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BF Atkinson and School Street traffic study——

BY JOE MILLIKEN

The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. -In order to improve pedestrian and student safety at the intersection of Atkinson Street and School Street in Bellows Falls, several interested parties recently participated in a meeting to discuss potential solutions, including members of the town selectboard and school district, the Windham Regional Commission, and the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance.

Several potential recommendations to improve the conditions included additional flashing lights, overhead signs, speed bumps, even a roundabout. The study is currently being led by Cierra Ford, a trans-

portation planner with the South Burlington engineering firm Vanasse Hangen Brustlin Inc. (VHB).

"I am leading the intersection scoping study project at the Atkinson Street/School Street intersection in Bellows Falls," Ford said in a recent interview. "We had an alternatives presentation meeting last week, where we discussed a suite of options to improve safety and mobility at the intersection."

Ford has already indicated that a roundabout would probably be out of the question for multiple reasons; there is not enough space at the location, a roundabout would affect historical properties in multiple areas, and, in the end, would not effectively improve overall

"The intersection is heavily used by foot traffic, especially for school children, being located between two local schools and in a dense residential area. The safety concerns seem to derive from a lack of visibility at the intersection."

It has been suggested that one of the biggest concerns with the intersection is that not all motorists come to a complete stop at the intersection, as well as the need for additional lighting at night as to increase visibility. With these and additional factors in mind, Ford is coming up with various recommendations, with the next public meeting

See **STUDY** on Page 2

New owners at New **England Outdoor** Furnaces put family first—

BY PAULA BENSON

The Shopper

NEWPORT, N.H. - Matthew and Sarah Pikus are finding the hands-on learning experience of being new business owners intriguing, especially since the company's product was completelv unfamiliar to the couple until recently.

The Pikus family moved from Minnesota to Vermont in 2020, and last year made the decision to purchase New England Outdoor Furnaces, a business based in Newport, N.H., selling Central Boiler outdoor furnaces. The inspiration first came to Matthew when he passed the company's sign and thought, "What the heck is an outdoor furnace?"

Sarah relayed that she and Matthew are avid home improvers, "DIY-ers" who are always going back and forth to Home Depot for one project or another. It was on one of those trips that Matthew saw the sign and decided to further investigate.

"Matthew is very into energy efficiency," Sarah explained. "So, learning about outdoor boilers was right up his allev."

It was last May when they met with the former owners, and were trying to figure out how to make the deal work, but someone else was interested, and the business went under contract. "We thought, 'well, it was a fun idea while it lasted," Sarah said.

When that contract fell through, the Pikuses were given a second chance.

"When we heard the news, we really felt that we were meant for this life," Sarah remarked.

They needed to be financially creative, and consider



New owners of New England Outdoor Furnaces Sarah and Matthew Pikus, with office assistant Ellen.

PHOTO BY DANIELLE GOODWIN

their family's needs before signing, but ultimately felt motivated to take on the new challenge.

As the father of four young daughters between ages 1 ½ and 7, Matthew noted, "It pays to be efficient when you can be." His economical approach to supporting his family and leading a more sustainable lifestyle easily translated to the promotion of outdoor furnaces.

"I believe in the product," he stated. "They are over 90% efficient, clean, easy to run, and conserve fuel. In Vermont and New Hampshire, wood is local and abundant, and many people have the ability to cut their own. In a relatively short amount of time, the boiler pays for itself."

With the rising cost and finite supply of fossil fuels, a wood-burning, outdoor central boiler with the capacity to heat an entire house, garage, barn, workshop, and pool, can save the household a lot of money. "And the nice thing is," adds Matthew, "unlike an indoor fireplace or woodstove, the wood and mess stay out-

Sarah explained that the

boilers are designed to dry out the wood using "Fireball technology," a swirling vortex of smoke and gas that creates a centralized flame, which burns about half the amount of wood as traditional woodstoves. "For instance," Sarah detailed, "if you normally use seven cords of wood per winter, you might use three instead."

The Pikuses want to expand the business within the community, and find ways to give back. Installation of the boilers needs to happen during the warmer months, when the ground isn't frozen, and Matthew said he plans to host some community events this spring and summer to create awareness and educate people about the product.

"The units are between 1,500-3,000 pounds," Matthew pointed out. "So, we won't be taking them on the road." But the Pikuses would like to spread the word about this renewable source of heating a home, which many people have never heard of or considered.

Springfield talks Cheshire Bridge Project

BY PAULA BENSON

The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -The Springfield Selectboard heard from Springfield Housing Authority executive director Laura Ryan during the first of two public hearings held on Monday night, Feb. 12. Ryan reported on the replacement of the ventilation system at the Huber Building at 80 Main Street, a nearly completed, grant-funded project.

The town had received \$525,000 in funds from the state under the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP), and were required to hold two public hearings informing residents of how the money was spent.

"After 50 years without a ventilation system, we now have an efficient system with improved air quality," Ryan stated. The project was nearly 100% covered by the VCDP program.

The second public hearing was in regards to the proposed rewording of an ordinance concerning nonmotorized vehicles on town streets. This revision would permit people who wish to use skates or scooters as transportation to do so.

The board received no public opposition, or even much discussion, on either hearing item. The revision to the Non-Motorized Transportation Ordinance was unanimously approved by the board.

Board Chair Kristi Morris called the regular selectboard meeting to order, starting as always with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Cheshire Bridge, or "Toll Bridge," Project was introduced to the board by David Scott, the in-house design chief of the Bureau of Bridge Design for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

Hardesty and Hanover project manager Kim Smith took the board through a detailed presentation of the project, targeting deteriorated and corroded sections of the bridge, and including repairs, replacment of faulty sections, and painting. Originally built in 1930, the bridge is a section of Route 11, crossing the Connecticut River between Springfield, Vt., and Charlestown, N.H. Smith reported that the bridge received "some rehab" in 1992, and was part of a bridge preservation project in 2015 that replaced

the deck expansion joints. Senior highway engineer Stephanie Micucci reviewed the traffic control plan, which will span 34 weeks of

See **BRIDGE** on Page 2

Sixth graders explore nature in Bellows Falls

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. -During a busy morning at Bellows Falls Middle School, a group of sixthgrade students, led by science and social studies teacher Josh Ferenc, set off on an outdoor field study. Ferenc, full of enthusiasm for nature-based education, welcomed the opportunity to add ob-

servers to the exploration. Walking to the Riverfront Park, students wondered out loud if they would also be going into the woods today, or down to the river, other areas of green space that are part of science studies for Fe-

renc's sixth graders. "The benefit is amazing - some of our students may only explore outside when they are in my class. One of my goals is to ensure they are comfortable in nature; they know how to engage not just in playing outside, but in learning outside. They can be in nature safely and with boundaries, but with space to learn with independence and curiosity."

The organized chaos and "playful with a purpose" approach seems a hallmark with Ferenc as he guides students through his expectations without hovering over them.

In a district known for its integration of naturebased learning, Ferenc explained how the Middle School has been accessing natural spaces. "In Bellows Falls, we have to search out natural spaces - you couldn't call us 'urban' but it does physically take longer to access green spaces close to our school site, which is different than some of the other schools in our district." And despite time



Sixth grade students explore Riverfront Park in Bellows Falls.

limitations, it is well worth it. "For those students who struggle with behavior, some time in a new atmosphere with new ways to connect with the curriculum is needed," Ferenc explains, as it can reduce stress and allow students to reengage back in their classrooms. For students who are already highly engaged, it's a new way to stretch their learning muscles beyond the classroom lessons.

With help from teaching colleague Cristal Farnsworth, and through coursework provided through the Wilderness Institute, Ferenc has developed a science curriculum that builds in Vermont-based connection, and leads students through a process of "engage, explore, elaborate, and evaluate." Today's field study would translate into classroom lessons on bird identification, vocabulary expansion, and reflective journaling.

Ferenc likes to remind his students that they live in a special place with so many opportunities for biological and ecological studies, and while they don't have the grandeur of Montana, they do have the Connecticut River. "It serves as a superhighway for migrating geese;

our students can study along its banks; they can do water studies in the spring. They are learning about the wider world, but in their backyard."

Outdoor activities like building life-sized shelters, inspired by the curriculum's reading of "Hatchet," by Gary Paulsen, exemplify the school's cross-curricular approach to teaching and learning at the middle school. In the book, the main character creates a shelter from the elements. After reading the book, students reexamined the detailed passages about how Brian made the shelter, and then had the opportunity to do the same. The investment that the sixth grade teaching team has made to create outdoor opportunities for learning, and to connect across all the subject areas, is what makes teaching and learning meaningful and engaging for students.

And as encouragement to other teachers to continue the momentum of naturebased educational opportunities, and in an ode to "don't overthink it," Ferenc says. It can be done without a lot of fuss, to help students connect with and learn from their community and the natural world, one outdoor adventure at a time.

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2 | February 14, 2024 The Shopper

Introduction to Town Meeting in Rockingham

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. -"Introduction to Town Meeting: How to Participate" is a public education event to be held Saturday, Feb. 24, from 10:30 a.m. -12 p.m., at the Rockingham Library second floor meeting room.

The key steps for taking part in this aspect of our local government will be explained. Representatives from the branches of town government will take part, and there will be time for questions and answers.

To spice it up, we will present a nonbinding mock article to be decided by the people present. "Introduction to Town Meeting: How to Participate" is open to any interested person. You don not have to be a registered voter,

or even of voting age, to have your say on the mock article.

The actual Rockingham Town Meeting will take place on Monday, March 4, at the Bellows Falls Opera House Main Theatre, beginning at 7 p.m. You must be a registered voter to participate - see the town

Learn about AI at Springfield Library

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SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -What do you know about artificial intelligence (AI)? What do you want to know? Join us on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 6 p.m., for an exciting and thought-provoking event called "Artificial Intelligence: Good? Bad? Let's Play." This program will take place on the second floor of Springfield Town Library.

Kristen Wilson, informa-

Porches • Awnings

tion technology instructor at River Valley Technical Center, will help us better understand artificial intelligence and its impact on our lives. Is AI a force for good, or does it pose potential risks? Explore hands-on activities that will shed light on the various aspects of AI. Together, let's unravel the mysteries and discover some of the potential of this rapidly evolving field.

Seating is limited. Sign up as soon as possible at www.bit.ly/3uArt-Intel, or by calling the library at 802-885-3108. A waitlist will be enabled if it fills. Please call us if you find you cannot make it once you have registered.

From Page 1

slated for the spring, before the recommendations are presented to the Rockingham Selectboard.

"The public had a favorable response to installing 'bump outs' at the intersection to provide traffic calming, restrict the width of the crossing of U.S. Route 5 for pedestrians, and increase visibility. The next step is to pursue the preferred alternative that came out of this meeting, and present it at another public meeting for another round of feedback in the spring."

Kurn Hattin receives Keene Lions Club grant —

WESTMINSTER, Vt. -The Keene Lions Club has awarded New England Kurn Hattin Homes for Children a \$500 grant to support the installation of new flooring on the main level of the Mayo Memorial Center, the Homes' academic building.

According to facilities director Adam Hallock, "The high volume of foot traffic in the school building has caused the current flooring to wear down over the years. Replacing the existing floor with high-quality, durable materials before it becomes a safety issue is our number one priority."

The Keene Lions Club grant will contribute greatly to the costs of flooring materials and professional installation services. This facility improvement will also enhance the aesthetic appeal of the school, and create a welcoming environment for students, staff, and all visi-

The Keene Lions Club is dedicated to supporting local initiatives that positively impact the community. By investing in this facility improvement project, they are directly contributing to the future success of the children who live and learn at Kurn Hattin Homes.

Make Tracks for Health at Grace Cottage -

TOWNSHEND, Vt. -Enjoy the beauty and joy of winter, while helping Grace Cottage Family Health and Hospital in its mission to provide vital health care to our communities. Grace Cottage will host its first annual Make Tracks for Health event at the Stratton Resort's Nordic

Center on Saturday, March 2, from 1-3 p.m.

Participants can choose to snowshoe or cross-country ski on the Nordic Center's beautifully groomed trails. Rental equipment is available for an additional charge by advance registration. Afterward, reward yourself with treats by the fire. It's sure to be fun for

the whole family.

Make Tracks for Health is sponsored in part by Stratton Resort, Solstice at Stratton, Rawsonville Market, and Von Bargen's

To sign up, visit www. gracecottage.org/events. For more information, email info@gracecottage. org, or call 802-365-9109.

BRIDGE

From Page 1

construction, require an alternating traffic pattern, and a period of time where the bridge will be fully closed. Larger trucks will need to be detoured due to the narrow width of the bridge. The 20-mile detour will extend between Exits 6 and 7 on I-91.

The team informed the board that any environmental impacts will be temporary, and they are coordinating with several

conservation organizations to avoid disturbing aquatic plants and other species. Additionally, after the

completion of the archaeological survey, it was determined that the Cheshire Toll Bridge is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2025, with an estimated construction cost of \$6.26

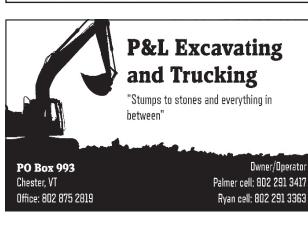
"New Hampshire and Vermont share almost every bridge, but this bridge is 100% owned by New Hampshire," Scott said, prompting a small cheer from Morris.

Sue Skaskiw with the Vermont Volunteer Services for Animals was at the meeting to attain a permit to hold their annual rabies vaccinations clinic on March 2, in the parking lot of the Riverside Middle School. The board approved the request, and Skaskiw mentioned the event could use more volunteers.

Prior to adjorning the nearly three-hour meeting, the board welcomed Alexander Moreau, a cameraman new to SAPA TV who was covering the meeting for the first time.

Moreau asked, "Are the meetings always this long?" Board member Michael Martin responded, "No, usually they're longer!"

The remark elicited laughter from the room.









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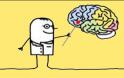
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Building a sod house

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119 ronpatch27@gmail.com

Last week I wrote about a Bank of True Love valentine from Marjorie Boynton Cross. Below are the sod house and Bondville blizzard letters I mentioned.

Sod house

'Sargent, Custer County, Neb. May 3, 1885

"You wonder how a house can be built of sod. The ground here in places is covered very thickly with a coarse grass and the soil which is a black clay is filled with roots which make it very tough - there is no gravel or stones in it. They break it about 4 inches thick and 14 or 16 inches wide then cut with a spade about 2 feet or more in length.

The door and window frames are made and set up the same as for a brick house and then the sods laid up around them as they lay up brick – breaking joints and filling in all the spaces with dry dirt. The walls are usually anywhere from 26 to 30 inches in thickness then the roof is made in a different way. Ours is covered with boards then tarred paper and a thin layer of sod over that which makes it warm in the winter and keeps from freezing and on account of the thickness of the walls and the sod on the roof it keeps cool in the summer.

Then the inside they plaster over with a white clay taken out of the hills here and when done you could not tell inside the house that it was built of sod. Ours is not plastered yet but we have the inside lined with newspapers so you cannot see the sod. Some plaster their house over the outside and then white wash it so one could not tell there was any sod

"They are by no means handsome and I guess would look funny to you, everybody's house is the same color and also their stables, graineries and hen houses. In town at Sargent the houses are all frame houses and some quite respectable ones - nice little cottages. We are so far from the RR that lumber is very high and it is quite an advantage that the sod is suitable for building as otherwise people could not afford to settle here and build at all.

"Now I will tell you about our fuel. At present we are burning corn stalks principally. The corn is husked in the field and then the cattle run in and eat off the leaves and husks which leave the stalks nearly all bare. They are so dry that they burn well but it keeps one busy to keep stuffing them in. A stove full will not last more than 5 minutes so it takes a good deal of time to tend the fire. We shall burn cobs usually but have to get along the best we can this year. In the

deal of corn and if we have a good season we hope to raise plenty of our own to burn next winter and not have to buy. It is as cheap to burn corn as to buy coal."

"Bondville March Sod schoolhouse in Norton County Kansas, circa 1880s. 28, 1888

Bondville bliz-

"My Dear Sister

"Do you think I am never going to write again, well we have been snowed in but the mails run again now. Oh dear what a winter we have had.

"I never saw so much snow before, I mean in one winter but it does seem as though it must be warmer soon but it will take a long time for all of this snow to go off.

"I mean to come over and see you next summer if I have to come alone, so you may look for me if the snow ever does go off. Harriet has not been down here for ever so long, she and Cephas and Maude and her little girl got snowed

down here and had to stay a few days. Before the big storm of March 12 & 13 we were not quite covered but now some of our windows are all covered and we can not see over the drift at the

PHOTO BY RON PATCH

This week's old saying: "Temptation calling."

front door."

the dirt is so black that they all look nearly black and winter we burnt a good SEVCA's VITA income tax

return preparation WESTMINSTER, Vt. -Vermont Southeastern Community Action (SEV-CA) is once again offering free tax assistance via the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). This year, in-person services will be provided at eight locations in Windsor and Windham counties. New and revived VITA locations include sites at the Old Firehouse in Wilmington, the Winston Prouty campus in Brattleboro, the Springfield Town Library, the Ludlow Community Center, Townshend Town Hall, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in White River Junction. Appointments and drop-off services can also be found at SEVCA's main office in

Telecom local fiber upgrades

Westminster, the Spring-

REGION - TDS Telecommunications LLC (TDS) has completed fiber upgrades in several Vermont communities to bring lightningfast internet connections to more residents and busi-

Speeds up to eight gig are now available in communities including Baltimore, Cavendish, Ludlow, Perkinsville, Plymouth, Weathersfield, Northfield, and Roxbury. The upgrades are the result of an expansion of fiber internet services - known as the "gold standard" of residential connections - to about 7,700 addresses in Vermont.

"This private investment of millions of dollars is bringing better connections for residents and businesses. As a longtime provider of telecommunications services in Vermont, we're excited this future-proof technology will continue serving our communities for years to come," said Drew Petersen, TDS senior vice president of corporate affairs.

With speeds up to eight gig, files of any size can be uploaded or downloaded nearly instantly. For businesses, TDS offers dedicated connections up to 10 gig.

TDS has done business in Vermont since 1970. In addition to private investment, TDS leveraged Alternative Connect America (ACAM) funds to expand and improve broadband service in

rural areas. For more information, including how to sign up for service, visit www.tdstelecom.com/local/vermont. html.

field Library, and the Windsor Resource Center.

SEVCA's efforts are led by Emily Strasser, VITA program coordinator, who was a VITA volunteer last year when all the returns were prepared remotely. "I am glad we are able to return to meeting with people in person, and that we can do it in new locations that make it easy for people to find us. It is important to me that everyone understands their taxes and then can make informed decisions about things like how much is being withheld from each paycheck. For some people, this is an easy way to save up a large amount of money – but for others they could be taking home more money on payday."

In-person services are preferred by people using VITA, and are preferred by volunteer preparers. Strasser reports, "Most people are interested in learning about their taxes, and for the volunteers this educational process is so rewarding. It is a lot easier to do this when working together on a return." VITA services are available to people who generally make \$64,000 or less; persons with disabilities; and limited Englishspeaking taxpayers.

program."

VITA volunteers come from all backgrounds and undergo a comprehensive training program. Tax preparers must pass annual certifying exams to prove their understanding of relevant tax laws and proficiency of e-filing and tax preparation methods using IRS-approved software.

If you are interested in having your taxes prepared by a VITA volunteer, more information about VITA locations and how to make an appointment can be found at www.sevca.org, or call our direct line to the VITA program at 802-428-3032.

"I'm thrilled that we're able to offer in-person services again, and that we're expanding the number of VITA locations. We want to make this program as easy for people to access as possible," reported newly appointed SEVCA executive director Joshua Davis. "Emily has done a tremendous job getting us ready to support as many people as possible, maximizing their tax return through the VITA

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Water bill assistance program ending

REGION - Do you need help paying an overdue water or sewer bill? The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) can help. Eligible households have until March 15 to apply.

The LIHWAP program pays for overdue water and/or sewer bills, including back charges and fees associated with the outstanding balance. In addition, the program may be able to provide a one-time future payment. Payments are made directly to your water/sewer provider.

To be eligible, you must be a customer of a public drinking water and/or wastewater utility. In addition, gross household income must be below 60% of the state median income

based on household size. For a household of four, this would be \$66,396. **OVER 2000** BROKEN-IN TIRES **MANY SETS OF 4**



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To apply, mail the application and your current water/sewer bill to Economic Services Division, Application & Document Processing Center, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671. The application can be found at www.dcf.vermont.gov/ benefits/hwa, or by calling 800-339-6433.

This program is administered by the Vermont Department of Children and Families (DCF) using funding provided by the federal government during the Covid pandemic. So far, the program has paid over half a million dollars in water and sewer bills, and there are still funds remaining. However, all funds must be spent by the end of March, or they will be returned to the federal government.

The application deadline is March 15, 2024. Find more information about the program at www.dcf. vermont.gov/benefits/hwa, or call 800-339-6433.

The Vermont Rural Water Association is a nonprofit that supports public drinking water and wastewater systems, and promotes public health and clean water protection through technical assistance, training, advocacy, and outreach.

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opinion

CHURCH SERVICES

Dear Editor,

Over this first weekend in February, I came across an article in the Rutland Herald written by Mr. Ben Koenig of Plainfield, Vt., concerning Dorothy Canfield Fisher, and how the Vermont Department of Libraries had removed Ms. Fisher's name from a longstanding award presented for years in her name. The Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award was a mainstay in recognizing authors and their contribution to children's literature for over 60 years.

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.

Mr. Koenig appropriately points out in his article that someone like Fisher, who contributed so much in the literary field, should not be stripped of her recognition. True, Ms. Fisher may have some peripheral association with the Vermont Eugenics Movement, and her writings may have used some language that was acceptable in her day, but it does not mean that a lifelong contribution to the literary world should be torn down. Too often, people want to go back and rewrite history, but history is history; we cannot change it. However, we can learn from history and how people talked, acted, and carried on in their lives in those times. We can ensure that things done in the past do not happen again. That being said, if you go online, you can read Mr. Koenig's article that I found in the Rutland Herald and the Barre Times Argus. I think you will find

it most interesting.

Mr. Koenig's article supports this worthy author. Anyone with a little curiosity can Google Dorothy Canfield Fisher and find several articles concerning her life, and the Vermont Department of Libraries' belief that her name is no longer relevant to young people. If we did not see George Washington on the \$1 bill, or hear about Ethan Allan, would their names no longer be relevant? Now it is time for the Vermont Department of Libraries to do the right thing: restore Fisher's name to the award, recognize the modern authors who contribute significantly to children's literature, and get out of the "Golden Dome" of politics.

Sincerely, C. William Mattoon Springfield, Vt.

CAVENDISH

Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St.

Sunday services are 10 a.m. online or in person. Online services are on Facebook at 10 a.m. Go to www. facebook.com/Cavendish-Baptist-

Church-25881489 4244302. More at www. CavendishBaptist.com or call 802-226-7131.

CHARLESTOWN

North Charlestown United Methodist Church, 471 River Rd.

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

Charlestown Congregational Church, 71 Main St.

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

LUDLOW

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

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

Ludlow Baptist Church, on the Green, 99 Main

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

SPRINGFIELD

Springfield United Methodist Church, 10 Valley St.

Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. Springfield United Methodist Church welcomes everyone! The church can be reached at

802-885-3456.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 33 Fairground

Sunday Services 8:30 a.m. -Holy Days as announced. Services alternate between Clergy Officiated, Traditional Rite I and Contemporary Rite II, Holy Eucharist, and Licensed Lay Led Rites I and Il Morning Prayer. All are invited regardless of religious affiliation. Call David at 802-885-2972 with questions.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, 10 Pleasant St.

Sunday mass is at 9 a.m., followed by coffee hour as well as weekday services. To watch the live streams, go to www.youtube.com and search Holy Family Parish Springfield Vermont. Streaming is available five minutes before the service starts. For more information, go to www.stmaryjoseph.

Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground

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

WALPOLE

St. John's Episcopal Church, corner of Westminster and Elm St.

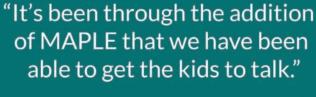
Sunday services are 10 a.m. in person or via Zoom. For more information, go to www.stjohnswalpole. org, email pastor@ stjohnswalpole.org, or leave a message at 603-756-4533.

First Congregational Church of Walpole UCC, 15 Washington Sq.

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, or via Zoom. For Zoom links, please call 603-756-4075. For more information, go to www.walpolenhucc.org or www.facebook.com/ First CongregationalWalpoleNH.

POLITICAL LETTERS

Due to the volume of political letters we receive during elections, and the increased cost of adding pages to the paper to print them all, as of March 2023 we are charging a fee for political letters at the rate of \$75 for 200 words, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. Political letters include electioneering for a specific candidate, party, or article that may impact one's vote.





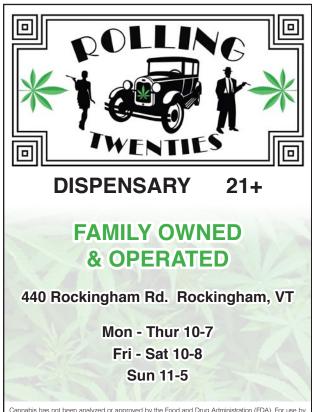
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Okemo Valley TV

LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

- Leaislative Update with State Rep. Tesha Buss
- Local Weather Forecast New Story Times from local librarians
- Mocktails with Abby 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) (04/03/24 - TFN - 13)

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obituaries

Patricia E. Barrows, 1937-2024

N. WESTMINSTER, Vt. -Patricia E. Barrows, 86, passed away on Feb. 4, 2024, surrounded by her family, after a brief illness. Pat was born Nov. 2, 1937, in Orwell, Vt., the daughter of Thomas and Evelyn (Prunier) Burke. She attended schools in Alstead, N.H., and was a 1956 graduate of Vilas High School. Following graduation, she married Richard Barrows on Sept. 15, 1956, at St. Joseph Church in Walpole, N.H. Pat worked as the director at the Bellows Falls Senior Center for several years, and later until retirement at the Savings Bank of Walpole.

She is survived by her husband of 68 years Richard Barrows; her son Richard Barrows and his wife Karen of Ossipee, N.H.; two daughters Cynthia Lisai and her husband Brent of Bellows Falls, and Catherine Moore and her husband Glen of Alstead; two brothers Michael Burke of St. Albans, and Peter Burke of Langdon. She is survived by three sisters Bernadette Nay of Jefferson N.H., Elsie Spoerl of Charlestown, and Nancy Godbehere of Marlboro, N.J.; and four grandchildren Jesse Moore, Nicole Gorman, Kirstina Barrows-Smith, and Kyle Barrows. She is survived by one greatgranddaughter Madison Haskell.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by a brother Thomas Burke Jr., and one sister Lillian Either.

1946-2024

WESTON, Vt. - Charles

Marshall Goodwin IV, affec-

tionately known as "Charlie"

to those he worked with dur-

ing his career, but to most as

"Tim," of Weston, Vt., passed

away in the early morning

hours of Jan. 24, at Rutland

Oct. 2, 1946.



Patricia Barrows, 1937-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

Pat was involved in 4H, sharing knowledge of agricultural and life skills with local youth. Camping, traveling, and snowmobiling were hobbies she enjoyed. Her greatest passion was horses and horsemanship. Her mentoring and coaching produced numerous state and regional championship riders.

Calling hours will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 21, from 5-7 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at St. Charles Parish on Cherry Hill in Bellows Falls, on Feb. 22, at 10 a.m.

Burial will follow at the Lower Langdon Cemetery in Langdon, N.H., with a reception following at the American Legion Post 37 in Bellows Falls, Vt.

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

David M. Bibens, 1945-2024

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -David M. Bibens, 78, died at his home on Sunday evening, Jan. 28, 2024, surrounded by his family. He was born Oct. 13, 1945, in Springfield, Vt., the son of Miller and Barbara (Trefry) Bibens. He attended Springfield schools, graduating from Springfield High School Class of 1963.

On March 4, 1967, he married Sandra Guillemette.

He was employed at the Fellows Gear Shaper, Jones & Lamson Machine Tool Co., and Lovejoy Tool Co. in Springfield. In the early 1970s, he established Bibens & Warren Concrete, providing concrete services to Springfield and the surrounding area for many years, until his retirement in 2000.

Dave was an avid snowmobiler and a member of the Hawks Mountain Ridge Riders, and held the position of club president for many years. He raced at Claremont Speedway from 1977-1990, starting in the Spectators races, then moved up to Late Model, then to Pro Stocks, Car #31 Sunkist Kid. In 1988 he joined the

He enjoyed watching the Patriots, Celtics, Red Sox, and NASCAR. He was an avid camper, was always a prankster and a jokester, with many



David Bibens, 1945-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

close friends.

He is survived by his wife Sandra; daughter Christy L. Thomas of Baltimore, Vt.; three granddaughters Rohanna Reynolds (Brian) of Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Krystale Barraby of Manchester, N.H., and Elisabeth Griswold of New Albany, Ohio; two greatgrandchildren Nicholas and Ariama Reynolds; siblings William "Bill" Bibens (Marty), Becky Warren (Lee), Kilburn "Kibby" Bibens (Betty), and Rosalie Pettiford.

He was predeceased by his parents Miller and Barbara, brother Rodney Bibens, and sister Dorothy B. Bibens.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield is assisting the family with arrangements.

Gail J. Farrar, 1927-2024

ASCUTNEY, Vt. - Gail J. Farrar, 96, died Feb. 6, 2024, at his home.

Gail was born April 25, 1927, in Gassetts, Vt., a son of James and Hazel (Johnson) Farrar. He attended Chester High School; right out of school he served in the U.S. Army in Germany during World War II. He returned to Vermont and was married to Virginia Cole on Feb. 28, 1948, in Leister, Vt. They made their home in Cavendish. He worked for a time as a lineman and a logger before going to work for Fellows Gear Shaper in Springfield, retiring in 1985.

Gail was a member of the American Legion Post 67 Chester, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 771 Springfield, Mount Holly Snow Drifters, and a former member of the Black River Rod and Gun Club. Gail enjoyed being outdoors hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling in his younger years. His greatest joy came from spending time with his grandchildren.

Gail is preceded in death by his wife Virginia Farrar; a son Roy Farrar; a daughter Sandy McCarthy; two brothers Franklin and Earl Farrar; four sisters Laura Gates, Frieda Rumrill, Gwen Johnson, and Eileen Stone; and a stepson Russell Moulton.



Gail Farrar, 1927-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

He is survived by three sons James Farrar and partner Charlene Waugh of Ascutney, David Farrar and wife Darlene of Proctorsville, and Keith Farrar and partner Crystal Ripley of Cavendish; stepdaughter Carolyn Moulton of Falmouth, Mass.; stepson Doug Moulton of Springfield; and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-greatgrandchildren.

A graveside service will be held in the Cavendish Village Cemetery, to be announced at a later date. Knight Funeral Home in Windsor, Vt., has been entrusted with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to Gail's family in an online guestbook at www. knightfuneralhomes.com. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Bayada Foundation, P.O. Box 1590, Norwich, VT

Kenneth P. Wilkins, 1949-2024

LUDLOW, Vt. - Kenneth Paul Wilkins of Ludlow, Vt., and Dade City, Fla., died Jan. 9, in Florida.

Born Jan. 11, 1949, to the late Charles (Fred) and Mildred (Holcomb) Wilkins, he was the fifth of nine children.

"Kenny," as he was known, moved to Florida as a young married man and raised three of his children there. Employed by Pasco Beverage Manufacturing Company in Dade City, Fla., he worked his way up to a managerial position, where he stayed until retirement. Kenny returned to his roots in Vermont after retirement, where he was the self-proclaimed overseer of his elder sisters.

Over the years he honed his skills as an all around handyman, carpenter, plumber, even land maintenance. Many turned to him when things needed fixing.

A man of few words, you wouldn't find him sitting around with the hens in the kitchen chattering away; instead, you would find him in his workshop in his sister's garage. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and being outside in nature.

In June 2022, Kenny moved back to Florida to be near his children and grandchildren. He resided there until his death.

Kenny is survived by his



PHOTO PROVIDED

ters and Kenneth P. "Skip" Wilkins Jr. of Florida, Bruce Buck of New Hampshire, and Cheryl Malson of New Jersey; sisters Nancy Brown of Proctorsville, and Sue Bates of Cavendish; sister-in-law Joyce Wilkins of Ludlow; 17 grandchildren; several greatgrandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cous-

Along with his parents, he was predeceased by his son Mark John Wilkins; and siblings Donald and Albert Wilkins, Dolores and Doris Wilkins, and Katherine Starks.

Per Kenny's request, no formal services will be held. Instead, a celebration of life will take place in the spring, at which time his ashes will be interred according to his final wishes.

Maureen T. Norton, 1938-2024

LUDLOW, Vt. - Maureen T. Norton, 85, passed away Jan. 31, 2024, peacefully at home with her devoted husband John at her side.

She was born May 7, 1938, in Ludlow, the daughter of Harvey and Hattie Gray.

She married John Norton on Dec. 10, 1955, in Tyson, Vt. They celebrated 68 memorable, loving, and devoted years together.

Her greatest passion was family, along with a fondness for animals, especially her cat, Smudge. Lilac season showcased her favorite flower and color. The rugged Maine coast was her prime destination to visit.

She was predecease her parents Harvey and Hattie Gray, and a brother Randall Gray.

In addition to her husband John, she is survived by her sister Marcia Manner (Kendall) of Ludlow, Vt.; a daughter Deborah Hyjek (Eugene) of Browns Summit, N.C.; two sons David Norton (Debra) of Proctorsville, Vt., and Darrin Norton (Hector) of Springfield, Vt.; grandchildren Jeremy Hyjek (Monica), Christopher Norton (Kimberly), and Jonathan Norton (Michelle); great-grandchildren Lena Hyjek, Kaylee Norton,



Maureen Norton, 1938-2024.

Lyndsee Norton, and Isabella Norton; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service for family members will be held in the spring. Per Maureen's request, no other services are planned.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield is assisting the family with the arrange-



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Regional Medical Center, from an unexpected heart at-The first of four children, Charles was born at Springwas a talented downhill skier field Hospital to Charles Marshall and Dorothy Marion Goodwin of Weston on "Tim" began his educa-

tion at the Little School in Weston, Vt., later attending Burr and Burton Seminary in Manchester. He went on to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Vermont. Tim enlisted in the Army in 1968, and served in Vietnam as a second lieutenant from 1970-1971. While on military leave, he married Sandra Lane on Dec. 27, 1969, in the midst of what remains one of Vermont's top five snowstorms. Tim and Sandra were

Charles M. Goodwin IV,

married for more than 54 wonderful years. A talented accountant, Tim earned his CPA during his 35-year career with the U.S. Treasury Department. Once retired, he continued to further his education, earning countless certifications. He enjoyed helping local organizations and individuals with their finances and tax

returns. Tim was a conscientious contributor to his community, serving in many capacities for the Town of Weston, including, but not limited to, the planning commission, the selectboard, and the board of listers. He also served as treasurer for the Weston Fire Department, the Weston Historical Society, and the Old Parish Church. He was a longtime member and contributor to the Windham Regional Planning Commission. Tim was elected to the Vermont State House of Representatives, and served from 2013-2014.

Tim was an energetic man with an unrelenting work ethic who loved the outdoors. When he wasn't engaged with community activities or working around the property he was raised on, he enjoyed hunting, cross-country skiing, and downhill skiing. He

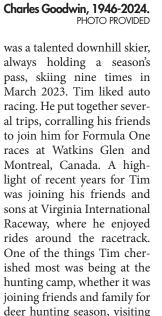


deer hunting season, visiting the summer "boys" event, or making one of his frequent visits there for a moment of solitude. An avid reader, Tim would most often close the

beloved wife Sandra; son Christopher Goodwin and rick Goodwin and wife ana Goodwin and Chloe Goodwin of Scottsdale, Ariz.; step-granddaughter Dupuis and family, and stepgranddaughter Emily Otis; brother Kirk Goodwin and Goodwin and wife Janet; and sister Martha Etchison and husband Dean. He also leaves behind his brother-in-law Dennis Lane and wife Marjorie, and his sister-in-law Rosemary Hebert and husband Maurice; several nieces, nephews, and many special friends.

the service.

Donations may be made in Tim's memory to either the Old Parish Church, P.O. Box 125, Weston, Vt., or the Weston Community Association Inc. P.O. Box 126,



day out with a good book. Tim is survived by his wife Sondra, and son Pat-Ariel; granddaughters Ariwife Cathy, brother Dean

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, May 4, at 11 a.m., at the Old Parish Church on Main Street in Weston. The family invites all to a reception at the Walker Farm immediately following

Weston, Vt.



children Misty Dawn Wa-

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

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

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LEGAL NOTICES

FEB. 16 -

CLAREMONT, N.H. -Sound Investment will be performing classic rock and modern country music on Feb. 16, from 7-10 p.m., at American Legion Post 29, 118 Broad Street. This event is for members and bona-fide guests. For more information, call 603-542-9222.

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. - The GFWC Okemo Valley Women's Club will hold a fundraising Bake and Appetizer Sale on Friday, Feb. 16, from 3-5 p.m., at Singleton's Store.

FEB. 17-18 -

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. -Experience winter as an early colonial settler on Feb. 17 and 18, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the Fort at No. 4, 267 Springfield Road. The event will feature Elnu tribe living history, a militia presentation, a doctor's display, a storekeeper, and more. Admission is discounted for

seniors, military members, and students. Kids under 5 enter for free.

FEB. 17 -

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. - A Valentine Dance will be hosted at the Charlestown Senior Center, 223 Old Springfield Road in Charlestown, N.H., on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 3-5 p.m. There will be light refreshments, and lots of singing and dancing. Even if you don't dance, come in and enjoy the music and singing from our very own "SILVERTONES" with Carol Clark. Come on in and take a chance on letting us entertain you and have a great time. There is a small fee for admission. There will be door prizes, so keep your ticket.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Springfield Community Players will hold auditions for Agatha Christie's "The Unexpected Guest" on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 1-2:30 p.m., at the Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main Street. Lost in the fog, a stranger seeks refuge in a nearby house, only to find a man shot dead and his wife standing over him with a smoking gun. Cast includes three to four female and five to six male roles. Please contact the director, Miles Ledoux, if you can't make these audition dates.

FEB. 18 -

PLYMOUTH, Vt. - Plymouth **Emergency Services will** be hosting another a free community spaghetti dinner on Sunday, Feb. 18, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Plymouth Town Hall. Come celebrate midwinter and reunite with your friends and neighbors while enjoying a great home cooked meal. With the winter half over, it will be great just to laugh, share good times, and enjoy the community spirit. The meal will consist of spaghetti, a choice of meat or meatless sauce, rolls, butter, salad and dessert. Donations accepted but not expected. We hope to see you there. If you have questions, call

Green Mountain Union High School is looking for a Varsity Softball Coach starting in April 2024.

For more information or to apply please email todd.parah@trsu.org.

> Background Check Required EOE.

Sue at 802-236-2683.

FEB. 24 -LUDLOW, Vt. - The 20th annual Comedy Night at Okemo Mountain Resort will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), featuring comedian Raanan

Hershberg. Hershberg has been featured on The Tonight Show, The Late Show, and Comedy Central. This event is for those over 18 years old, hosted by William Raveis. Proceeds will benefit OMARA, a nonprofit that provides access to winter sports participation to children at Okemo. To purchase tickets, visit fs10.

formsite.com/RN1bGh/

azulrrimb9/index.

FEB. 25 -LONDONDERRY, Vt. - On Sunday, Feb. 25, Green Mountain School of Crafts will hold two needle felting sessions. The first will be making needle felted mushrooms, from 2-5 p.m. The second will be making needle felted owls, from 5-8 p.m.

SUNDAYS -

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

MONDAYS -

ARTICLE 10:

ARTICLE 13:

ARTICLE 17:

ARTICLE 18:

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

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

LUDLOW, Vt. - The GFWC Okemo Valley Women's Club meets on the second Monday of every month, from September through April, at 6:30 p.m., at the United Church of Ludlow on Elm Street.

TUESDAYS -

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

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -Senior Solutions is again sponsoring two Fall Prevention Tai Chi classes in the Great Hall, on Pearl Street in Springfield, on Tuesdays. The advanced class will meet from 9:30-10:30 a.m. The beginner class will meet from 10:40-11:40 a.m. When practiced regularly, Tai Chi not only helps to lower the risk of falling, but also improves concentration, leg strength, balance and coordination, reduces joint pain and stress, and

builds a sense of belonging. For more information or to register, contact Sue Rubel at suerubl@ aol.com, or Sophia Blanchard at SBlanchard@ seniorsolutionsvt.org.

WEDNESDAYS -

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

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

WESTMINSTER, Vt. - The First Congregational Church of Westminster's Souper Wednesdays are held every Wednesday until May 1, from 12-2 p.m., in the Church Fellowship Hall, with several delicious soups to try. All are welcome.

THURSDAYS -

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

at St. Joseph's Church, located at 96 South Main Street in Chester. If you have a problem with alcohol, this is an understanding place to come to.

Part Time School Bus Driver

Mount Holly Elementary School has a position open for a Part Time Bus Driver starting immediately. Driving will be approximately 4 hours a day split between the morning and afternoon. This is a School Year Position.

Requirements: CDL Class B with school bus and passenger endorsement, as well as current DOT Medical Card. Background Checks and a pre-employment drug test are required as well as being in a pool for random drug testing.

Job Type: Part-time

Pay: \$22.37 - \$26.37/hr

Send Resumes to: Craig Hutt Vater at craig.huttvater@trsu.org.

LUDLOW MOUNT HOLLY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL MEETING MARCH 5, 2024 WARNING

The legal voters of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District, consisting of the Town of Ludlow and the Town of Mount Holly, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the following location:

- Ludlow Polling Place Ludlow Town Hall 37 S Depot Street Ludlow, VT 05149
- Mount Holly Polling Place Mount Holly Office 50 School Street

on TUESDAY, March 5, 2024, between the hours of ten o'clock (10:00) in the forenoon (a.m.) at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock (7:00) in the afternoon (p.m.), at which time the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot upon the following Article

ARTICLE I

Shall general obligation bonds or notes of Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District in an amount not to exceed Nine Million Two Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Forty-Five Dollars (\$9,268,045), subject to reduction from the application of available state and federal grants-in-aid and reserves, be issued for the purpose of financing the cost of making certain public school building improvements, namely the (1) Ludlow Elementary School building upgrades (\$5,056,181), and (2) Mount Holly School building upgrades (\$4,211,864), the aggregate cost of such improvements estimated to be Nine Million Two Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Forty-Five Dollars (\$9,268,045).

State funds may not be available at the time this project is otherwise eligible to receive state school construction aid. The District is responsible for all costs incurred in connection with any borrowing done in anticipation of the receipt of school construction aid.

The legal voters of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said special meeting identified in Article I shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of

Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Upon the closing of the polls, ballots shall be counted by the Boards of Civil Authorities under the supervision of the town clerks of Mount Holly at 50 School Street and Ludlow at 37 South Depot Street. The results will be certified by the respective town clerks and submitted to the District Clerk of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District.

The legal voters of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District are further notified that an informational meeting will be held at the following location, date, and time for the purpose of explaining the subject proposed school building improvements.

DATE

LOCATION

TIME

February 27, 2024

Ludlow Elementary School

6:00 p.m.

Adopted and approved at a regular meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District duly called, noticed and held on January 17, 2024. Received for record and recorded in the records of the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District on January 18, 2024.

District

District Clerk

Board of School Directors Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School

FRIDAYS -CHESTER, Vt. - Alcoholics Anonymous meetings held every Friday at 6:30 p.m.

TOWN OF CHESTER WARNING NOTICE OF TOWN MEETING

The Legal Voters of the TOWN OF CHESTER are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Chester Town Hall, Second Floor in said Town of Chester on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 6:00 pm., to act on the following Articles. Voting on Article 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be by Australian ballot on March 5, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall Second

ARTICLE 1: To elect Town Officials for the ensuing year as provided by the Public Laws of Vermont.

ARTICLE 2: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Three

Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$380,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of providing grant match to complete construction on culvert replacement on Green Mountain Turnpike and paving the Andover Road? Said projects and paving to be financed for a term of 7 years.

Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Two ARTICLE 3: Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$215,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of purchasing a dump truck for highway

in the amount of \$160,000 and a chipper for the highway department in the amount of \$55,000 to be financed for a term of 5 years? This equipment is replacing existing equipment at the end of useful life and are not additions to the town inventory ARTICLE 4: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Three

Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of purchasing an ambulance to be financed for a term of 10 years? This equipment is replacing existing equipment at the end of useful life and is not an addition to the town inventory

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$3,975,784 to be paid to the Chester Town Treasurer on September 16, 2024, to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's indebtedness

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THIRTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVEN DOLLARS (\$13,807) to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse

Association & Hospice of VT and NH, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691? ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND AND FORTY FOUR DOLLARS

(\$3,044) to help support outpatient, mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691? ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND FORTY DOLLARS (\$3,040) to

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Chester in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691? ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$900) to the Women's Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to women and their

children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the Town, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,200.00) for the support of Senior Solutions (formerly Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont) for help to support seniors and their families who are trying to remain at

home and not be placed in a nursing home, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$2,250 (two thousand two hundred fifty

dollars) for the support of the MOOver Rockingham to provide transit services to the residents of the Town of Chester, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. $\S 2691$? ARTICLE 12:

Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$800 (eight hundred dollars) to support Windsor County Mentors, for youth mentoring services provided to children in Windsor County, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$400 (four hundred dollars) to Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community of Chester through

volunteer service, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

Shall the Town appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,800.00) toward the support of the Community Cares Network of Chester and Andover, Inc. a ARTICLE 14: non-profit organization which provides services to senior citizens, helping them to stay in their homes longer safely, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town of Chester will appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000) to assist in the services of the Chester-Andover Family Center for individuals and

families in need, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691? ARTICLE 16:

Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$4,000 (four thousand dollars) to Meals on Wheels of Greater Springfield, Inc. for continued support and services to the citizens of the Town of Chester in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2691?

Shall the Town appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,500) to Neighborhood Connections, Inc. to cover the cost of providing services in Chester in

accordance with 24 V.S.A. \$2691? Shall the voters of Chester authorize an annual community appropriation of \$4,070.00 to endorse the Mountain Town Connector, a service providing free transportation to residents of Chester?

Dated at Chester, Vermont on this 19th day of January 2024 /s/ Arne Jonynas, Chairman s/ Lee Gustafson /s/ Heather Chase

> /s/ Peter Hudkins /s/ Arianna Knapp

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

BUYING/ **SELLING**

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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guns, rifles, or shotguns. Top

prices paid. Call Ray at 802-775-

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CHESTER, Vt. - Stone House

Antique Center seeks an experi-

enced, energetic sales clerk. Part-

time, some weekends required.

Apply in person at 557 VT Route

103 South, Chester, VT.

2859 or 802-236-7213.

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD

The Town of Springfield Development Review Board will hold a public hearing at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, February 27, 2024, to review a proposal to re-subdivide three parcels located at 825 Skitchewaug Trail Road. 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.

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD ANIMAL LICENSE NOTICE

Animal Licenses are available at the Town Clerk's Office. All dogs and wolf-hybrids six months or over must be licensed by April 1 each year and wear a collar and tag at all times. A dog or wolf-hybrid without a tag is presumed to be unlicensed and is not protected by law. A tag must not be used on any dog or wolf-hybrid other than the dog or wolf-hybrid in the license bearing the corresponding number. If you are unsure if your dog/wolf-hybrid needs a new rabies vaccination before being licensed, please contact this office. Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk CVC, 96 Main Street, Springfield, VT 05156 (802) 885-2104 FAX (802) 885-1617 tosclerk@vermontel.net

MEDIATION

Mediation and conflict counseling – Get help with family, neighbor, and business problems. Specialist in elder care, inheritance, Gram's property, drunk and drug using family members, or anything that produces chaos. Set up a free confidential consult, 802-732-8294 or bfsalmon@yahoo.com. Tom Salmon CPA, MA in Conflict Resolution, Certified Dispute Resolver (DRPA).

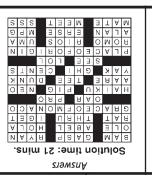
HCRS welcomes new staff

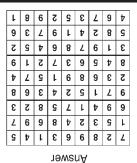
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont's community mentalhealth agency, is pleased to announce the appointment of 16 new professionals in January whose talents will augment HCRS' services across Windham and Windsor counties.

Sally Avery, respite pro-

provider; Nathaniel Cary Sr., crisis intervention specialist; David Dion, classroom assistant; Apple Gifford, clinical intern; Nichole Lund, residential specialist; Morgan Lund, residential specialist; Amanda McAllister, respite provider; Tera Murray, residential spe-

vider; Aly Chessman, respite cialist; Martha Kerylow, generalist I; Alejandro Rendon, community outreach specialist; Catherine Weber, generalist I; Aiden Williams, respite provider; Gretchen VanWinkle, school based clinician II; Spencer Shorkey, classroom assistant; and Kate Sohngen, service coordinator.





TOWN OF ROCKINGHAM WARNING

The Town of Rockingham is seeking applications for the following committees: Connecticut River Joint Commission-2, Animal Control-1, Tree Warden-1, and Town Service Officer. If interested, please contact the Town Manager at Manager@rockbf.org, or call

802-463-3964 or 802-376-9780.

Town meeting is on March 4, 2024, in the opera house starting at 7 PM. There will be handouts available for articles up for voting. Please be sure to obtain one. Attendance by zoom is permitted, but, only persons in attendance at the meeting can vote, as per statute there is no voting by zoom.

Town reports are available 10 days before town meeting at these

locations: Lisai's Market, Library, Town Hall, Saxtons River Market

TOWN OF WESTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Weston Development Review Board will meet at 5:00 PM on Wednesday March 6, 2024 at the Weston Town Offices at 12 Lawrence Hill Road to hold a public hearing on the following applications:

1. An application from Ted Reeves for Sean and Holly Rotermund (landowner), who want to replace a culvert on their property with a 40 foot long bridge. This application has received Stream Alteration Permit SR-3596

2. An application from Geoffrey Brown and AA&L LLC for the Vermont Country Store (landowner), who want to convert part of the Bryant House to a residence.

Those interested in seeing the applications, submitting written comments, or attending the hearings remotely should contact the town's Zoning Administrator at: Town of Weston P.O Box 98, Weston Vt. 05161, or by calling (802) 824-4669, or emailing to Zoning@westonvt.org.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Town of Plymouth Public Notice of Hearing Before the Planning Commission and **Zoning Board of Adjustment**

A public hearing before the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Town of Plymouth will be held on Tuesday, March 5th at 7:00 P.M. in the Fire Department meeting room, located at 68 Town Office Rd. Plymouth, VT. to consider a Conditional Use Permit application for:

Applicant: The Ninevah Foundation

Location: 401 Farm & Wilderness Road Plymouth, VT 05056

Parcel Id: 000388

Proposal: 1. Construction of a summer camp cabin at Timberlake campus.

- 2. Construction of a summer camp cabin at Tamarack Farm. 3. Change of use from temporary to permanent camper
- cabin at 282 South End Rd.
- 4. Remove existing non-agricultural barn & 480 sq. ft. structure and construct a summer camp / farm program building at 282 South End Rd.

Application: # 2023-32, 33, 34, & 35

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TOWN OF LONDONDERRY WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Londonderry, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town Hall, 139 Middletown Road, South Londonderry in Londonderry on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) in the forenoon (a.m.), at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock (7:00) in the afternoon (p.m.), at which time the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot upon the following Articles of business:

ARTICLE I - Shall general obligation bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$282,000), subject to reduction by the application of federal and state grants-in-aid, and reserve funds for the purpose of financing the cost of the Town's local share obligations for a new community wastewater system in the north village area, the estimated cost of such improvements being Three Million Three Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$3,385,000)?

ARTICLE II - Shall general obligation bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed Five Hundred Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$515,700), subject to reduction by the application of federal and state grants-in-aid, and reserve funds for the purpose of financing the cost of the Town's local share obligations for a new community wastewater system in the south village area, the estimated cost of such improvements being Four Million Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$4,525,000)?

The legal voters of the Town of Londonderry are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

The legal voters of the Town of Londonderry are further notified that an informational meeting will be held on February 29, 2024, at six o'clock (6:00) in the evening at the Londonderry Town Office, 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, for the purpose of discussing the propositions.

Adopted and approved at a regular meeting of the Selectboard of the Town of Londonderry duly called, noticed and held on January 22, 2024.

Town Of Plymouth, Vermont Treasurer / Tax Collector

- Directs and performs duties involving the daily operations of the Treasurer/Tax Collector's office; develops office procedures and documents, reviews, prepares and administers departmental budget and works with Town Clerk to prepare Annual Report.
- Maintains effective working relationships with Town officials, staff, and members of the community. Meets and speaks with taxpayers, the general public, municipal or other business associates to provide answers, address complaints and requests, deal with errors or other job-related
- Manages the billing and collects all monies for the Town including real estate property, fees, charges, bills and revenues committed to the Treasurer/Tax Collector.
- Prepares municipal lien certificates, delinquency notifications and all other documents as required
- Works with the Town Clerk to oversee the collection, deposit and reconciles bank statements for all Town accounts; prepare reports for Town's annual audit; and balance cash, receivables, and debt
- Initiates collection action on delinquent accounts. Prepares and collects tax liens and pursues foreclosures and oversees tax title records and selling of tax title property at auction.
- Manages debt including the borrowing of funds for the Town, compliance with all reporting requirements, timely payment of debt obligations, preparation of all financial documents including continuing disclosure.
- Works with the Town Clerk to manage payroll, ensures that employees are properly enrolled in the system; maintains earnings records for all employees. Prepares and files W-2 information and all other third-party required reports.
- Performs such other duties as are required by the Select Board or as the situation dictates.
- Works with Town Officials, Staff and FEMA on documentation/reporting on recent and future

Recommended Qualifications

Degree in business administration, finance, accounting or related field preferred; at least two years of experience in business or financial management preferably in a municipal Treasurer and/or Collectors office; or an equivalent combination of education and experience

Competitive salary as well as a great Municipal Benefit Package to include health & dental insurance, retirement plan, paid holidays, and paid vacation.

Please submit a completed application to the Plymouth Town Clerk's Office at 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, Vermont 05056 or email clerk@plymouthvt.org. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Plymouth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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about actress Kelly Rowing tool

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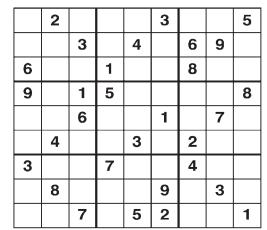
Hearing Impaired 1-800-545-1833 ext. 326

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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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arts & entertainment

Classic Movie Night at Rockingham Library —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Friends of the Rockingham Free Library invite all to their sponsored viewing of the Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers' 1934 musical "The Gay Divorcee," Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m., at the Bellows Falls Opera House.

Based on a Broadway play, this film pairs the famous dancing duo for the second time. Released during the Great Depression, it provided much needed relief for moviegoers, and started a dance craze based on "The Continental." It also introduced Cole Porter's beloved classic "Night and Day" in a stunning dance sequence.

The Friends of the Library hope you'll join us on Feb. 21. Several of us will be available in the lobby before the movie to sign up new members. For the first 20 paid new memberships at any

level, an added incentive: the Hunter Art Studio has again generously donated a free Triple Up (soda, popcorn, and candy package).

Feeling up for a night of comedy, romance, and music? The Classic Wednesday offering of "The Gay Divorcee" on Feb. 21, at the Bellows Falls Opera House may have you dancing in the aisles.

Curator Series talks

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage announces the return of the NXT Curators Series, offering an opportunity for audiences to hear from curators in various arts and humanities fields.

On Sunday, Feb. 18, join Angelina Lippert, the chief curator of Poster House (the country's first museum dedicated to the art and history of posters) for "Art Deco: Commercializing the Avant-Garde," an evening discussing the fascinating history of Art Deco advertising. From the Paris Exhibition of 1925 to the 1939 New York World's Fair, this talk covers everything from the Great Depression up through the Great Gatsby. Discover the true meaning behind the definition of "Deco" and how it became the first global art

On Wednesday, March

20, join "Historical Grooves: Archiving the Sounds of the Relation-Jewish-Muslim ship," an interactive musical conversation. Professor Christopher Silver will detail his efforts to amplify a set of twentieth century North African Jewish and Muslim voices, which for too long have remained silent in the historical record. Through selections from his firstof-its-kind archive of early 20th-century shellac records from Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, he will draw our attention to the sublime sounds of the artists whose music shaped and spoke to an era of profound change and remarkable resilience.

Finally, on Sunday, April 21, join Tim Medland for a vibrant discussion of his latest exhibition "We Tried to Warn You! Environmental Crisis Posters, 1970–2020."

Recently receiving a fullpage, incredible review in the New York Times, this show chronicles how graphic designers from around the world have attempted to tackle issues of environmental activism - and how they've both succeeded and failed at changing public consciousness. You will walk away with not only a deeper understanding of how we got to the level of climate crisis we are in today, but also with hope for the future regarding what can actually be done to counteract man-made environmental devastation.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. All talks are free, but donations are appreciated. Advance registration is available at www.nextstagearts.org. For more information, call 802-387-0102.

Queen of Hearts Drag Ball

Vt. - Join drag queens extraordinaire Anita Cocktail and Friends for the Queen of Hearts Drag Ball on Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt. Dress to impress as your favorite Alice in Wonderland character. Prizes for best costumes, as well as the chance to win two tickets to the Bianca Del Rio: Dead Inside Tour at the Paramount Theatre on March 4.

Andrews Inn founder John Moisis originated the Queen of Hearts Ball at the Andrews Inn in the 70s. In a 2017 interview with Moisis, he recalled, "It was a three-day holiday weekend with Washington's birthday. What are you going to say? It's Washington's birthday? Boring. So we made it the Queen of Hearts and it just took off like a rocket."

The evening will celebrate several birthdays and surprise announcements, the ticket giveaway to the Bianca Del Rio: Dead Inside Tour at the Paramount Theatre, and recognize Bellows Falls resident Carl Anhalt and Windsor resident Roger Barraby for their medals in track and field and water polo at the Gay Games Guadalajara last November.

Tickets can be purchased individually, or at a group rate for a table of six. Purchase online at www.ramp-vt.org by clicking on the

"Donate" button and noting "Drag Show" in the note line. If not sold out, tickets can be purchased at the door by cash or check made payable to "Bellows Falls Pride." Reserved seating for tickets purchased in advance. Doors open at 8 p.m., show at 9 p.m. This show contains adult content, and is for those 18 or older. There is an ATM on site; cash only at the bar. The venue is wheelchair accessible. Bring your own picnic or order food delivery. The Rockingham Arts and Museum Project is fiscal sponsor for Bellows Falls Pride. For more information, email bellowsfallspride@gmail.com or visit www.bellowsfallspride.

Raku Pottery Workshop at Gallery at the VAULT —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the VAULT is happy to offer a Raku Pottery Workshop with Andrew Berends on two consecutive Saturdays, March 2 and March 9, from 1-5 p.m. each day. Register by Saturday, Feb. 24.

Berends will be teaching the exciting Japanese firing technique known as raku. Raku is a 16th-century technique developed in Japan for making tea ceremony ware. It has been developed in this country to produce really

Home of the Silver

Spoon Studio, where

vintage silverware

becomes unique

sculpture, jewelry and

artful objects.

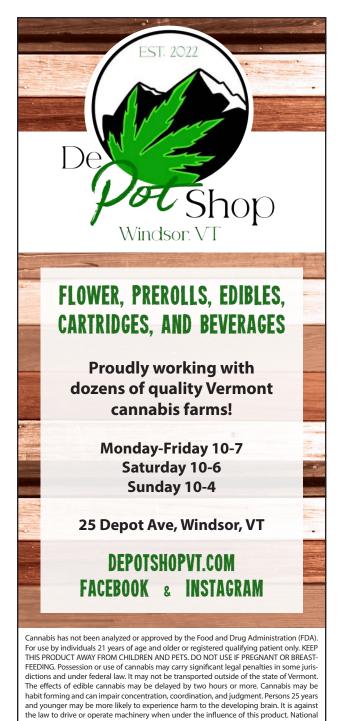
interesting pottery. The firings take about an hour, and you get a finished piece at the end. Raku is a really fun technique where pots are fired to 1,840 degrees and pulled out of the hot kiln and manipulated with sawdust and water to change the look of the glazes. The glazes can be metallic, and/ or have a crackle effect, making each piece truly unique and one-of-a-kind. We will also fire pots with a new technique known as "horse hair" raku, which creates really interesting designs on the clay. The raku firings can be done indoors or outdoors, depending on the weather.

The class will include wheel throwing, slab making, as well as extruding instruction. The first day will include making all types of clay work, and the second day will be glazing and firing all the pots in the raku tradition. Emphasis will be on learning the basics of pottery, including making the work, glazing, as well as firing. The class is geared towards teens through adults, and limited to five students.

Berends has been a master potter for over 30 years, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the New York State College Of Ceramics at Alfred University, as well as an Master of Fine Arts from Montana State University. He worked with a Spanish folk potter for a year, and was also a guest artist-in-residence at Anderson Ranch in Snowmass, Colo. Upon moving to Vermont in 1988, he became a professional production/art potter, where he exhibited internationally as well as being represented by over 180 galleries nationally.

The class fee is discounted for VAULT members, and includes 25 pounds of clay, glazes, and firing costs. Wear old clothing and bring pottery tools if you have them. Directions to Berends' studio in Springfield will be given at registration.

The VAULT is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit www.galleryvault.org. The gallery is ADA accessible.



Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222.



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