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Studio Y offers interactive learning experience for students

BY JOE MILLIKEN
The Shopper

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Young students at Westminster Center School are now experiencing an innovative approach to learning through a program called STEAM, which combines science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math, in order to better educate and assist students about “critical thinking.” In other words, a way for students to better analyze, interpret, evaluate, and make judgments about what they read, hear, and learn.

This was all made possible through the transformation of the old Westminster West School building into an off-campus program called Studio Y, giving students the opportunity for more of a hands-on approach to learning.

Originally launched in the fall of 2017, after Westminster School administrators, staff, school board, and school librarian Liz Bourne worked on a plan for over a year to provide a solution to

the controversy over the potential closing of the Westminster West School.

The solution combined the Westminster West and Westminster students at the Center School location, allowing for the vacant Westminster West School building to become the interactive, multi-disciplinary, art-and-theatre-based Studio Y for all students, grades K-6. It was a wonderful solution to both the declining enrollment at Westminster, and the importance of keeping the old school building as a contributing part of the community.

The West-West building had been closed for over a year when the idea of expanding Westminster Central School’s art/theater program to include the retired school building was proposed and then implemented, with the help of a very supportive school board and local community members.

Janelle Beard, Westminster Central School’s integrated arts teacher, has developed and run the Stu-

dio Y program from its inception, which gets its name from several associations: “Y” is for youth; “Y” to represent the question “why,” as students explore a new topic; and “Y” as an ancient reference of good versus evil.

A program in which students participate on a six-week, rotating basis, Beard recently described Studio Y as a full-day immersion experience for the students, connecting to their academics by creating a story around their subjects which involves problem solving, working as a team, and discovering the solution to the storyline. This story-based approach helps the students to more easily retain the information they are learning about.

The creation of Studio Y has been a wonderful boon for the Westminster students and the community, as it continues to foster academia, creativity, and social skills within an adventurous, story-creating atmosphere.

Springfield Selectboard creates capital planning committee

BY PAULA BENSON
The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – A public hearing took place prior to the Monday, March 11, Springfield Selectboard meeting, to further discuss the road discontinuance process with regards to the former Southview Housing Complex. Town manager Jeff Mobus had previously presented the subject to the board, which proposes to discontinue the roads located adjacent to 201 South Street. Monday’s meeting was an opportunity for Springfield residents to give feedback.

Springfield Housing Authority (SHA) director Laura Ryan was in attendance to support the project, reporting that the discontinuance may assist SHA with future development.

Planning and zoning administrator Chuck Wise and Fire Chief Paul Stagner had joined Mobus, Ryan, and the selectboard for a site visit on Monday, at 5:30 p.m., to review the proposal at the location. Wise remarked that the town would not be giving up water and sewer rights by discontinuing the roads, and would have a perpetual

ease to access that infrastructure.

Wise pointed to the town website, where informational materials detailing the scope of the discontinuance proposal are available for review within the March 11 selectboard packet.

The board voted to act on the proposed road discontinuance process.

Mobus introduced the idea of a new commission, the Ad Hoc Capital Planning Committee, which would be responsible for the evaluation of Springfield’s longterm capital needs, and the town’s debt capacity.

Mobus stated, “The capital budget that we have put together only goes out five years, and we have a lot of longterm assets – for example, the community center, the public works garage, Riverside Park – that could do with some larger renovations that would likely involve bonding if we can’t find enough grant money to move forward with them.”

“In my mind,” Mobus continued, “the committee would help me tremendously to expand the capital plan from five years out to 10, 15, 25 years. We actually have very little longterm debt right now, so this is the time to look at it, now, when we have failing assets and debt capacity.”

Board member Heather

Frahm made the motion to form the committee, and the board unanimously voted in favor of creating the planning committee. Frahm and Vice Chair Michael Martin volunteered to sit on the newly formed committee, and agreed to work with Mobus to fill out the rest of the seats and begin working together on the town’s long-term capital needs.

Mobus presented the board with a list of positions with term expiration dates of March 2024, as well as several liaison positions to be filled by board members. Mobus had received several applications for various board, committee, and commission positions, and the board voted to appoint the following applicants: Steven Osterlund and Donald Shattuck to the airport commission, Jeff Perkins to the Springfield Housing Authority, Mark Blanchard for tree warden, and Chuck Gregory and Bettina McCrady to the Springfield Trails and Rural Economy.

Mobus then took the opportunity to thank all volunteers. “Having these volunteer commission and committee members really makes the town stronger, and makes sure everything is done properly.”

Additionally, Mobus ran

See **PLAN** on Page 2

Seventh annual Rockin’Ham 5K

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Central Elementary School will be hosting its seventh annual Rockin’Ham 5K on Saturday, April 6. The 5K will begin and end at Central School, 50 School Street Extension, Bellows Falls. Runners may register online at www.active.com/bellows-falls-vt/running/distance-running/rockin-ham-5k-2024, or paper registrations may be downloaded from the CES website, ces.wnesu.org, or picked up at Central School. Same-day registration will begin at on April 1, at 9 a.m., and the race start time is 10:30 a.m. The race logo was designed by local artist Erin Shaw of Spot On Screen Printing, and features a guitar-playing pig (the “rocking ham”) and a chicken (from the Thunder Chickens running club at North Walpole School in North Walpole, N.H.).

“We are so excited to be hosting our seventh annual Rockin’Ham 5K,” race coordinator Kerry Pickering said. “This event brings out the best in our community. So many local businesses show their support for our students and our school by sponsoring the race, or by providing an item for our raffle. We would love to include every business in town, so please reach out to the school if you haven’t yet joined us. This is a super fun, family-friendly event, and if you haven’t come to a previous Rockin’Ham 5K, this is the year to do it!”

The raffle drawing will



Runners start the 2023 Rockin’Ham 5K.

PHOTO PROVIDED

also be held on the same date, with dozens of prizes to be given away. Raffle tickets may be purchased from any Central School student, or by contacting the school at 802-463-4346.

Local sponsors for the race include Platinum Donors: J&H Hardware, 802 Credit Union, JP Trucking, Sonnax, Adams Trucking & Excavating, C&S Wholesale Grocers, UNFI, Greater Rock Fitness, Green Mountain Traffic Control, Savings Bank of Walpole, Best Septic, Golden Cross Ambulance, Westminster Fit Body Boot Camp, and Allen Brothers Farm Stand.

Gold Donors: Applied Bolting, The Killarney Irish Pub, Lisa’s Market, Whitney Blake, and Edward Jones.

Silver Donors: Marquise & Morano, MJS Lawn Care & Landscaping, Burtco Inc., Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, The Grafton Inn, Lex-Tex, Silver Forest of Vermont, and Elks BPOE #1619.

Bronze Donors: Bellows Falls Country Club, China Garden, Cota & Cota, D&R and Sons Auto Repair, Dari Joy, Dellamano Glassware, Diamond Pizza, HB Energy Solutions, Hungry Diner, John T’s Appliance Repair, Justin Beebe Memorial Foundation, Lawrence & Lober Electricians, Morning Star Perennials, Pickering Educational Services, Rockingham Recreation Center, Rock and Hammer, Salmon & Nostrand Law Office, Spot-On Screen Printing, The Threaded Trunk, Walpole Town Pool, Jeanne Cloues and Marcie Weil, Harold and Patty Bushway, Dan and Judy Durand, and Paul and Terry Obuchowski.

Special recognition is given to the Bellows Falls Police and Fire Departments, the Bellows Falls Rotary Club, and Gail Hynes Photography LLC.

See **RUN** on Page 2

BFUHS student awarded Skin Grip Diabetes Scholarship

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Union High School (BFUHS) student Eryn Ross from Westminster was awarded the Skin Grip Diabetes Scholarship. Applying via a short video, Erin conveyed how she lives with diabetes. She was selected as one of 25 recipients for this \$1,000 scholarship.

The mission of Skin Grip is to help individuals with diabetes who struggle to keep their glucose monitors inserted in their skin while living an active lifestyle. This scholarship aims to support students who live fearlessly and fight to make the world a better place despite their diagnosis.

As referenced on their scholarship website, “Living with diabetes can make everyday activities more challenging due to the need to manage blood glucose levels. High costs of healthcare, insulin, diabetes devices, and supplies only make things more difficult.

Students living with diabetes have to deal with all this and more. Regardless of these challenges, individuals with diabetes rise to the occasion and deserve to be recognized for their resilience and determination to keep going even when things get tough.”

To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must be a high school senior, undergraduate in a two- or four-year degree program, or graduate student who has diabetes.

Eryn will be attending the University of Saint Jo-



Eryn Ross, recipient of the Skin Grip Diabetes Scholarship.

PHOTO PROVIDED

seph in Connecticut, where she will be majoring in social work and playing field hockey.

CORRECTION:

In the Town Meeting voting results list published in the March 13 edition of The Shopper, it was shown that Rockingham voted “No” on the BFUHS budget. While it is true that the budget received more “No” votes than “Yes” votes in Rockingham, other towns also voted on the budget, and the budget ultimately passed.

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Springfield Garden Club donates books to libraries and schools

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Garden Club recently donated the following books to area libraries and schools: “Network with Nature,” which encourages kids to put down screens and play outdoors; “The Frightened Frog,” which demonstrates environmental changes from a frog’s point of view; and “The Saved Seed,” which explains a seed’s round-trip journey of being saved from one pumpkin to becoming next year’s jack-o-lantern. These books are published for kids to begin a lifelong love of gardening, caring for the environment, and more. Part of our mission is to provide education



Jenni Clary (left), youth service librarian at Springfield Town Library, and Barb Riote, Springfield Garden Club member.

PHOTO PROVIDED

to adults and youth in gardening and nature.

W NESU preschool registration open

REGION – Vermont’s Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) Law, Act 166, is an entitlement to publicly-funded preschool for all 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children. Vermont’s UPK law provides that your school district pays for 10 hours per week (35 weeks per year) of developmentally appropriate preschool experiences based on Vermont’s Early Learning Standards. If you reside in Athens, Grafton, Rockingham, or Westminister, then your child is eligible to participate through Windham Northeast Supervisory Union (W NESU). Your child must be registered with Windham Northeast Supervisory Union. Your child must be 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2024, to be eligible. W NESU has a tuition-free, publicly funded preschool program at two sites: in the Central Elementary School in Bellows Falls, and in the Westminister El-

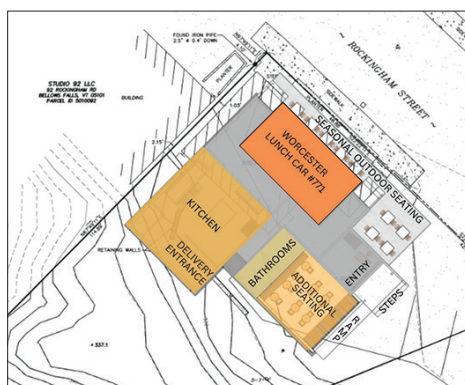
ementary School in Westminister. These sites offer as much as a full school day free to W NESU families from all our districts. The deadline for public sites is April 12. Late applications will not be considered in the first drawing for the public sites. Late applications will be considered for later drawings as slots become available. W NESU school districts pay tuition to prequalified private providers anywhere in Vermont for 10 hours per week of high-quality preschool. Families will continue to be charged fully for beyond the 10 hours per week during the academic year. Families must apply directly to the prequalified private provider they select, and complete a W NESU registration form. A list of prequalified programs can be found at www.brightfutures.dcf.state.vt.us. There is no deadline to apply for

private providers. Families can register online, or print out registration forms, at www.wnesu.org, under the “Family and Student Information and Resources” tab. For more information, call W NESU Early Education at 802-460-7824.

Miss Bellows Falls Diner update meeting

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – With spring on the way, it is time for an update on the Miss Bellows Falls Diner project. What is the current timeline? Where do things stand with fundraising? How is the new design coming along? The public is welcome to sit down and catch up with the Rockingham for Progress team at the Rockingham Free Public Library on Thursday, March 28, at 7 p.m.

It has been a whirlwind year for the diner and Rockingham for Progress (RFP). After purchasing the diner in June 2023, and announcing plans for restoration of the diner, as well as adding ADA-compliant bathrooms, additional seating, and a kitchen, RFP embarked on the daunting legwork and fundraising to qualify the project for the grants necessary to make a community-supported enterprise model work. Much has been accomplished, with much more to do. Now it is time for a progress report on the Miss Bellows Falls Diner. We will talk with our guest, designer Raphael Rosner of Austin Design Cooperative, about the



The site plan for the Miss Bellows Falls.

PHOTO PROVIDED

RFP cautions that the design is, at this point, still conceptual in nature, and is meant to indicate basic building massing and flow, rather than the final finish and design.

Fundraising continues, and the www.missbellows-falls.com website is up and running, offering a variety of high-quality, locally-sourced premiums for donations at various levels, including mugs designed by artist Ezra Veith, pins by Amar&Riley, diner soaps from Grace and Miss Mouse Soaps, and “Diner Boxes” of spice mixtures from Halladay’s Harvest Barn. As well, both, stool, and counter space “naming rights” are also available.

The Rockingham Free Public Library, the Historic Preservation Office of the Town of Rockingham, and RFP join together in a series of conversations about the diner’s past and its future with these free events at the library, located at 65 Westminister Street. This program was made possible with support from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the Town of Rockingham Historic Preservation Committee.

Raphael and the small creative team at Austin Design Cooperative bring a combined more than 150 years of experience to the Miss Bellows Falls Diner project. Based in New England, the cooperative is known for their expertise in all things design, from taprooms, to bus shelters, and everything in between. Raphael, who says he is always in search of a good eggs benedict, leads the three-person team including Tom Chalmers and Bryan Louissell, in coordination with RFP, to set the stage for returning the diner to its former glory and beyond.

Raphael and the Miss Bellows Falls team will show the current plans and layout for the project, although

Alternatives to cable presentation

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Friday, April 5, at 6:30 p.m., join Friends of Springfield Town Library at the Springfield Town Library for their Annual Meeting, which is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. Following the meeting, Steve Woloschin will present “Cut the Cord:

Cost Saving Alternatives to Cable.” During the presentation, Steve will compare the costs of traditional cable TV services to cheaper alternatives such as high-speed internet connections with YouTube TV, Sling, and others. He will cover hardware and software require-

ments, one-time costs, and monthly costs. Additionally, Steve will discuss Tablo TV, a device that connects to a TV antenna to receive over-the-air broadcasts with DVR capability. The user experience is similar to watching broadcast channels via cable TV, or streaming YouTube TV, but

with no monthly charge. This event is free and open to the public, and light refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, contact the library at 802-885-3108. Visit our calendar of events to sign up, www.springfieldtownlibrary.org/calendar.

PLAN

From Page 1

through liaison appointments, and board members volunteered to fill positions serving various commissions including the airport commission, Springfield On the Move, Springfield School District, and Springfield Regional Development Corp.

Mobus reported that the Vermont Bond Bank had accepted the town’s application for a \$64,100 loan through the State Revolving Loan Fund, to cover the cost of the 20-year review and update at the wastewater treatment facility. After reviewing the terms of the loan, five years at 0% interest, with 50% of the principal forgiven, the board subsequently signed the loan documents to of-

ficially move the project forward. Finally, Mobus took a moment to thank Steve Knapp on behalf of the town, for his 46 years of service to the community. “Steve began working for the town on May 1, 1978,” Mobus noted, at a rate of \$3.13 per hour. Mobus said Knapp had been promoted

to cemetery sexton in June 1983, and has held that position since then. “Steve will be stepping into a very well-deserved retirement on March 15. Thank you, Steve, for all that you’ve done for Springfield,” Mobus concluded. The selectboard will meet next on Monday, March 25, at 6 p.m.

RUN

From Page 1

who have volunteered their services on the day of the parade for safety, race timing, and photography. The school is still seeking sponsors, and raffle prize donations continue to be accepted as well. If you wish

to provide a monetary sponsorship or donate a raffle prize, please contact Central School at 802-463-4346. All proceeds from the race benefit the Central School in Bellows Falls, Vt., and are used for programs, equipment, field trips, and residences for Central School students.

Ludlow Baptist Church
on the Green
Easter Sunday

He has been raised.
—Mark 16:6

6:30 pm on Friday – Good Friday service
7:30 am – Easter Sunrise service at the gazebo
8:30 am – Breakfast in the church
9:30 am – Sunday School – all ages
11:00 am – Morning Worship service

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“Justin Morgan’s Horse” next OLLI program

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Amanda Gustin from the Vermont Historical Society will present “Justin Morgan’s Horse: Making an American Myth” for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) group on March 26, at 2 p.m., at the Nolin Murray Center, next to St. Mary’s Church on Pleasant Street in Springfield.

All Morgan horses today trace their lineage back to a single horse, a mystery stallion named Figure, owned by singing teacher Justin Morgan in the late 18th century. This program will explain who Figure really was, and we’ll hear the stories that people have told about him in the two centuries since he lived and worked in Vermont. This fascinating story is tied up with the idea of Vermont identity, the relationship between humans and animals, and the creation of an American myth.

Gustin is director of col-

lections and access at the Vermont Historical Society, managing statewide projects, exhibitions, public programming, and the archival and object collections. She holds degrees in history and museum work from Middlebury College and Tufts University.

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 over 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 a single program fee.

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 with your credit card by calling the UVM Non-Credit Registration Office at 802-656-8407 during regular business hours, or email non-credit@uvm.edu. The full semester program descriptions and dates can be referenced at the above registration website address.

The following program, on April 9, will be “So Many Reasons to Love Trees,” which is co-sponsored by the Springfield Garden Club.

Sap buckets

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

Linda Downing and I used to do a lot of hiking and snowshoeing up behind my place. Linda had a black lab, Mick. I had Hillary, a beagle-shepherd mix. The dogs got along well, Hillary the dominant.

Over the years, Linda and I developed several trails in the woods behind my place. Not far in the woods from my place was an old cabin and a pond. This was base camp when we were snowshoeing. We often made a day of it.

From here, our trail meandered up over a small ridge. On the backside of the ridge, at bottom, our trail came to a junction. As you approach the junction, an old stone wall took a sharp right-angle turn, down through the woods. The base of this corner wall was a ledge outcropping. It was solid.

We had a trail to the left that went through the woods to Don Farar’s Crow Hill Farm. To the right, another trail went around the base of a steep and rugged ridge. This trail came out at the old Watkins place.

Another trail went up over this steep rugged ridge. It was a real workout in deep snow. I use my father’s 60-inch long wooden snowshoes. They were made by Tubbs of Wallingford. I remember the day dad bought them. Near the top of the ridge was a stand of ironwoods. This was an enchanting location.

Linda had a pair of aluminum snowshoes. I called them flip-flops. They weren’t worth a tinker’s damn in the woods,



The sap buckets 25 years ago, being swallowed by the tree. PHOTO BY RON PATCH

or off a groomed trail, so I always broke trail.

At the top of this ridge was evidence that at one time this was farmland. There’s an old stone wall and overgrown pastures. It was a beautiful location. Linda and I would sit up against the wall and take in winter’s afternoon sun.

The sap buckets

If you went down the backside of this ridge, there was mixed hardwoods. It was about 25 years ago Linda and I were exploring the backside of this ridge, when we spotted the sap buckets you see with this article.

In those days, I took photos not knowing I would ever need them. I have since learned some about photography from Tom Hildreth. What I’m getting at is this photo could be a lot better, if I knew then what I know now.

I have seen barbwire that has grown into a tree, or the white porcelain knobs used with electric fences the same way. But I had never seen sap buckets. For some reason, these galvanized buckets were never retrieved. As years went by, the steel sap spout had been grown over by the tree.

As Linda and I looked the tree over, we noticed the tree now had begun swallowing the buckets. The bottoms of the buckets had long rusted out.

My mind went to a logger who, with his chainsaw, laid into a hidden steel sap spout. I know the damage this would do to the chain of a chainsaw. Imagine it escaped the chainsaw, and went to a sawmill. The large diameter saw blade would be ruined when it hit the sap spout.

Or maybe the log makes its way to a wood processor. You know, the people who deliver your firewood. Once again, it would be ruinous.

It’s been a number of years since I have visited this location. I remember it was logged after I took this photo. I don’t know if this tree still stands.

The cabin

Steve Pixley owned the land and cabin. Linda and I kept the roof shoveled off. There was a good-sized stone fireplace inside. We would start a fire in the fireplace. With the tops of andirons in the front and a rock in the rear, we set a cast iron oven rack from an old woodstove above the fire’s coals. We roasted potatoes and chicken on the iron rack. While we waited for everything to cook, we made coffee or hot chocolate with peppermint schnapps.

This week’s old saying: “I seldom do what I’m asked, and never what I’m told.”

Women’s History Month at Kurn Hattin

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – March serves as Women’s History Month, honoring the leaders, activists, and role models – both past and present – who have risked their lives fighting for justice and equality.

The celebration evolved in the late 20th century from a “Women’s History Week” in California in the late 1970s, to a week-long national celebration in 1981, to finally earning national recognition in its month-long capacity in 1987.

At Kurn Hattin Homes for Children in Westmin-



Social studies teacher Deborah Velto and her students pose with their Women’s History Month bulletin board. PHOTO PROVIDED

ster, Vt., social studies and civics teacher Deborah Velto and one of her classes recently created a bulletin

board honoring women who advocate or have advocated for equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Celebrate Civilian Conservation Corps Day

REGION – Civilian Conservation Corps Day will be celebrated nationwide on Friday, April 5, because on that day in 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) with Executive Order 6101. The order set out the framework for how the CCC would be run and established, and a fund of \$10 million for the corps. This innovative, federally funded organization put millions of Americans to work during the Great Depression on projects with environmental benefits.

The CCC was a public works program that operated from 1933-1942, as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal. It targeted single men, 18-25 years old, and World War I veterans, in relief of families that had difficulty finding jobs during the Great Depression. The program provided unskilled manual labor in environmental conservation and the development of natural resources in rural lands.

The program employed 3,463,766 men, who worked a 40-hour week for \$30 a month. The government sent \$25 a month home to their parents, leaving the boys \$5 spending money. The camps were run by the U. S. Army, which provided enrollees with good food, clothing, shelter, and medi-

cal care.

CCC camps were located in all 48 states, and the territories of Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix). There were separate camps for white enrollees, black enrollees, unemployed veterans who served in World War I, and Native Americans who worked on tribal lands.

There were approximately 35 CCC camps in or near the Vermont towns of Bellows Falls, Bethel, Cuttingsville/North Shrewsbury, Danby/Mount Tabor, East Barre, East Wallingford/Weston, Elmore, Jericho/Ethan Allen Firing Range, Fort Ethan Allen/Colchester, Ludlow, Lyndonville/East Burke, Marshfield/Groton, Mendon, Middlesex, Milton/Sand Bar Bridge, Montpelier/Camp McKee, Mont-

pelier/Wrightsville (Camps Wilson, Weeks, and Cushing), Moscow/Stowe, Northfield, North Thetford, Peru, Plymouth, Proctorsville/Cavendish, Poultney, Ricker Mills, Rochester, St. Albans, Sharon, Underhill Center/Ethan Allen Firing Range, Waterbury/Camp Charles M. Smith, Waterbury Village, West Burke/Sutton, Wilmington, Windsor, and Brunswick/North Stratford, N.H. Supply depots were located in Barre/Quartermaster Depot, and Colchester/Fort Ethan Allen. They built trails, roads, campsites, and dams; stocked fish; built and maintained fire tower

observer’s cabins and telephone lines; fought fires; and planted millions of trees. The education program taught approximately 110,000 illiterate enrollees to read and write.

To honor the work of the CCC, plan on visiting a state or national park that was developed by the CCC, or visit a CCC museum.

Those interested in learning more about the CCC should visit these web sites: CCC Legacy, Living New Deal, and Corps Network. At Facebook: Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy, and Civilian Conservation Corps Day.

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opinion

Dear Editor,

We, Priscilla and Dave Lambert, parents of Eric, who sadly passed away on March 26, 2023, are writing to you as we remember our son. He was a giving and loving person, who always gave generously to the people of the rural Rockingham, Bellows Falls, and Saxtons River communities.

Eric attended BFUHS and graduated in 2011. His commitment to the people included delivering Meals on Wheels at least three days a week, working at Lissai's Market to stock their shelves, and a paid position at Vermont Academy setting up and washing tables in the dining hall. He enjoyed helping everyone he saw in any way that he could, and always went above and beyond the expected. He could be seen around the community

planting flowers at the churches, and doing other helpful things.

As his parents, we are trying to find a way to assure that his memory will always remain with members of our community. We have been considering a scholarship/fund to be used to support BFUHS students in need of assistance in their coursework or work credits to graduate. As students like Eric need a variety of pathways to graduate, the hope is that these funds would provide support for small needs that sometimes go unnoticed, and be a means to help students succeed.

Sincerely,
Priscilla Lambert
Rockingham

Dear Editor,

As a veteran, when I hear the words "Medal of Honor," I think of those military men and women who have gone far beyond their expectations of duty, many giving their lives to save their fellow comrades or shipmates. Vermont has had a number of Medal of Honor recipients, 66 to be exact, that were born or enlisted in Vermont, with Vermont being the state so honored. Dating from the Civil War were the youngest recipient Willie Johnston, only 13 years of age, from Salem,

now part of Derby, Vt., and remains the youngest to receive the Medal of Honor; to Henry Breault, the first submariner and only enlisted member of the submarine service to receive the award, which was presented by Calvin Coolidge, of course from Vermont!

Of the remaining Vermont recipients, time slowly washes away their heroic feats from memory of the public consciousness. In 1991, public law was signed by President Bush to establish March 25 as Medal of Honor Day. On March 25, 1863, the first Medal of

Honor was awarded. The date of March 25 is to remind us of the importance of the valor, bravery, and unshakable courage displayed while in harm's way, at the risk of the recipient's very life.

Over 40 million men and women have served in the U.S. military, just over 3,500 have been awarded the Medal of Honor. Though all the Vermonters and their home town of birth or enlistment that received the Medal of Honor is too long to list here, I encourage you to visit these websites to learn more

about those fellow veterans and Vermonters, and give a moment of pause to honor their service to our state and country. Website links are: www.cmohs.org, www.cmohs.org/recipients, www.mohhsus.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Vermont.pdf, and www.cmohs.org/news-events/blog/medal-of-honor-day-2024/.

Sincerely,
Bill Mattoon
Vermont Green Mountain Base
United States Submarine Veterans Inc.

Dear Editor,

Last March, the Wild Goose Players decided to perform "Fiddler on the Roof," to open on April 5, 2024, at the Bellows Falls Opera House. Then, on Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attacked Israel, which continues to respond.

Since then, many people have approached me to ask if we're worried about boycotts, protests, sending the wrong message, or negative publicity. At first, I wasn't sure how to respond. What does "Fiddler on the Roof," a 60-year-old American musical that takes place in Russia in

1905, have to do with the current Israeli/Palestinian crisis?

It's true that "Fiddler" is a musical about a people thrown out of their homes as their land is seized, a story achingly familiar in both Jewish history and the current Palestinian crisis. Although this musical was written well before the current Middle East crisis, and is set before the founding of the modern state of Israel, we were asked, "Is it okay to portray Jewish suffering in a time when Israel is causing so much suffering?"

I am hopeful that our production of "Fiddler" could enable powerful conversations about a whole

host of issues, from anti-semitism to the Palestinian right of return. But more than anything, I believe that it is a beautiful show about a classic struggle in human culture: the need to innovate, and the desire for stability.

It is a story about family dynamics during a time of radical change. It is about a new generation pushing the previous one to change and evolve. In my mind, the show speaks more to the challenges that many LG-BTQ+ children and their parents face imagining and creating loving relationships than it does the current climate in the Middle East. I think that is why the show has been so successful: it is not predominantly

for or about Jews. We all have experienced the tensions between parental expectations and the choices that children make.

No matter what our intention, it is now clear that the context in which art occurs has real influence on its reception. We at Wild Goose are not trying to make any statement about how the world should or should not be. That, "Fiddler" teaches us, is a personal decision. Rather, we are sharing glimpses from our world, using ourselves as vehicles, as honestly as we can.

Sincerely,
David Stern, artistic director
Wild Goose Players

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.

POLITICAL LETTERS

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

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



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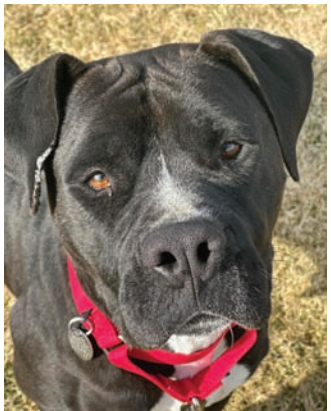
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Sibley. PHOTO PROVIDED

Join us May 11, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the Shaw's Plaza, for our annual Mother's Day event. Call 802-885-2174 if you can bake some goodies for this event.
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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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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

ACROSS

- Gold-loving king
- Soviet space station
- Actress Denning's
- "That — I ask"
- Longoria of TV
- Writer LeShan
- "What — mean?"
- Journal
- Singer Timberlake
- Monster
- Med. plan option
- Sweetie
- Different
- Exile isle
- Russian villa
- Deceived
- There
- Rocker Adams
- Harvard rival
- City near Venice
- Prefix with gender
- Shrill bark
- Teensy bit
- Frenzied
- Pampering places
- Dizzying designs
- Dad on
- "Black-ish"
- Swiss canton
- Bellini opera
- Feminine side
- Favorite
- Idyllic spots
- Islamic holy city
- Infamous tsar
- Shaft of light
- IRA relative
- Worship
- Greedy sort
- Plant science
- Hot rum
- Skirt edge
- Roman 1051
- Discoverer's call
- Photo collections
- Matty of baseball
- Doubter
- Melting snow
- Workplace perk, maybe
- Yalie
- Gym unit
- Nails the test
- Rice field
- Arcade pioneer
- Senior member
- 14 pounds
- Aesopian also-ran
- Apple product
- Young dog
- LBJ's successor
- Prof's aides

DOWN

- Central
- Equal (Pref.)
- Nine-to-five gigs
- Matty of baseball
- Melting snow
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CHURCH SERVICES

obituaries

David C. Austin, 1948-2024

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – David C. Austin, 76, of North Springfield, Vt., took his “sparkle” from this world to the arms of Jesus on his birthday, March 6, 2024. Born in Springfield, Vt., on March 6, 1948, to Carl E. and Nellie (Kennedy) Austin, David attended schools in Springfield, Vt., and was proud to be considered a member of both the Class of 1966 and the Class of 1967. He went on to earn an associate’s degree in business management from Northampton Junior College, Northampton, Mass. David married the love of his life Meredith Brown on Sept. 10, 1983. They just celebrated their 40th anniversary.



David Austin, 1948-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

David’s professional interests focused on the building construction industry. He worked for a number of lumberyards over the years, primarily as a road salesman, making friends with everyone he encountered. His love of building contributed to his ability to build and fix just about anything.

David was the one who was always first to raise his hand to help others. He loved to tinker and help wherever he could. There was never a time when someone needed assistance that he hesitated to volunteer to help – regardless of how arduous the task.

David’s greatest joys in life were knowing his Lord, Jesus, his family, and making people laugh. Ever the comedian, he wore funny wigs and headdresses to all his appointments at DHMC to amuse his doctors, staff, and especially the other patients. He got so much pleasure from making people smile and finding ways to brighten their days. Any time you asked him how he was doing, he would respond with a huge smile and a twinkle in his eye, “I’m sparkling today! And how about you?” It would always make the inquirer smile and answer that that was indeed a good way to be, and it brightened that person’s day.

David loved traveling with Meredith. They have a network of friends north to south, and from coast to coast, whom they frequently visited on their travels. Their adventures with friends were many.

He enjoyed life to the fullest and felt blessed every day, even after his devastating diagnosis. He didn’t

want to leave his family, but in his faith, he was pleased to know that he was going to meet his Lord and Savior. During his many months of cancer treatment, he kept a brave front and continued to love on his family with more passion than ever.

To say that David was devoted to his family is an understatement. Every beat of his heart was for his beloved wife, his four daughters Shannon Kennedy, Stephanie (Mark) Merkle, Meghan (Brandon) Greene, and Chelsea Austin, all of whom were referred to as his “princesses,” and a bonus son Matt. He was the best “Kipper” to his five granddaughters Julia, Izzy, Brynne, Adalynn, and Brinlee; three grandsons Cole, Liam, and Connor; and one special bonus granddaughter Julianna, whom “Kipper” lovingly referred to as “Cleo.”

David was predeceased in death by his parents Carl and Nellie Austin, a sister Marie Austin, and a niece Heidi Pruss. He is survived by his wife, four daughters, two sons-in-law, one bonus son, nine grandchildren, brother Dan (Cindi) Austin, sisters Lynn (Tim) Potvin and Joy (Carl) Swanson, as well as several cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends whom he viewed as family.

A Celebration of Life will be held in his honor on April 20, at 3 p.m., at Crown Point Country Club, 155 Golf Course Road, Springfield, Vt.

Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to Hand to Heart Project, P.O. Box 248, Cornish Flat, NH 03746, or Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH), 88 Prospect Street, White River Junction, VT 05001.

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

Mary B. Griswold, 1932-2024

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Mary B. Griswold, 91, of Bellows Falls, Vt., died March 5, 2024. Mrs. Griswold was born on March 25, 1932, in Bellows Falls, the daughter of John and Nora (Gorman) Barry. She was the granddaughter of Irish immigrants, a heritage of which she was very proud.

Mrs. Griswold attended St. Charles Parochial School, and graduated from Bellows Falls High School in 1950.

Following graduation, she was employed by the State of Vermont as a secretary and dispatcher for the Vermont State Police. She left the workforce to raise her children. When they entered school, she worked as a Title I aide at St. Charles School. When the school closed in 1970, she was employed as secretary and bookkeeper by the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union, a position she held for 25 years. Upon retiring, she worked as secretary for St. Charles Church. She was a volunteer at the local blood drives for the American Red Cross, a ballot clerk for the Town of Rockingham/Village of Bellows Falls, and a corporator for Greater Rockingham Area Services.

Mrs. Griswold spent the happiest times at family gatherings – especially vacations in Maine. Her children and grandchildren were a great source of joy and pride.

On April 16, 1955, she married Clayton Griswold. Mr. Griswold passed away on Aug. 4, 2013. She is survived by her daughter Karen Brown and husband Charles of Burlington, Vt.; her daughter Mary-Jo Mumford and her husband



Mary Griswold, 1932-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

Walter of Underhill, Vt.; five grandchildren Amy Veilleux and partner Eric Gregorek of Milton, Vt., Christopher Brown and husband Rick Pingert of South Burlington, Vt., Anna Mumford and husband Jon Kennedy of Vergennes, Vt., Kaylee Mumford and her husband Jason Hartman of Underhill, Vt., and Andrew Mumford and wife Alison of Grantham, N.H.; and five great grandchildren Liam, Carter, Geoffrey, Nora, and Maeve. She was predeceased by her parents, her daughter Noreen Ann, and her brother John.

The family would like to thank those who cared for her, and those who enriched her life.

A Mass of Christian burial took place at St. Charles Church on Saturday, March 16. Burial followed in St. Charles Cemetery. If friends wish to do so, donations may be made in her memory to Kurn Hattin Homes, P.O. Box 127, Westminster, VT 05158.

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

Mary Ellen Millard, 1944-2024

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. – Mary Ellen “Mimi” Millard, 80, passed away after a short illness at Mt. Ascutney Hospital in Windsor, Vt., on March 9, 2024, surrounded by her family. She was born in Springfield, Vt., on Feb. 18, 1944, to Richard “Red” and Mary (Griffin) Forbush. She and her siblings loved summers spent on the water at their aunt’s camps in Alstead, N.H. and York, Maine, traditions which she faithfully continued with her own family. On her birthday in 1966, she married her longtime friend Art Millard, and together they began a family. Although Mary Ellen was a lifelong resident of Windsor County, she had a contagious sense of adventure, and brought the outside world in. Her decades-long career in the White River Junction Post Office helped her to discover and explore countless small towns across Vermont and New Hampshire, and after her retirement, she traveled extensively with a group from the Springfield Senior Center, visiting Australia; Ireland; Alaska; Branson, Mo.; Nashville, Tenn.; the Grand Canyon; and beyond. She also purchased the camp she so dearly loved as a child in Alstead, sharing the special place each summer with her children and grandchildren – kayaking, swimming, sitting on the porch, sharing meals, and celebrating many family birthdays. She was our generous, loving, adventurous, spirited, fiercely independent wife, mom, nana, and sister, who will be dearly missed, but dearly remembered.



Mary Ellen Millard, 1944-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

She is survived by her husband Art Millard of Weathersfield; two children Sean Millard and wife Tammy of Perkinsville, Vt., and Katy Millard and husband Stephen Dauphin of Weathersfield; her two siblings Judy Benjamin of North Springfield, Vt., and Richard “Dick” Forbush and wife Janet of Bellows Falls, Vt.; her sisters-in-law Noella Forbush of Springfield and Mary Lou (Millard) Aldrich of Buxton, Maine, and husband Kenney; two grandchildren Abby Millard-Peña and Ben Millard; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother David Forbush, and her brother-in-law Freeman Benjamin.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, March 26, starting at 2 p.m., and will conclude with a Memory Sharing Celebration of Mary Ellen’s Life at 4 p.m., at Knight Funeral Home in Windsor, Vt. Memorial donations are appreciated to the Alzheimer’s Association, and online condolences may be made at www.knightfuneralhomes.com.

Jeffery R. Philbrook, 1952-2024

WALPOLE, N.H. – Jeffery R. Philbrook of Walpole passed away on March 6, 2024, at Pine Rock Manor in Warner, N.H.

Jeff was born on March 29, 1952, to the late Charles and Justine (Smith) Philbrook in Gardner, Mass.

Jeff graduated from Fall Mountain Regional High School. He worked at Boggy Meadow Farms while in school, and 20 more years after he graduated. He married his wife Debra when he was 25 years old, and had two daughters. One of his talents was carpentry. He was able to build his home where he raised his family. After building his house, he left Boggy Meadow Farms and went to work for Pinnacleview Equipment as a mechanic for 35 years. His hobbies included snowmobiling, softball, hunting, gardening, horseshoes, cards, and baling hay. One of his greatest passions in life was farming and agriculture. He continued to farm at Great Brook Farm with his best friend Peter, haying, fixing equipment, and selling Christmas trees. He raised his girls involved in 4H and Pony Club, where he was active clearing cross country trails and building mounting blocks. He also served as fire commissioner for the town of Walpole.

Jeff was a very proud man. He was always helping others and had many friends. His other great



Jeffery Philbrook, 1952-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

est passion and love was his family. He was the organizer of all of the major family events. Jeff will be deeply missed by all that knew him. Jeff was married to Debra (Tenney) for 47 years, who survives. Jeff is also survived by his children Jamie M. Chamberlain (husband Ross) and Danelle T. Osinchuk (husband Roger). He also leaves two brothers Charles Philbrook III and David Philbrook. Jeff is survived by four grandchildren Isaac Osinchuk, Cameron Chamberlain, Ivan Osinchuk, and Isabel Osinchuk.

Visitation will be held on March 21, from 6-8 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt. A Memorial Service will be held on March 22, at 11 a.m., at the funeral home.

Arrangements are entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home.

Edward J. Wright, 1940-2024

CHESTER, Vt. – Edward Joseph Wright Jr. of Chester, Vt., passed away peacefully and on his own terms, surrounded by his loving family, on March 14, 2024, after a slow decline from pulmonary fibrosis. He was born on July 23, 1940, to Edward J. Wright Sr. and Lauretta (Picard) Wright.

Eddy, or “Junior” as he was called, grew up working on the family dairy farm from a very young age. He graduated from Chester High School and attended UVM briefly. A master of many trades, he taught carpentry, electrical, and plumbing, as well as taking care of maintenance, groundskeeping, and anything that needed doing at East Hill School in Andover, Vt. He managed the shipping department at The National Survey in Chester, and worked at Belknap’s Mill Hill Lumber in Cavendish, as well as Smokeshire Woodworks/ Great Brook Furniture/Kiosko in Springfield.

As a conscientious objector, Ed served his country by working at the Greystone Psychiatric Hospital in New Jersey. This is where he met Nancy Searles. They married in 1963 and moved back to Vermont, where they had two children Tammy and Joe, then divorced in 1972. Ed met Marleen Hunsdon while both were working at the National Survey. They married in May of 1976 and had two children Jeanie and David, whom they raised in Chester, Vt.

Ed was a quiet man who didn’t venture far, but was always willing to lend a hand. He had an incredible work ethic, and everything he attempted was done with ingenuity and precision. He had a brown belt in judo,



Edward Wright, 1940-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

and enjoyed whittling, kayaking, and watching tennis, but what mattered most to Ed was spending time with his family – especially his grandsons, whom he adored beyond measure, never missing a sporting event or opportunity to pass along tidbits of knowledge.

Ed is survived by his wife of 48 years Marleen (Hunsdon) Wright of Chester, Vt.; and his four children Tammy J. Wright and her husband Allan Green Jr. of Andover Vt., Joseph E. Wright and his wife Mary Moeykens of Perkinsville, Vt., Jeanie L. Wright and her son Damion of Chester, Vt., and David E. Wright, his wife Christina (Brown) Wright, and their two sons Cole and Sam of Springfield, Vt.

A private Celebration of Life will be held in July.

EASTER SERVICES

First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 US Route 5, Westminster, Vt.

Holy Week services will begin on Palm Sunday, March 24, at 10 a.m. Palms will be distributed. Then, on Holy Thursday, March 28, a soup meal will be served at 5 p.m. in the Church Hall, with service at 6 p.m. in the church. On Good Friday, there will be music and private meditation from 12-3 p.m., with service at 6 p.m. Easter Sunday sunrise service will be at 6:30 a.m., in the Mayo Building at Kurn Hattin Homes. Breakfast will be served from 7:15-9:45 a.m., at the church. There will then be a 10 a.m. Easter service in the church. Rev. Richard O’Donnell welcomes you, your family, and friends to join us. We would be honored to have you.

First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church St., Bellows Falls, Vt.

Palm Sunday service will be held on Sunday, March 24, at 10 a.m. Then on Thursday, March 28, there will be the Maundy Thursday White Supper and Communion at 5:30 p.m. Easter Sunday, March 31, will begin with sunrise service at 6:45 a.m., at the gazebo at Oak Hill Cemetery, with breakfast to follow at the church. Traditional Easter Sunday service will begin at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

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

A Good Friday service will be held at 6:30 p.m. Easter sunrise service at the gazebo on the Green will begin at 7:30 a.m., with breakfast to follow at 8:30 a.m. in the church. Sunday School for all ages will begin at 9:30 a.m., with morning worship service to begin at 11 a.m. Join us to celebrate Jesus.

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

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

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LEGAL NOTICES

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Great River Hydro, LLC

Project No. 1892-030

NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTED FOR FILING, SOLICITING MOTIONS TO INTERVENE AND PROTESTS, READY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, AND SOLICITING COMMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, PRELIMINARY TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AND PRELIMINARY FISHWAY PRESCRIPTIONS

(February 22, 2024)

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

- Type of Application: New Major License
- Project No.: 1892-030
- Date Filed: May 1, 2017; material amendment filed December 7, 2020
- Applicant: Great River Hydro, LLC (Great River Hydro)
- Name of Project: Wilder Hydroelectric Project (project)
- Location: The project is located on the Connecticut River in Orange and Windsor Counties, Vermont, and Grafton County, New Hampshire.
- Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act 16 U.S.C. §§ 791(a) - 825(f)
- Applicant Contact: John Ragonese, FERC License Manager, Great River Hydro, LLC, 40 Pleasant Street, Suite 202, Portsmouth, NH 03801; (603) 498-2851 or ragonese@greatriverhydro.com
- FERC Contact: Steve Kartalia, (202) 502-6131 or stephen.kartalia@ferc.gov
- Deadline for filing motions to intervene and protests, comments, recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and preliminary fishway prescriptions: 60 days from the issuance date of this notice; reply comments are due 105 days from the issuance date of this notice.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file motions to intervene and protests, comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, and prescriptions using the Commission's eFiling system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOOnline.aspx>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-1892-030.

The Commission's Rules of Practice require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

- This application has been accepted and is ready for environmental analysis at this time.

l. Project Description: The Wilder Project consists of: (1) a 1,546-foot-long, 59-foot-high, concrete dam that includes: (a) a 400-foot-long non-overflow, earthen embankment (north embankment); (b) a 232-foot-long non-overflow, concrete bulkhead; (c) a 208-foot-long concrete forebay; (d) a 526-foot-long concrete, gravity spillway that includes: (i) six 30-foot-high, 36-foot-long tainter gates; (ii) four 17-foot-high, 50-foot-wide stanchion flashboards; (iii) a 15-foot-high, 20-foot-long skimmer gate (north gate); and (iv) a 10-foot-high, 10-foot-long skimmer gate (south gate); and (e) a 180-foot-long non-overflow, earthen embankment (south embankment); (2) a 45-mile-long, 3,100-acre impoundment with a useable storage volume of 13,350 acre-feet between elevations 380 and 385 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD 29); (3) four approximately 25-foot-high, 20-foot-wide trashracks with 5-inch clear bar spacing and one approximately 28-foot-high, 20-foot-wide trashrack with 1.625 inch clear bar spacing; (4) a 181-foot-long, 50-foot-wide, 50-foot-high steel frame, brick powerhouse containing two 16.2-megawatt (MW) adjustable-blade Kaplan turbine-generator units and one 3.2-MW vertical Francis turbine-generator unit for a total project capacity of 35.6 MW; (5) three concrete draft tubes ranging from 9.5 to 20.5 feet in diameter; (6) 13.8-kilovolt generator leads that connect the turbine-generator units to two substation transformers; (7) an approximately 580-foot-long, 6-foot-wide fishway; and (8) appurtenant facilities.

Great River Hydro operates the project in a peaking mode in coordination with its downstream Bellows Falls Project No. 1855 and Vernon Project No. 1904. Average annual generation is approximately 156,303 MW-hours. Great River Hydro is proposing changes to project operation that would reduce impoundment fluctuations and increase the stability of downstream flow releases relative to current project operation, including targeted water surface elevation levels and flow ramping rates. Great River Hydro also proposes several protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures for aquatic, terrestrial, cultural, recreation resources, and threatened and endangered species. The specific proposed changes are described in the amended application and the settlement agreement filed on August 4, 2022.

- A copy of the application can be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

n. Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 C.F.R. §§ 385.210, .211, and .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

All filings must: (1) bear in all capital letters the title "PROTEST," "MOTION TO INTERVENE," "COMMENTS," "REPLY COMMENTS," "RECOMMENDATIONS," "PRELIMINARY TERMS AND CONDITIONS," or "PRELIMINARY FISHWAY PRESCRIPTIONS;" (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the filing; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR §§ 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, recommendations, terms and conditions, or prescriptions must set forth their evidentiary basis and otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR § 4.34(b). Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant. A copy of any protest or motion to intervene must be served upon each representative of the applicant specified in the particular application. A copy of all other filings in reference to this application must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed on the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR §§ 4.34(b) and 385.2010.

The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, environmental justice communities, Tribal members and others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or OPP@ferc.gov.

You may also register online at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOOnline.aspx> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

- The applicant must file no later than 60 days following the date of issuance of this notice: (1) a copy of the water quality certification; (2) a copy of the request for certification, including proof of the date on which the certifying agency received the request; or (3) evidence of waiver of water quality certification.

p. Procedural Schedule: The application will be processed according to the following schedule. Revisions to the schedule will be made as appropriate.

MILESTONE: Deadline for filing motions to intervene, protests, comments, recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and preliminary fishway prescriptions

TARGET DATE: April 2024

MILESTONE: Deadline for filing reply comments

TARGET DATE: May 2024

- Final amendments to the application must be filed with the Commission no later than 30 days from the issuance date of this notice.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,
Acting Secretary

MARCH 23 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The United Church of Bellows Falls, 8 School Street, will be serving a crockpot buffet supper on Saturday, March 23, from 5-7 p.m. The meal will include a variety of entrees, a salad bar, bread, dessert, and beverages. There will also be gluten-free and vegetarian options. There is a small cost; children under 6 are free. The building is accessible to all, please enter from the back.

MARCH 25 – LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street, will be serving lunch on Monday, March 25, at 12 p.m. The menu will be hot roast beef sandwiches, fresh string beans, and cupcakes. Free cash bingo will follow. Please make a reservation by calling 802-228-7421. All are welcome.

MARCH 30 – LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow and Proctorsville Volunteer Fire Departments and Black River Good Neighbor Services will be distributing a curbside-pickup Easter Dinner on Saturday, March 30, from 12-2 p.m. The menu will consist of ham, potatoes, gravy, corn, a roll, and dessert. Pickup will be outside the Ludlow Community Center. To reserve your dinner, call Angela at 802-356-3823 by March 15. There is a maximum of 125 dinners.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Vermont Volunteer Services for Animals will be holding a rabies vaccination clinic on Saturday, March 30, from 1-2:30 p.m., at Riverside Middle School, for a nominal fee. To volunteer to help with this event, call 802-672-5302, or email skaskiw@vermontel.net.

APRIL 4 – CHESTER, Vt. – St. Luke's Episcopal Church will host a Memory Café on Thursday, April 4, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Memory Cafes are non-judgmental places where caregivers socialize, share stories, and learn about resources. Senior Solutions staff and volunteers will engage with your loved one while you meet with other caregivers. Come with your loved one who has dementia, Alzheimer's, or Parkinson's. Music and refreshments provided. Free for everyone.

APRIL 5 – CHESTER, Vt. – Upstairs @ Town Hall will host poet Sydney Lea on Friday, April 5, at 7 p.m., at the Chester Town Hall. Lea was the poet laureate of Vermont from 2011-2015. In 2021, he received the Governor's Award for Excellence in

the Arts. He will read from and sign his book "What Shines." The event is cosponsored by the Stone Village Pottery Experience. Admission is free.

SUNDAYS – 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.

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

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

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.

TUESDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Senior Solutions is again sponsoring two Fall Prevention Tai Chi classes in the Great Hall, on Pearl Street in Springfield, on Tuesdays. The advanced class will meet from 9:30-10:30 a.m. The beginner class will meet from 10:40-11:40 a.m. When practiced regularly, Tai Chi not only helps to lower the risk of falling, but also improves concentration, leg strength, balance and coordination, reduces joint pain and stress, and builds a sense of belonging. For more information or to register, contact Sue Rubel at suerubl@aol.com, or Sophia Blanchard at SBlanchard@seniorsolutionsvt.org.

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.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Knitting Together, every Wednesday, 1-3 p.m., at Village Square Booksellers, knitting hats and mittens for

our school kids. We provide yarn, some direction, and an enjoyable visit. Acrylic yarn donations are always welcome. For more information, contact Caroline at 802-463-4653.

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

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Genealogy enthusiast Wayne Blanchard will be at the Rockingham Library on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. If you own a laptop, please bring it along. Both beginners and seasoned genealogists are welcome.

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

GRAFTON, Vt. – A free playgroup for children from newborns to age 5 will be held at Grafton Elementary School on Thursday mornings, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Activities will include songs, games, and arts and crafts. Contact Heather with any questions at 802-843-4792.

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

FRIDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Alcoholics Anonymous meetings held every Friday at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church, located at 96 South Main Street in Chester. If you have a problem with alcohol, this is an understanding place to come to.

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

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

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

Green Mountain Union High School is looking for a Girls Varsity Basketball Coach

For more information or to apply, please email todd.parah@trsu.org. Background Check Required EOE.

LMHUUSD School Board Has an Immediate Opening

The Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District (LMHUUSD) seeks two Ludlow Town resident interested in serving as a member of our local school board. The term of this position will be until Town Meeting Election Day held on Tuesday, March 4th, 2025. The Board meets regularly, the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and others as necessary. Members may fulfill additional responsibilities such as serving on board committees.

Please submit a letter of interest to:

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

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

GOTRVT spring program

REGION – Girls on the Run Vermont's (GOTRVT) registration for its spring program is now open statewide. GOTRVT is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that inspires students in third through eighth grade to be joyful, healthy, and confident. The ten-week program incorporates movement to empower participants to develop critical life skills, build confidence, cultivate positive connections with peers, manage their emotions, and stand up for themselves and others. Volunteer coaches utilize a research-based curriculum to engage teams of girls in fun, interactive lessons that foster the social, emotional, and physical wellbeing of participants.

The spring season begins the week of March 18 statewide. Teams meet twice a

week for 90 minutes, and the program culminates with all teams participating in one of two noncompetitive, celebratory 5K events in Essex at the Champlain Valley Expo, on June 1, and Manchester, Vt., at the Manchester Recreation Fields, on June 8. These events bring together family, friends, and community members to celebrate the participants' growth throughout the season.

Financial aid is available to help with the program fee those who need it. The program fee includes registration and activities for the end-of-season 5K event, a program T-shirt, personal journal to use throughout the season, cinch sack, water bottle, and more. Information about the program and registration can be found on the Girls on the Run Vermont website, www.gotrvt.org.

AUCTION

SPRINGFIELD, VT – Auction held Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 10:00 AM at 368 River Street. To be auctioned: Marjorie Swasey – Storage Unit #31.

FOR RENT

LUDLOW, Vt. – Two bedroom, one bath, first floor, unfurnished. \$1000 plus utilities. Available April 1. Call 802-384-0313.

GUNS WANTED

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

HELP WANTED

LUDLOW, Vt. – Full time bartender wanted at the American Legion in Ludlow. Work nights. Stop in or call 802-228-9807.



SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER VACANCY

Springfield School District seeks a School Board member to fill the remainder of a term for one year (April, 2024 through March, 2025).

Interested parties should submit a letter of interest to Colleen Amaya, Admin Asst to the Superintendent camaya@ssdvt.org by March 31, 2024.

Milfoil Inspector / Greeter

The Lake Rescue Association has a part-time position available this summer for a Milfoil Inspector / Greeter at the Lake Rescue Fishing Access Boat Ramp in Ludlow, VT. The position involves working six hours per day on up to three days per week (typically Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and major holidays from Memorial Day to Labor Day). The position pays \$20/Hour.

The job includes paid training with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. Responsibilities include screening and data logging of incoming and outgoing watercraft such as motorboats, fishing boats, kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, etc. looking for evidence of invasive water species such as Eurasian milfoil. Interested candidates should send a resume to George Thomson at gothomson131vt@gmail.com.



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For more information and to apply, fill out application at www.glebemountaingardens.com/employment-application
802-824-3956
3714 Route 11, Londonderry

Part-Time Library Director – Butterfield Library Westminster Institute - Westminster, VT

The Butterfield Library has a part-time position for a skilled and energetic Library Director. We are looking for candidates excited to bring new and creative ideas to shape our library of the future. In addition to managing the library, the Director will develop new programs and activities, expand community outreach, and create a welcoming space for people of all ages to enjoy and learn.

The position is approximately 17-20 hours a week, at the rate of \$21-\$23 per hour, with limited benefits. Some evening and/or weekend hours are included. The schedule will be developed in coordination with the successful candidate after assessing the current schedule. To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to sjharlow@myfairpoint.net or jgrou@high5adventure.org. Butterfield Library Trustees. The position is open until filled.

For a description of the position and more detail, go to: butterfieldlibrarywestminster.wordpress.com.

The Butterfield Library, part of the Westminster Institute located in Westminster village, has a 100-year history of serving the community.

Weekly SUDOKU									
Answer									
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King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 26 mins.

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4-6 p.m. Meets at VAULT. Please Register.

Handmade Books w/ Deborah Stuart 3/23
Raku Pottery w/ Andrew Berends 4/6 & 4/13
Painting Flowers in Watercolor w/ Rob O'Brien 4/6
Flowers in Texture & Color w/ Julie Crabtree 4/27
(04/24/24 - TFN - 13)

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(11/20/24 - 52)

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(06/05/24 - 52)

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(05/08/24 - 13)

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(08/14/24 - TFN - 52)

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(05/22/24 - 13)

Okemo Valley TV

LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

- Spotlight on Memory Café
- Governor Scott Press Conference
- Rotary Club Guest Speaker - Administering Narcan
- Local Church Services
- Story Time

Okemo Valley TV now has its own app on all of the main streaming platforms! Apple TV, Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Google Play, and mobile (iOS & Android)
(04/03/24 - TFN - 13)

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(08/07/24 - 26)

arts & events

LEGAL NOTICES

Dance Party at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present roots and world music quintet The Gaslight Tinkers at Next Stage on Friday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m. Blending African, Caribbean, funk, reggae, and Latin grooves with traditional fiddle music, the quintet creates the genre-bending future of the music of the past. Brothers Sammy Divinda, Israel Mbombo, and Gershom Mbombo – new Brattleboro residents from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda – will open the show with original and traditional music of their homeland.

The Gaslight Tinkers' mix of global rhythms creates a joyous world beat sound



Sammy Divinda, Israel Mbombo, and Gershom Mbombo coming to Next Stage.

PHOTO PROVIDED

around a core of traditional New England old time and Celtic fiddle music, merging boundless positive energy with melody and song. Drawing from their extensive musical backgrounds in traditional folk, Caribbean, old time, Celtic, and rock, I-Shea, Clara, Garrett, Elie, and Peter craft a sound that brings world traditions together.

Since its formation in 2012,

the band has lit up the nation coast to coast, as well as the Caribbean, headlining clubs, dances, and major festivals. The Gaslight Tinkers have performed at

Green River Festival, The Iron Horse Music Hall, The Parlor Room, Old Songs Festival, Caffe Lena, Strange Creek, Rock and Roll Resort, Old Songs, Falcon Ridge Folk Festivals, and Wormtown Festival.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill. Tickets are discounted in advance at www.nextstagearts.org. For information, call 802-387-0102 or visit the website above.

Carolann Solebello and Marc Douglas Berardo at Stage 33 Live

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Carolann Solebello is a performing songwriter from New York City, best known as a founding member of Americana trio Red Molly. She now tours as a solo troubadour, and with modern folk foursome No Fuss and Feathers. Her smooth, pitch-perfect voice, compelling lyrics, and warm yet accomplished acoustic guitar work nod to rural folk traditions, while an urban sense of rhythm and sophisticated phrasing plant her firmly in the present. She's won a pile of songwriting awards, and is currently working on her sixth solo album. Carolann has a history with Bellows Falls, hav-

ing been a three-time performer at the Roots On The River festival, plus appearances at fabled local venues Oona's and Boccelli's.

Marc Douglas Berardo composes song-length fictions that mine deep feelings and real-life lessons and situations, and delivers them with an engaging onstage presence and deft storytelling. His sharply drawn, award-winning song-portraits cast a net on unusual and beguiling characters – circus retirees, expats in Florida rum bars, union ironworkers, old poets, aimless New York City debutantes, near-death car crashes, hard-nosed fishermen, and the changes that experience brings to everyone. He has shared bills with heavyweights

like The Doobie Brothers, NRBQ, Guy Clark, Vassar Clements, Ralph Stanley, Buffalo Springfield, Martin Sexton, Steve Forbert, Justin Townes Earle, New Riders of the Purple Sage, Cheryl Wheeler, Lucy Kaplansky, Livingston Taylor, David Olney, Jimmy LaFave, 10,000 Maniacs, and John Hiatt.

Carolann Solebello and Marc Douglas Berardo co-headline Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge Street in Bellows Falls, Vt., on Sunday, April 7, at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance through www.stage33live.com, or at the door. Advance tickets guarantee entry. All ticket proceeds go to the performers. There is limited seating; the event will be recorded and filmed.

Development Review Board Town of Ludlow, Vermont Hybrid Public Hearing April 8, 2024 at 6:00pm

A public hearing before the Development Review Board for the Town of Ludlow, Vermont, will be held on 8 April 2024 at 6:00 P.M., in the Heald Auditorium, at the Ludlow Town Hall, and via Zoom.

APPLICANT: Okemo Limited Liability Company
Ludlow, VT
Parcel No. 030673-000
PROPERTY LOCATION: 77 Okemo Ridge Road
Ludlow, Vermont, 05149

REASON FOR HEARING: Application is for the relocation of the Starlight Carpet, located at the Jackson Gore base area, to the Okemo Clock Tower Base area behind Okemo Mountain Lodge Building C. This project is located in the Town's Mountain Recreation district.

APPLICATION NUMBER: 288-05-CU, Amendment No.1
092-95-PUD, Amendment No.3
478-20-ACT250, Amendment No.1

The above application is available for inspection at the Ludlow Municipal Offices. Persons wishing to participate may do so in person, be represented by an agent or an attorney, by Zoom, or by writing the Board. Written communications about the application should be filed with the Board either prior to, or during, the hearing. Hybrid meeting information will be available on the agenda, posted at www.ludlow.vt.us.

Rosemary Goings
Director of Planning and Zoning

Rob Flax's Boom Chick Trio

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts presents eclectic jazz combo Boom Chick Trio on Saturday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m. Equal parts hot swing, snarky songwriting, and lyrical storytelling, this energetic trio of virtuoso violin, guitar, and bass, plus

three-part harmony vocals, will transport you to a speakeasy somewhere in the back of a bar. You might not be able to sit still in your seat, and you'll have a smile on your face most of the show!

"Boom Chick," what a

name to express the hot jazz trio that are masters of their craft," says Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts. "We're excited to introduce these musicians to our community, because they cross some interesting lines between traditional sounds while making it feel exciting and new."

Rob Flax possesses a rare combination of skills: he is an award-winning virtuoso violinist, classically trained but known for his jazz and improvisational pyrotechnics and irresistible grooves; he is also a powerhouse vocalist, capable of silky crooning a la Nat King Cole or visceral Chicago blues shouts.

For many years, Flax performed mostly solo – it takes a special kind of musician to keep pace with his stylistic breadth and depth – but after much searching, he's finally found

a band that can keep up: Rob Flax's Boom Chick Trio is a new "supergroup" that features Slava Tolstoy on guitar and Max Ridley on bass. Max and Slava both are incredible instrumentalists who have chops for days, but know how to balance their prowess in service of the song.

Together, the three string-wielding maestros have forged a powerful group dynamic, developed over years of gigging and concerts, and the result is an interplay that will bring a smile to your face.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance through www.nextstagearts.org. There is also a livestream option. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar. For information, call 802-387-0102 or visit the website above.

Development Review Board Town of Ludlow, Vermont Hybrid Public Hearing April 8, 2024 at 6:00pm

A public hearing before the Development Review Board for the Town of Ludlow, Vermont, will be held on 8 April 2024 at 6:00 P.M., in the Heald Auditorium, at the Ludlow Town Hall, and via Zoom.

APPLICANT: William and Marcelle Tucker
Ludlow, VT
Parcel No. 100226-000
PROPERTY LOCATION: 109 Flatow Road
Ludlow, Vermont, 05149

REASON FOR HEARING: Application is for the subdivision of one 10 Acre parcel into two parcels, 4.24 and 3.14 Acres. Two lot line adjustments will be included in this application as well. This project is located in the Town Residential district.

APPLICATION NUMBER: SUB24-004

The above application is available for inspection at the Ludlow Municipal Offices. Persons wishing to participate may do so in person, be represented by an agent or an attorney, by Zoom, or by writing the Board. Written communications about the application should be filed with the Board either prior to, or during, the hearing. Hybrid meeting information will be available on the agenda, posted at www.ludlow.vt.us.

Rosemary Goings
Director of Planning and Zoning

Springfield's annual Family Festival

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Area Parent Child Center (SAPCC) is excited to announce the 31st annual "Week of the Young Child" Family Festi-

val, to be held on Saturday, April 6, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., at Riverside Middle School in Springfield, Vt. As always, this is a totally free community event for families.

SAPCC will once again be partnering with the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center to bring Touch-a-Truck to the event, complete with tractors, big rigs, and emergency vehicles for children to explore outside in the parking lot. The Edgar May will also be hosting the annual Fastest Kid in Town Race at this event this year, sponsored by Springfield Hospital.

Join local children's educators and family support organizations for entertainment, games, snacks, resources, and giveaways inside the gymnasium. Thanks to a generous sponsorship by Cota Oil, VT & NH Photo Booths will be present once again to capture all the fun with free photos from their photo booth. There will be a free book giveaway for children, and sign ups for the Imagination Library will be available. Dozens of booths will provide entertainment like tumbling, face-painting, seed planting, arts, crafts, giveaways, and so much more.

For more information, or to sign up to have a booth at this event, visit the Springfield Area Parent Child Center Facebook event, email sapcc@sapcc-vt.org, or call 802-886-5242.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, VERMONT POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The Select Board of the Town of Ludlow, Vermont invites letters of interest for the following available positions for 2024/2025:

One-year Term Positions Available:

- Black River Valley Senior Center Representative
- Council on Aging-Senior Solutions Advisory Board Representative
- Development Review Board (DRB)
- Emergency Management Director
- Emergency Management Assistant
- Fence Viewers- (3) positions
- Pound Keeper
- Recreation Committee – (3) positions
- Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission Representative
- Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission Alternate
- Southern Windsor County Transportation Advisory Representative
- Southern Windsor County Transportation Advisory Alternate
- Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Mgmt. District Representative
- Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Mgmt. District Alternate
- Surveyor of Wood & Lumber
- Town Health Officer – Deputy
- Tree Warden
- Tree Warden - Deputy
- Weigher of Coal

Three-year Term Positions Available:

- Recreation Committee

Four-year Term Positions Available:

- Planning Commission – (1) Position

Five-year Term Position Available:

- None

Anyone interested in filling one or more available positions should submit a letter of interest no later than March 22, 2024 to the Ludlow Municipal Office. For your convenience, you may email your letter to: townhall@tds.net and village@tds.net or send your letter to:

Town of Ludlow Appointments
P.O. Box 359
Ludlow, VT 05149

Appointments will be chosen by the Ludlow Select Board at their regular meeting scheduled for April 1, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

Town Of Plymouth, Vermont Treasurer / Tax Collector

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

Recommended Qualifications

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

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

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

LEGAL NOTICES

arts & events

“The Groom has Cold Feet” in Charlestown

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Charlestown Rotary and River Theater Company will present a murder mystery dinner theater fundraiser, “The Groom Has Cold Feet,” on Friday, March 22, and Saturday, March 23, at 6 p.m.; and Sunday, March 24, at 1 p.m., at the town hall, first floor, in Charlestown, N.H. Dinner includes pulled pork, rolls, coleslaw, bean salad, coffee/tea, and a wedding cake for dessert.

In the 1890s Old West, the reviled Albert Webster (Jeffrey Sempredon) turns up murdered the morning of his wedding to local sweetheart Kayla May Blossom (Ashley Guerriere). There’s no shortage of suspects in the sleepy town of Pine Grove. Luckily, there’s also no shortage of town gossips, each with her own theory acted out in hilarious slow-mo fashion for the audience to see (Meg Kupiec,

Ruth Pratt, Liz Durrett, and Heather Smith). Could it have been saloon girl Darleen (Cayla Carpia), the last one to see Albert, and the girl he dumped for Kayla May? Was it Virgil (Jaden Rogers), the reluctant best man and ex-boyfriend of Kayla May? Or could it be Gladys (Sarah Streeter), loyal best friend to the bride? How about Hazel (Leslie Peabody), the about-



“The Groom Has Cold Feet.”

PHOTO PROVIDED

to-be-evicted mother of the bride? Could local farmer Harley (A.J. Williams) want a wife bad enough to kill? And who is that mysterious stranger (Chuck Lessard)? It’s going to take all of Sher-

iff Tickle’s (Stan Marro) investigative skills, along with his sidekick daughter Sarah (Lanie Goodwin), deputy Milton (Armando Stettner), and the towns folk (Paula Carello and Olivia Herrington), and extra help from you, the audience, to solve this animated mystery.

Come for a fantastic fundraising dinner, and maybe even win a prize if you can guess “who done it.” Feel free to don Old West clothing; flannels, suspenders, bandanas, hats – but present-day clothing is okay too. Doors open one half hour before the show. Reservations must be made in advance online through Eventbrite, and tickets include full dinner and the show.

Proceeds from the dinner theater will benefit Charlestown Rotary and River Theater Company.

Next Stage Arts presents Espirales Project

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts presents Cuban quintet Espirales Project on Friday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m., at Next Stage Arts, located at 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt. Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.nextstagearts.org. There is also a livestream option. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar. For information, call 802-387-0102 or visit the website above.

Newly emerging on the Cuban music scene in 2023, the Espirales Project brings together five top graduates of Cuba’s Instituto Superior de Arte, performing across several genres – Cuban, jazz, world, and chamber music. Tania Haase, Ol-

ivia Rodríguez, Alejandro Aguiar, Jesús Estrada, and Rodrigo García have led or contributed nationally and internationally to projects across all these styles, performing at Cuba’s International Jazz Plaza Festival and the Habana Clásica concert music festival. They are also teachers who have designed a development program on Cuban music and culture.

“The Cuban-based Espirales Project graduated from the premiere university in Havana for arts and culture, and we’re so excited about the opportunity to present them at Next Stage,” says Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts. “We love collaboration with regional friends like the Vermont Jazz Center and the Brattleboro Music Center, so this is an incredible

opportunity for our region to exhibit how the power of collaboration supports our region through co-presenting international artists.”

The group is led by pianist Rodrigo García Ameneiro. Although his career is still in its early stages, his achievements include the award for best composition at the Stanford Jazz Workshop 2016; first place in the international Vivo competition in 2018 at Carnegie Hall in New York; and special prize in the international Grand Prize Virtuoso Amsterdam in 2019, together with his wife and Espirales violinist Tania Haase; and the Grand Prize at the Rocky Mountain Music Competition in 2021.

This concert is copresented with Vermont Jazz Center.

Raku pottery workshop at Gallery at the VAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the VAULT is excited to offer a raku pottery workshop with Andrew Berends on two consecutive Saturdays, April 6 and April 13, from 1-5 p.m. each day. Register by Saturday, March 30.

Berends will be teaching the exciting Japanese firing technique known as raku. Raku is a 16th-century technique developed in Japan for making tea ceremony ware. It has been further developed in this country to produce really interesting pottery. The firings take about an hour, and you get a finished piece at the end. Raku is a really fun, exciting technique, where pots are fired to 1,840 degrees, pulled out of the hot kiln, and manipulated with sawdust and water to change the look of the glazes. The glazes can be metallic, and/or with a crackle effect, making each piece truly unique and one-of-a-kind. We will also fire pots with an exciting new technique known as “horse hair” raku, which creates really interesting designs on the clay. The raku firings can be done indoors or outdoors, depending on the weather.

The class will include wheel throwing, slab mak-

ing, as well as extruding instruction. The first day will include making all types of clay work, and the second day will be glazing and firing all the pots in the raku tradition. Emphasis will be on being creative and learning the basics of pottery, including making the work, glazing, as well as firing. The class is geared towards teens through adults, and limited to five students. This promises to be a fun experience working in a very unique and rewarding medium.

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

The cost of the class, discounted for gallery members, includes 25 pounds of clay, glazes, and firing costs in a gas-fired kiln. Wear old clothing and bring pottery

tools if you have them. Directions to Andrew’s studio in Springfield will be given at registration.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street, 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.

Wire-wrapped pendant workshop at the VAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Learn to create a wire-wrapped pendant with Thomasin “Alyx” Alexander at Gallery at the VAULT on Saturday, April 6, from 1-3 p.m. These will be trendy, cool pendants.

You will learn to form a bezel around a cabochon stone using wire. Alyx’s favorite technique is an asymmetrical or organic style, but you can take a more structured or symmetrical approach. There will be a variety of stones to choose from. You can also choose between copper or sterling wire.

The registration fee is discounted for gallery members. There is also a small materials fee, depending on which materials you choose to use.



Wire-wrapped pendants made by Tomasin Alexander.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Please register by April 3.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street, 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.

Town of Londonderry, Vermont Invitation to Bid

The Town of Londonderry, Vermont is seeking bids for the extensive renovation of the Town Office building. The Advertisement for Bids can be viewed on the Town website – www.londonderryvt.org. The deadline to submit bids electronically is 2:00 PM on Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

Shane O’Keefe, Town Administrator

Town of Londonderry, VT Job Opening - STR Administrator

The Town of Londonderry, Vermont is accepting applications for the new position of Short-Term Rental Administrator. This position is responsible for the development, implementation and administration of the Town’s Short-Term Rental (“STR”) registration program in keeping with the Town’s STR Ordinance.

A hiring package including the job announcement, job description, employment application, and STR Ordinance can be found on the Town website: www.londonderryvt.org. Position open until filled. EOE.



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

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (DRB) WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL Westminster, Vermont Legal Notice

The Westminster Development Review Board will meet at 6:00 pm on Monday, April 1, 2024 to consider the following:

Application # 24-09A Jeffrey Brown(owner) Nicholas Brown(applicant) property located at 900 US Route 5. (This was a parcel from the Widdicombe Schmidt Estate). The Applicant is requesting to build a 24’x 36’ Single Family Home. Application will be reviewed under Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 446 Residential District; of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

Application # 24-31 Daniel Kissell Sr. (owner) property located at 0 Pine Banks Road. The Applicant is requesting a Lot Line Adjustment. Application will be reviewed under Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 447 Rural Residential District; and 215 Zoning Permit Procedures of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

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

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

TOWN OF ROCKINGHAM

The Town of Rockingham is seeking applications for the following committees: Connecticut River Joint Commission-2, Animal Control-1, Tree Warden-1, Town Service Officer, Conservation Commission-2, Energy Committee-4. If interested, please contact the Town Manager at Manager@rockbf.org, or call 802-463-3964 or 802-376-9780.

Town meeting is on April 1, 2024, in the opera house starting at 7 PM. There will be handouts available for articles up for voting. Please be sure to obtain one. Attendance by zoom is permitted, but, only persons in attendance at the meeting can vote, as per statute there is no voting by zoom.

Town reports are available 10 days before town meeting at these locations: Lisal’s Market, Library, Town Hall, Saxtons River Market.

BELLOWS FALLS VILLAGE CORPORATION PUBLIC NOTICE WATER MAIN FLUSHING

THE BELLOWS FALLS VILLAGE CORPORATION WATER SYSTEM WILL BE FLUSHED WEEKDAYS FROM 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. BEGINNING Monday, April 1, 2024, AND CONTINUING THROUGH Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

SOME AREAS MAY EXPERIENCE ROILY WATER BUT THIS CONDITION SHOULD CORRECT ITSELF IN A SHORT TIME.

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS, PLEASE CALL THE BELLOWS FALLS WATER DEPT. AT 802-463-1232. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

Brian Joslyn
Chief Operator, Bellows Falls Water Dept.

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD

The Town of Springfield is soliciting contracting services to demolish buildings located at 43 Park Street, 34-36 Valley Street, and 84 Valley Street. Work includes full building demolition and restoration of the land. Interested contractors must email Charles Wise at toszoning@vermontel.net to request the complete solicitation. A mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 28, 2024. Bids are due on Thursday, April 4, 2024.

TOWN OF WESTON

The Town of Weston seeks to add full-time, year-round member for our Road Crew. We take pride in maintaining the Town’s equipment, roads, and facilities and creating improvements where we can, the successful applicant will be a team player willing to do their best and learn along the way. Candidates are required to hold a VT Driver’s License, have a High School diploma or equivalent and a valid CDL Class B Driver’s License, successfully pass a background check, and participate in drug testing.

This position has benefits, including health care, and a retirement package. The position is eligible for overtime. Mail or return your application to: Town of Weston PO Box 98 Weston, VT 05161 or drop off at the Town Office. You can also email the application to selectboard@westonvt.org Applications will be reviewed as received with the position open until filled. The Town of Weston is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TOWN OF CHESTER Housing Development Feasibility Study

The Town of Chester is requesting proposals for a Feasibility Study regarding the development of approximately 120 acres of town owned land for the purpose of developing housing. This project will include a site constraint analysis, zoning analysis, basic conceptual plans, an Implementation and Phasing Plan as well as identification of potential funding opportunities. This project is being funded by a Municipal Planning Grant and matching town contribution.

Contact the Chester Town Office to obtain a full copy of the Request for Proposal.

All bids are due no later than April 5, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. The submittal requires one digital copy and one printed copy.

Attn: Julie Hance
Town Manager
Town of Chester
P.O. Box 370
Chester, Vermont 05143
(802) 875-2173
Julie.hance@chestervt.gov



What are you avoiding in 2024?

REGION – In recent times, it has become common to hear that a family member does not talk to “that sister or brother” anymore. “They live 2,000 miles away, but that isn’t far enough!” Mom passes, and one sibling only wants the silverware, while another quietly swoops in and takes it home.

“Avoidance is the best short-term strategy to escape conflict, and the best long-term strategy to ensure suffering.” – Burchard.

Avoidance, the approach for those whose stress response tends to be flight or freeze, tends to have many unforeseen consequences. “Aiming to simply avoid and discourage conflicts

generally results in family members or coworkers feeling shut down, resentful, and misunderstood.” – Simperingham.

Integrating mindful, unemotional, and restorative practices with a trained professional help can support the overall health of the family or business unit. Teammates with a new vocabulary of peaceful disagreement and sorting, with tools at their disposal, will be more successful.

“Clarity planning” is when you meet with a professional to brain storm, scratch out a worksheet, and have a safe, fair conversation about pending

future events. Next, you arrive at a clarity document everyone signs off on. Often times having ground rules and meetings run by a professional in conflict consulting can help make crooked roads straighter before people get inflamed with emotion.

At The Flat Table, you can do and clarify the things that need addressing.

Workplace trainings and facilitation is also available to refresh aspirations, goals, values, and mission.

Tom Salmon has performed various conflict resolution roles, formal and informal, spanning a 30-year career as a certified

public accountant (CPA), credentialed educator, Vermont state official, United States Navy Senior Chief (retired Seabee), and federal senior executive (SES). He is a Dispute Resolution Programs Act (DRPA) certified mediator, and has facilitated leadership and peacebuilding seminars for over 1,000 civilian and military personnel. In December 2023, Tom earned his master’s degree in conflict resolution, and seeks to help families and individuals, businesses and organizations with clarity planning, leadership training, and conflict prevention and resolution consulting.

Here is what clients have said about Tom: “Tom helped me reach all nine of my goals from his workshop on goal setting, including quitting smoking.” – Ryan H., Springfield.

“Tom provided our family with support in a range of areas throughout an incredibly challenging year. We are grateful for his wise, down to earth and practical advice, in addition to offering care.” – Pamela W. Brattleboro.

For more information, visit www.theflattable.com.

Written by Tom Salmon, The Flat Table.

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www.calmmomentsmassage.com

Grounded in Gratitude Retreat at Jasper Forest

LUDLOW, Vt. – As the season of renewal approaches, Jasper Forest invites you to embrace gratitude and connection at our Grounded in Gratitude Retreat. Taking place on Sunday, March 24, from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., this transformative, one-day retreat offers a sanctuary for nourishing your body and spirit through yoga, meditation, reiki, and sound therapy.

Amidst the swirling en-

ergies of the upcoming lunar eclipse, astrological new year, spring equinox, and Mercury retrograde, our retreat serves as a beacon of calm and reflection. We understand that turbulent times can challenge our sense of gratitude. Yet, it’s precisely during these moments of darkness that gratitude becomes a guiding light, helping us navigate through grief and heartache.

Throughout the retreat, participants will engage in practices designed to release what no longer serves them, align their energies, and cultivate a deep sense

of presence. Crystal alignment, chakra balancing, and grounding exercises will facilitate a profound connection to the present moment, allowing attendees to embody gratitude as a daily practice, even amidst life’s uncertainties.

In addition to the retreat, Jasper Forest is honored to host Gabriel Godwyne of MoonChild Crystals for the Aquarius Eclipse Gem Show, on April 6 and 7. Explore a curated collection of rare gems and minerals from around the world, and connect with special guest Tamara Sienna of Wild-

flower Dreadlocks, offering sacred adornment and spiritual guidance, including dreadlock services, new real/temporary locs and dreadlock maintenance, hair wraps, wool locs, intuitive body paint and three auric photos, henna art, energetic spirit readings, and plant-guided journey sessions. Tamara provides personalized guidance to empower and support individuals on their spiritual journey.

Looking ahead, Jasper Forest is looking forward to offering a short and sweet three-week yoga class series, beginning this Thursday, March 21. Whether you’re a seasoned yogi or a beginner, these rejuvenating classes are designed to release stress and revitalize your mind, body, and spirit.

At Jasper Forest, we offer more than just retreats and events – we create transformative experiences tailored to your needs. From customized wellness experiences to our unique oxygen bar, we provide a range of services to elevate your gatherings and celebrations.

Join us as we cultivate transformation, connection, and gratitude. Visit www.jasperforest.com for more information, and let us design a memorable experience for you. Embrace the beauty of the present moment and embark on a journey of self-discovery with Jasper Forest.

Written by Jasper Forest.

A “CAN DO” Company! - TEAMWORK with TOM

- Is it time to improve family or business relationships before paying expensive legal fees and court costs? Do you simply need a referee to avoid never speaking to family again?
- Do you need a *Life Coach* to help make a clarity plan to act on and achieve your goals?
- Do you need to settle debts or work through a financial issue before people *Lawyer Up*?

• Businesses and Organizations: How is teamwork, communication and culture in the workplace? Need to refresh aspirations or vision/mission? Let me facilitate: 1-hour sessions to all-day workshops. Also, a 4-step leadership training program for individuals.

I started this company called **The Flat Table** to help people create conditions for fair and successful outcomes. **TOM SALMON, CPA**. MA degree in Conflict Resolution. Certified dispute resolver (DRPA). 21-year Veteran of the U.S. Navy (Seabees) Reserves. 15-year Senior Executive. 10-year Licensed Teacher.

Call or Text 802-535-1555 or go to TheFlatTable.com

WE VALUE OUR YOUTH

By preventing first-time substance use and misuse among youth, we increase the overall health and well-being of our community. Find out how you can help!

GET INVOLVED ♦ JOIN THE COALITION
visit www.braccvt.org for more information

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INTEGRATIVE WELLNESS & HEALING CENTER

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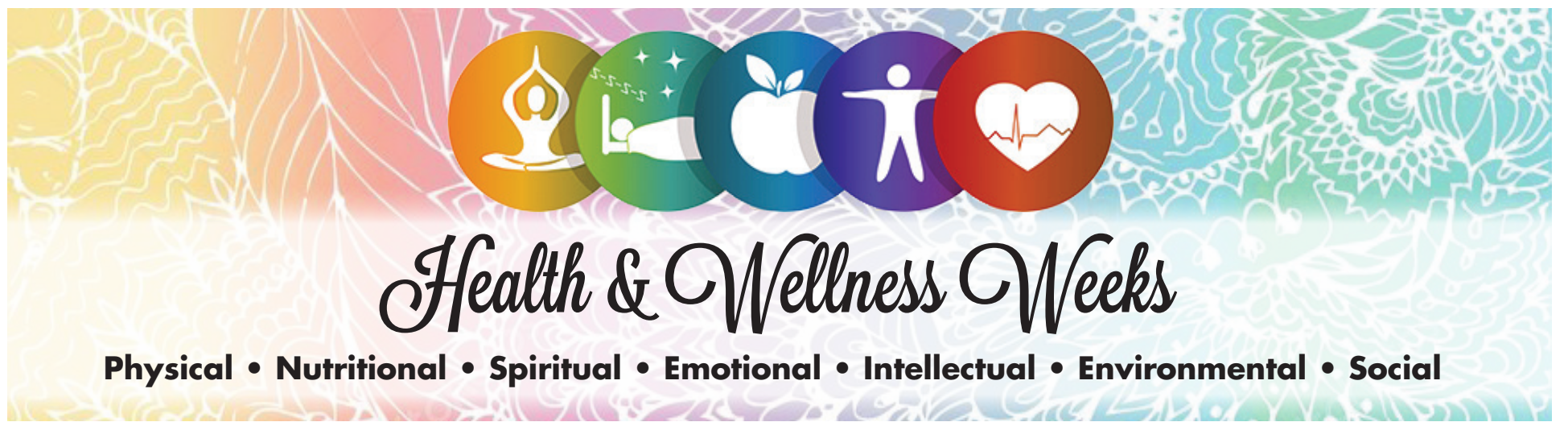
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Springfield Hospital nuclear medicine program —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — Patients and physicians can now experience a new level of diagnostic imaging at Springfield Hospital. A breakthrough in nuclear medicine technology is enabling high diagnostic accuracy and low radiation dose capabilities.

Springfield Hospital is pleased to announce the reopening of its nuclear medicine program in early March. “It has been over two years since we offered this service, and we are pleased to be the first facility in Vermont and only the fifth facility in New England to make the Symbia Pro.Specta X3 nuclear medicine equipment avail-

able,” comments Hayley Druschel, director of diagnostic imaging at Springfield Hospital.

Symbia Pro.Specta X3 is a multi-purpose, single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT/CT) system that makes it possible for Springfield Hospital to extend a wide range of advanced imaging exams to patients. The system is designed with specialized tools optimized for oncology, cardiology, neurology, and other medical fields.

“Using this new equipment, patients can expect an enhanced imaging experience due to the high sensitivity and resolution

detector, which produces detailed images of the body. The clarity of the images is incredible, and the speed at which they can be generated is impressive,” adds Druschel. Common procedures include:

- Myocardial perfusion imaging, to determine if the patient has any narrowing or blockages in their coronary arteries. This is a noninvasive way to determine if a catheterization is necessary.
- Bone scans, to see any area of the bone trying to heal or repair itself; for example, if the patient has osteomyelitis, replacement loosening, or metastatic disease.

• Hepatobiliary imaging, to determine how well the patient’s gallbladder is filling and/or emptying.

- Gastric emptying scans, to determine how well the patient’s stomach is emptying.
- Thyroid and parathyroid imaging, which can be used to determine structure and function of glands.
- Renal imaging, to determine kidney function.
- Lymphoscintigraphy scans, for localization of lymph nodes where cancer cells may have spread.
- GI bleeding scan, to help determine if a patient is actively bleeding and the location of the bleed.
- Lung scans, useful to di-

agnose pulmonary embolism and/or to evaluate lung disease.

All images are read by Dartmouth Health radiologists, as they do for all imaging at Springfield Hospital. However, patients can now benefit from the added convenience of local access to this high-quality diagnostic imaging technology. Medical providers are in-

vised to call 802-885-7302 for consultation about the equipment capabilities. The scheduling process is similar to ordering other CT or MRI exams, with orders and prior authorization information faxed to Springfield Hospital Diagnostic Imaging at 802-885-7376.

Written by Springfield Hospital.

Walk-ins Only

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — It doesn’t take long after meeting Valari Freeborne, owner/operator of Headquarters For Men, at her barber shop tucked into the corner of the Springfield Plaza, before recognizing how the unusual and eclectic environment Valari has curated over 35 years in business reflects her jocular, creative, and infectious spirit.

With much of the space occupied by her wildly original art collection of pieces mostly given to her by clients, and her storefront window full of mannequins, Valari has designed the place as part barber shop, part wacky art museum, and part community center.

Proceeds from the sales of her collection benefit the Springfield Humane Society. Among items like “Velvis,” a velvet painting of Elvis Presley, and “Rocky Roadkill,” a taxidermied squirrel with a bendable tail, Valari seems perfectly in her element. And she will make you feel at home as well.

“I call this the best kept secret in Springfield,” Valari remarked.

However, the shop is no secret to Valari’s regular customers, some of whom have been coming to her since they were kids, and now bring their kids to “Val” for haircuts.

The longstanding tradition of the local barber shop offers an affordable service in a safe space to share opinions, laughs, reunite with old friends and neighbors, and leave feeling more connected. This essence of community is why Valari employs a policy of walk-ins only.

Valari can finish most haircuts in 15 minutes, so, except for a busy Saturday, customers won’t find themselves waiting too long. But the wait is an important part of the barber shop experience, relays Valari. Conversations about family, the price of groceries, the neighborhood, school budgets; no subject is off limits between her clients as they wait for their haircut, and Valari wouldn’t have it any other way.

As a young mom, Valari needed to find a secure trade to support her family, and since she enjoyed working with her hands, she enrolled in cosmetology school. Her goal was to be a barber, not a stylist, and, after working at various salons, Valari stumbled, quite literally, into Headquarters For Men, when it was located at the corner of Valley and Main in downtown Springfield.

Coming back from the park with her son, Valari noticed the barber shop had

a “help wanted” sign in the window. Boldly poking her head in the door, hoping to distract the owner from a big, muddy footprint her son had imparted on her sweatshirt, she announced she was licensed in the state of Vermont, and looking for work. She was offered the job.

For 21 years, Valari worked at Valley and Main, eventually purchasing the business before relocating to the perfect little corner of the Springfield Plaza in

2009. Walk in sometime. You will be happy you did.

Submitted for Headquarters for Men.

National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2021, 85% of Vermont youth in 9-12 grade did **NOT** binge drink in the last 30 days.
- Or that the rate of youth who did **NOT** use cannabis was 80%.

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outdoor & events

Kurn Hattin taps into another sugaring season

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – In 1987, Kurn Hattin Homes' farm manager Real Bazin took it upon himself to convert the old incinerator building into a sugarhouse for one simple reason – he wanted the children to have real, homemade maple syrup. That act of kindness has grown into a time-honored tradition that the children and the entire Kurn Hattin Homes campus look forward to every year.

It takes a lot of time and teamwork to get to that sweet reward. The middle schoolers help Real by tapping the maple trees, setting buckets, and running the tubing lines in Kurn Hattin Homes' own sugar maple grove. They also learn about the science and the art of sugaring, as students take turns gathering the

sap and visiting the sugarhouse, where they observe the boiling and evaporation process.

Real explains that it typically takes about 40 gallons of sap to produce just one gallon of maple syrup. This year, because it was a mild winter and the sugar content of the sap is lower, it will take about 70 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of syrup. Another result of the mild conditions is that syrup production is expected to be lower than in recent years. So far, 25 gallons of syrup have been produced, and the hope is to produce another 10 gallons before the season ends.

When Real looks out to the forest and sees a hint of red appearing on the trees, he knows that sugaring season is almost over. So, as

another sweet sugaring season wraps up, Real can take pride in the tradition he started in the renovated sugar house 37 years ago, and that the children have real maple syrup for their pancakes and desserts. He can also take pride in the fact that he converted a building that once burned garbage and produced a pretty bad smell into one that now burns wood and produces a great smell and delicious maple syrup.

If you'd like to support Kurn Hattin Homes by purchasing our maple syrup, still made the good old fashioned way, please contact director of facilities Adam Hallock at 802-721-6941 or ahallock@kurnhattin.org.

Ludlow Area Community Garden 2024 update

LUDLOW, Vt. – There are still some plots available in the Ludlow Area Community Garden for the 2024 season, which will open in mid to late April.

The previous article listed a wrong phone number. If you are interested in a plot or want more information, please email Colleen Dooley at colluvs2ski64@gmail.com, or call her at 267-982-2046.

The community garden is open to residents of Ludlow and neighboring towns. This has been possible thanks to the continued support of the Fletcher Farm Foundation, which allowed us to establish the garden on their grounds over 22 years ago. It is located on Route 103, at the border

between Ludlow and Proctorsville. Individual 10-foot by 10-foot plots are used to grow vegetables, flowers, herbs, and some fruits. Members take care of their own plots, as well as help maintain the common areas of this beautiful garden. Seeds are available only to garden members through our small seed library.

A separate enclosed area is dedicated to composting food scraps. This is an ongoing educational project made possible through a Grow Grant from the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, and support from the Composting Association of Vermont, Vermont Community Garden Network, and

the participation of UVM Extension Master Gardeners and Master Composers.

The fee per plot/per year includes the use of all garden tools, hoses, carts, water, compost, some seeds, and other materials. To sign up and reserve a plot, please send an email with your full name, address, and phone number to Colleen Dooley, colluvs2ski64@gmail.com. Scholarship plots are available upon request. Plots are available on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information, find the "Ludlow Area Community Garden" page on Facebook.

Free eclipse talk and solar glasses at SAPA TV

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – A total solar eclipse will pass through Vermont on Monday, April 8. For those who wish to prepare, SAPA TV, the Springfield area's public access TV station, will host an eclipse primer talk on Monday, April 2, at 5:30 p.m.

SAPA employee Kevin Paquet, who is also a member of the South-

ern Vermont Astronomy Group, will explain the basics of how eclipses work, what to expect on the big day, and how to observe a solar eclipse safely.

At the end of the talk, participants will be given a NASA eclipse safety sheet and a pair of ISO-approved solar eclipse viewing glasses. These are free on a first-come, first-served basis.

Any remaining stock of

glasses will remain available for free up through the day of the eclipse. Interested parties in SAPA TV's service area may contact SAPA after April 2, at 802-885-6248 or kevin@sapatv.org, with requests. Limit one per person, or up to four for families and groups.

The talk will be held in the SAPA TV offices at 335 River Street, Springfield. No registration is required.

Springfield Library eclipse talk

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Tuesday, April 2, at 6 p.m., join Claudio Veliz at the Springfield Town Library for his presentation "The 2024 Total Solar Eclipse."

The total solar eclipse of April 8 is significant because it will be within a day's drive of one of the most populous regions of our planet. South-

ern Vermont Astronomy Group (SoVerA) member Claudio Veliz will discuss why we have a moon in the first place, and why we are so fortunate to experience these events. Then, how to prepare for the eclipse, where to be, and what to do if it's cloudy will all be covered. The presentation will be graphic-rich, with additional material sup-

plied for those who wish to delve deeper into the subject matter.

Attendees will receive eclipse glasses.

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

Green Mountain Garden Club in action

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Remembering July 2023, the geographic area of the state where some of the worst Vermont flood devastation occurred, the Green Mountain Garden Club members lead forward in community landscape restoration.

"The Green Mountain Gardeners is a group of community members who foster horticulture, beautification, and conservation of all natural

resources in their mountain communities," states Linda Saarnijoki, club president.

At a recent monthly community education meeting, speaker Peter Isakson of Londonderry spoke on the topic of "Straw Bale Gardening," only one of the many community program offerings on topics such as sustainable gardening, pruning, growing microgreens, and care for flowering plants.

"The garden club's com-

munity outreach efforts include support of Flood Brook Student Activities Cooperative, wreath making, boxwood tree workshops, and decorations for the home bound," reports Martha Dale, committee club member and vice president of the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont (FGCV).

The gardeners' beautification efforts include spring clean-up in Londonderry, maintenance of Weston's Farrar Mansur Museum, flower plantings at the town hall in Landgrove, and planting trees and bulbs in the mountain towns.

Thanks to the Green Mountain Gardeners and the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont, Doris Van Mullen, club president, reports a flood relief donations to the Friends of Main Street Flowers Project, a community fund in Londonderry to restore the village planters, which are filled with gorgeous flowers each year.

"Contributing to the beauty of the town, as well as aiding in flood relief, fits our mission and the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont," says Saarnijoki.

Annual Fastest Kid in Town Race and Touch-a-Truck

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – This year, the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center's Fastest Kid in Town Race and the Touch-a-Truck are on the same day. Join us on Saturday, April 6, at 10 a.m.,

at Riverside Park, for the annual kids' fun run as part of the Springfield Area Parent Child Center's Family Festival, to celebrate the Week of the Young Child. Sponsored by the Edgar May Health

and Recreation Center and Springfield Hospital, the Fastest Kid in Town Race encourages local youth to get active. The race is fun, free, and open to all children ages 5-12.

There will be a 100-yard race for children ages 5-8 and a 200-yard race for children ages 9-12. Children are divided into age groups: 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12. Participants will receive a

free T-shirt for all entries while supplies last, and the top boy and girl finishers in each category will receive medals. The race begins at 10 a.m. and will be followed by an award ceremony at 11 a.m. Preregistration is recommended but not required. To sign up for the event, stop by the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center at 140 Clinton Street in Springfield, or visit www.edgarmay.org.

Don't miss the Edgar May's annual Touch-a-Truck, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., in the Riverside Middle School parking lot, as part of the Family Festival. Explore different types of vehicles from fire trucks, to plows, and more from area businesses and organizations. This event is free and open to the community.

For more information, contact Vallery Bromley, youth and family programs coordinator, 802-885-2568 or vbromley@edgarmay.org.

Artists Town Meeting

Artists, Artisans, Local Food Growers, General Public encouraged to participate

Main
Street Arts,
Saxtons River

Sunday, March 24
from 10:30-12

The focus of these meetings is to bring creatives together in order to share ideas, challenges, and opportunities.

RAMP and MSA thank The Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts for helping to make these meetings possible!

For accessibility questions, call Main Street Arts in advance at 802-869-2960

Interested participants are asked to RSVP
Email ramp@sover.net with "Artists Town Meeting RSVP" in the subject line

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