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# THE **Vermont** Journal

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## Santa and the Grinch help ring in Christmas season

BY PAULA BENSON

The Vermont Journal

**REGION** – On Saturday, Dec. 2, the Village of Weston was beginning to look a lot like Christmas during the annual Christmas in Weston celebration. Groups of friends and families walked through the village, popping in and out of shops, grabbing some hot cider, or warming their hands over the wood fires.

The dreary skies couldn't dampen the holiday spirit of all who came out to enjoy the magic of the season. Santa and Mrs. Claus were in front of the Weston Village Christmas Shop visiting with kids and greeting guests with heartfelt Merry Christmas wishes. At 4:45 p.m., Santa would head to the Village Green to light the Christmas tree.

Two horse-drawn wagons carried delighted passengers around the green, the horses' hooves clopping merrily along. One of the Weston Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) members directing traffic was



Santa and Mrs. Claus in Weston. PHOTO BY PAULA BENSON



The Grinch in Chester. PHOTO BY PAULA BENSON

spotted dancing along to the musical rhythm.

There were plenty of festivities for kids; cookie decorating at the museum, holiday crafts at the library and Mildred's Building, and roasting marshmallows outside the Weston Village Store. There were readings of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and "The Polar Express."

A reading of "A Christmas Carol" by members of the Weston Theater Company was held at the Old Parish Church. The company also performed "A Winter Weston Cabaret" on

Friday and Saturday nights at the Theater at Walker Farm.

Crowds of people browsed through the Weston Village Store and the Vermont Country Store, picking up souvenirs or gifts. A year-round Christmas-themed destination shopping experience, the Village Christmas Shop was festive and welcoming, as always.

The evening was topped off by a lively fireworks display sponsored by The Vermont Country Store.

The annual event benefits The Little School and the WVFD.

Over in Chester, stores were lit up, the trees on the Village Green were wrapped in twinkling white lights, and the Fullerton Inn celebrated its Festival of Trees, with a 5 p.m. tree-lighting ceremony. Christmas trees lined the inn's front porch, decorated and donated by a variety of local groups such as Healthcare Rehabilitation Services (HCERS) in Springfield, Barrett and Valley Associates in Chester, and Ferngully Farm, also in Chester.

Stationed in front of the recently opened Common Street Market, the Grinch waved and greeted shoppers in his Grinchy way. A rotating collective of diverse, local producers selling items like fresh baked goods, vintage collectables, art, jewelry, cheese, and hand-crafted woodworking pieces, the market is open every weekend.

Holiday cheer was on full display in the close-knit retail community of Chester, and events continue through the month of December. With sparkling decorations and lights, customer appreciation offerings, and more, the Chester Green will host Santa on Saturday, Dec. 9. Santa will light the official town Christmas tree in a ceremony scheduled for 4:30

## Women's World Cup



Giant Slalom winners, left to right: Alice Robinson, second; Lara Gut-Behrami, first; Makaela Shiffrin, third.



Slalom winners, left to right: Petra Vlhova, second place; Mikaela Shiffrin, first place; Wendy Holdender, third place.

PHOTOS BY NEAL MAGNUS

## Ludlow sets date for STR registry meeting

BY NICK GIBERTI

The Vermont Journal

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – The Ludlow Selectboard met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, Dec. 4, opening the floor to comments from citizens.

Resident Eric Alden inquired as to the status of the long-discussed restroom to be installed at the Ludlow Transfer Station. Town manager Brendan McNamara told Alden that the project had gone out to bid, and would likely be underway in "three or four months," meaning that transfer station workers would spend most of this winter without a restroom.

McNamara then updated the board on flood recovery and expenses, and the process of FEMA reimbursement. According to McNamara, Ludlow has spent \$2.5 million on flood damage repairs, 75% of which, or about \$1.9 million, is FEMA reimbursable. While he acknowledged that the number may continue to increase slightly, McNamara said that flood related expenses were tapering off, and that FEMA should begin to reimburse funds within the next 30-60 days. To ensure that all costs are properly documented and reimbursed, Ludlow has hired Kelly Murphy from First Responders Inc., to work on the FEMA reimbursement process. Murphy previously worked with FEMA after hurricane Irene, and her fees are eligible to be reimbursed by FEMA.

The board was then set to renew Okemo's lease on the Stearns Pit, which is used by

the mountain as a parking area. There was some back and forth between residents and the board over the provisions of the lease, mostly regarding whether the town or Okemo is responsible for maintenance of the pit and of West Hill Road, when Alden noted that sections F and G of the lease contract appeared to be missing from the board's packet. As a result, after some confusion later in the meeting, the board voted to defer approval of the lease renewal until their budget meeting on Dec. 12, pending review of the full lease contract.

The next agenda item was a discussion of a local options tax, something which has been discussed previously, and defeated at a town vote in the past. "A local options tax is...something we need to look at as a community," McNamara said. "I'm not saying it should be approved or shouldn't be, but...it's a detriment to the town to say we didn't look at it."

The local options tax would involve extra fees on one or more of room and board, meals, and general sales within the Town of Ludlow. McNamara told the board that the revenue generated by the tax would defer some of the costs to taxpayers that are now generated by property and other taxes to Ludlow residents. Some took issue with the notion of the money being placed into the general fund, preferring that the money be earmarked for projects such as dam repairs and maintenance. Ultimately, McNamara told the board he preferred to have a full, warned meeting devoted

solely to the local options tax at some time in the future.

The board then approved a bid for use of OnSolve's CodeRED, an emergency alert software used to send text message alerts. The town will use the software to inform those who sign up of emergencies in Ludlow. "This [software]...really will fit the needs of the town from everything from an event like the flooding...to a water break," McNamara explained to the board.

The board had previously discussed holding a town meeting concerning Ludlow's STR registry, and the board then set the date for the meeting on Dec. 19. A full meeting warning will be forthcoming.

Finally, McNamara gave his municipal manager's updates, addressing continued concerns about damage and repairs to the Jewell Brook Dam sites three and five spillways. McNamara said he had spoken to USDA conservation engineer Bob Thompson, asking how concerned the town and its residents need to be while the dams await repairs. Thompson had told McNamara that, in both cases, even if there were another storm before the spring when the dam repairs commence, there is likely not an immediate danger of dam failure on either dam site.

The Ludlow Selectboard will next meet on Monday, Jan. 8, at 6 p.m., in the Heald Auditorium at Ludlow Town Hall.

p.m., gather his letters and wish lists that have been collecting at the Fullerton Inn since Nov. 24, then spend time visiting and taking photos with children in the inn's lobby. Hot

chocolate and cookies will be served.

Also scheduled for Dec. 9 is a performance by the Springfield Community Chorus, at 7 p.m., at the Chester Baptist Church.

## "Love Letters" raises over \$2,000 for Parkinson's

LUDLOW, Vt. –

The recent Friends of Ludlow Auditorium (FOLA) production of the play "Love Letters" drew a very large audience, whose donations exceeded \$2,000. Featuring Linda and George Thomson as the readers, the play, by A. R. Gurney, tells the story of two people writing to each other as they go through two very different lives. It shows how two very different personalities can



Linda and George Thomson performing "Love Letters."

PHOTO PROVIDED

develop a strong and deep affection that transcends a very sedate life, compared

to one that is full of chaos.

All donations from the play will be donated to the Michael J. Fox Parkinson's Foundation in memory of Janet Pace, longtime secretary and founding member of FOLA, who passed away due to Parkinson's disease. Pictured are Linda and George Thomson as they appeared on the Heald Auditorium stage at Ludlow Town Hall as they read the letters.

## Chloe's Market grand opening

**PLYMOUTH, Vt.** – The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce recently celebrated the grand opening of new chamber member Chloe's Market at the former Plymouth Country Store with customers and local and state officials. Owner Rick Martin cuts the ribbon with Vermont State Rep. Tesha Buss holding the ribbon on the left, and chamber director Carol Lighthall holding the other end on the right.



PHOTO BY IMAGES BY DONALD DILL

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# OMS Ski and Snowboard Swap a success

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – Okemo Mountain School's (OMS) Ski and Snowboard Swap had a record-breaking year, raising close to \$38,000. The proceeds from the swap will go towards operating costs, to keep tuition as affordable as possible for all students. The event was extremely well attended this year, and customers were excited with their purchases, finding outstanding deals on all sorts of new and used winter outdoor gear.

Marile Meringolo, head of school, would like to gratefully acknowledge all of the volunteers who donated their time, as well as all the mountain personnel

who went above and beyond their normal duties to provide support to the event. Without all the volunteers and the help of the mountain, the swap could never have been such a success. Everyone's efforts are greatly appreciated by the entire school community.

Since it is never too soon to look to the future, mark your calendars for the 2024 OMS Ski and Snowboard Swap. Equipment drop-off will be Nov. 16, 17, and 20, 2024. The swap will be open for business on Nov. 22, 23, and 24

Okemo Mountain School, celebrating 32 years in operation this winter, is a

nonprofit educational institution dedicated to the academic and athletic development of serious snow sports athletes. Student-athletes are given the opportunity to train in alpine ski racing, snowboarding, or freestyle skiing, while pursuing a rigorous course of academic study. Okemo Mountain School relies heavily on fundraisers like the swap to provide financial aid, scholarships, and to keep tuition affordable.

For further information, please contact Kate Foster at [kfoster@okemomountainsschool.org](mailto:kfoster@okemomountainsschool.org) or 802-975-0126

# Novelist Jon Clinch at Fletcher Memorial Library

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – We are pleased to announce that the Fletcher Memorial Library and The Book Nook will co-present an author event with novelist Jon Clinch on Friday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m., in the Reading Room at the Fletcher Memorial Library, located at 88 Main Street in Ludlow, featuring his latest novel, "The General and Julia," wherein Ulysses S. Grant reflects on the crucial moments of his life as a husband, a father, a general, and a president, while writing his memoirs and reckoning with his complicated legacy.

The Book Nook has been fortunate to have hosted several events with Jon over the years. His first book, "Finn," was named an American Library Association Notable Book, shortlisted for the National Book Critics Circle's first-ever Best Recommended List, and recognized in many national publications as the best book of 2007. Clinch's second novel,

"Kings of the Earth," also received wide acclaim and was touted in Oprah magazine. After publication of his second book, Jon took the leap of faith and decided to self-publish the book "What Came After" under the pseudonym Sam Winston in 2011. This post-apocalyptic adventure, which appealed to both sci-fi and literary fiction fans, prompted "Sam" to pen a sequel, "Into The Silent World," two years later. "The Thief of Auschwitz," also self-published in 2011, took readers on a dual journey – one into the death camp at Auschwitz with Jacob, Eidel, Max, and Lydia Rosen, the other into the heart of Max himself, now an aged but extremely vital – and outspoken – survivor.

Released in 2014, "Belzoni Dreams of Egypt" is part adventure, part romance, and part tall tale; a "fictional autobiography" of Giovanni Battista Belzoni, a real-life 19th-century explorer, circus performer, and shameless self-promoter.

"Marley" revisits the

world of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," and creates deeply entwined personal histories for Jacob Marley and Ebenezer Scrooge.

In "The General and Julia," Jon returns to the deeply American roots of earlier writings, and has a fascinating story to tell. "The General and Julia" is receiving accolades from notables. "Not since 'All the Light We Cannot See' have I read such a perfect example of what historical fiction should be. I predict that every book club will soon be reading this book," says Elizabeth Letts, New York Times bestselling author of "A Perfect Horse" and "The Ride of Her Life."

Please join us on Friday, Dec. 8, at 6p.m., for a "Fireside Chat" with Jon regarding his latest offering. Books will be available for purchase, and Jon will be happy to personalize your copy. For more information regarding the event location, please contact Michelle Stinson at the Fletcher Memorial Library for details at 802-228-8921.

# SoVerA December meeting

**CHESTER, Vt.** – Join the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group (SoVerA) on Dec. 12, at 7 p.m., for a presentation on Venus by member Kevin Paquet. This will be a hybrid meeting – in person at the Chester Town Hall, 556 Elm Street in Chester,

and online at [www.zoom.us/j/94691230307](http://www.zoom.us/j/94691230307).

Often called Earth's sister planet, Venus is nearby and made of much the same stuff. However, the heat and pressure of the Venusian surface are like nothing on Earth.

Cloaked in clouds, Venus was once the site of fevered expectations in science fiction. Science fact dashed the hopes for a swamp world filled with menacing lizards, but also revealed a surprising temperate zone high above the hostile surface.

Could there be life in the clouds? What was the surface like before a runaway greenhouse effect? A new

generation of spacecraft are being readied to study these questions and more. Join SoVerA in person or online to learn about the history of Venus, and our hopes for what it holds in the future.

# Okemo Valley TV radio survey

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – Okemo Valley TV, the community access TV station and media center, has been expanding beyond cable for many years. Like its 23 "sister stations" across the Green Mountain State, Okemo Valley TV was

originally formed as a public, educational, and government (PEG) access cable TV station. PEG TV channels were established through the Federal Communications Act of 1984. The provision for these channels was in response to the build-out of cable television. Cable companies were being given licenses to build out their infrastructure along public roadways and other rights-of-way, in order to bring this new technology to the masses. In Vermont, the growth of PEG (otherwise known as "community TV") ramped up during the 1990s. Okemo Valley TV was formed in 2001 when it was known as Ludlow-Plymouth-Cavendish Television (LPCTV).

Over the years, Okemo Valley TV has experienced a slow but steady expansion of its services. Today, as with its colleagues, it is embracing all sorts of media platforms and uses. For starters, the station's two TV channels are not just on cable; they are streamed live on its website at [www.okemovalley.tv](http://www.okemovalley.tv), and on its free, downloadable app on over-the-top (OTT) streaming platforms Apple TV, Roku, Fire TV, Google Play, and

iOS. Video on demand of local programming can be found on the station's website, its YouTube channel, as well as the streaming app.

Executive director Patrick Cody stresses the use of the word media in the station's mission and goals ("to provide the community with access to media technology, and to serve as a primary media resource"). "That was by design, as we look ahead. We want to be able to provide whatever media services that the community wants," Cody added.

As far as the next steps, there is the possibility of adding non-visual media to the organization's offerings. For the third time in nearly a quarter century, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is accepting applications for new low power FM (LPMF) community radio licenses. This is for non-commercial, community-based radio programming, and must be operated by a nonprofit organization. There are several LPMF stations operating in Vermont already, but not in the immediate area around Okemo Valley TV. There is WOOL FM in Bellows Falls, which started as LPMF but

is now full power community radio. Cody points to the similarities between the missions of community radio and community TV, and sees a lot of opportunity to bring them together under one roof.

Okemo Valley TV is looking to survey community members to gauge the enthusiasm for community radio in the Black River Valley and Okemo region. "At the most fundamental level, we are in the public media industry," says Cody, noting that he counts among Okemo Valley TV's colleagues and media partners organizations such as Vermont Public, VTDigger, and community radio stations like WOOL FM in Bellows Falls. "As an established nonprofit media organization in the community, we are likely in the best position to file an application, assuming there's enough interest. That's what we're trying to find out." The LPMF application filing window is from Dec. 6-13. Submitting an application is non-binding, meaning there is no obligation to start a station by merely applying. For more information and to take the survey, go to [www.okemovalley.tv](http://www.okemovalley.tv).

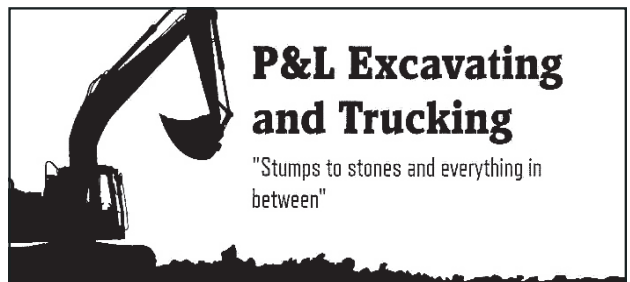


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# Bookmaking workshop at The Little Art Supply Store

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – On Saturday, Dec. 9, at 10 a.m., at The Little Art Supply Store in Bellows Falls, there will be a bookmaking workshop offered for teens and adults, “Making and Decorating Unique Folded Books.” This is a chance to create delightful small items for gifts, and to learn how to make simple but elegant small books.

Participants will work with various tools and papers to make two to three small unique books suitable for pocket jotters and notebooks. Basic bookmaking techniques will include working with a variety of papers folded in interesting and varied ways. There will be a rich selection of art materials with which to



Make handmade books like these at the workshop. PHOTO PROVIDED

decorate pages and covers. All will go home with several books they have created, and knowledge of how to continue making books on their own.

No prior bookmaking experience is needed for this workshop. Both begin-

ners to bookmaking and more advanced participants are welcome and will benefit. Teens and adults are welcome. Visit the store’s website at [www.littleartsupplystore.com](http://www.littleartsupplystore.com) for more information or to register.

# Vermont in the movies

**S. LONDONDERRY, Vt.** – On Sunday, Dec. 10, at 1:30 p.m., the Vermont Historical Society’s Amanda Gustin will present “Vermont vs Hollywood, 100 Years of Vermont in Film,” an hour-long discussion on how Vermont has been portrayed in cinema, illustrated with clips from the films mentioned, ranging chronologically from 1919’s “Way Down East” to 2005’s “Thank You for Smoking.” Other titles on the docket include Hitchcock’s “The Trouble with Harry” and “Baby Boom,” which show-

cases much local footage. Vermont has been a featured location in Hollywood movies for nearly a century. It has represented many different ideals during that time, and its portrayal reflects both Vermont’s own history, as well as that of America. Examining those films provides interesting and fun insights into the hold Vermont has had on imagination in the media age.

The venue is the South Londonderry Depot, located on West River Street at the intersection with Route

100, immediately south of the West River Bridge. This talk is free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities. For more information, contact Bob Brandt at [rbrandt840@aol.com](mailto:rbrandt840@aol.com).

“Vermont versus Hollywood: 100 Years of Vermont in Film” is a Vermont Humanities Council program hosted by Weston Historical Society and co-hosted by the Friends of the West River Trail and the Londonderry Arts and Historical Society.

# Canal Street Gallery seeks submissions for “Truth Telling”

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Canal Street Art Gallery presents “Truth Telling,” finding reconciliation through art. Opening Jan. 19 and on view through March 2, the “Truth Telling” exhibit supports community wellbeing and resiliency by providing a safe and accepting space to use art as a way to interact with difficult subject matter. To include all artists, “Truth Telling” is curated through an open call for entry, and firstly reaches out to Abenaki, Pennacook, and Wabanaki peoples. Upon announcing the “Truth Telling” show, Canal Street Art Gallery enacts its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). RAP’s are created to help steer organizations’ visions, missions, and actions with respect to relationships, advocacy, and opportunity for Indigenous communities.

Image submissions for the “Truth Telling” show are due Jan. 9. Artists may

submit one to three artworks. The exhibition fee is a sliding scale for one, two, or three entries. Artwork delivery is on Jan. 16. To submit, visit [www.canalstreetartgallery.com/call-for-entry-truth-telling.html](http://www.canalstreetartgallery.com/call-for-entry-truth-telling.html).

Along with the “Truth Telling” exhibit, the gallery shares its land acknowledgment. Canal Street Art Gallery is located on N’dakinna, the traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki, Pennacook, and Wabanaki peoples past and present. The gallery, sitting along the Kwanitewk, or Long River (Connecticut River), next to the Kitchee Pontegu, or Great Falls (Bellows Falls, Vt.) gives gratitude to

the land and waterways and the alnobak (people) who have stewarded N’dakinna throughout the generations.

Canal Street Art Gallery is located at 23 Canal Street, in historic downtown Bellows Falls, Vt., and is open Tuesday-Saturday, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information about the “Truth Telling” show or Canal Street Art Gallery, visit [www.canalstreetartgallery.com](http://www.canalstreetartgallery.com), call Mike at 802-289-0104, or email [artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com](mailto:artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com).

# Antiques picking

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119  
[ronpatch27@gmail.com](mailto:ronpatch27@gmail.com)

I began knocking on doors, or “picking,” for antiques over 50 years ago. I had a proven method; I would knock on 20 doors per day. Out of these 20, I would get into five or six houses. I would buy antiques from two or three of these houses. I picked six days a week.

Perkinsville

One summer day, about 50 years ago, I was picking on the Upper Falls Road in Perkinsville. I stopped at an old place to see if I could buy anything. The old guy was friendly enough, but he didn’t want to sell anything.

I remember he collected antique bells of all kinds, cow bells, sleigh bells, school bells, etc. We stepped into a shed where I saw a large anvil. I asked if it was for sale. “Why yes,” he said. “If you can pick it the way I did when I was your age.” I bent over and grabbed the anvil by the horn with my left hand, my right hand to the rear, and picked it up.

“No,” he said. “Pick it with your thumb and forefinger of your left hand on the left front foot, and with your right hand grab the rear right foot with your thumb and forefinger. Then pick it straight up and touch the horn to my nose. If you can do that I’ll sell it to you.” Of course it’s impossible. When I said, “Show me,” he said, “I’m too old now.”

I was about 21, and even though I knew he was playing me, deep down, I wondered if he really could have done it. I was still wet behind the ears. Some of these old Vermonters were storytellers. We are still here.

Mr. Farnsworth

Another summer day, I was on a dirt road in Vergennes when I stopped at an old place. I walked up on the porch and knocked on the door. A nice old gent came to the door. I introduced myself, and told him I was buying antiques. I could see antiques in the kitch-



Antiques from a generational attic.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

en behind him. He let me in and showed me around.

I probably spent 45 minutes with him going from one room to another. I made many offers, but he wouldn’t sell anything. I had to get back on the road, so I stepped out onto the porch to leave. He said, “Wait, I want to show you something.” I wanted to get going, but I could tell the old guy was lonely, so I humored him a little longer.

There was an ell on one end of the house. We started up these creaky old stairs when I looked up to the upper floor. I could see shelves loaded with Edison record players. There were over 70 Edison machines. He had two figures of Nipper, Edison posters and signs, extra horns, and thousands of records.

He asked, “What would you like to hear?” Having already struck out and knowing he wouldn’t want to sell his machines I said, “I’d like to hear you’d take

a hundred dollars for the contents of this room.” He bent over double laughing at such absurdity, and invited me to sit in his antique wicker rocker.

He played “Uncle Josh” records, and told me about them and their value. Any questions I had, he answered. I learned a lot that day. When I said, “I need to get going,” he said he would sell many of the antiques I had made offers on. I loaded the truck that day. I remember his name was Farnsworth, and he wanted to open a museum. We became friendly as time went by. I later learned every picker in the north-country had tried to buy antiques from him. Mr. Farnsworth liked my sense of humor.

*This week’s old saying I was told by an old-time antiques dealer 50 years ago. I asked him what something was worth. “It depends whether you’re buying or selling.”*

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# opinion

# COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear Editor,

We hope you were able to join us this past Saturday, as Santa arrived on the big blue fire engine with lights and sirens, spreading holiday joy at the annual Christmas in Weston celebration. With just a few sprinkles, families enjoyed a full day of horse-drawn wagon rides, food and drink, children's arts and crafts and storytelling, wreath sales, cookie decorating and sales, along with lots of caroling both in the Church on the Hill and on the Green. Commemorative mug and tea towel sales were made possible by the Vermont Country Store. Burr and Burton Academy Carolers led songs on the town Green, followed by Santa lighting the gazebo Christmas tree, and a fantastic fireworks show above the beloved Weston Play-

house, currently still closed due to flood damage. The Weston Theatre Company read "A Christmas Carol" during the day, and shared their talents both Friday and Saturday nights at their Winter Cabaret.

As you know, both The Little School and the Weston Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) suffered significant losses during this past July flooding, along with many buildings in the neighboring towns. Funds raised this year were allocated to those two groups. With a flurry of donated gifts from our community businesses, a successful flood relief raffle was held. The WVFD and The Little School would like to thank the following businesses for making the raffle possible: Benny's Power, Black Powder Farm,

Blue Sky Trading Company, David Bonanno Masseur, Brown's Enterprises, Patricia Connelly, Grandma Miller's, Le Spa at The Weston, Johnny Seesaws, Londonderry Hardware, Mountain Community Arts, Smith Family Maple, The Hub, The Vermont Country Store, Vermont Butcher, and West Town Gallery. Thank you also to our bakers and many event volunteers. The continued generosity of our neighbors, citizens, and entire community is what makes Vermont such a wonderful place to live and brings visitors back year after year.

Sincerely,  
WVFD and The Little School  
Weston, Vt.

Dear Editor,

The 2023 Warm Hands Warm Hearts Coat and Warm Clothing Drive, held Oct. 20-21, at the Baptist Church on Main Street in Chester, Vt., wishes to thank the many volunteers and donors to this much-needed and well-attended event. Last year there were 427 voluntary hours clocked, not including those behind the scenes. This year's got to be more.

In its 16th year, clean, usable, warm clothing and winter wear of all sizes are donated. Volunteers sort and display items for those looking for warmth, free of charge, in the Chester/Andover community. Leftover clothing is then sent to the Boy Scout Shed for further distribution.

Thank you to the en-

titles that let us have drop boxes at their establishments, students from Green Mountain Union High School volunteering for community service, snack and food items from The American Legion Auxiliary Chester Unit 67, St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Parish, First Universalist Parish of Chester, Chester Baptist Church, Andover Community Church, St. Luke's Church, and Smitty's Chester Market.

Thanks also to Chester Andover Family Center for saving coats for us all year, United Methodist for donating rummage sale extras, Gassets Grange for new socks, Springfield Humane Society for towels, blankets, etc., NewsBank Print Shop

for posters, our muscle and vehicles of the event for lifting, moving, setting up, and carting away the heavy items, and Mr. G's of Walpole for donating our new free clothing racks.

All of you, and those behind the scenes, are an important part of this event. Thank you ever so much.

Sincerely,  
The 2023 WHWH Committee:

Carla Rumrill, chair  
Asta Spafford  
Mary Semones  
Faith Goodwin  
Marge Massey  
Lynda Farmer  
Ellen LaFlamme  
Sandy Vincent  
Nancy Roberts

## Trans 101 at Springfield Town Library

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – What does it mean when someone says they are transgender? And what's the deal with the pronouns? Unsure of what to say/not say to a trans person? Are you looking for a better understanding of transgender issues?

Respectful conversations begin with a shared

language. Come learn the basics at this Community Conversation with Owen Daniel-McCarter, a member of Bethel's Equity and Inclusion Committee. This in-person, interactive, and engaging opportunity for individuals of all backgrounds will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at

6 p.m., at the Springfield Town Library.

Owen is a graduate of the University of Vermont, and worked as a civil rights attorney in Illinois for 11 years before moving back to Vermont. Owen will provide valuable insights to dispel misconceptions and stereotypes. This event aims

to create a space where questions can be asked openly and respectfully, fostering mutual understanding and empathy.

Springfield Town Library is located at 43 Main Street, Springfield, Vt. Let's learn more to help create a more accepting world.

Dear Editor,

Town meeting is a Vermont tradition that allows ordinary citizens to meet annually with their neighbors to create local legislation and oversee their town's affairs. It is democracy in action at its most basic level.

Rockingham residents may recall that voters at last year's town meeting discussed whether to continue the tradition of an annual in-person town meeting, or to switch to voting all articles by Australian ballot. Although the decision was made to continue holding in-person town meetings, there were good arguments on both sides. One idea that all seemed to support was that if we are to continue the town meeting tradition, we should do all we can to encourage increased attendance.

To this end, the Rock-

ingham Selectboard is in the process of surveying voters to learn what changes would make it easier for people to attend. I encourage all Rockingham voters to respond thoughtfully to the survey.

Furthermore I am convening a working group of interested citizens to support the selectboard by researching and developing additional ideas for making our town meeting more accessible, relevant, and inviting. My hope is that we will come up with a number of ideas that could be implemented in time for our next town meeting in March 2024. If you'd like to join this working group, or if you have suggestions, please contact me directly at [steve.crofter@gmail.com](mailto:steve.crofter@gmail.com) or 802-275-4646.

Here's to democracy!

Steve Crofter  
Rockingham, Vt.



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**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.**

**Shawntae Webb**, [publisher@vermontjournal.com](mailto:publisher@vermontjournal.com)





**Danielle Goodwin**, [sales@vermontjournal.com](mailto:sales@vermontjournal.com)

**Nick Giberti**, [editor@vermontjournal.com](mailto:editor@vermontjournal.com)


**Paula Benson**, [billing@vermontjournal.com](mailto:billing@vermontjournal.com)

“ Recently, on separate occasions, we both needed emergency care. For each of us, the staff at Springfield Hospital worked with great skill to determine the cause of our extreme health concerns. Barry required emergency surgery performed by Dr. Kloos, who provided excellent care, communication and follow-up with Dr. Ciochi. The talent and genuine kindness shown by the surgeons and nursing staff was phenomenal. A month later, Tina entered the Emergency Department, where Dr. Gray, the nurses, radiology staff, and a tele-neurology consultation, delivered care when time was of the essence. We received “top notch” care from everyone, including nurses, housekeeping staff, and Dietary Technician, Arlene Runnells. It was such a relief for us to be cared for at Springfield Hospital. It was important to us to be close to home. Thank you all. ”

- Tina & Barry Vittum, Chester, VT

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# obituaries

## Doris E. Rice, 1922-2023

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Doris E. Rice, 101, of Saxtons River, passed away on Nov. 29, 2023, at the Cheshire Medical Center in Keene, N.H. Doris was born March 20, 1922, in Athens, Vt., to Raymond and Pearle (Torrey) Haley.

Doris attended schools in Grafton and Cambridgeport, Vt. Doris worked at the Mary Meyer Toy Company in Townshend, Vt., and retired from Readex in Chester, Vt. Doris loved cats, and sending cards to people, and she had an outstanding memory for dates. Doris was also known for keeping up with current events and news. She was also a fan of Bernie Sanders.

Doris is survived by her daughter Iris Haley of Somerville, Mass., and one brother Bernard "Pete" Haley of Grafton, as well as several nephews and nieces.

Doris was predeceased by her parents, and siblings Charlotte, Gertrude, Merton, Lewis, Cecil, Gordon, Ruby, and Lawrence.

Visiting hours will take



Doris E. Rice, 1922-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

place on Monday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, with a graveside service starting at 12:30 p.m. at the Saxtons River Village Cemetery

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Saxtons River Volunteer Fire Department, or to the Bellows Falls Senior Center.

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

## Marylou Britton, 1942-2023

WALPOLE, N.H. – Marylou Britton of Walpole passed away at home on Thursday Nov. 30, 2023. She was born on Jan. 21, 1942, in Keene, N.H., the daughter of John and Louette Johnson. She enjoyed her family farm, her gardens, and spending time with her family putting on holidays, and especially her grandchildren.

On Nov. 4, 1966, in Keene N.H., she married Alfred Britton, who predeceased her. Besides her husband, she was predeceased by a son Andrew John Britton.

Marylou is survived by her children Marlo Britton

(Fred), Molly Banik (Paul), and Lawrence Britton (Josette); and grandchildren Lacy Davis, Kelsey Zielinski, Emily Britton, Josephine Britton, Megan Banik, and Wyatt Britton. She is also survived by five great-grandchildren Taylor, Tulley, Arabelle, Tucker, and River. She also leaves behind one brother John Johnson.

A graveside service will take place on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 12 p.m., at the Walpole Village Cemetery.

Arrangements are entrusted to Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt.

## Jerry W. McGreer, 1937-2023



BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Jerry W. McGreer, 86, of Birmingham, Ala., and formerly Walpole, N.H., passed away on Nov. 10, 2023, at his home.

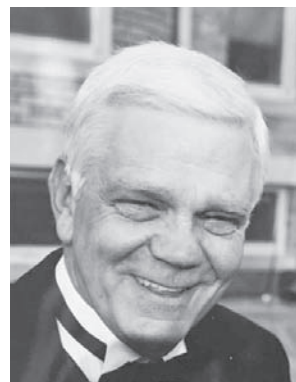
Jerry was born to Audrey and Goldia McGreer on June 28, 1937, in La Grange Park, Ill. He was the oldest of five siblings, and he loved working on cars, trains, playing sports, and music. He was good at everything he did. There seemed to be nothing he couldn't fix. He was the first in his family to attend college, and graduated from DePauw University in 1959 with a liberal arts degree.

After graduating, Jerry enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in central Florida. As an ICBM crew commander and pilot, it was there that he met the love of his life, Diana Dunning, who was attending an all-women's college nearby. It was on his pilot's helmet where he first donned his infamous XOOX letters, which later became their license plates. Diana could always tell it was him, as he purposefully flew formations over the school campus. He married Diana on July 16, 1960, and they started their family soon after.

After leaving the Air Force, Jerry and Diana moved to Ridgefield, Conn., in 1963, where he was employed by Danbury Plastics, now PARR Molding Compounds. They relocated to Walpole in 1971, where Jerry became the vice president of sales at JH Dunning Corporation, and was there until 1983. Jerry went on to work in sales at Patriot Motors in Keene, N.H., but really found his calling as a master kitchen designer for the rest of his career.

Jerry spent the last 20 years in Birmingham, Ala., and on July 11, 2018, he married Veronica Z. McGreer. Jerry would say, "I have lots of children and grandchildren to brag about and love. I'm pretty gregarious and can get along in most any situation. I'd rather be working than idle, I get to meet great people which is fun and rewarding to help others." Jerry retired from working in 2022.

Jerry is survived by his wife Veronica Z. McGreer; his four



Jerry McGreer, 1937-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

children Stacey (Tim) Allen of Walpole and their three children Matt, Harrison, and Whitney; his son Andrew (Stephanie) McGreer of Birmingham, Ala., and their four children Taylor, Anthony, Taylor B., and Zarah; his son Ted (Heather) McGreer of Keene and their two children Mackenzie and Matthew; and his daughter Lynn McGreer of Newbury and her three children Riley, Abigail, and Luke. He is also survived by his brothers Donald (Pam) McGreer of Sugar Grove, Ill.; David (Terri) McGreer of Wildwood, Mo.; and Steven (Deena) McGreer of Saint Louis, Mo.

Jerry was predeceased by his sister Velma (John David) Tucker of Milan, Tenn.

He was a loving grandfather of 10, and great-grandfather of seven.

Aside from his love for family, Jerry was passionate about giving back. He was a man of faith, an elder at Christian Family Circle Church, and an overall kind, sincere and generous man. He was always the first to volunteer his time, serving at church suppers or feeding the homeless. Jerry positively impacted his community, and he will be truly missed.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Home Healthcare, Hospice & Community Services (HCS) in Keene in his name (www.hcsservices.org/give/).

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, at 1 p.m., at Redemption Church, 1512 Back Westminster Road, Westminster, Vt. Following the service, the family will hold a Celebration of Life at Alyson's Orchard in Walpole.

## John Kevin O'Shaughnessy, 1938-2023

WINDHAM, Vt. – A man of many talents and accomplishments, J. Kevin O'Shaughnessy, passed away on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23, 2023, at his home in Windham, Vt.

Born Sept. 2, 1938, in Brooklyn, N.Y., to John Quinn O'Shaughnessy and Lucy Marie O'Sullivan O'Shaughnessy, the third of their four children, Kevin grew up in Floral Park, N.Y., graduating with honors from Chaminade High School in Mineola, N.Y.

Kevin was first and foremost a consummate teacher and scholar, who earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Georgetown University, and was a Fulbright Scholar in attendance at the U.S. Embassy in Guadalajara, Mexico, while earning his advanced degrees from Georgetown. Fluent in several languages and a world traveler, Kevin's Georgetown major was in Latin American studies, but his interests covered centuries of world history, as well as many areas of the natural sciences.

Kevin taught biology and earth sciences from 1968 to 1974 at the Cranwell School in Lenox, Mass., as well as at other schools both private and public in the Northeast and Florida, including Tabor Academy in Marian, Mass. He concluded his lengthy career as a teacher with Vermont Public Schools.

Kevin was a person who was always motivated to learn more, teach more, do more, and accomplish more. He engaged his students in the classroom and in the outdoors. As a teacher, he was a great lover of the natural world, of hiking and skiing, with and without his students. He was a blue water sailor who used his skills to open another part of the natural world to his students, an avid student of all manner of contemporary sailboats, and an expert on the history of classic tall ships.

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J. Kevin O'Shaughnessy, 1938-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

A chance encounter with Jacques Cousteau developed into full-blown academic programs in oceanography.

Predeceased by his parents and brother Thomas O'Shaughnessy, Kevin is survived by his siblings Alice O'Shaughnessy, C.S.J., of Seaford, N.Y.; Kathleen O'Shaughnessy Hearn and her husband Rex Alan Hearn of Lee, Mass., and North Palm Beach, Fla.; sister-in-law Laura Nuzzi O'Shaughnessy also of Lee; close family friend Lauren Hanley, C.S.J., also of Seaford; nieces Nancy O'Shaughnessy Smith of New Marlborough, Mass., and Ellen Clelia O'Shaughnessy of Chapel Hill, N.C.; nephew Christopher Hearn of Valley Cottage, N.Y., and their families.

Services for Kevin will be held in the spring in Vermont, and a future notice of his memorial service will be published at a later date.

Donations in Kevin's memory may be made to The Benedictine Monks of Weston Priory, 58 Priory Hill Road, Weston, Vt.

Honoring Kevin's affinity for the turn of a good phrase, we leave him with the words he so often left with those he loved: "If I don't see you in the future, I will see you in the pasture."

  
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## Deborah L. Swisher, 1950-2023

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – Deborah Swisher, 73, passed away on Nov. 24, 2023, at home in Rockingham. Deborah was born Jan. 8, 1950, in Springfield, Vt., to Charles and Flora (Parkhurst) Anderson.

Debbie worked at Vermont T's for over 15 years, and later at NewsBank, both in Chester, Vt. Debbie loved making crafts and crocheting. She gifted most of her handmade treasures to children, family, friends, and several care facilities. She had an annual fun-loving holiday tradition of making Christmas cookies with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Debbie was a member of the Bartonville Grange for 20 years, where she held multiple offices including master for four years, and was a member of the executive committee. Most of all, Debbie loved spending time with her family.

Debbie is survived by her children Gloria (Paul) Thomas of Walpole, N.H., and Patrick (Fawna) Start of Johnson, Vt.; her four sisters Judy Chernouski, Nancy Rodgers, Charlyn Start, and Sandy Kiablick; her grandchildren Kristina Thomas, Selina



Deborah Swisher, 1950-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

Meisenhelder, Holly Strait, Taylor Palmer, and Natalie Start; as well as eight great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her parents and Gary Swisher, her husband of 25 years.

A graveside service will be held in the spring in Houghtonville Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider giving to the Bartonville Grange. Donations can be sent to Bartonville Grange, C/O Nancy Rodgers, 243 Lower Bartonville Road, Chester VT 05143.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt.

## Wilma B. Weghorn, 1929-2023

CHESTER, Vt. – Wilma B. Weghorn, our Oma, died at her home in Chester with her loving family in the early morning of Sunday, Nov. 26, at the age of 94. She was born in Furth, Germany, on Feb. 28, 1929, to Wilhelm and Louise (Kimmel) Weghorn. During World War II, she worked in the commissary of a United States base and met an American soldier. The two married, and after the war she emigrated to the United States. The two parted ways after a time, and she worked very hard to provide for her two children.

She dearly loved building and operating The Alpina Haus, a lodging, restaurant, and fuel station near Magic Mountain in Londonderry in the early 1960s. She found great joy hosting the skiers and cooking traditional German food for travelers as they gathered for skiing holidays; her Saturday evening roast pork suppers were always well attended, and everyone ended the evening well fed. Through the years she also took care of homes around Magic Mountain, and kept the concessions at the Weston Playhouse well stocked with homemade pies. She also worked at Readex/NewsBank for 30 years, and made great friends there. She lived in Chester for 55 years (30 with her daughter); she was the community Oma, hosting and feeding scores of her grandchildren's friends and community children in the evenings and after school. During the U.S. Open the house was full of young skiers, and she would often stay



Wilma Weghorn, 1929-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

up late in the night with them sharing stories and food.

Oma enjoyed coordinating trips and traveling the world with her family and friends, gardening, baking, and playing cards. She also loved the many pets that also shared their household in her final years and days. She is survived by two children Ken Birdsey and partner Jan Campbell of Treasure Island, Fla., and Lu Parker and husband Gary of Chester; a former daughter-in-law Debbie Birdsey of Hampstead, N.H.; four grandchildren Michael (Corrine), Katie (Rob), Shannon (Mark), and Hannah (Wes); six great-grandchildren Payton, Kylee, Dahlia, Makaylah, Abby, and Logan; and other relatives and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at her daughter's home next spring when the peonies are in bloom and the croquet court is set up and ready for a game.

Arrangements have been provided by Knight Funeral Home, and online condolences are appreciated at www.knightfuneralhomes.com.

**OBITUARIES:** A basic 200-word obituary is \$75, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. A black and white photo is an additional \$10. Email to editor@vermontjournal.com by Monday at 12 p.m.

**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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# calendar

# LEGAL NOTICES

**DEC. 8 –** W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Bard Owl will perform Friday, Dec. 8, from 5-7 p.m., at the West Townshend Country Store's pizza night. Sweet harmonies, old and new tunes, and originals, with Breeze Verdant on guitar, vocals, and stomp box, and Annie Landenberger on vocals and percussion. There is no cover charge. 6573 Vermont Route 30.

**DEC. 9 –** CHESTER, Vt. – The Stone Village Art Guild, in cooperation with the First Universalist Parish of Chester, will hold a Fine Art and Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., at the First Universalist Parish, 211 North Street. The Fair will feature fine art, including watercolors, oil, and pastels by local artists. Crafts, sweater style mittens that Bernie would be proud to wear, fabric baskets, jewelry, ornaments, and a bake sale will also be available. For more information, contact Melody at 802-875-5414 or email melodious54@gmail.com.

GRAFTON, Vt. – Fresh cut Vermont Christmas trees will be on sale next to the Grafton Inn, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., to benefit the Fire and Rescue Scholarship Fund. Santa will arrive accompanied by a fire engine, and tours the village

at 11:30 a.m. on his way to the library for story time.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – There will be a Winter Holiday Arts and Crafts Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at VFW Post 771, 191 River Street, hosted by American Legion Post 18. The bazaar will support the Dodge House for veterans in Rutland, and Springfield American Legion programs. There will be a 50-50 raffle, basket raffle, arts and crafts vendors, and a concessions stand. For more information, contact James Harris at 802-698-3943.

WALPOLE, N.H. – The Walpole Unitarian Church will hold its Holiday Food Sale on Dec. 9, from 9-11:30 a.m., in front of the post office. We will have our popular boxed holiday cookies for gift giving, as well as holiday breads and pies, and savory items such as quiches, casseroles, lasagnas, pot pies, etc. All of our delicious offerings are homemade. Come early to get the best choices.

**DEC. 11 –** LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Valley Senior Center will host a Christmas Luncheon with music by Rust and Ruin on Monday, Dec. 11, at 12 p.m., at 10 High Street in Ludlow. Lunch will be hot roast beef sandwiches, string beans,

and cupcakes. Please make reservations by calling 802-228-7421. All are welcome.

**DEC. 12 –** W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Bard Owl will perform Tuesday, Dec. 12, from 5-7 p.m., at the West Townshend Country Store's burger night. Sweet harmonies, old and new tunes, and originals, with Breeze Verdant on guitar, vocals, and stomp box, and Annie Landenberger on vocals and percussion. There is no cover charge. 6573 Vermont Route 30.

**DEC. 13 –** SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The First Congregational Church of Springfield, 77 Main Street, will hold their Unreel Christmas Concert on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m., with Graham and Camille Parker and Jon Clinch. This will be an evening of songs and carols for all, with a free will offering.

**DEC. 16 –** CHESTER, Vt. – Meatball Saturday, celebrating the meatball tradition, will be held at Erskine's Grain and Garden, 54 Grain Store Road, on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. There will be free meatballs and snacks. From 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Peter Hudkins and the Smokeshire Hilltop Farm will lead wagon rides with Suffolk Punch horses Clark and Freel. All wagon rides will benefit the Chester Andover Family Center.

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

CHESTER, Vt. – The Gassetts Grange holds a dance and open mic night on the second Sunday of every month, from 1-4 p.m., with live music by Green Mountain Express. Admission and food purchases are by donation. Call Doug or Donna with any questions at 802-591-4290.

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

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

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

WESTON, Vt. – Bingo is Monday nights at 7 p.m. at the Weston Rod & Gun Club, 982 Route 100,

1.5 miles north of Weston Village. All are welcome.

**TUESDAYS –** BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Come check out TOPS – Take Off Pounds Sensibly. We are a nonjudgmental, affordable, and supportive weight loss group. The first visit is free. We are taking Covid precautions so a mask is required while attending the meeting. All are welcome; youth must be at least 9 to attend and have parental permission. Meetings are every Tuesday at 25 Cherry Hill in Bellows Falls. Weigh-ins start at 5:45 p.m.

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

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

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

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

details, contact Barbara at bwquilter1778@gmail.com.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Genealogy enthusiast Wayne Blanchard will be at the Rockingham Library on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. If you own a laptop, please bring it along. Both beginners and seasoned genealogists are welcome.

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

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

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

**SATURDAYS –** LUDLOW, Vt. – Yoga, Saturdays at 10 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

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

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

## TOWN OF ATHENS, VERMONT Equipment Operator / Truck Driver

The Town of Athens, Vermont is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time Equipment Operator / Truck Driver. Job duties include snow plowing, salting and sanding in the winter months and general highway maintenance and construction work in the other months. The employee must be able to perform general labor duties and minor repairs and maintenance of highway equipment. The ability to communicate in a courteous manner to coworkers and the general public is required. Must have a valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL). The Town of Athens is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer and offers an excellent benefits package. Applications are available at the Athens Town Office at 25 Brookline Rd., Athens, VT 05143, or can be downloaded at www.athensvt.com. Questions can be directed to the Town Clerk at townoffice@athensvt.gov or (802) 869-3370. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

## SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT



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APPLY ON SCHOOLS PRING OR CONTACT  
MARTHA TARBELL, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
802-885-5120 mtarbell@ssdvt.org

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 1 | 7 |   |   | 2 |   |   |
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|   |   | 2 |   |   | 4 |   |   | 6 |
|   | 4 |   |   | 3 |   |   |   | 2 |

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 "Kapow!"
- 4 British ref. work
- 7 Holler
- 12 Director Spike
- 13 Chemical suffix
- 14 Fall sign
- 15 Nest egg acronym
- 16 Large, luxurious car
- 18 Brooch
- 19 Range
- 20 Collections
- 22 – tear (ragging)
- 23 First lady of scat
- 27 Earth Day mo.
- 29 Transparent
- 31 Dolphins' home
- 34 Traces of smoke
- 35 Agile
- 37 Obtained
- 38 Bygone Peruvian
- 39 Flamenco cheer
- 41 Vacillate
- 45 Quick trip
- 47 Shoe width
- 48 Pungent cheese
- 52 Aachen article

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    | 13 |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |    |
| 15 |    |    | 16 |    |    | 17 |    |    |    |    |
| 18 |    |    | 19 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 20 |    | 21 |    | 22 |    |    | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
|    |    |    | 27 | 28 |    | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |
| 31 | 32 | 33 |    |    |    | 34 |    |    |    |    |
| 35 |    |    |    | 36 | 37 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 38 |    |    |    | 39 | 40 |    | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 |
|    |    |    |    | 45 |    |    | 46 |    | 47 |    |
| 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 |    |    |    |    |    | 52 |    |
| 53 |    |    |    |    | 54 |    |    |    | 55 |    |
| 56 |    |    |    |    |    | 57 |    |    | 58 |    |

- 53 Sports figures?
- 54 Zsa Zsa's sister
- 55 Speck
- 56 Dunkable treat
- 57 River blocker
- 58 Actor Brynner
- 7 Pivot
- 8 That guy's
- 9 Kimono sash
- 10 Samovar
- 11 – kwon do
- 17 Ellipse
- 21 Ballroom dance
- 23 Radiates
- 24 Vinyl records
- 25 Back talk
- 26 Billboards
- 28 Picnic dessert
- 30 – Jima
- 31 Roman 1051
- 32 "There's no – team!"
- 33 "Better Call Saul" network
- 36 Bellow
- 37 Swiss metropolis
- 40 Sledded in the Winter Olympics
- 42 Like a neglected garden
- 43 Vowel group
- 44 Streisand title role
- 45 Equitable
- 46 Streetcar
- 48 Leary's drug
- 49 Jurist Lance
- 50 Fortify
- 51 A/C meas.

### DOWN

- 1 Radar dots
- 2 High nest
- 3 Signified
- 4 Fixes a squeak
- 5 Newspaper chief
- 6 Fiend

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## NOTIFICATION OF MANAGEMENT PLAN AVAILABILITY

Date: November 2023

TO: Parents, teachers, employees, other personnel or their guardians.

FROM: Springfield School District  
Rick Pembroke, CFO  
60 Park Street  
Springfield, VT 05156  
802-885-5120

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

| SCHOOL                  | ADDRESS           | PHONE    |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Springfield High School | 303 South St.     | 885-7900 |
| Riverside Middle School | 13 Fairground Rd. | 885-8490 |
| River Valley Tech Ctr.  | 307 South St.     | 885-8300 |



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

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

The Westminister Development Review Board will meet at 6:30 pm on Monday, January 8, 2024 to consider the following:

**Application # 24-22** Picz Road LLC (John Stebbins - Owner) property located at 17 Picz Road. The Applicant is requesting a Change of Use – Residential to Professional Office Space. This Application will be reviewed under Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 446 Residential District; & Section 215 Zoning Permit Procedure of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

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

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

# classifieds

## BUYING/SELLING

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

## FOR HIRE

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Snow removal, salting, sanding, brush removal, tree removal, and various tractor needs. Need a trench dug? I've got a backhoe. 603-443-7009.

★★★★★

## FOR SALE

COOPER SNOW TIRES 225/55/R18. Used 1 month. \$350 for all 4. Call 603-558-1725.

## FREE

Free California King size heated waterbed, if you take down and

take away. Call Janis at 802-259-9823.

## GUNS WANTED

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

## HELP WANTED

Dental Assistant - Chester, VT - full time or part time. Duties include welcoming patients and accu-

rately recording dental and medical records, chairside assisting during dental procedures, taking accurate radiographs as directed, keeping work areas clean and well stocked, and performing instrument sterilization. Experience is preferred but will train the right candidate. We offer a competitive salary and benefits commensurate with experience and fun working environment. Therapy dogs on site so must be comfortable with canine companions. Please send cover letter and resume to info@drchristopherfauver.com.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Nonprofit Windsor County social service agency seeking full-time Assistant Director. Professional, self-motivated and knowledgeable with excellent communication and technical skills. Previous experience preferred. Competitive

salary and benefits. For detailed job description submit cover letter and resume to: kkellingtonbrngs@gmail.com.

Openings for a MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN to provide psychotherapeutic services, and a PSYCHOMETRIC TECHNICIAN to administer psychological and neuropsychological tests. Twin State Psychological Services, PO Box 2003, Springfield, VT. Phone 802-885-5719.

## SNOW PLOWING

LUDLOW, Vt. - Snowplowing and sanding, Ludlow area, residential only. Reasonable rates. Contact SK Logging at 802-384-0313.

# Springfield resident wins Nor'easter Award

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - "Meet the Candidates 2022," a television series produced by Brattleboro Community Television and hosted by Springfield resident Martin Cohn, won a third place "Nor'easter" award in the category of issues and political process at this year's Alliance for Community Media Northeast Region (ACM-NE) conference held in Burlington, Vt.

ACM-NE is a regional membership organization

that advocates, promotes, and preserves the right to media training, production, distribution, civic engagement, and education in support of diverse community voices, through public, educational, and government access channels and other forms of media. The Nor'easter Awards, now in its 25th year, are judged by volunteers from community media centers throughout the northeast.

For "Meet the Candidates," invitations were sent to 62 candidates seeking election (14 federal, 16 statewide, and 32 Windham County) to appear on the series. Seventeen candidates were interviewed.

"The show helped citizens stay informed about local, statewide, and federal races," Cohn said, "and, of those interviewed, 76% won their races."

# GOTRVT seeking coaches

REGION - Girls on the Run Vermont (GOTRVT), a non-profit organization that uses a research and physical activity-based curriculum to inspire girls in third through eighth grade to be joyful, healthy, and confident, is excited to announce that coach registration for GOTRVT's 25th anniversary spring season is now open statewide. Utilizing a fully updated and refreshed curriculum, GOTRVT coaches will empower participants to develop critical life skills, build confidence, cultivate positive connections with peers, and stand up for themselves and others.

The ten-week season begins March 18, with teams meeting twice a week for 90 minutes. The 20-lesson curriculum covers topics such as positive self-talk, friendship, managing emotions, and more. The program culminates with teams participating in one of two non-competitive, celebratory 5K events - one on June 1, at the Champlain Valley Expo in Essex Junction, and the other on June 8, at the Manchester Recreation Fields.

All coaches will be trained in person, and will receive the materials and resources neces-

sary to facilitate lessons for the season. Coaches do not need to be runners but are required to be a minimum of 18 years old. Students in high school may register to be a junior coach. All volunteer coaches must complete a background check and

online training modules. Coach trainings are offered at three locations statewide: Feb. 3 in Brattleboro, Feb. 4 in Castleton, and Feb. 10 in Essex.

To learn more or to register to be a coach mentor, visit www.gotrvt.org.

|               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Weekly SUDOKU |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | King Crossword |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Answer        |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | Answers        |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4             | 9 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 8 | B              | A | M | O | E | D | S | H | O | U | T |   |
| 5             | 2 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 4 | L              | E | E | I | D | E | L | I | B | R | A |   |
| 3             | 6 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 7 | I              | R | A | L | I | M | O | U | S | I | N | E |
| 2             | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 9 | P              | I | N | S | T | O | V | E |   |   |   |   |
| 6             | 7 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 3 | S              | E | T | S | O | N | A | E | L | L | A |   |
| 8             | 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 2 | A              | P | R | L | I | M | P | I | D |   |   |   |
| 1             | 8 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 5 | M              | I | A | M | I | W | I | S | P | S |   |   |
| 7             | 5 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 6 | L              | I | M | B | E | R | G | O | T |   |   |   |
| 9             | 4 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 1 | I              | N | C | A | O | L | E | S | W | A | Y |   |
|               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | J              | A | U | N | T | F | E | E |   |   |   |   |
|               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | L              | I | M | B | U | R | G | E | R | E | T | N |
|               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | S              | T | A | T | S | E | V | A | D | O | T |   |
|               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | D              | O | N | U | T | D | A | M | Y | U | L |   |



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Fully Loaded



**2016 Jeep Patriot Sport**  
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Auto  
4x4



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Painting the Winter Landscape in Watercolor w/ Rob O'Brien 1/13/24  
Perspective Drawing Basics w/ Chris Mix (Zoom) 2/4/24  
Pet Portraits w/ Mincy 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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[www.newenglandhomebuildingandremodel.com](http://www.newenglandhomebuildingandremodel.com)  
(05/22/24 - 52)

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**Okemo Valley TV**

**LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK**

- "The Loon & the Eagle" at Reading Elementary School
- Behind the scenes w/ Yoh Theatre Players
- ESBK Students Interview First Responder Angela Kissell
- Gov. Scott Administration Press Conference
- Local Weather Forecast

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)

# holiday happenings

## Kids holiday crafts programs at libraries

REGION – This season, two of our local libraries are hosting gift-making workshops for children with art teacher Casey Junker Bailey. Wilder Memorial Library in Weston will have its program on Saturday, Dec. 9. South Londonderry Free Library welcomes little elves on Saturday, Dec. 16. Both programs begin at 10:30 a.m.



Kids can make holiday gifts.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Children will be able to make a collection of special gifts for family and friends. The programs are free of charge and appropriate for children of all ages. All materials are provided. Contact the libraries for more information.

## ACT Children's Christmas Party

LUDLOW, Vt. – Santa Claus is coming to town! A local charity, Assisting Children Today (ACT), is delighted to host its third annual Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 17, and everyone is invited. The event will be held at Fox Run Golf Club in Ludlow. Admission is free. Santa and his elves will be there from 1-5 p.m., to hand out an assortment of toys, trucks, dolls, games,



crafts, and more to children of all ages who attend. There will also be cookie decorating, a free community buffet, and plenty of holiday spirit for everyone to share. We have invited many of our local fire departments to participate in the festivities. Make sure to bring your children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors to this can't miss holiday event.

For more information or questions, email [info@assistingchildrentoday.org](mailto:info@assistingchildrentoday.org) or call 413-636-9028.

## Next Stage Arts Holiday Cookie Swap

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts, the heart of cultural expression in Putney, Vt., invites the community to embrace the spirit of giving and sharing at the Next Stage Holiday Cookie Swap. This delightful event, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, promises to add a touch of sweetness to the holiday season.

The Next Stage Holiday Cookie Swap is not just a culinary exchange; it's a chance for the community to come together and spread joy. Participants are encouraged to whip up their favorite

cookie recipes and drop them off at Next Stage from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9. The event offers two options for participation: the "Little Elf" choice involves bringing two dozen cookies, while the "Big Elf" option calls for four dozen cookies.

The excitement continues in the afternoon, from 1-2 p.m., as participants return to pick up a thoughtfully curated assortment of cookies, creating a sweet surprise for each contributor. In the event of inclement weather, a snow day plan is in place for Sunday, with the same drop-off and pick-up times.

"We're thrilled to host the Next Stage Holiday Cookie

Swap as a joyful way to bring our community together during the holiday season," said Keith Marks, executive director at Next Stage Arts. "It's not just about cookies; it's about sharing a moment of sweetness and connection with our neighbors."

As part of Next Stage Arts' commitment to community wellbeing, any extra cookies will be distributed to the community through Meals on Wheels, ensuring that the joy of the season extends to those who may need it most.

To participate in this heartwarming event, sign up at [www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org) and join us in making the holiday season a little sweeter for everyone.

## VSO Brass Quintet and Counterpoint concerts

GRAFTON, Vt. – The Vermont Symphony Orchestra (VSO) announces its cherished holiday Brass Quintet concerts, co-presented with the acclaimed Vermont choral ensemble Counterpoint, coming to communities across the state next month.

This traditional annual event will tour to Grafton on Dec. 16, at 5 p.m., at the Grafton Community Church, and Manchester on Dec. 17, at 4 p.m., at the Man-

chester First Congregational Church, presenting audiences with a heartwarming blend of brass, voices, and festive melodies.

Under the expert baton of conductor Nathaniel G. Lew, each performance will showcase the extraordinary talents of Counterpoint and the VSO Brass Quintet, featuring Shelagh Abate (horn), Seelan Manickam and Ryan Noe (trumpet), Matthew Wright (trombone), and Philip Hyman (tuba). Local voices will also join in the festivities,

with young choral singers from Burr and Burton Academy at the Manchester concert.

"I am grateful to the VSO and Counterpoint for this generous collaboration, which affords my students the opportunity to be a part of a professional performance via a traditional choral experience," said Julie Freebern, choral director at Burr and Burton Academy.

"It was such a privilege to be able to sing with the VSO and Counterpoint last year in their holiday concert. It was an out of body experience filling the packed church with gorgeous music. I truly can't wait to do it again this year," said Molly Harper, Class of 2025 at Burr and Burton Academy.

The program will include two world premieres: "The Christmas Truce" for chorus and brass by Saxtons River-based composer Carol Wood, based on the World War I Christmas ceasefire of 1914, and a brass composition by Leela McCann, a U-32 School District and Music-COMP student (Music Composition Mentoring Program). Music-COMP provides young Vermont composers with professional mentors and performance opportunities. The concert program will be rounded out by enchanting traditional carols, timeless arrangements by Robert De Cormier (the founder of Counterpoint and the VSO Chorus), compositions by Bach, Gabrieli, and Farnaby, and fun holiday tunes such as "Frosty the Snowman" and "Santa Baby."

The VSO Brass Quintet will also perform live on Vermont Public Classical Radio on Dec. 14, at 12 p.m., giving an hour-long musical taste of the concert tour.

For ticket information and event details, visit [www.vso.org](http://www.vso.org).

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Holiday Menus at [www.EchoLakeInn.com](http://www.EchoLakeInn.com)



# holiday happenings

## Spencer Lewis at the Grafton Meeting House

GRAFTON, Vt. - Join Spencer Lewis to welcome Christmas in Grafton at the Grafton Brick Meeting House on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 1-4 p.m. Lewis will be playing solo guitar and violin, and reprising songs from his "Calling in the Winter" album, which includes traditional Christmas songs and originals like "Weaving World Peace."

Lewis currently has 21 instrumental albums in the digital pipeline of iTunes and Spotify. He started out as a folk singer-songwriter in the early 70s in Wilmington, playing The Old Red Mill and Fat City. His career has blossomed over the years, gracing many a farmers market, town green, wedding reception, or summer festival with his signature sound that reflects his love of Vermont and its rural traditions. His music is uplifting,

soulful, and might be described as a soundtrack to his own life living and growing up in Vermont. When he's not playing music or recording albums in his home studio, he works as a stonewaller based in Bethel. Lewis' open house is just one of the many activities in Grafton on Dec. 9, as the whole town celebrates Christmas in Grafton.

## Nordic Harmoni Holiday Concert

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - Nordic Harmoni invites all to join them in bringing in the holiday season with some traditional Swedish and American songs on Dec. 8, at 7 p.m., in the Second Congregational Church, Route 11, Londonderry, Vt. The evening will include traditional holiday songs, Lucia pageant, and refreshments. Nordic Harmoni is proud to be part of the American Union of Swedish Singers, and is



Last year's Lucia at the celebration. PHOTO PROVIDED

under the wonderful direction of Lorri Bond. Each year, on Dec. 13, the people of Sweden and Swedish communities all over the world begin the festival of Sankta Lucia before dawn. Sankta Lucia celebrations light up mid-winter darkness. This year's Lucia will be Kamron Yuengling. For more information, visit [www.auss.org/nordic](http://www.auss.org/nordic), find Nordic Harmoni on Facebook, or contact Carl-Erik Westberg at 802-824-6578 or [vartland@comcast.net](mailto:vartland@comcast.net).

## Springfield Community Band Holiday Concert

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Springfield Community Band, directed by Nick Pelton, will be performing a free concert at Riverside Middle School, 13 Fairground Road, on Dec. 16, at 6 p.m. The program will feature holiday classics such as "Let it Snow" and "Sleigh Ride," as well as a number of

holiday tunes with a new and modern twist. The concert will also feature members of the Green Mountain Union High School Choir, as well as members of the Riverside Middle School Choir. We hope to see you all there.

## Smokeshire Designs Holiday Sip 'n' Shop

CHESTER, Vt. - Smokeshire Designs will once again host a Holiday Sip 'n' Shop on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 4-7 p.m., at their store at 3630 Route 103N in Chester, Vt.

Kae, potter Heidi Louise, and fiber artist Jordana Jacobs. Chester's very own Amy Mosher will showcase her latest paintings, along with a live demo of watercolors with Bob Sydorowich.

The store is decked out for the holidays with gifts galore, and we've stocked up on all our favorites so you won't leave empty handed.

## Plymouth Emergency Services Holiday Party

PLYMOUTH, Vt. - Plymouth Emergency Services



Join the Plymouth Emergency Services for a Holiday Party. PHOTO PROVIDED

will hold their first annual Holiday Party on Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Plymouth Town Office, 68 Town Office Road, for Plymouth children 12th grade and under. Refreshments will be served, and each child will receive a gift.

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**J&H Sporting Goods** carhartt  
**Men's Night**  
Friday Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm  
20% Off All In stock Merchandise\*  
\* See store for list of excluded items.  
**J&H HARDWARE** Hardware, Paint, Housewares, Electrical & Plumbing Best

# health & wellness

## Crissy Webster Counseling Services in Perkinsville

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – Crissy Webster Counseling Services LLC, a leading mental health service provider, is thrilled to announce the opening of its second location in Perkinsville, Vt., situated at 7290 Vermont Route 131, Suite 4. The expansion is a testament to the significant growth and success of Crissy's private practice, which initially started in 2014 as a part-time endeavor, and has now evolved into a large multi-practitioner office.

Founder and clinician Crissy Webster began the practice by offering specialized services, including anger management groups and juvenile firesetter assessments and interven-

tions. The practice was initially a supplement to her full-time clinician role elsewhere, operating out of various rented spaces around town. In 2018, Webster made the decision to transition to full-time private practice, marking the beginning of substantial growth. Currently, Crissy Webster Counseling Services LLC boasts two locations, with a dedicated team of eight clinicians, one billing specialist, a case manager, and a part-time office assistant.

The range of services provided by Crissy Webster Counseling Services LLC sets it apart from other smaller private practices. The team offers counseling services, case management,

psychosocial evaluations, group sessions, parenting work, and contract work, catering to clients of all ages, including children and families.

"Our goal is to provide comprehensive mental health services to our community, addressing the diverse needs of our population," says Crissy Webster. "What makes us unique is the variety of services we offer, going beyond the

conventional offerings of smaller practices. We believe in the benefits of these services for all our clients."

Crissy Webster Counseling Services LLC actively contributes to the community by addressing mental health needs and offering specialty groups such as trauma-informed parenting groups. These groups focus on the individual struggles of participants, providing a tailored ap-

proach rather than a one-size-fits-all parenting program.

Looking ahead, Crissy Webster has ambitious plans for the future, expressing the hope to expand the practice further and potentially establish another fully operational location in southwest Florida.

When asked why she chose the Springfield area for the second location, Webster shared, "Spring-

field is a great community, but like most rural areas, there are not many services available to families who live in nearby smaller service areas. I was born and raised in this community, so it feels great to give back to the same community."

For more information about Crissy Webster Counseling Services LLC and its range of services, please visit [www.crissywebstercounseling.com](http://www.crissywebstercounseling.com).

## Rite Aid Healthy Futures grant —

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Kurn Hattin Homes for Children (KHH) has received a \$10,000 Neighborhood Grant from Rite Aid Healthy Futures to continue advancing its important mission, focused on providing children in our care a safe, caring place where they can learn, play, grow, and experience the joy of childhood.

Part of its overall Empowering Children signature initiative for Rite Aid Healthy Futures, the Neighborhood Grants help non-

profits address the toughest health and wellness challenges facing kids today.

Kurn Hattin Homes, one of only two Vermont charitable entities chosen, joins 370 other organizations across 17 states that have each received a \$10,000 grant for general operations. The funds will help them continue to deliver critical services as inflation, food insecurity, troubling mental health trends, and other converging factors impact children.

"We are so appreciative

to receive grant money that can be applied to our general operations budget, because it means we have the flexibility to direct the resources to our most pressing needs," said Adam Hallock, the homes' director of maintenance. "We plan to use the Neighborhood Grant for building improvements across the campus, including weatherization of our residential cottages and new flooring in our Mayo Building academic wing."

The grants are funded through the KidCents customer fundraising program, which allows Rite Aid customers to round up their purchases in-store and online to support children's health and wellness.

By rounding up their nickels, dimes, and quarters, millions of Rite Aid customers contribute to local charities restoring hope, resiliency, and self-esteem in children.

"Children today face acute and converging crises across a range of fields

that adversely impact their quality of life," said Matt DeCamara, executive director of Rite Aid Healthy Futures. "Thanks to the generosity of Rite Aid customers, these hyperlocal organizations can continue to provide much-needed programs and services steadying the course for children today, and guiding them toward promising tomorrows."

Rite Aid Healthy Futures is a public charity that improves the lives and futures of kids in Rite Aid communities through partnerships that help build healthier, more equitable neighborhoods. Launched by Rite Aid in 2001, Healthy Futures supports causes, initiatives, and organizations that help kids live long, happy, and healthy lives. Grants are made possible through the generous donations of customers who round up their purchases at Rite Aid through the KidCents program. Visit [www.riteaidhealthyfutures.org](http://www.riteaidhealthyfutures.org) to learn more.

*Grace Cottage*  
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