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Rockingham nearing purchase of BF train station

BY JOE MILLIKEN
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Town of Rockingham is progressing towards finalizing the purchase of the Bellows Falls train station, after the Rockingham Selectboard recently made a down payment on the \$250,000 purchase and renovation of the historic building.

Currently owned by the Vermont Rail System, a shortline railroad based in Burlington and running throughout Vermont and eastern New York, the purchase of the Bellows Falls station is a unique and tricky proposition, because the town is only purchasing the station itself and not the land under the station – largely because of the fear of contamination and the potential clean-up costs.

At the recent selectboard meeting, Rockingham made a \$10,000 payment



The Bellows Falls train station.

PHOTO BY JOE MILLIKEN

that, according to town manager Scott Pickup, was the first step towards finalizing the purchase of the building in June. “The town board authorized the manager to sign a \$10,000 option agreement, which opens a six-month window to closing [the final sale],” Pickup said in a recent interview.

Built in the early 1920s, the train station was once a two-story building that

was lost in a fire. Currently unoccupied, the Town of Rockingham voted to purchase the train station building in 2002. The original plan was to have the sale and purchase complete by the end of 2023, but the time frame has been pushed up to June as more details revolving around the future renovations get worked out with the current station owners. The estimated \$250,000 cost of



Springfield Elks donate dictionaries

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Recently, Springfield Elks Lodge #1560 presented Elks Dictionaries to 83 young third graders at Union Street School. Springfield Elks Lodge has been presenting the Elks Dictionaries for close to 20 years.

Pictured left to right are Elks member Eugene Siliski, past Exalted Ruler Vicki Siliski, teachers Breanna Cavacas, Arina Keenan, and Cathy Pollard, Exalted Ruler Carolee Murchie, and Trustee Victor Baskevich.

PHOTO PROVIDED

the building will come from a combination of a \$75,000 town appropriation (approved in 2002), along with federal grant funding from multiple sources.

The Town of Rockingham’s economic development director Gary Fox has played a major role in developing the grant funds for the project. Fox is also the executive director of the Bellows Falls Area Development Corporation.

“Gary Fox has been very diligent in tracking down multiple grant options,” Pickup added. “We are currently completing NEPA [National Environmental Policy Act] compliance, which will unlock a \$350,000 Northern Borders Regional Commission grant, as well as a \$200,000 Downtown Transportation Fund grant.

“The Windham Regional Commission has

also committed funds for the required environmental remediation inside the building. Therefore, we are making progress and getting very close to finally seeing updates to the structure.”

The ultimate plan is for the town to invest in and renovate the building, then make it an available commercial space that a business owner or entrepreneur can take over.

Springfield Selectboard sets three public hearing dates

BY PAULA BENSON
The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – At the Monday night meeting of the Springfield Selectboard held on Jan. 22, Christine Eggleton and Jason Rasmussen of the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission were in attendance to present the board with the results of their recent housing study.

The goal of the commission’s study was to begin to address regional housing needs by first identifying potential development and redevelopment opportunities located within community centers.

Rasmussen explained that they had preliminarily created a computer model illustrating “where there is already infrastructure, water and sewer, sidewalks,

and transit services. Alternatively, they are looking at where the development constraints are; flood plains, steep slopes, wetlands, and all sorts of things.”

“The best locations, not surprisingly,” said Rasmussen, “are in our villages and downtowns.” Springfield had most of the preferred sites. “But,” Rasmussen continued, “Ludlow, Chester, Cavendish, Proctorsville, Ascutney, Windsor all have locations like this as well.”

The commission is partnering with Springfield Regional Development Corporation and other area housing organizations to assess the overall needs of the community, and plans to report back to the town after further study.

Town manager Jeff Mobus presented the board

with the unsafe building committee’s findings regarding three properties the board had previously discussed and determined to be unsafe: 52 Valley Street, 67 Furnace Street, and 105 Clinton Street. The committee recommended all three properties be vacated, with the Valley Street and Furnace Street properties to be demolished, and the Clinton Street property to be repaired until the residence can be brought up to code.

The board reviewed each property independently, taking comments and questions from the audience, ultimately voting to accept the building committee’s recommendations.

Three upcoming public hearings were set at Monday’s meeting.

A 32-year-old issue re-

garding road discontinuation was being revisited, after Mobus had put in a request with Springfield zoning administrator Charles Wise to assist with the resolution of the matter. Mobus reported that 0.3 miles of roads around the old Southview development had been abandoned and recommended for discontinuance in 1992, after the development was demolished.

Mobus explained that the legal discontinuance never moved forward, and he and Wise were working together to complete the process, which required a public hearing. Mobus suggested scheduling the hearing for March 11, at 6 p.m., to give the town time for proper warnings and legal review. The board concurred.

The board voted to hold

two public hearings on Feb. 12, at 6 p.m., the first to give voters an opportunity to weigh in on the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) grant for improvements to the ventilation system at the Huber Building. One requirement to qualify for the \$525,000 grant is that the town must hold a public hearing on the project.

Following the VCDP hearing, a second public hearing to consider an amendment to the town ordinance on non-motorized transportation will commence. This provision is in Chapter 12, Article II, Division 4, Nuisances Affecting Public Property.

After a Springfield resident raised the issue that some of the wording in the ordinance “restricts certain activity in public places,”

the ordinance committee considered revisions.

As currently written, the provision states that “no person shall course, coast, or slide upon any sleigh, sled, vehicle, or other thing in any streets or highways within limits of the town.” The revision proposes removing the terms “course” and “coast,” allowing non-motorized transportation like roller skates or scooters on town streets and highways.

The committee’s reasoning was that updating the ordinance would increase the options for residents who seek transportation alternatives that support a healthy lifestyle and protect the environment.

The selectboard will hold their next regular meeting on Feb. 12, immediately following the public hearings.

Troy Wunderle teaches circus arts at Kurn Hattin

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Ladies and gentlemen, back by popular demand, Troy Wunderle recently brought his love of teaching and his love of circus arts to the students at Kurn Hattin Homes for Children.

Vermont native and Big Top Adventures founder Troy Wunderle spent a week with the students at Kurn Hattin Homes teaching them the art of juggling, plate and hoop spinning, balancing acts, showmanship, partnership, determination, and so much more.

On his Big Top Adventure website, Wunderle writes, “In the face of countless fears and challenges, circus performers

dedicate their entire lives to the pursuit of excellence. It is their dogged determination to prevail that gives rise to their ultimate success.”

Wunderle’s talent and teaching ability, combined with his passion for circus arts and dogged determination, earned him the 2022 Excellence in Circus Education Award from the American Circus Educators Association. Wunderle has said, “I teach juggling every single day because it has very little to do with juggling. It has a heck of



Kurn Hattin students showcase their skills by forming a human pyramid.

PHOTO PROVIDED

a lot more to do with how you face challenges, how

you celebrate successes, how you take something

perience for the kids. He teaches them new skills

that seems impossible at one moment and create an opportunity for it to be possible moments later.”

Aligned with the Homes’ mission and core values, the Big Top Adventure programs are designed to empower individuals to imagine a world of possibilities, while inspiring communities to play and support each other.

Caleb Steever, the Homes’ athletic director, says, “Having Troy come to the Homes is always a great experience for the kids. He teaches them new skills

that require hand-eye coordination, balance, and focus. Not only are they learning something new, they are learning a whole new dimension of teamwork. In some cases, they are literally supporting each other and having to put their faith and trust in each other.”

While having fun and clowning around a little bit, Wunderle brings an inspirational message to those he teaches and entertains. He’s a great fit at Kurn Hattin Homes and in the circus. Even his name (pronounced Wunder-ly) sounds like it belongs in the center ring under the big top.

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Advantage Truck Group honors employee

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Advantage Truck Group (ATG) has named its 2023 Pete DePina Legacy Award winner for Vermont, recognizing ATG truck sales administrator Laurie Clough from its Westminster location for making an impact on her fellow employees, customers, and the company.

“Laurie embodies approachability, patience, and wisdom gained from years in truck sales,” ATG president and CEO Kevin Holmes said. “She genuinely cares for her colleagues’ wellbeing, and has a remarkable ability to maintain a positive outlook in every situation. Her dedication, resilience, and deep commitment to our collective success make her an invaluable member of our team.”

The highest recognition that an ATG team member can receive, this annual award was created as a memorial to ATG employee Napoleon “Pete” DePina, and honors an individual at each ATG dealer location in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont, who most embodies the values and qualities DePina



Laurie Clough, sales administrator at Advantage Truck Group, receives the 2023 Pete DePina Legacy Award. PHOTO PROVIDED

was known for, including integrity and a quiet leadership grounded in humility, generosity, and selfless service to others.

“Our ability to provide the best service experience for our customers reflects the dedication and contributions of our team members,” Holmes said. “This award helps us honor those who go beyond expectations, and whose efforts and attitude, like Pete’s, elevate the quality of service across our network and make a positive impact on the people around them.”

Employees were nominated by their peers for the award, and a winner was selected from each of

ATG’s eight locations. Winners were presented with a monetary award that they will continue to receive as part of their profit-sharing bonus each year throughout their employment with the company.

The largest Daimler Truck North America dealer in New England, ATG offers employees performance pay programs and benefits starting day one, company training programs, and career development and advancement opportunities – all in a culture that is committed to giving back to its communities.

Bellows Falls Woman’s Club –

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Members of the Bellows Falls Woman’s Club will meet on Feb. 13 at the United Church, 8 School Street, beginning at 1:30 p.m. The program will be presented by Jouvay Chocolates of Walpole.

At the Jan. 9 meeting, Mike Stack of Rockingham presented a program on youth in the trades. Mike and his partner have formed Bellows Falls Trades, which seeks to help high school students gain work-based experience in the trades. Working with schools and area tech centers, students are able to sample and con-

centrate on several areas of potential post-high-school employment.

During the business meeting, members were reminded to hand in their 2023 volunteer hour recording sheets at the February meeting, so that the number of hours and donations can be sent in to the state and national federation of women’s clubs. One of the club’s community service projects is maintaining a “Little Library” at the Bellows Falls Health Center. People waiting for appointments are welcome to browse and/or take the books, which include a

range options for all ages.

For the February meeting, members are asked to bring individually wrapped and labeled cookies and sweet treats to be distributed to many area businesses, agencies, municipal offices, nursing homes, and individuals for the club’s Valentine’s Day thank you service project.

The local club is a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, an international women’s organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. Area women interested in joining the club may contact Membership Chairman Sally McGaffigan at frankmcgaffigan@comcast.net, or any club member.

Bellows Falls Community Closet to reopen

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – With the closing of SEVCA’s Good Buy Stores in Springfield and Bellows Falls, SEVCA donated over 50 totes of clothing and shoes to the Community Closet. The Closet, located at Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church Street in Bellows Falls, is set to reopen on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. We have spent the past six weeks unpacking, sorting, organizing, and sizing all of their donations, and we are jam packed full with adult clothing from winter wear, to summer wear, to exercise clothing, to shoes.

Our children’s clothing has been donated to Busy Bees Children’s Clothing Hive, located at 17 Rockingham Street



The Community Closet in Bellows Falls is set to reopen on Feb. 3. PHOTO PROVIDED

in downtown Bellows Falls. The store is usually open five days a week, and accepts donations of children’s clothing.

We plan to expand our days to include Wednesday and Saturday, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., starting on Feb. 3. If

anyone would like to volunteer on either day, come in and let us know. We will accept clean, gently used adult clothing on the days we are open. The Community Closet and Busy Bees will be working with SEVCA and their voucher system.

Springfield Library youth programming

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Town Library is taking full advantage of that extra day this leap year, with a February jam-packed with events for kids and families at the Springfield Town Library.

On Feb. 10, from 3:15-4 p.m., the Snowmageddon Indoor Snowball fight will be held at the Springfield Winter Carnival at Crown Point Country Club. The library invites you to come throw plush snowballs and defend your fort at the Crown Point banquet hall. All of the excitement, without the pants full of snow.

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 4 p.m., the Team Laser Bear Book Club for grades 1-3 will hold its first meeting. This exciting new book club for younger readers will focus on beginning chapter books, introducing this year’s Red Clover Award nominees, and fun activities that celebrate the stories. Team Laser Bear meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

Feb. 23-24 is the

Stuffed Animal Slumber Party. Celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day by taking your fuzzy friends to the library for an overnight adventure. Your pals can be dropped off with Youth Services Librarian Jeni at any time before 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 23. Stuffed animals will enjoy a VIP after-hours slumber party at the library, and will take home a photo album of their adventures when their kids come pick them up on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Feb. 24 is Take Your Child to the Library Day. Come learn about all the great things the library offers for kids and families on this special day to celebrate kids and libraries. It’s the perfect day for a first library card.

Every Tuesday at 10 a.m., our littlest learners and their grownups enjoy stories, songs, and playtime at Bookworm Wiggle.

The Golden Dome Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of every month, at 4 p.m., to discuss monthly selections of Vermont’s Golden Dome Award, a kid’s choice award chosen by Vermont children in

grades three through six each spring.

Thursday Thunder is every Thursday, at 3:30 p.m., with a variety of afterschool activities for school age kids. On Feb. 1, we’ll be playing the creative storytelling board game Dixit as a group. On Feb. 8, we will make Valentine Pom Pom Monsters, creating a cute or cool creature from yarn. Feb. 15’s program will be “Spoon Catapults.” Back by popular demand, we’ll be testing our aim and the laws of physics as we lay siege to a castle with ping pong balls. There will be no Thursday Thunder on Feb. 22, during school break, but it is back on Feb. 29 with Board Game Bonanza – explore the many board games in the library’s collection with other kids.

Friday Preschool Story time will be happening every Friday throughout the month at 10:30 a.m., with themed stories and crafts. February’s lineup is “Exploring Space” on Feb. 2, Valentine’s Day activities on Feb. 9, “Dinosaur Roar” on Feb. 16, and “Unicorn Roundup” on Feb. 23.

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Signs of the times

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

The below is from a June 1927 Carpenter's Store News. "Carp," as he was known, was a gifted writer. Carp wrote under several pseudonyms. Carp signed this story, "DIOGENES."

In part, it reads:
"Signs of the times
Been a pretty spring hasn't it what with the scarlet fever and the rabies quarantine and the mud and everything. Funny - some of the good effects of such a quarantine; it gives the folks a chance to cuss out the docs, and the docs a chance to collect a little unexpected velvet in the way of inoculation fees, and the ministers a lay-off, to say nothing of one for the choirs. You know it takes a choir and an organist to really appreciate a church being closed; personally we

wonder if it isn't more or less a relief to congregations too that can't duck when it comes time for the anthem.

"But those inoculations or something seemed to do the trick, we dodged an epidemic that would have been serious had it developed..."

"Clyde Clark's new house is moving right along, got the garage up and the cellar in, and by the way a cobblestone foundation that looks pretty slick. Clyde makes the sixth new house in town in the last five years in spite of the discouragement and lack of support on the part of the voters. Believe us, it takes a lot of nerve to go ahead and build in the face of high construction costs, higher taxes and little sympathy from the rest of the folks. And these new homes are permanent additions to the wealth of the town, no fly-by-night shop or store that is here today and gone to-morrow -

with our money.
"You'd think by the way they acted at town meeting over that exemption business that after five years these houses would get right up and move to Bellows Falls or somewhere. They talk about Vermonters being long-headed, we don't know, perhaps another four letter word might be substituted for 'long.'

"Memorial Day is here, practically speaking, can't you hear the Grafton band as it crawls on under the influence of the dirge, but all we want is just to pass the word to the Legion that some of their friends hope they will wear the old O.D. this year, course we realize Jack Andrews' is a leetle tight in spots, but no fault of the uniform (!) 'cits."

"But to get down to more serious and weighty affairs, - the High School baseball team is half way

through its schedule at this writing with three victories and two defeats chalked on its slate, which is not so bad at all when you call to mind some of the recent seasons that didn't show a mark in the win column till the last game or so. Remember the times of Charlie Goodwin when the great ambition of C.H.S. was to lick Springfield and Ludlow and most generally did..."

"In the old days, by which we mean pre-war, May was the month of Sunday afternoon walks, summer vacation hadn't come to break up pleasant illusions and the woods were full of couples after Mayflowers. Too bad it's easier somehow now to step on the self-starter and roll up to Plymouth



The Chester baseball team in 1910. PHOTO PROVIDED BY CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

and Woodstock, or over to Derry, or Grafton, or down through Saxtons River, than it is to get into the old clothes and hike along the ridge by the Skinner place or over the pinnacle to Butterut hill.

DIOGENES"

Last call
I'm still looking for a few stories for my upcoming book, "The Story of Us." February is the deadline for

submissions. If you like to write, I'd like to hear from you. You can write about anything you like, here, there, or anywhere. The book is shaping up nicely. This is last call.

This week's old saying is from 20th century American artist Edward Hopper. "If you could say it in words, there would be no reason to paint it."

Okemo Valley grocery stores ensuring a wonderful winter

REGION - Following the 2023 summer flooding, grocery stores around the region have gone above and beyond, demonstrating exceptional dedication and community spirit. The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce selected six grocery stores as the January 2024 Members of the Month to honor their commitment and the work that they do to serve the region.

The January 2024 award recipients are Chloe's Market at the Plymouth Country Store, Londonderry Village Market, Shaw's Supermarket (online only with local pick up), Singleton's General Store, Smitty's Chester Market, and the Springfield Food Co-op.

At the heart of their operations, these stores care deeply



The 2024 January Members of the Month recipients. PHOTO PROVIDED

about their customers, and they continue to provide high quality and wide-ranging selections during this busy winter season.

The 2023 summer flooding has been difficult, and many have had to spend considerable efforts and finances on rebuilding;

however, stores in the area have remained committed to serving the community. They're focused on creating convenient and welcoming shopping experiences with ease for all.

Recognizing the importance of the busy ski season as a prime time for visitors

and locals, these grocery stores have taken proactive measures to cater to the needs of their customers this winter. From carefully curating their inventory, to stocking up on essential supplies, to expanding their grocery offerings, they are committed to providing seamless and enjoyable shopping opportunities for everyone.

For more information and to hear their stories, visit www.yourplaceinvermont.com/2024-january-members-of-the-month.

We would like to thank these grocery store superheroes for their unwavering dedication to the community and customers they serve within the Okemo Valley region.

Featured pets: Linda and Sugar

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Two-year old Linda and 8-month-old Sugar are mother and daughter, and two of the sweetest kitties. This bonded pair adores people, and they are cat friendly. We know they will complete a home and make some very lucky people very happy.

The Springfield Humane Society is open Wednesday-Saturday, 12-4 p.m., for walk-ins, or call for more information. We are having a vaccine and microchip clinic on March 2, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. For more information, call or check out the event on Facebook, Springfield Humane Society VT.

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Windham County Genealogical Interest Group meeting rescheduled
REGION - Due to unforeseen circumstances, the date of the Windham County Genealogical Interest Group's February meeting, the details of which appeared in the Jan. 17 edition of The Vermont Journal & The Shopper Newspaper, has been changed to Saturday, Feb. 24.
The meeting will be held over Zoom only. Please register at www.bit.ly/WCGIGFEB2024. A Zoom link will be sent before the meeting. Pose any questions you have when you register.
Feel free to contact Jerry Carbone and Wayne Blanchard at windhamcountygig@gmail.com.

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"It's been through the addition of MAPLE that we have been able to get the kids to talk."
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opinion

COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear Editor,

Serve Learn Earn helps Vermonters create pathways to high-quality jobs and affordable education. And while the administration did not include us in their initial budget proposal, we remain optimistic and engaged with our champions in the legislature who have understood the importance of service and training programs for our young and disconnected workers. Now in our third year, Serve Learn Earn has demonstrated impact and scale in helping Vermonters create pathways to high-quality jobs and affordable

education. We understand the legislature has hard budget decisions ahead, and they have shown to strongly believe in the value of investing in Serve Learn Earn. Not only because they know we are connecting trained Vermonters to eager employers, but we are also providing critical service with high-priority projects in the areas of affordable housing, conservation, food security, and education.

Sincerely,
Serve Learn Earn

Dear Editor,

Why am I running for Selectboard of Springfield, Vt.? This town is full of potential. Many community leaders have worked hard, and the results are good. More can be done. I believe we must increase the tax base (the grand list) in order to reduce the burden on homeowners and maintain the quality of life we want for ourselves and future generations. According to the U.S. Census, from 2010-2022, "the population of Springfield has decreased by 272 people." I believe our focus should be fostering growth in the resident population, the business community, and visitors. If we do not organically grow the grand list, we have only two options: 1) raise taxes and/or 2) decrease services. So my soap box begins. Broadcast to the world that Springfield isn't just a location - it's the ideal destination for living, working, and visiting! So, what's our plan of action? Below are my key priorities:

1. Actively manage Springfield's reputation with facts and promote Springfield. I believe people need to be informed. Let's embrace the positive. I love what the chief of police is doing to support our schools. The officers are dedicated to daily visits at our schools, fostering positive interactions with students, teachers, and parents. This intentional effort ensures that

we see these police officers in moments of tranquility rather than crisis. River Valley Tech Center, one word, "amazing!" Springfield Hospital, how lucky are we to have a hospital in our town? The care my husband received in the emergency room this year was truly exceptional. Springfield is witnessing the emergence of innovative businesses such as Vermont Wagyu, Mamava, Tenfold, Lucas Industries, and Cannatrol, adding vibrancy to our community. Further, as I invest more time in getting to know the individuals who lead our town, I am increasingly in awe of their dedication and contributions. Parks and Recreation successfully attracts 220 kids, approximately a third of our K-6 students, to participate in programs. Promoting Springfield will include one-page brochures such as "Adventure Springfield VT: History Seekers," and "Adventure Springfield VT: Foliage Seekers." These brochures, available in both hard copy and digital formats, aim to inform not only our community, but also visitors and prospective residents about the wealth of outdoor adventures, historical significance, and all other aspects we wish to share with the world. We are thrilled to introduce Springfield802, a strategic endeavor directed at visitors, residents, and

businesses. Concurrently, we are elevating the quality of all our digital assets to enhance the representation of Springfield.

2. Revitalizing the heart of our town. The vitality of the downtown scene is on the rise, thanks to the incorporation of new establishments like Black River Coffee, Shear Beauty Salon, and Uplift Acrobatics. The Garden Club's endeavors are truly commendable, and it's worth noting that they have a membership of over 80 individuals. I applaud the outstanding efforts of Springfield on the Move, in particular the addition of the new way-finding signs. We also cannot forget some vital tenants to the downtown like Springfield Cinemas 3, the Co-op, CopperFox, and The Vault. I want more. I am eagerly anticipating the ongoing developments and positive transformations at 9 to 31 Main Street! And what about the river? I am convinced that the river stands as one of our town's most invaluable assets. The town/SRDC has recently acquired the dilapidated Parks and Woolson building. Revitalizing that building, enhancing our view, will be a transformative moment for the town.

3. Proliferation of business in Springfield. According to EED, we had 329 businesses registered in Springfield over the last 10 years. We have five businesses with more than 100 employees. I want to continue to support initiatives that retain and attract small and large businesses, and promote Springfield as a business-friendly environment. Yes, there are challenges; yes, we need workforce training, we need housing, but we need employers in order

to elevate the household income levels in Springfield. We could get caught up in the chicken and the egg, but I will not. I aspire to attract a significant employer to Springfield. Initiating the process, we can craft presentations and sales packages to effectively kickstart our efforts. Let's get creative!

I believe I have the qualifications to serve you well as a selectboard member:

1. I am currently on the selectboard, appointed December 2023, to replace Crissy Webster when she resigned to continue to lead her growing business.

2. I was a member of the budget advisory committee (BAC), and have a good understanding of the town's finances.

3. I owned and successfully operated my business, Catalyst, for 15 years, and have my Master's in Business Administration (MBA) with a concentration in finance.

4. I have more than 25 years of sales, marketing, and communication expertise.

5. Member of the board for Black River Innovation Campus (BRIC) and Springfield Hospital; former board member of Springfield Co-op.

If you want to know more about me:

- My YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/heatherfrahm802.
- My LinkedIn profile: www.linkedin.com/in/heather-frahm-33a2a628.
- My email: heatherfor-springfieldvermont@gmail.com.

Vote on or before March 5! Early voting begins on Feb. 14.

Paid for by Heather Frahm Springfield, 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.

THM
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Cannabis has not been analyzed or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). For use by individuals 21 years of age and older or registered qualifying patient only. KEEP THIS PRODUCT AWAY FROM CHILDREN AND PETS. DO NOT USE IF PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING. Possession or use of cannabis may carry significant legal penalties in some jurisdictions and under federal law. It may not be transported outside of the state of Vermont. The effects of edible cannabis may be delayed by two hours or more. Cannabis may be habit forming and can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. Persons 25 years and younger may be more likely to experience harm to the developing brain. It is against the law to drive or operate machinery when under the influence of this product. National Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222.

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Windsor County Sheriff K9 to get body armor



K9 Kye will receive a donated protective body armor vest. PHOTO PROVIDED

REGION - Windsor County Sheriff's Office K9 Kye will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from nonprofit organization Vested Interest in K9s Inc. The vest will be embroidered with the sentiment "Honoring those who served and sacrificed." Delivery is expected within 8-10 weeks.

Vested Interest in K9s Inc., established in 2009, is a 501(c)(3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. This potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 officers is U.S.-made, custom fitted, and NIJ certified. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s Inc. has provided over 5,435 vests to K9s in all 50 states, at a value of \$6.9 million, made possible by both private

and corporate donations.

The program is open to U.S. dogs that are at least 20 months old and actively employed and certified with law enforcement or related agencies. K9s with expired vests are also eligible to participate. There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

Vested Interest in K9s Inc. accepts tax-deductible contributions in any amount, while a single donation of \$985 will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of \$1,800, weighs an average of 4-5 pounds, and comes with a five-year warranty. For more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts donations at www.vik9s.org, or you may mail your contribution to P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718.

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15			16					17			
		18			19		20				
21	22			23		24					
25			26		27		28		29	30	31
32		33		34		35		36			
37			38		39		40		41		
			42		43		44		45		
46	47	48			49		50				
51					52		53			54	55
56					57				58		
59					60				61		

ACROSS
1 TV schedule abbr.
4 Rotate
8 Exerciser's target
12 Slithery fish
13 Layered cookie
14 Greek vowel
15 Selflessness
17 Seize
18 Chapeau
19 Slogan
21 Garden figurines
24 Use henna
25 Post-op area
26 Apply cream
28 College study
32 Close by
34 "Gee, ya think?"
36 Golfer's cry
37 Campfire leftovers
39 Clothing protector
41 Sandwich meat
42 "been real"
44 By and large
46 Opposite of candor
50 Eggy quaff
51 Bern's river
52 Halite
56 Egyptian deity
57 Shrek, for one
58 Half of CIV
59 Society newbies

DOWN
1 Afternoon get-together
2 Ann Patchett's " - Canto"
3 However
4 Praised loudly
5 Mentalist
6 Take it easy
7 Wanderer
8 Biblical cover-up?
9 Petty of "Tank Girl!"
10 - impasse
11 Innocent one
16 Ewe's mate
20 Workout venue
21 Actress Gershon
22 Mark Harmon TV series
23 Melancholy
27 Fella
29 "Atlas Shrugged" hero
30 Exam format
31 "Ratatouille" rat
33 Patty Hearst, for one
35 "Tell -" (Streisand/Dion song)
38 Fr. holy woman
40 Monopoly job
43 Seafood selection
45 Cyclades island
46 Stated
47 Lighten
48 Baby's bed
49 Boo-Boo's buddy
53 -Magnon Lucy of "Elementary"
55 Box office buys, slangily

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LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

Learn about Google software, fraud and identity theft

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Let's learn more about Google on Monday, Feb. 26, at 1 p.m. Google offers a wide variety of tools, well beyond just searching the internet. This small group class will look at how Google can be used for word processing and other office applications, online file storage, maps, street view, and satellite images, as well as other tools. After a quick overview, the class will focus on the tools that participants are most interested in. The Springfield Town Library has laptops available, or people can bring their own device. Those who do not have a Google account should set one up before the class. If help is needed to set up an account, library staff can assist. This class is limited to four people, and sign up is needed. Please note that if people are placed on the waitlist, this class may be offered again.

Those who need individual attention on this topic or any other may sign up for a one-on-one help session being held on Feb. 5 and 12, at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. both days. Tech Help classes fill up quickly.

Please note that the library staff will be participating in

professional development the morning of Feb. 5. The library will open that day at 11:30 a.m.

Call the library at 802-885-3018 to sign up for any of the tech classes.

On Thursday, Feb. 15, at 1 p.m., join us at the Springfield Town Library for a highly informative event focused on fraud prevention and identity theft. This session will focus on identifying the similarities and differences between identity theft and identity fraud. Chyenne, a representative from M&T Bank, will discuss ways to identify, avoid, and protect ourselves against fraudsters and scams, and learn about some tools and resources we have to better protect ourselves and our information in future events.

You can benefit from M&T's no-cost financial wellness workshops and M&T's Financial Education Center, where you can access information on various topics such as budgeting, credit management, building wealth and retirement, and more. It's like having the expertise and knowledge of an M&T banker wherever you go.

Visit the library's calendar to sign up at www.springfield-townlibrary.org/calendar.

BUYING/SELLING

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

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GUNS WANTED

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

HELP WANTED

Stone House Antique Center seeks an experienced, energetic sales

clerk. Part-time, some weekends required. Apply in person at 557 VT Route 103 South, Chester, VT.

PUTNEY, Vt. – ReArch Company has been hired by Windham & Windsor Housing Trust and Evernorth Property as the General Contractor for ALICE HOLWAY and will be bidding from 1/31/2024 through 2/22/2024. Construction is anticipated to start in April 2024. This project is Federally and State funded and will adhere to all Federal Procurement, Section 3, Fair Labor Standards and Contracting Guidelines. Minority-Owned, Women-Owned, and Section 3 businesses are encouraged to apply. Seeking all trades! Including, but not limited to, Concrete, Masonry, Steel, Carpentry, Thermal, Siding, Roofing, Windows/Doors, Drywall, Flooring, Painting, MEPF, Sitework, and Landscaping. Interested subcontractors and material providers, please contact Ethan McDonald at ethanm@researchcompany.com.

Countryside Alarms, 495 Old Turnpike Road, Mount Holly, VT 05758, has immediate openings for Licensed Fire Alarm Technicians and Journeymen Electricians. We are a local Vermont company who installs commercial and residential fire and security alarms, access control, and security camera

systems. Knowledge and skill of installation and maintenance of electrical systems required. Fire Alarm or Journeyman's Electrical License a must. Overtime available. We have fleet of 4 wheel drive service pick up trucks. Family-owned company doing business for over thirty years, 15 minutes from Okemo Mountain and 20 minutes from Rutland. Starting pay at \$38.00 per hour plus health insurance benefits, 401k plan with employer match, and earned time off. Please send resume by email to mcblais@aol.com or call 802-259-2213 for more information.

Countryside Alarms, 495 Old Turnpike Road, Mount Holly, VT 05758, has immediate openings for alarm technicians with a minimum 1 years' experience along

with laborers. Pay commensurate with experience. - Minimum of 1 years of experience as an Alarm Technician preferred with low voltage or related field. Experience preferred, but we will train the right person. Candidates should have proficiency in using hand tools and power tools for installation and repairs. Knowledge of computer networking and cabling is beneficial along with mechanical knowledge for installation of physical devices and basic understanding of security system principles and components. Starting pay \$22.00 - \$24.00 per hour depending on experience plus health insurance benefits, 401k plan with employer match, and earned time off. Please send resume by email to mcblais@aol.com or call 802-259-2213 for more information.

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Background Check Required EOE.

TOWN OF GRAFTON, VERMONT
Invitation to Bid
2025 MODEL-YEAR TANDEM AXLE TRUCK WITH PLOW PACKAGE

The Town of Grafton, Vermont is seeking sealed proposals for furnishing the Town with a 2025 Model Year Tandem Axle Truck with plow package, which meets the Town's bid requirements and vehicle specifications. Complete bid requirements and vehicle specifications may be obtained from Morgan Wilbur, Town Administrator, PO Box 180, 117 Main Street, Grafton VT 05146. (802) 843-2552 or email townadmin@graffontvt.org

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD

The Town of Springfield Development Review Board will hold a public hearing at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, February 13, 2024, to review two zoning applications. (1) a change of use for special events at 182 Skitchewaung Trail and (2) a home business for 167 Park 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 applications.

Springfield Public Hearing
February 26, 2024 at 6:00PM
96 Main Street
Springfield, Vermont

The Town of Springfield is investigating improvements to Clinton Street from Main Street to Bridge Street, the so-called Clinton Street Road Diet Project. We are hosting a public hearing to gather public input on Alternatives. Please attend and provide your thoughts.

If you are unable to attend and have comments/questions, please contact Martha Harrison, Municipal Project Manager, Mount Ascutney Regional Planning Commission. 802-674-9201 extension 122 or mharrison@marcvrt.org.

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
Annual Report Notice of Availability

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Report containing the Town Auditor's Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 will be available February 24, 2024 and may be picked up at the Springfield Town Clerk's Office at 96 Main Street, M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or at the Springfield Town Library at 43 Main Street, M-F 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Annual Report containing the Town Auditor's Report will be available on the Town's website <https://springfieldvt.gov>. Upon request, the Auditor's Report shall be mailed. After March 31, 2024, the Town School District Report will be available on the School District website <https://www.ssdvt.org>.

Barbara A. Courchesne
Town Clerk, CVC (802) 885-2104 tosclerk@vermontel.net

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

T	B	A	T	U	R	N	F	L	A	B		
E	E	L	O	R	E	O	T	O	T	A		
A	L	T	R	U	I	S	M	G	R	A	B	
H	A	T	T	A	G	L	I	N	E			
G	N	O	M	E	S	D	Y	E				
I	C	U	D	A	B	M	A	J	O	R		
N	I	G	H	D	U	H	F	O	R	E		
A	S	H	E	S	B	I	T	H	A	M		
S	E	C	R	E	T	S	M	A	I	N	L	Y
S	E	C	R	E	C	Y	N	O	G			
A	A	R	E	R	O	C	K	S	A	L	T	
I	S	I	S	O	G	R	E	L	I			
D	E	B	S	P	I	O	R	T	U	X		

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*Team leader for 1-2 person crew
*Competitive wages
*Valid drivers license required

For more information and to apply, fill out application at www.glebemountaingardens.com/employment-application

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Sightings Photography Exhibit By Rich Cofrancesco until 1/31

Chocolate Tasting Feb 3, 1-4
Student Art Show - month of February

Take a Workshop in 2024!
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
Raku Workshop w/ Andrew Berends (2 part) 3/2 & 3/9
Pine Needle Basket w/ Irene Dizes 3/8/24 & 3/9/24
Wire-wrapped Pendant w/ Thomas Alyxander 4/6/24
Flowers in Texture & Color w/ Julie Crabtree 4/27/24
(04/24/24 - TFN - 13)

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(06/05/24 - 52)

Chiropractor

FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC
Dr. Denise Natale 58 Parker Avenue, Proctorsville, VT 05153, 802-226-7977 Hours: Tuesday 1pm-6pm, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-6pm. (08/14/24 - TFN - 52)

Masonry

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Okemo Valley TV

LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

- Catamount Trail Association Event Promo
- Legislative Update w/ Rep. Tessa Buss
- "War Tears" from Local Author & Historian
- Decision on Ludlow Short-Term Rental Registry
- Atty. Gen. Charity Clark: Refunds to Vulnerable VTers

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) (04/03/24 - TFN - 13)

camps

LEGAL NOTICES

Farm camp scholarship accepting applications —

WALPOLE, N.H. – Does your child have interest in farms or gardening? Promote their curiosity and send them to a local farm camp this summer.

The Jeffrey P. Smith Farm Camp Scholarship connects young people with agriculture and the natural world around them. This scholarship aims to inspire the next generation of local farmers and food supporters by giving regional children the opportunity to experience sustainable farming firsthand, and watch their efforts bear fruit.

Scholarship-eligible programs include select farm camps and after school programs at Stonewall Farm, Orchard Hill, Kroka Expeditions, UMass Farm Academies, and memberships to NOFA-NH. Scholarships cover the full program cost unless otherwise noted.

The Cheshire County Conservation District is now accepting applications and donations to the Jeffrey P. Smith Farm Camp Scholarship. Applications are due

by March 31.

To learn more about participating programs, view application material, or donate to the scholarship fund, visit our website at www.cheshireconservation.org/jps-scholarship.

Interested applicants may also request a paper copy of the application by contacting the Cheshire County Conservation District at 603-756-2988 extension 4, or info@cheshireconservation.org.

During his lifetime, Jeff Smith was an enthusiastic supporter of sustainability and local agriculture. He firmly believed in the connection of all living things, and stressed the importance of working in harmony with the systems of the universe.

Seeing himself as a “steward” instead of an “owner” of the land, he felt the earth was entrusted to us for safekeeping during our lifetimes, to be passed along intact to future generations. With an eager and vibrant sense of life, his every activ-

ity was geared towards improving the lives of others and the environment through giving freely of his time and efforts.

To keep that vision alive, the Jeffrey P. Smith Farm Scholarship Program was created in August 2009. The program’s purpose is to send children to an area farm camp to discover the inherent rewards that come from cultivating with one’s hands and heart.

Seasonal day camps at The Nature Museum —

GRAFTON, Vt. – How can snow keep you warm? What causes sap to flow in maple trees? What is a macroinvertebrate? Learn all about nature with The Nature Museum’s day camps for kids aged 4-11, offering activities designed to educate campers about our regional ecology while providing plenty of outdoor free play, exploration, and hands-on learning.

These all-day camps

take place outside The Nature Museum and surrounding local habitats, utilizing the meadow and garden with native plantings, the newly developed pond, and the Magic Forest Natural Playscape.

Each day or week features a unique theme, from exploring “Snowflake Science” in February, to “Wilderness Trekking” in August.

The winter camps take place over February break (Feb. 20-22), the spring camps over April break (April 23-25) and the summer camps run for five weeks between June and August.

“We’re thrilled to offer these camps again this year. Being outside for long periods provides ample opportunities for observation and learning,” says environmental educator Sam McGonigle. “These sessions help deepen the



Wee Explorers take a look at a tiny inchworm with the education director.

PHOTO PROVIDED

appreciation for our wild neighbors, while providing lots of outdoor exercise and community-building activities. Our campers build connections with each other and with the natural world through play, exploratory learning, and creative exercises that enrich their experiences outdoors.”

Registration is open for the winter and spring camps, and the summer camp registration opens on Feb. 1. To learn more about ages, dates, and program details, visit www.nature-museum.org.

SUMMER CAMP SECTION
Coming Soon!
Ask us for details
ads@vermontjournal.com
802-228-3600

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders, and mortgagees of property in the Town of Londonderry, in the County of Windham, and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town for the 2021, 2022, and 2023 tax years remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described property in such Town, to wit:

It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Barton Coburn by Warranty Deed of Milton Thomas Coburn, dated May 30, 2017 and recorded on June 2, 2017 in Book 79 at Pages 766-767 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #019009-502, E911 address: 61 Coburn's Way.)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

Tina Labeau, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Mountain Energy of Vermont, Inc., f/k/a Green Mountain Energy Systems, Inc., by Warranty Deed of Edward J. Duff and Barbara M. Duff, dated September 4, 2009, and recorded on September 4, 2009 in Book 65 at Page 95 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #104011, E911 address: 3590 VT Route 100)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Duke Enterprises, Inc. by Warranty Deed of Edward J. Brown dated October 14, 1970 and recorded on October 21, 1970 in Book 31 at Page 148 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #102023, E911 Address: 2242 North Main St.)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to 452, LLC by Quit Claim Deed of Thomas Jones and Elisa Marie Romeo dated January 14, 2019 and recorded on February 4, 2019 in Book 83 at Page 407 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #035010, E911 Address: 452 Carley Lane)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Antone Dias by Warranty Deed of Center J. Merrill dated July 29, 2022 and recorded on August 1, 2022 in Book 95 at Page 536 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #102004, E911 Address: 2000 North Main St.)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Matthew L. Mosher by Warranty Deed of Roger Thorne-Thomsen, dated December 30, 2011, and recorded on

January 6, 2012 in Book 66 at Page 192 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #105022-100, E911 Address: 2.8 +/- acres off Route 100)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Edward John Brown by Warranty Deed of Lawrence A. Grover and Hazel E. Grover, dated August 6, 1981 and recorded on August 8, 1981 in Book 40, at Page 53 of the Londonderry Land Records. Reference is made to Easement Deed of Duke Enterprises, Inc. to Edward J. Brown, dated August 25, 1982 and recorded on August 25, 1982 in Book 40 at Page 554 of the Londonderry Land Records.

Excepting, however, approximately 0.12 acres of land conveyed to the State of Vermont by Warranty Deed of Edward J. Brown, dated September 27, 1993 and recorded on October 1, 1993 in Book 51 at Page 8 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #102024, E911 address: 2296 North Main St.)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Jean Rogers Smith, as Trustee under agreement with Rochester H. Rogers and Lois S. Rogers, dated December 12, 1949 for the benefit of Fergus S. Smith, by virtue of:

1. Warranty Deed of Herbert O. Smith, dated July 10, 1972 and recorded on July 14, 1972 in Book 32 at Page 78 of the Londonderry Land Records;
2. Warranty Deed of Gordon M. Moodie and Helene Moodie, dated September 26, 1977 and recorded on September 27, 1977 in Book 36 at Page 311 of the Londonderry Land Records; and
3. Warranty Deed of Robert Praeger Venner, dated August 18, 1979 and recorded on October 3, 1979 in Book 38 at Page 259 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #027006, E911 address: 340-342 Melendy Hill)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

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It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Melonie Bohlen and Corey W. Stoddard by Executor's Deed of Linda A. Smith, Executor of the Estate of James E. Adamson, dated May 22, 2013 and recorded on May 28, 2013 in Book 69 at Page 521 of the Londonderry Land Records. Reference is made to the Quitclaim Deed of Corey W. Stoddard to Melonie Bohlen dated December 29, 2021 and recorded on March 29, 2022 in Book 94 at Page 672 of the Londonderry Land Records. (Parcel #063004, E911 Address: 105 Williams St.)

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5254, so much of such property will be sold at public auction at the Town of Londonderry Office, a public place located at 100 Old School Street, S. Londonderry, Vermont, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid. Dated at Londonderry, Vermont, this 19th day of January, 2024.

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health & wellness

Mom's Day Off funds breast cancer services

PERU, Vt. – On Friday, March 1, Bromley Mountain Ski Resort will hold its annual Mom's Day Off fundraiser. Mothers (including honorary moms and pet moms) ski or ride for a steeply discounted fee when they show the ticket seller a snapshot of their child/children or four-legged kids.

The entirety of the ticket price is donated to breast cancer services at the Dartmouth Cancer Center at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center (SVMC) in Bennington. Last year's 20th annual event raised more



Participants enjoy the 2023 Mom's Day Off fundraiser. PHOTO PROVIDED

than \$8,000 to benefit regional breast cancer services.

The rain date for Mom's Day Off is Friday, March 8.

Bromley Mountain is located at 3984 Vermont

Route 11, Peru, Vt., six miles east of Manchester. The resort has 47 trails and a variety of skiing terrain for all levels. For more information, visit www.bromley.com.

Food for Life Vegan Potluck

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Food for Life Vegan Potluck will be held on Sunday, Feb. 4, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., in the Community Room at the Huber Building, 80 Main Street in Springfield, Vt. Whether you are interested in improving your health, reducing greenhouse gas emissions to curb climate change, being kinder

to animals, or just enjoying good company, this is the place to be. Eating in the late afternoon allows us to skip dinner and clean up so we have the evening free. You don't have to be vegan to join us. Everyone is invited, just bring something to share that has only plant and mineral ingredients, and enjoy the interesting and delicious

foods that are the hallmark of these potlucks. You are welcome even if you can't bring anything, as we always have more food than we need.

Girls on the Run seeks volunteer coaches

REGION – Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that inspires students in third through eighth grade to be joyful, healthy, and confident. The ten-week program incorporates movement into its curriculum to empower participants to develop critical life skills, build confidence, cultivate positive connections with peers, manage their emotions, and stand up for themselves and others. Volunteer coaches utilize a curriculum to engage teams of girls in fun, interactive lessons. The spring season begins the week of March 18. Teams meet twice a week for 90 minutes and the program culminates with all teams participating in one of two noncompetitive, celebratory 5K events in Essex and Manchester, Vt.

Coaches do not need to be runners. Girls on the Run Vermont (GOTRVT) provides training so volunteers have all of the tools needed to facilitate the season and to have a positive coaching experience. All volunteer coaches must complete a background check. GOTRVT welcomes high school students to volunteer as junior coaches. GOTRVT is celebrating 25 years in 2024 – a very special season for coaches to participate! Please visit www.gotrvt.org/coach for full details, or email info@girlsontherunvermont.org.

Participant registration opens on Wednesday, Feb. 21, for northern teams attending the Essex 5K and Wednesday, Feb. 28, for southern teams attending the Manchester 5K.

Locations, by county, include: Windham County: Academy School, Central Elementary School, Dover Elementary School, Dummerston Elementary, Flood Brook Union School, Grafton Elementary School, The Grammar School, Green Street School, Hilltop Montessori, Jamaica Village School, Leland & Gray, Newbrook Elementary School, Oak Grove School, Saxtons River Elementary School, St. Michael School, Townshend Elementary School, Twin Valley Elementary School, Wardsboro

Elementary School. Windsor County: Chester Andover Elementary School, Woodstock Elementary School.



Grace Cottage's online auction

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Grace Cottage's Cabin Fever Online Auction is a perfect way to bring fun and joy to your winter. You'll find items that are practical, delectable, delightful, and inspirational. Bidding takes place Feb. 14-28.

Each year, Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital's Cabin Fever Online Auction includes exotic vacations, Vermont foods, local gift certificates, handcrafted items, jewelry, art, and more. Generous local businesses and individuals donate this awesome array of items. With a wide variety of offerings, there's something for everyone, whatever your interests or budget.

All proceeds support patient care at Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital.

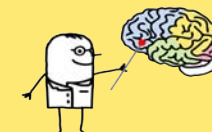
You can visit the auction website now to get registered, check out

the selection, and plan your bidding. Visit www.32auctions.com/GraceCottage2024 and register so you can hit the ground bidding on Valentine's Day.

For more information, visit www.gracecottage.org/auction, or email info@gracecottage.org.



Grace Cottage's Cabin Fever Online Auction. PHOTO PROVIDED



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arts & entertainment

Chocolate Tasting at the VAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – You're invited to Gallery at the VAULT's annual Chocolate Tasting on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 1-4 p.m. Sample sweet treats from Pop's Biscotti, Sustainable Eats, Springfield Food Cop, Shaw's, and local bakers. Birds and Beans Coffee (which can be ordered through the Audubon Society) will be served. Feast your eyes on the annual Student Art Show, which is up for the month of February (students can still bring in a "Let it Snow" draw-

ing or painting). Enjoy live music, make an origami heart from 1-3 p.m., and find out about upcoming classes. The Chocolate Tasting is free, but donations are appreciated and help support upcoming community arts programs.

Gallery at the VAULT is located on 68 Main Street in Springfield, and is open Wednesday, Thursday, and



Come taste chocolates on Feb. 3. PHOTO PROVIDED

Saturday, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Friday, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. See www.galleryvault.org for more information.

Springfield Winter Carnival

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Winter Carnival is back for the eighth year, to be held on Feb. 9 and 10, at the Crown Point Country Club. All activities, contests, and events are free.

Friday, Feb. 9 – 5-8 p.m.: Open sledding and snowshoeing. 5:30 p.m.: Bonfire. 6:30 p.m.: Guided snow-

shoe walk for all ages, snowshoes provided by Springfield Town Library.

8-11 p.m.: The Connoption Fits perform.

Saturday, Feb. 10 – 12-9 p.m.: Sledding and snowshoeing.

12-3 p.m.: Wunderle's Big Top Circus Adventures, sponsored by ARC Mechanical and Ultimate Auto Body.

12-3 p.m.: Big games inside, presented by Springfield's All-4-One program.

1 p.m.: Eighth annual cardboard sled contest. The theme is wild animals.

2:30 p.m.: Guided snowshoe walk.

3 p.m.: Snowman contest winners announced.

3:15 p.m.: Snowmageddon indoor snowball fight with fluffy balls.

6:30 p.m.: Fireworks, presented by Pyrotecnico and sponsored by Ford of Claremont.

7-10 p.m.: Gr8tful Folk performs.

To enter the snowman competition, build a snowman at home and call 802-885-2727 or send a picture to springfieldrec@hotmail.com. Deadline for submissions is Feb. 9.

To enter the cardboard sled contest, meet at the top of the hill between 12:30-12:45 p.m. for entry, photos, and judging. Bottom of sled must be only cardboard or tape. No other restrictions on size or decorations. For information, email Andy Bladyka at cpcvt@gmail.com.

For more information, visit the Springfield Winter Carnival Facebook page, or visit www.springfieldvtparksandrec.com.

Genticorum at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts and Twilight Music present traditional, folk, and Celtic music trio Genticorum, with special guests Seamus Egan and Lissa Schneck-enburger, at Next Stage on Saturday, Feb. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Known for their unbridled energy, musicianship, and magnetic stage presence, Genticorum features intricate fiddle, flute, and accordion lines, gorgeous vocal harmonies, subtle guitar textures, and exhilarating foot percussion. The trio's founding members Pascal Gemme and Yann Falquet are both recognized as major contributors to the traditional music scene in Québec,

and, since 2015, they have been joined by accomplished multi-instrumentalist and composer Nicholas Williams. The infectious joie de vivre that these three musicians bring to the stage, playing and creating together, is palpable.

A leading voice in the evolution of Québécois traditional music over the past 22 years, Genticorum showcases the poetry and nuance of French Canada's old songs and step-dance tunes, as their own compositions have become standards at dances and sessions. Gemme, Falquet, and Williams have won multiple Canadian Folk Music Awards, and received Juno and ADISQ nominations. Genticorum has carved out a place for

itself on the international music scene, performing on stages worldwide, from Celtic Connections in Scotland, the Tønder Folk Festival in Denmark, the National Folk Festival in Australia, the Independent Music Festival in Alexandria, Egypt, and the Rain Forest Festival in Malaysia, to countless venues across North America.

This concert is sponsored in part by Howard Printing.

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.

Springfield Community Players auditions

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Community Players will kick off their 2024 season with a classic murder mystery by queen of crime Agatha Christie, "The Unexpected Guest." When the fog causes him to crash his car, a man seeks help at a nearby house and discovers a body. Who committed the murder? The lovely

widow? The violent brother? The jealous lover? Can you guess before the play is over?

Auditions will take place at the Calvary Baptist Church on Feb. 15, 7-8:30 p.m., and Feb. 17, 1-2:30 p.m. The performances are scheduled for May 11, 12, 18, and 19. There are six male roles and three female roles, though this ratio may change depending on au-

dition turnout. Actors of all ages are encouraged to try out, no prior experience is necessary. A copy of the script will be available at the local library for role preparation. The director will be Miles Ledoux, whom you may have seen as Wadsworth in the recent production of "Clue."

Come be part of this wondrous theatre experience.

Canal Street Art Gallery open call for "Spring Salon"

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The "Spring Salon," an exhibition hung in the floor-to-ceiling salon style, is open to all artists of all levels to submit original artwork for exhibition. This is the third edition of the "Spring Salon." The show is open March 17 – June 3.

Image submissions for the "Spring Salon" are due Feb. 26. Artists may submit one to three artworks. Submission is free. The exhibition fee is a sliding scale for one, two, or three artworks. Artwork delivery is on

March 6. To submit, visit www.canalstreetartgallery.com/call-for-entry-spring-salon.html.

The Canal Street Art Gallery's "Spring Salon" brings this classical way of showing art into the contemporary age. The art show is inclusive of all art. The opportunity to exhibit is open to the public. The "Spring Salon" celebrates the abundance and diversity of art created by artists every day. Artists of all career levels, experience, and with or without formal training, exhibit their artwork.

The Salon, which was

popular in the 19th century, can offer the public a unique chance to view art from many more talented local and regional artists than a typical modern group show. At their start, one of the goals of the original Royal Academy Salons was to provide venues where artists, including emerging artists, could show their work and garner patronage. The historic way of installation means art is hung closely together on the wall, with sizes and artists interspersed throughout the exhibit. Before the contemporary gallery and art fair, it was also common in Europe and America to hang both museum and private collections in the floor-to-ceiling manner.

Canal Street Art Gallery is located at 23 Canal Street, in historic downtown Bellows Falls, Vt., and is open Tuesday-Saturday, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information about the "Spring Salon" or Canal Street Art Gallery, go to www.canalstreetartgallery.com, call Mike at 802-289-0104, or email artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com.

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