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Chester discusses class 4 road discontinuance

BY NICK GIBERTI

The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. - The Chester Selectboard met Wednesday, Jan. 3, with the majority of their discussion focused on consideration of a class 4 road discontinuance for Town Highway 136, more commonly known as Bailey Hill Road. A class 4 road in Vermont is one which, unlike class 1-3 roads, is not maintained by the town or state, but on which the public is allowed to travel.

The impetus for the proposed discontinuance came from Chester property owner Paul Bidgood, who's property abuts Bailey Hill Road. According to Bidgood, he had submitted to the board documentation which he said demonstrated that the road had been "incorrectly put on the town highway map" in 2010. As a result, Bidgood wanted the board to discontinue the classification of this road as a class 4 road, thereby removing the public right of way for use of the road.

Selectboard Chair Arne Jonynas acknowledged that this was an "extremely serious consideration" with "huge ramifications" for the town, stating that the board would be seeking input from the town's legal counsel before making any decisions on the road's status.

Chester resident and trailmaster of the Chester Snowmobile Club Dick Jewett rose to voice his opposition to the class 4 discontinuance, reading from a letter which he had previously sent to the selectboard. Jewett noted that the club has, over the last 30 years, maintained many class 4 roads throughout Chester, including Bailey Hill Road, spending significant volunteer time and money on trail maintenance and improvement projects. "If the snowmobile club were to lose this section of trail," Jewett told the board, "it would cripple the club, and possibly ruin us." Loss of public access to Bailey Hill Road would mean that the Chester Snowmobile Club would

Jonynas acknowledged the work that the snowmobile club has done to maintain class 4 roads in Chester, and thanked the club for its efforts, reiterating that the board would not be making a decision until consulting with legal counsel. He also suggested that the board should visit the road site.

no longer have use of their

main corridor to the north,

cutting off access to other

local clubs and the rest of

the Vermont Association

of Snow Travelers (VAST)

network, Jewett said.

Conner Eklund of the Stone Hearth Inn and Eatery also spoke to the board regarding the impact that the discontinuance would have on his, and likely other, local businesses. Eklund told the board that "at least half" of the inn's business during the winter comes from snowmobilers traveling the trails, who stop in for food and, in some cases, lodging. "It will impact us greatly," Eklund concluded.

The board assured those present that they would act with the interests of the town in mind, and would continue their investigation into the matter in the forthcoming weeks and months.

The board then moved on to adopting the false alarm policy which had been previously discussed at their Nov. 15 meeting. The policy would impose penalties for repeat automated, false alarms which result in deployment of fire or police personnel to a home, as well as instituting a fee to register alarms with Chester's emergency services. The ordinance will take effect 20 days from the date of the meeting, Jan. 23.

The Chester Selectboard will next meet on Wednesday, Jan. 17, at 6:30 p.m., at the Chester Town Hall.

Cavendish Planning Commission talks STR

BY LORIEN STRANGE

The Vermont Journal

CAVENDISH, Vt. -At their Jan. 4 meeting, the Cavendish Planning Commission reviewed changes to the Proposed Subdivision Regulations and discussed potential effects of introducing town policies on shortterm rentals (STRs).

The meeting progressed quickly to a review of the second draft for the Proposed Subdivision Regulations. Mount Ascutney Regional Commission executive director Jason Rasmussen, who did the majority of the editing, detailed the document's most relevant changes to the commission, and offered brief summaries of the less consequential

Most of the changes were minor, said Rasmussen, but the few larger ones included added language to clarify administrative processes in approving subdivisions, and updating the planning commission's road and bridge standards to match town and state road requirements. Rasmussen had also added detail to the subdivisions waiver section, which allows for the waiver of most town standards on

a case-by-case basis. Chairman Tim Calrese proposed having an open forum sometime during the early spring to allow the public to review and discuss the proposed regulations before they are formally submitted to the selectboard. The commission brainstormed possible dates, times, and venues, ultimately agreeing to follow up with town manager Rick Chambers and Selectboard Chairman Bob Glidden before publishing the draft and making further

As requested at the Dec. 11 selectboard meeting, the commission began discussing the possibility of regulating STRs – rental homes that are occupied for at least 14 days a year but no more than 30 days at a time. Unlike other area towns, which have been drawing increased administrative attention to these units since they were popularized by services such as Airbnb and Vrbo, Cavendish does not have any regulations in place for short or long-term rental homes. State law dictates that all rentals must be certified by the state fire marshall or self-certify. However, planning commission member and owner of Open Door Vacation Rentals Noah Schmidt says that lack of education and enforcement around these policies means they are not commonly implemented in

As a small town, Cavendish would face many challenges applying more rigorous policies. Schmidt noted that the Vermont Short-Term Rental Alliance had made a guide for towns seeking to add STR regulations, including recommendations for zoning laws and creating a self-reporting registry for STRs. Cavendish does not use zoning laws, but the alternative - developing, maintaining, and enforcing a self-registration system that would amount to "almost a full-time position," according to Schmidt - calls for personnel that Cavendish does not have or cannot spare. Schmidt and fellow member Bruce McEnaney noted that other Vermont towns, including Chester and Killington, have outsourced this work to third-party private companies such as Granicus and GovOS. These software systems could streamline the self-reporting process for STR owners and make data aggregation easier for the town, but these services would come with a fee. Schmidt said that Ludlow paid around \$26,000 for the initial set-up of the system, and \$40,000 for a year of monitoring, but he was not sure how that would translate to a smaller town such as Cavendish.

All members voiced concerns for safety issues. Developing a registry would give the volunteer fire department accurate information on area building occupancy in the event of a fire. It could also inform management of the town water supply and sewage system, the latter of which McEnaney claims was prone to reach capacity during the winter vacation times before more recent upgrades. Town liability was also a concern, with member Shirley Clark asking if the town could be sued if they did not develop firmer regulations, or if the regulations were not properly enforced.

The planning commission agreed to discuss STR regulations further at a later date.

The Cavendish Planning Commision meets the first Wednesday of every month, at 6:30 p.m., in the Cavendish Town Hall and

PLYMOUTH, Vt. - Tyson Ladies Aide has wrapped up another successful year of fundraising. The funds were put back into the community, with two \$1,500 scholarship to support local students pursuing higher education, \$1,000 to Ludlow Rotary Club's flood relief fund, \$1,000 to help repair Greven Field in Cavendish, \$1,000 to help repair the Ludlow dog park, as well as support for the Plymouth Fire Department, and providing Christmas gifts to Windsor County Youth Services' Mountainside House.

Tyson Ladies Aide donates to community

Vermont's "destination" dispensary sets new standard

BY JOE MILLIKEN

The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. - In September 2023, owners Andi Goldman, Meredith Milliken, and Scott Blair of Down To The Roots Cannabis Retail Store opened their doors with the mission to create a welcoming experience in a knowledgeable, wellness-focused environment with high-quality products for both beginners and legacy consumers.

Located at 7 Pineview Drive in Chester (the former 103 Artisans Marketplace art gallery), it is a beautiful, quintessential Vermont barn, featuring a stone fireplace, vaulted ceilings, and barn wood interiors, complemented by unique impressionistic photos by world-renowned artist Angelo Musco, creating a full spectrum, high quality Vermont "destination dispensary" experi-

Down To The Roots offers a wide selection of locally grown, craft cannabis flower, edibles, drinks, tinctures, vapes, capsules, and hash rosin products that contain THC, plus an array of CBD-only prod-

ucts, including pet treats.

In this fast-moving cannabis retail space, Down To The Roots proudly separates themselves from other shops as the first adult-use store in Vermont to offer free, in-person consultation sessions with a registered nurse and Certified Ganjier, Jessilyn Dolan, for those interested in learning more about cannabis or CBD from a medical professional.

Down To The Roots is also the first legal cannabis dispensary anywhere to store their cannabis overnight in a custom Cannatrol system built into their vault and, during the day, to store flower in other Cannatrol systems at their "delistyle bar," where customers can view the buds as they are selected and weighed.

With these patented, award-winning Cannatrol systems provided by local company Vermont Dry & Cure Technologies, which



Down to the Roots in Chester.

PHOTO BY JOE MILLIKEN

serves a global clientele, Down To The Roots controls the dew point of their flower during storage to preserve the most important cannabinoids and ter-

Testimonials from happy customers are as noteworthy as their store, flower storage, knowledgeable staff, and product offerings. Down To The Roots also offers discounts for Vermont and New Hampshire residents, seniors, veterans, and cannabis medical cardholders, with rotating specials for every-

The knowledge and experience of the business partners is impressive, and can be seen in the details throughout their operations. CEO and CFO Andi Goldman has been involved in the legal cannabis industry for nearly a decade as CFO, advisor, and investment fund manager. Directly prior to cannabis, Andi was an institutional lender to "mainstream" healthcare companies. She resides full-time in Ludlow, Vt., with wife and business partner Meredith.

Native Vermonter, COO, and general manager Scott Blair also possesses a wealth of cannabis knowledge, plus significant retail management experience. Scott is a Chester resident and multiple-business owner, including The Southern Pie Café. His many connections with local hemp farmers, CBD producers, and cannabis growers throughout the region has benefitted Down To The Roots. CMO and chief talent officer Meredith Milliken is a cannabis angel investor and former swim coach, personal trainer, and marketing corporate relations manager.

This team and location were not the original plan. Andi, Meredith, and fellow Ludlow residents originally tried to convince a majority of Ludlow voters to approval a legal cannabis store in Ludlow for the benefit of their hometown. But that vote failed twice.

"In hindsight, this was actually the best thing that could have happened to us, as it had become clear that we did not have the support of Ludlow's senior leadership at the time," Andi said in a recent interview. "In the meantime, a Facebook commenter posted that people should instead support 'Scott in Chester."

"So, after the disappointing votes, and believing that a high quality, safer alternative to purchase cannabis in the Okemo Valley was more important than our own plans, we located 'Scott in Chester' and offered our full support to him."

Then, after winning the approval of citizens for a Chester cannabis store, Scott, Andi, and Meredith teamed up and joined forces with successful local restaurateur Mark Williams to secure the current property.

After six months of renovations, they hired an already well-educated staff, paid for their training beyond the minimum required by Vermont, and forged additional partnerships with local farmers.

For more information, call 802-374-0095, or visit www.downtotherootsvt.

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The Vermont Journal 2 | January 10, 2024

Rotary thanks community

LUDLOW, Vt. - The Ludlow Area Rotary Club thanks the residents and businesses of the greater Ludlow area for their support in 2023. As a result of your support, we were able to spread this mission by supporting members of our community and beyond. Our annual Penny Sale and Chili Cookoff were hugely successful, allowing us to support local projects and scholarships. We support local organizations such as Mountainside House with grants for needed projects.

This year, our neighbors both near and far were challenged by major storms. After July's torrential rain and devastating flooding, Rotary became the fiscal agent for a collaborative effort with the Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce. In addition, we donated substantial money to the Ludlow Enterprise Fund, to Black River Good Neighbor Services, and the Cavendish

Family Fund. We quickly secured dehumidifiers that were distributed through the Ludlow Disaster Relief Center. Representatives of the club participated on the flood relief committee to assure financial help was distributed equitably.

To help with clean-up efforts after the flood, we contributed gear and a kayak to the Black River Action Team. Some members of the club went into the trenches, helping with clean-up efforts in homes and businesses. We also financially supported fellow citizens of our country who experienced devastating wildfires in Lahaina, Maui.

Outside our local area, we provide support to Rotary International to help eradicate polio in the world. Rotary International is making great progress in this area, and the world is 99% polio free. We also supported the Montreal Club in their efforts to bring water and

sanitation to over 33,000 beneficiaries in Ghana.

We support an international student exchange program that places high school students in local homes for a year in a foreign country, where they can immerse themselves in a different culture to promote world understanding. Annually, we provide scholarships to deserving graduating seniors from the communities we serve - Ludlow, Cavendish, and Mount Holly, helping them access post-high school educational opportunities.

We are thankful for all the support from the area, and wanted to share with you what your generosity can do. The Ludlow Area Rotary Club meets on Tuesdays at DJ's Restaurant. For more information on the club, or to join, contact Kevin Barnes, membership chairman, at 802-228-8877.

Tree of Remembrance -

LUDLOW, Vt. - The Okemo Valley Women's Club (OVWC) thanks you for your generous donations, which go to local charities and schol-

This year's Tree of Remembrance shines in memory of the following loved ones: Sharlene Ahern, Joan Albert, Charles Baitz, Priscilla Baitz, John Bazzano, Oscar and Nellie Beckman, Ernie Belanger, Hank Berger, Charlie Bidwell, Mary Bolduc, Earl Bonneau, Dave Brown, Evelyn Bryant, Kim Bryant, Oscar and Margarita Bryant, Roy and Marie Bryant, Stanley and Francis Bryant, Gail Caldwell, Chardonet, Charlotte Joan, Amelia, John, Vic, and Tony Ciufo, Dottie Clark Davis and Jim Davis, Nancy DeLong, George and Ethelyn Dever, Kathleen Dever, Suzette Durgin, Finneaus

Egan, John Ewen, Harry Fisher, John Foscolos, Leonard Gendron, Chizzie and Frank Geraci, Dan Giordano, Norman Gordon, Mary Gould, Jim Grossbard, Stan and Ann Hart, Diane Hart, Richard and Jean Hassett, Jim Havell, Rita Higgins, Brian Hodgeman, Charlie Hughes, Ed Iles, George Jacobs, Brian Kirkpatrick, Hersh Klein, Carol Sullivan Kuk, George and Eileen Laber, Frank LaCava, Peter Lawless, Irene Lorrain, Joseph Lorrain, George and Rose Macintyre, Sandi Manna, MaryAnn Markowski, Anne and Iggy Matulonis, George and Violet Matulonis, Jim Mays, Mr. and Mrs. J.R. McLean Sr., Aaron W. McNabb, Shirley P. Merriam, Edwin and Elizabeth Merrill, Dick Merrow, Jim Misuraca, Don and Mary Moore, Jud and Ginnie Nelson, Ernest and Melba Noll, Pete Noyes, Eleanor O'Donnell, Art O'Hare, Mary Lou and Charles Parker, Lana Parks, John Pappa-

WESTMINSTER, Vt. -

The Vermont Emergency

Eats (VEE) program dis-

tributed 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 mod-

el, 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

vested in the program by the

state catalyzed an additional

\$1.12 million recirculated

by restaurants and farmers

into local spending on la-

"We think of Vermont Emergency Eats as be-

The initial \$700,000 in-

lardo, Ellen Parrish, Frank and Marge Peters, Kevin Quinn, Constance Rockhill, Lucille Ryan, Kelley Sanderson, Ronald Schauster, Nancy Sears, Allyn and Helen Seward, Gerard Snyder, Virginia Snyder, Carolyn Spaulding, David Stearns, Clifford Stehle, Bunny and Richard Strong, Donald and Vera Sullivan, Richard Sullivan, Craig Stout, Terri Tabshey, Ray Taksar, Doris and Harold Tedford, Kenneth Tedford, Carl Trick, Marilyn Trick, Beverly P. Tucker, Kathy Tyrrell, Kenneth Tyrrell Sr., Pat Walsh, Sally Whitaker, Ed Zawacki, and to all those we have lost this year.

To add your loved one's name to our list, mail your tax deductible donation to OVWC, c/o Pat Archambault, 61 Andover Street, Ludlow, VT 05149. Make your check payable to "Okemo Valley Women's Club" or "OVWC." Include the name(s) of those you wish to be remembered.

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bor 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.

summer flooding.

beth 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."

Vermont Emergency Eats

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) contracted with Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEV-CA) 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.

Schuster and Michelle Klieger's Vermont Emergency Eats Impact Report can be found at www.vtemergencyeats.org/impactreport.



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1849 Gold Rush

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119 ronpatch27@gmail.com

As New England's population increased in the early 1800s, a slow, westerly migration began. By the 1840s, pioneers in wagon trains were traveling west to Oregon. These pioneers came from New England and other eastern states. Some came from Vermont and New Hampshire.

With the discovery of gold in California, many went west to seek their fortune. These prospectors wrote home to tell family and friends their experiences. Very few ever struck it rich.

Because these letters were mailed back east, they do show up now and then. Not as often today as 40 years ago, but occasionally, I still find one. Below is such a

I have copied it as handwritten the best I could. I didn't correct spelling or punctuation. I suggest you read it slow and maybe twice. I had to. It's an interesting historical account. It was mailed home to Caven-

"Marattan May 9th 1849 Dear Sir

Having a few leisure moments to day I thought I should write you a line to you as you are probably anxious to hear from me. There is a Steamer here direct from San Francisco. I have seen a lump worth \$32 and another worth \$9. It makes a fellows eyes shine to look at them. I have conversed with a man direct from California, he brings news more extravagaus than any that I have before heard Work is \$10 per day at San Francisco. There has been several murders committed lately but they say there is good order there now. A man in the Steam boat says

that a man can dig from 1 to 9 ounces per day. A fellow has got to work if he gets any gold. A person that has never been accustomed to work cannot endure the fatigue of digging gold. There is a great many clerks from New York gone there, they will wilt like hot house plants before a burning [illegible] A stout healthy man is not in much danger. There is some sicknefs at the mines. I cannot give much reliable information now, when I get there I shall let you know all about it We left Vera Cruz on the 14 of March and arrived at San Blas on the 1 of May We sail on a Brigoutine belonging to port of San Blas owned by the French Consul at that place called the Dos Amigos (or two friends) We started from Vera Cruz with a wagon but sold it at Jalapa and bought horses and pack mules. We paid from \$30 to \$40 for our horses and mules and

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.,

show begins at 7 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased

online or at the door. A

birthday recognition will

be held for Dr. King, with

desserts provided by the

Windham Northeast Su-

pervisory Union Farm to

Table Café at Bellows Falls

an initiative of the non-

profit Rockingham Arts

and Museum Project,

founded in 1997. The op-

era house is wheelchair

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spride.com and www.bel-

lowsfallsoperahouse.com

for more information.

Find Bellows Falls

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accessible.

Bellows Falls Pride is

Union High School.

sold them on an average at a lofs of about \$20 per head. I have not time here to give you any particulars in relation to our journey When I get time I shall tell you the whole story I am in a hurry to day I am well and tough as a knot give my respects to all inquiring friends

Respectfully yours D E Harlow P.S. Please send this to Ma-

There were three main routes to California. Traveling cross-country in a wagon train took months to complete. And of course the Indians didn't welcome the new arrivals. Sailing around the tip of South America to San Francisco was a very long and dangerous journey. The rough seas around Cape Horn claimed a number of wooden ships.

Some traveled overland through Mexico, as the author of this letter did. Either



A wagon train navigating Ute Indian Pass in Colorado, on their way west.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

route was a dangerous trek.

Instead of an old saying, I offer a short story. The town dump was on the Dump Road. Winslow Hale was the dump man. One day, my brother Brian was speeding down the Dump Road in his '66 Chevelle. As Brian came into a curve, Winslow was coming the

other way. Brian was speeding and Winslow was in the center of the road. Brian swerved to miss Winslow, and ran off the road. Winslow stopped. Brian got out his car and chewed Winslow a new one. Winslow said, "I don't know why you're so upset. You came just as close to me as I came to you."

MLK Day and "Selma" film at BFOH

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. -The third Monday in January is designated as Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This year, the recognition falls on what would have been Dr. King's 95th birthday.

The day was established as a result of his assassination on April 4, 1968, to recognize his contributions to the Civil Rights Movement. Dr. King was a Baptist minister who believed that a platform of nonviolence was the most effective way to address racial segregation, and first gained national attention during the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott in 1955.

He also spearheaded the March on Washington in 1963, eventually leading in 1964 to passage of the Civil Rights Act and receipt of the Nobel Price for Peace.

The Civil Rights Movement served as a catalyst to bring attention to many social justice movements, including women's and gay rights. In recognition of this year's important and challenging political landscape for the LGBTQ+ community, Bellows Falls Pride will sponsor a film screening of "Selma" on Wednesday, Jan. 17, at the Bellows Falls Opera House (BFOH), located on The Square in Bellows Falls, Vt.

The historical film features a star-studded cast including David Oyelowo, Tom Wilkinson, and Tim Roth in key roles. The two-hour saga is a depiction of Dr. King's campaign to secure equal voting rights for African Americans, culminating in the 1965 march from Selma to Mongomery, Ala., led by King and Rep. John Lewis. It was nominated for Best Picture, Best Director, and won Best Original Song for "Glory," performed by John Legend.

Saxtons River Art sponsors exhibits

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. -Members of the Saxtons River Art Guild (SRAG) will display their work during January and February.

Currently on display at the Rockingham Medical Center in Bellows Falls is a solo display of watercolors by Ann Newsmith, and a group exhibit that includes work by Donna Cary, Lori Ebare, Barbara Greenough, Kathy Greve, Ellen Howard, Donna Lund, Marjorie Layman, Linda Rothchild, and Liz Winchester-Larson. These exhibits are open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., through Feb.

Starting Jan. 10, the Whiting Library in Chester will showcase SRAG members, including Carolyn Berglund, Donna Cary, Nancy DiMauro, Lori Ebare, Sandy Greene, Barbara Greenough, Kathy Greve, Ellen Howard, Marjorie Layman, Donna Lund, Ann Newsmith, Lainie Senechal, Kris Stewart, and Liz Winchester-Larson. It is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. A reception will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., at the Whiting Library. The snow date is Saturday, Jan. 20, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

In Brattleboro, artwork will be displayed at Ramunto's during restaurant hours. The participants include Carolyn Berglund, Sandy Greene, Kathy Greve, Donna Lund, Barbara Greenough, and Liz Winchester-Larson.

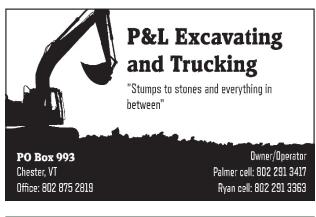
Building Fund BINGO January 13

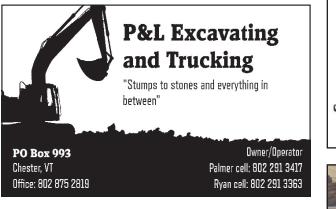
Doors open at 11:30 am Bingo starts at 1:00 pm

> Food Available for Purchase



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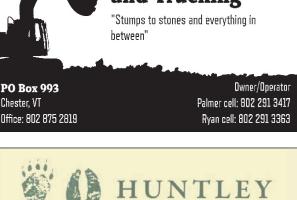












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opinion

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Dear Editor,

As another successful season comes to a close, the vendors of the Springfield Farmers' Market wish to acknowledge the contributions of all those who made that success possible. Due to the generosity of Bob Flint and the SRDC, we enjoyed a safe and family-friendly location to meet our customers. Many thanks to Alice

and Taylor of the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce for working so hard to keep us involved in the chamber's myriad activi-

To our hometown papers, The Springfield Reporter, The Vermont Journal & The Shopper Newspaper, and The Eagle Times, as well as to John Landry of WCFR, we extend our thanks for the excellent coverage you gave our season. And finally, to our customers, who were there whatever the weather, deepest thanks. We'll see you in the spring!

Sincerely, The Springfield Farmers

America has 50 united

states. Indeed, we wrote

our American constitu-

tion to "form a more per-

fect union," not to divide

want to be as Americans, who we know we can be

if we simply remember

and live by the words that

bodiment of everything we the people believed to

be true and right when

we declared our indepen-

dence in 1776, and when

we ordained and estab-

lished our constitution

for the United States of

believe in her still. Do

I love America, and I

America in 1787.

Susan Sommer

Sincerely,

Weston, Vt.

America is the em-

define us.

America is precious. She represents who we

Dear Editor,

This is a fateful year for America. My country. Your country. Our country.

We either will keep our republic, or we will lose it. America is a democratic

republic based on a written constitution and the rule of law. If, in 2024, we choose lawlessness, then we will have voted against America.

America is liberty for everyone. We professed this truth in our Declaration of Independence, that we are all created equal and are rightful heirs to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happi-

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 LET-TERS at the rate of \$75 for 200 words, and \$0.50 per word thereafter.

America is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, as Abraham Lincoln stated at Gettysburg. America is not a country ruled by one person. No king or queen, no dictator, no supreme religious leader - no one person to dictate how we live or for whom we vote.

America is the promise that we each will have the opportunity to become who we are meant to be. What is required of us as American citizens is to make sure this promise is available to each of us.

America is a union. We the people declared this to be true in our preamble to our Constitution. America does not recognize "red" states or "blue" states.



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Winter safety tips **REGION** - We get

quite a few calls every winter involving subjects who have slipped and fallen on ice or suffered from exposure because they were unprepared for the conditions or they have been outside for too long. Here are a few cold weather safety precau-

Dress warmly, preferably with layers, which trap body heat. Use the correct footwear. Wear warm, waterproof boots with good tread, and if needed use clip-on cleats for added traction.

Prep walkways and

slip treads, and use plenty of sand or salt. In addition, walkways, porches, and entrances should be well lit.

Shovel snow carefully and slowly. It can dangerously strain your heart, as well as injure your back or neck.

Know the early signs of hypothermia. If you are violently shivering, are feeling exhausted and confused, have fumbling hands and/ or slurred speech, please retire to a warm place.

It is very important for members of the community who wear medical alert bracelets or necklaces to

steps with railings and anti- have them on when they are outside. There is a good chance that a subject unable to stand up unaided will suffer from hypothermia, frostbite, or worse in a short period of time.

We hope you find these tips useful. Be safe out there. There's still quite a bit of winter to go.

The Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad (LVRS) is on call 24/7, 365 days a year. We are never out of service.

We need your help. To learn more about LVRS, to donate, or to volunteer, please go to www.londonderryrescuevt.org.

Food for Life Vegan Potluck

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. food and socialize.

but people who don't eat animal products don't find much they can eat at regular potlucks. Eating just plants cuts out cholesterol, reduces saturated fats, and increases intake of fiber and a wide range of nutrients, so it is healthier for us overall. It is also healthier for the planet. Growing plants for food reduces production of methane, a greenhouse gas that is much more powerful than carbon dioxide, and uses less open land and fewer fossil fuels than raising plants to feed animals to feed people. You don't have to be vegan to enjoy these potlucks. 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.

can eat plant-based food, Join us for the Food for Life Vegan Potluck on Sunday, Jan. 14, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., at the Huber building, 80

Main Street in Springfield, Vt. We gather monthly to share good Why potluck? It is a

good way to connect with people and build a sense of community. Why vegan? Everybody

Resolutions to keep you safe from fraud

REGION January marks a new year; a fresh start. It's a time for resolutions, but sadly, most of us part ways with these bestof-intentions. Resolving to lose weight somehow disappears around Valentine's Day, and pledging to exhibit less road rage dissolves when someone grabs that parking space you wanted. What we fail to recognize is that resolutions require a change in behavior - a long-term commitment Here some suggested resolutions from members of our AARP Fraud Watch Team. Many of these suggestions are "one and done" or "set it and forget it," where no follow-up is required, no

others will only succeed if you are persistent.

Contact the four major credit bureaus and put a freeze or lock on your credit accounts. They are Equifax, 800-525-6285; Trans Union, 800-680-7289; Experian, 888-397-3742; and Innovis, 800-540-2505. It may take a little effort to complete, but the peace of mind and security is well worth it.

If you don't know the ller, don't answer the phone. If it's important, the caller will leave a message; if there's no message, then it wasn't important.

Be proactive in your community. Share knowledge with your communi-

behavior change, while ty on Front Porch Forum and other social media, in letters to the editor, or anywhere you can.

> Embrace two-factor authentication, every day and every time you log in. Two-factor authentication requires two forms of identification to access your accounts, giving you the ability to monitor and help safeguard your most valuable information.

Add your phone number(s) to the do not call list = 888-382-1222 Scammers do not respect that list; odds are that unrecognizable calls are

Ignore unsolicited text messages and calls from unfamiliar and unidentified phone numbers.

Read every explanation of benefits (EOB) received from health insurance companies, and Medicare Summary Notice (MSN), to verify medcial services you received, and report errors to the agency or company sending the notice.

Install a password manager and add one frequently-used password to its vault. As you use it, you'll be pleased by the convenience, and you'll want to use it for other passwords as well.

If it sounds too good to be true, it is.

Ignore text messages and emails congratulating you on winning prizes, from companies with which you do not conduct business. If you are told you need to pay a tax or fee for your prize, it's a

While adopting these resolutions will not make you scam-proof, they will add to your defenses and possibly save you from becoming a victim of a very sophisticated criminal.

Consider becoming a Fraud Watch volunteer. The training will come from your peers, and the commitment is yours to determine. If you have questions or comments, email egreenblott@aarp.

Written by Elliott Greenblott, a retired educator and coordinator of the AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Network. He hosts a CATV program, "Mr. Scammer," distributed by GNAT-TV in Sunderland, Vt. - www.gnat-tv.org.

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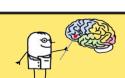
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obituaries

Catherine Hallock, 1952-2023

GRAFTON, Vt. - Catherine "Cathy" Plummer Hallock passed away on Dec. 19, 2023, at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H., after a short illness.

Cathy was born on Sept. 29, 1952, in Townshend, Vt., to Joseph and Ann Plummer.

Cathy graduated from BFUHS in 1970, and attended Green Mountain College. In 1972, she graduated with a with a medical assistance degree and went to work for Dr. Orr from 1972-1976.

Cathy met Paul Hallock, and they were married on Aug. 11, 1973. Together they owned and operated Hallock Boarding Kennel since 1986.

Cathy loved playing croquet, playing board games, long drives with Paul, and taking pic-

Cathy was involved as treasurer of Grafton Cares for 10 years, Grafton Community Church, Red Hats Society, and loved being part of the Grafton community her whole life.

Cathy is survived by her husband Paul; two sons Rob and his wife Sadie, and John and his wife Kellie; and four grandchildren Abriella, Will, Kory, and Sophia.

Cathy is also survived by brothers John and Joe Plummer, as well as many nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and greatnephews.

A Celebration of Life will be announced in the spring.

Arrangements are entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows

William J. Walker, 1936-2024

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. -William Joseph Walker, 87, of Proctorsville, passed peacefully on Jan. 4, 2024, at his daughter's home in Brattleboro, surrounded by his family.

Bill was born on Feb. 28, 1936, in Melrose, Mass., to George and Mary Agnes (Cronin) Walker.

Bill spent three years in Germany with the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict as a military police officer. After his service, Bill attended Merrimack College, where he started out in engineering and later changed his major to business administration. He began his career as a buyer with Pratt and Whitney, and then eventually went into sales. He worked for National Starch and Chemical for 32 years selling industrial adhesives. Although he ended with a degree in business, he always had an engineering mind, tinkering with everything and having a gift for solving problems. He would often go into plants and evaluate problems, only to come home and cook up adhesives on the kitchen stove until he got the right application for the client. During his career for National Starch and Chemical, he was named Salesman of the Year several times. No doubt, his determination to get the right application and his willingness to go above and beyond in order to get it, even if it meant ruining the family cookware, helped earn him top

accolades in his career. While working at his first job out of college, Pratt and Whitney, he attended a wedding of a good friend and met Claire Pettee, who was a friend of the bride. A year later the two married. Bill and Claire were married for 60 years and had four children whom they raised in Newington, Conn., and later Somers, Conn., for 20 years. They are Nana and Grampy to seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Bill loved telling stories to his children and grandchildren. He had a knack for storytelling that would captivate his audience and always leave them laughing.

Bill enjoyed downhill skiing and raised a family of skiers, spending weekends and holidays in his Vermont home near Okemo Mountain. His



William Walker, 1936-2024.

children and his grandchildren share his love of skiing. Bill and Claire also enjoyed spending summers in their home on Deer Isle, Maine. They enjoyed hikes on the island, sea kayaking, golfing, and eating lobster. Bill had a deep love of family, and enjoyed getting together for "Walker Days" with his siblings, nieces, and nephews over the years.

Bill was predeceased by his brothers George and Robert Walker, and his sister Dorothy Walker (Riley). His sister Mary Walker Currier passed away the same day, approximately 12 hours after her big brother Billy. We take comfort that they went into the next life together.

He is survived by his brother Donald Walker, his wife of 60 vears Claire Pettee Walker, his daughter Gail Walker Babbitt (Joseph), his son James Walker, daughter Susan Walker Hutton (Thomas), and son John Walker (Erin Evans). In addition he leaves seven grandchildren Tim Hutton (Kaileigh), Andrew Babbitt (Hannah), Natalie Galarza (Joshua), Eric Babbitt, Jennifer Hutton, Aidan Babbitt, and Callan Walker. He also leaves two great-grandchildren Connor Hutton and Lucas Galarza, as well as several nieces and nephews. And lastly, he leaves his beloved dog Pandy, who was always by his side and with him until the end.

When Bill was asked what he would want included in his obituary, he said "I have lived a great life in my almost 88 years, and am proud of my children."

In lieu of flowers, he has requested donations be made to St. Jude, Shriners, or ASPCA; organizations that he has sponsored during his life.

At this time, no funeral services will be held. Bill's family will hold a private Celebration of Life at a later date.

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

David Chaves **EXCAVATING**

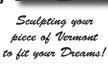
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Regina A. Borden, 1937-2023

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Regina Andrea (Greagor) Borden was born in West Hazleton, Pa., daughter of Andrew Greagor and Anna (Plitnick) Greagor, on Feb. 26, 1937.

She attended St. Mary's School in Plainfield, N.J., and when a sophomore moved to Stratford, Conn., where she graduated from Stratford High

Her first job was secretary to the assistant superintendent of schools in Stratford, Conn., for two years.

After her marriage to Robert H. Borden Jr., they moved to Greenville Air Force Base in Mississippi, where she worked in civil service at the base for two years.

Upon her return to Connecticut, she worked part-time at Raybestos-Manhattan for two years.

The family would then move to Northridge, Calif., where they resided for one year.

In 1964, they moved to Westminster, Vt., where they managed the Westminster Motel and Restaurant for almost eight years. After the business was sold, they moved to Bellows

Regina is survived by two children Deborah Ann Borden-Miller and her husband Kevin of Littleton, Colo., and Daniel James Borden of Springfield, Vt.

Regina worked at the Bliss & Lawlor Insurance Agency in Bellows Falls, Vt., from 1965-1981. She worked at Whitney Blake of Vermont from 1981-

She then worked for the Town of Rockingham/Village of Bellows Falls from 1987 until her retirement in 2001. During this period of time she was the village clerk for the Village of Bellows Falls until 2000. During her residency in Saxtons River, Vt., Regina was the village clerk until 2001.

Following retirement from full-time work, she continued to work part time as a recording secretary for the Town of Walpole Selectboard and the Town of Walpole Planning Board, plus the recording secretary for the Town of Charlestown Selectboard and Planning Board.

While living in both New Jersey and Connecticut, Regina was an avid tap and ballet dancer. She took lessons at the American School of Ballet in New York City, and took tap dancing lessons from Fred Kelly (Gene Kelly's brother). She appeared in many plays, recitals, and was a featured dancer on a local TV show. After moving to Vermont she continued this profession, appearing in the Great Falls Players plays, was choreographer for the Junior Miss Pageants at Bellows Falls Union High School for two years, and gave lessons at the YMCA for children for many

Regina Borden was a member of the Bellows Falls Woman's Club from 2008-2017, and on the board of directors for Westminster Cares from 2008-2017.

Calling hours took place on Tuesday, Jan. 2, from 10 a.m. -12 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls. A Funeral Mass was held Tuesday at 12:30 p.m., at St. Charles Church in Bellows Falls. Burial was on Wednesday, Jan. 3, at 1 p.m., at St. Michael Cemetery in Stratford, Conn.

In lieu of flowers, please consider giving to Westminster Cares at www.westminster-

Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, has been entrusted with arrangements.

Roger V. Sheehan, 1954-2023

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. -Roger Vance Sheehan, 69, of Proctorsville, Vt., passed away on Dec. 30, 2023, at his home.

He was born on April 27, 1954, the son of John Joseph and Betty Lou (Tyrrell) She

Roger was in the USMC in 1970, gaining the Marksman

He had worked at Imery's Talc Plant for 35 years, and Topstone Furniture for two years, always working various other jobs. He owned Ironmasters Gym in Proctorsville for several years.

He was very active in his organizations: the Boy Scouts, Proctorsville Fire Department for 37 years, Fire Warden District 1 and 2 for more than five years, Park Grange #249 cooking at the Cornish Fair, the American Legion, Good Sam Camping State Staff, Mid State Sams, Rolling Wheels Instigators, representing the State of Vermont in many national, state, and international rallies, Myrtle Rebekah Lodge #6 for more than five years, Guiding Eyes for Blind, transporting pups, and raising

over 45 guide dogs. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, very active in dinner meals, washing dishes, but mainly the potato peeling brigade with Roger and Bill Matthews.

Roger enjoyed weightlifting, hunting, camping, an occasional shot of bourbon, and was always cooking, famously known for his mac and cheese.

He married the love of his life Bessie Ann (Brown) Sheehan on Dec. 9, 1972, celebrating 51 years of marriage.

He is survived by his wife Bessie; two sons Roger V. Sheehan Jr. and his wife Marie of East Wallingford, Vt., and Gordon Edward Brown Sheehan of



Roger Sheehan, 1954-2023.

Weathersfield, Vt.; four granddaughters Courtney Neff and her husband Nick of Brandon, Vt., Emily Sheehan and friend Chad Fontaine of East Wallingford, Vt., and Sonya Sheehan and Alexandra Sheehan, both of Ludlow; great-granddaughter Ellyanna Neff; his mother Betty; brothers Michael of Clarendon, Vt., and Billy of Claremont, N.H.; sisters Kathy of Claremont, N.H., and Dianna of Castleton, Vt.; former daughterin-law Cindy Sheehan; many nieces, nephews, and cousins; and a special brother Scott (Shelly) Gaylord.

He was predeceased by his father John, his brother Larry, his sister Valorie, and a special uncle Ken Tyrrell.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Joseph Church in Claremont, N.H., on Saturday, Jan. 6, at 10 a.m. Burial will follow in Hill Crest Cemetery in Proctorsville. Reception will be held at the Proctorsville Fire Department.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Proctorsville Fire Department, P.O. Box 81, Proctorsville,

To view an online memorial or send a private message of condolence, visit www.string-

Robert E. Gelineau,

1931-2024

ASCUTNEY, Vt. - Robert Edgar Gelineau, 92, of Ascutney, Vt., passed away after a period of declining health on Jan. 1, 2024, at his home with his wife by his side. Bob was born on Sept. 30, 1931, in Springfield, Vt.; he was the son of Edgar and Pearl (Watkins) Gelineau. He attended Springfield schools, graduating from Springfield High School Class of 1949, and from the SHS Machine Tool Coop program in 1950.

Bob served in the United States Navy during the Korean Conflict, beginning in December of 1950, as a machine repairman in the Tug Repair Division in Norfolk, Va., and then aboard the aircraft carrier USS Randolph, being discharged in late November of 1954.

After discharge from the Navy, Bob was employed by the Fellows Gear Shaper Company for 33 years working in various positions, with his final position being pricing coordinator. Bob later was employed by the Fair-Rite Corporation as their

He was a longtime active member of the Springfield High School Alumni Association, serving as trustee, vice president, and president, and was a former honored guest for the annual alumni parade and banquet. Bob was also a longtime member of the Hit or Miss Club. He built and restored homes, and spent many hours in his woodworking shop where he created beautiful and unique birdhouses, flags, clocks, small furniture, and various craft projects.

Bob is survived by his wife Marie; former wife Renate (Schreiber) Gelineau; his children Barbara (Gelineau) Minteer, Teri Gelineau, Thomas Gelineau, and Bradley Gelineau; and step-children Suzanne (Fish) Francke, Amy (Fish) Locarno, and Bradley Fish. Also surviving are grandchildren Shayla (Minteer) Durfey, Molly Mint-



Robert Gelineau, 1931-2023

eer, Trevor Hunter, Joshua Gelineau, and Jessica (Gelineau) Wolfson; step-grandchildren Jacob Coulombe, Lauren (Fish) Pratt, Jonah Francke, Isabelle Francke, and Cameron Locarno. He is also survived by his sister Betty (Gelineau) Robitaille, sister-in-law Lucille (Bugbee) Gelineau; and by nine greatgrandchildren and two stepgreat-grandchildren; as well as by several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his grandson Alex Minteer, parents Edgar and Pearl Gelineau, sister Ruby (Gelineau) Abbott Scott, and brother Calvin Ge-

A service to honor his life will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 1 p.m., at the Calvary Baptist Church in Springfield, with a reception to follow at the church. A graveside service will be held in the spring.

We extend a special thank you to the Veterans Administration and Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire for their kindness, support, and remarkable care.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in memory of his grandson Alex Minteer to: Friends Way, 765 W. Shore Road, Warwick, RI 02889, www.friendsway.org/donate.

The Cremation Society of New Hampshire has been entrusted with arrangements. To view an online tribute, leave a message of condolence, or for more information, please visit www.csnh.com.

Daniel Putnam, 1949-2023

tal in Claremont, N.H. He was born June 2, 1949, in Springfield, Vt., son of Harvey and Barbara (Fowler) Putnam. Daniel attended Vilas High School, and graduated from Fall Mountain Regional High School. He received his associate degree from Manchester Technical College. Daniel worked for many years at Dean Hill Saab, and later for Green Mountain Power. Following his retirement, he enjoyed working on his farm and spending time with family outdoors. Daniel was a former member of the Rotary and Jaycees in Charlestown, N.H.

Survivors include his sons Aaron and his partner Sara, Tra-

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CHARLESTOWN, N.H. - vis and his wife Beth, and Sam Daniel Putnam of Sam Putnam and his wife Ashley; his brother Road died on Saturday, Dec. 30, Brian and wife Edie; his grand-2023, at Valley Regional Hospi- children Zane, Ajlyn, Wesley, Mia, and Aiden; as well as three great-grandchildren. Daniel was predeceased by his

> parents, his brother John Putnam, and sister Sandra Davis. There will be a private gath-

> ering of family and friends. A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date and time.

> Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Fenton and Hennessey Funeral home in Bellows Falls, Vt.



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DAN

calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

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. 13 -

CLAREMONT, N.H. -Sound Investment will perform classic rock and modern country music at American Legion Post

Weekly SUDOKU ___

Answer

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29, 118 Broad Street, on Saturday, Jan. 13, from 6-9 p.m. This event is for members and modified guests. For more information, call 603-542-

CHESTER, Vt. - There will be a reception for the Saxtons River Art Guild Group Show on Saturday, Jan. 13, from 11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m., at the Whiting Library, 117 Main Street. The snow date for this event is Saturday, Jan. 20, at the same time. This multimedia art exhibit featuring members of the Saxtons River Art Guild is on view now through Feb. 28 at the library during their normal business hours.

JAN. 14 -

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Food for Life Vegan Potluck will be held on Sunday, Jan. 14, at the Huber Building, 80 Main Street, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Bring

— King Crossword — **Answers** Solution time: 22 mins.

a dish to share that does not include anything that comes from animals.

JAN. 19 -

PUTNEY, Vt. - Next Stage Arts presents improvisational artist and musician Lonnie Holley in performance with Afrofuturist collective Mourning [A] BLKstar at Next Stage on Friday, Jan. 19, at 7:30 pm., at 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance online. For information or tickets, call 802-387-0102 or visit www.nextstagearts.org.

JAN. 20 -

WALPOLE, N.H. - The First Congregational Church of Walpole will be having their annual Peanut Butter and Jelly Drop Off on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., in front of the church on The Common. The church is also collecting school snacks. All of the donated items will be delivered to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.

SUNDAYS -

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

MONDAYS -

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - On Mondays at 6:30 p.m. there will be Pub Trivia Night at Vermont Beer Makers on River Street in Springfield. Up to five people per team. Free entry.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Free Gentle Hatha Yoga classes for ages 50 and over are held on Mondays from 10-11 a.m., at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street. All equipment is provided.

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - The Rockingham Library hosts a chess club each Monday from 3-5:30 p.m., led by Mike Sola. All levels of players will be welcomed.

LUDLOW, Vt. - Zumba classes, Mondays at 9:30 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. All fitness levels welcome. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

LUDLOW, Vt. - Aquatic Aerobics, Mondays at 10:35 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

TUESDAYS -

CHESTER, Vt. - Bone **Builders Class in Chester** every Tuesday, 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.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Free

Name of Probate Court:

Address of Probate Court:

Chair Yoga classes for ages 50 and over are held on Tuesdays from 9-9:45 a.m., at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street. All equipment is provided.

WEDNESDAYS -

CHESTER, Vt. - Knitting with Friends at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common, Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to noon.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. -Frances Barsky leads a weekly creative writing workshop at the Rockingham Library from 1-2:30 p.m. Bring a laptop or a pen and paper.

THURSDAYS -

CHESTER, Vt. - Knit Knite at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common Thursdays, from 5-8 p.m., and via Zoom, from 7-8

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Free Chair Yoga classes for ages 50 and over are held on Thursdays from 9-9:45 a.m., at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street. All equipment is provided.

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 -

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - On Fridays from 11 a.m. -12 p.m., John Bohannon will teach Tai Chi and Qi Gong at the Rockingham Library in Bellows Falls, Vt. No special equipment or clothing is required.

SATURDAYS -

LUDLOW, Vt. – Zumba classes, Saturdays at 9 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. All fitness levels welcome. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

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

DAILY -

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

GMUSD School Board

Has an Immediate Opening

The Green Mountain Unified School Board (GMUSD) seeks one Chester Town resident interested in serving as a member of our local school board. The term of this position will be until Town Meeting Election Day, Tuesday, March 5, 2024. The Board meets, the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and other as necessary. Members may fulfill additional responsibilities such as serving on board committees.

Please submit a letter of interest to:

GMUSD Board c/o Lauren Fierman 609 VT Route 103 South Ludlow, Vermont 05149



Town of Westminster

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

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (DRB)

WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL Westminster, Vermont

Legal Notice

The Westminster Development Review Board will meet at 6:30 pm on Monday, February 5, 2023 to

Application # 24-26

Elizabeth Nieuwsma-Dell: Property located at 257 West Stagecoach Road. The Applicant is requesting a Change of Use - from a Detached Garage to a Small Rentable House. Application will be reviewed under Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 446 Residential District; and Section 215 Zoning Permit Procedure of the adopted 2017 Zoning

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

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

STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION Unit Docket No.: 23-PR-07047 Windsor In re ESTATE of: Winston G. Churchill NOTICE TO CREDITORS To the Creditors of: Winston G. Churchill late of Proctorsville I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period. Judith A. Churchill c/o Parker & Ankuda, Esq. PO Box 519 City, State, Zip 802-885-2582 Springfield, VT 05156 The Vermont Journal Name of Publication: January 10, 2024 **Publication Date:**

Vermont Superior Court, Windsor Probate Division

12 The Green

Woodstock, VT 05091

STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION Docket No.: 22-PR-02795 Windham In re ESTATE of: mes H. Twitchel NOTICE TO CREDITORS To the Creditors of: James H. Twitchell late of Londonderry, Vermont I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period. Mailing Address P.O. Box 578 Melvin Twitchell, c/o Amanda L.S. George, Esq. 802-875-7777 Chester, VT 05143 Name of Publication: The Vermont Journal January 10, 2024 Publication Date: Vermont Superior Court, Probate Division, Windham Unit Name of Probate Court:

30 Putney Road, Second Floor

Brattleboro, VT 05301

Address of Probate Court:

		STATE OF	VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT			PROBATE DIVISION
Vindsor 🔽	Uni	t	Docket No.: 23-PR-07455
In re ESTATE	of: Mary 1	Thompson	
		NOTICI	E TO CREDITORS
To the Credito	ors of: Esta	ate of Mary Thompso	on
late of Springfield			Decedent
late of opinighers		D	Decedent's Town of Residence
1/8/803	34		Signature of Fiduciary
Executor/Administrator			9
			T 44-10 4-44
		1	Mailing Address
Angela Pero Phone Number	Email		c/o Parker & Ankuda, Esq PO Box 519 City, State, Zip
Angela Pero Phone Number 802-885-2582			c/o Parker & Ankuda, Esq PO Box 519 City, State, Zip Springfield VT 05156
Angela Pero Phone Number		Vermont Journa	c/o Parker & Ankuda, Esq PO Box 519 City, State, Zip Springfield VT 05156
Angela Pero Phone Number 802-885-2582	olication:	Vermont Journa January 10, 202	c/o Parker & Ankuda, Esq PO Box 519 City, State, Zip Springfield VT 05156

Woodstock, VT 05091

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

SEVCA recruiting | Featured Pet: Jaylee VITA tax volunteers —

WESTMINSTER, Vt. -Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEV-CA) will provide free tax preparation for lower income taxpayers for the 2023-2024 tax-filing season through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. SEVCA is now recruiting volunteers to help as many families as possible claim the tax credits and refunds available to

The VITA program offers free tax help to people who are low to moderate income, persons with disabilities, and limited English-speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free federal and state income tax return preparation with electronic filing.

Don't know that much about taxes? Don't worry you'll receive specialized training from a certified VITA instructor, plus IRS online courses. We are looking for individuals who are willing and able to commit to at least three hours per week, or at least 30 hours total, from the last week in January to the middle of April. Although prior tax preparation experience is not necessary, a commitment to training and certification is required; and don't worry, there won't be much math.

To learn how you can make a difference in your community by becoming a VITA volunteer, contact Emily Strasser at estrasser@sevca.org or 802-722-4575, extension

Place an ad in The **Vermont Journal &** The Shopper today!



Whitney Blake is continually growing and looking for associates to join our team. Check us out! We have currently have the following opportunities:

Machine Operator, 1st and 2nd shift **Assembly Operator Maintenance Tech**

To apply, send resume to humanresources@wblake.com 9 Lovell Drive, Bellows Falls, VT 05101 https://wblake.com/company/careers/

TOWN OF GRAFTON Equipment Operator/Truck Driver

The Town of Grafton, Vermont is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time Equipment Operator/Truck Driver. Job duties include snow plowing, salting, and sanding in the winter months, and general highway maintenance and construction work in the other months. The employee must be able to perform general labor duties and minor repairs and maintenance to the highway equipment. Ability to communicate in a courteous manner to co-workers and the general public is required. Must have a valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

The Town of Grafton is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer and does offer an excellent benefits package.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Appy to: Morgan Wilbur, Town Administrator, PO Box 180, Grafton, VT 05146, or by email at townadmin@graftonvt.org

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -The beautiful Jaylee is five months old and a Standard Schnauzer mix, so she will be medium to large when full grown. Jaylee is a sweet girl, and has a brother and sister looking for loving homes as well. They all look about the same; the male is larger and darker. If you cannot resist her adorable scruffiness, wait until you see her in person. The Springfield Humane Society is open Wednesday-Saturday, from 12-4 p.m., for walkins. For more informa-

tion or to sign up for one

of our low cost cat spay/

neuter clinics, call 802-

885-3997.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Springfield Humane So-401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, Vt. 802-885-3997 www.spfldhumane.org

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

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SALMON & NOSTRAND ANNOUNCES EXPANSION OF LEGAL SERVICES

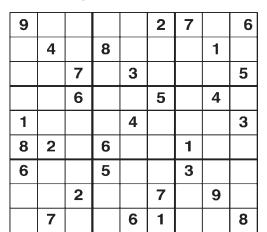
Salmon & Nostrand Law Office of Bellows Falls, Vermont is pleased to announce its affiliation with Facey Goss & McPhee Law Office of Rutland, Vermont.

Salmon & Nostrand will continue to provide high quality legal services from our office in Bellows Falls and we will now have a team of 12 lawyers and paralegals to serve you.

Contact us at (802) 463-4507 or email: info@salmon-nostrand.com

Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle



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 Muscat's land 5 Droid 8 — Romeo 12 Squid dish 14 Crowd noise

15 Earring shape, often16 Rock's 17 Little louse

20 Spiral 23 Cannon of 24 Sofa brand 25 Cake mixes 28 Links org.

29 Los -California 30 Satisfied sigh 32 "Say some-thing!"

34 "Alfred" composer 35 Flower part

36 Run-down 37 Sudden bursts 40 Aachen arti-

41 Dog's bowlful 42 Fly at a low altitude 47 Grate

48 Points of view 9

50 Bit of butter

Apex

Lisa's brother 23 Fact Spanish gold Esoteric Chicago's

51 Regimen

1 Calendar

2 Actress West

4 Land created

abbr.

Lightfoot

25 Pastry store 26 Scarce

27 Hourglass 29 Portal 31 "Psst!"

10 Mythic man-

goat 11 War god

13 1509, to Cato 36 Billboard 19 Back mus- 37 Poet Teas Poet Teasdale cles, for short 38 Theater pro-20 Trendy 21 Heart charts 22 Bound

39 Church sec-40 Work on

33 Prevents,

legally 34 Virgil epic

proofs 43 Clean air org. 44 — polloi 45 Single

46 Calif. clock setting

yellow page BUSINESS DIRECTORY

\$150 for 13 Weeks • \$250 for 26 Weeks • \$400 for 52 Weeks Prices are based on a 20 word listing. An additional 50 cents for each word thereafter.

Art Crafts Gifts

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Vermont State Craft Center Art Crafts Gifts & Workshops 68 Main St., Springfield 802-885-7111 OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5 & Fri. til 7

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

1/13/24 Chinese Calligraphy w/ Jonathan Root 2/17/24 Perspective Drawing Basics w/ Chris Mix (Zoom) 2/4/24 Pet Portraits w/ Mindy Fisher 2/24/24

Wire-wrapped Pendant w/ Thomas Alyxander 4/6/24 Flowers in Texture & Color w/ Julie Crabtree 4/27/24 Workshops, details/register: http://galleryvault.org

Pine Needle Basket w/ Irene Dizes 3/8/24 & 3/9/24

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Okemo Valley TV

LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

- Woodstock Union HS Yoh Theatre's "Robin Hood'
- "Green Horn Live" at River Valley Tech Center
- Gov. Scott Budget Address
- "Green Drinks" Series on Geothermal Heat Local church services

Okemo Valley TV now has its own app on all of the main streaming platforms! Apple TV, Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Google Play, and mobile (iOS & Android) (01/03/24 - TFN - 13)

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GFC inspires and empowers the Greater Falls area through community building and collaboration around substance misuse prevention and education for youth, young adults, and their families. GFC continues to encourage the wellbeing of those in the community with a focus on equity and creating positive life experiences. For more info, visit online at greaterfallsconnections.org.

Greater Falls CONNECTIONS



presents the Youth ACE Award to Ava Auchmoody





If quitting smoking is something that you're thinking about, we can help! Sign up today for FREE online classes. You'll be offered tools for success:

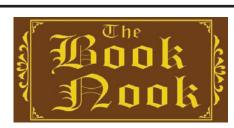
- · Coping skills
- Craving tips
- Patches and gum

Our instructors bring compassion, experience, and humor to their teaching. If you've been thinking about quitting and are ready to get started, go to myhealthyvt.org to get registered!

Doyle at 802-289-0045 or sdoyle@northstarfghc.org.



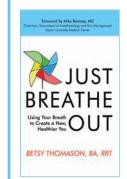




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Karen has a wealth of experience in the niche markets of second homes and resorts. Whether clients are looking for a vacation property or an investment in a resort community, Karen provides tailored guidance and unparalleled service.

Karen Wilson

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