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Memorial bench honors BRHS brother and sister

BY PAULA BENSON
The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. – Bits of faded, handwritten messages of condolence and support are still visible on the wide, wooden bench that sits at the entrance to the Ludlow Community Center. Dedicated in July 2020, a plaque reads, “In loving memory of Jonathon Mason and Kianna Peters, brother & sister together forever always in our hearts.”

The bench serves as a memorial to the siblings, both graduates of Black River High School in Ludlow; Jonathon in 2019, and Kianna in 2020, and both 18 when tragically killed in separate car accidents less than five months apart.

Jonathon’s friend David was driving Jonathon’s car on Feb. 20, 2020, when the accident occurred in Petersburgh, N.Y. The young men were pronounced dead at the scene. The cause of the crash remains undetermined.

Kianna Peters was killed on July 9, 2020, in Rutland, when the car she was riding in swerved off the road and flipped. Kianna was in the front passenger seat of her own vehicle, when the driver, Gage Capen, from Rutland, lost control of the wheel.

Two additional female passengers were in the backseat, and sustained serious injuries when all three women were thrown from the vehicle. By all accounts, Capen had been the only one wearing a seatbelt.

The family of Jonathon and Kianna are understandably desperate for some closure, but are finding it impossible.

Candie Lebaron, the mother of the deceased teenagers, spoke frankly. “I’ve got a lot of anger. I feel there is no justice in the system. I’m disgusted.”

Delays and backlog caused by the Covid pandemic postponed Capen’s sentencing until September 2023, when Capen failed to show up. He was arrested



Memorial bench dedicated “in loving memory of Jonathon Mason and Kianna Peters.”

PHOTO PROVIDED

later that day and taken into custody awaiting a rescheduled court date. A cousin of the Peters’ extended family, Capen stated at the time that he was unable to face Kianna’s family.

Capen did appear at the second hearing on Feb. 2, where he presented a letter to the court which he chose not to read aloud. The Rutland Herald reported that Judge Corsones believed the remorse expressed in Gage’s letter was genuine, but felt it would have been more impactful had he read it to Peters’ family.

Corsones stated, “These are the hardest cases to hear and pass sentence on. There was a criminal act, to be sure, but not an intentional act. The defendant did not intend to kill Kianna, but he did.”

Rutland County State’s Attorney Ian Sullivan explained that the difference lay between ‘negligence, which Capen had clearly shown, and gross negligence, which would justify felony charges.’ Sullivan further stated that would be “a factually intensive endeavor,” and that numerous factors involved in proving gross negligence would complicate an effort to take the more serious charges to trial.

Sullivan pointed out that Capen would serve time in prison, even with the reduced charges, and felt that was important.

The idea of the memorial bench started with Penny Longley, the mother of one of Kianna’s classmates, and an employee of Windsor

County Youth Services. The class of 2020 was the final class to graduate from the Black River High School before the school shut down permanently, and Longley wanted the students to have an opportunity to come together and honor their classmates.

Longley enlisted the help of handyman and Ludlow resident Jim Bixby, who donated the materials and constructed the bench. She reached out to Ludlow Parks and Recreation director Nick Miele and the folks at the community center, who agreed to place the bench at the front entrance, then organized the students to come to the center to cover the bench with their tributes.

Currently, close to four years later, the bench could use some love. As Longley said, “It’s still unfinished! The idea was to keep their memory alive with this bench.”

In honor of Candie, grandmother Donna, and all the Peters’ extended family, Longley would encourage anyone to stop by the community center, pay respects, and maybe leave a written message of encouragement on the bench.

You can read the Rutland Herald article on the sentencing here: www.rutlandherald.com/news/local/fatal-crash-nets-prison-sentence/article_f461b289-a9fc-53d1-8e0f-713ff-9878cfd.html.

current bridge was already in a state of disrepair prior to July’s floods, when the underside of it was pelted with debris, damaging it further. McNamara informed the board that the project is fully funded by the State of Vermont, and that the construction company responsible for the work has requested that a section of Pleasant Street

See **LUDLOW** on Page 2

Layne Millington offered TRSU superintendent position

BY LORIEN STRANGE
The Vermont Journal

CAVENDISH, Vt. – After a three-month-long search process culminating in a public Meet the Candidates event on Monday, Jan. 29, the Two Rivers Supervisory Union Board has decided to offer the position of superintendent to Layne Millington, according to minutes TRSU shared with the Journal from their Feb. 1 regular meeting. Currently the superintendent of Orange Southwest School District (which covers the towns of Randolph, Braintree, and Brookfield), Millington will replace Lauren Fierman, who resigned during the Green Mountain Union High School mascot controversy.

“I am both excited and humbled by the opportunity to be a part of the Two Rivers Supervisory Union,” Millington wrote in an email. “I am keenly aware of the faith folks are placing in me and will work tirelessly on behalf of the students, the teachers, the staff, the boards, and the entire TRSU community. The hard work and flexibility of the search team, the participation of the community, and the warmth and openness of the process was genuinely appreciated.”

The other candidate, Dr. Debra Fishwick, is

the principal of Ludlow Elementary School and was previously a co-principal at Manchester Elementary School. During the Meet the Candidates event, she described herself as a problem-solver and collaborator, highlighting working closely with teachers and staff and establishing positive relationships early on as key to meeting the district’s goals and avoiding controversy. Dr. Fishwick said that she believed TRSU could benefit from some systems-level changes around curriculum and teacher evaluations, both to improve quality of education for students and to add professional development support for teachers.

During the Meet the Candidates event, Millington emphasized that his leadership tactics revolve around collaboration, and that his role as superintendent will be to facilitate the district’s vision and goals. “If you already have a vision, I’ll help you achieve it. If you don’t have a vision, I’ll help you develop one.” When certain changes inherently involve core values and beliefs, he said, he’ll want to make sure that all voices are heard, but that compromises are made early in the process to “shift everyone towards a common goal,” avoiding heated debates and controversies that could take attention off of education.

Millington is no stranger to heading a district during controversies. Randolph Union High School has

been the subject of several debates over the last few years, including those over the changed imagery of a mascot formerly said to resemble a Klansman, and after players on the girl’s volleyball team spoke to local media about their discomfort sharing a locker room with a transgender teammate (state law allows school athletes to use locker rooms that correspond to their gender identity). Under Millington, the district investigated claims that the transgender student had behaved inappropriately in the locker room, and ultimately came to the conclusion that the student had not caused any harm. They also took disciplinary action, later reversed in a lawsuit settlement, against a father-and-daughter soccer coach and volleyball player who did not use the transgender student’s preferred pronouns and expressed beliefs that biological sex always determines gender. Millington said at the Meet the Candidates event that after the story attracted national media attention, he received six months of serious and frighteningly specific death threats. The death threats have been investigated by the FBI.

Asked how he would respond to online criticisms of his “arrogance” and “duplicity,” he responded, “Very easily.” He said such comments were likely

See **TRSU** on Page 2

Spill the Tea

BY DANIELLE GOODWIN
The Vermont Journal

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, Vt. – The word “mom” has several different meanings, and when you put it into a business environment, it becomes even more complex. However, after a year in business, holding the reins so that her staff and customers start to get comfortable, The Tea House has shown that with love – sometimes tough love – and constant praise, with a sprinkle of admiration, a dispensary can flourish in a competitive market.

Back up. What happens when you go home and tell your family that you want to switch careers and open a dispensary? You get support. What happens when you tell a town that you will be focused on wellness, and customer wellbeing? You get loyalty. It is odd in a retail environment of any type to get an instant following, but that is what Tea House has amassed over the past year with both custom-



Miriam Wood, founder. PHOTO PROVIDED

ers and staff.

Miriam Wood is talented, and is marching to the beat of her own drum. What separates her from the pack is her candor and spirit, which lift those around her. Of course, she has a curated selection of unique Vermont cannabis products; however, what sets her apart is her willingness to listen to her customers and pay it forward with other business owners that are in her same line of business. She is aware of the women-owned, and

minority-owned badging; however, she transcends those labels, into just simply a listening and patient business owner. In fact, as Miriam discusses, sometimes people just come in to be heard, or get a hug, or in the case of her employees, just need help in a crisis when they have nobody else in their corner. Are these the ingredients needed to run a successful dispensary?

Maybe. However, it could just be that these are the ingredients that Miriam lives by so that she can be an example for her family, and the rest of us are just along for the journey and the chance to rub shoulders with a business giant that still has something special to offer. The Tea House is a business with a heart.

The Tea House dispensary is located at 50 Woodstock Road in White River Junction, and is open seven days a week. They can be reached at 802-332-6043.

Ludlow talks Mill Street Bridge, buyout

BY NICK GIBERTI
The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Selectboard met on Monday, Feb. 5, for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

Town manager Brendan McNamara began by reminding the selectboard and Ludlow voters that Town Meeting will be held on March 4, at 7 p.m., and that voting will be the next day, March 5, from 10

a.m. – 7 p.m., at the Ludlow Town Hall. A copy of the proposed budget will be posted to the Ludlow town website, www.ludlow.vt.us, as well as a budget narrative. McNamara encouraged residents to call his office with any questions they may have about the budget.

Moving on, McNamara updated the board on replacement of the Mill Street Bridge, which is to be replaced with a chord truss pedestrian footbridge. The

INDEX

Opinion..... 4
Obituaries/Services 5
Calendar 6
Classifieds/Business Directory 7
Legal Notices 6-9
Arts & Entertainment 10
Health & Wellness 11

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Gee's Bend valentines for Kids

S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The South Londonderry Free Library is celebrating African American history month and Valentine's Day on Saturday, Feb. 10, at 10:30 a.m., with valentine making inspired by the quilt makers of Gee's Bend, Ala. Art teacher Casey Junker Bailey will be leading the workshop. Children of all ages – and grown ups, too – are invited to learn about the rural African American women who worked with cloth to create striking compositions in patchwork. Participants use a variety of colorful fabrics to make their

own stylish valentine patchwork to bring home. The program is free of charge and appropriate for all ages. Thanks to a generous grant from The Stratton Foundation, each child will be given a copy of the book "Stitchin' and Pullin'" to keep. For more information about the library's monthly children's programs, contact the library at 802 824-3371.



Kids will make quilt designs like those shown here. PHOTO PROVIDED

Ludlow Rotary learns about Proctorsville FD

LUDLOW, Vt. – Members of the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) were treated to an introduction to how the Proctorsville Fire Department operates, its many challenges, and its role in servicing the community. The LRC's weekly luncheon meeting was held in the Proctorsville Fire Department, featuring discussions with three of its leaders. Pictured, from left to right, are Karleen Glidden; Robert Glidden Sr., department chief; and Robert "Bobby"



Proctorsville Fire Departments speaks to Rotary. PHOTO BY RALPH PACE

Glidden Jr., deputy chief. They described the organization of the department, and how it functioned for more than just fires. It is a recognized EMS service, and is involved in dealing

with auto accidents and problems such as access to locked vehicles. The Glidden family has devoted five generations to serving in the department.

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Comedian and ventriloquist Al Getler

LUDLOW, Vt. – Ventriloquist Al Getler uses his sharp wit and skills for a fun-filled family night on Saturday, February 10, at 6:30 p.m., at the Heald Auditorium in Ludlow Town Hall. The show is sponsored by William Raveis Vermont Properties, celebrating 25 years of business in Ludlow.



Al Getler and Floyd.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Getler has been seen on Discovery/A&E Network channels hundreds of times with his buddy Jeff Dunham. He has also been featured on Good Morning America, Fox TV, and other TV appearances. He has entertained corporate audiences such as AT&T, GE, USA Today/Gannett Corp, and has appeared in New York, New York Hotel & Casino, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, and more.

Getler knows family audiences. He was recently held over for one year at a top-rated Pocono Mountains family resort.

"When I say family, I mean the whole family," said Getler. "My audiences span the entire spectrum, including children, teenagers, adults, and the grandparents."

His secret, Getler main-

tains, is to keep the laughs right down the middle. He uses a cast of his unique puppet characters, and even includes audience members as puppets. Getler focuses his performances on lively banter along with silly and wholesome fun.

"Just like the old Bugs Bunny cartoons, there are jokes aimed at the adults while the kids are laughing along," said Getler. "And teens play a key role in my show as participants on stage as Puppet Mouth Singers. The response is great."

After a recent theater show, a mother paid the highest compliment Getler can imagine when she said, "You even made my 18-year-old laugh."

"That is the stuff I will bring to these Vermont shows," said Getler. "The entire family should be ready to participate and have a great time. And they should have their phone ready for pictures."

Getler backs up his claim of full family participation with the dozens of pictures taken after shows. He calls them #puppetmouth photos. Audience members line up with their phones to capture the moment when they pose with Getler and his characters and do the "puppet mouth" pose. The #puppetmouth photos will take place immediately after each show.

Visit Getler's website at www.algetler.com.

TRSU

From Page 1

"holdovers" from the Alliance Defending Freedom, which supported the soccer coach and volleyball player in their lawsuit, and from what he described as a small

contingent that "brought down holy terror" on the Randolph community. "A gentlemen running for state Senate believed that he could stir the pot and get in the news," said Millington, likely alluding to John Klar, who was an unsuccessful candidate in Orange Coun-

ty's 2022 state Senate race, and wrote several online articles criticizing Millington's management of the locker room and other issues.

Millington said he is seeking to leave Orange South-west School District over differences in personal values; namely, integrity.

LUDLOW

From Page 1

Extension near the bridge be closed for the duration of construction. "I requested that it be closed, hopefully, after Easter," McNamara said, telling the board that the project should be completed by the fall. Public meetings concerning the project will be held in the near future.

Discussion continued to focus on Mill Street, as the board took up the request from Windsor County Youth Services (WCYS) to sell their 6 Mill Street property to FEMA. President of the WCYS Board George Thomson was on hand to explain the reasons for the buyout request, noting that the property had twice been evacuated due to flooding,

and in one case multiple vehicles in the parking area had been lost as well. WCYS provides social services and living arrangements for kids who, Thomson explained, "for one reason or another, just can't live in their own home."

In response to a question from board member Justin Hyjek, who called WCYS an "asset to the town," Thomson assured the board that WCYS intends to find another property in Ludlow, "hopefully not in a flood plain." "We just feel that we can't put kids back in that building," Thomson continued. The board then moved to unanimously approve the buyout request.

Other topics covered were the approval of the annual Sons of the American Legion Coin Drop, set for Saturday,

April 20, with a rain date of April 27. McNamara also informed the board that the Ludlow Highway Department's backhoe is in need of repairs that would total upwards of \$40,000, an amount that he believes exceeds the value of the backhoe. This necessitates replacement of the backhoe "within a month," as the backhoe is a piece of equipment used by multiple town agencies for a variety of purposes. A new backhoe will cost more than \$165,000, and McNamara suggested that the town could look into leasing options, to avoid having to front the unbudgeted replacement cost upfront.

The Ludlow Selectboard's next meeting will be held on Town Meeting Day, March 4, at 7 p.m., at the Ludlow Town Hall.

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Bank of True Love

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

The photo with this article is an early valentine. It's a tad larger than a current \$1 bill. The paper is very thin and flimsy. I know this as "lace paper."

The denomination is 100; other denominations and themes exist. They were produced in the 1840s and 1850s. This valentine dates to 1854.

At top center, Cupid sits atop a basket of flowers. To the left and right is "100." At left it reads, "Secured by the Pledge of the Whole Stock" "Bank of True Love" occupies the center. At right, "Of Truth Honor & Fidelity"

Below Bank of Love is, "I promise to pay [a blank space to write in the recipient's name. On this valentine, 'Julia Benson' is writ-

ten in] on acceptance the sincere homage & never failing devotion of an affectionate heart."

Below that, at left, is, "Hymen Cash" and at right "Cupid Prest."

I found some history online regarding these early valentines.

"Other varieties of design themes included nautical and classical features. Early 19th century war and nautical activities were common concerns for Britain and America so it is not surprising sailors and ships figure into the early designs of valentines. They were identifiable images and themes of concern for those giving love tokens as well as those receiving them.

"Stationers concocted such novelties as the 1840s 'Bank of True Love' notes to pledge love and fidelity to the recipient while closely

resembling currency of the times. Other early engraved valentines depicted couples in romantic scenes."

These valentines were printed in Philadelphia and other major cities. A peddler or drummer traveled throughout New England selling these valentines to stores and druggists along the way. Even the smallest towns would have had these valentines for sale to the public.

I picked up this valentine about 10 years ago from the Marjorie Boynton Cross estate. It came in a lot of early letters, dating as far back as 1808. Marjorie grew up on Boynton Road in Weston Island. She graduated Chester High School in 1941, and later married Al Cross. They ran Al's IGA for many years.

The letters are written to Ingraham, Boynton, and



A valentine from 1854, issued by the "Bank of True Love."

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

other family members. Over time, the spelling of Ingraham changed to "Ingram." There are also letters from the Benson family. Most correspondence is to area towns; Windham, Bondville, Townsend, Derry, and such. There are a few letters from Oklahoma in the 1880s that detail building a sod house. Another letter from the March 1888 blizzard. A genealogist would have fun figuring out all of the play-

ers and who married who.

Lace paper, as I know it, is very similar to the paper used on bank notes in the first half of the 19th century. Like those bank notes, this valentine is printed on the front only. The reverse is blank. The reason it was done this way is because the paper is so thin, printing on the reverse would have bled through to the front. It's a very durable paper that survives to this day.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Instead of an old saying, I offer a short story. It was back in the 1980s, my girlfriend at the time liked to watch "Poirot" and "All Creatures, Great and Small" on PBS.

We were watching "Poirot" one night. Poirot was on a cruise ship standing on deck. A lady walked through the frame leading a small dog on a leash. My girlfriend asked where dogs did their business on a ship. "On the poop deck," I said.

OLLI program, "Under Steam"

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Ian Clark, steam train enthusiast and professional photographer, will launch the spring 2024 semester of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), with steam train photographs and history in a presentation titled "Under Steam," on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 2 p.m., at the Nolin Murray Center, next to St. Mary's Church on Pleasant Street in Springfield.

There is still time to take advantage of the Early Bird Sign Up by Feb. 13, to receive a discounted membership fee for the full semester of programs.

Once more common than automobiles, steam locomotives have become nearly extinct in North America. Join Clark as he travels from the West Coast of the U.S. across the country, tracking down our last steam locomotives, photographing them in museums, and on excursions with the engines fired up and working under steam power. We'll see images of 64 locomotives from 34 railroads in 19 states. Through a layman's explanation of the various wheel arrangements and locomotive configurations, we'll hear how the steam engines got their names.

West Newbury, Vt.-based photographer Clark has traveled the world, from mundane locations such as Inner Mongolia to the exotic Barneet, Vt., in search of working steam engines. Only something like 210 remain capable of pulling trains in the United States,



A train under full steam as it climbs a mountain pass.

PHOTO BY IAN CLARK

and those are all museum pieces. Clark has photographed over 130 of them.

He spent many years operating commercial photo labs and tackling technical photographic problems, including a stint as the manager of the photographic section at NASA's Langley Research Center. He has built a library of over 1.2 million images, with lots of transportation and nature images.

Sponsored by the University of Vermont, OLLI is run by local volunteer members, and is geared mainly towards seniors who are 50 years of age and older, who enjoy learning for the fun of it. Anyone who would be interested in this type of program, regardless of their age, is welcome. The programs are held Tuesday afternoons, at 2 p.m., and last about an hour and a half.

There is a membership fee for the semester. Non-members are welcome and encouraged to attend individual programs for an individual program fee. There is an Early Bird Special membership rate if you register by Feb. 13.

Preregistration is highly recommended. We can no longer take any payments onsite at the door. If you do attend and have not preregistered, we will welcome you, and provide an easy form for you to take to send in payment or pay online after the program.

Registration can easily be done online with a credit card by going to www.learn.uvm.edu/olli/springfield. You may also register over the phone by calling the UVM Non-Credit Registration Office at 802-656-8407 during regular business hours, or email noncredit@uvm.edu.

If you prefer to register by mail, send your contact information (name, address, phone number, and email address) indicating

full series membership or which specific program(s) you wish to attend. Mail this information and your check made out to "University of Vermont-OLLI" to UVM Non-Credit Registration Office, 109 South Prospect Street, Burlington, VT 05405.

If mailing in the registration, please allow 10-14 days from the date of mailing to receipt and processing.

The second program will be on March 12. Mike Clough will have live birds of prey to highlight the adaptations of Vermont raptors.



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First Jump on Fortress Europe

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Military historians Myric McBain and Cori Santagate will present "First Jump on Fortress Europe" on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 2 p.m., at the Springfield Art and Historical Society, 65 Route 106, North Springfield, Vt.

In July of 1943, the 82nd Airborne Division participated in the first large-scale airborne assault in history, "Operation Husky," the Allied invasion of Sicily during the World War II. This presentation will focus on

the events surrounding their dangerous mission to secure vital points behind Axis lines, the weapons and equipment they used, and the recorded adventures of several of the participants. Afterward, there will be a Q&A session with the presenters, as well as a chance to see military artifacts from the period.

This program is free and open to all. For more information, call 802-886-7935, or email sahs@vermontel.net.

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opinion

Dear Editor,

The Charlestown Select-board created a committee last year to look into community power supply. I'd like to give a short overview of what this is, and what you will be asked to consider at Town Meeting.

In New Hampshire, our electricity utilities distribute power to us, and are termed distribution utilities. These companies that bring power to Charlestown include Liberty, Eversource, and the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC).

These companies do not generate the power supplied.

Supply of power, meaning generation and transmission to the distribution utilities to meet our needs, was separated from the local distribution many years ago to create a competitive marketplace for the supply of the actual electricity. The idea was supposed to provide for lower cost for the supply line on our electric bills. Few companies offered any decent terms for

such competitive supply, but larger businesses were able to negotiate improved contracts for themselves.

Community power was authorized more recently, and provides a way for an entire town to get better rates for all residents of the town by leveraging the buying power of all of the accounts in the town.

When the power supply rates went through the roof last year, it was the result of the way the investor-owned utilities (Liberty and Eversource in Charlestown's case) are required by law to obtain supply contracts. They're specifically required to buy contracts twice a year at whatever price they can get. NHEC can do better, because it is not under the same regulations and can buy short, medium, and long-term contracts and react to market conditions.

Our community power committee has evaluated options for obtaining better rates for the town residents, and has selected the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) as our recommended partner in this project. CPCNH is able to buy power in a more competitive way, and has undercut the "default" power supply prices from all three distribution utilities serving Charlestown. The Coalition has already signed up many towns, and

is supplying power to those towns at these better rates.

Your electricity will still be delivered by whichever utility has the poles and wires on your street. In the event of an outage, they're still the ones to call. The distribution fees on your electric bill will not change as a result of this vote. The only change on your bill will be to see Charlestown Community Power listed as the supplier of power.

CPCNH is a nonprofit, and is governed by a board of directors made up of representatives from the many towns that have joined. We have produced a short video in which we discuss what we have put together, which can be found at www.sapatv.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/36629.

You'll find an article on Town Meeting Warrant asking for approval or rejection of this proposal. This is a required step under the enabling RSA. We want to stress that the article and the purchase agreement do not have any tax implications for the town or its residents, nor any liability.

Daniel Senie, chair
Charlestown Community Power Committee

CHURCH SERVICES

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church St.
Traditional Baptist Services held Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Handicap accessible. 802-463-3220.

United Church of Bellows Falls, UCC, 8 School St.
Worship service starts at 10 a.m. every Sunday. All are welcome to attend. Following the service, there will be a time of refreshments. Many other services are offered throughout the week. If you have any questions or want to learn more, call 802-463-4323, visit the church, or find them on Facebook.

CHESTER, VT.

Chester Baptist Church, 162 Main St.
Worship is Sundays at 10:30 a.m. For more information, including online streaming, go to www.chesterbaptist.org.

Andover Community Church, 928 Weston-Andover Rd.
Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and worship service 10:45 a.m. For more information, go to www.andovercommunitychurch.org.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

First Baptist Church, 62 Crescent St., S. Londonderry
Worship service is Sunday at 10 a.m. at the church. Services will still be live streamed at www.firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org/streaming-worship.html. For more information, visit www.firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org or call 802-856-7266.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

First Congregational Church, UCC, 77 Main St.
The Season of Lent begins on Valentine's Day this year. First Congregational Church of Springfield offers ashes and prayers for all those who wish to observe Ash Wednesday, or are curious about the day and would like to learn more. Pastor Michael Mario will be outside on Main Street on Wednesday, Feb. 14, from 12-1 p.m., administering ashes. The ashes may be applied to the hand of those who do not wish to have them on their forehead. We will follow with a quiet and intimate Ash Wednesday service at 3 p.m., upstairs in our Sanctuary. It'll be a reflective and meditative time to prepare for the Lenten season.

Precision Valley Baptist Church, 69 Rt. 106
Join our worship service every Sunday at 10 a.m. Women's Study group meets on Tuesdays at 6 p.m., and Mens Study Group meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. All are welcome! For more information, check out Facebook @PrecisionValleyBaptistChurch.

Springfield Assembly of God, 269 River St.
Sunday morning service is 10 a.m. Evening service is 6 p.m. Go to www.facebook.com/Springfield-Assembly-of-God-156583214402910 for links and more information.

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<p>2015 Dodge Ram Diesel 4 Door Fully Loaded Cruise Control 4x4</p> 	<p>2020 Kia Optima Fully Loaded Bluetooth Great on Gas</p> 
<p>2015 Subaru Legacy AWD 4 Door Auto Fully Loaded</p> 	<p>2017 Volkswagen Tiguan Limited Fully Loaded 4x4</p> 
<p>2016 Kia Sedona Minivan Leather Fully Loaded</p> 	<p>2017 Infiniti QX-60 AWD Fully Loaded Leather</p> 

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Subject to space. May be edited for clarity, grammatical errors, and libelous statements. Must be kept under 400 words. Must include name and town for publication. Viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal & The Shopper.

AS OF MARCH, 2023, we will charge for POLITICAL LETTERS at the rate of \$75 for 200 words, and \$0.50 per word thereafter.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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		1			5				6
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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ACROSS

1 Pt. of a sentence
5 Skirt edge
8 Some GIs
12 Nest setting
13 Commotion
14 Inter —
15 Admin. aide
16 Prepared
18 Fake fireplace fixture
20 Baker Street sleuth
21 Competent
23 Roman 151
24 Started
49 Editor Wintour
31 Prior night
32 Wrap up by
34 Martini ingredient
35 Painter Chagall
37 Coexisted
39 Chinese chairman
41 "Not so fast!"
42 Pub game
45 Honor
49 Matured
51 Jazzy James
52 Robert of "The Sopranos"
53 Census stat
54 Winter fall
55 Suffix with song or gab

DOWN

1 Men-only fodder
2 — Major
3 Porgy's love
4 Air travel
5 Negotiating a price
6 Tokyo, once
7 Closet invader
8 Spanish dish
9 Pink wading bird
10 Funny — (2003 Derby winner)
11 Utters
17 Sinbad's bird
19 Slender woodwind
22 Fund
24 Jewel
25 Eggs
26 Little home wreckers?
27 Amassed
29 Diarist Anais
30 "Life of Pi"
33 New Mexico resort
36 Frolic
38 Most recent
40 Tin Man's need
42 Pre-weekend yell
43 Actor's quest
44 Driver of "Logan Lucky"
46 Sicilian peak
47 Thames town
48 Gulleets
50 Conceit

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obituaries

Howard R. Barton Sr., 1938-2024

LUDLOW, Vt. – Howard Roy Barton Sr., 85, of Ludlow, passed away Jan. 29, 2024, at Springfield Hospital, following a brief illness.

He was born at Rutland Hospital, Rutland, Vt., on Aug. 4, 1938, son of Alice (Tapper) and Allen Barton. He was educated in the Ludlow School System. In school, he met the love of his life Mary Tuomisto, in 1955. They were married Sept. 12, 1959. Together they celebrated 64 years of a close, loving marriage. His greatest joy of his life was spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandson. He loved being with his family. His hobby was beekeeping. He enjoyed sharing his knowledge of beekeeping with others, as well as generously gifting his honey.

He started his electrical career as a lineman in 1958 with Seaward Construction Company of Kittery, Maine, building substations and constructing transmission lines. In 1960, he was transferred to the distribution division as a lineman doing construction and maintenance work.

In 1961, he and his family returned to their hometown of Ludlow, where he worked as a first class lineman for the Village of Ludlow Electric Department. There he worked in construction and maintenance of Ludlow's distribution system.

In 1968, he left Ludlow Electric to start his own electrical contracting business, Barton Electric Inc. Through his business, he wired several large sewage treatment plants in Vermont, wired and maintained the electrical systems for different ski areas, as well as did residential and commercial wiring.

In 1975, he went back to Ludlow Electric as the superintendent, and held that position until retirement in 2022. While at Ludlow Electric, he had the opportunity to work with his son Howard Jr. as his assistant. He was an advocate of safety and keeping the



Howard Barton Sr., 1938-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

power on. He served on call 24/7 for the many years that he worked there. He loved working with the communities that Ludlow Electric supplied power for. Howard also served his community for a one-year term as selectman.

He is survived by his loving wife Mary; their children Sheila Barton of Ludlow, Marcia (Barton) and Peter Dockum, son-in-law, of Ludlow; Susan Wallace Barton, daughter-in-law, of Chicago, Ill.; grandchildren Matthew and Daniel Dockum of Denver, Colo., Alisha Durgin of Salt Lake City, Utah, Johnny Durgin and Gabrielle Gundry of Charlestown, N.H., Alexandra Barton of Kernersville, N.C., and Morgan Barton of Chicago, Ill.; great-grandson Jack Durgin of Charlestown, N.H.; in-laws Jijl Munson of Lakeside, Conn., William Tuomisto of Ludlow, Cindy and Michael Tuomisto of Ludlow, and Vera and Charles Conroy of Belmont; and several nieces and nephews. Howard and Mary's only son Howard Jr. passed away unexpectedly on June 2, 2018.

Memorial contributions, in lieu of flowers, may be made in Howard's name to Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society, P.O. Box 702, Brownsville, VT 05037. There will be a graveside service for Howard on June 1, at 11 a.m., at the Pleasant View Cemetery in Ludlow.

The arrangements are under the direction of the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt.

Lois M. Dowling, 1933-2024

WESTMORELAND, N.H. – On Feb. 1, 2024, two days after her 91st birthday, Lois Marie Dowling, formerly of Saxtons River, Vt., passed away peacefully at Maplewood Assisted Living facility in Westmoreland, N.H., surrounded by her loving family.

Lois was born on Jan. 30, 1933, in Whitman, Mass., to Harold S. Lawrence and Gladys L. (Bourne) Lawrence. She grew up and attended schools in Walpole, N.H., graduating from Walpole High School in 1950. On Dec. 3, 1955 she married Paul Delaney Dowling at St. Peter's Catholic Church in North Walpole, N.H. She worked as a telephone operator for the New England Telephone Company for several years, prior to starting her family. She spent many years working at home, raising her family of six children at their longtime residence in Saxtons River, Vt. While living in Saxtons River, Lois was very active in the St. Edmunds Catholic Church.

She was well known for her perennial gardens, her knitting, her cooking, and her overall homemaking skills. Her sweaters continue to be handed down from generation to generation. She was especially proud of her children, grandchildren, and her great-grandchildren.

Lois was predeceased by her parents, her husband, her brother Richard, her sister Lucille, and her sisters-in-law Liz Lawrence and Shirley Richardson. She is survived by her brother Paul Lawrence and his wife Maryann, and her brother Ralph Lawrence and his wife Helen. She is also survived by her children Dennis Dowling



Lois Dowling, 1933-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

of Springfield, Vt., Marie Liska and Mark of Falmouth, Mass., Anne Higgins and Paul Tollios of Bourne, Mass., Dan Dowling and Robin of Hernando, Fla., Jeannie Hodsden and Chris of Bellows Falls, Vt., and Maureen Williams and Dan of Woodbury, Conn. Fourteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren also survive her.

There will be no calling hours. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, Feb. 5, at 3 p.m., at St. Peter's Catholic Church in North Walpole, N.H. Burial followed at St. Peter Cemetery in Drewsville, N.H.

The family would like to thank the staff at Maplewood Assisted Living for the loving care and friendship provided to Lois, especially in her final days, as well as Home Healthcare Hospice and Community Services. In place of flowers, the family encourages donations to Maplewood Assisted Living, c/o Christine Gowen, in Lois' memory.

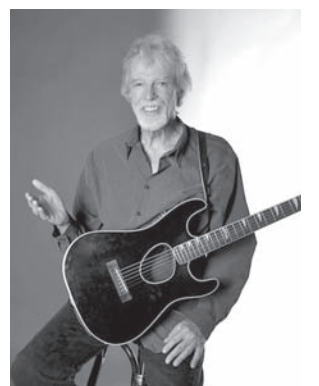
Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt.

Mark A. Kennedy, 2024

WALPOLE, N.H. – Mark Anthony Kennedy, 76, of Walpole, N.H., passed away on Jan. 30, 2024, after a year-long struggle with lung cancer. Born in Hanover, N.H., Kennedy was raised in Bellows Falls, Vt., and grew up working at the family's Hotel Windham. A gifted athlete, he played basketball, baseball, football, golf (to humor his college art professor), and was a champion diver. Kennedy studied visual art at Castleton College, but began his music career after graduating, playing guitar and bass in cover bands in the New England club circuit.

Kennedy moved to the San Francisco Bay Area after attending Berklee College of Music, where he studied upright bass. He was music director/composer for the Pickle Family Circus and Make-a-Circus, and taught at the Community Music Center in San Francisco. His many guitar and bass students voted him "Best Music Lessons in the Bay Area." A prolific composer for independent theater productions, Kennedy also music-directed the Academy Award-winning short film "Clowning Around." For 13 years he played jazz at Harris' Restaurant in San Francisco with the Susan Chen Trio.

After retiring to Walpole, N.H., he continued to teach guitar and bass lessons, and



Mark Kennedy, 2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

formed the Mark Kennedy Trio (really a quartet) which played in restaurants in Vermont and New Hampshire prior to the pandemic. Kennedy composed and produced an annual satirical holiday song as a gift to family and friends, skewering consumerism, conspiracy theories, and political idiocy.

Kennedy was predeceased by his brother Kevin, and sister Margaret. He leaves behind a loving wife Sue Kibbe, son Miles, sister Susan, two step-children, and six grandchildren. We remember his irrepressible sense of humor and endless creative spirit that lives on in hundreds of songs.

Donations in Mark A. Kennedy's name can be made to the Dartmouth Health and Geisel School of Medicine, www.dh-geiselgiving.org.

Maureen T. Norton, 1938-2023

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 predeceased by 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



Maureen Norton, 1938-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

Norton (Hector) of Springfield, Vt.; grandchildren Jeremy Hyjek (Monica), Christopher Norton (Kimberly), and Jonathan Norton (Michelle); great-grandchildren Lena Hyjek, Kaylee Norton, Lyndsee Norton, 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 arrangements.

Herbert B. Van Guilder, 1942-2024

LUDLOW, Vt. – Herbert B. "Herb, Herbie" Van Guilder of Ludlow, Vt., passed away peacefully on Monday, Jan. 29, 2024, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. Over the past few years, while Herb courageously battled serious health conditions, his sense of humor and lightheartedness remained steadfast until the end. For 81 years, Herb demonstrated his enduring love for his country, his community, and his friends and family.

Herb was born on June 12, 1942, at his family home on Twenty Mile Stream Road in Proctorsville, Vt., to Herbert M. and Bernice P. Van Guilder. He attended the one-room schoolhouse on South Hill, and is a Black River High School graduate of the Class of 1960. He received a medical discharge from the U.S. Air Force in 1961. Shortly after, he started working for Martel & Son as a licensed oil burner technician, and trained in heating systems at the Massachusetts Trade School. Herb went on to work for George Tapper, who trained him to become a master plumber, and later on became a master electrician. In 1977, he purchased Tapper Plumbing and Heating, being referred to as "Herb Tapper" by many of his customers. Herb proudly served the plumbing and heating needs of Ludlow Town and Village and surrounding community for 60 years, treating his employees and customers like family.

In 1965, Herb "Got a Tiger By The Tail" (Buck Owens, 1964), marrying Sandra Jackson in 1966, calling her his bride for the subsequent 58 years. More than anything, Herb loved his family, always cherishing the fleeting moments when everyone was together. His greatest pride and joy were his grandchildren.

Herb, a lifelong resident of Ludlow, was a people-person, who selflessly dedicated his



Herbert Van Guilder, 1942-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

personal and professional life to making our community a better place. Herb's outgoing and endearing personality enabled him to build deep connections with people on many levels from all walks of life. As a member of the Ludlow Republican Party, anyone who knew Herb would not forget his vocal personality and strong political beliefs. Despite differences of opinions, Herb listened to you and respectfully considered your point of view.

Since the early 1960s, Herb served the community in numerous capacities. He was past president of the Ludlow area Jaycees, director of the Vermont National Bank of Ludlow, past president of the Black River Alumni Association, vice chairperson of the Ludlow Civil Authority, and past president of the Black River Historical Society. Herb served as Ludlow Selectman for 27 years, was a village trustee and moderator, director of the schoolboard, director of the planning commission, director of the Ludlow Telephone Company, past chairperson and current member of the cemetery commission, and Ludlow justice of the peace. In the 1980s, Herb was honored by President Ronald Reagan, who appointed him to represent Vermont on the Small Business Administration Committee. Herb was a member

of the Black River-Lafayette Lodge of Masons, and a member of the Ludlow Post 36 American Legion. In March 2022, the Ludlow Swap Shop was renamed to the Herbert B. Van Guilder Swap Shop by the Ludlow Transfer Station and Recyclable Committee, to honor his dedicated leadership and service towards reforming "the dump."

In his spare time, Herb enjoyed gentleman farming, antiquing for elephants, dubbing around in his yard, writing quirky personalized letters, and spending time with his family and friends. He will be remembered for his famous "Hey, Hey, Hey!" while cheering for his children from the high school stands at sporting events.

Herb will be fondly remembered by his loving wife Sandy of 58 years; his daughter Kelly Calvin (Jim) of Rutland, Vt.; his son Gary Van Guilder (Kriston) of Crested Butte, Colo.; his son Jason Van Guilder (Bobbi-Jo) of Burlington, Vt.; and his amazing grandchildren Olivia Calvin, Lena Van Guilder, Jackson and Madison Van Guilder. Herb is survived by three sisters, one brother, a sister-in-law, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and one sister.

Memorial donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Humane Society of Rutland, 765 Stevens Road in Pittsford, VT 05763, rchsvt.harnessgiving.org/donate; the Tunnel to Towers, 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10306, www.t2t.org/donate; and the Shriners Hospitals for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607, www.lovetotherescue.org/give.

Graveside service will take place on June 8, 2024, at the Pleasant View Cemetery in Ludlow, Vt., with Celebration of Life immediately following.

The Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with arrangements.

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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William R. Sears, 1947-2024

LUDLOW, Vt. – William Roy "Bill" Sears, 76, of Ludlow, Vt., passed away on Jan. 26, 2024, at the Edith Nourse Rogers Veterans Hospital in Bedford, Mass.

He was born on Aug. 6, 1947, in Ludlow, Mass., to the late Virgil and Marguerite (Loiselle) Sears.

On June 20, 1967, Bill was inducted into the United States Navy, where he served his country until 1969.

In the years after the Navy, Bill worked for the Springfield, Mass., Printing Company, and after about 10 years, he moved to Ludlow, Vt., and was the vice president of the Springfield, Vt., Printing Company, where he remained for 30 years.

Bill was a member of the Ludlow American Legion.

Bill had a passion for fishing, which earned him the nickname "The River Legend." He spent many years fishing rivers and other favorite spots. He also loved deer hunting, feeding the birds, and being in the outdoors. He could fix anything, and will be missed

by so many.

He is survived by his daughters Charlene Durgin and her longtime partner Ron Sweet, Michele Pool, and Alicia Pool; grandchildren Lindsay Durgin and her husband Carlos Bickford, Whitney Durgin and longtime partner Chris Groman, Chloe Moore, and Lacy Pool; great-grandchildren Ellie, Grayson, and Sawyer; siblings Tom Sears and Karen Sears; his loyal and devoted friend Tom Fugiel; and by many other friends.

He was predeceased by his wife Madelyn Sears, and by his brother Bob Sears.



William Sears, 1947-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

A graveside service will be held at a later date.

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

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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

FEB. 9-11 – WILLIAMSVILLE, Vt. – The Rock River Players (RRP) present “Looking for Love, a Valentine’s Cabaret,” Friday and Saturday, Feb. 9 and 10, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 11, at 3 p.m., at the Williamsville Hall, 35 Dover Road, Williamsville. A collection of scenes, songs, satire, and surprises, in keeping with the essence of the cabaret, the RRP evening promises laughs, love, and epiphanies. Cabaret goes may BYOB. For reservations, visit www.rockriverplayers.org, and for more information, email verbatimvt@gmail.com.

FEB. 9 – W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Kelly Ross, banjo player for The Buzzards, will be playing and singing country and Americana songs at the West Townshend Country Store’s Pizza Night, from 5-7 p.m.

FEB. 11 – WINDSOR, Vt. – Come join us at our “Fat Tuesday” celebration on Sunday, Feb. 11, at 2 p.m., hosted by St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 28 Union Street. Music is provided by the East Bay Jazz Combo under the direction of Gerry Grimo. Traditional (as well as some

novel), New Orleans Jazz selections, fitting the Mardi Gras pageantry, will surely lift your soul these last days before Lent. The festivities include a “Kings Cake” competition. To enter, simply bake and decorate your best Kings Cake recipe, and bring it to the celebration for judging. Contact the parish office for details at 802-674-2157. Bring your beads and masks.

FEB. 14 – LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street, will host free cash Bingo with Valentine’s Day sweet treats on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 1 p.m. For more information, call 802-228-7421.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Green Mountain Express Band will play at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street, on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 1 p.m. For more information, contact Lori Johnson at 802-885-3933 or lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com.

FEB. 15 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Community Players will hold auditions for Agatha Christie’s “The Unexpected Guest” on

Thursday, Feb. 15, from 7-8:30 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.

WOODSTOCK, Vt. – The Ottauquechee Natural Resources Conservation District and Sustainable Woodstock will co-host a free screening of the globe-spanning documentary “River,” narrated by Willem Dafoe, on Feb. 15, at 6 p.m., at Pentangle arts, located at the Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green. For directions, call 802-457-3981 or visit www.pentanglearts.org/about-us.

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.

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.

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – The Plymouth Historical Society, located in the former Plymouth Elementary School

on Route 100 in Plymouth Union, is open Sunday afternoons, from 2-4 p.m. Visit our museum, or do research on your Plymouth ancestors. Watch for the “Open” flag.

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

MONDAYS – 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.com.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Free 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 p.m.

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.

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Main Street Arts, 35 Main Street, will hold the “Originals & Traditionals” Open Mic Night on the fourth Friday of every month, from 7-9 p.m., hosted by musician Putnam Smith. Sign-ups begin at 6:30 p.m. All material should be original or “traditional” (i.e., in the public domain). Each performer can perform two songs or up to 10 minutes, whichever comes first. If you have any questions, please contact Smith at putnamsmith@gmail.com.



TOWN OF WESTMINSTER
 P.O. BOX 147
 WESTMINSTER, VT 05158
 Tel. 802-722-4255 Fax 802-722-9816

The Town of Westminster, VT seeks proposals from qualified contractors for the exterior painting of the Town Hall in Westminster. Detailed RFP is available on the Town Hall website: <https://westminstervt.org>. Proposals must be received no later than 2:00pm on March 11, 2024.

**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 Floor.

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.

ARTICLE 3: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Two 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?

ARTICLE 10: 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. §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?

ARTICLE 13: 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?

ARTICLE 14: 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 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?

ARTICLE 17: 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?

ARTICLE 18: 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.

[Signature] /s/ Arne Jonynas, Chairman
[Signature] /s/ Lee Gustafson
[Signature] /s/ Heather Chase
[Signature] /s/ Peter Hudkins
 _____ /s/ Arianna Knapp

WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Plymouth, County of Windsor, State of Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Plymouth Municipal Building at 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, Vermont on Monday March 4, 2024 at seven o’clock PM (7:00 PM), to transact at that time business not involving voting by Australian Ballot or voter required by law by ballot. The Poles will open Tuesday, March 5, 2024 between the hours of ten o’clock AM (10:00 AM) and seven o’clock PM (7:00 PM) for the purpose of voting by Australian Ballot to act on the following articles.

The legal voters of the Town of Plymouth are further notified that voter qualifications, registration and absentee voting relative to said Town Meeting shall be as provided in Title 17, Chapters 43, 51, and 55, Vermont Statutes Annotated. You must be a Town of Plymouth registered voter in order to vote at Town Meeting. Voters may request an Early/Absentee Ballot from the Town Clerks Office by calling 802-672-3655, Ext. 1 or email at clerk@plymouthvt.org.

Article 1. To elect Town Officers for the ensuing year(s) by Australian Ballot: Moderator, Selectman, Lister, Trustee of Public Funds, Cemetery Commissioner, and Constables.

Article 2. To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will vote \$13,491.00 for Human Services to be allocated as follows:

- a. American Red Cross - \$250.00
- b. Black River Area Community Coalition - \$500.00
- c. Black River Good Neighbors - \$500.00
- d. Black River Valley Senior Center - \$3,000.00
- e. Fletcher Memorial Library - \$1,200.00
- f. Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation - \$323.00
- g. Green Up Vermont - \$50.00
- h. HCRS Mental Health Services - \$568.00
- i. MOOver - \$125.00
- j. Okemo Valley TV - \$800.00
- k. Ottauquechee Health Foundation - \$600.00
- l. Plymouth Historical Society - \$500.00
- m. Plymouth Memory Tree - \$250.00
- n. Senior Solutions Council on Aging for SE Vermont - \$300.00
- o. Southeastern VT Community Action - \$400.00
- p. Tyson Library - \$500.00
- q. Visiting Nurses - \$2,150.00
- r. VT Center for Independent Living - \$175.00
- s. VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force - \$100.00
- t. Windsor County Mentors - \$500.00
- u. Windsor County Youth Services - \$400.00
- v. Women’s Freedom Center - \$300.00

Article 3. To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will vote to raise \$1,621,159.00 in taxes to pay estimated expenses in the amount of \$1,913,409.00?

Article 4. To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will establish a Bridge Reserve Fund to be used for the repair and reconstruction of bridges, and for this to be funded annually by the remaining/unused balance of the annual bridge repair account?

Article 5. To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will fix the salaries of the Select Board the same as last year in the amount of \$600.00 annually?

Article 6. To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will vote to exempt the property owned by Bethany Birches Camp Inc. located at 2610 Lynds Hill Road (parcel id: 000167) from the educational portion of property taxes for a period of five (5) years commencing with the 2024 tax year?

Article 7. To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will collect taxes on real property in installments, taxes to be paid to the Treasurer, Town of Plymouth on **September 1, 2024** and **February 1, 2025**, and must be delivered to the Town Treasurer on or before the due date. Postmarked envelopes/payments will not be accepted as timely payments?

Article 8. To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth shall authorize the Select Board to transact any other necessary and legal business?

Dated at Plymouth, Vermont the 29th day of January, 2024.

Town of Plymouth Select Board

[Signature]
 Jay Kullman, Chairman

[Signature]
 Richard Kaminski

[Signature]
 Keith Cappelloni

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

BUYING/SELLING

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

DONATIONS

LUDLOW, Vt. – Calling on the community. The Gill Odd Fellows Home is requesting donations to purchase a transport van. This van will be utilized by both The Gill Odd Fellows Home and the Gill Terrace Apartments for appointments, activities, field trips, and shopping in the community. Donations can be made payable

to The Gill Odd Fellows Home with a memo of "Van."

FOR SALE

CHESTER, Vt. – 2010 Volvo S80, FWD, 96,000 mi, leather seats, sunroof. Well maintained, replaced front brakes, tires, battery 18mo ago. No longer need car. Asking \$9,800. Call 802-875-2712.

GUNS WANTED

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

HELP WANTED

CHESTER, Vt. – Stone House Antique Center seeks an experienced, energetic sales clerk. Part-time, some weekends required. Apply in person at 557 VT Route 103 South, Chester, VT.

Countryside Alarms, 495 Old Turnpike Road, Mount Holly, VT 05758, has immediate openings for Licensed Fire Alarm Technicians and Journeymen Electricians. We are a local Vermont company who installs commercial and residential fire and security alarms, access control, and security camera systems. Knowledge and skill of installation and maintenance of electrical systems required. Fire Alarm or Journeyman's Electrical License a must. Overtime available. We

have fleet of 4 wheel drive service pick up trucks. Family-owned company doing business for over thirty years, 15 minutes from Okemo Mountain and 20 minutes from Rutland. Starting pay at \$38.00 per hour plus health insurance benefits, 401k plan with employer match, and earned time off. Please send resume by email to mcblais@aol.com or call 802-259-2213 for more information.

Countryside Alarms, 495 Old Turnpike Road, Mount Holly, VT 05758, has immediate openings for alarm technicians with a minimum 1 years' experience along with laborers. Pay commensurate with experience. - Minimum of 1 years of experience as an Alarm Technician preferred with low voltage or related field. Experience preferred, but we will train the right person. Candidates should

have proficiency in using hand tools and power tools for installation and repairs. Knowledge of computer networking and cabling is beneficial along with mechanical knowledge for installation of physical devices and basic understanding of security system principles and components. Starting pay \$22.00 - \$24.00 per hour depending on experience plus health insurance benefits, 401k plan with employer match, and earned time off. Please send resume by email to mcblais@aol.com or call 802-259-2213 for more information.

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 bsalmon@yahoo.com. Tom Salmon CPA, MA in Conflict Resolution, Certified Dispute Resolver (DRPA).

Ludlow wastewater chief receives award

LUDLOW, Vt. – Joseph Gaudiana, the chief operator for the Ludlow Wastewater Treatment Facility, was recently awarded the 2023 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator of the Year Award. Gaudiana was recognized for his outstanding work responding to the devastating summer floods of 2023. Gaudiana was one of only seven individuals across New England to receive this award. The Vermont Department of Environmental

Conservation was instrumental in Gaudiana's nomination.

The EPA Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator of the Year Award was established to recognize and honor the employees of publicly owned wastewater treatment plants for their commitment to improving water quality with outstanding plant operations and maintenance. Wastewater operators and staff work diligently to protect public health and the environment, often with limited resources.

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.

ACT 250 NOTICE MINOR APPLICATION 2W1141-4 10 V.S.A. §§ 6001 - 6111

Application 2W1141-4 from Faerie Camp Destiny, Inc. PO Box 517, Chester, VT 05143 was received on December 4, 2023 and deemed complete on January 19, 2024. The project is generally described as the construction of: four small special needs cabins; one caretaker cabin; the dining portion of the kitchen/dining facility; a workshop; a bathhouse; a bunkhouse; and a craft shed. The project is located at Walt Whitman Lane, Chester, VT 05143 in Grafton, Vermont. This application can be viewed online by visiting the Act 250 Database: (<https://anrweb.vt.gov/ANR/Act250/Details.aspx?Num=2W1141-4>).

No hearing will be held and a permit will be issued unless, on or before Tuesday, February 27, 2024, a party notifies the District 2 Commission in writing of an issue requiring a hearing, or the Commission sets the matter for a hearing on its own motion. Any person as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1) may request a hearing. Any hearing request must be in writing, must state the criteria or sub-criteria at issue, why a hearing is required, and what additional evidence will be presented at the hearing. Any hearing request by an adjoining property owner or other person eligible for party status under 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1)(E) must include a petition for party status under the Act 250 Rules. To request party status and a hearing, fill out the Party Status Petition Form on the Board's website: <https://nrb.vermont.gov/documents/party-status-petition-form>, and email it to the District 2 Office at: NRB.Act250Springfield@vermont.gov. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law may not be prepared unless the Commission holds a public hearing. For more information contact Stephanie Gile at the address or telephone number below. Dated this January 30, 2024.

By: 
Stephanie Gile
District Coordinator
100 Mineral Street, Suite # 305
Springfield, VT 05156-3168
802-261-1943
Stephanie.Gile@vermont.gov

PROJECT LISTING SPRINGFIELD, VT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Project: VCT Flooring Replacement –
Riverside Middle School
Location: Riverside Middle School,
13 Fairground Rd., Springfield, VT.
Description: Install VCT Flooring & Cove Base
*Specifications available from
Martha Tarbell, 802-885-5120*

Proposal Due Date/Time: Friday, February 16, 2024 at 2:00 p.m., submitted to owner (below) in a sealed envelope marked "RMS Tile Project" on the outside of the envelope.

Mandatory site inspection and walk through must be scheduled through Tim Bixby, 802.885.8340 no later than Monday, February 12, 2024.

Documents Required: Proof of Insurance,
Details per Specifications

Owner/Contact:
Springfield School District
Richard Pembroke
303 South Street Springfield, VT. 05156
Telephone: (802) 885-5120 rpembroke@ssdvt.org

Request for Bid: Cafeteria Furniture Springfield School District 56 Springfield, VT 05156

Notice is hereby given that the Springfield School District (District) will receive itemized fixed price bids to provide Cafeteria Furniture for Springfield High School until 1:00PM on Friday, February 16, 2024, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud at the High School Administrative Conference Room, 303 South Street, Springfield, Vermont 05156.

All Bids should be sent to:
Springfield School District
Attention: Richard Pembroke
303 South Street
Springfield, Vermont, 05156

Bids must be submitted and securely sealed in a suitable envelope that is clearly marked on the outside as follows:
DO NOT OPEN UNTIL 1:00PM February 16, 2024
SEALED BID TO PROVIDE
CAFETERIA FURNITURE

The District is not responsible for bids not properly marked.

The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, wholly or in part, to waive any informality therein, to accept any bid even though it may not be the lowest bid, and to make any award which in its sole and absolute judgment will best serve the District's interests.

No award will be made at the time of opening. It is anticipated that the bid award will be made at the Springfield School Board meeting scheduled for Monday,

Shawntae Webb
Publisher, Ad Designer
publisher@vermontjournal.com
ads@vermontjournal.com

Danielle Goodwin
Sales Representative
sales@vermontjournal.com

Nick Giberti
Editor, Calendar of Events
editor@vermontjournal.com
calendar@vermontjournal.com

Paula Benson
Billing Manager, Staff Writer
billing@vermontjournal.com

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

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

GALLERY AT THE VAULT

Vermont State Craft Center
Art Crafts Gifts & Workshops
68 Main St., Springfield 802-885-7111
OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5 & Fri. til 7
<http://galleryvault.org>
Shop for your Valentine

Student Art Show Month of February

Workshops

Chinese Calligraphy w/ Jonathan Root 2/17/24
Perspective Drawing Basics w/ Chris Mix (Zoom) 2/4/24
Pet Portraits w/ Mindy Fisher 2/24/24
Raku Workshop w/ Andrew Berends (2 part) 3/2 & 3/9
Pine Needle Basket w/ Irene Dizes 3/8/24 & 3/9/24
Wire-wrapped Pendant w/ Thomas Alyxander 4/6/24
Flowers in Texture & Color w/ Julie Crabtree 4/27/24 (04/24/24 - TFN - 13)

Builders/Contractors

HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC

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We handle a variety of projects, from home repairs, restorations on up to full renovations, and new construction too. Our clients can expect professionalism, proficiency, customer care, and quality. Call or email today at 802-376-3275 edwin.mortensen@gmail.com.

Follow us on Instagram @nedthehammer (11/20/24 - 52)

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Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville. 802-558-5267. (02/14/24 - 13)

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Kitchens, Additions, and Remodels. Finish Carpentry and Cabinet Work. Property Maintenance. Fully Insured, Free Estimates.

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(06/05/24 - 52)

Chiropractor

FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC

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

Electrician

KJ ELECTRIC LLC

802-428-6224
kjelectric63@gmail.com
Chester, VT
Licensed and Insured
Quality installation and service since 2005
"Wiring is not a hobby! Call a professional!"
(01/29/25 - 52)

Masonry

DRC STONE DESIGN

Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 32 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or stoneart49@gmail.com or visit drcstonedesign.com. (02/21/24 - 13)

Okemo Valley TV

Ways to Watch Local Programming

On TV: Comcast 1076 & 1086 | Vtel 166 & 167
Online: Go to okemovalley.tv/watch to watch Live TV or on video on demand

You Tube: okemovalleytv

Streaming App: Download Okemo Valley TV app for free (Apple TV, Roku, Fire TV, Google Play, & mobile)
(04/03/24 - TFN - 13)

outdoor

LEGAL NOTICES

“Okemo Valley Outdoors” at Ludlow Auditorium

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Catamount Trail Association (CTA), in conjunction with Friends of Ludlow Auditorium (FOLA), will sponsor a series of Okemo outdoor events, beginning with several skiing movies and related events on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m., in the Heald Auditorium at Ludlow’s Town Hall. The key features at the event will be two movies.

“300 Miles Melting,” a film produced by Overland Adventure and OvrlnD Studio, paints the picture of the impact of climate change in a real and informative manner as it travels the length of the trail, meeting with both the skiers and trail makers along the way. Following the film, there will be a question



A group of skiers on the Catamount Trail.

PHOTO PROVIDED

and answer session with the film’s executive producer, Connor Davis.

The second film is “Motherland,” a ski film by Evan Williams. It features skiing both on the East and West Coast, including scenes from Okemo.

An intermission will take place between the movies. During this period there will be a raffle, with prizes awarded by Unofficial Okemo, the CTA, the

Book Nook, the Boot Pro, and Okemo Mountain School. The proceeds from the raffle will be shared by FOLA and CTA.

The Catamount Trail Association will be celebrating its 40th anniversary. Founders Paul Jarvis and Ben Rose will be present, along with Bob Brandt, a CTA Board member. At 317 miles in length, the Catamount Trail is one of Vermont’s most treasured gems. Conceived in 1984 and fully linked in 2008, thousands of skiers and snowshoers take to the trail every season.

According to Scott Stearns, FOLA program director, “This is the first in a series of outdoor events that we wish to present in appreciation of the outdoor experience and arts together in the Heald Auditorium at Ludlow Town Hall.”

The entire program is being produced by FOLA, CTA, Unofficial Okemo, The Book Nook, The Boot Pro, Okemo Mountain School, and Okemo Valley TV. The event is open to everyone. For more information, visit www.fola.us, or call 802-228-3238.

Exoplanet presentation at SoVerA

CHESTER, Vt. – Join the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group (SoVerA) on Feb. 13, at 7 p.m., for a presentation by member Claudio Veliz, AIA. This will be a hybrid meeting – in person at our new location, the 1879 Perkinsville Schoolhouse (1862 Vermont Route 106, Perkinsville, Vt.), and online at www.zoom.us/j/94691230307.

With the advent of space-based observatories, and professionally overseen citizen science data evaluation programs in full swing, a growing handful of recent observations have been eluding at least conventional explanation.

Since exoplanets were confirmed to exist in the mid-1990s, their observed behavior has been detected using a number of techniques, especially the “transit system,” which we’ll cover. Then, in 2015, some data collected by the Kepler space telescope regarding

one object in particular – in the constellation of Cygnus – was observed displaying inexplicable behavior. The data were seen to fit no understood patterns with which observers were familiar, so far. It was initially dismissed as probably faulty data. However, thorough examinations and reviews of the methodology used confirmed that the data was “clean.” Since then, a handful of other celestial targets, some with even more peculiar characteristics, have been detected.

After a brief review of exoplanet detection methodology, we’ll cover the sorts of light curve patterns which are currently the “norm,” so as to contrast them with those of these confounding objects. We’ll look at a couple of these so far anomalous exceptions which are getting so much attention by astronomers, and consider a handful of the explanations which have been proposed which can’t discount the potential, if very unlikely, for non-nat-

ural causes.

Finally, we’ll review a couple of the remarkable telescopes about to be commissioned, and why we may soon see – and perhaps explain – more of these increasingly mysterious phenomena.

Veliz pursues twin professions in architecture and astronomy. He has owned an award-winning architecture firm – Claudio Veliz Architect PLLC/AIA – since 1982, designing residential, institutional, municipal, retail, and corporate facilities. In his astronomy track, he was cofounder and president of the SoVerA, headquartered in Chester, Vt. Now lecturing in the CALL Program at Keene State College, N.H., previously he worked and lectured at New York’s Hayden Planetarium, and at the astronomy departments of Columbia University and Castleton University. He also conducts data support surveys and time series observations from his Duck Deck Observatory in southern Vermont.

CCCA solar eclipse talk by Claudio Veliz



Solar eclipse in April, 2024. STOCK PHOTO

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Join the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association’s (CCCA) Walk and Talk Committee for a talk by noted astronomer Claudio Veliz about the upcoming total solar eclipse. The talk will be held on Tuesday, March 19, at 6 p.m., at the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library, 573 Main Street in Proctorsville.

The last time Vermont had a front row seat for a total solar eclipse was in 1932, when it was hailed as a “grand celestial spec-

tacle.” This time we will experience that spectacle here in Vermont on Tuesday, April 8.

Veliz is an architect and astronomer who cofounded and was twice president of the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group, headquartered in Chester. He has worked or lectured at Columbia University, the Hayden Planetarium, and Castleton University, and he now lectures at Keene State College in New Hampshire.

In a graphic-rich presentation, Mr. Veliz will discuss the mechanics of the eclipse, why we have a moon in the first place, and how it is that we are so fortunate to experience this event. He will also talk about how to best prepare

for and understand the occasion.

Safe, solar-filtered glasses will be handed out to attendees, complete with instructions on their use during the eclipse.

This presentation is an event of the Walk and Talk Committee of the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association.

For more information, please email cavendishcommunityconservation@gmail.com.

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

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

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

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

Tina Labeau, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

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

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

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

Tina Labeau, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

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

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

Tina Labeau, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders, and mortgagees of property in the Town of Londonderry, in the County of Windham, and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town for the 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 tax years remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described property in such Town, to wit:

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

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

Tina Labeau, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

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

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

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

Tina Labeau, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders, and mortgagees of property in the Town of Londonderry, in the County of Windham, and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town for the 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 tax years remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described property in such Town, to wit:

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

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

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

Tina Labeau, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

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

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

Tina Labeau, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

LEGAL NOTICES

outdoor

CCCD SNAP Farm Share Program

WALPOLE, N.H. – The Cheshire County Conservation District (CCCD) is excited to announce the second year of the SNAP Farm Share Program. This program makes community supported agriculture (CSA) farm shares more accessible to community members utilizing SNAP/EBT dollars.

CSA programs are an opportunity for community members to enjoy farm fresh produce, while supporting local agriculture.

What is a CSA? Farmers face many costs in the operation of their farms. Community supported agriculture programs are designed to alleviate the financial burdens of farmers before the season begins. CSA customers provide an upfront cost to reserve a share of the season's harvest.

The cost of the CSA can be viewed as a deposit for the season. This upfront cost allows farmers to purchase needed seeds, materials, or equipment for the upcoming season, while customers are able to reap this investment by taking home delicious produce once the farm season begins.

Many farms offer half share or full share CSA options. These options vary from farm to farm, but half shares are smaller to feed smaller households, while full shares are designed to

feed larger households or households that eat a lot of vegetables.

Some farms offer on-farm pickup days, while others offer delivery. Some farms pre-package their CSA shares for a quick pickup, while others allow customers to pick their own. Pickup days provide a unique experience to see where your food is grown, and interact with other community members, while delivery offers a convenient way to bring produce to your household.

Through purchasing a CSA, you are supporting local agriculture, while also eating delicious, nutritious, and locally grown produce.

How does it work? On Wednesday, Feb. 28, from 12-7 p.m., swipe your EBT card with CCCD staff at the Monadnock Food Co-op Meeting Room in Keene, N.H.

Customers are responsible for paying 25% of the cost of their desired farm share. This 25% can be split up between two payments.

Upon swiping for the 25% of the cost, customers will receive the 25% back in tokens, which can be used at the Farmers Market of Keene this season (tokens never expire). This means you receive a CSA utilizing your SNAP/EBT benefits.

For example, for a \$400 CSA share, you swipe \$100 from your EBT card. You

receive \$100 in tokens to be used at the Farmers Market of Keene, and you secure a CSA share for the 2024 season.

Please note that the number of farm shares are limited and are available on a first come first serve basis.

If you are interested in the program but are not available on Feb. 28, contact Amanda Littleton to arrange an alternative time to swipe your EBT card at amanda@cheshireconservation.org, or 603-756-2988, extension 4.

We are excited to offer a limited number of shares at the following farms: Abenaki Springs Farm, Walpole, N.H.; Dog Days Farm, Fitzwilliam, N.H.; Hillside Springs Farm, Westmoreland, N.H.; Hungry Bear Farm, Mason, NH; and Stonewall Farm, Keene, N.H.

For more information on

Biomass burning at Springfield Library

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 6 p.m., join ecologist

and landscape designer Cheryl Joy Lipton from Chester, Vt., and Springfield Conservation Committee member Geetu Melwani, at the Springfield Town Library, for a presentation on biomass burning. Discover the facts about burning wood for heat and

electricity, and whether it impacts the climate and our health.

This event is free and open to the public. Contact the library at 802-885-3108 with any inquiries, or visit our calendar of events to sign up at www.springfield-townlibrary.org/calendar.

CSA pickup and pricing, visit www.cheshireconservation.org/snapshare.

For questions or further information, contact benec@cheshireconservation.org, or 802-518-0993.

The SNAP Farm Share Program is made possible by the support of The New Hampshire Food Bank.



NOTICE TO SPRINGFIELD VOTERS

Absentee Ballots for the Annual Town and Town School District Meeting and the Presidential Preference Primary both being held Tuesday, March 5, 2024, will be available at the Springfield Town Clerk's Office on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. If you wish to vote by absentee ballot, a request for these elections must be made, please contact the Town Clerk's Office as soon as possible in person, in writing, by phone or by email. If you will be participating in the Presidential Preference Primary, Vermont law requires you declare your ballot choice. The choices are a Democratic Ballot or a Republican Ballot. If you make your absentee request in person, you can choose to vote your ballots and return them before leaving the Town Clerk's Office. If returning your ballots by mail, allow extra time for postal delivery and use two Forever stamps. An Absentee Request Form can be found on the town's website <https://springfieldvt.gov> or you may request your ballots online at <https://mvp.vermont.gov>. The deadline for requesting absentee ballots is Monday, March 4, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. You may register to vote on Election Day at the polls and then proceed to vote on that day. You may also register to vote any time at the Town Clerk's office or online at <https://mvp.vermont.gov>. Prior to March 5, 2024 absentee ballots may be returned in-person, through regular mail and afterhours through mail slots located in town hall entrances. All voted absentee ballots must be received at the polls by the Town Clerk before the close of polls at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. The polls are located at Riverside Middle School in the gymnasium and will open on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Town Clerk's Office will not be open on March 5, 2024. Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk, CVC - 96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont 05156 (802) 885-2104 tosclerk@vermontel.net

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD TAXPAYER NOTICE

The third quarter installment of the 2023-2024 Town & Town School District Taxes is due and payable February 15, 2024. Payments can be made as follows:

- In person or through the mail.
 - Dropped into our mail slot located in the white door that faces Main Street or into the mail slot located in the door on the second floor at the top of the outside stairs.
 - Electronically on the town's website at <https://springfieldvt.gov>. A fee is charged for this method of payment.
- Payment receipts available in person or by including a stamped self-addressed return envelope or an email address. Town Hall is open M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Barbara A. Courchesne, Treasurer, CVT

WARNING

ANNUAL TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING HYBRID (PHYSICAL and REMOTE)

The legal voters of the Town of Springfield and Town of Springfield School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at Riverside Middle School Gymnasium in said Town on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. (8:00 o'clock in the forenoon) until 7:00 p.m. to vote by Australian ballot for Town and Town School District Officers, for all appropriations to be voted by Australian ballot, and all other items of business to be voted by Australian ballot.

A public informational hearing will be held in-person, and will be accessible remotely by electronic means, at the Springfield High School on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. to hear reports of the Town Officers, Town School District Officers and Committees, to discuss all Australian ballot articles on the Annual Town and Town School District Meeting Warning and to do any other business that can legally be done under this Warning.

IN-PERSON PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING WILL BE ACCESSIBLE REMOTELY BY ELECTRONIC MEANS:

- ZOOM MEETING ID: 829 9266 9830
- By computer: Join meeting by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82992669830> You may be prompted to enter the Meeting ID. You may need to download software <https://zoom.us/>
- By smartphone, tablet, or other device: Download and open the <https://zoom.us/> app. You may have to create a free account or sign into your existing account. Select the option to join meeting and enter the Meeting ID. One-tap mobile device click here: +16465588656
- By telephone: Dial +1 646 558 8656 and when prompted enter the Meeting ID. Note that long distance rates may apply. Dial-in participants use *9 to raise/lower hand and *6 to mute/unmute.
- Meeting link can also be accessed on the home page of the Town of Springfield website
- Watch live on SAPA TV or stream it from Sapatv.org

ARTICLE 1: To elect the following Town Officers and Town School District Officers for the ensuing year:

Cemetery Commissioner	School Directors	Town School District Moderator
Library Trustees	Selectboard	Trustees of Public Funds
Town Moderator		

ARTICLE 2: Shall the Town vote a salary of FIFTY and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$50.00) per meeting for the Town Moderator for the ensuing year?

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town vote to pay each Selectperson the sum of FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$500.00) to help defray the costs and expenses incurred in serving the Town in that office?

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of FIFTEEN MILLION, NINE THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED SIXTY THREE and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$15,009,263.00) for the budget of the Town for salaries, incidental and necessary Town expenses, including highways, and for the purposes for which the law requires appropriations, and for which a Town may legally vote?

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$875,000.00) for repaving, road construction, gravel road improvements, and ancillary professional services for the projects specified in the Road Surface Management System Report dated December 2021 or other duly warranted sidewalk improvements?

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) for sidewalk reconstruction in various locations throughout the Town?

ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve a payment of FIFTY and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$50.00) per meeting for the Town School District Moderator for the ensuing year, the funds for which are included in the school budget?

ARTICLE 8: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the payment to each School Board member of FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$500.00) to help defray the costs and expenses incurred in serving in that office, the funds for which are included in the school budget?

ARTICLE 9: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District authorize the Town Treasurer, subject to the direction and approval of the School Board, to borrow money in anticipation of taxes needed to meet the requirements of the Town School District for the ensuing year?

ARTICLE 10: Shall the voters of Springfield Town School District approve a contribution of \$800,000 from the district's FY23 surplus to the district's capital fund for the purpose of paying capital expenses as identified in the capital plan approved by the board?

ARTICLE 11: Shall the voters of Springfield Town School District approve a contribution of \$800,000 from the district's FY23 surplus to the district's operating expense reserve fund for the purpose of paying unexpected operational expenses?

ARTICLE 12: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the

School Board to spend THIRTY NINE MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$39,839,625.00), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,500.00) to the Springfield Community Band for eight (8) concerts?

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,000.00) to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Springfield in responding to the emergency needs of the community and to provide all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need?

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of SIXTY THREE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$63,500.00) to help support the high-quality home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse and Hospice for VT and NH? Care is provided regardless of ability to pay.

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of EIGHT THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$8,500.00) 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?

ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of FOUR THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$4,000.00) to help support the Valley Health Connections (formerly Precision Valley Free Clinic) to help the uninsured access health care?

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TWELVE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$12,500.00) for the support of the MOOver f/n/a the Current operated by Southeast Vermont Transit, Inc., to provide transit services to the residents of the Town of Springfield?

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,500.00) 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 Springfield through volunteer service?

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) to assist with the cost of operating the Meals on Wheels Program of Greater Springfield that provides daily hot & cold congregate and home delivered meals and other nutritional needs to the qualified residents of Springfield?

ARTICLE 21: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$3,000.00) to Windsor County Partners d/b/a Windsor County Mentors, for youth mentoring services provided to the children of Windsor County?

ARTICLE 22: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) to the Springfield Supported Housing to assist families and individuals find permanent housing and provide in home case management services for 6 months to two years after placement?

ARTICLE 23: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$55,000.00) to the Springfield Family Center to assist with the cost of providing a free meal daily, a free food shelf, and other services related to hunger, homelessness and related social-service needs in the community?

ARTICLE 24: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of FOUR THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$4,000.00) 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?

ARTICLE 25: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,500.00) to the Springfield Art and Historical Society to assist in preserving, maintaining, and displaying, for the public, the history and art of the Town of Springfield, Vermont?

ARTICLE 26: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,000.00) to Turning Point Recovery Center Drop-In Center and Transition House to help with the everyday cost of providing recovery services and housing for men and that are in recovery from alcohol, substance abuse and co-occurring disorders?

ARTICLE 27: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) to help support outpatient, mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc.?

Dated this 22nd day of January, 2024 at Springfield, County of Windsor and State of Vermont.

Kristi C. Morris, Chair
Heather Frahm
Everett T. Hammond
Michael E. Martin
Walter E. Martone

Selectboard
Town of Springfield

Dated this 26 day of January, 2024 at Springfield, County of Windsor and State of Vermont.

Troy Palmer, Chair
Jessica Cady Burlew
Denise Hunter
Stephen Karaffa
Mary Krueger

Board of School Directors
Springfield School District

arts & entertainment

Annual Student Art Show at VAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Stop in to enjoy Gallery at the VAULT’s annual Student Art Show, which will be on view during the month of February. This show is a sampling of work done by students from elementary through high school. We celebrate art teachers Suzanne Farrell, Moss Morgan, Marguerite Janiszyn,

and Meredith Pelton. We’re sure to have some chocolate from our annual Chocolate Tasting for you to enjoy during your visit. VAULT is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, and is open Wednesday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.; and Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.



“In the Style of Berthe Moriso,” by Lyric Rodriguez. PHOTO PROVIDED

Grant for jazz program

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a grant from the Chamber Music America 2024 Presenter Consortium for Jazz Program. This grant will facilitate the presentation of a concert featuring the NYC-based Christine Correa Ensemble on March 10, at Next Stage Arts in Putney.

Chamber Music America is a respected national organization supporting chamber music initiatives across the country. The Presenter Consortium for Jazz Pro-

gram specifically aids organizations like Next Stage Arts Project in bringing quality jazz performances to diverse audiences, and is a component of the Doris Duke Jazz Ensembles Project. Presenter Consortium for Jazz is funded by the Doris Duke Foundation.

“We’re grateful for the support from Chamber Music America,” says Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts Project. “This grant allows us to continue our mission of offering diverse musical experiences to

our community. We look forward to showcasing Christine Correa’s talent, and bringing an evening of jazz to our audience.”

The Christine Correa Ensemble will highlight Max Roach’s Freedom Now Suite and Percussion Bitter Sweet, in order to celebrate the creative and activist legacy of Max Roach, a high profile artist who was an outspoken civil rights advocate and who used the arts as a catalyst for change.

For Correa and her five-member ensemble, honoring Roach’s work means approaching his innovative music and powerful performances with deep reverence and sympathy. As such, the ensemble’s goal is to stay as true to the spirit of the music as possible by returning to the powerful emotional and creative content with sincerity and artfulness. After the performance, there will be an opportunity for the audience to converse with the musicians, which aims to not only shed light on the historical and social context that informed Roach’s work, but will also provide an opportunity for audiences to reflect on their experiences of this work and its relevance in the present moment.

The Christine Correa Ensemble includes Christine Correa (vocals), Sam Newsome (soprano saxophone), Andrew Boudreau (piano), Kim Cass (bass), and Michael Sarin (drums).

The Becker Sisters at Stage 33 Live

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Becker Sisters are soprano Alyssa Becker and pianist/composer Kirsten Becker. Their 2022 debut album, “Love and Thought,” fuses neo-classical, contempo-

rary art song, folk, opera, and jazz, featuring Alyssa’s soaring soprano and Kirsten’s emotive piano accompaniment.

They will perform at Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge Street in Bellows Falls, Vt., on Sunday, Feb. 18, in a 3

p.m. matinee. Tickets are discounted if purchased in advance; all proceeds go to the artists. There is limited seating available, and the event will be recorded and filmed. More info and tickets at www.stage33live.com.

“Heartless” at Claremont Opera House

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Fall in love with “Heartless: New England’s tribute to Ann Wilson of Heart,” at the Claremont Opera House on Feb. 10, at 7:30 p.m. The band returns to Claremont by popular demand, to pay tribute to the glory days of rock and roll.

The Keep Love Alive Tour invites audiences to reminisce with hit songs like “Alone,” “What About Love,” “Straight On,” “Magic Man,” “Baracuda,” and “Crazy on You,” and Led Zeppelin covers like “Whole Lotta Love,” “Stairway to Heaven,” and “Kashmir.” “Heartless” showcases talented musicianship



“Heartless” in Claremont. PHOTO PROVIDED

true to the live delivery of all Heart and Zeppelin songs. Experience it all live, and join us for an unforgettable homage to musical performance, costumes, and character at the Claremont Opera House.

Purchase tickets online at www.cohnh.org, or visit the box office at 58 Opera House Square in

Claremont, N.H. An additional convenience fee will be applied for tickets purchased through the box office. Concessions, including beer and wine, are now available at a majority of Claremont Opera House events, and served after doors open as well as during intermission. Cash and credit cards are accepted.

Pet Portrait workshop at Gallery at the VAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Mindy Fisher is back at VAULT with her very popular Pet Portrait Workshop on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Mindy will walk you through her creation of a pet portrait, and demonstrate the techniques she uses. She encourages everyone to experiment and find their own style. All skill levels are welcome, but this is a great class for beginners or for anyone who hasn’t picked up a paintbrush in awhile.

Mindy’s guidance is encouraging and hands-off. If you have ever



Mindy Fisher hosts Pet Portrait workshop. PHOTO PROVIDED

wanted to try painting with acryla-gouache, this is a fun introduction. Bring a photograph of your best non-human friend for reference, printed or accessible from your phone or device. Please wear clothing that can get paint on it.

The registration fee is discounted for VAULT members. There is also a small materials fee. Register by Wednesday, Feb. 21.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, and is open Wednesdays, Thursdays,

and Saturdays, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Fridays, from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit www.galleryvault.org. The gallery is ADA accessible.

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AARP free local tax preparation

REGION – Beginning Feb. 2 and continuing through April 12, AARP Foundation provides free individual tax assistance and preparation for low-to-moderate-income taxpayers, especially those 50 years old and older. However, all ages are welcome.

Appointments are required at all sites. The following information is for your convenience in contacting the host sites mentioned above. When making your appointment, you will be given information on what types of documents you need to bring with you. Depending on the nature of your tax return, it may be determined to be out-of-scope for this program. We make every effort to make this determination as early as possible in this process.

The sites are listed below.

- White River Junction, Vt., Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street. No phone call to start, just pick up an intake packet at Bugbee Senior Center, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., or beginning Feb. 8 on Thursday or Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., on the third floor at the Hartford Town Hall.
- Woodstock, Vt., Thompson Senior Center, 99 Senior Lane. Mondays, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Call Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., 802-457-3277.
- Ascutney, Vt., Proctor Library, 5181 U.S. Route 5, Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Call 802-875-2418 and leave a message.
- Londonderry, Vt., Neighborhood Connections, 5700 Route 100, Tuesdays, 9

a.m. – 3 p.m. Call Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., 802-824-4343.

- Springfield, Vt., Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street, on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Appointments starting at 9 a.m. Call Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Call 802-885-3933 or 802-345-5415 anytime and leave a message.
- Chester, Vt., Whiting Library, 117 Main Street, on select Fridays, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Call 802-875-2418 and leave a message.
- Claremont, N.H., Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, Fridays, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Call 802-345-5415 and leave a message.

We look forward to assisting you during the upcoming tax season.

Food as Medicine pop-up event

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The community is invited to attend a unique Food as Medicine pop-up event on Fe. 29, at 6 p.m., in the Health and Wellness Kitchen located on the third floor of North Star Health, 100 River Street, Springfield, Vt.

This event will feature a live cooking demonstration by Jason Tostrup, a local chef and the director of food services at Vermont Academy. Participants will have the opportunity to witness Chef Tostrup in action as he demonstrates the preparation of vegetable unfried rice featured in the “How Not to Die Cookbook.” Samples of the meal will be provided to attendees, allowing them to experience firsthand that plant-forward, whole nutritious foods can be delicious and easily prepared.

This free Food as Medicine event is made possible through the generous support of the Ardmore Institute of Health, and food donations from The Vermont Academy. This program is a collaboration between Springfield Family Center and North Star Health.

Chef Tostrup, a survivor living with multiple sclerosis, is passionate about healthy eating to manage chronic conditions. Despite living with

the condition, Chef Tostrup continues to excel in the culinary world, proving that a focus on nutritious foods can positively impact one’s health. He says, “After being diagnosed with MS, I was told I couldn’t be a chef again. Despite recommendations to prepare for life with a cane or wheelchair, I found a way to manage it with a healthier diet. Now, I’m on a mission to inspire others struggling with health issues – using my skills to promote cooking your way to a healthier life.”

In addition to the cooking demonstration and sampling, attendees will be entered for a chance to win a nutritious cooking package. This package includes essential kitchen utensils, a cookbook, and a gift card to Shaw’s, providing the winner with the tools to continue their journey towards a healthier lifestyle.

“We are thrilled to have Chef Jason Tostrup share his expertise and passion for nutritious cooking with the community,” said Dr. Adam

Ameel, director of lifestyle medicine at North Star Health. “This event is not only about enjoying delicious food, but also learning how the choices we make in the kitchen can have a profound impact on our overall health and wellness.”

As part of the event, participants will have the unique opportunity to “Grill the Chef” about his cooking techniques, experience living and managing a chronic condition through nutrition, and more.

Don’t miss this chance to be part of this unique experience. Mark your calendars for Feb. 29, at 6 p.m., and join us at the third-floor Health and Wellness Kitchen at 100 River Street, Springfield, Vt.

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GMP alerting customers to scam calls

COLCHESTER, Vt. – Green Mountain Power (GMP) is alerting customers about a new wave of scam calls targeting small businesses in Vermont. A caller claiming to be GMP tells the business it has to pay up in order to maintain power service because their meter needs to be replaced. In some cases, the scammer makes multiple calls to the business, working to build trust before urging the customer to purchase and send a gift card. GMP urges customers to hang up on these scammers.

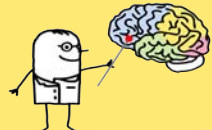
“Customers who’ve gotten these calls tell us they sound legitimate. They are a scam. We work with our

customers and are here to help. We would never threaten immediate shut off or demand payment by prepaid cards or credit cards. If someone does this, no matter how legitimate it sounds, just hang up,” said Tiana Smith, leader of customer care for GMP. “If you’re wondering if we called you, just hang up and call us directly using our main number, 888-835-4672.”

Customers are urged that if you get a call like this you should hang up. Do not provide payment or personal information, do not engage with the caller, and do not call back that number. Call GMP customer

service at 888-835-4672 to report the call, and any details about it, like the number it came from, the caller’s name, and what the caller said.

Customers are also encouraged to report this scam to the Vermont Attorney General’s Consumer Assistance Program at 800-649-2424 (in state) or 802-656-3183, or online at www.ago.vermont.gov/cap.



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Winter Carnivals

Chester's Winter Carnival

Feb. 17 and 18



Horse-drawn sleigh rides from Smokeshire Farms.

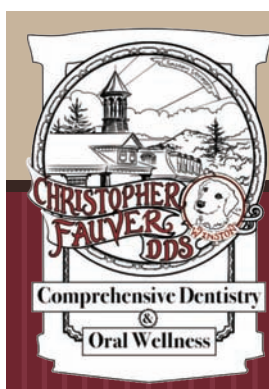
PHOTO BY OTIS NELSON

SATURDAY, FEB. 17

10 A.M. – 1 P.M.
Kid's snowmobile rides with the Chester Snowmobile Club at Buttonwood Farms, the field across from the Pinnacle.

12 P.M.
Sledding and ice skating at the Pinnacle.

12-3 P.M.
Horse-drawn sleigh rides from Smokeshire Farms at



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the Pinnacle.

5 P.M.
Guided snowshoe hike at Brookside with CCC. Snowshoes if conditions are favorable, or micro spikes/yak tracks required if there's limited snow. Headlamp or flashlight required. Meet behind the Academy building at 5 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 18

9 A.M. – 1 P.M.
Chester Snowmobile Club Poker Run at the Pinnacle.

Springfield's Winter Carnival

Feb. 9 and 10

FRIDAY, FEB. 9

4-9 P.M.
Food and beverages available at Crown Point Pub, and free hot chocolate all evening.

5-8 P.M.
Open sledding and snowshoeing under the lights on the big hill.

5:30 P.M.
Bonfire at the top of the hill.

6:30 P.M.
Guided snowshoe walk for all ages, snowshoes provided by Springfield Town Library.

8-11 P.M.
The Conniption Fits perform in the banquet room.

SATURDAY, FEB. 10

11:30 A.M.
Crown Point Pub opens.

12-9 P.M.
Sledding and snowshoeing all day.

12-3 P.M.
Wunderle's Big Top Circus Adventures in the banquet room, sponsored by ARC Mechanical and Ultimate Auto Body.

12-3 P.M.
Big games inside, presented by Springfield's All-4-One program.

12:30-1 P.M.

Eighth annual cardboard sled contest. Arrive at 12:30 p.m., at top of the hill, for entry, photos, and judging. Bottom of sled must be only cardboard or tape. The theme is wild animals. Prizes given for most artistic, creative, spirit, and speed.

2:30 P.M.

Guided snowshoe walk for all ages, extra snowshoes provided.

3 P.M.

Snowman contest winners announced, inside. To enter, build a snowman at home and call 802-885-2727, or send a picture to springfieldrec@hotmail.com by Feb. 9.

3:15 P.M.

Snowmageddon indoor snoball fight with fluffy balls.

6:30 P.M.

Fireworks, sponsored by Ford of Claremont and presented by Pyrotechnico.

7-10 P.M.

Gr8ful Folk to perform.



Cardboard sled competition from 2023.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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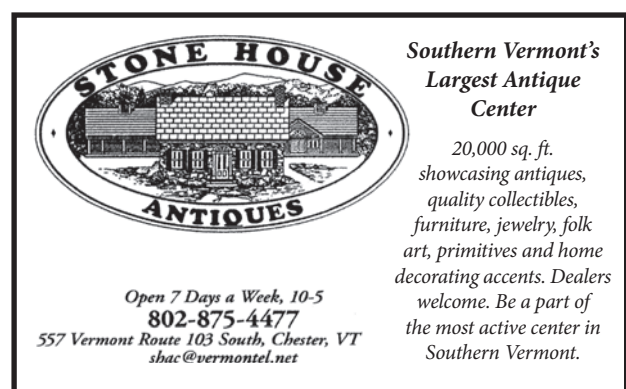


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