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Vermont Emergency Eats delivers economic impact

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – The Vermont Emergency Eats (VEE) program distributed over 49,000 meals made by local restaurants to flood-impacted Vermonters in need between Aug. 7 and Nov. 4. Based on the successful “three-pillar” VEE model, Vermont Emergency Eats meals were made by 30 local restaurants using an average of 25% Vermont ingredients, and received by Vermonters whose food security was negatively impacted by the summer flooding.

An impact study done by agricultural economists Elizabeth Schuster and Michelle Klieger indicates that this short-term, targeted application of the

VEE model had an impressive multiplier effect with robust economic benefits at all levels of the program.

The initial \$700,000 invested in the program by the state catalyzed an additional \$1.12 million recirculated by restaurants and farmers into local spending on labor and ingredients, along with a further \$88,000 in private dollars invested in Vermont-owned farms and restaurants on flood recovery, business infrastructure, and equipment.

“We think of Vermont Emergency Eats as being about feeding people, which is true,” said Elizabeth Schuster of Sustainable Economies Consulting. “But equally important

is the benefit to participating restaurants, which reported \$703,500 in flood damages. These restaurants were able to use the cash flow from the meals to start repairing their businesses.”

Participating restaurants purchased an average of 25% local ingredients to use in VEE meals, even though there was no local ingredient mandate. This passed the benefit of the program along to more than 68 Vermont farmers and food producers.

Schuster and Klieger’s report advises “that a plan be established to activate Vermont Emergency Eats in future emergencies where there is a need for restaurant-prepared meals,” while noting that “more planning

is needed to be ready for repeated and consistent re-activation of the program during emergencies impacting food security.”

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) contracted with Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to administer the program. The 10 flood-impacted counties were served by six community hub organizations, including Capstone Community Action, Center for an Agricultural Economy, Chester Helping Hands, Green Mountain Farm To School, The Giving Fridge, Springfield Family Center, and Vermont Farmers Food Center.

“The three-pillar Ver-

mont Emergency Eats program makes good economic sense,” said Kathleen Devlin, SEVCA’s interim executive director. “And it makes sense in other ways as well. It’s an opportunity for the state to support communities in helping their own during an emergency while simultaneously leveraging a remarkable economic multiplier effect, stabilizing independent Vermont restaurants, and building resilience in our local food



Vermont Emergency Eats program. PHOTO PROVIDED

systems.” Schuster and Klieger’s Vermont Emergency Eats Impact Report can be found at www.vtemergencyeats.org/impact-report.

Springfield Library January youth programs



Youth library programs.

STOCK PHOTO

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – There’s lots of things for young people to do at Springfield Town Library in January.

Every Tuesday, at 10 a.m., children 0-5 and their caregivers can have an active good time with songs, crafts, and stories at Bookworm Wiggle – a musical and interactive story time designed for our youngest library visitors.

Every Thursday, at 3:30 p.m., we have Thursday Thunder, activities for school age children on early

release days. This month’s lineup is:

Jan. 4. – Wind Tunnel Racers: feel the wind, be the wind. Use a straw to blow your ball down the tube racetrack. It’s trickier and sillier than you think.

Jan. 11 – Paper Chain Wall Hangers: use strips of paper to make this fun and easy wall art you can display at home.

Jan. 18 – Make a Musical Instrument: design, build, and play your own instrument with cardboard, rubber bands, strings, and who

knows what else.

Jan. 25 – Legos at the Library: come build your heart out with our Legos and add your creation to our Lego Masterpiece Gallery.

Golden Dome Book Club: the January meet up for the Golden Dome Book Club was held Tuesday, Jan. 2, at 4 p.m. The Golden Dome Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of every month, and members get free copies of all books read.

Special after-hours event for teens – Friday, Jan. 5,

5:30-7:30 p.m., Karaoke Nightmare: come perform songs you love or songs you hate – badly. Scream your heart out at this special after-hours event just for middle and high school students. Crazy costumes encouraged.

Special Evening Event, Jan. 24, 6-7 p.m., Cozy Family Storytime: kids and their grown ups are invited to a cozy evening story time with cocoa and snowy stories. Pajamas welcome.

Springfield Humane Society Heat the Shelter Raffle

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Tickets are on sale for the Springfield Humane Society’s Heat the Shelter Raffle, and can be purchased at the Springfield Humane Society, Joe’s Discount Beverage, Headquarters for Men, Smokin’ Bowls, and Willow Farm Pet Services. You could win 100 gallons of heating oil from BART Energy. The drawing will be held on Jan. 10.



Heat the Shelter raffle.

STOCK PHOTO

Homelessness, a Community Conversation

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Why are so many experiencing homelessness? Why would someone choose not to use a shelter? How can the community help those who are unhoused? What are the answers to this growing situation? Join us for an engaging and informative community conversation on the pressing issue of homelessness. This in-person event will take place at the Springfield Town Library on Wednesday, Jan.

10, at 6 p.m.

Springfield Supported Housing Program staff will shed light on the root causes of homelessness and share information about those who are experiencing it. They will discuss available resources, and address misconceptions surrounding this issue. You’ll have the chance to ask questions, express your concerns, and gain a deeper understanding of the complexities involved.

Whether you’re seeking information, want to contribute to the conversation, or simply want to learn more, this event is for you. Learn how you can help on Homelessness Awareness Day, Jan. 18. Together, we can work towards creating a more compassionate and inclusive community. Mark your calendars and join us for this important conversation about homelessness.

BF Woman’s Club meeting

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Woman’s Club members will meet on Jan. 9, at 1:30 p.m., at the United Church, School Street. Mike Stack will present a program on “Youth in the Trades.”

At the Dec. 12 meeting, club members Ruth Keefe and Dianne Potter used log shaped cakes they had made to demonstrate cake decorating techniques. They spoke of different types of frosting and how to form log/roll cakes.

During the business meeting, a motion was made and seconded to send \$100 to World Central Kitchen. This was amended and seconded to send \$200.

Club members conducted a variety of service projects during December: decorating the Health Center waiting room for the holidays, providing cookies for the Rotary Club’s warming tent during the village Parade of Lights, and helping wrap the children’s gifts at Central School’s shopping day. Some members attended and made a donation to

the Kurn Hattin holiday Visitors’ Day luncheon and program.

The local club is a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, an international women’s organization whose signature project is domestic violence awareness and prevention.

Area women interested in joining the club and helping with its projects may contact Membership Chairman Sally McGaffigan at frankmcgaffigan@comcast.net, or other club members.

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DEADLINES

The deadline for all content is **Friday at 12 p.m.** for the following Wednesday publication.

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EMAIL YOUR PRESS RELEASES, ARTICLES, AND PHOTOS
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OVRCC additional disaster relief funds

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce (OVRCC) is pleased to let you know that we have additional grant funds for disaster relief thanks to a grant award from the Vermont Community Foundation for businesses in Okemo Valley

communities. Our funds remain limited, but we anticipate grant awards of up to \$5,000. Prior awardees are invited to apply again.

This grant application will close on Jan. 19, so please complete your application before then. We will do our best to be equitable in how

these limited funds are distributed and in a timely manner.

Please forward your questions to Carol Lighthall at Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, clighthall@yourplaceinvermont.com.

Winter birding walk at Hillside Springs Farm

WALPOLE, N.H. – What winged wonders wander our wintery world? Flock to Hillside Springs Farm, 32 Comerford Road in Westmoreland, N.H., on Jan. 27, from 9-11 a.m., to find out.

We will discover winter-loving species, and learn about farm habitat dynamics, habitat management, wildlife conservation on the farm, and species identification from experienced bird guides. This workshop series is open to birders and enthusiasts of all skill levels.



Winter birding walk.

STOCK PHOTO

Register at birdingon-farm.eventbrite.com.

For more information or assistance in online registration, please contact Matt at 603-756-9282 or matt@cheshireconservation.org.

Presented by the Cheshire County Conservation District (CCCD) in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District (Windham NRCD), the Southeastern Vermont Audubon Society, and the Antioch Bird Club.

Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars and weather appropriate attire and boots. Pace will be slow over moderate terrain.

Registration is required.

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GMP's rebate programs continue in 2024

REGION – Starting Jan. 1, Green Mountain Power (GMP) will continue its popular rebate programs to help customers save when they switch from fossil fuels to clean electricity for driving, heating and cooling, yard care, and more. All GMP's programs are designed to help cut costs for all GMP customers while also cutting carbon emissions. To learn more about all GMP rebate programs, visit www.greenmountainpower.com/rebates-programs.

Also starting in January, GMP is updating its heat pump program to expand access to the super-efficient heating and cooling technology by more than doubling its enhanced, post-purchase heat pump rebate for income-eligible customers to \$2,000. It had been \$600. To qualify, customers must have a household income at or below 80% of area median income (AMI). To see if your household qualifies for the enhanced post-purchase rebate, check the AMI information available on the heat pump rebate page

on the GMP website, www.greenmountainpower.com/rebates-programs/home-and-yard/heat-pump. At the same time, the \$300 post-purchase rebate for moderate-income customers and the \$400 midstream rebate paid to suppliers will end. The rebate program changes are for ductless mini-split cold climate heat pumps and centrally ducted air source heat pumps, and they go into effect on Jan. 1.

"Since 2020, GMP incentives have helped customers install more than 28,000 mini split heat pump systems and 2,700 ducted heat pumps, and we're thrilled to enhance our post-purchase rebate to help more Vermonters," said Tiana Smith, leader of electrification at GMP. "Heating with fossil fuel is the top source of carbon pollution in Vermont, and GMP is proud to have partnered with installers and customers to grow the market here for this clean electric technology."

GMP customer Jonathan Klein has heat pumps at his Richmond, Vt., home as his family shifts away from fossil fuel. "They have been incredible all year long. We're able to control energy use and temperature by room,

which is great. I tell all my friends how well they work and how cost-efficient they are," Klein said.

GMP's other incentives for heating and cooling systems will continue. They include up to \$400 point of sale discount through participating suppliers, up to \$2,000 for centrally ducted air source heat pump systems, \$1,000 per ton for air-to-water heat pumps, and \$2,100 per ton up to 6 tons for ground source heat pumps and geothermal systems.

All GMP incentives and rebate programs, including EV rebates, electric mower, and yard care rebates, cut carbon and reduce costs for all customers, and help address the top sources of carbon pollution – heating and transportation. In 2023, GMP residential and business customers offset more than 629 million pounds of lifetime carbon through GMP's incentive programs, which is the equivalent of preventing the burning of 2.4 million barrels of oil. Customers can email GMP's Energy Innovation Team at energyinnovationteam@greenmountainpower.com, or call 888-835-4672.

Snowmobilers to use caution

REGION – The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) looks for a successful snowmobile season and

wants to encourage all riders to put safety first on the trails.

Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) officials are advising snowmobilers to exercise caution when operating on the National Forest, and all lands in Vermont. GMNF officials remind snowmobile enthusiasts to heed all gates and signs, and to stay off roads and trails that are closed. Forest Service employees and several snowmobile clubs throughout Vermont have been working to clear trees and other debris from trails. However, trail users should continue to use extra caution as downed tree hazards are possible.

Weather permitting, snowmobile use is al-

lowed on designated trails within the GMNF for four months beginning on Saturday, Dec. 16, and ending on Monday, April 15. "We are concerned about user safety. Patrols which are aimed at enforcing rules and regulations, monitoring trail conditions, and providing visitor information will occur throughout the forest," said John Sinclair, forest supervisor for the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests. The GMNF will continue to work closely with state and local law enforcement agencies, as well as the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST), to make sure that users of the trail system are respectful, responsible, law abiding, and safe.

The GMNF and VAST cooperate to maintain more than 470 miles of National Forest System trails that are part of the larger statewide snowmobile network. VAST is one of several snowmobile associations in the United States that has a cooperative partnership agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. "All of these trails allow mixed uses, so people are snowshoeing, hiking, and cross-country skiing, as well as using snowmobiles. Snowmobilers should travel responsibly and yield to other users," said Sinclair. The maximum speed is 35 miles per hour on state and federal land.

Operators must maintain control of their snowmobile while riding, keep to the right at all times, wear helmets, and stay on designated trails only. All snowmobiles must be legally registered, have liability insurance, and operators must purchase a VAST Trails Maintenance Assessment decal. Officials also encourage winter trail users to pack a flashlight, cell phone, food, and extra warm clothing in case of an emergency.

Trail users are encouraged to visit the VAST trail update for specifics on trail conditions and closures, www.vtvast.org/trails.html.

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Ludlow in 1905

BY RON PATCH

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One photo with this article is a Black River Academy souvenir. It was published in 1955. It's a look back at old Ludlow from 1905 class members. In part, it reads:

"Alumni Day, June 18, 1955

On this, our Fiftieth Anniversary, why not turn back with us for a look at Ludlow as we remember. At your leisure it might be interesting to note the changes that have come about.

In 1905 Ludlow had been a chartered town for 144 years.

The Tax Rate was: Town \$1.63—Village 45¢;

The Population was 2,042;

Main Street was, and is, about 1,026 feet above sea level and Mt. Okemo is 3,372 feet above sea level.

There were no paved roads at this time in the town or village. Sidewalks were paved on some streets. There were some paved walks from one side of the street to the other.

Water and sewer service had been in use seven years.

Electric light service had been in use four years.

The Fletcher Memorial Li-

brary was being used for the fifth year.

Telephone service had been in use seven years.

The Ludlow Opera House had been in use only two years but was very busily engaged in presenting travelling shows. Motion pictures were just starting and were few and far between. (The Opera House, as we called it, burned and in 1923 the present Town Hall was erected).

Our manufacturing consisted of the Ludlow Woolen Mill, Black River Woolen Mill, Verd Mont Woolen Mill, Fullam Chair Factory, Agan's Shoddy Mill, Hathorn's Horse Collar Shop, Keating's Cigar Manufacturing Shop, Morgan's Dress Shop, Harlan Graham's Woodworking Shop, Warner's Machine Shop, Harry Lawrence's Woodworking Shop, Billado and Blanchard's Sawmill. (The last two were burned out during this year of '05).

This was the year the Jewell Brook Mill, which was to mean so much to Ludlow, was nearly completed to open March 1906.

There were two printing offices – the Vermont Tribune and the R.S. Warner shop. The Tribune office was

'the first place of industry' to install an electric motor.

The Ludlow House and the Goddard House were two busy hotels. There was only one 'restaurant' in town.

Four livery stables with between 60 and 80 horses furnished transportation to nearby places. On Wednesdays, "Drummer Day," it was almost impossible for a local to hire a team because of the big demand by the travelling salesmen. Four Blacksmith Shops were busy most of the time.

There were eleven passenger trains out of town every day and on Sundays a paper train early in the morning going north.

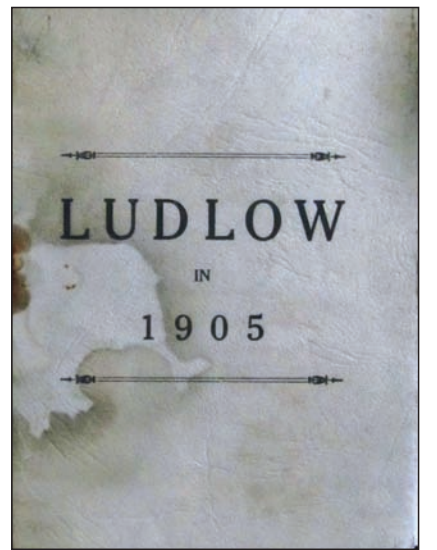
Autos were few – probably no more than six were owned by locals."

In 1905 there were 408 pupils enrolled in the schools in Ludlow. In the village was the Andover Street School,



Ludlow school circa 1907. Today these buildings house the Ludlow Senior Center and Black River Academy Museum.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH



1905 BRA souvenir.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

the graded school on High Street, now occupied by the Locker Plant.

There were no hot lunches at that time. The hickory rod was in use and probably needed.

Baseball and Football were played for years. B.R.A. was proud of its teams...

Junior Proms were not on the school calendar. Instead of "Proms" they were called "Receptions" and always held in some church vestry with marching as the chief amusement. Dancing was prohibited. One class put on a dance and the next day expulsion was the word heard in school. Later that year the business men sponsored a dance for the graduating class.

The class of '05 was the 70th class to graduate from B.R.A. and the third class to hold their exercises in the first Town Hall."

The last page is a list of 1905 students:

"50-YEAR ALUMNI CLASS

Harlan E. Aldrich, Springfield, Vt.

Vera A. Giddings, Springfield, Vt.

Francis L. Keating, Portland, Me.

Harry N. Lamere, Ludlow, Vt.

Mabel S. Martin (Mrs. Freeman Tilden), British Columbia

Lillian M. Wilson (Mrs. Clarence Pratt, Deceased)."

The other photo with this article is a "real photo postcard," as we know them in the trade. It would date from 1907 to 1915. These photographers used a large wooden camera, on a wooden tripod. Instead of roll film you might have seen, these photos were taken on a 5 by 7 inch glass plate. This would be the negative. In this photo, the photographer, or his assistant, wrote in white letters directly on the glass plate. From these negatives postcards were published and sold to travellers or locals.

This week's old saying: "Figures don't lie, but liars sure can figure."

Second-Saturday Synthfest Series at Stage 33 Live

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. –

There will be two electronic music performance concerts celebrating synthesizers, circuit-bending, and sound manipulation on the second Saturdays of the first two months of 2024 – Jan. 13 and Feb. 10 – at Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge Street in Bel lows Falls, Vt.

Each session will open with a meet and greet at 6 p.m. Get up close to the gear (don't touch though), talk with the performers, and settle in. Five 20-minute performances will begin at 7

p.m.

The players will be in the center of the room, with the audience in the round and encouraged to roam throughout the show. The performances are expected to range from cinematic and lush to computeresque and urgent. It may get loud.

Session 1 performers on Jan. 13 include three from NYC – Metamyther, cameron.way, and makamqore – along with Thomas Nöla of Vermont, and B.B. Dozer of New Hampshire.

Session 2 performers on

Feb. 10 include Repairer of Reputations from Rhode Island, Acacia Bridge from New York, and three from Vermont – Thorny, Malcolm McShinsky, and Uke Meri.

Suggested donations can be made in advance through www.stage33live.com, or at the door per event. All proceeds benefit the performers. No one will be turned away for lack of money. Advance donations guarantee entry if the session sells out.

Maura Shawn Scanlin at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts and Twilight Music present fiddler, singer, and songwriter Maura Shawn Scanlin and her band at Next Stage on Sunday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m.

Maura Shawn Scanlin is making a name for herself among the Celtic and acoustic music scenes across the country. Her playing, hailed for its inventiveness, fluidity, and tone, brings together influences from Ireland, Scotland, and the American South, where she grew up. Touring actively with

her duo Rakish and string quartet Rasa String Quartet, Maura has also shared the stage with many cornerstone musicians in the Celtic music world including Seamus Egan, Maeve Gilchrist, Judy Collins, and Hanneke Cassel. Maura is a two-time U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion, a Glenfiddich Fiddle Champion, and is touring for the first time under her own name, following the release of her debut full-length solo album. Her band features Conor Hearn on guitar

(Rakish), Adam Hendey on bouzouki (The Fire), and Julian Pinelli on fiddle (Peter Rowan Bluegrass Band, The Foreign Landers).

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Tickets 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.

"Sightings," photography show at the VAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. –

Gallery at the VAULT is delighted to present "Sightings," a photography show by Richard Cofrancesco from Jan. 4-31. An exhibit of images that have caught Richard's imagination, printed on metal and paper, in black and white as well as color. Come and talk with Richard at his reception on Friday, Jan. 5, from 5-6:30 p.m.

Richard is always looking for that perfect photo, especially for the ways that light changes, creating interesting compositions. "I am excited to find compositions where all elements come together to form images of beauty or questions to the viewer. I look for natural scenes and



Richard Cofrancesco photography.

PHOTO PROVIDED

and has been with the VAULT since its inception. People really enjoy his work.

For more information, please call Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main Street,

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.

scenes with a little twist. I go back to the same places many times to capture the differences." Richard lives right here in Springfield,



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health & community OPINION

Apple Blossom responds to community input —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — Springfield Hospital and the Apple Blossom Committee have been reaching out to local high school seniors and past high school graduates, and we have discovered that the excitement for Apple Blossom exists, but potential contestants and community members are looking for additional revisions. The organizers have listened, agreed, and are adopting some changes for 2024.



Apple Blossom registration deadline is Jan. 19.

PHOTO PROVIDED

The deadline for contestant applications has been extended to Jan. 19, 2024. Constants do not need a partner to sign up. As always, contestants who are seniors of area high schools are encouraged to apply. Included are the high schools of Springfield, Bellows Falls, Fall Mountain, Green Mountain, Ludlow, Stevens, Windsor, Compass School, Vermont Academy, and Woodstock, as well as home school. New for 2024, graduates of the classes of 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 are invited to apply for the 2024 event. Those gradu-

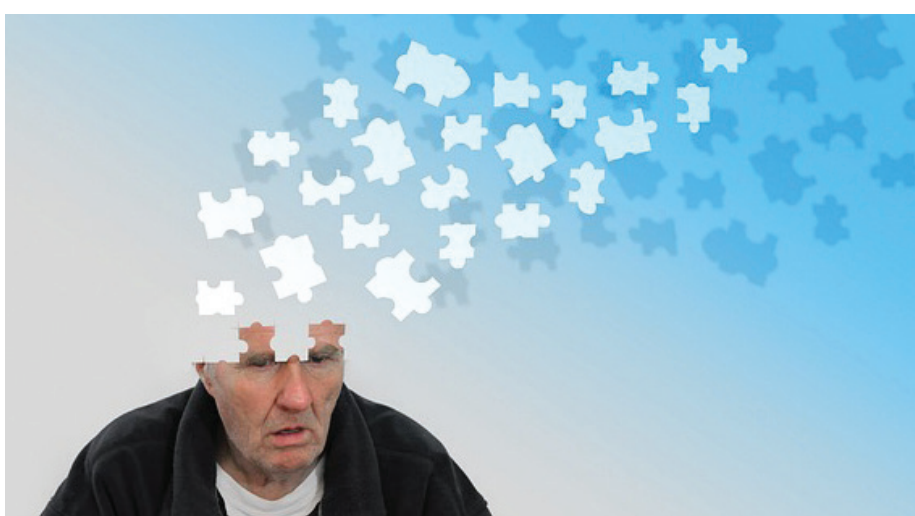
ates can either participate in the "Celebration Dance" that will be included in the Friday and Saturday night performances, or they can fully participate in the Apple Blossom with the understanding that they will not be eligible for the title of 2024 Queen and Court. The theme is "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again!," an upbeat musical film, filled with music from ABBA. Also new for 2024, there will be a community dance with a live band after the Saturday, May 4, perfor-

mance. Children in kindergarten – 4th grade are invited to participate as couples, and the deadline for their applications is Jan. 19, 2024.

Apple Blossom is a fundraising event for Springfield Hospital that started in 1957. The community comes alive with song and dance of the youth from our area. The 2024 event will feature some of the original aspects of Apple Blossom. The community dance at the end of the Saturday performance will be similar to the "Ball" of 1957 at the original Apple Blossom.

Apply today to participate. Applications can be found at www.springfieldhospital.org, or www.facebook.com/SpringfieldHospitalVT.

Chester Memory Café —



Memory Cafés provide support for those helping family members with memory loss.

STOCK PHOTO

CHESTER, Vt. — Are you a family caregiver for a loved one with a form of dementia? Whether it is Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, or one of the many forms of dementia, Senior Solutions knows how demanding that can be.

You are invited to attend the monthly Memory Café held on Jan. 4. The Memory Café is free, and is a welcoming environment where caregivers can socialize, provide mutual support, and exchange helpful information. The Memory Café is based on the Vermont

Alzheimer's model. Senior Solutions volunteers will be keeping your loved ones entertained with live guitar music, games, and fun activities. We will work to keep your loved ones engaged and safe.

Caregivers are also welcome to come alone. Also, if you happen to have been recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's and are still able to drive and care for yourself – you are also welcome to attend. Senior Solutions provides snacks and beverages. You are welcome to bring a bagged lunch for those with dietary restrictions.

The Chester Memory

Café will be held on the first Thursday of each month, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. St. Luke's Episcopal Church has kindly offered their Willard Hall activity room to Senior Solutions for this purpose. There is a parking lot behind the Six Loose Ladies shop on the village green on Route 11 in Chester. The entrance to Willard Hall is accessed from the parking area. Just follow the walkway to the rear door of St. Luke's.

Please RSVP to jerenhouse@seniorsolutionsvt.org so we can plan refreshments.

Thank you, and hope to see you on Jan. 4.

Dear Editor,

What would you do if you heard that we might lose an important piece of our community and history?

Recently the Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts announced that they will be clos-

ing for the 2024 season to resolve funding, organizational, and personnel issues, including finding a new board chair for the nonprofit's governing body, the Society of Vermont Artists and Craftsmen (SOVAC), by Jan. 15, or risk statute-dictated dissolution.

If the school shuts, we will lose a piece of living local history and a fantastic opportunity for us young people to participate in community events and learn new skills. In its current form, the school has been serving the Ludlow area for over 75 years, but arts and crafts classes have been offered at Fletcher Farm since the 1930s. Did you know that at different times, the authors Robert

Frost and Dorothy Canfield Fisher served on the board of the Fletcher Farm Foundation (which leases the space to SOVAC)? The school honors this history through classes for students of all ages, and a Young Artists Scholarship to make the arts more accessible for local children and teens.

You can help this historic nonprofit reopen and come back stronger than before. Whether you join the board, make a year-end donation, offer pro bono services, or help out in any other way you can, this valuable community resource needs our support now more than ever. To learn how you can get involved, contact Board Chair Susan Damone Balch at susan@fletcherfarm.org or 802-228-8770. In the spirit of the school's historic contributions to our community, let's make sure it can stay open well into the future.

Sincerely,
Lorien P. Strange
Cavendish, 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.

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CHURCH SERVICES

obituaries

Renee Bailey, 2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – In loving memory of Renee Bailey of Springfield, Vt., who passed away peacefully on Dec. 20, having lived 100 years. She was a remarkable woman who found her true love amidst the backdrop of history.

During World War II, she crossed paths with her husband Dwight; he passed away on Aug. 12, 2014. Their love story became a testament to the enduring power of resilience and love during adversity.

Whenever possible, she enjoyed spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She enjoyed gardening, bird watching, and going for long drives. Her family recalls how her home always smelled like freshly

baked fruit pies. Renee lived a life full of cherished memories. As we bid our beloved mother farewell, let us remember her smile, laughter, and remarkable spirit that lives on.

Renee is survived by her four children Shirley, Frank, Corene, and Reid who was her caretaker; her five grandchildren Karen, Michelle, Tammy, Tanya, and Sam; and her nine great-grandchildren Ben, Marshall, Evangeline, Victoria, Olivia, Noah, Sofia, Amelia, and Julia.

She is predeceased by her husband Dwight and grandson David.

May she rest in peace alongside her husband.

Services will be held at Davis Memorial Chapel in the spring of 2024.

Walter Genser, 1945-2023

CHESTER, Vt. – It is with great sadness that we tell our friends of the passing of Walter Genser, but it was a happy life.

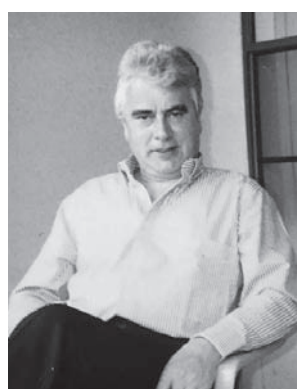
Walter, a native of Austria, was born April 11, 1945. He served in the Austria military before coming to the U.S. as a ski instructor at Mount Snow. There, he met his future wife Bette and they had 53 wonderful years of marriage.

Walter, with his friend Rolf, built a speck house 1970-71, and this led Walter to speculate on his own, and he built three more houses, including his own.

When the barn property became available in Londonderry in 1976, Walter saw the potential for a retail establishment called The Barn, where high quality name brand clothing for men and women could be sold at discounted, reasonable prices. Success with the clothing led to the opening of The Shoe Barn in 1980 across the street. This went well with our local population as well as visitors to the area.

There eventually was a third shop, The Barn Annex, which offered children's clothing and gifts. Such fun.

Walter truly enjoyed meeting so many wonderful people along the way and providing useful merchandise to the area. Also, Londonderry, for a time, became a retail destination. But the time came to close after 30 years.



Walter Genser, 1945-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

Walter was an excellent private pilot and many day trips to the coast were enjoyed.

Throughout his life, Walter's faith was a big factor and influence. A Lay Ministry program that the Vermont Catholic Diocese offered was completed, and the next step would have been Deacon, but at age 59, that was not an option.

In retirement, Walter was a part-time ski instructor at Stratton Mountain for a few seasons. But most of all, he enjoyed taking care of his beloved property in Windham and having a hand in enhancing the original natural beauty.

Walter leaves his wife Bette, brother Gerald, and many nieces and nephews.

Rest in Peace Walter, Godspeed.

A funeral mass was held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Chester, Vt., on Jan. 2, at 11 a.m. Burial followed at the North Windham Cemetery.

Wayne Charles Parker Sr., 1948-2023

WESTON, Vt. – Wayne Charles Parker Sr., lovingly known by all as Charlie, of Weston, Vt., passed away peacefully on Dec. 25, at Rutland Hospital, surrounded by his loving family.

Charlie was born in the family home in Weston, Vt., on Jan. 3, 1948, the fourth child to Fernando and Marguerite (Hart) Parker. Charlie was one of five children, growing up with two sisters and two brothers.

Charlie attended Weston Elementary School and Chester High School. After high school, he was drafted and honorably served his country in the Vietnam War as a helicopter crew chief and flight engineer in the 101st Airborne, from 1969-1970.

Charlie was predeceased by the love of his life, Sandra (Sandy) M. Dayton, whom he married at the Chapel of the Snows in Stratton, Vt., on March 6, 1971. In the early years of their marriage, they resided in Londonderry, and later built their home on the adjacent property to his parents in Weston, where they happily raised their two boys.

Charlie is survived by his son Wayne C. Parker Jr.; his wife Deborah; and his three beloved granddaughters Tori, Halle, and Jenna, all of Londonderry, Vt. He also leaves his son Jerrid S. Parker and his wife Stephanie, who reside next door to his home in Weston; and his brother and sisters Brenda J. Mathews, Gloria J. Cook and her husband John F.H. Cook, and Rodger L. Parker and his wife Diane M. Parker. Charlie is also survived by brothers-in-law William (Jodie) Dayton and Ronnie (Janice) Dayton; and sisters-in-law Patricia (Doug) Roberts, Donna (Roy) Williams, and Kathy (Michael) Dayton; several nieces and nephews, and many special friends. He was predeceased by brother-in-law Lonnie Mathews, whom he was so very fond of, brother-in-law Walter (Tink) Williams, and sister-in-law Joan Dayton. He was also predeceased by his brother Gordon G. Parker.

Charlie loved many outdoor activities. He loved to hunt, and treasured his time spent in the woods with his brother, sons, and nephews. He can be remembered specifically saying with the dry wit and character that was expected, "Don't forget your green bag." He rekindled his love for the game of golf and enjoyed time spent on the course with good friends and family. Anyone who had the pleasure of playing with, or witnessing, Charlie on the golf course could see his joy with every swing or putt. Even when his health started to fail, his love of sport drove him.

Charlie spent many of his years working at Bromley Mountain, affectionately known as Parker Peak by family and friends, for 35



Wayne Charles Parker Sr., 1948-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

years, serving as mountain manager. He was a boss, a mentor, and a friend to so many during his time there, including "grooming" his son Jerrid to follow in his footsteps. After his time at Bromley, he started his own property management business, CWP LLC, where he always made sure his clients were well taken care of. He was a master at relationship building and making everyone love, appreciate, and respect him without ever seeming to try. It just came naturally to Charlie.

Charlie and Sandy enjoyed many years of bowling, boating on Lake St. Catherine, traveling in their motorhome to NASCAR races, and camping with their family and friends. In recent years, they enjoyed their second home in Florida during the winter months, and were always willing to play a round of golf. They truly knew how to enjoy life to the fullest.

Charlie enjoyed spending time with his granddaughters. Lovingly, they referred to him as "Pop," and he relished watching them grow, achieve goals, succeed, learn, love, and laugh. He had "Pop-isms" that he shared with his girls, many of them better left unsaid.

Charlie will always be remembered for his extraordinary talents of being a loving, caring, and family-oriented gentleman. He had the quickest of wits and the sharpest of tongues, offering up the best advice and most humorous comments to anyone wanting (or not wanting) to hear it.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Jan. 6, at 1 p.m., at the Second Congregational Church on Main Street in Londonderry. The family invites all to a social gathering of remembrance at The New American Grill immediately following the service.

The family would like to especially thank Dr. Allan Eisemann and his staff in the Foley Cancer Center, as well as the staff at Rutland Regional Medical Center for their kindness and many years of comprehensive, compassionate, family centered care.

Donations may be made in Charlie's memory to the Foley Cancer Center at Rutland Regional Medical Center, c/o Brewster-Shea Funeral Services, P.O. Box 885, Manchester Center, VT 05255. To send the family personal condolences, please visit www.sheafuneralhomes.com.

CAVENDISH, VT.

Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St.

Sunday services are 10 a.m. online or in person. Online services are on Facebook at 10 a.m. Go to www.facebook.com/Cavendish-Baptist-Church-258814894244302. More at www.CavendishBaptist.com or call 802-226-7131.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

North Charlestown United Methodist Church, 471 River Rd.

Worship is Sundays at 9 a.m. Holy communion is celebrated the first Sunday of every month. Go to www.facebook.com/UMCOFNorthCharlestown for more information.

Charlestown Congregational Church, 71 Main St.

Sunday service starts at 10 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, call 603-826-3335.

LUDLOW, VT.

United Church of Ludlow (UCC and Methodist), 48 Pleasant St.

Sunday services are held in person and streamed online at 10 a.m. Email unitedchurch@tds.net for more information. Visit www.unitedchurch.us to receive updates on services and meetings.

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

Weekly worship services are in-person. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for all ages, and Sunday worship is at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday's prayer meeting is at 6:30 p.m. For more information, go to www.LudlowBaptist.org.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Rd.

Sunday Services are at 10 a.m., in person and on Zoom. For more information, go to www.uuspringfieldvt.org.

OBITUARIES: A basic 200-word obituary is \$75, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. A 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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Charlotte Pluta, 1930-2023

LUDLOW, Vt. – Charlotte (Aher) Pluta, 93, of Ludlow, passed away peacefully on Dec. 5, 2023, after a short decline in health at Gill Odd Fellows Home in Ludlow.

She was born on Sept. 26, 1930, in Brattleboro, the daughter of Walter T. Aher and Bernice (Stone) Aher. As a young child they settled in Ludlow, and the family purchased Ludlow Insurance Agency in 1939.

She was a 1948 graduate of Black River High School, and attended The University of Vermont and graduated from Rutland Business College in 1951.

Charlotte married John G. "Dud" Pluta on May 1, 1954, at the Church of the Annunciation in Ludlow.

Charlotte and Dud operated and owned Ludlow Insurance Agency from 1963, after her dad died, retiring in 1997. They both were very community minded. Charlotte volunteered over the years for such things as playing Taps for military funerals, both while in high school and in her later years, reading to the children at the Fletcher Memorial Library, helping with VINS classes at Ludlow Elementary, and was very active in the Ludlow Garden Club for a few years. She was on the board of the Fletcher Farm Foundation for over 30 years, and on the board of directors of the Black River Academy Museum for a period of time, and always very active in her church and as a fire department auxiliary wife. She also loved baking for a worthy cause. She and Dud traveled a great deal, both for pleasure and business, and had great friends in Vermont and all over the country.

When they retired, they handed down the business to their daughter and son-in-law Sharon and Ron Bixby, bought a home on the Sarasota Bay in Bradenton, Fla., and spent many winters there.

She is survived by her sister Margaret "Peggy" Nuzzolo of Fair Haven; daughter Sharon (Ron) Bixby of Ludlow; granddaughters Pamela Bixby (Craig Richardson) of Chesapeake, Va., and Kimberly (Brad) Southworth of Ludlow; nephew Walter "Pepe" Nuz-



Charlotte Pluta, 1930-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

zolo; sister-in-law Margaret Pluta of Florida; nieces Rita and Karen Pluta; four great-grandchildren Connor, Lucas, and Tucker Southworth, and Layla Richardson; and several cousins.

She is predeceased by her husband John G. Pluta in 2012, and by her son Michael J. Pluta in 1989, and brothers-in-law Lee Pluta and Frank "Nick" Nuzzolo.

Calling hours and her Funeral Mass were held on Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Church of the Annunciation in Ludlow, officiated by Father Thomas Mosher. Lector was Isabel Montgomery, and musician Jacob McLaughlin. Bearers were Pepe Nuzzolo, Gerry Martel, Richard Gagnard, Michael Poalino, John Murphy, and Bob Brandt. A reception followed at the family's favorite restaurant – "where everyone knows your name" – D.J.'s Restaurant. Burial will take place in the spring at Pleasant View Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main Street, Ludlow, VT 05149, or the Black River Academy Museum, P.O. Box 73, Ludlow, VT 05149. Charlotte was an avid reader and loved our area's history.

Arrangements were made under the direction of Clifford Funeral Home.

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LEGAL NOTICES

JAN. 4 –
LUDLOW, Vt. – Community Meal at the Ludlow Community Center on Jan. 4. Serving at noon, a welcoming home style meal of roast chicken, mashed potato, gravy, and winter squash. Bingo follows. Meal provided by Black River Good Neighbor Services.

JAN. 5 –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – First Friday supper on Jan. 5 at the First Baptist Church, 9 Church St., Bellows Falls. Menu includes soups, stews, chowders, chili, dessert, and beverage. Vegan and gluten free available. Serving from 5-6:30 p.m. For take out, call 802-463-3220 before 5 p.m. Suggested donation. Net proceeds go to First Line Foundations of North America, a program for veterans and first responders.

JAN. 6 –
CHESTER, Vt. – Local string band Just the Tip! returns to The Pizza Stone in Chester on Saturday, Jan. 6, at 6 p.m.

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present roots, ragtime, and jazz quartet DiTrani Brothers, plus Jatoba's multi-instrumentalist

/singer Jason Scaggs at Next Stage on Saturday, Jan. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance at www.nextstagearts.org. For information, call 802-387-0102 or visit the website above.

JAN. 11 –
LUDLOW, Vt. – Join the post-flood legal clinic on Thursday, Jan. 11, from 1-4:45 p.m., at the Fletcher Memorial Library for flood assistance. Since October, Vermont Law and Graduate School's Entrepreneurial Legal Lab and Legal Services Vermont have been working in collaboration to assist Vermont business owners affected by the summer 2023 floods. Bring photos, receipts of repairs and replaced items, insurance information, household income, any FEMA or SBA documents and log-in information if that applies, and any additional notes, losses, and impacts from flooding.

JAN. 28 –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Grammy-nominated songwriter Reed Foehl will perform at Stage 33 Live in Bellows Falls, Vt. on

Sunday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. Singer-songwriter Tommy Crawford will open. Tickets are discounted in advance at www.stage33live.com or the door. Limited seating. The event will be recorded and filmed.

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

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

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

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

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

WESTON, Vt. – Bingo is Monday nights at 7 p.m. at the Weston Rod & Gun Club, 982 Route 100, 1.5 miles north of Weston Village. All are welcome.

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – On Mondays at 6:15 p.m., join Mikayla for a yoga class. Contact Lori Wright at 603-401-8123 or visit www.dgbodyworks.com for more information. Private classes are available.

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 suerubl@aol.com, or Sophia Blanchard at SBlanchard@seniorsolutionsvt.org.

WEDNESDAYS –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Knitting Together, every Wednesday, 1-3 p.m., at Village Square Booksellers, knitting hats and mittens for our school kids. We provide yarn, some direction, and an enjoyable visit. Acrylic yarn donations are always welcome. For more information, contact Caroline at 802-463-4653.

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

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

THURSDAYS –
CHESTER, Vt. – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Thursday, from 10-11 a.m. Classes will be held in the First Universalist Parish of Chester community room. Classes are free and open to all. Drop-in class, no registration needed. For details, contact Barbara at bwquilter1778@gmail.com.

TYSON, Vt. – The Tyson Ladies Aid Library Association meets the first Thursday of each month, typically at the Tyson Library. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. and meetings start at noon. New potential members are always welcome. Please call Janine Norman at 802-228-8764 for more information or to verify meeting location.

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Support group for parents of pregnancy and infant loss on the first Thursday of

the month, from 6-7 p.m., at Springfield Area Parent Child Center, 6 Main Street in North Springfield. For details or to register, email dominiquer@sapcc-vt.org or call 802-886-5242 ext. 258.

WALPOLE, N.H. – Alcoholics Anonymous women's meeting, a 12-step recovery program for women who have a desire to stop drinking, is happening every Thursday at 6 p.m. at the St. John's Episcopal Church at the corner of Westminster and Elm streets in Walpole, N.H. For more information, call Viva at 802-732-8330.

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.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Certified instructor Helena Wu will teach Tai Chi classes every Thursday, from 9-10 a.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street in Ludlow. Classes are free, and are limited to 10 participants. Registration is required. For more information, contact the Senior Center at 802-228-7421, or Helena Wu at 802-289-7369.

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

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.

Enrichment for domestic dogs

REGION – "Enrichment" is supplying species-specific needs to enhance quality of life and the welfare of the individual. A good example of enrichment in the zoological setting would be the construction of habitats that are natural and stimulating to that particular species of animal.

Domestic dogs also have species-specific needs. Some of a dog's needs are as follows.

Social needs – the opportunity to engage with others including humans, other dogs, and other species of animals.

Occupational needs – a job or task that includes problem solving. Dog sports can do a great job of filling these needs. Mental stimulation through positive reinforcement training is highly enriching to dogs. Teaching your dog a hand-delivered retrieve can give you a wonderful way to play with your dog and engage the dog

mentally at the same time. Maintaining a repertoire of at least ten unique cues over the dog's lifetime keeps the dog engaged and thinking.

Physical needs – exercise off-leash is really important for all dogs, but sometimes it is just not possible to do it safely. You can still supply physical enrichment on-leash. Teach your dog to hop up on a bench. Go around a tree. Jump over a log or stream. Engage in exploring the world with your dog by getting on it, going over it or going through it. Wade in puddles, run in the ocean waves, play with an empty cardboard box, or chase a plastic bottle around the yard. There are so many things to do with your dog to supply these needs. And it is cooperative; you do them together.

Nutritional needs – foraging for food. Supply your dog with stuffed or filled food toys and puzzles that encourage them to work for the

food. This could be their dinner. Scatter food in the grass, hide food in the home and let the dog hunt for it. You can feed your dog their kibble by loading it into a food toy that the dog nudges around the room, letting each kibble dribble out.

Sensory needs – What is that? Tasting or sniffing something new or novel, gentle massage, body awareness, positive associations with touch and handling, or stepping on something new.

Dogs living in the U.S. today live very restrictive lives in general. Because there are so many dogs and so many people living in close proximity to one another, we must have leash laws and community ordinances to control unwanted interactions between dogs and other dogs, dogs and wildlife, dogs and farm animals, and dogs and humans. It is just a reality of our modern world.

When I was growing up, dogs had much more auton-

omy than they do today. They had more freedom to learn about the world on their own. A dog who was free to explore the world independently was able to seek out their own species-specific needs, all by themselves. This is not the case anymore for our dogs. There are too many dogs and people, all crowded together, for dogs to run loose. It's not safe.

But we can supply enrichment to our dogs in just about any environment by becoming creative. Supplying the dog's natural needs goes a long way to helping that dog to live a balanced and fulfilled life. When a dog is enriched, they are relaxed and less likely to develop behavioral problems.

Written by Noel Hoffmann of Noel Hoffmann Dog Training and Behavior Consulting. www.noelhoffmann.com.

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TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Town of Springfield Development Review Board and Downtown Design Review Advisory Commission will hold a public hearing at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, January 9, 2024, to review a change of use and building renovation for the Odd Fellows Building located at 15-19 Main Street. Individuals wishing to participate in the public hearing may do so in person, via zoom video conferencing, or by submitting written comments. Participation in this hearing in person, via Zoom video conference, or in writing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. Please contact the Town Planner (802-376-6102 / toszoning@vermontel.net) for copies of the agenda and zoning application.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 Melville captain
- 5 Male swans
- 9 Luau dish
- 12 Humorist Barry
- 13 Med. plan options
- 14 PC program
- 15 Barrel bottom bit
- 16 Concerning
- 17 Old Olds
- 18 Voice in an iPhone
- 19 Half of XIV
- 20 Rooters
- 21 Formerly called
- 23 "Morning Edition" aier
- 25 Humid or airtents
- 28 Salad base
- 32 Maxim
- 33 Sean of "Rudy"
- 34 Bequest
- 36 Surround with light
- 37 Judge Lance
- 38 Approves
- 39 Iowa crop
- 42 WWII service member
- 44 "See ya!"
- 48 Some
- 49 "Legally Blonde" role

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48				49					50	
51				52					53	
54				55					56	

DOWN

- 1 Totals
- 2 Mata —
- 3 Say it's so
- 4 2013 Keira Knightley film
- 5 Sour cream tidbits
- 6 Hotel chain
- 7 Ho-hum
- 8 Away from NNW
- 9 Brazilian rubber
- 10 Frank
- 11 Wall St.
- 20 Clean slate
- 22 Upright
- 24 Bit of mischief
- 25 Baseball's Ripken
- 26 Chemical suffix
- 27 Joke
- 29 JFK info
- 30 Goose egg
- 31 — cone
- 35 Cried in pain
- 36 Tertiary Period epoch
- 39 Give a darn
- 40 Burden
- 41 Deli loaves
- 43 Jai —
- 45 Ballwick
- 46 Elliot Ness, e.g.
- 47 Nile vipers
- 49 Punk rock offshoot

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Presidential candidates

MONTPELIER, Vt. – Following the Friday, Dec. 15, 5 p.m. deadline, 12 candidates qualified to be placed on the ballot in Vermont's March 5 presidential primary. Six candidates for the Democratic ballot, and six for the Republican ballot.

The Democratic Party candidates qualifying for placement on the ballot in Vermont are Joseph R. Biden Jr., Mark Stewart Greenstein, Jason Michael Palmer, Dean Phillips, Cenk Uygur, and Marianne Williamson.

The Republican Party candidates qualifying for placement on the ballot in Vermont are Ryan L. Binkley, Chris Christie, Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley, Vivek Ramaswamy, and Donald J.

Trump.

Vermont law requires any candidate seeking to have his or her name printed on the ballot of a major party presidential primary to file petitions signed by no fewer than 1,000 registered Vermont voters, along with a \$2,000 filing fee.

The presidential primary will be held on March 5, 2024, the same day as Town Meeting Day in Vermont. Voters are reminded that by law they must declare which ballot, Democratic or Republican, they wish to vote when voting in the presidential primary, and that choice will be recorded. Presidential primary ballots are not mailed out to Vermont voters, but absentee ballots are available on request at mvp.vermont.gov.

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Weekly SUDOKU
 Answer

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

King Crossword
 Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	H	A	B	C	O	B	S	P	O	I	
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D	R	E	G	I	N	H	E	R	E	O	
S	T	R	I	V	I	T	I	F	A	N	S
N	E	E	N	P	R						
C	I	G	A	R	S	G	R	E	E	N	S
A	D	A	G	E		A	S	T	I	N	
L	E	G	A	C		E	N	H	A	L	O
C	O	R	N	W	A	C	T	A	T	A	
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R	U	E	M	E	A	N	R	E	A	P	
E	S	S	O	D	I	E	T	A	N	S	

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 (01/24/24 - TFN - 13)

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 (01/03/24 - TFN - 13)

year in review, part 2

JUNE 2 – Green Mountain sweeps Division IV track titles

MANCHESTER, Vt. – The Green Mountain boys and girls track and field teams hoisted team state championship hardware, winning Division IV state titles on Friday in Manchester. Both races were close calls. The GM boys finished with 92 points, beating out Northfield by a single point, and Craftsbury Academy by two points. The Chieftain girls won with 112 points with second-place Northfield at 108 points.

JUNE 2 – Miss Bellows Falls Diner to be restored

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Miss Bellows Falls Diner, a longtime staple in downtown Bellows Falls listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was also awarded a \$100,000 “historic preservation grant” from the Preservation Trust of Vermont. The grant greatly assisted the local nonprofit group Rockingham For Progress Inc. (RFP) in purchasing the original 1940s-style Worcester Lunch Car Co. diner from the previous owner.

By Joe Milliken, The Shopper

JUNE 9 – Bill Lockwood leaves legacy in Bellows Falls

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bill and Jeanie Lockwood would have celebrated their 44th anniversary on June 9. Bill was described recently as “the kindest person I’d ever met.” With sparkling blue eyes, a mischievous smile, and a heart of gold, Bellows Falls and Rockingham were lucky indeed to have known Bill.

By Betsy Thurston, The Shopper

JUNE 30 – “Buddy Holly” rocks the Weston Playhouse

WESTON, Vt. – The Weston Playhouse was rocking on Friday, June 30, when the multi-talented cast of “Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story” took over the stage for more than two hours, and brought the audience to its feet. It was opening night of the toe-tapping, smile-inducing, 1989 musical production, and the crowd was ready to have a good time. Directed by Meredith McDonough, choreographed by New York City-based

Felicity Stiverson, and with musical direction by Matt Cusack, the inaugural performance didn’t appear to have a hiccup.

By Paula Benson, The Vermont Journal

JULY 5 – Chester passes controversial camper ban

CHESTER, Vt. – The July 5 meeting of the Chester Selectboard began with a public hearing on amendments to the town’s zoning bylaws. Among the more controversial topics was the proposed addition of language which would ban living in “self-contained travel trailers,” or campers, in Chester. After much discussion, the amendment narrowly passed.

By Nick Giberti, The Vermont Journal

JULY 10 – Flooding affects the region

REGION – Widespread flooding across the region began overnight Monday and continues, with significant damage in Andover, Cavendish, Chester, Londonderry, Ludlow, Mount Holly, and other surrounding towns. Many roads have washed out or been flooded, leading to road closures.

By Nick Giberti, The Vermont Journal

JULY 12 – Ludlow Selectboard and Trustees hear flood updates

LUDLOW, Vt. – By Wednesday, July 12, as the Ludlow Selectboard and Trustees held a special meeting to hear updates from town manager Brendan McNamara on the emergency response, the waters had receded, but the damage was only beginning to be assessed. “The town is in a tough spot, and we’re reacting to it as best we can,” McNamara told those gathered, extending his thanks to Ludlow’s emergency management personnel. “Their response to this as a group has been tremendous...we’re not doing this without them.”

By Nick Giberti, The Vermont Journal

JULY 17 – Cavendish hears flood updates, sets tax rate

CAVENDISH, Vt. – At the July 17 Cavendish Selectboard meeting, town manager Rick Chambers gave an update on road conditions, reporting that “all town roads have sustained a lot of flood damage.” Chambers did say most roads are now

passable, except for sections of Brook Road and Cavendish Gulf Road.

By Paula Benson, The Vermont Journal

JULY 27 – Residents voice concerns at Ludlow Electric Board meeting

LUDLOW, Vt. – The meeting of the Ludlow Electric Light Department’s Board of Commissioners on Thursday, July 27, was standing-room only; the small conference room at 9 Pond Street being just large enough to hold the number of concerned ratepayers who had turned up to voice their concerns. Ludlow’s electric rates are notably inexpensive, particularly by comparison to Green Mountain Power (GMP), which serves a number of the surrounding communities.

By Nick Giberti, The Vermont Journal

AUG. 4 – “Singin’ in the Rain” to close out shortened Weston Theater Company season

WESTON, Vt. – Executive artistic director of the Weston Playhouse Susanna Gellert, also the show’s director, welcomed the audience to the Walker Farm Theater on Friday, Aug. 4, for opening night of the musical “Singin’ in the Rain.” Gellert emphatically thanked the cast and crew, and everyone who pitched in to make sure the show would go on.

By Paula Benson, The Vermont Journal

AUG. 6 – Rockingham Old Home Days a success

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – The 2023 Rockingham Old Home Days weekend, Friday, Aug. 4 – Sunday, Aug. 6, was a success, even though thunder storm warnings on Friday canceled the recreation department’s carnival. The First Baptist Church supper and showing of Openheimer at the Bellows Falls Opera House were both well attended, and families were out looking for Waldo.

By Betsy Thurston, The Shopper

AUG. 20 – Volunteers clean up flood-damaged lakes

LUDLOW, Vt. – At least 40 volunteers came out to Lake Rescue equipped with work gloves, kayaks, small motorboats, and pickup trucks on Sunday, to clean up debris left behind after the historic July flood dumped about eight inches of rain upon the Ludlow lakes region. The Lake Rescue Clean-Up Day was the second of two such endeavors; the Lake Rescue Association (LRA) had organized a similar Lake Clean-Up Day the previous weekend on Lake Pauline, just south of the Lake Rescue dam, in cooperation with the Black River Action Team (BRAT).

Written by Lisa Hamm-Greenawalt

AUG. 27 – 2023 Best of Vermont Summer Festival a success

LUDLOW, Vt. – For the third consecutive year, the Best of Vermont Summer Festival, hosted by the Okemo Valley Chamber of Commerce, was held at the Okemo Field in Ludlow,

over the weekend of Aug. 26-27. Over 100 vendors were set up across the field. Food from the Hangry Hog, Mach’s Mobile Wood Fired Pizza, Smokin’ Bowls, and more, a display of antique tractors, demonstrations, activities for children, and a bandstand featuring live music throughout the day, gave visitors a lot to be excited about.

By Paula Benson, The Vermont Journal

AUG. 31 – Down to the Roots to open in Chester

CHESTER, Vt. – On Thursday night, Aug. 31, new business partners Andi Goldman, Meredith Milliken, and Scott Blair welcomed a large, R.S.V.P.-only crowd to celebrate the licensing of their new cannabis retail store, Down to the Roots, in Chester. Guests included several of Down to the Roots’ staff of budtenders, some area farmers who will supply the product, other local business proprietors, and the property owner, Mark Williams.

By Paula Benson, The Vermont Journal

SEPT. 6 – Chester enacts six-month STR moratorium

CHESTER, Vt. – When Selectboard Chair Arne Jonynas made a motion to enact a moratorium on new STRs in Chester effective immediately, discussion ensued, led by board members Peter Hudkins and Arianna Knapp, in support of the moratorium, but taking issue with the effective date. The resolution was amended to change the effective date to Oct. 1, and passed with the consent of all members present.

By Nick Giberti, The Vermont Journal

SEPT. 23 – The last Autumn Round Up

LUDLOW, Vt. – Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 23-24, were the last chance to visit the Barker Farm in the lush hills of Ludlow to experience the Autumn Round Up and Antique Engine and Machinery Show. An “old home days” style event hosted by proprietor Dan Moore, the weekend features more than just old tractors, with fresh-pressed apple cider, hand-crafted ice cream, 50-60 homemade pies made from scratch by Moore’s 80-year-old mother, and Moore’s vast collection of rare, vintage machinery and vehicles.

By Paula Benson, The Vermont Journal

SEPT. 23 – Fairy House Festival celebrates the magic of nature

GRAFTON, Vt. – The Fairy House Festival marked its 15th year of celebrating the magic of Vermont’s fall season, in the fields and woods behind The Nature Museum on Townshend Road. This year’s event was held on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 23 and 24. The gloomy skies did not dampen the festivities, as visitors, some in costumes or fairy wings, walked along the Fairy House Trail to marvel at the details of each miniature creation.

By Paula Benson, The Shopper

OCT. 4 – Ludlow back on track and open for business

LUDLOW, Vt. – “The town

is ready with open arms,” says Ludlow town manager Brendan McNamara, expressing optimism for the months ahead. In the wake of the flooding, McNamara explained, many businesses in Ludlow suffered a double blow, being affected not only by the physical repercussions of flood damage, but losing out on summer business as well. However, despite the relatively short time that has passed, McNamara describes the situation in Ludlow as “all systems go.”

By Nick Giberti, The Vermont Journal

OCT. 10 – Depot Street Bridge project delayed another year

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The proposed new Depot Street Bridge project, which was originally agreed upon in 2019 to back the Vermont Agency of Transportation in reconstructing the deteriorating bridge in Bellows Falls, has now been pushed back another year, and will start preliminary site work in the spring of 2026.

By Joe Milliken, The Shopper

NOV. 1 – Contaminated soil an issue for potential community garden

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The potential site for a community garden at 66 Atkinson Street in Bellows Falls has been found to contain traces of lead and hydrocarbons, with additional environmental testing needed to be conducted. The now-empty lot at 66 Atkinson Street is the former location of the Meeting Waters YMCA building, which was leveled during the winter of 2021 due to its dilapidated condition. Prior to housing the YMCA, the building was once a Methodist church, and one of the oldest churches in Bellows Falls.

By Joe Milliken, the Shopper

NOV. 6 – Ludlow denies two FEMA buyouts

LUDLOW, Vt. – Discussion was focused on proposed FEMA buyouts for four properties in Ludlow. The owners of the properties had initiated a process by which FEMA would essentially give the town funds to purchase the properties, though the purchases come with significant restrictions on how the properties may be used going forward. Ultimately, the requests for the former Mojo and Mr. Darcy’s were denied, while the requests for 21 Route 103 (formerly Subway) and 91 Route 103 (formerly Sam’s Steakhouse) were approved.

By Nick Giberti, The Vermont Journal

NOV. 15 – Tired but grateful

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – In Londonderry, two longstanding establishments took a hit, and are just now, five months later, getting back on their feet. Beverly Jelley, owner of Jelley’s Deli, a fixture on Main Street since 1990, said this is the third flood event she’s experienced as a Vermonter, and second time she’s had to put her store back together. “And the last,” Jelley added with a laugh.

By Paula Benson, The Vermont Journal

NOV. 30 – Family and community are top priority for Singleton’s

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – With the determination and spirit of true Vermonters, Alison and Dan Singleton returned to their store the morning after July’s flood, and got right to work. Soon, they were making bacon, egg, and cheese sandwiches in the parking lot, feeding everyone who showed up. Alison put out free store merchandise which could no longer be sold, but with a wash or two could be worn.

By Paula Benson, The Vermont Journal

DEC. 6 – Rescued stained-glass window has new owner

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – A very large and elaborate stained-glass window, known as “The Parable of the Sower,” which was rescued from the old and now demolished Methodist meeting house two years ago, is now being moved from its current location at the Bellows Falls train station. Two years ago, the window, which is 14 feet tall and 8 feet wide, was removed from the building at 66 Atkinson Street and stored at the local train station facility.

By Joe Milliken, The Shopper

DEC. 12 – Talented innkeepers revamp Echo Lake Inn

LUDLOW, Vt. – This past July, when the sentiment was bleak after the floods in Ludlow, the owner of the Echo Lake Inn Tom Gianola and his faithful innkeepers Rachel LeClair and Jaclyn Olmstead went to work to immediately restore the inn, so that countless brides could enjoy their weddings that had been booked prior to the flood.

By Danielle Goodwin, The Vermont Journal

DEC. 14 – Major Ludlow business owner facing federal bribery charges

LUDLOW, Vt. – A major business owner in Ludlow was indicted on federal bribery charges on Thursday, Dec. 14, according to an announcement by United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York Damian Williams. Troy Caruso, who owns multiple Ludlow businesses, is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit honest services wire fraud, and one count of honest services wire fraud. Each charge carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

By Nick Giberti, The Vermont Journal

DEC. 17 – By the skin of their teeth

REGION – 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.

By Paula Benson, The Vermont Journal

DEC. 18 – Shaw’s reopening timeline still unclear

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, which still has an unclear timeline for their reopening.

By Nick Giberti, The Vermont Journal

DEC. 19 – Londonderry adopts STR ordinance

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The selectboard made a few final, minor changes to their short-term rental (STR) ordinance language at the Dec. 19 meeting; 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, and “they made a motion to support us and work together.” The selectboard passed the STR ordinance unanimously.

By Shawntae Webb, The Vermont Journal

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