and perseverance throughout these challenging times. Their dedication to this organization and to the communities we serve has been unwavering and provides great testimony to the character of our local communities.

We will close this holiday message with a sincere thank you to

the communities we serve. We are honored to be entrusted with serving your healthcare needs. As a new day begins for SMCS and Springfield Hospital, we renew our commitment to you that we will do everything possible to have both organizations fulfill their promise as a place "Where People Come First."

Happy Holidays,
Joshua Dufresne, MBA
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Springfield Medical Care Systems

Michael Halstead, MBA
Interim Chief Executive Officer
Springfield Hospital

CHURCH SERVICES: We are currently running Social Distancing Church Services on an alternating schedule. Subject to space. All services are posted online at www.VermontJournal.com.

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

Publisher, Robert Miller
publisher@vermontjournal.com

Assistant Publisher / Ad Designer, Shawntae Webb
ads@vermontjournal.com

Editor, Amanda Wedegis
editor@vermontjournal.com

Calendar Events / Staff Writer, Sharon Huntley
calendar@vermontjournal.com

Billing Department, Sharon Huntley
billing@vermontjournal.com

Corporate & Production Office:
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Office: 802-228-3600 • Fax: 802-228-3464

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "— Lang Syne"
5 Steed stopper
9 Plead
12 Dandling site
13 Reactions to pyrotechnics
14 Preceding
15 Mid-month date
16 Automaker
17 Ransom Eli —
17 Have a bug
18 Small winning margin
19 Go blue?
20 Air for a pair
21 "How I Met Your Mother" net
23 Census stat
25 Off-course
28 Auction, often
32 Use crib notes
33 Rechargeable battery
34 Grow canines
36 Tourist attractions
37 Moray or conger
38 Coop occupant
39 Witty one
42 Clay, now
44 "Super-food" berry
48 Tramcar contents

DOWN

- 1 Related
2 Loosen
3 Dregs
4 Treated with irreverence
5 "Give a hoot, don't pollute"

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- 49 Teeny bit
50 So
51 Meadow
52 Expression
53 Deserve
54 Spigot
55 Whirlpool
56 "Phooey!"

owl

- 6 Sacred
7 "Heavens to Murgatroyd!"
8 Donkey
9 Suitor
10 One of HOMES
11 Money
20 Like some drivers or hitters
22 Wash
24 Aladdin's ally
25 Performance
26 The girl
27 Shirt shape
29 Interlaken

interjection

- 30 Long. crosser
31 Mag. staffers
35 Very happy
36 Vibrate abnormally
39 Filly's brother
40 Vicinity
41 Harvest
43 Byron or Tennyson
45 Burn somewhat
46 Atmosphere
47 "— It Romantic?"
49 Chowd down

arts & entertainment

A Celebration of Animation —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — On Thursday, Jan. 29, 2021 at 6 p.m., join Springfield Town Library virtually for “A Celebration of Animation: The 100 Greatest Cartoon Characters in Television History.”

Award-winning author and pop culture historian Martin Gitlin hosts this fun and enlightening presentation for all ages based on his book, “A Celebration of Animation: The 100 Greatest Cartoon Characters in Television History.”

He is the only author to actually rank the greatest cartoon characters ever, such as Popeye, Bugs Bunny, Mickey Mouse, Scooby-Doo, Snoopy, and SpongeBob SquarePants.

He will show funny cartoon snippets of characters from the past century, play trivia with patrons, discuss the criteria he used to rank the best of the best, and speak about their impact on American pop culture. This program is fun for everyone! Marty will have autographed

and personalized copies of his book available online for purchase after the event.

This event is free and will be a Zoom presentation. Thank you to the town of Springfield for sponsoring this event.

Sign up is required at www.eventbrite.com/e/a-celebration-of-animation-the-100-greatest-cartoon-characters-tickets-126853001743. For more information, contact Tracey Craft at 802-885-3108.

Circus classes open for winter enrollment

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — The New England Center for Circus Arts, an internationally recognized circus school located in Brattleboro, Vt., is offering in-person and online classes in a winter session starting Jan. 4. NECCA suspended its recreational and professional trainings in the spring when Covid-19 first hit, but after implementing strict distancing and cleaning policies, including mask wearing at all times, NECCA has been successfully running classes throughout the fall.

Classes being offered starting Jan. 4, 2021 include online options for at-home fitness and acrobatic training as well as in-person classes. Stretching and strengthening for beginners wanting to learn from professional athlete circus coaches

have been popular for attendees Zooming in from around the world, as well as handstand classes for aspiring professionals joining from living rooms everywhere and Parent and Tots classes to enliven a weekday morning.

In-person options at the trapezium in Brattleboro include youth classes in aerials, trampoline, and acrobatics as well as adult classes in many specialties including trapeze, handstands, stretching, fitness, and more. Beginners are always welcome, and there are options for all levels of skills and age.

The trapezium, built in 2017, has large open spaces for distancing during classes. The facility added Merv-13 rated filters to the HVAC system, a new outdoor porch for water breaks, as well as thorough



Join NECCA this winter. PHOTO PROVIDED

cleaning procedures to ensure the safety of anyone at NECCA.

Visit the school's website for schedule and registration. Winter session begins Jan. 4 and gift certificates are available online for holiday stocking stuffers and everyday cheer. For more information, go to www.necenterforcircusarts.org or call 802-254-9780.

Local siblings win annual Halloween Ghost Story contest —

CAVENDISH, Vt. — Saugus.net has announced the winners for its 23rd annual Halloween Ghost Story contest, and two of them are Cavendish locals, Lorien and Luke Strange, who won third place in the Middle School category and second place in the Interactive Fiction Category respectively with their stories “They Fly Out In Winter” and “Spooky Times.” This is Lorien's second time winning the contest as she was a first place winner last year with her story “Bayou Fog.”

They are the only two win-

ners from anywhere in New England this year. Other winners this year came from Arizona, California, England (UK), Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, New Jersey, South Carolina, and Texas. Past years' winners have come from numerous additional states, provinces, and countries that did not boast winners this year. It is arguably now the largest annual ghost story contest in the English-speaking world.

Competition was fierce. In addition to the school-age categories, the contest features an

adult level that has grown increasingly popular with both established and unpublished authors alike.

All the winning stories can be found online at www.saugus.net/Contests/Halloween.

Local indie author publishes third book of mythic fantasy trilogy —

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. — The last thing on Briana Brennan's mind was leaving Maine for a time-traveling journey through an oak tree to a mythic kingdom. She certainly hadn't planned on saving a cursed king or marrying him. However, destiny is not something we plan now, is it? It's more like what happens on the way to somewhere else.

“In some ways, Briana's journey mirrors my own, metaphorically speaking. While writing a novel was my lifelong dream, it was a dream. Out of the blue, a random comment of someone else pushed me to make the dream a reality.”

In 2014, at 54-years-old, Heidi Hanley, known locally as Heidi Smith, realized that if she didn't do it now, she'd run out of time to do it all. With the kernel of an idea to turn traditional fairytales upside down with an Irish flavor and a more adult plot, she began work on “The Prophecy,” the first book in the Kingdom of Uisneach (pronounced Oosh-nay) trilogy.

Her career as a registered nurse and hospice chaplain didn't contribute much to a novel of mythic fantasy, but her passion for reading and writing did; and for four years, in the dark, quiet hours of pre-dawn, she wrote the novel, set up her own publishing company, Sword and Arrow, and learned how to self-publish her trilogy.

In “The Prophecy,” Briana Brennan hears a noise in the forest and follows it through an oak tree, ending up on the other side in an idyllic

village of gnomes who believe she is the Mouse of Prophecy, meant to rescue a cursed king and save the Five Blessed Realms. She is given a magic map and the advice that she would find helpers along the way. Her allies include a shape-shifting crow, a witch, a handsome bard, and the king's right hand. Together they journey across Uisneach to Ard Darach where the king has been in a sort of suspended animation for a decade. In book two, “The Runes of Evalon,” one of her allies goes on a quest to search for ancient runes that will restore magic to the kingdom. And in book three, “The Return of the Bard,” the prophecy comes full circle.

To be clear, this is not a children's book. It is an adult, romantic version of the hero's journey with a nod to fairytale fantasy. It would be appropriate for older young adults, but

Hanley discourages this as a book for young children.

LJ Garcia, a composer of Celtic music, became so enamored of the books that he asked to write a musical soundtrack. LJ is about to release the first song of a compilation Dec. 27, 2020. Together they are creating a reading and musical experience for fans of these books. For more information about his music and “The Lone Bard,” go to www.ljgarcia.com.

The Kingdom of Uisneach series is available in paperback and eBook on Amazon or by going to Hanley's website, www.heidihanleyauthor.com.

Especially during this time of Covid fatigue, Hanley hopes to bring a little adventure, romance, and mental relaxation with the story of Uisneach. For more information, go to her website or social media platforms which are linked through the website.

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Celebrate the New Year with a hike

MONTPELIER, Vt. – Start the New Year on the right foot with a hike in a Vermont state park. On Jan. 1, 2021, Vermont State Parks is inviting everyone to celebrate the New Year by heading out on the trails at one of Vermont’s 55 state parks. Park entry is free on New Year’s Day and all winter long, and this is a great opportunity to discover a whole new world outdoors in winter.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, First Day Hikes will be different from previous years. While state park officials are not offering in-person guided hikes this year, they have carefully selected hikes throughout the state for self-guided adventures. Hikers are strongly encouraged to learn about and follow Covid-19 outdoor recreation health and safety guidance by visiting www.fpr.vermont.gov/recreation/outdoor-recreation-and-covid-19 before they go.

Featured hikes

- Lowell Lake Trail, 3 miles round-trip, Lowell Lake State Park in Londonderry
- Quechee Loop Trail, 1.5 miles round-trip, Quechee State Park in Quechee



Take a hike in a Vermont State Park to ring in the New Year. PHOTO PROVIDED

- Reservoir Trail, 3.2 miles round-trip, Woodford State Park in Bennington
- Button Bay Point Trail, 0.8-mile round-trip, Button Bay State Park in Ferrisburgh
- Burns Trail, 2.0-mile round-trip, Niquette Bay State Park in Colchester
- Marsh Brook Nature Trail, 1.5-mile round-trip loop, Lake Carmi State Park in Enosburg Falls
- Groton Nature Trail, 0.6-mile round-trip loop, Groton Nature Center in Groton
- Shore Trail, 1.5-mile round-trip, Brighton State Park in Island Pond

Please dress for the weather and bring snowshoes if the snow is deep. Please also bring beverages and snacks. On-leash dogs are welcome unless otherwise noted. Pre-registration is not required and hikers can simply show up whenever they’d like.

For full hike details, visit www.vtstateparks.blogspot.com/2020/12/celebrate-new-year-with-first-day-hike.html and follow Vermont State Parks on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @VTStateParks to stay up to date on the latest park happenings and announcements. Participants who tag their photos with #firstdayhikesvt may be featured on the Vermont State Parks page.

For more information on enjoying parks in the winter, check out the Vermont State Parks Winter Activities page.

Ice fishing for questions

MONTPELIER, Vt. – New to ice fishing? Looking for fishing tips? Wondering how the fish survive a winter under the ice? Want to meet your local State Game Warden? The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department will be conducting Educational Patrols during winter 2021 on Vermont lakes and ponds.

“We know many anglers have questions they would like to ask a warden, and we also know anglers are always looking to learn new tips and tricks,” said Education Specialist Corey Hart. “Vermont State Game Wardens

and educational staff will be teaming up to conduct Educational Patrols this winter.”

The current pandemic prohibits formal educational programs so as an alternative, anglers are encouraged to fish lakes hosting these Educational Patrols. Staff will be roaming the ice and will stop by to offer pointers or just chat with anglers about their season.

“This is a great opportunity for anglers new to fishing that are looking to improve their success or who have questions about fishing regulations,” said Chief Warden Colonel Jason Batchelder.

The Educational Patrols will last one to two hours. Participants should bring their own equipment and set up on the ice and start fishing. Department staff will be roaming among the anglers and plan to spend at least 10 minutes per group depending on the number of anglers on the ice and questions.

A list of dates, times, and locations for the sessions are available at this link on Fish & Wildlife’s website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com/fish/fishing-events-and-programs/fishing-clinics-and-events/educational-patrols.

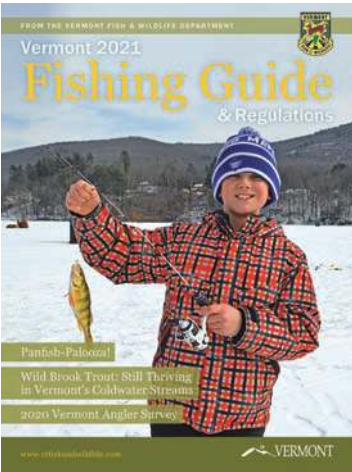
2021 hunting, fishing, trapping licenses are available online

MONTPELIER, Vt. – Vermont hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses for 2021 and license gift certificates are available on the Fish &

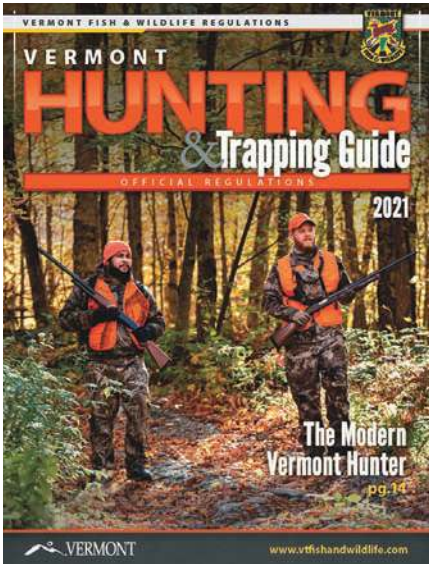
Wildlife Department’s website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

“Our licenses for the New Year will be popular based on the increased interest we are seeing from people who want to enjoy more outside activities like hunting and fishing,” said Vermont Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Louis Porter. “Ice fishing is a lot of fun, and it will soon be possible with colder weather.”

“A license gift certificate is the perfect gift for a friend or family member who hunts or fishes,” he added.



Vermont’s 2021 Fishing Guide is now available free from license agents statewide. PHOTO PROVIDED



Vermont’s 2021 Hunting & Trapping Guide is now available free from license agents statewide. PHOTO PROVIDED



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featured pets



My name is Daisy, and I’m an 8-year-old spayed black lab. That’s my 7-year-old daughter, Star, behind me. We arrived at Lucy Mackenzie in hopes of finding our forever home. As you can probably tell by our ages, we have never lived apart. My daughter has always been with me, and we would really like to find a family that would take us together. We are fun, loving, energetic, and sweet. We know how to take a hike in the woods and also definitely know how to take time for a long nap and snuggle! Star loves eating the snow, and she can be quite silly at times. Mostly, we fill our days with play and affection from the wonderful caretakers here. If you have room in your heart and home for two dazzling, lovable labs like us, please call today to learn more!

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Senior Solutions

community news

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Senior Solutions under-

stands the effect that holi- days can have on many lonely people. To help connect our generations we worked with the el- ementary school in Wind- sor where the children put their greetings in pictures, messages, and handwrit- ten cards that have been mailed to over 100 of our Visitor Program partici-

pants. We thank the teach- ers who made this possi- ble! And most importantly we thank the children who wanted to include these older Vermonters in their holiday celebrations. Do- ing this program in be- tween Hanukkah and Christmas will become a yearly event. It may not seem like a big deal, but

when you live alone and far from family members, receiving such a message can mean quite a lot. We hope the recipients feel the love.

Brattleboro Community Television recently rec- ognized Senior Solutions’ Community Relations Di- rector Joann Erenhouse with its annual award for producing the best non- profit community TV show. Joann joined BCTV in 2018 with the goal of creating a show that would provide important information to aging Ver- monters. Since then, she and her co-host, outreach specialist Jim Collins, have been airing a monthly stu- dio show titled, “Keeping Up with Senior Solutions.” So far, the 12 episodes in

the series have featured guest experts on topics such as advanced direc- tives, dementia, Medicare, benefits, mail-in voting, and Reiki. Go to [www.brattleborotv.org/news/ bctv-news/bctv-2020-pro- ducer-awards](http://www.brattleborotv.org/news/bctv-news/bctv-2020-pro- ducer-awards) to see the awards show. You can see many of the previous pro- grams at www.seniorsolu- tionsvt.com.

Please call our Help Line at 802-885-2669 for advice and help with Na- tional Council on Aging Benefits, 3SquareVT as- sistance, health insurance, fuel assistance, loneliness, wellness programs, and more. We are here for you, and we do not charge to help. We serve Vermont adults who are over 60 or disabled in Windsor and Windham counties.

WARNING

The legal voters of the Village of Ludlow, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Heald Auditorium, 37 Depot Street, in Ludlow, Vermont on **Tuesday, January 12, 2021** between the hours of ten o'clock (10:00) in the forenoon (a.m.), at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock (7:00) in the afternoon (p.m.), at which time the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot upon the following Article of business:

ARTICLE I

Shall general obligation bonds of the Village of Ludlow in an amount not to exceed Nine Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$990,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of financing the cost of public water system improvements, namely new transmission and distribution components on High Street, at an estimated cost of Nine Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$990,000)?

The legal voters of the Village of Ludlow are further notified that voter qualifications, registration and absentee voting relative to said Special Meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, and Section 1303 of Title 24, Vermont Statutes Annotated. You must be registered to vote in the Village of Ludlow in order to vote in this Village’s Special Meeting.

Legal voters are encouraged to request an Early/Absentee Ballot from the Village Clerk’s Office by calling (802) 228-3232 or email to treasure@ludlow.vt.us.


The legal voters of the Village of Ludlow are further notified that an informational meeting will be held electronically via ZOOM on **Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** for the purpose of explaining the subject proposed Water System Improvements and the financing thereof.


ZOOM Information Meeting Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88624335163?pwd=OWh4enI4KzdrU2t5NGhYYmFRdnBPUT09>


Meeting ID: 886 2433 5163 Passcode: 444478
Dial by phone: +1 929 205 6099
Alternate numbers
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kpxoAZ1xl>
Meeting ID: 886 2433 5163
Passcode: 444478 (That’s HIGH-ST on a phone keypad)


Adopted and approved at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ludlow duly called, noticed and held on November 24, 2020.

VILLAGE OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF TRUSTEES



David Rose, Chairman


Earl Washburn


Robert Brandt


Ulla P. Cook, Village Clerk

Walpole Valley Tire



Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 - 5:00 • Saturday 8:00 - Noon
Route 12 • Walpole, NH • 603-445-2060

INVITATION TO BID
Chester TAP TA17(9)

Sealed bids from pre-qualified contractors shall be accepted until 11:00 AM, prevailing time on Friday January 15th, 2021 at the Chester Town Office (556 Elm Street, Chester, VT, 05143) for construction of the project hereinafter described. Bid opening will occur immediately after the bid submittal deadline. The time of receiving and opening bids may be postponed due to emergencies or unforeseen conditions.

Sealed BIDS shall be marked in the lower left-hand corner: Bid Documents: Chester TAP TA17(9)

Each BID must be accompanied by a certified check payable to the Town of Chester for five percent (5%) of the total amount of the BID. A BID bond may be used in lieu of a certified check.

PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS: All bidders on this project shall be on the Agency of Transportation’s prequalified list under the category listed below or shall have submitted a complete prequalification application to the Agency of Transportation, Contract Administration, a minimum of 10 working days prior to the bid opening. For information contact Jon Winter at (802) 622-1267.

All bidders shall be on the current VTRANS Contract Administration pre-qualified list “Contractors List of Bridge Construction Category”.

Bids submitted by bidders that exceed their Maximum Dollar Capacity Rating (MDCR) as determined by the Vermont Agency of Transportation on an annual basis will be considered non-responsive.

LOCATION: Beginning at a point on Popple Dungeon Road (TH-10) in Chester, approximately 3.2 miles west of the intersection of Popple Dungeon Road and Grafton Street (State Route 35) in the town of Chester.

TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION: Work to be performed under this project includes: the removal and replacement of the existing culvert with a bridge on the existing alignment, with associated roadway and channel work.

CONTRACT COMPLETION DATE: The Contract shall be completed on or before October 15th, 2021.

OBTAINING PLANS: An electronic copy of the plans and bid documents may be obtained from VHB at no cost by contacting Jason Keener through email at jkeener@vhb.com or by phone at 802-497-6120.

PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND PROPOSAL MAY BE SEEN AT THE OFFICE OF:
Town of Chester, 556 Elm Street, Town of Chester, VT 05143.

STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS: This contract is governed by the Vermont Agency of Transportation (“VTrans”) 2018 Standard Specifications for Construction.

Physician assistant elected to National Board



Joshua Rosenblum, physi- cian assistant at Grace Cot- tage.

PHOTO PROVIDED

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Grace Cottage Emergency Department Physician As- sistant Joshua Rosenblum has been elected to the na- tional Board of Directors of the Society of Emer- gency Medicine Physician Assistants.

Rosenblum brings a wealth of experience to his work at Grace Cot- tage and to his role on the SEMPA board. He holds a Master of Physician Assis- tant Studies from Franklin Pierce University and is board certified in emer- gency medicine by the National Commission on Certification of PAs.

In addition to working full-time at Grace Cottage, he works per diem in the emergency departments at Cheshire Medical Center, Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, and Mt. Ascut- ney Hospital. He is also a professional ski patroller at Stratton Mountain and a paramedic with Strat- ton Mountain Rescue, as well as a part-time police officer, paramedic, and EMS coordinator for the Winhall Police and Res- cue. Previous to these positions, he was a PA at Springfield Hospital and a paramedic in Ontario, Canada, providing emer- gency medical care at venues where the Toronto Raptors, Toronto Maple Leafs, and Toronto Blue Jays competed.

Rosenblum is a senior fellow of SEMPA. He was elected to the board along with one other PA from a field of six candidates. His term starts in May 2021. As a board mem- ber, he hopes to provide a voice for Rural Emergency Medicine PAs.

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