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Happy New Year!

2023 in Review on Page 8

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Holiday support and beyond at Central Elementary School

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – It takes a village, and we have one of the best. Community supporters from all over southern Vermont, New England, and beyond help give back to the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union community in many ways, particularly during the holidays and through the winter months.

Numerous folks step in each year to ensure the Central Elementary School (CES) students and families have their needs met. From the Elks Club providing boots and snow pants, to the hats and mittens generously supplied by the Knitting Club, an effort spearheaded by Suki Russo and their knitters, community partners, and CES supporters have been working tirelessly to ensure that our school is remembered, especially around the holidays.

Students are also supported during this time of year to participate in the CES Winter Sports Program. Chroma Technology Corporation of Bellows Falls provides gifts to fulfill the students' own wish lists, with CES staff Jen Burke, Alexa Martins, Tamara Evanson, teachers, and many other school elves making sure that the wish lists have the correct sizes for snow pants, boots, clothing, toys, and more. The Amy Barre Charitable Trust donated funds to help sponsor ice skates and pay for ice skate sharpening, helmets, and more to support the students' involvement in the Winter Sports Program.

Central Elementary School staff Kerry Pickering, Kelley Green, Cindy Rounds, Millie Barry, Jane Steuwe, and many, many other staff members help prepare for the annual Shopping Mall at CES, which is a hallmark event for our students so that they



Kindergartener Rava Wilson makes her choices at mall event. PHOTO PROVIDED

might participate in some holiday cheer. Items are collected all year round, classroom logistics and scheduling are orchestrated, and funds are secured to ensure that students can participate in holiday shopping for members of their families. The school's local neighbors contribute cash, gift items, wrapping paper and accessories, and more. This year, some Bellows Falls Union High School students donated community service hours to help students shop, wrap, or organize the donations. The Bellows Falls Women's Club always sends members to CES to help wrap up each special gift.

And while the spotlight this month has been on winter activities, the support to CES families extends beyond the holiday season, this year and in years past; personal donors, some living as far away as New Jersey, provided funds to support food purchases at Lisi's Market for our CES families, with matching gifts from corporations like Goldman-Sachs. Lisi's Market also donated gift cards for families in need. Mr. G's Liquidation Center generously helped collect

needed items for the Shopping Mall, food drive, and more over the past few years. Organizations such as the Bellows Falls Rotary, Bellows Falls Fire Department, Bellows Falls Police Department, Rockingham Free Public Library, Parks Place Community Resource Center, Greater Falls Connections, Turning Point Recovery Center, Cota & Cota Oil Company, Windham and Windsor Housing Trust, and many more help with Central Elementary School's Back to School Carnival and fall activities such as the Trunk or Treat. Halladay's Harvest Barn with Kathleen Govotski donated dips and mixes for our Harvest Celebration, and supports classroom projects throughout the year, Gassett Grange supplies personal dictionaries for our third graders each year, and many local businesses donate every year to help support our Rockingham 5K event, making CES feel very lucky to be part of this community.

And as a true testament to the tight-knit community, the support is mutual. Throughout the year, CES students, staff, and families also give back with a Thanksgiving Food Drive that brought in over 800 items donated to Our Place Food Pantry in town.

We thank our CES village for all you do to make our days brighter and ensure our students and families have what they need. Happy Holidays to all!

Springfield Lions hold successful tree sale

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Lions Club would like to thank everyone who came out and bought a Christmas tree from our annual Christmas tree sale. It was one of our best sales in recent years, selling all 85 trees.

Lions George Lauzon, Joe Wilson, Mike Martin, Pat Ankuda, Debbie Ankuda, Bruce Savery, Paul Arnold, Dennis Clancy (and son in law Jessie Price), Steve Osterlund, and Peter Andrews worked many hours transporting and setting up stands, setting up

trees, selling, delivering, and cleaning up. Thank you, Lions!

Boy Scout Troop 252 Master Matt Burlew and his scouts Jacob, Cameron, Micah, and Nicholas were on

site to lend a hand lugging trees. Way to go Scouts! Thank you for your help.

We cannot thank the community enough for coming out and supporting our tree sale. Special thanks to Randy and West Parker, whose donation in memory of past Lion Barbara Parker enabled us to give a tree to Springfield Supported Housing for a deserving local family.

The Springfield Lions Club wishes everyone a Happy Holiday and Happy New Year!



Steve Osterlund and Bruce Savery. PHOTO PROVIDED

Kurn Hattin Homes' children experience the spirit of the season



The cast of the Holiday Visitors' Day on stage.

PHOTO PROVIDED

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – For the children, staff, and friends of Kurn Hattin Homes for Children (KHH), December is always a most wonderful time of the year.

This holiday season began with the arrival of fragrant trees donated by Christmas Trees of Vermont, and decorating activities in the cottages and across the campus. The festive décor was a fitting backdrop for the Night of Giving. At this annual gathering, the Homes' weekday residential director Mary Beth Culver explained to students that The Night of Giving was established years ago by Thomas Fahner, who served as principal and co-executive director of the Homes from 1989-2015, to balance all of the receiving bestowed upon Kurn Hattin and the children. She said, "Always being on the receiving end of things can make people feel entitled, and we don't want to foster entitlement. We also recognize that giving back to our community is important, it's part of

being a good citizen. And lastly, giving to others feels good. Each student should have the opportunity to experience feeling good about helping others."

During the Night of Giving, students from each cottage presented their projects and explained how they intend to give back.

Hubbard Cottage baked cookies for Groundworks, an organization creating solutions to end hunger and homelessness for people in our region.

Butler Cottage collected supplies and donations for the Windham County Humane Society.

Maysilles Cottage collected donations for the Trevor Project, an organization providing crisis support services to LGBTQ young people.

Warner Cottage created cards and baked cookies for the staff at Edgar May Health and Recreation Center as a thank-you for always welcoming KHH students to use the facility.

And Morrison Cottage helped to build a lending library for Westminster Center School.

Holiday Visitors' Day,

which included a luncheon and children's performance, soon followed. This year's event was attended by more than 120 guests, and was made especially festive thanks to the donation of a life-sized sleigh for the auditorium stage. The bright red sleigh, which was built by Dave Hallock of Bellows Falls, truly set the stage for a memorable holiday performance by all of the KHH children.

A select group of KHH singers participated in the 2023 Vermont Academy Candlelight Winter Concert on Dec. 12, then traveled throughout the community singing songs of cheer on Dec. 20. The season's events culminated on Dec. 21, with an encore holiday concert performed by KHH students for their families and friends.

To everyone's delight, a treasured tradition continues. The Chester Rotary Club once again contacted the North Pole and arranged for Santa, Mrs. Claus, and a number of helpers to visit Kurn Hattin Homes.

From Kurn Hattin Homes to your home, Happy Holidays!

Wrapping up Senior Solutions' 50th year

REGION – As 2023 draws to a close, it's a great time to remind everyone of Senior Solutions' mission: "To promote the wellbeing and dignity of older adults."

We do that by providing many services, benefits, and resources, including application and benefits assistance, caregivers and resources, case management, home delivered and community meals, legal assistance, medicare information and counseling, options counseling, senior companions, friendly visitors, vet to vet visitors, senior helpline, transportation assistance, veteran-directed home care, volunteer opportunities, and wellness programs. Please visit our website for detailed information about how to access any or all of that help at www.seniorsolutionsvt.org.

In 2023, Senior Solutions

celebrated 50 years of service to our region as the designated agency on aging under the federal Older Americans Act of 1973. We are dedicated to serving those who are most vulnerable, and many of our programs and services are available regardless of income or assets. Our case managers support those on Medicaid and coordinate their various care needs. By doing this, Senior Solutions enables older Vermonters to remain in their homes, rather than enter a nursing facility, while receiving the same level of care for as

long as possible.

Our Help Line number is 802-885-2669, or toll free at 866-673-8376.

AIDS survivors speak out

Those who were in their 20s when the AIDS crisis began in the 1980s are now in their 60s. Medical advances have made it possible to live long, fulfilling lives for those who are HIV positive. In fact, a majority of Americans who are HIV positive are now aged 55 or older. Many of these "long-term survivors" live at the intersection of stigma from

See **SENIOR** on Page 2

NOTICE

There will be an increase in postage rates in January. As postage rates continue to rise, our advertising and inserting rates will increase in the new year to help cover those expenses.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support of your community newspaper.

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THE SHOPPER NEWSPAPER

DEADLINES

The deadline for all content is **Thursday, Dec. 28 at 12 p.m.** for the Jan. 03 publication.

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BFUHS November Elks Student of the Month

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – It is a pleasure to announce that Emma Thompson has been named the November Elks Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School (BFUHS). Emma, a senior, is the daughter of Jason and Maureen Thompson, and she resides in Westminster.

Emma is a dedicated student who challenges herself with difficult courses. Not only is she a member of the Jesse A. Judd/Marilee Huntoon Chapter of the National Honor Society at BFUHS, she is also a member of the National Technical Honor Society through the River Valley Technical Center (RVTC) in Springfield. She comes to school every day prepared to learn and expand her knowledge in various capacities.

Emma is respectful and courteous, and works very well with others. She is a positive addition to any class or activity in which



Emma Thompson. PHOTO PROVIDED

she participates. An encouraging role model who leads by example, Emma is willing to take the leadership role in classes and activities. She is inclusive of others, and works to get everyone involved.

Emma is an enthusiastic member of the Criminal Justice Program at RVTC. She has participated in the BFUHS student newspaper, “The Howler,” for four years, and she also participated in the newspaper when she was in middle school. She has been a

member of the BFUHS basketball and softball teams as well.

Not only interested in academics, Emma gives back to her community. Through a variety of community service activities, Emma has helped at the Fairy House Festival through the Grafton Nature Museum, assisted at the Flannel Festival for the Great Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce, and been a volunteer at the Bellows Falls Middle school PTO ski sale.

Clearly deserving of recognition, BFUHS and the Elks are honored to have Emma represent us this month with this award.

Tech Time Tuesdays at Rockingham Library

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Rockingham Free Public Library will host Tech Time Tuesday classes and drop-in sessions every Tuesday during the month of January, at 2 p.m. Join us in the downstairs programming room for one of our upcoming tech sessions this winter to learn more about different applications and digital library resources. Drop-in sessions are first come, first served. Providing your own personal devices is highly encouraged, however, library laptops will be available for class use.

The program for Jan. 2 will be “New Year, New Device.” Did you get a

new device for the holidays and need some help? Drop into the library to get the new year started with your innovative technology.

On Jan. 9, the program will be “Google Suite: Digital Tools for Connection and Collaboration.” Improve your digital collaboration and communication skills using Google’s online tools such as Calendar, Chat, Docs, Drive, Gmail, and Meet. If you do not have an existing Google account, we will help set one up for you.

Jan. 16 will be Drop-In Tech Help. Drop-in Tech Help is our quick tech help option at the library. No registration is required, just walk in and spend 5-15

minutes with a librarian to ask your tech questions.

On Jan. 23, the program is “Social Media Etiquette and Tips.” As social media channels have evolved to become one of the primary ways people communicate in the modern world, learn how social media etiquette revolves around online guidelines to allow you to connect and promote.

There will be another Drop-in Tech Help session on Jan. 30.

For more information, email reference@rockinghamlibrary.org, call 802-463-4270, go to www.rockinghamlibrary.org, or stop by the Rockingham Library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.

Rockingham Library’s January read

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Pick up a copy of “Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead” by Olga Tokarczuk, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, today, so you can join the discussion on Thursday, Feb. 1, at 6 p.m.

In an outlying village in Poland, Janina translates William Blake, studies astrology, watches over the vacation homes of city dwellers, and keeps to herself. Her neighbors dislike her because of her cranky attitude. When one villager turns up dead, and then more bodies

appear, Janina becomes part of the murder investigation. She’s convinced she knows “who done it.”

Annie Proulx calls this novel “extraordinary,” and goes on to say, “Tokarczuk’s novel is funny, vivid, dangerous, and disturbing, and it raises some fierce ques-

tions about human behavior. My sincere admiration for her brilliant work.”

For more information, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, call the library at 802-463-4270, or stop by the library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.

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SENIOR

From Page 1

a feared disease, ageism, and living as a gender and/or sexual minority.

Working with Main Street Arts of Saxtons River and their roster of affiliated artists, we will initiate a special expressive arts project next month designed especially for long-term HIV survivors. In June 2024, we expect to present a public program where their work will be presented in a celebratory event. For further information or to get involved, call our helpline at 802-885-2669, and ask to be connected with Thom.

Senior Solutions annual

port local meals providers, as we do not use municipal funds to underwrite those programs. We contribute to home delivered meals operations with the federal funds we receive to help them. The federal money does not keep up with inflation, so please support your local meal providers through town meets and ballots.

We do appreciate the support that we receive every year from the many communities we serve. Our services are free to those of us over 60 and to disabled adults. Check with your town and find out when the information meeting and actual vote are going to take place next year. It is traditionally the first Tuesday in March.

Winter 2024 CARERS Program for family dementia caregivers

CARERS stands for “coaching, advocacy, respite, education, relationship, and simulation.” This is an evidence-based, therapeutic group program to help care-

givers attain more knowledge and skills to increase their competence through eight weekly sessions. Visit our website, www.senior-solutionsvt.org, to learn about the program that is offered by The University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMHC) Dementia Family Caregiver Center and the UVMHC Department of Neurology. To register, please contact Lori McKenna at 802-847-4589 or Lori.McKenna@uvmhealth.org, or Joan Marsh-Reed at 802-847-4589 or Joan.Marsh-Reed@uvmhealth.org.

Consider volunteering with Senior Solutions

Find out how to sign up to become a Senior Companion, a Friendly Visitor, or a Vet to Vet Visitor. There are many opportunities to make a difference in your own community by giving just a few hours a month.

Happy memories and best wishes for the coming New Year. Happy Holidays to everyone.

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Pottery and watercolor workshops at the VAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the VAULT is excited to offer a Raku Pottery workshop with Andrew Berends on two consecutive Saturdays, Jan. 6 and Jan. 13, from 1-5 p.m. each day. Register by Wednesday, Jan. 3.

Andrew will be teaching the exciting Japanese firing technique known as raku. Raku is a 16th century technique developed in Japan for making tea ceremony ware. It has been developed in this country to produce really interesting pottery. The firings take about an hour, and you get a finished piece an the end. Raku is a really fun, exciting technique where pots are fired to 1,840 degrees and pulled out of the hot kiln and manipulated with sawdust and water to change the look of the glazes. The glazes can be metallic, and/or have a crackle effect, making each piece truly unique and one-of-a-kind. We will also fire pots with an exciting new technique known as “horse hair” raku, which creates really interesting designs on the clay. The raku firings can be done indoors or outdoors depending on the weather.

The class will include wheel throwing, slab making, as well as extruding instruction. The first day will include making all types of clay work, and the second day will be glazing and firing all the pots in the raku tradition. Emphasis will be on being creative and learning the basics of pottery, including making the work,



“Sap Buckets” watercolor by Robert O’Brien. PHOTO PROVIDED

glazing, as well as firing. The class is geared towards teens through adults, and limited to five students. This should be a fun experience working in a very unique and rewarding medium.

Andrew has been a master potter for over 30 years, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, as well as a Master of Fine Arts from Montana State University. He worked with a Spanish folk potter for a year, and was also a guest artist in residence at Anderson Ranch in Snowmass, Colo. Upon moving to Vermont in 1988, he became a professional production/art potter, where he exhibited internationally as well as being represented by over 180 galleries nationally.

The cost of registration includes 25 pounds of clay, glazes, and firing costs in a gas fired kiln. Wear old clothing and bring pottery tools if you have them. Directions to Andrew’s studio

in Springfield will be given at registration.

The VAULT is also offering a Painting the Winter Landscape in Watercolor workshop with Robert O’Brien. The one-day workshop will teach you to paint the magnificent New England countryside in winter on Saturday, Jan. 13, from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Light, shadow, value, and composition will be emphasized. Rob will begin with a demonstration, explaining each step of the process. Students will then paint, with the instructor providing hands-on assistance. All levels of painting ability are welcome, with some watercolor experience suggested. There will be a critique given at the end of the session.

A materials list will be provided at registration. There is a discount for members. Please register by Jan. 6. If there are more than six students, the workshop will be held at the Great Hall in Springfield.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield. We are open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Fridays, from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit www.galleryvault.org or the gallery’s Facebook page. The gallery is handicap accessible.

DiTrani Brothers and Jason Scaggs at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts and Twilight Music present roots, ragtime, and jazz quartet DiTrani Brothers, plus Jatoba’s multi-instrumentalist and singer Jason Scaggs, at Next Stage on Saturday, Jan. 6 at 7:30 pm.

DiTrani Brothers, by way of bent melodies and driving rhythms, play perilous tunes for the hopeful, with elements of Balkan music and early American jazz/swing. They deliver both wistful and raucous performances at venues ranging from The House of Blues in New Orleans to DIY backyard stages. Originally from North Bend, Wash., brothers Bobby and Walker Di-

Trani began writing songs together while traveling across the country, playing music on the streets. Since then, they’ve recorded two albums and toured throughout the U.S. with drummer Eddie Gaudet. Now a quartet with acoustic bassist Benjamin Richards, they just released their third album “Dust Harvest.”

Jason Scaggs’ music began in the heart of Appalachia, his home state of Virginia, and that mountain sensibility shines through his music to this day. The twang of his guitar, much more assertive in his Jatoba days, has since been tempered with the addition of effects and looping to cre-

ate an indie flavor and full sound which belies it coming from one person.

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

Poplar Grove School

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

Beginning in the 1860s, schoolteachers gave “Rewards of Merit” to students who had done well in school. These colorful cards were about the size of a modern business card. Also at this time, autograph books came into being. Students collected signatures of their classmates. These little books sometimes include fanciful penmanship or pen and ink drawings.

By the 1880s, children graduating from school were given a graduation program. These programs included students and teachers names. Some schools with a larger enrollment held dinners or plays.

The photo with this article is a circa 1914 eighth grade graduation souvenir from the Poplar Grove School in Chester. It measures about 5 ½ inches by 3 ¼ inches. It’s printed on a heavy paper stock on two pages. At the upper left is a red ribbon that binds the two pages together.

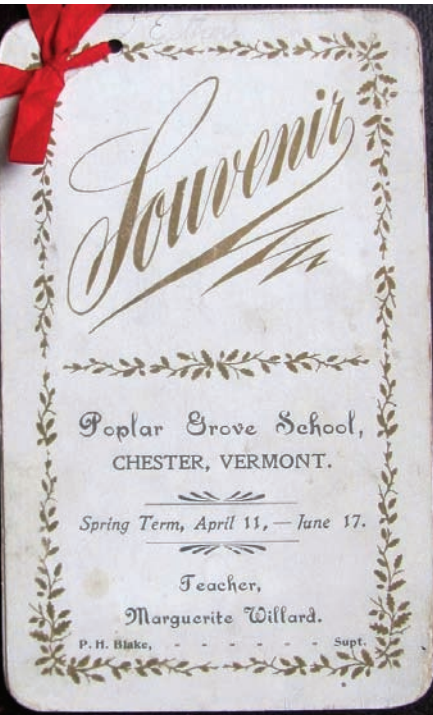
The cover reads: “Souvenir, Poplar Grove School, CHESTER, VERMONT. Spring term, April 11, — June 17. Teacher Marguerite Willard.”

In fine print at the bottom reads: “P.H. Blake... Supt.”

At the top written in pencil is, “Esther.” This was Esther Martin’s keepsake.

I called “Mr. Poppie Dungeon,” or Jon Clark as you know him. Jon knows Dungeon history better than anyone I know. I read Jon the cover, and the second page list of students attending. Jon provided me with what he knew. Jon has not seen one of these souvenirs before.

The second page is a list of graduating eighth grade students: Lauren Clark, Clyde Clark, Archie Doty, Allen Edson, Ralph Edson, Ruth Edson, Ellsworth Fowle, Laurence Fowle, Marston Fowle, Theodore Fowle, Lloyd Martin, Esther Martin, and Eva Sheldon. Jon knew all these



Circa 1914 Poplar Grove souvenir. PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

names and where they lived. Some of these places are just cellar holes today. The only name Jon didn’t know was Eva Sheldon. Jon suggested she might have been a boarder. I checked the Chester Alumni book. None of these kids graduated Chester High School. This wasn’t unusual in those days, especially for boys.

The first name, Lauren Clark, is Jon’s grandfather. Some may remember a recent article of mine featuring Clyde Clark with his team of oxen and cattails. Clyde was 9 in that photo. Jon said Lauren was an accomplished carpenter. Jon told me Lauren said, “Everything you need to know is right here on a steel framing square.” Further schooling wasn’t necessary.

There are many Clark descendants living in the area today. Virginia Blake Clark wrote the history of Poppie Dungeon. In Virginia’s book, “The Source,” I found some history.

“Number 15 school was erected in 1860 by James Bemis and Henry A. Gould, both were residents of that

district. Henry Gould was chairman of the building committee. According to him the voters of the district had a big fight over its construction, which lasted over three months! Obviously the disagreements were settled and the school was built. This place educated students from a two-mile circumference. It was closed in the 1920s when the few students that were left in the area were transported along with those in District #9 into Chester...

“...Some years after the children of District #15 began going into Chester to school the town sold the school to some men for a hunting camp. It then became known as Old Number Four, probably for the four people that owned the building. In the 1980s, when it was owned by a Mr. John Contro, it was hit by lightning and was partially destroyed. It has further deteriorated, leaving only its front wall to remind us that once many students were educated there. In 1996 Jon Clark, a descendant of the Clarks at Farm 14, purchased the property. Jon has taken down the shell of the school and plans to eventually build on that spot.” Today Jon has built a camp on this site.

I don’t always trust my memory, but I remember it as The Big Four.

This week’s old saying was asked of a Vermonter by a newcomer: “Have you lived here all your life? Reply, “Not yet.”

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health & wellness

OPINION

DG Bodyworks adds new team member

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – DG Bodyworks, a leading health and wellness center, proudly announces the expansion of its massage therapy services with the addition of Lori Wright to their team. Lori, a recent graduate of Body and Soul Massage Therapy School in St. Albans, Vt., brings more than 30 years of experience in the fitness industry, enhancing DG Bodyworks’ commitment to holistic wellbeing.

Lori is now offering a range of massage therapy services, including Swedish, deep tissue, and soft tissue release. Her comprehensive background in group fitness, personal training, indoor cycling, and yoga is complemented by her proficiency in facilitating mindfulness-based classes, such as guided and

visualization meditations, and mindful movement.

“I wanted to bring another level of healing to my clients,” explained Lori when asked about her decision to integrate massage therapy into her extensive fitness background. “We are all still recovering from the trauma of the pandemic, and I believe in the healing power of touch. Massage can also reduce pain and help counter the effects of a stressful, busy lifestyle.”

Massage therapy is known to improve circulation, reduce muscle tension, alleviate stress, and promote relaxation. Additionally, it can enhance the recovery of soft tissue injuries, stimulate the lymphatic system, and improve joint mobility.

DG Bodyworks, situated just 10 minutes from Oke-

mo Mountain, has been a pillar of health and wellness in the community for seven years. Founded by Denise Gebroe, a seasoned massage therapist, personal trainer, and group fitness instructor, DG Bodyworks was established with the mission of offering diverse health and wellness opportunities to bring the community together.

To schedule a massage, yoga, or indoor cycling class with Lori, visit her website at www.massageyogavt.com, or call 603-401-8123. For more information about DG Bodyworks’ wide range of group classes and wellness offerings, please visit www.dgbodyworks.com.

Wholistic Wellness Center workshop

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Wholistic Wellness Center, 160 Wall Street in Springfield, Vt., will be hosting a six-week Winter Wellness Workshop. Every Wednesday evening, from Jan. 10 – Feb. 14, from 5:30-7 p.m., you’ll be learning new and simple “at home wellness workouts,” and new and simple ways to improve your wellness. Topics covered are varied. “Themes and Intentions (New Year, New Start)” will give you tools to set small goals to focus attention on your intention/theme and make lasting changes – remember, how you start your day matters. “Heart Health and Staying Active” class will show how easy it is

to fit 60 minutes of exercise into your day (five minute dance parties, 10 minute walk, stand, and work, etc.) and how to overcome your resistance to activity. In the “Healthy Habits Nutrition” class, you will learn healthy eating and small ways you can make your lifestyle healthier. Another class, “Connection with Yourself and Others,” will discuss relationships and service to others and community connection. The “Stress Management” class will show you ways to claim time for yourself. The last class, “Mental Health – Self-care” will remind you happiness matters. Mental health is integral to physical health, so you will learn how to raise that happiness set point. You’ll talk about comfort

care – pleasure and what feels luxurious to you, and how to bring those things into your everyday life.

To register, call the Wholistic Wellness Center at 802-885-1600. Be sure to leave a message so we can get back to you. You can go to our website, www.wwcvt.com, for more details on the weekly topics. In February, Cornelia Elsaesser, certified esoteric colorpuncturist and master healer, will be presenting small day workshops on using colored light healing on yourself or your family. Simple treatments for many ailments will be covered. Learn more on our website or Facebook page. All of us at the Wholistic Wellness Center wish you and your families a happy, healthy 2024.

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Winthrop Pennock joins Grace Cottage Hospital Board

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Winthrop Pennock of Townshend has joined the Grace Cottage Family Health and Hospital Board of Trustees.

Pennock has been a partner with Artisanal Cellars in White River Junction, Vt., since 2011. Artisanal Cellars is a wine importation and distribution company.

Pennock’s early professional experience is in the

hospitality business. He started working in kitchens after graduating from Ithaca College, working first in Colorado, then after five years returning east and enrolling at New England Culinary Institute, where he received a degree in restaurant management. He has worked at the Three Mountain Inn in Jamaica, Vt.; at the Copper Beach Inn in Essex, Conn.; and was manager of Windham

Wines in Brattleboro.

The Grace Cottage Family Health and Hospital Board of Trustees is responsible for developing and reviewing the hospital’s overall mission and strategy.



Winthrop Pennock. PHOTO PROVIDED



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difficult decision to pause 2024 programming to focus intensely on strategic planning and rebuilding stronger than before. However, Vermont law mandates key board leadership roles be filled to legally continue as a nonprofit.

As a stalwart of arts education for 76 years, Fletcher Farm’s closure would leave a major void in our community. From writing workshops to fiber arts, metal work to painting, the school has long nurtured diverse creative talents while preserving Vermont’s cultural heritage. Its vibrant classes serve more than 300 adults and youth annually.

I urge community members to rally around Fletcher Farm during this pivotal moment. Volunteering for the board, making financial contributions, or providing pro-bono professional services could make all the difference in charting a path toward sustainability. If you’d like to get involved, please contact Board Chair Susan Balch at susan@fletcherfarm.org or 802-228-8770.

This beloved school has given so much to Vermont over the decades. Now is the time we can give back.

Sincerely,
Joyce Fuller
Bradford, Vt.

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.

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

CHURCH SERVICES

ALSTEAD, N.H.

Third Congregational Church UCC, River St.
Sunday worship begins at 11 a.m., led by Pastor Maureen Adams. Communion is the first Sunday of each month. For more information, email alsteadthirdchurch@gmail.com, call 603-835-6358, or go to www.facebook.com/Third-Congregational-UCC-Church-of-Alstead-NH-120645387960916.

ASCUTNEY, VT.

Brownsville Community United Methodist Church, 66 Brownsville-Hartland Rd.
Sunday service is 9:30 a.m., held in the church with reduced occupancy or streaming online at www.facebook.com/brownsvillecommunitychurch and www.brownsvilleumc-vt.org.

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.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

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

United Church of Bellows Falls, UCC, 8 School St.
Worship service starts at 10 a.m. every Sunday. All are welcome to attend. Following the service, there will be a time of refreshments. Many other services are offered throughout the week. If you have any questions or want to learn more, call 802-463-4323, visit the church, or find them on Facebook.

CHESTER, VT.

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

Andover Community Church, 928 Weston-Andover Rd.
Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and worship service 10:45 a.m. For more information, go to www.andovercommunitychurch.org.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

First Baptist Church, 62 Crescent St., S. Londonderry
Worship service is Sunday at 10 a.m. at the church. Services will still be live streamed at www.firstbaptistslondonderryvt.org/streaming-worship.html. For more information, visit www.firstbaptistslondonderryvt.org or call 802-856-7266.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Precision Valley Baptist Church, 69 Rt. 106
Join our worship service every Sunday at 10 a.m. 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 @PrecisionValleyBaptistChurch.

Springfield Assembly of God, 269 River St.
Sunday morning service is 10 a.m. Evening service is 6 p.m. Go to www.facebook.com/Springfield-Assembly-of-God-156583214402910 for links and more information.

Springfield United Methodist Church, 10 Valley St.
Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. Springfield United Methodist Church welcomes everyone! The church can be reached at 802-885-3456.

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 33 Fairground Rd.
Sunday Services 8:30 a.m. - Holy Days as announced. Services alternate between Clergy Officiated, Traditional Rite I and Contemporary Rite II, Holy Eucharist, and Licensed Lay Led Rites I and II Morning Prayer. All are invited regardless of religious affiliation. Call David at 802-885-2972 with questions.

St. Mary’s Catholic Church, 10 Pleasant St.
Sunday mass is at 9 a.m., followed by coffee hour as well as weekday services. To watch the live streams, go to www.youtube.com and search Holy Family Parish Springfield Vermont. Streaming is available five minutes before the service starts. For more information, go to www.stmaryjoseph.com.

WALPOLE, N.H.

St. John’s Episcopal Church, corner of Westminster and Elm St.
Sunday services are 10 a.m. in person or via Zoom. For more information, go to www.stjohnswalpole.org, email pastor@stjohnswalpole.org, or leave a message at 603-756-4533.

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 westminstercongonline@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.

Katherine Milkman, 1954-2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Kate Milkman, 69, died Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, at Springfield Hospital, surrounded by her loving family. She was born May 6, 1954, in Nottingham, England, daughter of Kenneth and Dorothy (Deller) Tarte.

Prior to moving to the U.S., Kate worked for the William Morris Agency in London. She moved to Manhattan in the early 1980s, when a film director hired her to be a nanny. She later managed the phone systems at the law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges and Fiduciary Trust in the World Trade Center.

Kate married Harry Milkman in 1988, in New York. She became a full-time mom after their first son Alex was born in 1989. The family moved to Norwalk, Conn., where their second son Ben was born in 1993. In 1994, they moved to Chester, Vt.

Kate studied comparative religion in college, and was interested in all things



Katherine Milkman, 1954-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

spiritual and metaphysical. She was also an accomplished Tarot reader. She loved finding treasures in thrift shops, especially religious iconography. She loved visiting the Atlantic Ocean and going on whale watches.

Kate is survived by her husband Harry, and her sons Alex and Ben.

An online Celebration of Life is planned for the near future.

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

James Tucker, 1945-2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – James Eric Tucker of Springfield, Vt., passed away peacefully in his sleep on Dec. 16, 2023, after a brief bout with pneumonia. He was born on May 11, 1945, in Ludlow, Vt., during a snowstorm in which the doctor had to snowshoe out to deliver him. He was raised on a hill farm in Ludlow as one of six children of Norman and Esther Tucker. At 10 years old, he raised and trained a team of oxen calves named Amos and Andy, who helped with the farm and woods work. He joined his brothers and cousins in many merry adventures, you should hear the stories! He attended the Hemingway one-room schoolhouse, and graduated from Black River High School in Ludlow in 1963. While in high school, he enlisted and served in the Vermont National Guard. At 20, at his cousin’s wedding, he met the love of his life, Margaret (Peggy) Bosworth, and married her a year later. They celebrated 57 years of “pulling together” this past summer.

Jim and Peggy raised three daughters Katie, Erica, and Heather, in a house they built themselves in Springfield, Vt. Jim loved his animals, and always had a couple of dogs as well as horses and donkeys. He was often spotted giving wagon rides to neighborhood children and family members.

Jim and Peggy were a self-employed team for most of their lives, “with a darn fool for a boss.” Jim was a jack-of-all-trades, including buying and selling equipment, logging and selling firewood, mowing for the State of Vermont, haying, and snowplowing. In his spare time, he built or rebuilt houses tiny and regular sized for his daughters and others. Jim was a vibrant member of the Springfield community, serving on the school board



James Tucker, 1945-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

for eight years, in the First Congregational Church, and at the Springfield Tech Center where he helped found a logging program. He was an avid reader, he loved the great outdoors, he adored his children and grandchildren (and four great-grandchildren), and he took many young people under his wing by teaching them to drive and thrive.

Jim survived a major head injury while logging nearly five years ago, at which time he finally retired at age 74, and he enjoyed his remaining years with his dogs and his family. He was predeceased by his parents and three siblings Norman, Joanne, and Gene Tucker. He is survived by his wife Peggy; his three daughters Katie (Tucker) and Don Brown of Walpole, N.H., Erica Tucker of Springfield, Vt., and Heather (Tucker) and David Cannistraci of Windsor, Vt.; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and his siblings Jerry Tucker (and Debbie), Bill Tucker (and Marcey), and sister-in-law Sandy Tucker; as well as beloved extended family.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Jan. 13, from 3-5 p.m., at the First Congregational Church in Springfield, Vt. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Springfield Humane Society or the charity of your choice.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with the arrangements.

William Thompson, 1933-2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – William Lansing Thompson passed away peacefully at his home in Springfield, Vt., on Dec. 17, 2023, surrounded by his wife, children, and grandchildren.

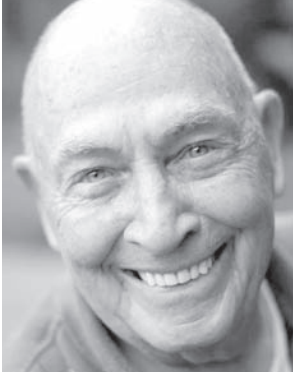
Bill was born in East Haven, Conn., on July 19, 1933. He graduated from East Haven High School in East Haven, Conn., in 1951.

He enlisted in the Air Force and served as a sergeant in Korea from 1951-1954, in the top secret decoding department. After his military service, he married his love since middle school, Marilyn Malinowski, and they started their family. He pursued a career in the food service industry, eventually becoming the national sales manager for Nabisco Brands until his retirement in 1993. This also coincided with the advent of the fax machine and email.

He and Marilyn moved to Madison, Conn., and then Springfield, Vt., in 2000, to be closer to family. He was an avid golfer since his youth, playing with his father. He was a longtime member of the Mendham, N.J., golf club, the Madison, Conn., golf club, and the Crown Point Country Club in Springfield, Vt., where he served on the board. He always made sure to enjoy the 19th hole! He was an active member of St. Mary’s Church, the Knights of Columbus, and was past president of the Lions Club, where he performed yearly eye checks at local elementary schools, and sold Christmas trees at the plaza.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years Marilyn, and by his sons Bill (Judy) and Rick (Ann), and daughter Linda Smith. He is survived by 10 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his



William Thompson, 1933-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

parents Bill and Flossie, his sister Barbara Hutchinson, and his son-in-law David Smith.

Bill created lifelong friends with his loud, personable laugh and personality. He will always be remembered for his classy style and attention to detail, love of ice cream, his blueberry pancakes, the clinking of ice in his glass, riding his tractor, and finding every last weed in the yard. Bill played clarinet, and loved the big band era and the Rat Pack. His favorite recording artist was Frank Sinatra, which the family sang around him on his last day.

“For what is a man, what has he got? If not himself, then he has naught. Not to say the things he truly feels. And not the words of someone who kneels. Let the record show, I took the blows and did it my way.” As Sinatra would say, he did it his way, enjoying himself along the way!

A Memorial Mass will be held on Friday, Dec. 29, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Springfield.

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

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OBITUARIES:
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CHURCH SERVICES:
We run Church Services on an alternating schedule. Subject to space. All services are posted online at www.VermontJournal.com.

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LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

Flood legal clinics

REGION – Since October, Vermont Law and Graduate School’s (VLGS) Entrepreneurial Legal Lab and Legal Services Vermont have been working in collaboration to assist Vermont business owners affected by the summer 2023 floods. This effort began in September with several clinics hosted by VLGS’ Entrepreneurial Legal Lab and the Environmental Justice Clinic. In October, Legal Services Vermont’s flood disaster legal assistance team joined the efforts. Between the two organizations, they have hosted six clinics to date in areas severely impacted by the floods. As a result of high demand and ongoing community needs, they will continue to offer monthly clinics to assist Vermonter.

The first round of clinics focused on Vermonters’ needs during the initial recovery period, including assisting with answering questions regarding FEMA and/or Small Business Association (SBA) applications, requests for reasonable accommodations for late FEMA and SBA applications due to disability, unemployment insurance and disaster unemployment assistance. The next phase of the clinics will focus on long-term relief efforts including FEMA appeals, landlord-tenant assistance, and other ongoing legal challenges of flood recovery.

A Ludlow clinic will be held on Thursday, Jan. 11, from 1-4:45 p.m., at the Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main Street. Monthly clinics will then rotate through Ludlow, Waterbury, Hardwick, and Barre.

Individuals can come prepared to the clinic with pictures of before and after the flood if accessible; receipts of repairs, replacement items, and lodging if displaced from flooding; insurance information, including a reply or settlement from insurance after a claim was submitted; household income information; any documents sent to or received from FEMA or the SBA; login information for your FEMA Disaster Relief account (if you have one); and any additional notes about damages, losses and impacts from flooding.

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

T	R	O	T	S	O	B	S	T	E	M
L	E	U	T	T	A	M	A	R	E	
C	A	R	P	O	L	S	E	R	G	S
S	T	O	L	E	S	P	T	A	B	O
P	O	G	O	C	O	L	D	P	L	A
E	U	R	E	A	R	L	Y	E	M	I
C	R	E	A	M	P	L	E	A	T	O
F	I	R	S	G	R	O	S	S		
T	A	H	I	T	I	B	I	C		
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SUPERIOR COURT

Windor Windsor Unit

In re ESTATE of: DANIEL HILL

PROBATE DIVISION

Docket No.: 23-PB-67000

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: DANIEL HILL Decedent

Iate of: SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT Decedent's Town of Residence

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

Dated: 12-12-2023 Signature of Fiduciary: [Signature]

Executor/Administrator	Mailing Address
KARLA HILL	c/o Parker & Ankuda, PC, PO Box 519
Phone Number	City, State, Zip
802-885-2582	Springfield, VT 05156

Name of Publication: Vermont Journal

Publication Date: December 27, 2023

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court - Windsor Unit, Probate Division

Address of Probate Court: 12 The Green Woodstock, VT 05091

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

Chinese Calligraphy w/ Jonathan Root 2/17/24

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 Alexander 4/6/24

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

(01/24/24 - TFN - 13)

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Okemo Valley TV

LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

• Green Mountain HS Holiday Concert

• Mount Holly School Holiday Concert

• Behind the Scenes of Yoh Theatre at Woodstock Union HS

• Fireside Chat w/ local author Job Clinch

• All new seasonal Story Time readings

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)

year in review, part 1

JAN. 19 – Twin Falls Training Center offers gymnastics for all ages

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The recently launched Twin Falls Training Center (TFTC), co-owned by Cassandra Pedigo and Kari Gypson, is a newly established gymnastics facility located at 9B Spencer Drive in Bellows Falls. Pedigo is the Head Coach and has 10 years of training experience in gymnastics, while Gypson primarily handles operations, has worked in both the non-profit industry, and holds a bachelor's degree in sustainable community development.

By Joe Milliken, The Shopper

JAN. 21 – Eagle found on Lake Rescue

LUDLOW, Vt. – On Saturday, Jan. 21, Game Warden

Tim Carey received a report of a dead bald eagle on Lake Rescue in Ludlow. While retrieving the eagle Carey noticed blood on the birds feathers. He took the eagle to Eastwood Animal Clinic in Rutland who gave it an X-ray, which showed there was a pellet from an air rifle lodged in the bird's leg.

By Ian Bard, The Vermont Journal

JAN. 24 – Ray Massucco Concert Series to premier at BFOH

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Saturday, Feb. 4, the Bellows Falls Opera House hosted the opening show of the newly launched Ray Massucco Concert Series, featuring Dar Williams and opening act Crys Matthews. The concert was the first in a series of four.

By Joe Milliken, The Shopper

per

FEB. 1 – Green Union cannabis dispensary opens in Plymouth

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – New shop owner and 14-year Plymouth resident Al Baran's New York accent surfaced on occasion as he ran through his story leading up to the decision to purchase the Salt Ash Inn, a 200-year-old inn in Plymouth, Vt., when he was 27 years old. The inn has a rich history. In the 1830s, the main building was a stagecoach stop, later a general store, and at one point a post office. Prior to 1797, the town of Plymouth was called Saltash, and the area of town where the Salt Ash Inn sits was known as Plymouth Union, an inspiration for the name Green Union.

By Paula Benson, The Vermont Journal

FEB. 7 – Rockingham Depot Bridge Project

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – On Tuesday, Feb. 7, the Rockingham Selectboard approved the proposed parking design for the Depot Bridge project, discussed bridge painting options, and Canal Street parking. Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) project manager Scott Burbank and Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) project manager Bob Klinefelter presented the next steps for the project. Burbank showed examples of similarly designed pedestrian bridges with color options.

By Betsy Thurston, The Shopper

FEB. 8 – Remembering Gary Smith: Studio Owner, Producer, Local Entrepreneur

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Gary Smith, known locally for bringing to life the Bellows Falls public radio station, WOOL-FM, and the farm-to-table restaurant on The Square, Popolo, has recently passed away. Smith resided in nearby Walpole, N.H. However, Smith's path to the Bellows Falls area was also derived from a creative and influential path in which he became one of the most sought-after producers during the Boston alternative music scene some 40-plus years ago.

By Joe Milliken, The Shopper

FEB. 15 – Plans underway to preserve Rockingham Meeting House

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Walter Wallace, Rockingham Historic Commission coordinator, led the ongoing conversation on the preservation of the Rockingham Meeting House (RMH) at the Feb. 15 town hall meeting, where interested people gathered or joined online to hear Wallace give an update on the project.

By Paula Benson, The Shopper

MARCH 10 – Ludlow town manager Scott Murphy moving on

LUDLOW, Vt. – Ludlow town manager Scott Murphy, after serving the Town of Ludlow for roughly five years, is moving on to work as the town manager of Manchester, Vt., and Cavendish town manager Brendan McNamara is set to replace him at Ludlow. Murphy came into his position in Ludlow with years of municipal experience, having previously served as the Wilmington town manager and the Bennington director of economic and community development. Murphy's experience in resort towns like Ludlow and Wilmington should transfer well to Manchester.

By Ian Bard, The Vermont Journal

MARCH 20 – Rockingham Town Hall roof targeted for solar project

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Rockingham Town Hall, which is located on The Square in Bellows Falls, is in desperate need of a new roof. The project has also brought forth the option off adding a solar array atop the building. At a selectboard meeting back in January, town manager Scott Pickup talked to the Rockingham Selectboard and Bellows Falls Village Trustees about how the town is researching to determine what it would take to reinforce the roof to support a solar array installation.

By Joe Milliken, The Shopper

MARCH 22 – Citizens speak on Julian Quarry

CHESTER, Vt. – The presentation given at the selectboard meeting contained pictures and videos showcasing the citizens' complaints. There were pictures of Dean Brook before and after it

passed the Julian Quarry. The section before the quarry was green and clear, and the section of the brook following the quarry was almost completely white. Many of the citizens stated that the river was even running white that night.

By Ian Bard, The Vermont Journal

MARCH 29 – CTES principal Amy Bohren decides not to return next year

CAVENDISH, Vt. – The search is back on at Cavendish Town Elementary School (CTES) for a new principal to start in the 2023-2024 school year. Last Wednesday, March 29, Principal Amy Bohren announced her departure, after just over one year in the position.

By Paula Benson, The Vermont Journal

APRIL 5 – Potash Brook Road residents share concerns

CHESTER, Vt. – Many residents of Potash Brook Road approached the microphone, or spoke via Zoom, detailing their frequent, often frightening encounters, over a period of more than five years, with a person who lives in their neighborhood, described variously as having "mental issues" and having been "diagnosed with schizophrenia." Several people described incidents in which the individual broke into their homes, verbally threatened them, or menaced their children on their own property.

By Nick Giberti, The Vermont Journal

APRIL 6 – The Eatery by Vermont Bliss opens in Ludlow

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Eatery by Vermont Bliss welcomed customers to 47 Depot Street for the first time on Thursday, April 6, serving breakfast sandwiches and burritos, salads, smash burgers, and lots of vegetarian choices. Fresh, locally sourced ingredients are what Chef Michelle Suker and Chef Jon Turco use to create a seasonal breakfast and lunch menu from their "scratch kitchen."

By Paula Benson, The Vermont Journal

MAY 3 – Ludlow resolves beaver conflict

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Town of Ludlow has spared what remains of a local family of beavers who were building dams along South Hill Road, opting instead for non-lethal deterrence. Initially, one of the beavers had been "eradicated." However, after concern from citizens of the town and the involvement of Protect Our Wildlife, a local wildlife advocacy group, the town "worked with the state to install a beaver baffle... [which] seems to be work-

ing," said municipal manager Brendan McNamara.

By Nick Giberti, The Vermont Journal

MAY 16 – Canal Street redesign under discussion

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Village Trustees recently got their first look at the updated plans surrounding the redesign of Canal Street, which is directly related to the current Depot Street Bridge project. With construction set to begin in 2025, Canal Street will have a whole new look, featuring a one-way road for its entire length, as well as new lighting, sidewalks, and landscaping.

By Joe Milliken, The Shopper

MAY 18 – GMUSD Board in chaos over mascot

CHESTER, Vt. – After years of contentious debate over the use of "Chieftains" as the moniker of the Green Mountain Unified School District (GMUSD) sports teams, the school board's most recent vote, at the May 18 meeting, ended in a tiebreaker. The board was split 5-5, which left it to recently appointed Board Chair Deb Brown to cast the deciding vote. Immediately after the decision, board member Keith Hill resigned from the board.

By Paula Benson, The Vermont Journal

MAY 24 – Garage Building doors ready to open

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – After a recent ribbon cutting and open house event, the new \$10.75 million Garage Building project in downtown Bellows Falls is ready to open its doors for new tenants on June 1. Purchased in 2020 by the Brattleboro-based Windham and Windsor Housing Trust (WWHT), the affordable housing project was launched after multiple offers were made to the owner of the building, sign maker Frank Hawkins, before he finally agreed to part with the decaying building.

By Joe Milliken, The Shopper

MAY 31 – Dale Mann hired as new CTES principal

CHESTER, Vt. – The general decorum during the Wednesday evening, May 31, Green Mountain Union School District's (GMUSD) Special Meeting was vastly different from the previous week. Reinstated board members Kate Lamphere and Katie Murphy were both at the meeting in person, seated along with other board members, Superintendent Lauren Fierman, and Board Chair Deb Brown. There were even some smiles and laughs.

By Paula Benson, The Vermont Journal

SEVCA announces regional thrift store network

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – With the closure of the Good Buy Thrift Stores in Springfield and Bellows Falls, Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) is announcing the implementation of a new partnership with thrift stores throughout Windham and Windsor counties. Participating stores will honor SEVCA-issued vouchers given to qualifying community members who will be able to access free clothing, furniture, and housewares in their neighborhoods. The first stores to join the SEVCA thrift store network include Black River Good Neighbor Services in Ludlow, Chester-Andover Family Center in Chester, The Community Closet at Emmanuel Episcopal church in Bellows Falls, and Busy Bees in Bellows Falls. SEVCA anticipates several more stores will join soon, and up to date information will be available on SEVCA's website, www.sevca.org, and Facebook page as more

stores are added to the network.

SEVCA has operated thrift stores in Windsor and Windham counties since 1970 with the dual purposes to offer low-income community members access to free and low-cost furniture, housewares, and clothing, and to be a locus of economic development. This new network allows shoppers utilizing vouchers to choose where they go to meet their specific needs, and the program also brings income to local small businesses.

"We again would like to thank our community for their long and loyal support for SEVCA Good Buy stores, both as shoppers, and as donors. We will especially miss seeing our volunteers and regular patrons," said interim executive director Kathleen Devlin.

The Thrift Store Network voucher program will start in January. Please contact SEVCA at 802-885-7074 for more information or visit www.sevca.org.

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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 Jog
- 5 Cry
- 8 Goblet feature
- 12 Stead
- 13 Spanish aunt
- 14 Tortoise's opponent
- 15 Ride-sharing arrangements
- 17 Work units
- 18 Sixth sense
- 19 Forbidden acts
- 21 Stylish wrap
- 24 Flintstones' pet
- 25 Comic strip possum
- 26 "Yellow" band
- 30 Where Lux. is
- 31 Primitive
- 32 Brit. record label
- 33 Slapstick missile
- 35 Perched on
- 36 Evergreens
- 37 Icky
- 38 Where Gauquin painted
- 41 Pen name
- 42 Out of the storm
- 43 Temporary lodging
- 48 Furnace fuel

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- 49 Snaky fish
- 50 Jazzy Fitzgerald
- 51 Maintained lawn
- 52 Lay down the
- 53 Deli loaves
- 7 Historic
- 8 French prison
- 9 Cyndi Lauper hit
- 10 Poi base
- 11 Thus
- 12 Disarray
- 16 Sugary suffix
- 20 Tennis champ
- 21 Murray
- 22 Detail, briefly
- 23 Go sightseeing
- 24 Shrek, for one
- 24 Writer Lessing
- 26 Whims
- 27 Jared of
- 28 Book after Joel
- 29 Shril barks
- 31 Send forth
- 34 Off course
- 35 Sagittarius
- 37 USO audience
- 38 Dash gauge
- 39 Skin soother
- 40 Make well
- 41 Hardly hirsute
- 44 Old Olds
- 45 Layer
- 46 Pub order
- 47 "— Kapital"

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