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THE **Vermont** Journal

MARCH 06, 2024 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 10

Chester 2024 Town Meeting

BY NICK GIBERTI

The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – The 2024 Chester Town Meeting began with residents hearing from Sen. Alison Clarkson and Rep. Heather Chase, both of whom represent Chester in the Vermont State Senate and House of Representatives, respectively. Clarkson and Chase outlined the legislative priorities for this year's legislative session, touching on familiar subjects such as housing, property taxes, and the affordability of living in Vermont. This was to be Chase's last meeting as a member of the Chester Selectboard, on which she had served for nine years, as she was not seeking reelection.

Articles 1-4 were voted on by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 5, so voting at Monday's Town Meeting began with Article 5, the general fund budget. Chester resident Jurene Slivinsky questioned the proposed 7% increase, saying that when she and her husband had decided to retire to Vermont from Connecticut, property taxes in Vermont were substantially lower. Since then, Vermont's taxes have superseded those of Connecticut, and are continuing to increase. Slivinsky also felt that the percentage increase "should be on the ballot" referring to the fact that only a raw

budget number, and not the proposed change from the previous year, is shown on the Town Meeting warning.

Town manager Julie Hance presented the town's budget proposal, totaling \$3,985,784, to those gathered, going over details of each town department and any projects, hires, or other changes which would cause their budgets to increase. Hance also noted that material costs are increasing across the board, affecting municipal budgets as well as household budgets. "We really tried our best to keep this budget as low as possible," Hance said, adding that, "If we are keeping services in Chester at what they are now, this is what it takes."

When taken to a vote, Article 5 passed, with several audible "nay" votes.

Articles 6-17, largely contributing funding to local organizations that provide various services to residents of Chester and surrounding towns, passed with minimal discussion.

Article 18, the final article on the warning, did generate some interest, as it proposed to "authorize an annual community appropriation of \$4,070 to endorse the Mountain Town Connector, a service providing free transportation to residents of Chester." Nicole Wengerd, executive director of Neighborhood

Connections in Londonderry, was present, and answered several questions about the service. Wengerd explained that the Mountain Town Connector had, for the last three years, been receiving pilot grant funding, which was about to expire. Wengerd hoped to continue to operate the service through municipal funding provided by the towns the Connector serves. The Mountain Town Connector, Wengerd explained, provides rides to those who need, for any reason, to be driven somewhere, prioritizing medical appointments. Chester, she said, made up 15% of the 1,500 rides the service provided in 2023, second only to Londonderry, which accounted for 60%. Of those rides in Chester, 45% were rides for medical appointments. There is no income or age criteria, and drivers will stay with riders "door through door," even taking them to multiple consecutive appointments, errands, or other stops.

When put to a vote, Article 18 passed, and shortly thereafter, the meeting was adjourned. Results of Tuesday's ballot articles will be posted in next week's edition of The Vermont Journal.

Plymouth 2024 Town Meeting

BY SHAWN TAE WEBB

The Vermont Journal

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – The Plymouth Town Informational Meeting was held Monday, March 4. Voting by Australian ballot took place Tuesday, March 5, from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., on Article 1 to elect town officers for the ensuing years, including moderator, selectboard member, lister, trustee of public funds, cemetery commissioner, and constables. The remaining articles were voted from the floor at the informational meeting.

Article 2, to allocate funds in the amount of \$13,491 to a number of human services, was passed.

Article 3 was to see if the voters would raise \$1,621,159 in taxes to pay the town's estimated expenses of \$1,913,409. Selectboard Chair Jay Kullman made a presentation on the budget.

The general fund for the town has a balance of \$982,298. Regular expenses, at almost \$1 million, included the building renovation fund, building maintenance, the town's reappraisal, office and highway equipment, and more. The town needed to replace a damaged truck after a recent accident, and there

was an additional \$2 million in unexpected flood damage expenses. Kullman explained the town used actual cash from general funds for what they could, and borrowed money at a low rate of 1.3% to keep cash flow and for other expenditures. As the town is reimbursed from the state and FEMA, the funds will go back to the accounts that were borrowed from, and general accounts will start to be replenished. "We're really grateful we had reserve fund balances," Kullman said.

Margo Marrone asked if the selectboard could have a discussion on town budgets at a regular meeting prior to Town Meeting next year, so there is more time for questions. Carol Goodwin voiced her concern that taxes are going up by almost 30%, "that's enormous," she said, asking where the town might be able to pull back. "You guys have done a spectacular job," Goodwin continued, "but I'm terrified."

Kullman explained they try to keep operating expenses tight. "We tend to over budget and under spend," Kullman said, and that money doesn't go away; whatever isn't spent goes back into the general fund, and reserve accounts continue to grow for unexpected expenses.

Selectboard member Keith Cappellini added that if you look at their everyday budget, the cost of general

services, such as equipment maintenance and repairs, has gone up by about 20%. The town isn't doing anything different, "it's just the cost of inflation."

Rick Martin, owner of the Plymouth Country Store and Chloe's Market, thanked the town for welcoming him, and said business is "booming." He's looking to make Plymouth his primary residence, but added that if taxes continue to go up, he would not be able to stay in business. His employees are having trouble finding housing, can't afford the taxes, and he'll end up losing employees as they can't stay in town. "You've got to get this tax rate down...it's going to kill people."

Kullman sympathized, adding that he does not want to have to borrow again. They borrowed for the town building, and noted they need a grader soon, and Kullman doesn't want to have to borrow for that or any other upcoming or unexpected expenses. A homeowner with a value of \$300,000 would notice around a \$75 increase, he stated.

Goodwin then made a motion to amend Article 3 to reduce the budget by \$100,000. Five voters were in favor, with a majority of the room voting opposed to the amendment. Article 3 then passed to raise

See **PLYMOUTH** on Page 2

Cavendish 2024 Town Meeting

BY LORIE STRANGE

The Vermont Journal

CAVENDISH, Vt. – At the 2024 Cavendish Town Meeting, voters discussed concerns on the budget, the approval of a proposed cannabis retail facility, and the merits and drawbacks of voting on all future Town Meeting articles and public questions by Australian ballot. All articles were voted on by Australian ballot the following day.

Before discussions of articles began, State Rep. John Arrison (Democrat, Windsor-2) and State Senator Alison Clarkson (Democrat, Windsor) updated voters on issues they are working on in their respective chambers.

The first two articles passed with no discussion, before arriving at the budget article. Wendy Reiger, who previously spoke at a Cavendish Selectboard meeting about her experiences with the Ludlow Ambulance Service, again expressed her concerns with Cavendish contracting an ambulance service that refuses to take residents to any other hospital but Springfield Hospital, even though she says they should consider that for her and many other residents, nearby Mount Ascutney Regional Hospital is the "closest appropriate" hospital. Reiger said

that many other Cavendish residents had reached out to her in support after she spoke to the selectboard, so she would like to establish "some sort of committee forum or group of citizens" to discuss the issue and bring it to the attention of the legislature. Interested citizens can contact Reiger or leave their names at the Cavendish Town Office.

Several people asked the selectboard about budget lines related to road repair. Cavendish resident Ann Cooper asked the selectboard how many miles of road the extra resurfacing line in the budget would cover. Town manager Richard Chambers said that, depending on the road and the contractor, it would cover one-third to one-half mile of road. "We saw this as a starting point," he explained, and the town would need additional funds to do any more than that. Another concerned citizen asked a similar question about the gravel line. Chambers said that the figure in the budget was based on the town crushing some of its own gravel and using the town road crew. "They work pretty hard," Chambers said of the road crew. "They do work hard, but it's a limited group," returned the citizen. "If we start to slip, what is our backup plan?" Chambers confessed

they had none, but said that some of the gravel would be put aside for mud season repairs. Martha Mott of Twenty Mile Stream Road asked the selectboard if the town had a timeline for previously-hinted paving of all town roads. Chambers said he was not sure when the town would get around to back roads repair, and that paving would be a gradual process when it began. Selectboard member George Timko added that when the town gets paving money, they usually alternate between Twenty Mile Stream and Tarbell Hill, and since Tarbell Hill was done most recently, Twenty Mile Stream should be next.

The next article discussed whether the town should allow the operation of cannabis retailers in town, as requested by Daniel Singleton. Sandra Rousseau expressed frustration at the lack of discussion opportunities the town had provided for this issue, citing Ludlow's many active meetings when they had considered a similar decision. She asked the selectboard if Cavendish, as a no-zoning town, would have any choice over the number or location of retailers once voters had allowed their operation. Chambers said the town would be unable to make special ordinances for cannabis retailers, and

that the number of licenses distributed in the town would be determined by the Division of Liquor Control. Rousseau also asked if there was a difference between the terms "retailer" and "dispensary," given that the Town Meeting article had used the former. Sen. Clarkson responded that dispensaries are for medical cannabis, and that retailers sell recreational cannabis.

Next, the town discussed the Australian ballot issue. Mike Ripley, the moderator, noted that before Covid had made the use of Australian ballot necessary and the town had voted to continue the practice for the last several years, Town Meeting had been a much more lively event, as voters proposed and voted on amendments. Resident Stuart Lindberg echoed his remarks, saying he had always been taught the importance of traditional Town Meeting, and that the practice should be "flowing in people's veins here...the best democracy is a local democracy." Reiger expressed strong support for his sentiments. Peter LaBelle added that, "Once you give Town Meeting up, it's hard to get it back...making everything by Australian ballot is the death knell for Town Meeting."

Town clerk Diane McNamara pointed out that

voting by Australian ballot is much more accessible than floor voting. Without Australian ballot, there is no absentee ballot, no early voting, and having Town Meeting on a weekday evening makes it difficult for people with school-age children and older folks who don't like driving at night to attend. She noted that there were 38 people present at Town Meeting that night (not counting Zoom attendees, as they would not be able to participate in floor voting), but voter turnout with Australian ballot was 200-300 people.

Rep. Arrison agreed that moving Town Meeting to a weekend day would be a good compromise, allowing the town to keep the tradition of floor voting that he personally supported, and making it more accessible. Jen Leak, who is the selectboard's recording secretary, emphasized the accessibility issue. "The most impor-

tant thing in a democracy is having a voice," she said, "and it matters less how you have that voice...holding onto Town Meeting just because you've always done it that way isn't democratic." Selectboard member Dave Norton expressed support for these sentiments.

Despite differences of opinion, there was general interest in moving future Town Meeting dates to a Saturday. This would have to be determined at a future Town Meeting, or at a special meeting.

As the meeting ended, Tim Calabrese reminded residents that the planning commission will be hosting a question and answer session for the new Draft Subdivision Regulations, which are available on the town website. This will be on April 24, at a location yet to be determined.

Voting results will be posted in next week's edition of The Vermont Journal.

Online presidential primary results

REGION – Unofficial presidential primary results are reported to the secretary of state by Vermont cities and towns after polls close on the evening of Tuesday, March 5, and posted on the secretary of state's website, electionresults.vermont.gov. Results will be unofficial until the canvassing committee meets to certify the results on March 12.

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Grafton Village Cheese retail store moves to Okemo Valley

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – The Grafton Village Cheese Company (GVCC), a subsidiary of The Windham Foundation, announces the move of its retail store and cut and wrap operation from Brattleboro to the Okemo Valley. A longtime fixture at 400 Linden Street in Brattleboro, GVCC lost its lease when the building was sold to Retreat Farm in late 2022.

GVCC found it challenging to find an adequate space for both the retail store and

the cut and wrap operation around Brattleboro, hence the move. GVCC does not rule out a return to Brattleboro, but for now, the focus is on getting established in their new location on Route 103, just east of downtown Ludlow.

Grafton Village Cheese CEO Curt Alpeter also expressed his appreciation for the loyal following that store manager Sherry DiBernardo and her cheese monger team have built in Brattleboro.

The new retail store location is 2568 Vermont Route 103, Proctorsville. The company plans a soft opening at its new location on March 9, from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Regular operations will continue seven days a week, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Customers will find the same great selection of artisan cheeses, accompaniments, and gifts the Brattleboro shop offered, and as always, free cheese tasting.

Okemo Valley Women's Club February meeting

LUDLOW, Vt. – The February meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs Okemo Valley Women's Club (OVWC) was held Monday, Feb. 12, at the United Church of Ludlow. We were lucky to have two speakers for the meeting: Susanna Gellert, executive artistic director of the Weston Theater Company in Weston, Vt.; and Kelly Stettner, head and founder of the Black River Action Team (BRAT).

Gellert spoke first about the history of the Weston Playhouse and Walker Farm. She noted that the Playhouse began in the 60s, after the existing church on the site was rebuilt to accommodate the plans for a playhouse. It is currently owned by a local nonprofit, the Weston Community Association, on behalf of the Town of Weston. Due to the flood in July of 2023, the Playhouse is still offline, and will be unusable for the summer season. Instead, performances will be held at Walker Farm. The summer season should be another exciting season of nationally renowned per-

formances.

Next, the club heard from Stettner about how BRAT began, and their efforts in the greater Springfield and Ludlow areas. Kelly started BRAT in 2000, in response to seeing the poor state of the Black River in the Springfield area. She began by cleaning trash and debris from the Black River watershed. The following year, she repeated her efforts with volunteers from the local high school, and had the water tested to find iron in the soil sediment. This began an annual river clean up. After Hurricane Irene, Stettner and BRAT helped to clean up in the Ludlow area, and during the flood of July 2023, the BRAT team was in full swing in Ludlow, and has received state funding for basin projects. Kelly has recently become the new district manager of the Ottawa-Quebec Natural Resources Conservation District, but is still devoted to BRAT.

Following the two compelling presentations, the club held a business meeting to review ongoing and future projects. The annual

Tree of Remembrance project has raised over \$1,000 for club scholarships and volunteer programs, and the recent annual Bake and Appetizer Sale held at Singelton's Store in Proctorsville was a huge success, thanks to the generosity of the community and visitors to our area. Club members brought dish detergent and antibacterial wipes to donate to Black River Good Neighbor Services in an ongoing project to donate items not normally available through that resource.

The next meeting of the OVWC will be held Monday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m., at the United Church of Ludlow, Vt. Anyone wishing to attend may contact President Penny Trick at 860-305-6558, Membership Chairwoman Suzanne Garvey at 802-236-4341, or any member.

The Okemo Valley Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement and enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

Wantastiquet Rotary Club assisting with Perry Lane House

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Martha Dale and Patty Eisenhour, co-chairs of the Mountain Towns Housing Project (MTHP) Steering Committee, would like to thank and acknowledge the contribution of the Wantastiquet Rotary Club to the Bob Perry Lane House. Their help in providing all of the appliances for the home, in addition to other financial support, has been instrumental in finishing the project. Kara Corlew and her family moved into the completed home on March 1.

Martha stated, "This has been a community project from day one, and we are so pleased to be heading for the finish line. The contribution of the Wantastiquet Rotary Club, along with so many other businesses and construction contractors in town, has been simply amazing." She concluded, "We could not have completed this house without the support of so many individuals, organizations, foundations, state agencies, local contractors, businesses, and the Second Congregational Church, who initiated the project. They



Rotary Club members with the Corlew family inside the Bob Perry Lane House.

PHOTO PROVIDED

understood the need for workforce housing and stepped up to the plate to make it happen."

MTHP is first and foremost deeply grateful to Don and Deb Hazelton, who donated the land for the project and put countless hours into managing and participating in the construction process. Without their leadership, this project would not have gotten off the ground. In addition, MTHP is incredibly grateful to almost 200 individual donors, organizations, foundations, and businesses who have made a gift in support of this project. This includes local contractors such as Hunter Excavating, Homestead Landscaping, Wadsworth Design Build, Frost Wells and Pumps, Record Concrete, Brown Enterprises, Vermont Foam Insulation, Marquise & Morano

LLC, Precision Plumbing and Heating, Gary Barton, Brown Dog Builders, LBL Fabrications, and Weston Island Logging, who have contributed or pledged services to help complete the project. For a full listing of our supporters, please visit our website at www.mountaintowns-housing.org.

The Mountain Towns Housing Project has reached its final fundraising goal for this house. If you would like to make a gift in support of our next project, please make your check payable to "Mountain Towns Housing Project," and mail it to P.O. Box 538, Londonderry, VT 05148. You can also make a gift online by visiting the website of the Second Congregational Church at secure.myvanco.com/YGY2/home, then select the "Mountain Towns Housing Project."

PLYMOUTH

From Page 1

\$1,621,159 in taxes.

Article 4 was passed to establish a bridge reserve fund to be used to repair and reconstruct bridges, to be funded annually by the remaining and unused balance of the annual bridge repair account. Tina Fletcher confirmed with the board that would also include converting culverts to bridges.

Article 5 was to see if voters would renew the fixed salaries for the selectboard members at \$600 annually. Karen Evans, justice of the peace, made a motion to amend the salaries to \$1,000 each.

Michelle Pingree, lister, made a motion to amend the amendment to raise each annual salary to \$1,600. "I will say the selectboard go above and beyond," answering questions and solving problems. "We do not have a town manager," Pingree

stated, saying they each do the work of more than just a selectboard member. She added that each board member in Ludlow gets \$1,600, and their town manager makes six figures. "They are doing a great job and should be compensated for what they do," Pingree concluded.

Though it is a large increase in salary, it won't make a big difference to the town budget, and the town moderator Thomas Harris ruled the motion as germane. The amended article passed. Kullman thanked the voters, "We appreciate the sentiment and support."

Article 6, to exempt the property owned by Bethany Birches Camp Inc. from the educational portion of property taxes for the period of five years produced some discussion and concern.

Brandon Bergey, executive director of the camp, said, "A yes vote would mean no changes to your tax bill." It works out to be an extra \$16 per \$200,000 of property value. He added that the town reaps additional benefits by giving this tax exemption, including discounts to Plymouth residents on children's programs and property rentals, and free use of the property

for town events. "I don't know if that adds up to \$19,000 a year, but I think it could...We do care about affordability like the rest of this room." Bergey said if taxes go up by 30%, "your \$16 is going to go up by 30%...I think."

By a very close margin, Article 6 had to be voted twice, and passed.

Article 7, to collect taxes on Sept. 1, 2024, and Feb. 1, 2025, and Article 8, to authorize the selectboard to transact other legal business, were passed.

Kullman then made a special announcement thanking Elaine Pauley for eight years of service as clerk, treasurer, tax collector, and delinquent tax collector, and for stepping in wherever she was needed. He presented her with a Vermont Public Service Award signed by the secretary of state.

Pauley thanked Kullman, and said it was "a group effort of everyone in this building."

Cappellini added, "Everyone should thank Elaine on their way out...the town literally wouldn't run without her here."

Voting results will be printed in next week's edition of The Vermont Journal.

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Good luck

BY RON PATCH

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The photo with this article is a keyring good luck piece. Many will remember these. They were an inexpensive giveaway for businesses in the 1950s and 60s. Today it's refrigerator magnets.

They are made of aluminum, and made in the shape of a horseshoe. The hole in the center was made for a penny. Speaking of pennies, did you have pennies in your loafers?

On the front: "KEEP ME AND...HAVE GOOD LUCK," and in smaller letters, "I BRING GOOD LUCK." On the reverse: "WILBER'S SUPER MKT CHESTER, VT. MON-FRI 9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M. SUN 9:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M."

The penny is dated 1967. **Wilber's Market**

What is Smitty's Market today was Wilber's Market in the 1960s. It was owned by Bob Wilber. Bob ran a competitive store, and hired

local kids to work. I was one of those kids.

When back-to-school was nearing, my parents would order my back-to-school clothes from the Sears and Roebuck catalog. I remember standing as my father measured my inseam. "Twenty-eight inches," he would say. Ma would say, "He's going to grow, so order a 30-inch inseam." This was ok when I was younger, but as I looked forward to going to Chester High School in 1965, I was influenced by friends' clothing. I didn't have much to say about what my parents ordered.

The summer of '65, I went to work at Wilber's. I stocked shelves, bagged groceries, and carried out groceries for customers. I remember learning to bag groceries. I got very good and fast at it. I learned to rotate stock, and how to work with others.

At that time Herbie Hartford, Carol Stearns, Neil Oakes, and Arminala Sev-

erance worked there. Arminala was called "Gram" by all of us. She made grinders and such like Bonnie does today. I don't remember the meat cutter, maybe Wilber.

Working at Wilber's when I was 14 was my first job where taxes were withheld. I worked all summer and saved my money. When it came time to buy school clothes, I bought my own. For the first time I had new clothes that I liked. At the time, teenagers like me liked the blue work shirts. Do you remember them? With a dark blue sweatshirt, the collar of the work shirt came out over the sweatshirt, classy. I bought clothes at Paul's Economy in Springfield, and Rockdale's in Bellows Falls. No more Sears for me.

John Butler

I remember John Butler coming in. One time he carried out two bags of groceries. John was an odd duck. When he got to his Suburban, he set the bags on the hood to open the rear



Wilber's Good Luck piece, back. PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH



Wilber's Good Luck piece, front. PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

door. Picking up both bags he went to put them in the truck, but the door closed on him before he got the groceries in. Puzzled, John put the bags back on the hood to open the rear door again.

Once again the door closed. John stood there thinking. Eventually he picked up one bag and opened the door with his other hand. That worked. Do you remember the hood ornament John had? It was a chrome figure of a horse.

One rainy day he went to the Country Girl. When he got out of his truck, he put a wooden box over the horse hood ornament.

Back to Wilber's

One memory has stayed with me all these years. It was a slow Sunday. Bob asked me to clean out the meat case. The meat case stood where it is today. I took out all of the meats, hamburger, pork chops, etc. Under the trays of meat were sheets of white paper. These I removed. Under

the papers were wire racks. These were similar to the wire racks in old refrigerators. These I removed.

Down in the bottom of the meat case were all kinds of disgustings. Not knowing what to do, I asked Bob what he wanted me to do with them. "Throw them in the sausage barrel."

This week's old saying is from my father. "There is only one thing you can give and still keep, and that's your word."

Grafton Fire Department history

GRAFTON, Vt. – The Grafton Fire Department was formally established at the March 4, 1924, Town Meeting, 100 years ago almost to the day of this year's Town Meeting. This came about due to action by the Grafton Improvement Association, which had appointed a committee the previous September to organize a fire company. Once approved by the voters, a dance was soon held in the Town Hall, with the cost of admission being one pail to be used by the new Grafton Volunteer Fire Company. Why pails? There was already a hand-drawn and hand-operated pumper for which water was supplied by a classic "bucket brigade," which lifelong resident Norris Bragg recalled from his younger days in a 1984 interview.

Harry A. Farnsworth was appointed as the first fire chief in April, and during the summer the selectboard purchased the Harley Leonard garage, on what is now Kidder Hill Road, to house the old pumper along with the new pails. A committee solicited donations of funds, materials, and labor to repair the building. This pattern of community support would be repeated in future years as the fire department relocated to other buildings, including the present firehouse.

The following year, in November of 1925, it was proposed that Grafton should have a fire truck like the one in Alstead, N.H., which had cost \$3,500 (about \$63,000 today). However, it appears that the only fire apparatus for the next few years would be the old hand pumper and two large, hand-drawn chemical extinguishers for which the Women's Community Club provided funds. The first "modern" fire engine was acquired in 1933, when a 1926 Cadillac touring car was purchased for \$100 and cut back by the firefighters using hammers and chisels so a pump, costing \$600, could be mounted on it to create a fire engine. A suction hose was donated, and additional hose was purchased for \$320, making the total cost of the "new" fire engine \$1,020. As continues today, a lot of skilled labor and sweat equity was provided by the volunteer firefighters to build Grafton's first motorized fire engine, which was kept in service until 1956.

In December of 1934, the Grafton Firemen's Association was formed to provide broader oversight of the fire company by including people from the commu-

nity, as well as firefighters, amongst its membership. This body, now known as the Grafton Firefighters Association, continues today in its oversight role of the fire department.

What today is known as the "old firehouse" on Main Street began in 1830 as the village school, later becoming a tin shop and funeral parlor, as well as the home of the Grafton Cornet Band, which was housed on the second floor, with the building then known as the Band Hall. In 1938 its owner, John Butterworth Duncan, deeded the building to the town for it to become the firehouse. It wasn't until 1951 that a purpose-built 1946 Dodge fire engine would find a place in the Main Street firehouse along side the old Cadillac.

In 1968, an International engine was purchased, the first truly new fire engine the department was to have, and in 1980, a reconditioned 1959 Mack engine found its way into the firehouse. By 1989 it was time to replace the old Mack, but it was impossible to find a modern fire engine that could fit into the building. Estimates were received to remodel the structure, but even then it would be just the two bays with no running water, no septic, and no office or storage space. Once again, a community effort to raise funds to help the fire department was initiated. This time it was to build a new firehouse, and was ironically spearheaded by a man named Mack. Fire Chief Stan Mack led a successful fundraising campaign, resulting in the present firehouse on Route 121, just east of the village, being constructed in 1992. The new firehouse was also large enough to house the Grafton FAST-Rescue

Squad.

Several years later, community fundraising was again the focus of the fire department when donations and grants helped the department purchase its first purpose-built fire engine since 1968: a 1999 Freightliner American LaFrance four-wheel-drive, 1,250-gallons-per-minute engine/pumper. This was followed in 2002 with acquisition of a new Freightliner American LaFrance ladder. The 75-foot ladder unit itself was a refurbished one previously used by the St. Louis, Mo., Fire Department.

Aside from the issues of equipment and where to house it, communication has always been a challenge. For a number of years, firefighters were alerted by the sounding of an air horn whistle mounted on the roof of the firehouse. A combination of short and long blasts would indicate the location of the fire. In 1972, an allocation was made at Town Meeting for the purchase of a two-way radio so Grafton would no longer be the only fire department in the region without this means of communication. For many years, a

See **HISTORY** on Page 4

Plymouth Historical Society annual report

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – The Plymouth, Vt., Historical Society is at present working on digitizing our collection of photos, maps, and artifacts, to increase exposure to our varied and colorful past, as well as to promote interest in preserving our history. Unforeseen delays such as floods, road construction, and Covid have greatly affected our activities, but this year has seen a resurgence of activity.

We presented a very successful program on the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), filling the Community Center Activity Room. Our speaker was an author and historian who gave us a whole new view of the extent of the CCC, not just in our community, but throughout New England.

We are hoping, with funding from our residents through an appropriation from the town, to continue to bring programs to our community, not just of a historical nature, but also of pertinent information in areas of current concern and interest. We also plan to offer genealogy assistance once a month for anyone wishing to delve into their family history, and plan to be open on a consistent basis on Sunday afternoons and whenever there is another activity

at the community center.

The Eliza Johnson Ward Memory Garden is maintained by the historical society, and welcomes new bricks inscribed with names of loved ones who have passed on. Bricks can be purchased through the historical society. Forms are available upon request. Contact midgetucker@plymouthvt.com for more information.

Membership to the society is on a calendar-year basis, with a nominal membership fee. We are always

looking for assistance in all aspects of maintaining our town's history.

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, March 10, at 2 p.m., at the Plymouth Community Center. We welcome all current members and anyone interested in joining the society.

On Sunday, March 17, from 2-4 p.m., we will be holding a help session on genealogy. Please bring any information that you have regarding your family history.



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opinion

COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear Editor,

Representatives Heather Chase (who represents Athens, Chester, Grafton, and Windham) and Emma Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington have introduced a bill to amend an existing "school branding" law. That law prohibits, among other things, the use of symbols that refer to the race of any group. The amendment would allow the agency of education to hold back funding if school districts don't abide by the law. In other words, do as we say or we'll punish you,

big time.

Until recently, Green Mountain Union High School in Chester had as its mascot "The Green Mountain Chieftains," which included the image of a Native American in a feathered headdress. The school branding law defined the name and image to be "discriminatory" to Native Americans.

That's one interpretation, but it's a narrow, and negative interpretation. The word "chieftain" is Anglo-Saxon in origin, means a ruler or military leader, and is not particular to Native Americans. Feathered headdresses have been used in a number of cultures to denote high standing. The feathered "war bonnet" in the Green

Mountain High School brand was used by some of the tribes of the Great Plains to represent leadership, courage, and bravery. Each feather in the headdress stood for a particular act of bravery.

The proposed amendment to the "school branding" law would allow the Vermont Agency of Education to withhold funds from any school district that doesn't accept whatever interpretation of discrimination is dominant in Montpelier at the moment. This amounts to state censorship and is wrong.

Sincerely,
Anna Vesely Pilette
Grafton, Vt.

Brendan McNamara joins MOOver board

REGION - Southeast Vermont Transit (SEVT, aka The MOOver) welcomed Brendan McNamara to its board of directors on Feb. 20.

McNamara is the Ludlow municipal manager for the past year. Prior to that, he was town manager in Cavendish for seven years. He lives in Cavendish, and is a member of the Proctorsville Fire Department. He has served on numerous boards, including the Cavendish Selectboard, the Vermont Athletic Directors Association, and the Southern Windsor Solid Waste District.

The MOOver Board is comprised of President Seth Boyd (Stratton), Vice President Jason Rasmussen (Mount As-



Brendan McNamara joins MOOver board.

PHOTO PROVIDED

cutney Regional Planning Commission), Secretary Joel Bluming (Town of Jamaica), Treasurer Randy Capitani (Town of Dover), Chris Company (Windham Regional Commission), Sue Fillion (Town of Brattleboro), and Dan Thoenke (Vail Resorts). Board meet-

ings are the third Wednesday of the month, at 10 a.m., and can be attended online at www.moover.com/meeting-minutes.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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.

"Vermont Raptors" at OLLI

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Mike Clough, director of the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, will present "Vermont Raptors" for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) group on March 12, at 2 p.m., at the Nolin Murray Center, next to St. Mary's Church on Pleasant Street in Springfield.

The program is co-sponsored by the Ascuncy Mountain Audubon Society.

Clough will present the life history of some of our local raptors, as we examine rehabilitated, non-releasable birds who serve as education ambassadors, to acquaint us with some of the important predators that help maintain nature's ecological balance. With these examples of live owls and hawks, he will give the audience the experience of observing up close the specific amazing adaptations of these magnificent birds of prey.

Sponsored by the Uni-



Mike Clough with a hawk.

PHOTO PROVIDED

fee.

Preregistration is highly recommended. We can no longer take any payments onsite at the door. If you do attend and have not pre-registered, 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 emailing noncredit@uvm.edu. The full semester program descriptions and dates can be referenced at the above registration website address.

The following program, on March 26, will be "Justin Morgan's Horse: Making an American Myth."

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HISTORY

From Page 3

telephone tree was in use, and in 1977 a new siren was

mounted on the firehouse roof. The siren still alerts firefighters and the community to major incidents. By 1983, the fire department was dispatched through the regional Mutual Aid System based in Keene, N.H. Today's firefighters are still dispatched through Mutual Aid.

One constant that has existed throughout these past 100 years is the support provided to the fire department

by the community. Organizations, Town Meeting, and many individuals, particularly those who have served as firefighters and association members, have created and maintained the Grafton Fire Department from 1924-2024. It is this commitment to and by the community that will carry the volunteer fire department in Grafton into the next 100 years.

Written by Dave Ross.



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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

- Manhandle
- Annex
- Trig function
- Within (Pref.)
- "Ben- —"
- Toledo's lake
- "Sure, of course"
- Bakery buy
- "Yippeel!"
- Apple music service
- Pride parade initials
- "Let me think ..."
- Valley in California
- Indy event
- Wall climber
- Rocker Rose
- Plains grazers
- Formerly known as
- Earth (Pref.)
- Stink
- "It's — real!"
- Texter's "Enough!"
- Bring up
- Tell
- Pink hue
- Lena of "The Reader"
- Sako, e.g.
- Curse
- Greek mountain
- Zilch
- Rosebud, to Kane
- Camp bed
- Flag feature
- Calico's call
- "My Way"
- writer
- Jesuit University
- Sushi fish
- Press for payment
- Zwei follower
- Blood part
- Ore source
- Aswan's river
- Congers
- Sailing hazard
- Subsequently
- Party cheese
- Stunning gun
- Pester
- Chopper
- Story thread
- Pepsi rival
- Victory sign
- Longing
- Telly watcher
- Cleveland squad
- Like lions
- Expert
- Filches
- Israeli carrier
- Guitarist
- Funny person
- Visitor to Siam
- Ogler's look
- Altar affirmative
- Jazz lover

DOWN

- Calico's call
- "My Way"
- writer
- Jesuit University
- Sushi fish
- Press for payment
- Zwei follower
- Blood part
- Ore source
- Aswan's river
- Congers
- Sailing hazard
- Subsequently
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- Guitarist
- Funny person
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- Altar affirmative
- Jazz lover

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CHURCH SERVICES

obituaries

Douglas J. Boyd, 1953-2024

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Doug Boyd, 70, passed away at Albany Medical Center on Feb. 25, 2024. Doug was born Nov. 5, 1953, in Bellows Falls, Vt., to Marilyn (Boyd) Simonds. He worked as a plumber, then at the Putney Paper Mill, and Green Mountain Flagg. He loved motorcycles, his dogs, and his family. Doug is survived by his mother Marilyn Simonds of Saxtons River, Vt.; his uncle James “Jim” Boyd; his four siblings; numerous nieces and nephews; his children Heather Waters, Jason Boyd, Corey Boyd, and Echo Kesek; nine

grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Doug is predeceased by his maternal grandparents Maxine (Tuttle) Fletcher and Lyman Fletcher, his sister Mary Evans, and his longtime girlfriend Suzy Wright. There will be a memorial service on March 23, at 11 a.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt. A burial will take place at a later date in Houghtonville Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home in Bellows Falls, Vt.

ASCUTNEY, VT.

Brownsville Community United Methodist Church, 66 Brownsville-Hartland Rd.

Sunday service is 9:30 a.m., held in the church with reduced occupancy or streaming online at www.facebook.com/brownsvillecommunitychurch and www.brownsvilleumc-vt.org.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church St.

Traditional Baptist Services held Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Handicap accessible. 802-463-3220.

United Church of Bellows Falls, UCC, 8 School St.

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

CHESTER, VT.

Chester Baptist Church, 162 Main St.

Worship is Sundays at 10:30 a.m. For more information, including online streaming, go to www.chesterbaptist.org.

Andover Community Church, 928 Weston-Andover Rd.

Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and worship service 10:45 a.m. For more information, go to www.andovercommunitychurch.org.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main St.

Sunday services are 9:30 a.m. in person. Services are still streamed at www.facebook.com/calvarybaptistchurchspringfieldvt. For more information, go to www.calvarylovesspringfield.com.

First Congregational Church, UCC, 77 Main St.

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in person. Singing is encouraged! For more information, call 802-885-5728, email fccucc@vermontel.net, or go to www.firstchurchspringfield.org.

North Springfield Baptist Church, 581 Giddings Street, North Springfield.

All are welcome and invited to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. For more information, please email the church office at office@nsbcvt.org, or call 802-886-8107. We are handicap accessible.

Precision Valley Baptist Church, 69 Rt. 106

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

Springfield Assembly of God, 269 River St.

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

Virginia Wimberg, 1945-2024

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. – Virginia “Ginger” Jane Lovette Wimberg, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, died peacefully on Feb. 20, 2024, in Ascutney, Vt., after a courageous battle with cancer.

Ginger was born on July 16, 1945, in Upper Darby, Pa., into a loving family with her parents, four siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and many family friends, where she experienced a joyful life filled with fun, food, and laughter. She grew up in Beesley’s Point, N.J., describing her home as “full of warm and happy memories. There was sadness and problems – but that was greatly outweighed by the positive – our neighbors were special to us.” Ginger began dating her future husband James “Jim” Wimberg in high school in New Jersey, where they eventually were married and started a family. In 1978, they moved their family to Weathersfield, Vt.

Ginger was the heart of her home, and became the center of her beloved Weathersfield community. She genuinely gave of herself to family, friends, and strangers alike, without regard to their station in life. She welcomed all into her home, feeding guests her famous waffles and buns, housing them and their dogs – sometimes for months at a time – and treating them as members of the family.

In addition to caring for her neighbors and friends, she was involved in her community in a variety of ways. Among her many endeavors, she was president of the Weathersfield Historical Society from 2012-2020, contributed her time to countless potlucks and events, organized and led the Town Challenge, and was a justice of the peace who helped a former student write her own marriage vows. In 2019, she received the Weathersfield Service Award to honor her contributions to her community.

Ginger’s vocation was teaching. After beginning her career as a high school physical education teacher, she then taught fourth graders for over 30 years at Weathersfield Schools. She loved teaching everything from math to Weathersfield history, taking students on field trips around town so that they would develop an appreciation for the community in which they lived. Along with teaching her class, she was an invaluable part of the school community, from organizing and leading geography bees, to jok-



Virginia Wimberg, 1945-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

ing with maintenance staff and speaking her mind whenever she felt necessary. In the words of a former student, “She believed in me and never gave up on me. I was falling behind in school, and instead of watching me fail, she spent so much extra time helping me succeed that she helped make me the person I am today.”

In her personal time, Ginger loved spending her hours outside, swimming, walking, cross-country skiing, kayaking, gardening, and laughing with friends. She was known for hanging her laundry all year round, even in the snow. Ginger was an avid gardener, maintaining many gardens surrounding her home and sharing the fruits of her labor with family and friends. She was a lifelong learner, taking courses, earning an advanced degree, and studying local as well as family history. She enjoyed studying geography, traveling, and reading. Along with sharing the titles of books she enjoyed and lending books from her many bookshelves, Ginger loved storytelling, whether the story was about her growing up years in New Jersey, or her adventures spent with family and friends in Vermont or beyond. Ginger’s presence will be greatly missed by the many people who love her.

Ginger is survived by her beloved husband Jim of 56 years; her children Chet Wimberg and his wife Lynn, Christian Wimberg, and Elizabeth Dimick; her husband Kenneth; her grandchildren Erika Anderson and her fiancé Guy Crescenzo, Emma Wimberg, James Wimberg and his girlfriend Taina Perez, and Teah Vazquez; and her great-grandchildren Drew Flick and Lilah Virginia Wimberg.

The memorial service will be held at the Weathersfield Center Church on Center Road in Weathersfield, Vt., on May 4, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Weathersfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 126, Perkinsville, VT 05151.

Bernard N. Carey Jr., 1931-2024

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Bernard N. “Bernie” Carey Jr. passed away on Friday evening, Feb. 23, 2024, at the Springfield Health and Rehabilitation Center. He was born May 20, 1931, in Manchester, Vt., the son of Bernard N. and Gladys (Abbott) Carey.

He graduated from Sunapee High School in Sunapee, N.H., Class of 1950, and later from New Hampshire Technical School.

He served in the United States Air Force as a jet mechanic during the Korean War (1952-1956), stationed in California, France, North Africa, and the Kingdom of Libya. Before joining the Air Force, Bernie worked on the family chicken farm in Sunapee, N.H., for a short time. After serving in the Air Force, he worked at IBM in Binghamton, N.Y.; IPC in Bristol, N.H.; and 32 years at the Fellows Gear Shaper in Springfield, Vt., retiring in 1985.

Bernie met Stasia, the love of his life, at a square dance in Springfield, and got engaged six months later.

They were married on June 21, 1958, at the Congregational Church in Springfield, Vt. She predeceased him on Sept. 3, 2015.

Bernie loved bowling, and bowled for over 25 years on many teams and many leagues, bowling over 10,000 games by 2009. He also volunteered with the Youth Bowling Leagues for many years, and he was inducted into the Vermont Bowling Hall of Fame in 1991 for his service to the sport.



Bernard Carey Jr., 1931-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

He also loved sports and was an avid Red Sox, Celtics, and Patriots fan.

He is survived by one son Michael Carey of Springfield; one sister Catherine Dikeman of Springfield; two granddaughters Alyssa Moffitt and Anylia Slater; and three great-grandchildren Kyle, Wilder, and Graclynn. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was predeceased by his parents; his wife; one son Mark Carey; one daughter Michele Hebert; and siblings Evelyn Carey, Kenneth Carey, and Lucille Wheeler.

Friends may call on Tuesday evening, March 5, from 6-8 p.m., at the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt.

A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, March 6, at 2 p.m., at the Davis Memorial Chapel. The Rev. Michael Mario will officiate.

Burial will be in the Oakland Cemetery at a later date.

Arrangements are entrusted to the care of the Davis Memorial Chapel, Springfield, Vt.

Stanley Marino Jr., 1942-2024



BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Stanley Marino Jr. was born Jan. 7, 1942, in Bellows Falls, to the late Stanley and Emma (Baldasaro) Marino. Stan was predeceased by his siblings Joseph, Rosemarie, and Mary, all of whom I hold the deepest love and respect for. Stan was married to Marina Massa of Italy, mother of Rico, and also to Brenda Lynch. He was an honor graduate of St. Charles Elementary School, and graduated from Bellows Falls High School. Stan later graduated from Springfield College magna cum laude.

Stan retired from the United States Navy in 1984 as a commander, after 20 years of commissioned service on various ships of the line and shore bases in the United States, Europe, and Asia. Most notable of this service were two Bronze Stars awarded for separate combat actions in Vietnam and Thailand.

Stan’s love for sports began early – St. Charles midjets basketball team in grade 5, coached by Claude “Lover” Dexter, a truly great man loved by all. After this, Stan kept the link with continued jogging, weights, bicycling, yoga, core exercises, and boxing. Stan also taught elementary and high



Stanley Marino Jr., 1942-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

school students for 16 years, and was a loyal Red Sox fan since 1947.

During his retirement years, after teaching, Stan involved himself in politics, as he was an active Tea Party member, and he worked with veterans groups helping them and their families in the Keene/Monadnock area.

There will be a graveside service on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at 11 a.m., at St. Charles Cemetery in Westminster.

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

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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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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

MARCH 9 – CLAREMONT, N.H. – Sound Investment will play classic rock and modern country music on Saturday, March 9, 7-10 p.m., at American Legion Post 29, 118 Broad Street in Claremont, N.H. This event is for members and bona-fide guests. For more information, call 603-542-9222.

MARCH 10 – PLYMOUTH, Vt. – The Plymouth Historical Society will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, March 10, at 2 p.m., at the Plymouth Community Center. We welcome all current members and anyone interested in joining the society.

MARCH 11 – LUDLOW, Vt. – The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive on Monday, March 11, from 12-5:30 p.m., at the

Ludlow Community Center. Call 100-RED-CROSS to make an appointment.

MARCH 13 – CHESTER, Vt. – Upstairs @ Town Hall will host a Chester Town Hall Theater Open House on Wednesday, March 13, at 6:30 p.m. Learn about the effort to bring arts events to the Chester Town Hall, provide feedback on what you would like to see presented in the space, and/or sign up to volunteer. Refreshments will be provided.

MARCH 14 – LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Memory Café will be held on Thursday, March 14, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the Ludlow United Church, 48 Pleasant Street. This is a support group for caregivers and their loved ones living with dementia or Alzheimer's. Snacks are provided, and the event

is free to attend. Group meets the second Thursday of each month. For information, call Black River Good Neighbor Services at 802-228-3663.

MARCH 15 – LUDLOW, Vt. – Fletcher Memorial, Cavendish Community, and Mount Holly Libraries present three-time Iditarod participant Karen Land and her sled dogs Chloe and Noggin on Friday, March 15, from 6-7 p.m. Karen will share their experiences of participating in the 1,049-mile sled dog race across Alaska. This is a free and family-friendly event. Please note it is being held at the Ludlow Town Hall Auditorium, 37 Depot Street, Ludlow Vt., not at the libraries. Please use on-street parking or the municipal lot behind Brewfest Beverage Co.

MARCH 16 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Town Library will host a Kids Plant Party on Saturday, March 16, at 11 a.m. While the grown-ups dig into starting seeds, there will be plenty of plant-based fun in the kids' room with gardening stories, crafts, and games.

MARCH 17 – PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – Wear your favorite flannel and join the Expeditionary School at Black River (ESBR) for a fun Spring fundraiser on Sunday, March 17, from 4-6 p.m., at Outer Limits Brewing, 60 Village Green in Proctorsville. We are looking forward to this big hurrah before the winter season winds down and mud season takes over. Bid on a variety of items and gift certificates from local businesses, with

proceeds to benefit ESBR. Family friendly, and Outer Limits offers a wonderful atmosphere.

MARCH 19 – PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – On Tuesday, March 19, at 6 p.m., Astronomer Claudio Veliz with the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group will discuss the moon, eclipses, and how to prepare for the upcoming April 8 eclipse, at the Cavendish Community Library. Presented in conjunction with the Cavendish Conservation Association.

MARCH 20 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Town Library will host a World Frog Day Party for kids on Wednesday, March 20, at 4 p.m. Come meet the library's new frogs and celebrate World Frog Day with all the froggiest stories, games, and crafts.

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.

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

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – The Plymouth Historical Society, located in the former Plymouth Elementary School on Route 100 in Plymouth Union, is open Sunday afternoons, from 2-4 p.m. Visit our museum, or do research on your Plymouth ancestors. Watch for the "Open" flag.

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

Street. All equipment is provided.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAYS – PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – On Saturdays at 9 a.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.

Attention Proctorsville and Cavendish residents

Registration has begun at Cavendish Town Elementary School for Kindergarten. If your child will be 5 years old before September 1, 2024, please contact the school office for registration forms. If your child attends preschool in the district please contact the school office to confirm your child's registration.

Contact Donna Hamilton at the school office at 802-875-7758 or via email at donna.hamilton@trsu.org

Chester-Andover Elementary School KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Chester-Andover Elementary School has begun the process of registration for children who will be eligible for Kindergarten for the 2024/2025 school year. Children must be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2024.

Please contact the school office at 802-875-6832 or email kim.leonard@trsu.org to let us know your child will be attending.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY HERBICIDES RIGHT-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE

To prevent safety hazards and the interruption of electric service, National Grid is obligated to maintain its rights-of-way and carefully control the growth of certain tree species under transmission lines. The most effective method of accomplishing this is selective herbicide treatment. The herbicides that are used have been registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Certified and experienced applicators will apply the treatments with handheld tools. A permit has been applied for through the Secretary of Agriculture by National Grid for the purpose of making a selective ground-based treatment of the following herbicides: Garlon 4 Ultra (Triclopyr); Krenite S (Ammonium salt of Fosamine); Escort XP (Metsulfuron Methyl); Rodeo (Isopropylamine Salt of Glyphosate); or Polaris (Isopropylamine salt of Imazapyr) on its rights-of-way in the following towns:

ROW: Towns:
1667 Brattleboro, Dummerston, Putney, Rockingham, Westminster
1670 Brattleboro

The treatment will start on or about June 3, 2024

National Grid uses GIS based topographic maps to locate public water supplies, which will be avoided. Vermont regulations require National Grid to warn residents to protect private water supplies and environmentally sensitive areas. It is the responsibility of the residents to notify the Company contact person of the existence of private water supplies or other environmentally sensitive areas located within 100 feet of the right-of-way.

Landowners with questions regarding private water supplies on the Company's rights-of-way maintenance program should contact:

Mariclaire Rigby
National Grid
939 Southbridge Street
Worcester, MA 01610
Telephone: (781) 290-8310 or mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com

Residents who wish to submit comments regarding this vegetation management treatment should contact:

Vermont Department of Agriculture
State Office Building, 116 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
Telephone: (802) 828-2431

STATE OF VERMONT WINDSOR COUNTY, SS. NOTICE OF SALE

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of lands in the Town of Ludlow, in the County of Windsor are hereby notified that the taxes and/or water and sewer taxes assessed by such Town for the years indicated are, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described lands in such Town, to wit:

- **72 Main Street, Ludlow, Vermont**
For the years 2022-2023. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Leigh John Tofferi to William Armstrong Hunter, IV by deed dated April 19, 1989 and recorded in Book 122 at Page 301 of the Ludlow Town Land Records.

- **33 Pleasant Street Ext., Ludlow, Vermont**
For the years 2022-2023. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Doris L. McCullough to Adam Pedicino by deed dated May 7, 2021 and recorded in Book 444 at Page 307 of the Ludlow Town Land Records.

- **465 Rod & Gun Club Road, Ludlow, Vermont**
For the years 2022-2023. Being all and the same lands and premises decreed to Curtis Potter by the Superior Court, Windsor Unit, Probate Division, Final Decree of Distribution in the matter entitled In Re: Estate of Ella Marie Laramie, Docket No.: 527-10-14 Wrpr dated March 22, 2017 and recorded in Book 402 at Page 103 of the Ludlow Town Land Records.

- **13 Lovejoy Brook Road, Ludlow, Vermont**
For the years 2022-2023. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Dayle M. Brown to Baja M. Ray and Theodore L. Brown, III by deed dated October 15, 2009 and recorded in Book 336 at Page 257 of the Ludlow Town Land Records.

and so much of said lands will be sold at public auction at Ludlow Town Office, a public place in such Town, on the 21st day of March, 2024 at Ten O'clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

You have the right to request in writing, at least 24 hours prior to the tax sale date set forth above, that only a portion of the property be sold to satisfy the delinquent tax bill. Should you wish to proceed with this request, you must follow the procedure set forth in 32 V.S.A. § 5254; clearly identify the portion of the property to be sold, and include a certification from the Act 250 district coordinator and the town zoning administrator that the portion identified may be legally subdivided.

If you qualify under 24 V.S.A. § 1535, you may be able to receive an abatement of the property taxes, interest and collection fees you owe to the town. Abatement means that your taxes could be reduced or eliminated. You have the right to appear before the Board of Abatement and explain why you think your taxes should be abated. To apply for an abatement, you must write to Ulla Cook, Town Clerk, P. O. Box 307, Ludlow, VT 05149. Dated at Ludlow, County of Windsor and State of Vermont, this 14th day of February, 2024.

Brendan McNamara
Collector of Town and Town School District Taxes, Town Water and Sewer Taxes

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT Windsor Unit **PROBATE DIVISION Docket No.: 24-PR-01049**

In re ESTATE of: Douglas T. Lyman

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Douglas T. Lyman Decedent
late of Weathersfield Decedent's Town of Residence

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: 2/26/24 Signature of Fiduciary [Signature]

Executor/Administrator		Mailing Address	
Diane Turner		Marchica Law Office, LLC - 83 Main Street	
Phone Number	Email	City, State, Zip	
(802) 885-4300	john@marchicalaw.com	Springfield, VT 05156	

Name of Publication: The Vermont Journal

Publication Date: March 6, 2024

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Windsor Unit, Probate Division
Address of Probate Court: 12 The Green Woodstock, VT 05091

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

Featured pet: Lenox



Lenox. PHOTO PROVIDED

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – If the recent warm weather has you wishing for a walking friend, we have the boy for you. Lenox is one year old and loves treats, learning new tricks, walks, and lots and lots of cuddle time. He is housebroken, and adores people and other dogs. The Springfield Humane Society is open Wednesday-Saturday, from 12-4 p.m., for walk-ins. Call 802-885-3997 for more information.

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

Shawntae Webb
Publisher, Ad Designer
publisher@vermontjournal.com
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Sales Representative
sales@vermontjournal.com

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

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

Physical Office:
8 High Street • Ludlow, VT
Phone: 802-228-3600
Fax: 802-228-3464

Journal, LLC is a member of the Vermont Press Association

FOR SALE

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – 2005 Envoy Denali, 151,000 miles, 5.3 LS V-8, black, decent shape, too many new parts to list, needs left rear backing plate for inspection (e-brake inop), near new studded snows, near new 107xl summer tires, and trailer brake controller. \$4,500 or BRO, text 802-291-2026 for details. (03/19)

GUNS WANTED

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

WANTED

SPRINGFIELD AREA – Hardwood logs wanted. If you need trees removed give me a call. If you want hardwood trees cleaned up and removed, log length or cut, I'm your guy. 603-443-7009.



TOWN OF CHESTER NOTICE OF HEARING FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

Sarah James and Smokin' Bowls, LLC has applied for a Conditional Use Permit for property owned by Randal Miles at 35 Sylvan Road in the Town of Chester. The proposed use is to renew operation of a food truck.

The Town of Chester Development Review Board will conduct a site visit at 5:30 PM on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 35 Sylvan Road and will hold a hearing on this application at 6:00 PM on Monday, March 25, 2024, at the Chester Town Hall at 556 Elm Street in Chester. The application exhibits and additional information may be obtained from the Zoning Administrator.

Participation in this hearing in person, via Zoom videoconference, or in writing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

A link to participate in this hearing via Zoom videoconference may be found on the Town of Chester website home page at www.chestervt.gov.

Dated at Chester, Vermont this 1st day of March 2024.

Preston Bristow
Zoning Administrator
(802) 875-2173
zoning@chestervt.gov

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

TOWN OF CHESTER NOTICE OF HEARING FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

Ronica and Thomas Humphrey have applied for an amendment to their Conditional Use Permit allowing restaurant take-out at 665 VT RT 10 in Chester. The amendment would allow take-out service from a food trailer located on the property.

The Town of Chester Development Review Board will conduct a site visit at 4:45 PM on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 665 VT RT 10 and will hold a hearing on this application at 6:00 PM on Monday, March 25, 2024, at the Chester Town Hall at 556 Elm Street in Chester. The application exhibits and additional information may be obtained from the Zoning Administrator.

Participation in this hearing in person, via Zoom videoconference, or in writing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

A link to participate in this hearing via Zoom videoconference may be found on the Town of Chester website home page at www.chestervt.gov.

Dated at Chester, Vermont this 1st day of March 2024.

Preston Bristow
Zoning Administrator
(802) 875-2173
zoning@chestervt.gov

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.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

yellow page BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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

Art Crafts Gifts

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Art Crafts Gifts & Workshops
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Photography Show *Oceania* by Len Emery
Opening Reception 3/8 5-6:30
Call for Open Wall: *Thoughts of Spring*

Workshops <http://galleryvault.org/workshops>
Pine Needle Basket w/ Irene Dizes 3/8/24 & 3/9/24
Draw Cartoons w/ E.B. Sciales (Middle School) 3/22 1-3 p.m.
Meets at Springfield Library, FREE
Draw Cartoons w/ E.B. Sciales (Teens & Adults) 3/22 4-6 p.m.
Meets at VAULT, FREE
Wire-wrapped Pendant w/ Thomas Alyxander 4/6/24
Flowers in Texture & Color w/ Julie Crabtree 4/27/24
(04/24/24 - TFN - 13)

Builders/Contractors

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We handle a variety of projects, from home repairs, restorations on up to full renovations, and new construction too. Our clients can expect professionalism, proficiency, customer care, and quality. Call or email today at 802-376-3275 edwin.mortensen@gmail.com.
Follow us on Instagram @nedthehammer
(11/20/24 - 52)

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(05/15/24 - 13)

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

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(06/05/24 - 52)

Campground

CATON PLACE CAMPGROUND

2419 EAST ROAD, CAVENDISH VERMONT
SEASONAL SITES AVAILABLE FOR 2024! REASONABLE RATES!
802-226-7767, Catonplacecamp@gmail.com.

Full hook up sites, pull thru, and tent sites. Views of Okemo! Large Private Sites!
(05/08/24 - 13)

Chiropractor

FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC

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

Electrician

KJ ELECTRIC LLC

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

Masonry

DRC STONE DESIGN

Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 32 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or stoneart49@gmail.com or visit drcstonedesign.com.
(05/22/24 - 13)

Okemo Valley TV

LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

- "Gavel-to-gavel" Town Meeting coverage
- Legislative Update w/ State Rep. Tasha Buss
- New Show: Average Daves Movie & TV Talk
- ESB Update w/ Students
- Yoh Theatre- Costumes & Set Design for "Little Women"

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)

Organic Lawn & Land Care

GREEN BEE LAWN & GARDEN

Serving Chester and surrounding towns

Now Accepting New Customers- Our commitment to fully organic lawn and garden care practices gives you peace of mind for all the kids, pets, nature, and friends using your yard. Our Commercial Electric equipment is clean and quiet, so you can relax while we make your property beautiful for you.

We're Different- Green Bee has earned an Organic Land Management Professional Accreditation and can tailor a plan for managing your property to meet your goals. Large or small, all properties will benefit from utilizing this approach.

We are fully insured, reliable, and priced right. Like us on Facebook and Reach Out Today to secure your spot! Call, text, or email: 802-289-1968, greenbeelawns@gmail.com.
(08/07/24 - 26)

health & outdoor

GPA alcohol and cannabis eCheckups

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Green Peak Alliance (GPA), based in Londonderry, has released two online check-up tools on alcohol and cannabis for young adults in Windham and Windsor counties. The eCheckup To Go tools are free for the user and anonymous.

For residents of Windham County, eCheckup for alcohol can be found at echeckup.sdsu.edu/usa/alc/adult/windham, and for cannabis at echeckup.sdsu.edu/usa/mj/adult/windham.

For residents of Windsor County, the pages are at echeckup.sdsu.edu/usa/alc/adult/windsor and echeckup.sdsu.edu/usa/mj/adult/windsor, respectively.

The eCheckup To Go tools will help individuals assess their healthy decisions, and where and how frequently alcohol and cannabis use shows up in their lives. Young people like to make informed decisions.

The eCheckup will provide young adults ages 18-

25 years old with accurate and personalized feedback about their individual pattern of alcohol or cannabis use, risk patterns, and aspirations and goals. It will also provide information for helpful resources in the community. They're evidence-based, online wellbeing tools designed by San Diego State University's Counseling and Psychological Services professionals. The tools are customized specifically for each school or community.

The eCheckup web-based tools go beyond a traditional education-only approach to support lasting behavioral change through brief, self-guided programs that each take about 20 minutes to complete. The tools assess the quantity and frequency of use, amount consumed, normative comparisons, physical health information, amount and percent of income spent, negative consequences feedback, and explanation,

advice, and local referral information.

Neil Allen, director of Greater Falls Connections in Bellows Falls, said, "It will give the young adults who use the tool information on where they can get support and learn more about their alcohol and cannabis use. They can use the check-ups repeatedly to allow them to track their usage and health in regards to both substances and see where they may need to make changes."

"This is also a great opportunity for the substance misuse prevention coalitions in these three counties to discover what the young adults in our communities are experiencing with alcohol and cannabis. It will also help the coalitions to create better programming to work with young adults, and we're hopeful this information will provide good data for us to work with," Allen continued.

Previously, GPA had partnered with Community College of Vermont (CCV) to allow CCV and their students access to this information. Seeking the opportunity to reach more young adults, GPA pivoted to offering the tools to those within the three counties,

which will include those attending CCV.

The Green Peak Alliance (GPA) is a regional network that promotes healthy communities. We bring federal and state resources to local areas through our work with schools, service organizations, towns, etc.

Through research, education, and outreach, we create conditions to positively influence the public by increasing youth assets and reducing risks.

For more information, please contact Allen at 802-463-9927 or info@greater-fallsconnections.org.

SoVerA astrophotography presentation

CHESTER, Vt. – Join SoVerA on March 12, at 7 p.m., for a presentation by member Erik Schmitt. This will be an online meeting at www.zoom.us/j/94691230307.

Most of us at some point in our lives have paused for a moment to take in the vastness of the cosmos by simply looking up on a clear night. Many have even had the opportunity to look at a handful of celestial objects through a telescope. However, it was not until the advent and then ubiquitousness of digital imaging sensors that the universe

was revealed to all in such awe-inspiring detail. In addition to being aesthetically beautiful, these images also contain a staggering amount of scientific data that is a vital means to better understand our universe. Using astrophotos created by high school students at the nearby Perkin Observatory, you will learn how these images are acquired by telescopes and processed by computer software, and what can be learned from them. We will tour the cosmos from the birth and death of solar systems, to the evolution of distant galaxies, with stops at clouds of ionized gas,

and the search for extrasolar planets along the way.

Erik Schmitt is a physics and astronomy educator, who is especially passionate about outreach and science communication. He is the former director of the Perkin Observatory, where he created an astronomical imaging program for high school students. As a lifelong tinkerer and space enthusiast, Erik particularly enjoys the blending of science, engineering, hardware, and software involved in imaging celestial objects. He also serves as a board member of the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group.

Asthma-friendly schools recognized

REGION – Thirteen schools from around the state have been recognized by the Vermont Department of Health's Asthma-friendly School initiative for their commitment to asthma-control strategies to support the lung health of their students.

Asthma is a potentially serious condition that includes clogging and swelling of the airways that can lead to difficulty breathing, wheezing, and coughing. Nearly 9,000 – or one in 12 – children in Vermont

have asthma, and of those, 61% of have uncontrolled asthma.

Health Commissioner Mark Levine said the number of new schools participating shows a growing understanding about the impact of asthma on children's health and ability to learn. "Asthma can be a dangerous condition for many children. Asthma symptoms can disrupt sleep, make it difficult to concentrate, and can lead to missed school days," said Dr. Levine. "Schools that

have asthma-control policies in place help create a healthy environment where children spend much of their day."

Two local schools were recognized through this initiative. Cavendish Town Elementary School was recognized in the Gold category, denoting the highest level of asthma friendliness. Additionally, Townshend Elementary School was recognized in the Silver category.

Join the all-organic Ludlow Community Garden

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Area Community Garden is open to all residents of Ludlow and neighboring towns. It is fenced, and located on the Fletcher Farm grounds 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. Shared plots, double plots, and waist-high raised beds are also available. Members take care of their own plots, as well as help maintain the common areas of this beautiful garden.

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 Composters. Seeds are available to garden members through our small seed library.

The small 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. A reply will be sent to all who contact us. Scholarship

plots are available upon request. Plots and raised beds are available on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information, or to schedule a visit to the garden, please call Colleen at 267-082-2046. You can also find the "Ludlow Area Community Garden" page on Facebook.



Produce harvested from the garden. PHOTO PROVIDED

Spots open for weatherization training at SEVCA

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Southeastern Vermont Community Action Inc. (SEVCA) is teaming up with Vermont Adult Learning to offer a free, two-week long, hands-on training to introduce weatherization as a career. The training will be on site at the SEVCA main office in Westminster, Vt., from March 18-27.

Energy Works trainings are for individuals aged 17 and older, who are seeking a great job and want to learn more about how to start a career in the green energy sector. Following comple-

tion of this training, participants will have gained vital skills, and may also be able to immediately start with SEVCA as a weatherization technician.

"This is a demanding job working in all weather, all year round, but individuals who are willing to learn can move up after gaining some experience in the industry," said Vic Baisley, SEVCA's director of weatherization. "We are always looking to find more people who are interested in working in this field." With additional experience and training, many technicians are able move into roles such as crew leader, energy auditor, and eventually to quality control inspectors.

Participants in Energy Works trainings will receive a \$500 stipend upon completion of the weatherization training. Individuals who enter the weatherization field following the training will receive an additional \$500 after 60 days of employment. For more information about the program, contact Haley Stephen at 802-560-4036 or hstephen@vtadultlearn.org, or visit www.energy-worksvermont.org.



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arts & entertainment

“An Evening of Circus and Song” and “Ourself” at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts is thrilled to present “Soaring: An Evening of Circus and Song,” featuring soprano-aerialist Elizabeth Wohl, pianist Ivan Tan, and special guest artists on Saturday, March 16, at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., at Next Stage Arts.

Prepare to be enchanted as Wohl, a professional, classically-trained opera singer, combines her vocal prowess with breathtaking aerial acrobatics. Known for her innovative interpretations of classical music, Wohl will perform a repertoire that includes works by Mozart, Gounod, Bizet, and Vermont composer Gwyneth Walker, accompanied by the skilled pianist Ivan Tan.

Wohl’s unique approach to opera involves incorporating aerial acrobatics into well-loved arias, creating a mesmerizing and unforgettable experience. Her original aerial choreography enhances the inherent dramatic arcs of each piece, captivating audiences and inspiring wonder, delight, and awe.

Wohl’s one-woman show, “Three French Birds,” featuring her aerial arias, has been showcased at prestigious events such as the Providence Fringe Festival. She has also performed at concerts, nonprofit fundraising events, and weddings throughout the New England region. As a soloist, Wohl has graced the stages with the Friends of Music at Guilford, the Keene Chorale, and the Windham Philharmonic, showcasing her versatility as an artist.

Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts, expresses excitement about presenting Wohl’s groundbreaking work, stating, “Operatic aria while performing circus aerial – that’s something that you don’t get the chance to see every day. We’re excited about the opportunity to present Elizabeth Wohl’s new work, supporting an artist from our region as they make their mark in the broader regional arts landscape.”

Advance ticketing closes two hours before showtime.

Next Stage Arts will also present the Vermont premier of works from Tasha Warren and Dave Eggar’s Grammy-nominated album “Ourself, Behind Ourself Concealed,” on Sunday,

March 17, at 7 p.m. The performance will be held at Next Stage Arts. Tickets are discounted in advance at www.nextstagearts.org; there is also a livestream option. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar.

Introducing to the Vermont area, for the very first time, the music from their Grammy-nominated record “Ourself, Behind Ourself Concealed,” classical virtuosos Tasha Warren (clarinet and bass clarinet) and Dave Eggar (cello) invite the audience on a captivating musical odyssey through the realms of classical, jazz, tango, and beyond. Joining forces with the duo is the exceptional Martha Redbone, who brings her distinctive blend of folk, gospel, and blues, accompanied by the masterful guitar virtuoso Phil Faconti. Together they create an unforgettable evening, weaving an immersive tapestry of musical storytelling that promises to be a unique and enriching experience.

“Ourself, Behind Ourself Concealed,” released in 2022, presents world premieres of chamber works by six of today’s most dynamic and influential composers: Nathalie Joachim, Paquito D’Rivera, Meg Okura, Martha Redbone, Pascal Le Boeuf, and Cornelius Boots. As the world simultaneously stood still and transformed across the globe, these six pieces came into the world during the pandemic lockdown in 2020-2021, each emerging as a reflection of our complex global landscape. From the Far East, to the Haitian Caribbean, to the plains of Africa, journeying through Cuba to New York, tales whisper and weave to form a beautiful and poignant collision of genres. These stunning new works come to life on the contemporary classical music stage by way of the shape-shifting, chameleon-like natures of these

two complementary instruments. The result is an explosion of beauty, power, joy, ecstasy, isolation, and unity; uniquely inspired by personal narrative, identity, and the time in which they were written.

Next Stage Arts is located at 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt. For ticket information for either show, visit www.nextstagearts.org, or contact the box office at info@nextstagearts.org or 802-387-0102.

Wild Goose Players present “Fiddler on the Roof”

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Spring is approaching, and with it the next major musical from Wild Goose Players and local sponsors M&T Bank, Mascoma Bank, Springfield Printing Corp, James and James Plumbing and Heating, Lavalley’s Building Supply, and Hamshaw Lumber. This April, don’t miss “Fiddler on the Roof,” at the Bellows Falls Opera House.

The Opera House is a local landmark, and the annual major musical from Wild Goose a perennial favorite. This year, David Stern, who typically directs these productions, will be taking on the role of Tevye the dairyman, and Dominic DiBenedetto, typically a performer, will be directing. The scenery and costumes have been underway for months, and the cast and crew are pulling out all the stops to bring this masterpiece to life.

“Fiddler” was the first

“Arsenic and Old Lace” presented by SHS

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield High School Theater Department presents “Arsenic and Old Lace” by Joseph Kesselring. Performances will be at the Springfield High School Auditorium on Friday, March 8, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 9, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, March 10, at 2 p.m. Admission is by donation. If you have any questions, please call 802-885-



Springfield High School Theater Department presents “Arsenic and Old Lace.”

PHOTO PROVIDED

elderly aunts’ window seat. Mortimer rushes to tell Abby and Martha before they stumble upon the body themselves, only to learn that the two old women aren’t just aware of the dead man in their parlor – they killed him. Between his aunts’ penchant for poisoning wine, a brother who thinks he’s Teddy Roosevelt, and an-

7954, or email Rebecca Skrypeck at rskrypeck@ssdvt.org. Check out the theater department’s Facebook page, “SHS Theater Dept.”

Drama critic Mortimer Brewster’s engagement announcement is upended when he discovers a corpse in his

other brother using plastic surgery to hide from the police – not to mention Mortimer’s own hesitancy about marriage – it’ll be a miracle if Mortimer makes it to his wedding. “Arsenic and Old Lace” is a classic black comedy about the only thing more deadly than poison: family.

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arts & entertainment

SUMMER CAMPS

Bethany Birches offers summer camps

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – There are a range of summer camps offered at Bethany Birches Camp (BBC) this year.

Day camp, for children 6-10, is similar to resident camp, but everything is scaled for the age. Activities include shorter hikes, activity blocks, crafts, and more. Your child will learn how to make and keep great friends, conflict management, basic outdoor living skills, and Jesus' model of treating others with love and respect.

Launch Half, for children 7-10, is for children ready to try the sleep-away camp experience for two nights. Parents are welcome to join in Tuesday evening for dinner and sharing about the week. Launch Full is for campers who are ready for the full experience of four nights at camp. This eases campers into the full week experience.

Core is for ages 8-12, and includes a week of overnight camp featuring all of our favorites: mud pit, slip

and slide, meals cooked over a fire, rock climbing, fishing, waterslide, boating, crafts, tree houses, and more.

Summit is for ages 12-16. Summit Mid is for middle school age campers who love camp, but are looking for something new. Unique to this week are the all camp creek hike, the cardboard boat race, middle school madness, and the famous Shindig. Summit High is a pinnacle experience. You'll get to participate in programs specially designed for you, including more free time, Iron Chef, Coffee House, Barn Party, and all camp capture the flag.

Lastly, Leadership is for ages 14-16. Leaders in Training (LIT) is a new program that combines the best of crew and internship. This program is perfect for teen campers who are interested in being a part of traditional camp fun – cooking over a fire, swimming in a pond, etc. – while also experiencing the other side of camp. This weeklong program includes service projects around camp, faith-focused discussions, team building,

and an opportunity to continue to participate in what you love about BBC.

The Counselor in Training (CIT) program is the second step in the leadership programs offered at BBC, for teens 15-16 years old interested in not only developing leadership skills and growing their faith in God, but who also hope to someday be on staff at BBC. This two-week program starts with a week of training from BBC staff and guest speakers. Training is focused on leadership, faith, service, and learning specific skills required to be a counselor at BBC. The second week transitions to CITs working in the shelters with campers alongside a current BBC counselor. This is the first step toward joining the BBC summer staff. We must receive your application by May 31.

For more information on any camp offerings, visit www.bethanybirches.org.

MSA to offer summer theater camps

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Main Street Arts (MSA) is going to be offering two summer camp programs: Trish Roberts' Wildbrook Forest Theater Camp, and The Un-Lost Island of Atlantis with Putnam Smith. No theater experience is necessary, and no audition will be required. Space is limited, with slots available by sign up on a first-come, first-served basis.

The camps will explore how to deeply connect to the natural world and to each other through storytelling and imaginary play.

The Wildbrook Forest camp will run June 24-28, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. The camp is open to students 8-12 years old. Roberts will bring students into

the Vermont Academy forest (located behind MSA) to play theater games. Students will play theater games (including lots of improv), learn theater warm-ups for voices and bodies, sing, tell stories, explore and play in the forest, and rehearse for the final performance. Students will also work on character building activities, various acting techniques, and set and costume design. The final performance will take place in the woods on Thursday, June 27, at 3 p.m., with a rain date of Friday, June 28, at 3 p.m. Be prepared for a 10-minute walk.

The second camp will run from Aug. 5-17, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., Monday-Friday, at MSA. On the unlost island of Atlantis, two rival groups of explorers will

uncover the mysteries of this deserted island and win out as the true discoverer. Smith will lead students through theater games, trust-building exercises, and lessons in stage combat and physical comedy; participants will work together to bring this action-packed comedy to life. The program will result in a fully costumed performance on MSA's main stage. The performances will be on Friday, Aug. 16, at 7 p.m.; and Saturday, Aug. 17, at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

MSA is located at 35 Main Street in Saxtons River. For more information and to register, please visit www.mainstreetarts.org/camps.html or email info@mainstreetarts.org.

Green Mountain Conservation Camps

REGION – If you are 12-14 years old and want to learn about Vermont's wildlife and gain outdoor skills, consider attending one of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Green Mountain Conservation Camps (GMCC) this summer. If you are a

GMCC alum 16 or younger, consider coming back to camp.

The one-week camp programs are held at Lake Bomoseen in Castleton, and Buck Lake in Woodbury. Campers participate in hands-on learning about fish and wildlife conserva-

tion, ecology, forestry, orienteering, safe firearm and archery techniques, swimming, canoeing, fishing, and more. Natural resource professionals come to the camp to share information on their programs and take campers out for field activities.

"An important take-away message and common theme during the week is that conserving and managing habitat will help ensure Vermont will have fish and wildlife in the future," said fish and wildlife education specialist Hannah Phelps.

Conservation Camps open June 16, and continue until Aug. 16. Tuition for the week includes food, lodging, and equipment. Financial assistance is available.

Information and registration are available at www.vtfishandwildlife.com. For more information, contact FW-GMCC@vermont.gov, or call 802-522-2925.

Weathersfield PTO Comedy Night fundraising event

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Weathersfield's PTO has organized a Comedy Night fundraiser for March 16, at 7 p.m., at The Common Man Restaurant, located in Claremont, N.H., at 16 Mill Road. This is an 18 years and older event. The comedians performing are Drew Dunn and Kelly MacFarland.

Drew Dunn is a stand-up comedian who has quickly made a name for himself with his quick wit, great voices, and unique point of view. After winning multiple international comedy festivals, Drew was featured as a New Face of Comedy at the Just for Laughs Festival in Montreal in 2019.

Drew now headlines comedy clubs across the U.S. and Canada, along with performing regularly around New York City. You

can also catch him on tour with Dane Cook, or online in his various content that earns millions of views.

Kelly MacFarland is a stand-up comedian, writer, and actress. She has an extensive resume, including comedy clubs, theaters, colleges, festivals, films, television appearances, and entertaining U.S. troops overseas. Kelly has appeared on Comedy Central, NBC's "Last Comic Standing," "Up Early Tonight" on Hulu, Prime Video, and Denis Leary's Comics Come Home. She has several comedy albums available on iTunes, and can be heard on SiriusXM. For all things Kelly, visit www.kellymacfarland.com.

Tickets are available via cash or check by emailing wsptocomedy@gmail.com; via Venmo @WSP-

TO; via CheddarUp on the Weathersfield Schools PTO Comedy Night Facebook page; or at the door.

"We wanted to do something different and fun to raise money for our great school community. Comedy is a fantastic way to bring people together, laugh, and relax. These comedians are talented, and we are lucky that they are spending an evening in our area. So, book your babysitters and join us for a funny night out on the town," says Comedy Night Committee Chair Meredith Kelley.

The event will also feature a raffle and game that all can participate in with a small donation.

Proceeds from this event will support Weathersfield School's PTO mission to support students, faculty, and staff.

A celebration of featured movies filmed in Vermont

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – A consortium of the Friends of the West River Trail and the Historical Societies of Londonderry and Weston banded together to present a celebration of feature movies filmed in Vermont. It began with a presentation by Amanda Gustin, a speaker from the Vermont Humanities Council, and on the staff of the Vermont Historical Society, on how Hollywood has portrayed Vermont.

Now it's time to start showing the films she referenced – and more. Here's the spring lineup.

On March 21, we will be showing "The Trouble with Harry." The trouble with Harry is that he's dead – and half the town thinks they've accidentally offed him. A rare, straight comedy from director Alfred Hitchcock, filmed in northern Vermont in 1955.

Then, on April 25, join us for "Hallelujah the Hills," a gloriously funny and far-out farce about two great big overgrown boy scouts, who prattling in love with the same girl – who dumps them both. Filmed partly right here in Londonderry, in 1963.

Finally, on May 16, we will show "Baby Boom," a romantic comedy about the "Tiger Lady" of Wall Street (Diane Keaton) who is "gifted" an infant, and winds up trading her career for motherhood, love, and applause in Vermont. "Baby Boom" was largely filmed in Peru.

All films will be shown at the South Londonderry Depot, on Route 100, at 7 p.m. There will be no cost to attend; donations will be accepted and shared between the three sponsoring organizations.

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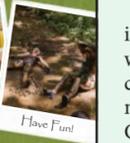
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Fill out your name, age, town, and phone number. Complete any or all of the activities on both sides of this page, including the Easter Egg Hunt. Tear out this page and mail it to The Vermont Journal, P.O. Box 228, Ludlow, VT 05149 by March 25, 2024 for a chance to win an Easter Basket! All entries must be received by mail. Two winners will be notified by phone.

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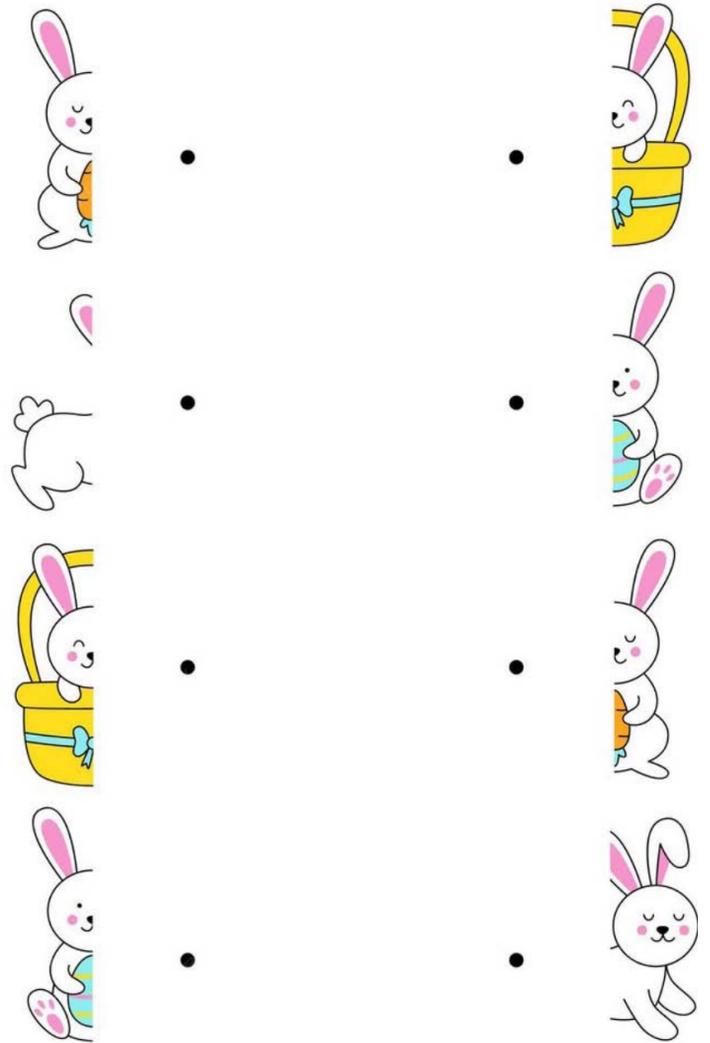


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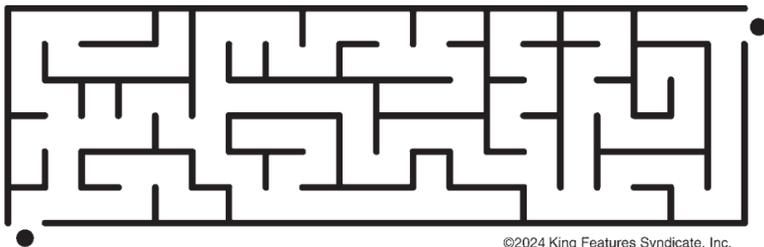
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