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2023 in Review on Page 8

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# THE FREE Vermont Journal

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## By the skin of their teeth —

BY PAULA BENSON

The Vermont Journal

LONDONDERRY, Vt. — Sunday night, Dec. 17, and Monday, Dec. 18, brought an unwelcome sense of déjà vu to the Town of Londonderry, and many other southern Vermont villages, when the area was hit with another deluge of rain, bringing with it all too vivid memories of the July floods.

Londonderry business owners, who had only opened their doors again in October, kept an eye on the West River that morning, as 2-4 inches of rain pummeled southern Vermont.

Tammy and Mike Clough, owners of Mike & Tammy's Market and the Maple Leaf Diner, were understandably wary after the last storm all but destroyed their businesses. Luckily, this time the water receded before flooding through their doors.

"We made it by the skin of our teeth," expressed Tammy. "I think everyone in town feels the same way. It was emotional, frustrating, and caused us the same amount of work [as in July]. But at least we didn't lose everything in this one."

Tammy is hoping for more snow this winter, and a robust season. Like all area business owners, the Cloughs have had a rough year. "We want to get people up here and boost the local economy."

Jelley's Deli owner Beverly Jelley and her daughter Susan were also watching the river that morning. When it ultimately crested and began flooding into their parking lot, they began the arduous task of removing every item from the store.

"First we started taking everything to the house next door," Susan said, explaining that Beverly owns



Floodwaters rise again outside of Jelley's Deli as community members help to load items into a trailer.

PHOTO BY DANIELLE GOODWIN

the property. "We were moving everything upstairs, when [regular customer] Nate Chaves came in and said, 'I've got an empty trailer, let me go get that!'" Chaves returned and began packing his trailer with as much of Jelley's inventory as would fit.

Momentum built as word of mouth got around that the Main Street stores were at risk again, and soon a line of volunteers filled the deli parking lot with cars, trucks, and four or five enclosed trailers, with everyone pitching in to help empty the store.

"It really was organized chaos," Susan remarked. "People were rolling coolers, every piece of equipment, every beer from this refrigerator." Susan was amazed, and so grateful.

"Water was lapping at the doors when the last trailer pulled out," Susan recalled.

But this time, that is where the water stopped. Beverly, Susan, their family, and staff felt an overwhelming sense of relief. "There were some sad tears, then a lot of happy tears."

Many of the volunteers came back the next day to help, said Susan, reporting that it took two days to put the store back together.

In Ludlow, the December rain had residents on edge as well. At LaValley's Building Supply, manager Tom Rodrigue spoke about the impact of the two floods on

their property. Thankfully, the store was spared during both the July and December flood events, but in July a lot of lumber, wood pellets, and other items stored in the back corner of the yard were washed away, and the same area flooded again on Dec. 18.

In July, the water knocked down several sections of LaValley's fence, and carried piles of debris onto the property.

Regarding clean up, Rodrigue said, "We did what we had to do." It was a big task, and one he said he "can't take on every other week."

Rodrigue has been in touch with Ludlow town manager Brendan McNamara, and Brett Sanderson, selectboard chair, to help mitigate the potential for the river to repeatedly flood the lumber yard. Rodrigue said McNamara came by to view the property earlier in the week, and he's hopeful that the town will act to remedy the situation.

Small businesses are the heart of the area's charm and appeal, and vital to the local economy. Vermonters are tough, but the events of the past few years, including the pandemic, and the effects of a changing climate, have taken a toll on everyone.

## Okemo winter sports program to start in January

BY PAULA BENSON

The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. — A longstanding tradition at Okemo Mountain Resort, the Winter Sports Program is welcoming 74 students this year from Ludlow and Mount Holly elementary schools.

Beginning on Jan. 10 and running for six weeks, the program will offer skiing, riding, and ice skating this year. Sponsored by the Ludlow Parent Teacher Group (PTG) and a collective of local businesses and organizations who are committed to giving back to their community, and who share a passion for skiing, the sports program began more than 50 years ago, and is a cherished tradition among area residents.

Owner of Open Door Vacation Rentals Noah Schmidt grew up in Ludlow, attended Ludlow Elementary School (LES), and feels grateful that the opportunity was available to him as



Students enjoying a previous winter program at Okemo. PHOTO PROVIDED

a child. Schmidt said he developed a true love of skiing through his experiences in the program, and he wants to make sure any kid with an interest in outdoor sports can have the chance to participate, "even if they can't pay." Schmidt recognizes that skiing is expensive, and that can be a roadblock for some.

"Skiing is really a special sport," Schmidt remarked. "It doesn't matter if you're 2 or 92, you can get out on the mountain, and enjoy time outside with friends. We are lucky to have a world-class resort here at Okemo," Schmidt added. "It's something we should take advantage of."

Schmidt said he set up his company so that 1% of all income from his residential rentals will go back into the community, and this year

he was able to cover the cost of all equipment rentals for the students. He'll also supply snacks, and help in various ways throughout the season.

A generous donation from Mary W. Davis Realtor and Associates will go towards other program expenses. Okemo Mountain School has once again gifted helmets to students who are financially unable to procure one, and Vail Resorts is sponsoring free lessons during the first two weeks, so children new to the sport can have the opportunity to learn safely.

Volunteers are still needed, and donations are appreciated. Contact the PTG at LudlowPTG@gmail.com. Donations will be accepted by mail at Ludlow PTG, 45 Main Street, Ludlow, VT 05149.

## Londonderry adopts STR ordinance, regroups from December floods

BY SHAWN TAE WEBB

The Vermont Journal

LONDONDERRY, Vt. — The Londonderry Selectboard postponed their regularly scheduled meeting to Tuesday, Dec. 19, after the floodwaters rose once again, impacting the Town of Londonderry on Dec. 18.

The town estimates "less than \$20,000 in damages," reported town administrator Shane O'Keefe. "A lot of the work we did from the July storm held up really nicely."

Board member Taylor Prouty said they were fortunate enough to not have to close any roads. "It's muddy, it's messy," Prouty said, but the roads are passable. Chair Tom Cavanagh said they'd need five to six loads of Shurpac for repairs.

O'Keefe stated that in the new year they can meet with their FEMA representative and discuss the next steps for the town, and hopefully start getting some reimbursements.

The board then moved to make a few final, minor changes to their short-term rental (STR) ordinance language; one of eight times they have made adjustments to the document. Board member Melissa Brown stated she had discussed the

potential language for the zoning requirements with planning commission board members, including STR limitations. The planning commission "accepted the document that we started," Brown reported, and "they made a motion to support us and work together."

Brown continued, "We've been very thoughtful and very fair, trying to get all sides of this issue," noting, "we're not going to make everyone happy."

STR owner Ben Sargent asked about the possibility of being grandfathered into the zoning regulations, and voiced his concerns about losing his business. "I'm very happy with the ordinance, I think it's fair," he said, "but if things are flipped, I lose my livelihood and my family home." Brown suggested he go to the planning commission meetings. O'Keefe suggested that Sargent also refer to his attorney Steve Ankuda for advice.

Brown then made the motion, and the board passed the 43-page ordinance. Unless a petition is filed, the

ordinance will be effective in 60 days. The STR registration requirements will take effect July 1. The ordinance will be made available on the town's website, www.londonderryvt.org, and at the town office.

Treasurer Tina Labeau announced she is starting the process of putting properties up for tax sales for delinquent taxes, noting a couple are businesses, a couple second homes, and a few occupied homes.

Brown said she planned to attend the village wastewater committee meeting later that evening to help decide if the board would approve the wastewater project for the north village.

The board wrapped up the meeting by reviewing and discussing a number of annual community and social service appropriations for services such as Neighborhood Connections, Meals on Wheels, the historical society, and Youth Services.

The January Londonderry Selectboard meetings will be held on Jan. 8 and 22, at 5 p.m.

## Shaw's reopening timeline still unclear —

BY NICK GIBERTI

The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. — At the meeting of the Ludlow Development Review Board on Monday, Dec. 18, the board heard updates regarding the rebuilding of Shaw's Supermarket in Ludlow.

Bill Faradie, president and CEO of Vertec Corporation, told the board that his company is responsible for the architectural, mechanical, and structural engineering of the rebuild. He noted that RiteAid has chosen not to reopen its Ludlow location and that, as Shaw's owns the entire plaza in which its store is located, it has decided to expand into the location which RiteAid previously occupied.

Faradie expected that construction would begin in January, and also informed the board that the project will occur in two phases, and include flood mitigation measures.

The full flood mitigation plans are still being drawn up, pending the completion of a site survey, which architect Nicholas Nitschke told the board he hoped would be completed in January or February. Ultimately, the board wanted to see the drawings, as



Ludlow Shaw's to expand, though the reopening date has not been set.

STOCK PHOTO

well as further plans for "implementation, training, and maintenance" of the flood mitigation measures. The board recessed the hearing, and planned to hear further updates at their Jan. 8 meeting.

There is still not a concrete timeline for Shaw's to reopen its Ludlow location.

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## DEADLINES

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

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## 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.



# Public forum on Ludlow and Mount Holly school upgrades

**MOUNT HOLLY, Vt.** – The Mount Holly and Ludlow schools are showing their age. The oil boilers are 50 years old, in need of constant repairs, and terribly inefficient. Most of the classrooms have no ventilation. The Ludlow roof is leaking and has little insulation, with an R-value of 2.5 compared with code of R-40. Windows are drafty. The old fluorescent lamps provide inconsistent light that cannot be adjusted for different tasks. When visitors ring the bell for admittance, nobody from the office can see who they are. When the Mount Holly School was built, we had no kindergarten or pre-k, and very limited special education. Now the school is crowded, with the nurse's office in a closet,



Artist rendition of proposed addition behind the Mount Holly School.

PHOTO PROVIDED

occupational and physical therapy in the cafeteria, and music instruction on the stage in the gym. The school committee recognized these problems, and asked an energy efficiency engineering firm to propose upgrades to bring the schools what is needed for the 21st century. The firm worked with school staff, engaging in a yearlong facilities planning process that included energy audits, code review, program analysis, and facilities assessments at each school to develop an encompassing plan that will improve learning environments and

provide better occupant comfort, while saving the district utility costs and reducing carbon dioxide emissions. They drafted a proposal that includes replacing the oil boilers at both schools with efficient wood pellet boilers with liquid propane backup, adding ventilation systems with electronic controls, replacing the Ludlow roof and increasing the insulation from R-2.5 to R-40, building a 2,000 square foot addition behind the Mount Holly School, rebuilding the schools' entrances and vestibules to make them secure and visible from the office, replacing doors and windows to improve efficiency and security, replacing old fluorescent fixtures with LEDs, upgrading interior finish, upgrading fire alarms, and other improvements to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other code issues. On Monday, Jan. 8, at 6 p.m., there will be a public forum in the Mount Holly School gym, where the firm will present their proposal and members of the public can offer their suggestions to help the school committee decide what to present to voters in March.

# MOOVer resumes Okemo Village Route

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – The Route 61 Okemo Village route resumed its winter weekends and holidays service on Saturday, Dec. 23. This is the second season that the MOOVer will operate this route connecting Okemo with Ludlow. Last year, 3,975 rides were provided on

a weekend and holidays schedule. This year the service ends on March 31. Holidays are Dec. 25-29, Jan. 1, Jan. 15, and Feb. 19-23. The route has added several stops this year. Service will be extended to The Pointe at Castle Hill, Stoney Fields, West Woods, and Alpen Meadows. The route is sponsored by

Okemo Mountain Resort and the Vermont Agency of Transportation. The Town of Ludlow makes a significant contribution to the Ludlow-Bellows Falls service that operates year-round. The schedule is available online at [www.moover.com/route/bellows-falls-okemo](http://www.moover.com/route/bellows-falls-okemo).

# Londonderry Wastewater Project moving forward

**LONDONDERRY, Vt.** – The Town of Londonderry's Village Wastewater Committee will host a public informational meeting on Jan. 10, at 6 p.m., at the Town Office Building in South Londonderry. The purpose of this meeting is to share findings of the Village Wastewater 60% Completion Report. This report will provide preliminary design information, including an alternatives evaluation and preliminary cost estimates. Please join the committee to learn more about the status of this effort and next steps. The report will be presented by project engi-

neer Chrissy Haskins from Dufresne Group. Emily Hackett from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and Juli Beth Hinds from Birchline Planning will also be on hand to assist with answering questions. The committee hopes that the public will participate, voicing questions, concerns, and/or support. This will be a hybrid public meeting available in person and on Zoom. For a link to the meeting and an agenda, visit [www.londonderryvt.org](http://www.londonderryvt.org). The village wastewater project aims to solve the issues related to aging and at-risk septic systems in both the north and south villages. The state has pro-

vided funding to investigate the feasibility of soil-based community wastewater systems as an alternative. The implementation of such systems would not only improve water quality, but also encourage revitalization and incremental development in the villages. Without new wastewater systems, the villages will continue to face challenges such as underutilized commercial and residential properties, which would hinder revitalization and vibrancy. This project is the first step towards redevelopment, given that significant sections of both villages are located in floodplains, making it impossible without wastewater alternatives.

# Ludlow Fire Department fundraising events successful

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – The Ludlow Fire Department successfully raised \$14,570 through a series of fundraising events. The funds were collected from the highly anticipated Fire & Ice event, an online silent auction, and the Fire & Ice merchandise sale. The fundraising committee, comprised of Kathy Burns, Kevin Barnes, Terry Fortuna, Abby Childs, Lisa Schmidt, and Claire

Isherwood, worked tirelessly to organize this event. The following businesses also deserve special recognition for sponsoring the event and/or donating auction items to the cause. Sponsors were Okemo Mountain Resort/Vail Resorts, William Raveis Vermont Properties, Open Door Vacation Rentals, M&M Excavating, and Ted Stryhas Builders. Businesses that donated to the event are Aubuchon Hardware, Blue Sky Trading Co., Calm Moments Massage Studio, Castle Hill Resort & Spa, Clear Choice Pool & Spa, Clearlake Furniture, Cota & Cota, Echo Lake Inn, Eb Kinney and Bruce Schmidt, Engel & Volkers Okemo, Fox Run Golf Club, Fox Run Hospitality, Garvey & Gar-

vey, Goodman's American Pie, Green Mountain Sugar House, Homestyle Hotel, Johnny's Kitchen, Lavalley Building Supply, Ludlow Insurance Agency Inc., Magris Talc, Main & Mountain, Master Plumbing & Heating Inc., Northern Ski Works, Papa John's Sugar Shack, PrimeLending, Russ Hurlburt Photography, Stemwinder, Teaselwood Design, The Boot Pro, The Book Nook, The Cookster, The Eatery, The Killarney, The Vermont Country Store, Three Graces, Tygart Mountain Sports, Unofficial Okemo, and Wine & Cheese Depot. For further inquiries or to make a donation, contact the Ludlow Fire Department, 67 Pond Street, Ludlow, Vt., or call 802-228-2211.



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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.

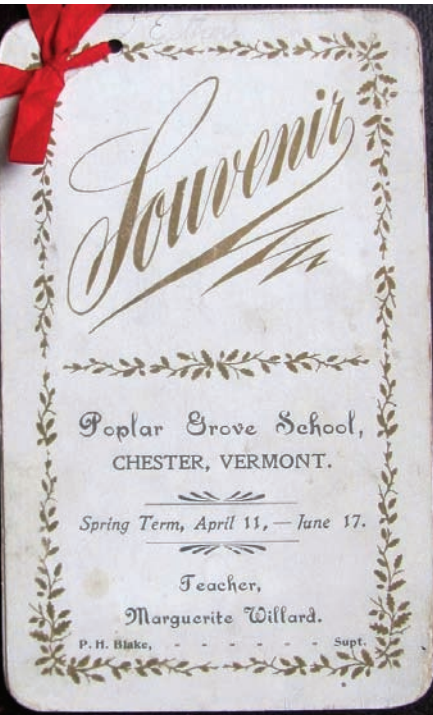
The cover reads: “Souvenir, Poplar Grove School, CHESTER, VERMONT. Spring term, April 11, — June 17. Teacher Marguerite Willard.”

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. Popple 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 Popple 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

GET YOUR LOCAL NEWS ONLINE AT:  
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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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Dear Editor,

As a longtime supporter of the Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts, I was distressed to learn that this treasured Vermont institution is struggling to stay afloat. After years of providing immersive arts education to community members young and old, the school now faces potential dissolution if additional funding and volunteers do not materialize quickly.

Like many nonprofit arts organizations, Fletcher Farm has faced mounting financial hurdles exacerbated by the pandemic’s ripple effects, followed by the recent flooding. Declining enrollment dealt a major blow, reducing the tuition revenue that previously sustained operations. Additionally, recent wire fraud targeting Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts has impacted the cash-strapped nonprofit.

The school’s parent organization, Society of Vermont Artists and Craftsmen (SOVAC), made the 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](mailto: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

obituaries

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](mailto:alsteadthirdchurch@gmail.com), call 603-835-6358, or go to [www.facebook.com/Third-Congregational-UCC-Church-of-Alstead-NH-120645387960916](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/brownsvillecommunitychurch) and [www.brownsvilleumc-vt.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.firstbaptistslondonderryvt.org/streaming-worship.html). For more information, visit [www.firstbaptistslondonderryvt.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.stjohnswalpole.org), email [pastor@stjohnswalpole.org](mailto: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](http://www.walpolenhucc.org) or [www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalWalpoleNH](http://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](mailto:westminstercongonline@gmail.com), or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Westminster-Inc-1506511432980057](http://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](mailto: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.

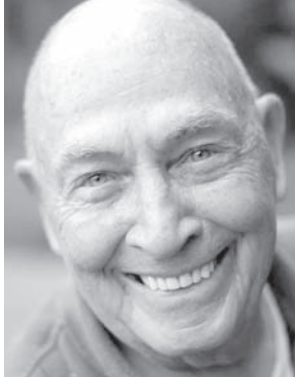
Bill was born in East Haven, Conn., on July 19, 1933. He graduated from East Haven High School in East Haven, Conn., in 1951.

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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**CHURCH SERVICES:**  
We run Church Services on an alternating schedule. Subject to space. All services are posted online at [www.VermontJournal.com](http://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 Vermonsters.

The first round of clinics focused on Vermonsters’ 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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HELP WANTED

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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.

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT

Windor Windsor Unit

Probate Division

Docket No.: 23-PB-67000

In re ESTATE of: DANIEL HILL

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

|                        |                                     |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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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Rakue Workshop w/ Andrew Berends 1/6/24 and 1/13/24

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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(06/05/24 - 52)

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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](http://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](http://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

- Jog
- Cry
- Goblet feature
- Stead
- Spanish aunt
- Tortoise's opponent
- Ride-sharing arrangements
- Work units
- Sixth sense
- Forbidden acts
- Stylish wrap
- Flintstones' pet
- Comic strip possum
- "Yellow" band
- Where Lux. is
- Primitive
- Brit. record label
- Slapstick missile
- Perched on
- Evergreens
- Icky
- Where Gauquin painted
- Pen name
- Out of the storm
- Temporary lodging
- Furnace fuel

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| 33 |    |    | 34 |    |    |    |    | 35 |    |    |    |
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| 38 | 39 | 40 |    |    |    | 41 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 42 |    |    |    |    | 43 | 44 |    |    | 45 | 46 | 47 |
| 48 |    |    |    |    | 49 |    |    | 50 |    |    |    |
| 51 |    |    |    |    | 52 |    |    | 53 |    |    |    |

### DOWN

- Pampering, for short
- Estuary
- Not 'neath
- Elvis' birthplace
- Halt
- Tea tea
- Historic
- French prison
- Cyndi Lauper hit
- Poi base
- Thus
- Disarray
- Sugary suffix
- Tennis champ
- Murray
- Detail, briefly
- Go sightseeing
- Shrek, for one
- Writer Lessing
- Whims
- Jared of
- "Panic Room"
- Book after Joel
- Shrill barks
- Send forth
- Off course
- Sagittarius
- USO audience
- Dash gauge
- Skin soother
- Make well
- Hardly hirsute
- Old Olds
- Layer
- Pub order
- "— Kapital"

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