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Bellows Falls Trustees vote to replace audit service company

BY PAULA BENSON
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Tuesday, May 28, the Bellows Falls Trustees met in the lower theater at the town hall. Bellows Falls Village President Paul Obuchowski asked municipal manager Scott Pickup to present his manager’s report.

“We are having two fairly large events here in the next week or so,” stated Pickup. “On the fifth of June, we’ve got the Downtown Historic Preservation Conference, so there will be quite a bit of activity.” Pickup shared with the board an itinerary of the day’s events.

“Then, on June 6, the Vermont Arts Council is here, and they’re going to be at a number of locations around town.” Pickup warned anyone coming to the town hall to conduct business that the downtown area might be a little more crowded than usual. “Hopefully we can show [visitors] the good side of Bellows Falls, and they’ll come away with a good impression of our community,” Pickup remarked.

Calling it “an opportunity to showcase some of the things we are proud of,” Pickup said they would be welcoming visitors from all around the state.

Obuchowski reminded everyone of the special town meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 22, at 2 p.m., to be held at the Bellows Falls Middle School. The special meeting will allow Rockingham voters to discuss the pros and cons of holding the annual March Town Meeting on a Saturday afternoon, as opposed to the current Monday evening, and cast their vote to determine the schedule going into the future.

The trustees voted to continue using *The Shopper Newspaper* as the official

newspaper of record.

Pickup reported to the board some issues the village has been having with their current audit company. They have not been receiving audits in a timely manner, according to Pickup, which creates a backup in the finance department, and can affect budget approvals. Pickup recommended they make a switch. He presented a bid from Sullivan Powers & Company, an audit service in Montpelier.

Trustee James McAuliffe told the board he and Pickup had discussed the proposals. The current vendor RHR Smith & Company’s bid was for \$21,500, and the Sullivan Powers bid came in at \$29,000. “It’s like a three- or four-year deal,” McAuliffe commented, “so you’re talking \$7,000 [or] \$8,000 per year.”

McAuliffe continued, “What Scott said a minute ago is true, RHR also audits the school department, and we are a day late and a dollar short on our audits there. But they get done. It’s not a smooth process, and I understand the concern on the part of the staff.” McAuliffe felt the problem was that they had no knowledge of Sullivan Powers’ business practices, having never worked with them before. “We have no assurances of anything.”

Pickup pointed out that neither contract includes penalties if the audit comes in late.

Trustee Conor Floyd asked what the length of the Sullivan Powers agreement was, and Pickup said it was a five-year contract. “If they’re not meeting expectations, could we put this back out to bid in a year and go with a lower bidder at that point?”

Finance director Alyssa Harlow, attending online, responded, “Yes.”

Pickup said RHR had been doing the village audit for eight years, and although he couldn’t give a long history of their service, he relayed, “I’ve been here a little under four [years], and three of those four years, there has been a significant problem getting completed on time.”

Harlow told the board that Sullivan Powers had served as the auditors before RHR came onboard, but no one could confirm what caused the village to switch companies at the time.

Ultimately the board voted to go into contract with Sullivan Powers, with the caveat that the contract could be terminated if the village was displeased with the service they were providing.

Pickup reported that he’d met online earlier in the day with the village’s energy grant writers regarding a project proposed by PW Tech, a water and wastewater process technology company. PW Tech plans to implement updates at the village sewage treatment plant, then use the facility as a “demo site.” Pickup said these “interesting and innovative energy efficient improvements will dramatically reduce costs,” and he was looking forward to presenting the proposal at the next meeting.

Trustee Wade Masure made a point to thank the voters for participating in the election and supporting the trustees.

The next regular meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, will include a public hearing on the first round of traffic and parking ordinances, and a chance for public feedback with regards to the fire feasibility study.

BF Community Bike Project looks to purchase local building

BY JOE MILLIKEN
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Community Bike Project (BFCBP), located at 30 Henry Street in Bellows Falls, is currently working towards purchasing the building they have been renting from the owner, Alan LaCombe, since 2016. Led by founding director Bonnie Anderson, BFCBP recently held a successful fundraiser as they continue to generate funds to purchase the building.

For over a decade, BFCBP has been providing local residents access to bicycles, and thus a more active and healthy lifestyle as well. They offer used bicycles for sale, bicycle repair training, and are dedicated to supporting safe biking for all.

Established by Anderson in 2013, BFCBP formed a five-person board of directors, opened its doors on Canal Street in Bellows Falls, and were at first under the umbrella of Sustainable Valley Group. As momentum was created through volunteers, outreach, and promotion, in 2015 they obtained their 501(c)(3) status.

BFCBP had been contemplating the idea of purchasing the building since the time they started renting the space eight years ago, always keeping the subject on the back burner. “Our former mechanic/shop manager, the late Fred Tipton, first floated the idea as soon as we began renting it,”



Bellows Falls Community Bike Project members outside the building they hope to purchase.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Anderson said in a recent interview. “The owner was interested in eventually selling, and in early 2022, our board decided that we were in a good enough position to consider the purchase.

“They all agreed that owning the building would give us greater financial stability and control over repairs and upgrades. It would also eliminate the possibility of a private buyer forcing us out, or tripling the rent.”

BFCBP would sign a contract with the owner in the spring, and initially looked toward the possibility of obtaining a mortgage, but, in the long run, it was decided that buying the building outright was the better goal. There is also a renovation plan in the works.

“We plan to rebuild and extend the narrow roof along the front of the building, which is in disrepair and doesn’t offer any protection,” Anderson said. “An extended overhang will provide more shade and a covered area for outdoor work. We will also make some weatherization improvements, spruce up the build-

ing exterior with new paint, and repair the parking lot.

The purchase price of the building is \$80,000, and BFCBP began fundraising last November. Currently, the closing on the building is scheduled for November, as they continue to raise money through fundraising and private donations.

“The outpouring of local support has been incredible, thanks to the generosity of countless individuals and several local businesses,” Anderson said. “We’ve raised 64,000 to date, and donations have come from as far away as Washington state. We recently held a silent auction fundraiser, which brought the community together for a night of fun and raised close to \$5,000.

“One of our lead donors offered to match up to \$10,000 in donations raised during April. We reached that goal by April 30, and the match gave us a great boost. With \$16,000 left to raise, we are still accepting donations.”

Recently, the Rockingham

See **BIKE** on Page 2

Edgar May Community Conversation at library

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Edgar May is a Springfield name to remember. Many Springfield residents have questions about the health center on Clinton Street, how it operates, what its future plans are, and more. Springfield Town Library will host Christian Craig, the executive director of the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center on Thursday, June 13, at 6 p.m.

Over 20 years ago, the town received \$3 million from the State of Vermont for hosting the state prison. The funds were designated as the endowment for the Southern Vermont Recreation Center, which was

to be built at the former Springfield Foundry site, and opened in 2007. The site was renamed in 2009 as the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center, after the former state senator.

The health center recently announced it will receive nearly \$1.9 million to support an expansion project, designed to be a multipurpose regional hub that will facilitate a thriving community by expanding child care options, increasing access to recreation, and promoting preventative health services. This first round of funding will serve to remediate the 1.6-acre brownfield site, including the redevel-

opment of the existing 19,915-square-foot historic foundry building.

Residents are encouraged to attend the community conversation to get answers to any questions they have about the expansion project. The program will be recorded for later viewing on SAPA TV. If you cannot attend and have questions you would like asked, or for more information, please contact the library at springfieldlibrary@hotmail.com.

See article on page 9 about Edgar May expansion.

BFUHS May Elks Student of the Month

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – It is a pleasure to announce that Ava LaRoss has been named the May Elks Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School (BFUHS). Ava, a senior, is the daughter of Mike and Melanie LaRoss of Westminster.

A member of both the Jesse A. Judd/Marilee Huntoon Chapter of the National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society, Ava is committed to her academics, as evidenced by her transcript. She is in the top 10% of her class, and makes an honest effort each and every day to be the best that she can be academically. Ava is a role model to other students who leads by example and inspires others to present their personal best. She has completed her LNA, and has earned

multiple industry-recognized credentials through her time at the Windham Regional Career Center.

Ava, who comes to school every day ready to learn, is kind and caring to all. Her smile is contagious, and she offers a positive energy to the BFUHS community. Always willing to help, often without being asked, Ava works hard to include everyone in any activity in which she is involved.

Ava is not only committed to her academics, she is also involved in multiple cocurricular activities, including field hockey, track and field, basketball, indoor track, student council, and yearbook. She is a well-rounded member of the educational community. She was recently named to the Twin State field hockey game squad, and will represent BFUHS/Vermont in the game against New Hampshire.



Ava LaRoss. PHOTO PROVIDED

In addition to her interest in academics and cocurricular activities, Ava gives back to her community. She has been involved in youth field hockey, Westminster Center School’s Studio Y program, the Terrier Hall of Fame, and Girls on the Run. Ava has held employment throughout high school, including Allen Brothers, Famous Pizza, and Michael’s.

Clearly deserving of recognition, BFUHS and the Elks are proud to have Ava represent us as a student of the month.

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DEADLINES

The deadline for all content is **Friday at 12 p.m.** for the following Wednesday publication.

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Pedestrian safety in The Square public forum

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Rockingham Walk-Bike Committee will hold a public forum on pedestrian safety in The Square on Thursday, June 13, from 6:30-8 p.m., at the Rockingham Public Library. A short presentation on a range of engineering and design ideas to improve safety in towns like

ours will precede a moderated discussion among attendees.

There have already been two car/pedestrian accidents in The Square this year, one resulting in death, one in hospitalization. The forum will bring together folks from local businesses, shoppers, strollers, and residents to

share personal experiences and look at the data. Representatives of the Bellows Falls Police Department and the selectboard will be present to answer questions and listen to your ideas. Our goal for the future is zero accidents. This program is free and open to the public.

Catherine LeMay joins River Artisan Cooperative

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The River Artisan Cooperative in Bellows Falls is excited to welcome a new member to our current roster. One of the original members when the Co-op was in Saxton's River, Catherine LeMay has become a familiar local artist whose work is in many shops and galleries in this region, with her line of Dellamano handpainted glass. We are delighted to have her things among our offerings. LeMay creates delicate paintings with many items that are perfect for home and gifts.

Coming from a family of artists and craftspeople, LeMay says she always

wanted to paint. She loves working on glass, as the process is very direct and is particularly interesting to her, as she loves the way the light reflects off her artwork. After 15 years of craft fairs and traveling to sell, she now supplies her work directly to shops only. We

are thrilled that we are one of them.

Come visit us and enjoy our rich array of handcrafted items. We're the perfect shop for finding made-in-Vermont gifts. The River Artisan Cooperative shop is located at 28 Village Square in Bellows Falls. We are open Thursday-Monday, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.riverartisanscooperative.com or call 802-591-2085.



Painted wine glasses by Catherine LeMay. PHOTO PROVIDED

Transformative Tarot at Springfield Library

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Wednesday, June 19, at 6 p.m., join us at the Springfield Town Library for a presentation on “Transformative Tarot.” Discover how tarot and oracle cards can help you transform your mindset, health, and life, while debunking the fear-based myths around this ancient practice of divination.

In this talk, we will ex-

plore what tarot/oracle cards are, how to properly use them, basic spreads, and a simple overview of card meanings. Get hands-on experience by exploring various decks, and even practicing your intuitive reading.

Charlotte McFarlin, the founder of Magic Mamma Medicine, has over a decade of experience with divination, harnessing in-

tuition, and assisting others on their journey of self-healing through a variety of modalities such as energy healing, yoga, and intuitive tarot readings, to name a few. Her mission, and the mission of Magic Mamma Medicine, is simply to “untether the magic within you,” empowering you to embody your divine gifts and embrace your authenticity. Explore all her offerings, in person and virtual, at www.magicmamma-medicine.com.

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

Springfield Elks award Freedom Grant to The Veterans' Place

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Elks Lodge 1560 recently applied for and was awarded the 2024-2025 Freedom Grant of \$1,000 through the Elks National Foundation, to be given to The Veterans' Place Inc. in Northfield, Vt. The funds from this Freedom Grant are intended to be used for monies toward The Veterans' Place Inc. “wish list” of items to help transition these housed veterans into their own independent dwellings and housing. The list is extensive, and here is a partial list of items: glass food storage containers, bathmats, small trash cans, fabric shower curtains with hooks, crock pots, can openers, baking dishes, mixing bowl sets, measuring cups and spoons, knife sets and cutting boards, cookware (pots, pans, cooking utensils), coffee makers, toasters, new bath/hand towel sets, new sheet sets, mattress covers and blankets, and new standard pillows.

On Tuesday, May 28, Elks members traveled to Northfield, Vt., to present a check to The Veterans' Place Inc. Keeping in mind one of The Vet-



Springfield Elks members present the 2024 Freedom Grant Award to The Veterans' Place. PHOTO PROVIDED

erans' Place's goals, “To see an end to veteran homelessness through a statewide, coordinated, accessible network of supports and services,” the Elks are thrilled to make a difference with this aid to their programs. As an Elks Lodge, BPOE 1560 has established a presence in assisting with ongoing improvements and needs for the mental health and wellbeing of The Veterans' Place patrons, and is pleased the Freedom Grant can continue to do so.

The Veterans' Place consists of accommodations for veteran tenants who come and go, and are assisted with transitioning back into autonomy – holding down jobs, and learning how to acclimate back to indepen-

dent, substance-free living on their own. This facility is dedicated to providing transitional housing for homeless veterans in Vermont with the environment, tools, and support to transition into and sustain productive lives in the community.

The Veterans' Place is in the middle of a large project which includes expanding the facility to accommodate more veterans in need. Ongoing support from the community, organizations like the Elks, and individuals is always appreciated. The Veterans' Place accepts donations and in-kind gifts like this Elks grant.

Donations may be made to The Veterans' Place, 220 Vine Street, Northfield, VT 05663.

Bellows Falls Pride hosts Mark S. King

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Senior Solutions and Bellows Falls Pride jointly sponsor a special presentation in celebration of Pride Month. On June 20, at the Bellows Falls Opera House, Mark S. King, an internationally acclaimed author of the book “My Fabulous Disease,” will speak about sexual politics, the twin epidemics of addiction and AIDS, and how he has navigated sex, love, and family as a gay man living with HIV for nearly 40 years.

He has been writing personal reflections on gay life, sex, addiction, and his family since shortly after testing positive for HIV in 1985, only weeks after the test became publicly available. “I wanted to put something down on pa-

per while I could,” King explains, “something that said we were here, and this is how it felt. No one is more surprised than I am that I'm still writing it down.”

The result has been nearly four decades of moving, sometimes hilarious accounts of what it was like for a young gay man to make it out of the 1980s alive – and what came next.

Those who were in their 20s in the 1980s when the AIDS crisis began are now in their 60s. 53% of Americans living with HIV are now over 50. This presents a new demographic challenge for agencies serving seniors, and for medical and health professionals.

We have little data or research on the interaction between HIV medicines and other medicines frequently used by seniors. In addition, seniors living with HIV are at serious risk of social isolation due to having lost friends to the disease, a personal reluctance

to share their stories freely due to stigma, and the statistical likelihood of not having children or extended family care networks.

King will address the audience with a multimedia presentation drawn from his lived experience, and will hold a question-and-answer session following his presentation.

Admission is free, but due to the expected turnout, advanced ticket reservations are recommended. Tickets are available at the Bellows Falls Opera House box office and website, www.bellowsfallsoperahouse.com. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the event starts at 7:30 p.m.

This initiative is a first step towards raising awareness of this growing issue, and has been funded in part by the Vermont Community Foundation.

King will be available before the event for interviews and meetings with the media.

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BEAR
From Page 1

Revolving Loan Fund committee approved a low-interest loan for the project, which may be used towards the purchase agreement if the fundraising efforts fall short of the purchase price. The loan could also be used for building repairs and improvements.

“We have also consulted with the Preservation Trust of Vermont, because our building is on the National Registry of Historic Places,” Anderson added. “They are very supportive of our project, and once we own the building, we'll be working with them to apply for assistance and grants for renovations. We also want to extend another big 'thank you' to all our generous donors, who see the difference we are making in the community.”

For more information, visit the Bellows Falls Community Bike Project website at www.bfbike.org, email bonnie@bfbike.org, or call 802-460-0662. To make a donation, please go to www.bfbike.org/donate, or send to P.O. Box 883, Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

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Class of 1915

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

The Chester Alumni Parade is this Saturday, June 8. I thought it fitting to write some Chester High School history. This history is taken from a 1915 graduating class scroll in my collection.

The scroll is paper, measuring about 6 feet long when unrolled, and 8 1/2 inches wide. At top and bottom are nicely turned wooden dowels, to which the paper is affixed. I bought it years ago from Ronnie Metzger. In part it reads:

"The Last Will and Testament of Class 1915

"We, the Class of 1915 of Chester High School, being in an infirm state of health, and sensible too, of our liability of sudden demise, at the same time being in our own apprehension of sound mind, do judge it best to make, and accordingly do hereby make this our last Will and testament.

"It is our will that all of our just debts and the charges for our obsequies be paid and discharged by our executor hereinaf-

ter named and appointed, out of our estate as soon as conveniently be after our decease, and we leave the charges of our solemnization rites to the direction of our said executor.

"We give, devise, and dispose of all our estate, real and personal (save what shall be necessary for the payment of our just debts and funeral charges) in the following manner.

"Item I.

"We give and devise to the class of 1916 the last two rows of seats on the left hand side of the main room, in the Chester High School Building, where the aforesaid class may enjoy the rights of Seniors.

"Item II.

"We devise and bequeath to the Class of 1916 all class moneys deposited in the Chester Bank, after paying all just debts and charges of our solemnization rites, a part of which is to be used for the purchase of speaking trumpets for timid freshmen.

"Item III.

"We devise and grant to Olive Douglas of Class 1918 the duty of instructing the entering class how to enter and leave the various rooms of the building

in a manner suitable to the dignity of a High School student...

"Item V.

"We devise and bequeath the second row seat from the back, first row, on the left hand side of the main room, recently occupied by Vincent Lafountain, to Harold Tollerton, where the blue of the sky, the twittering of the birds, and the passing pedestrians may give him inspirations for the writing of English themes. It was our will that Lucretia Hubbard of class of 1918 might enjoy the associations of this seat of honor but find that the statutes prohibit a sophomore from occupying a Seniors seat...

"Item VII.

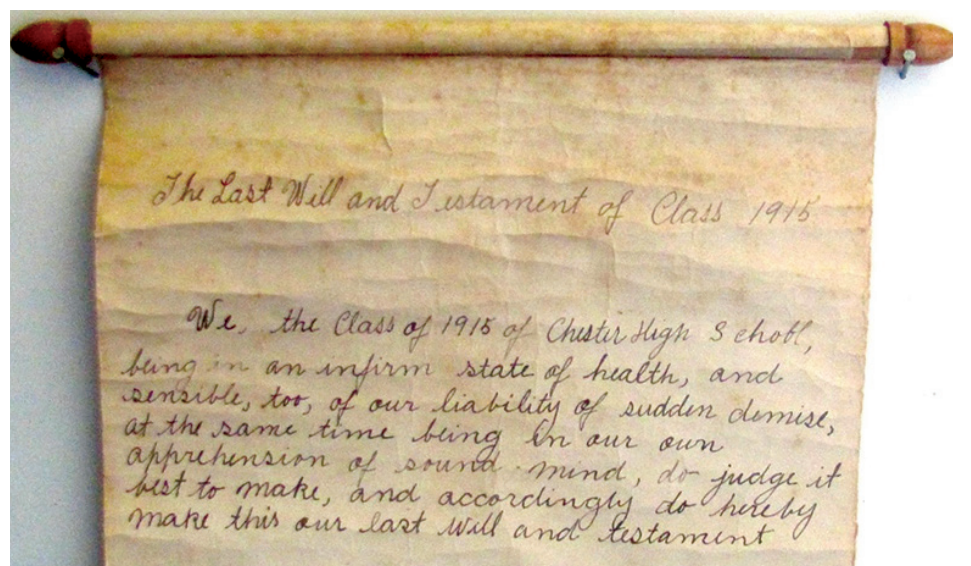
"To Dewuse Dewitt we give and grant the position of pianist for the ensuing year.

"Item VIII.

"We do hereby devise and bequeath to Chester High School, as our most valuable piece of property our good example is our request that this be used with especial care on the yearly trips to Washington, D.C....

"Item XIV.

"To Lloyd Martin of



Top of the Class of 1915 scroll.

PHOTO BY RON PATCH

class 1917 we hereby bequeath the position of sub mascot on the Base Ball team so well filled by Westley Whitcomb.

"Item XV.

"We devise and bequeath to Hurbert Darrow of class 1916 the privilege of giving special attention to Cicero's Orations during the coming school year remembering that all is fair in Love, Latin, and War...

"Item XVII.

"We give to Oscar Johnson of class 1916 whom we shall always remember as our Private Secretary, and whom we nominate and appoint executor of this our last will and testament, all our goods and chattels, and personal property of every kind whatsoever not otherwise disposed of by this our last will and testament.

"In testimony whereof we hereby set our hand and seal, and publish and

declare this to be our last Will and Testament, this eighteenth day of June, in the year of our lord nineteen hundred and fifteen."

I always walk in the parade dressed in my Civil War uniform. I am Class of 1969. I am approachable.

This week's old saying: "Do you need a ladder to get off that high horse of yours?"

Open house at the Athens Brick Meetinghouse

ATHENS, Vt. - The Athens Brick Meetinghouse is having an open house on Sunday, June 9, from 2-4 p.m. The meetinghouse will be open for visitors to tour and learn more about this fascinating 1817 building. There will also be note cards available to purchase, with pictures of the meetinghouse by the late Bill Sumner, renowned professional photographer.

The Athens Brick Meetinghouse is on the National Register of Historic Places, and is historically significant to the Windham County region. The Athens Meetinghouse came to be known as the "Mother Church" for the 12 towns of Grafton, Rockingham, Townshend, Londonderry, Weston, Chester, Acton, Springfield, Land-

grove, Windham, Putney, and Mount Holly - which comprised the "Old Athens Circuit." Circuit riders from Athens traveled out to these 12 towns by horse to perform religious services. Quarterly meetings with the Methodist congregants from these towns often lasted two days at the Athens Old Brick Church.

Originally erected to serve the spiritual needs of the residents of Athens and surrounding towns, the large open sanctuary which boasted a high pulpit, box pews, long side galleries, and a handsome chandelier was divided into two stories. The lower continued to be used for worship services, while the upper, a large hall, served the town's civic needs for Town Meetings and elec-

tions through the late 1970s.

Members of the Athens Meetinghouse Committee and the Athens Historic Preservation Society will be on hand to answer questions and lead visitors on tours of this historic gem. Donations made to the Athens Historic Preservation Society are fully tax deductible, and will support the preservation of the Meetinghouse.

The Athens Meetinghouse is located on Meetinghouse Road in Athens, just off Route 35, and all are welcome. For more information, contact Sherry Maher at 802-275-2835 or follow Athens Meetinghouse on Facebook.

LAHS summer art classes

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - The Londonderry Arts and Historical Society (LAHS) is offering art classes again this summer.

Needlecraft for Kids with Bev Foster runs July 8-12, from 1-3:30 p.m. daily. Explore simple needle arts such as needlepoint on canvas, weaving with a cardboard frame, sewing pillow, and beginning crochet. This class is for ages 6 and up. The class cost for the week includes all materials and a simple snack. Contact Foster at missbev1958@gmail.com for information and registration.

Watercolor Painting for Kids with Bev Foster will be held Aug. 5-9, from 1-3:30 p.m. daily. Explore watercolor painting techniques through landscape, still life, and illustration. Students will learn how to use the paints to create lifelike images. This class is for ages 6 and up. The class cost includes all materials and a simple snack. Contact Foster at missbev1958@gmail.com for information and registration.

Art with the Masters, taught by Casey Junker Bailey, Aug. 12-16, from 1-3:30 p.m. daily. Students will explore a wide variety of materials and artistic styles as they create drawings, paintings, collage, and sculpture inspired by the works of famous artists through the ages. The class will culminate with a celebratory art show for family and friends. Contact Casey at caseyjunkerba-

iley@gmail.com for information and registration.

Also, Lisa Sicotte will do a one-day paper cutting (scherenschnitte) class, and Jane MacKugler will offer Zentangle.

LAHS is also pleased to announce that our collections manager Trystan Bates will be back this summer. Trystan's artistic talents and organizational skills are at the heart of

LAHS's successful season. Please be sure to say hello when you come to a show.

The Londonderry Arts and Historical Society is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., or by appointment.

Visit the LAHS website, www.lahs.org, for more information on other events and programming, or email us at LAHS1780@gmail.com.

Tim Weiner to speak on democracy at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. - Next Stage presents a talk with prize-winning reporter and author Tim Weiner, on Sunday, June 9, at 7 p.m., at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney.



Tim Weiner.

PHOTO PROVIDED

"Will American Democracy Survive?" No free republic has ever lasted longer than 300 years - and that was the Roman Republic. The 2024 election may be the most politically perilous moment since the Civil War. Can we make it through November?

Tim Weiner has won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for his reporting and writing. He is a 1973 graduate of the Putney School.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Advance tickets are available at www.nextstagearts.org. For information, call 802-387-0102 or visit the website.



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opinion

CHURCH SERVICES

Dear Editor,

Vermont's 2023-2024 Legislative biennium ended in the wee hours of Saturday morning, May 11. The Senate gavelled out at 1:18 a.m., and the House about 2 a.m. This has been a hard session. It was begun in the wake of a natural disaster, with a state recovering from terrible flooding. Despite these challenges, we managed to accomplish a lot.

We made real progress further protecting Vermont from future natural disasters, improving flood safety by protecting our river corridors, updating Act 250 as we plan for greater density in our smart growth areas while protecting our natural resources and reducing sprawl, and improving government's response to natural disasters. We passed a climate superfund bill which holds the largest fossil fuel companies liable for the cost of repairing the damage to our environment through climate change. We updated our renewable energy standard to ensure that the energy Vermonters use will be 100% clean by 2035 – which will put us on track to be one of the first states whose energy will be fully decarbonized.

And we passed one of the

most comprehensive data privacy bills in the country, designed to protect Vermont consumers from having their data used in inappropriate and harmful ways. It includes a "kid's code," which protects children's privacy and prohibits certain code designs which increase use and create online addictions.

So many bills were passed in the last two weeks it is hard to keep track. We passed bills to improve literacy, public safety measures to reduce retail theft and increase firearm safety, and, in a new attempt to address the opioid crisis, we established a pilot "overdose prevention center" in Burlington to help those with substance abuse disorder use safely under medical supervision and get help with recovery if they choose. We updated our open meeting law, we created a municipal code of ethics, and we saved the Salisbury fish hatchery. And there is so much more.

In many ways, the most important thing we did was to pass the \$8.6 billion fiscal year 2025 Vermont state budget – every line of which represents a real value to someone. Whether it's supportive housing for our developmentally

disabled or our state parks, new bridges or the renovation of our historic sites, housing the homeless or workforce development, this budget funds much of what we take for granted – our courts, our schools, our state employees, transportation – it funds all of state government, which supports so much of our life in Vermont.

I am proud of how the legislature works together to help improve and support Vermonters and the beautiful state we are lucky enough to live in. It's easy to forget that the vast majority of our decisions are unanimous. When we do disagree on an issue, we tend to come together and continue to work productively on the next issue facing us. I still feel we are a model for how democracy, at its best, works.

I appreciate hearing from you. I can be reached by email at aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us, by phone at the statehouse at 802-828-2228, or at home at 802-457-4627. To get more information on the Vermont Legislature, and the bills which have been proposed and passed, visit the legislative website, www.legislature.vermont.gov.

Sincerely,
Sen. Alison Clarkson

Alternative communication technique

REGION – For those interested in learning a new skill and an opportunity to increase your personal communications capability, alternative communication technique (ACT) offers something for an emergency that could save your life, but also something that is fun to use and can be a low-cost home intercom system as a bonus.

We are all familiar with the words "walkie talkie." You can buy these radios at your local Walmart, Best Buy, Staples, Harbor Freight, Amazon, and many more places. They typically range in price from \$15 to several hundreds of dollars. ACT uses units that range in price from \$15-\$30. Today's walkies are unbelievably powerful, and have advanced much like cell phones have over the past decade.

To mention a few of the capabilities, they typically can monitor more than one radio frequency at a time. Many can be used as scanners to local fire and police departments. Many have the standard FM-radio-band-receiving capability, while some actually have the capability

of listening to shortwave radio, including the CB band. They typically can do two-way communication in three specific radio bands, with a range of several miles unit-to-unit or to a group of units. A license is not needed to use them, but they also can be registered with the FCC without requiring any type of test, to be used with extended capabilities that can reach 20 or 30 air miles through the use of repeaters.

There is another use for these devices, and that is as amateur radio handheld ham units. Now this is an area of usage that some will inevitably want to explore, because then the capabilities of these radios can be expanded tenfold compared to what already has been mentioned. The goal of this article is to promote an alternative communication technique regardless of if there is or is not an interest in ever becoming an amateur radio operator. However, it is the amateur radio hobby that has promoted these walkie talkies to become as powerful as they are today, and still be available for the average citizen to use. If you can operate a cell phone, you can learn to operate one of these walkie talkies.

The most important path

to explore is to establish a local community network that allows for local communication between neighbors and neighborhoods, should cell phones and the internet go down. Examples where portable radio communications would be helpful are the extended power outages, disabling road closures from flooding, lengthy internet failures, and the recent AT&T phone service failure which have happened here in Vermont within the past year. If an infrastructure failure even a fraction as severe as what recently happen with the Baltimore bridge collapse happened in Vermont, the ability to communicate and know what is going on would be of paramount importance.

A Vermont group within the Health Freedom Network are offering to help coordinate and set up these local communication neighborhood networks. There will be no charge for this service. The goal is to help communities with an alternative communication technique, and an opportunity to get to know your neighbors and much more. Contact Steve via email at N1QDT@aurorasky.net or visit the www.aurorasky.net/radios website for more information.

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, political letters are charged at the rate of \$75 for 200 words, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. Political letters include endorsing, electioneering, or campaigning for a specific candidate or party.

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BELLOWS FALLS

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

LONDONDERRY

First Baptist Church, 62 Crescent St., S. Londonderry

Worship service is Sunday at 10 a.m. at the church. Services will still be live streamed at www.firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org/streaming-worship.html. For more information, visit www.firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org.

org or call 802-856-7266.

LUDLOW

United Church of Ludlow (UCC and Methodist), 48 Pleasant St.
Sunday services are held in person and streamed online at 10 a.m. Email unitedchurch@tds.net for more information. Visit www.unitedchurch.us to receive updates on

SPRINGFIELD

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.calvarylovespringfield.com.

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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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Haunting
- 6 Seizes
- 11 Cancels
- 12 More apt to seep
- 14 April 1 gags
- 15 Consult
- 16 Scrooge portrayer Alastair
- 17 Feudal workers
- 19 Oahu, for one (Abbr.)
- 20 Nobel Prize subj.
- 22 San Francisco's — Hill
- 23 Sufficient, informally
- 24 Philosopher Kierkegaard
- 26 Droning reed
- 28 Tease
- 30 USO patrons
- 31 Flood protection
- 52 "Cabaret" director Bob
- 39 Tactic
- 40 Pantheon member
- 42 Future doc's exam
- 43 Green and Green
- 44 Bamboozles
- 46 Med. plan option

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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39					40		41		42
43				44			45		46
47				48			49		50
51							52		
53							54		

- 47 " — shabby!"
- 49 Take it slow
- 51 Saunter
- 52 Andean pack animals
- 53 Rescued
- 54 Austin native
- 6 Course load?
- 7 Aussie hoppers
- 8 Dye type
- 9 Two-piece suit
- 10 Establishes
- 11 Basilica areas
- 13 Husband of Pocahontas
- 18 Filch
- 21 Hardly hip
- 23 — salts
- 25 Pen tip
- 27 Computer image, briefly
- 29 Novelist Enid
- 31 Bridges
- 32 Doles out
- 33 Cosa —
- 34 Sticky stuff
- 36 Blueprint, e.g.
- 37 Pacific islander
- 38 Short jackets
- 41 Resided
- 44 Only
- 45 Auction
- 48 "Mazel —!"
- 50 Jazz band instrument

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obituaries

David M. Bibens graveside service

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – A graveside service for David M. Bibens, 78, who died on Jan. 28, 2024, will be held on Saturday, June 15, at 11 a.m., at the Pine Grove Cemetery in North Springfield, Vt. Rev. Joanne Thomas will officiate. A Celebration of Life will follow at the family home.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with arrangements.

William C. Landon, 1942-2024

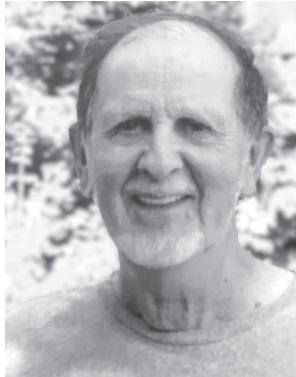


SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On May 25, 2024, William Clyde “Bill” Landon passed away, surrounded by his family, at Springfield Hospital. He was born on April 30, 1942, to Geraldine (Merrow) and Cecil Landon, at Rutland Hospital in Rutland, Vt.

Bill attended schools in Danby and Wallingford, Vt., graduating from Chester High School in 1960. He served in the Vermont National Guard, based in Ludlow, for four years following high school.

He owned his own contracting business in Londonderry, and briefly worked at Lovejoy Tool. He spent many years working for Doane Builders. Upon retirement, he continued to build homes. He kept busy, building 17 houses from the dirt upwards, with some remodeling sprinkled in, for a total of 20. He lived in Vermont most of his life, but had also lived in Virginia, New York, and Tennessee, building homes in these places as well.

Bill was an old car enthusiast. He loved going to car shows, showing his cars, or walking around looking and talking to fellow owners. He was into restoring cars, favoring Chevys. He kept track of every car he restored, totaling 45. He was an avid hunter into his late 70s, bringing home several trophy deer. He beat his wife in points, but not by weight. He enjoyed country and Western music, and his



William Landon, 1942-2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

rabbit dogs, with his favorite beagle “Squirt.”

On Feb. 20, 1971, he married the love of his life Elizabeth Parry Stevens. They just celebrated their 53rd anniversary. Together they have four children: Danny, Wendy, Heath and Craig.

He is survived by his wife Elizabeth; his children Danny (Cindy) Landon, Wendy Norell, Heath (Terri) Stevens, and Craig (Allison) Landon; grandchildren Cole (Kayla) Landon, Holly (Sam) Peloquin, Cody (Nic) Stevens, Adrienne (Dillon) Murray, and James Norell; and great-grandson Tucker Murray. He is also survived by his brother Richard Landon, sister Virginia Mizelle, ex-wife Nelsa Doane, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, and sister Lorraine Young.

There will be a Celebration of Life on June 9, from 1-4 p.m., at the VFW in Springfield.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with the arrangements.

Tina M. Tuttle, 1962-2024

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Tina M. Tuttle, 62, of Bellows Falls, passed away on May 28, 2024, at the Springfield Hospital, surrounded by family, after a long illness. Tina was born Feb. 15, 1962, in Springfield, Vt., to Philip and Winifred (Blodgett) Tuttle. Tina graduated high school and worked many years for the shipping department at Sonnax Industries in Rockingham, Vt. Tina was a member of the Polish American Club in Bellows Falls.

Tina is survived by her siblings Terri Gantress, John Tuttle, Hank Poneck, and Pamela Stebbins (John Stebbins). She is also survived by her nieces Melissa Perry (Bobbyjo Perry), Tina Roland, and Kimberly Roland, and nephew James Roland. She is also survived by her great nieces McKayla Perry and Aubrey Perry, and great nephews Corey Perry Sr. (Jessica Johnson), Corey Perry Jr., Andrew Stebbins, Damien Stebbins, Darius Stebbins, Brennan Roland,



Tina Tuttle, 1962-2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

and Ja'rome Roland.

She was predeceased by her parents.

An hour of visitation took place on June 5, 2024, from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., and a service began at 12 p.m. at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt. Burial followed in Houghtonville Cemetery in Houghtonville, Vt. Flowers and/or donations may be sent to the funeral home.

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

Dick Weston, 1947-2023

WESTMORELAND, N.H. – Dick “Lamb” Weston, born Jan. 7, 1947, passed away on June 14, 2023. Dick leaves behind his wife Patty; children Paul, Jason, and Derek (and their wives Rebecca, Ginarose, and Leslie); four grandchildren; and his brother David.

He graduated from Bellows Falls High School in 1965, and was a lifelong member of The American Legion, The Elks Club, and The Polish American Club.

His smile and sense of humor will be missed by all.

A Celebration of Life will be held on June 14, from 12-3 p.m., at Stuart & Johns Sugar House, 31 New



Dick Weston, 1947-2023.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Hampshire Route 63 (off Route 12), Westmoreland, N.H. We hope you will join us in celebration of his life.

Casual attire, light snacks, no RSVP needed.

Michael W. Emerson, 1960-2023

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Michael Wayne Emerson, 62, of Rockingham, Vt., died on Nov. 7, 2023, of a heart attack, in the woods of Jackman, Maine, while hunting with his son Matt.

Mike was born in Bellows Falls, Vt., on Dec. 14, 1960, to Ann (Benjamin) and Paul Emerson Sr. Mike attended school in Bellows Falls, graduating with the BFUHS Class of 1979. To some, he was “Michael” or “Mike”; to his longtime friends and family, he was “Muzz,” and to his race family, he was “Fruit Loop/Emerson.”

Besides his children, Mike had two things he loved: hunting and snowmobiles. He spent his whole life hunting in Rockingham, Vt., a place that was very special to him, as generations of his family hunted there. He lived for hunting season, hanging with his friends, especially “Broken Arrow,” and trying to bag that big buck. Mike was an incredible mechanic who could fix anything. He loved working on snowmobiles and building race sleds. He traveled all over New England, Canada, and out west, to either race himself, or to support a team. Mike loved anything that went fast. Later in his life, he would go to wrench on machines he built or help a race team in need. His knowledge was an inspiration to many fellow racers. He would lend a hand to anyone who needed it and was always willing to pitch in to help.

Mike was an incredibly hard worker. He built beautiful stone patios and walls, or anything else that he could, with his excavator. When



Michael Emerson, 1960-2023.
PHOTO PROVIDED

he wasn't working, hunting, or racing, he was enjoying every minute of his life. Michael loved life, and would bring the party if one wasn't already in motion. Surviving are his children Matthew Emerson of Putney, Vt., and Hayley Emerson of Westminster West, Vt.; his two brothers Paul Emerson Jr. of Westminster, Vt., and Brian Emerson of Brattleboro, Vt.; and his sister Lori Emerson Cowie of Middletown, Conn. He is survived by many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and countless friends that became his family. He was predeceased by his grandparents and his parents. There will be a Celebration of Michael's Life on Saturday, June 29, at the Chester American Legion, 635 Route 103, Chester, Vt., from 1-4 p.m. Please bring a story to share, as Mike always had a story. Donations in Michael's name can be made to Jackman – Moose River Fire & Rescue Dept., P.O. Box 911, 610 Main Street, Jackman, ME 04945.

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

Michael L. Snide, 1955-2024

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Michael Louis Snide, 69, of Springfield, Vt., passed away on Friday, May 24, 2024, at the Gill Odd Fellows Home in Ludlow, Vt.

He was born on April 9, 1955, in Springfield, Vt., to the late Raiza and Elfreda (Bourey) Snide.

He is survived by his companion of more than 20 years Diane Currier and her son Shawn, his two sons Anthony Paige and Andy Snide, his brother Thomas Snide, and his sister Helen Tufts, several grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was predeceased by his two sisters Arlene Dunbar and Patricia Tuck, and by his adopted son Lester Snide.

A Celebration of Michael's Life will be held



Michael Snide, 1955-2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

later in the summer, at his sister Helen's home.

Memorial donations may be made in Michael's name to the Davis Memorial Chapel, 99 Summer Street, Springfield, Vt., 05156, to help with funeral expenses.

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

Drew T. Hatt, 1995-2024

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – If you are reading this, my spirit is gone from my body. My body is still on this earth, but my spirit is in Heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ. I didn't get here by myself. I got to Heaven because Jesus died for me. John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.” He loved me and you so much that He died so we wouldn't have to pay the consequences of our sins.

My last wish is that you may know that Jesus died for your sins too, and that you also can be a sinner saved by grace. It does not take anything but to call on the name of the Lord. Romans 10:13, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” If you're not sure: James 1:5, “If you lack wisdom, ask God and He will provide.”

I sometimes lacked boldness, but pray my death may help those in need by being truthful.

Life was a struggle, as for some it just is. OCD, depression, and anxiety was an exhaustive behavior that many may not have realized I dealt with and preoccupied my mind nonstop. I fought addiction for many years, but was sober for the last five years.

I thank Savida Health and Turning Point Recovery Center in Springfield, Vt., for all their help. I tried my best to fit in and thrive in this world, but became too overwhelmed and gave up the good gift.

I know many loved me. I thank you all for being a very special part of my life.

I was predeceased by maternal grandparents Sandra W. Moore (Springfield, Vt.) and William R. Moore (Springfield, Vt.), and paternal grandparents Howard and Shirley Hatt (North Springfield, Vt.). I leave behind my stepgrandmother Nancy G. Moore (Springfield, Vt.), mom Julie Bartlett (Springfield, Vt.), my dad Kirk Hatt and stepmom Meegan (Rutland, Vt.), my sister Gabrielle (Connor) Shanks, my niece and nephew Eibhilin and Jason (Claremont, N.H.), stepbrother Alex Bartlett, and stepsisters Chelsea Bartlett and Olivia Nickerson.

Much loved immediate family – aunt and uncles Diane, James Daniels, Jeff, Amy Moore, Pam, Jason Murray; cousins Elijah, Tessa, Penelope, Sawyer Daniels, Amy, Barney, Sydney Poole,



Drew Hatt, 1995-2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Matthew Martel, Brittany Daniels, Jayde, Aylin Huntley, Colton Murray, Felicia, Nate, Katja Persing, Meela Pollard, Ashley Clark, Gabe, Nate Duvall; and many other aunts, uncles, and cousins not mentioned, but loved very much.

I was a dental assistant with Springfield Family Dental, along with traveling to surrounding offices within the company. I touched the hearts of many, and showed care and compassion to my coworkers and the many patients in need. Thank you to Dr. Syed, associates, staff, and patients on pieces to a puzzle of life that molded me into the person I had become.

I was a quiet soul, but was often led in private to say a prayer for those in need, whether in a dental aspect or personal aspect shared during the visit.

Services will be held on June 8, at 1 p.m., at Calvary Baptist Church, with The Rev. Malcom Fowler officiating. There will be a gathering after at the church.

We would like to thank Davis Memorial Chapel for their assistance, along with the Springfield, Vt., Police and Rescue Departments, and Ludlow and Rutland Police Departments, for their contributions.

Ephesians 2:6, “And God has raised us up and seated next to Christ in heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”

Donations may be made in Drew's name to Turning Point Recovery, 7 Morgan Street, Springfield, Vt. 05156.

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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

JUNE 7 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church Street, will hold their First Friday Supper on Friday, June 7, from 5-6:30 p.m. The menu will be hamburgers and hot dogs, potato salad, green salad, dessert, and a beverage. Gluten-free options are also available. For takeout, call 802-463-3220 before 5 p.m. There is a small suggested donation, with proceeds to benefit the Miss Bellows Falls Diner restoration.

W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – On Friday, June 7, from 5-7 p.m., Slow Ponies will be performing songs from around the world on accordion at the West Townshend Country Store's pizza night. The store is located at 6573 Route 30 in West Townshend. For more information, email info@westtownshend.org or call 802-874-4800.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street, will hold an indoor yard sale on Friday, June 7, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. This event is open to the public. If you are interested in reserving a

table, call the center at 802-885-3933.

JUNE 8 – N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The North School Preservation Society will hold a yard sale fundraiser on Saturday, June 8, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at 5 School Street in North Springfield, rain or shine. The sale will include a variety of items too numerous to mention. Please stop by to support our nonprofit organization.

WESTON, Vt. – The first of Kinhaven's Young Artist Seminar concerts will be held on Saturday, June 8. There will be two concerts this day; the first will begin at 2 p.m., at the Old Parish Church, 144 Main Street in Weston. The second will begin at 7 p.m., at Israel Congregation, 6025 Main Street in Manchester Center. For more information and a full list of concerts, visit www.kinhaven.org/kinhaven-concerts.

JUNE 9 – LANDGROVE, Vt. – Kinhaven's final Young Artists Seminar concert will be held on Sunday, June 9, beginning at 11 a.m., at Landgrove Meeting House, 88 Landgrove Road in

Landgrove, Vt. For more information and a full list of concerts, visit www.kinhaven.org/kinhaven-concerts.

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. – The Weathersfield Conservation Commission, Historical Society, and Parks and Recreation Department are sponsoring a Weathersfield Bow Hike on Sunday, June 9, at 9 a.m., rain or shine. Sara DeGeanaro will lead participants from the parking to Ferry Road, down Ferry Road, and back through the fields to the start, paralleling the river. Look for a "Parking" sign in the field across from a large white farmhouse south of Weathersfield Bow Village. Be prepared to walk through fields – be tick savvy. This walk is free and open to the public. For more information, contact ellen.clattenburg@gmail.com.

JUNE 11 – W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – On Tuesday, June 11, from 5-7 p.m., Bob Ray & Friends will be performing old and new time songs and tunes at the West Townshend Country Store's burger night. The store is located at 6573 Route 30 in West Townshend. For more

information, email info@westtownshend.org or call 802-874-4800.

JUNE 13 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield High School (SHS) graduation ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 13, at 6 p.m. The ceremony will be held outdoors at the SHS field if weather permits, or indoors at the Riverside Middle School gym in the event of inclement weather. If the ceremony is held indoors, it will be livestreamed at www.sapatv.org/watch, on the Gov/Ed channel.

JUNE 14 – LUDLOW, Vt. – Join the free and fun Age Successfully Fair on Friday, June 14, at 11 a.m., at the Ludlow Community Center. Over 30 exhibitors will be in attendance to have a really fun and engaging day, providing opportunities for our fellow older Vermonters to learn about all of the benefits and services available to them and their family members. This event is free and open to everyone. There will be food and a variety of activities to participate in. Sponsored by Senior Solutions and Black River Good Neighbor Services.

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.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The

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

MONDAYS – WALPOLE, N.H. – Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in St. John's Parish Hall, Walpole.

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

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

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.

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

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

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

TYSON, Vt. – The Tyson Ladies Aid Library Association meets the first Thursday of each month, typically at the Tyson Library. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. and meetings start at noon. New potential members are always welcome. Please call Janine Norman at 802-228-8764 for more information or to verify meeting location.

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Support group for parents of pregnancy and infant loss on the first Thursday of the month, from 6-7 p.m., at Springfield Area Parent Child Center, 6 Main Street in North Springfield. For details or to register, email dominiquer@sapcc-vt.org or call 802-886-5242 ext. 258.

WALPOLE, N.H. – Alcoholics Anonymous women's meeting, a 12-step recovery program for women who have a desire to stop drinking, is happening every Thursday at 6 p.m. at the St. John's Episcopal Church at the corner of Westminster and Elm streets in Walpole, N.H. For more information, call Viva at 802-732-8330.

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

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

W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – The Townshend Farmers Market is held on Fridays, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., every Friday from May 24 – Oct. 11, at 6573 Vermont Route 30 (behind the post office/WRCP building), rain or shine. There will be wood-fired pizza, vendors, farmers, artisans, ceramics, clothing, crafters, woodworking, blown glass, beverages, baked goods, and more. Leashed dogs are welcome, and the farmers market is handicap accessible. EBT is accepted.

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

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



TRANSFER STATION ATTENDANT

The Town of Charlestown is seeking a qualified individual to fill the position of Transfer Station Attendant.

This position is part time and year-round. Weekly schedule is Tuesday through Saturday. Duties include but not limited to:

1. Maintaining the recycling area and insuring the proper disposal and classification of all recycled materials.
2. Assisting residents and commercial users in the appropriate placement of refuse and recyclables.
3. Assist the Road Agent in all matters related to the operation of a solid waste/recycling facility.

Additional requirements are a good working ethic, positive attitude, hard worker and a team player. Interested candidates should complete an application and submit to: Charlestown Town Office - Human Resources Department, PO Box 385, Charlestown NH 03603 or email Ddezan@charlestown-nh.gov. An application may be found at www.charlestown-nh.gov or at the Town Office 233 Main St. Charlestown, NH.

The Town of Charlestown is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Water/Waste Water Licensed Superintendent Level 2 Facility

The Town of Charlestown is accepting applications for this full-time position.

The Water/Wastewater Licensed Superintendent is responsible for overseeing the operation, maintenance, and management of a Level 2 water/wastewater facility in accordance with state and federal regulations. This role requires a strong background in water and wastewater treatment, as well as leadership skills to manage a team of operators and ensure the facility operates efficiently and effectively.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, Environmental Science, or related field.
- Valid Water/Wastewater Operator License (Level 2) issued by [State Licensing Board].
- Minimum of 3 years of experience in water/wastewater treatment operations, with at least 1 year in a supervisory role.
- Strong knowledge of water and wastewater treatment processes and equipment.
- Excellent leadership and management skills.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work effectively with regulatory agencies and other stakeholders.

Wages commensurate with qualifications and experience. Full Benefit package including paid vacations and holidays. Interested candidates may obtain an employment application in the Selectboard office at 233 Main Street, Charlestown, NH or on the Town Website. Applications and Resumes should be emailed to Ddezan@charlestown-nh.gov.

The Town of Charlestown is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT

Windsor Unit
12 The Green
Woodstock, VT 05091
802-457-2121
www.vermontjudiciary.org



PROBATE DIVISION
Case No. 1804-11-70 Wpr

NOTICE OF HEARING AND ORDER FOR PUBLICATION IN RE: Ladeau, Bessie

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

The Motion to Allow Account for January 1, 2022 to March 28, 2024 has been filed in the Probate Division of the Superior Court on May 13, 2024. The Motion can be viewed through the Public Portal at the Vermont Superior Courthouse.

A Remote hearing only on the Motion will be held at 10:00 AM on June 24, 2024 at the above-named court and those wishing to participate may contact the Probate Division at 802-457-2121 for Remote Participation Instructions.

If no one appears at the hearing to object, the relief requested may be granted. If you wish to receive notice of future events in this proceeding, you must notify the Court by filing a Notice of Appearance form that can be found on the Vermont Judiciary website.

It is hereby ORDERED that the notice of hearing as set forth in the Order be published in the Vermont Journal, a newspaper of general circulation in Windsor County.

Publication date:

Electronically signed on 5/28/2024 10:22 AM pursuant to V.R.J.F. 9(d)

Frederick M. Glover
Probate Judge

TWO RIVERS SUPERVISORY UNION 2024 - 2025 Child Find Notice

The Two Rivers Supervisory Union (TRSU) is required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to locate, evaluate, and identify persons with disabilities from birth through age 21, who may be in need of special education, related services or accommodations in order to access a free appropriate public education and provide such needed services for those ages 3 through 21.

Services for eligible children ages' birth through 3 years are proved through the Children's Integrated Services-Early Intervention program. Services for eligible children ages 3 to 21 are provided by your local supervisory union.

Two Rivers Supervisory Union serves the towns of Mount Holly, Ludlow, Cavendish, Baltimore, Andover and Chester.

If you know a child residing in the towns within the TRSU that you believe may have such needs and are not currently receiving services, please contact the Director of Student Support Services at Two Rivers Supervisory Union, 609 VT Route 103 South, Ludlow, VT 05149 or call the Special Education Office at 802-875-3365.

The Two Rivers Supervisory Union does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, place of birth, disability, age, marital status, and gender identity. Information obtained during Child Find remains confidential as required by Vermont Special Education Regulations and the Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act.

Students with a disability who live in one of the towns listed above and who attend an approved private school, contact Mary Barton, Director of Student Support Services for TRSU at 802-875-3365 for more information.

PUBLIC NOTICE Two Rivers Supervisory Union Ludlow, VT Destruction of Information Process

The Two Rivers Supervisory Union (formerly Windsor Southwest Supervisory Union and Rutland Windsor Supervisory Union), encompassing the Vermont towns of: Andover, Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester, Ludlow, Mt. Holly and Plymouth, will be conducting a Destruction of Information process commencing on July 8, 2024. Special Educational Records and personally identifiable information used under the Individual with Disabilities Educational Act, but no longer needed to provide educational services to students will be destroyed. Only records for students with a Date of Birth year of 1996 will be destroyed. All records before that date have been destroyed in previous years. Any person desiring their Special Education records must put that request in writing so that the Director of Student Services receives your letter no later than June 25, 2024. Please send your request to:

Mary Barton
Director of Student Services
TRSU
609 VT Route 103
Ludlow, VT 05149

Please include the following information in that request: Student Name (if there has been a change of name, include all names) Student Date of Birth Town of Residency when enrolled in school

This process does not apply to records of currently enrolled students. Please feel free to call this office with any questions at 802-875-6425.

LEGAL NOTICES

community

Hypnotist Frank Santos Jr. at Claremont Opera House

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Prepare to be captivated and entertained as the mesmerizing Frank Santos Jr., the R-rated hypnotist, takes the stage on June 8, starting at 7:30 p.m. This one-night-only event at the historic Claremont Opera House (COH) promises a unique blend of comedy, hypnosis, and audience participation that delivers a night out to remember.

Frank Santos Jr. is renowned for his hilarious and high-energy performances that turn the audience into the stars of the show. Attend with friends or make new ones in the

crowd as Frank transforms volunteers into singers, dancers, and much more for endless amazement. Each performance is uniquely tailored to the audience, ensuring an evening filled with limitless variations and nonstop laughter.

Be advised, the show contains mature themes and is open to adults 18 and over only.

Secure tickets now, and get ready for a night of laughter and unforgettable fun with Frank Santos Jr., the R-rated hypnotist. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to be

part of a show where anything can happen.

For more information and ticket purchases, visit the COH website, www.cohnh.org, or call the box office at 603-542-4433. An additional convenience fee will be applied for tickets purchased through the box office. Concessions, including beer and wine, are now available at a majority of Claremont Opera House events, and are served after doors open as well as during intermission. Cash and credit cards are accepted.

Featured pet: Guston

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Guston loves to be pet, eat treats, and make as many feline friends as he can. His ideal home will have one or many cats for him to groom and snuggle in comfy beds with. We are open Wednesday-Saturday, from 12-4 p.m., for walk-ins. If you are looking for a rodent control specialist, we have several barn buddies needing a place to call home – must go in pairs or more. These cats are not social with people. For more information on the great Guston or the barn buddies, call 802-885-3997.

Springfield Humane

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



Guston. PHOTO PROVIDED

Town of Springfield Selectboard Public Hearings to Amend Town Plan 6:00 pm, June 17, 2024 and July 15, 2024

These additional hearings are to receive public testimony on the Springfield Town Plan update. The full text of the proposed Town Plan is available at the Planning & Zoning office, Town Clerks office, and online at springfieldvt.gov

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TOWN OF CHESTER Sidewalk Scoping Study

The Town of Chester has received funding through the State of Vermont, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program to develop a Scoping Study which will plan for and identify issues with construction of a sidewalk from the intersection of Route 103 and Route 11 East to the Green Mountain High School in Chester, Vermont. The Town is seeking assistance from qualified firms to provide planning services to identify issues associated with possible construction of a sidewalk/multi-use path.

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

All bids are due no later than June 19, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. The submittal requires one (1) digital and three (3) printed copies.

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

The Town of Rockingham Public Hearing Notice Town Plan Adoption June 19, 2024

The Town of Rockingham is seeking input from its citizens regarding community development. A second public hearing will be held to discuss the Town Plan Adoption and gather community perspectives. This event is a key opportunity for community members to share their input and perspectives on the future development of our town. The purpose of the Town Plan is to strategically navigate recent shifts in work patterns, economic conditions, and housing demands, ensuring that Rockingham's development is sustainable, inclusive, and reflective of our community's values and vision. This hearing is your chance to contribute to shaping a future that enhances our quality of life through thoughtful, community-backed planning.

The Town Plan document is available for public review on the Town's Website at rockinghamvt.org/planning-zoning. Community members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the plan to engage constructively during the hearing.

E-mail comments to: planning@rockbf.org by Noon on Wednesday June 19, 2024.

Date and Time: The public hearing is scheduled for 5:00 on June 19, 2024.

Location: The meeting will take place at the Town Hall, 7 The Square, Lower Theatre

Zoom: Meeting ID: 898 4422 7539 | Passcode: townplan

This public hearing is an essential part of the Town Plan Adoption process, ensuring that the voices of Rockingham's residents are heard and considered. We encourage all community members to participate and contribute to shaping the future of our town.

Legislative Body for the Town of Rockingham Copy submitted by: Rick Cowan
Phone: 802-376-6218

Town of Chester Job Opportunity

Assistant Assessor/Zoning Administrator

The Town of Chester is seeking an individual to work as an assistant to both the Assessor and Zoning Departments. This full-time position will serve both departments and create continuity between offices. Responsibilities include maintaining and administering the Grand List and tax maps, assisting in the preparation of appeals, identifying properties which should be inspected, appraised, or reappraised, administering and implementing the Town of Chester's Unified Development Bylaws, enforcing ordinances, processing permits, investigating complaints, issuing violations, and other duties as required. This position entails an ability to work with a diverse group of people and to adapt to an environment of rapidly changing rules, regulations, and systems.

This is a full-time job opportunity with an extensive benefits package. To see full descriptions of the position, visit www.chestervt.gov/employment-opportunities. Interested parties should send a resume to julie.hance@chestervt.gov or Town of Chester, P.O. Box 370, Chester, VT 05143 by June 6, 2024.

STATE OF VERMONT WINDSOR COUNTY, SS.

NOTICE OF SALE Emerald Acres Investments, LLC Parcel # 282013

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of lands in the Town of Chester, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by the Town for the years 2023 remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described land in Town to wit:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Emerald Acres Investments, LLC by Warranty Deed of Jamie K. Covello dated September 29, 2020, and Recorded in Book 209, Page 52 of the Town of Chester Land Records.

and so much of said lands will be sold at public auction at the Town Office in Chester, Vermont, a public place in said Town, on the 28th day of June 2024, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

Dated at Chester, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, this 22nd day of May 2024.

Attest:
Julie Hance
Collector of Town and
Town School District Taxes

STATE OF VERMONT WINDSOR COUNTY, SS.

NOTICE OF SALE Venissa White Parcel # 252031

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of lands in the Town of Chester, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by the Town for the years 2022 and 2023 remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described land in Town to wit:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Venissa White by Warranty Deed of Andrew White and Venissa White dated November 25, 2013, and Recorded in Book 150, Page 280 of the Town of Chester Land Records.

and so much of said lands will be sold at public auction at the Town Office in Chester, Vermont, a public place in said Town, on the 28th day of June 2024, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

Dated at Chester, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, this 22nd day of May 2024.

Attest:
Julie Hance
Collector of Town and
Town School District Taxes

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

E	E	R	I	E	G	R	A	B	S		
A	N	N	U	L	S	O	O	Z	I	E	R
P	R	A	N	K	S	L	O	O	K	T	O
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S	T	R	O	L	L	L	L	A	M	A	S
S	A	V	E	D	T	E	X	A	N		

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Open Wall: *Sunsational* (07/17/24 - TFN - 13)

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(06/05/24 - 52)

Campground

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Full hook up sites, pull thru, and tent sites. Views of Okemo! Large Private Sites!
(08/07/24 - 13)

Chiropractor

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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)

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(10/02/24 - 26)

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(01/29/25 - 52)

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(08/21/24 - 13)

Okemo Valley TV

LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

- Video Storytelling with Cavendish After School
- Grafton Cheese / Windham Foundation Comes to Proctorsville
- Ludlow Memorial Day: A Day of Remembrance
- Ludlow's "Code Red" Emergency Alert
- Windsor Co. Legislative Wrap-Up & Legacy of Sen. Dick McCormack

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)
(07/03/24 - TFN - 13)

Organic Lawn & Land Care

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(08/07/24 - 26)

outdoor

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Community Art Garden summer camps in Chester

CHESTER, Vt. – Calling all creative children and parents wanting to boost their child’s inner artist. Community Art Garden in Chester, Vt., has a fun summer lineup of camps for kids ages 5 and older that are certain to bring creative fun to your household for the weeks of camp and beyond. Because all of the camps at the studio come with a take-home kit, campers can enjoy the Art Garden fun endlessly all summer long. All camps provide sensory play, child-led, play-based fun for all ages, as well as ample time

outside walking about town or playing in especially curated outdoor stations. Camps are led by Community Art Garden owner Emily Burkland and staff, and the studio is located at 287 Main Street, Chester, Vt. Community Art Garden has been growing local, hands-on creativity since 2014. For more information, or to register, visit www.communityartgarden.com/camps.

Nature Arts Camp for ages 5 and older will be held June 18-20, from 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Nature Arts Camp is a fun way for

children to connect with the natural world, selected art materials, and each other in our sensory-rich, play-based process art studio. We will explore with bundle dyeing using natural fibers, create our own mosaic pots, play with wool felting, shell painting, and more. This camp is full, but we will start a wait list and with enough interest may run another session in August.

Fairy House Camp runs July 1-3, from 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Fairy House camp is a fun, child-led way for children to create with nat-

ural materials by creating their very own fairy house to take home with them at the end of camp. Materials are provided, and we will also go on nature walks to collect and find just the right things to embellish our creations. Camp is inspired by the natural world around us, and fosters observation and appreciation, as well as creative exploration.

Drama Arts Camp will be held July 9-11, from 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. In

this camp, we will explore the arts that surround the stage. Musical instruments, puppets, costumes, face painting, dancing, movement games, and more. In this three-day camp, participants will have the chance to create and star in their own show – or just have fun exploring dramatic arts within our process-art and play-based studio. This camp is such a special experience for children, and it is a classic summer favorite.

Doll House Camp is slat-

ed for July 23-25, from 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Doll House Camp is new to the studio this year, but destined to have a special place in our summer line up. Campers will be invited to customize their very own IKEA wooden dollhouse, from exterior painting, to interior design and furnishings. Miniature play is such a fun outlet for kids of all ages. From blueprints to final creation, this will be a memorable experience with a lasting keepsake.



Nature Arts Camp crafting.

PHOTO PROVIDED



Art Garden camp fun.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Cavendish Streetscapes Birds and Blooms

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Aprons and totes, made and decorated in Cavendish by three very talented seamstresses and designers, will be available exclusively at the annual Cavendish Streetscape fundraiser on Saturday, June 22, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., on the Proctorsville Green. Other garden-themed items, including birdhouses, gift certificates, baskets, and decor, will be available. Cavendish Streetscape is an all-volunteer group, under the umbrella of Cavendish Conservation and Community Association.

PHOTO PROVIDED



HCRS welcomes new staff

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont’s community mental health agency, is pleased to announce the appointment of 20 new professionals, whose talents will augment HCRS’ services across Windham and Windsor Counties.

HCRS welcomes the following new employees: Jenna Ware, registered nurse in Woodstock/Ludlow; Renee Weltch, case manager I in Brattleboro; AJ Fieberkorn, DSP community in Bellows Falls; Kathleen Mota, crisis intervention specialist in Brattleboro; Caitlyn Laskev-

ich, behavior interventionist in Springfield; Caroline Cameron, residential specialist in Westminster; Mark Nichols, shift leader in Bellows Falls; Maria Melendy, DSP community in Windsor/Hartford; Megan Whiton, billing specialist in Springfield; Jeffery Russell, CYF community outreach specialist in Hartford; Cathi Shambo-Robitille, DSP employment in Springfield; Hannah Owen, residential specialist in Bellows Falls; Amy Dyer, residential specialist in Bellows Falls; Tammy Robbins, respite provider in Hartford; Joel Zalagens, DSP commu-

nity in Springfield; Amber Monmaney, crisis intervention specialist in Springfield; Maygan Paquin, DSP community in Windsor/Hartford; Cadance Gilbert, SOSVT case manager in Brattleboro; Jessica Weiner, clinical intern in Brattleboro; and Tina Wood, respite provider in Hartford.

These new hires will support the nonprofit agency’s team of more than 500 staff providing comprehensive mental health, substance use, and developmental disability programs, which serve more than 4,000 individuals annually across southeastern Vermont.

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Healthy fun for the whole family, come and walk or run or cheer on your friends and family!

SPRINGFIELD
DAM RUN
WALK AND FUN RUN
2024

All Proceeds Go to Local Charities.

Date: Saturday June 8th
Distance: Fun Run Half Mile
Start Time: 8:30 a.m.
Distance: Walk / Run 4 Miles
Start Time: 9:00 a.m.

Awards • Giveaways
First and Second Place Awards given in all categories, finisher’s medals for kids, Mountain Bike, Post Race Snacks

Fee: Pre-registration Walk/Run \$25.00
Day of Race: \$30.00 • Fun Run - FREE
Race fee for the run/walk/kids fun run
Check Payment to: Edgar May Health and Recreation Center

Mail registration form and payment to:
www.edgarmay.org

Edgar May Health and Recreation Center
140 Clinton St., Springfield, VT 05156.
info@edgarmay.org
ph: 802-885-2568

COMING OF AGE WITH GRIT AND GRACE

In Celebration of Pride Month
Special presentation by
Mark S. King
long-term HIV survivor and author of
My Fabulous Disease

Thursday June 20
7:30pm
Bellows Falls Opera House
Free to All Tickets Required

Senior SOLUTIONS
Area Agency on Aging in Southeastern Vermont

BELLOWS FALLS PRIDE

health & wellness

Edgar May receives brownfield cleanup grant



Exterior Annex Building rendering.

PHOTO PROVIDED



Interior Annex Building rendering.

PHOTO PROVIDED

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – North Star Health and Edgar May Health and Recreation Center are excited to announce that they have been awarded a \$1.89 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency through the Multi-purpose, Assessment, and Cleanup (MAC) grant program. These funds, combined with a \$1.2 million grant from the Department of Commerce and Community Development, will facilitate the environmental remediation and brownfield cleanup of the former foundry building at 140 Clinton Street.

“We are deeply grateful for the support from the Environmental Protection Agency, our congressional delegation, the Town of Springfield, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, The Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Springfield Regional Development Corporation, and the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission. Their backing demonstrates great commitment to our project and the Springfield Community,” said Christian Craig, executive director of The Edgar May Health and Recreation Center.

The brownfield cleanup, which involves the removal and management of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon, and benzene, will begin later this year. This initiative

marks Phase I of a comprehensive, three-phase Edgar May project that will include the construction of a 13,000-square-foot addition to connect the current building to the historic foundry building, as well as the revitalization of the foundry building itself. Interested parties can view renderings at www.drive.google.com/drive/folders/1killmzXMMvUR3YK-uao-DD1tAfrp1qTd?usp=sharing.

This expansion is set to provide enhanced recreational opportunities for Springfield and the surrounding region, making it one of the few advanced recreation facilities in Vermont. In preparation for this project, Edgar May conducted two meetings to gather input and feedback from the community. These were instrumental in shaping the project to meet local needs and expectations. When all phases of the project are complete, the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center will be expanded by 31,000 square feet. The new

and enhanced features will include 32 infant to pre-K childcare slots, an indoor walking track, an indoor turf field, wellness spaces, a community meeting space, larger locker rooms, a rock-climbing wall, and basketball and pickleball courts.

This project will also create eight full-time jobs, providing significant economic benefits to the region.

“This important grant has come at the perfect time,” Joshua Dufresne,

CEO at North Star Health, said. “As our population ages and chronic disease continues to rise, it is crucial for our community to have access to health and wellness programs that can reduce reliance on expensive medications and specialized healthcare. North Star Health is very excited to be a part of this project with Edgar May.”

For more information about the project or to make a donation, please contact Christian Craig at ccraig@edgarmay.org or 802-885-2568.



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Kinhaven's Young Artists return

WESTON, Vt. – Residents of Weston and nearby towns have enjoyed concerts by the students and faculty of Kinhaven Music School for years. Kinhaven has traditionally offered Senior (high school) and Junior (middle school) sessions. In June of 2015, Kinhaven launched the tremendously successful Young Artist Seminar; its students, who are somewhat older, mainly in college and graduate school, work closely with dedicated and experienced teachers for one week, and then perform concerts for the community.

In addition to the opportunity to perform, the program's outreach concerts are a chance for Kinhaven students to establish rela-

tionships for themselves and their school with their neighbors by giving back to the local community.

Old Parish Church is proud to have hosted one of the inaugural concerts of the Young Artists back in 2015. The group has returned annually, except for a hiatus due to Covid, and will again in 2024, performing on Saturday, June 8, at 2 p.m. Their concerts last just over one hour, and have been highly popular. This year's program will consist of works by Bedřich Smetana, Jan Bach, and Ernő Dohnányi.

Kinhaven was founded by visionaries David and Dorothy Dushkin, and cultivated by pioneering music educators Jerry and Nancy Bidlack. Since 2011,

Deborah Buck and Tony Mazzocchi have served as executive directors, and Adam Grabojs is the director of the Young Artist Seminar.

This concert is a presentation of Old Parish Church's Hearts and Voices Performance Series. Revenues from the performances are donated to benefit recognized nonprofit organizations serving the local area. In this instance, patrons are asked to donate to benefit Neighbors Pantry, a volunteer organization dedicated to combatting food insecurity in the mountain towns.

Old Parish Church is located on Route 100, on the left as you enter Weston from the south.

Sammy, Israel, Gershom, and Shekinah to perform

PUTNEY, Vt. – Twilight Music continues its 21st Twilight On The Tavern Lawn series of bluegrass, folk rock, world beat, jazz, pop, and Zydeco summer concerts on Sunday, June 9, with an evening of music from East Africa by Sammy, Israel, Gershom, and Shekinah. The seven-concert series continues every other Sunday through Aug. 18. All concerts begin at 6 p.m., in downtown Putney, on the Putney Tavern lawn – bring a lawn chair or blanket – or at Next Stage at 15 Kimball Hill in case of rain. Coperesented with Next Stage Arts Project, the series is sponsored by the Town of Put-

ney, The Mockingbird Tavern, Rod's, and many other Putney-area businesses and organizations. The concerts are free to the public, donations are accepted, and food will be available. For more information, call 802-387-5772 or visit www.twilightmusic.org.

Sammy Divinda, Israel Mbombo, Gershom Mbombo, and Shekinah Pemba are siblings who blend traditional African music – specifically from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and East Africa – with acoustic arrangements and melodic and message-driven songwriting. Playing music together from an ear-

ly age, the three brothers and one sister have always strived to bring peace and joy to the hearts of people. Recent refugees, they continue their musical journey as new Vermonters.

Bandwagon Summer Series presents Bristol Lightning

PUTNEY, Vt. – The Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series presents an odyssey of American music with Bristol Lightning on Saturday, June 8, at 6 p.m., at Cooper Field, 41 Sand Hill Road in Putney.

"Bluegrass from Tennessee from Grammy Award-winning musicians – what's not to love?" says Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts. "Dave Eggar has been on stages around the world in pop, classical, jazz, and so many more settings. He's an award-winning cellist who infuses a sense of virtuosity and freshness into the bluegrass genre. We're excited to host Bristol Lightning."

In 1927, the first country music records were cut in Bristol, Tenn./Va., by ordinary people with ordinary stories, and the courage to create. Now, almost 100 years later, Bristol Lightning is born in the same town, celebrating the American stories of today. From Aaron Copland to American roots

music, blues, bluegrass, and beyond, Bristol Lightning's live shows take the audience on a high-energy adventure of bluegrass cello and mandolin, blues guitars, tap dance, and storytelling, weaving a powerful and poignant tapestry of the true creativity and resilience of the American spirit.

Bristol Lightning is the baby of cellist Dave Eggar. He's a student of the great American composer Aaron Copland and the legendary cellist Yo Yo Ma. Eggar has performed, recorded, and arranged for artists across genres, including Taylor Swift, Beyoncé, Coldplay, Frank Ocean, John Legend, Lewis Capaldi, Tony Bennett, and Andrea Bocelli, to name a few. He is a Grammy-nominated composer, has scored multiple films, and regularly performs in the classical and American roots music worlds. Dave teamed up with two-time Grammy nominee Phil Fanti (who has worked with Norah Jones and Foreigner) and Bristol locals Blake and Jamie Collins, to form Bristol Lightning.

The Bandwagon Summer

Series is a family-friendly outdoor cultural performance series running from early May through mid-October. More than 20 performances ranging from a diverse group of musical styles, circus arts, dance, and theater will take place at ballfields, farms, and parks throughout Windham County. Kids under 12 always get in for free, and a dedicated play area will be available at all shows. Refreshments are sold on site, including the return of the hugely popular Barr Hill cocktails. Bring a picnic and a blanket or fold-up chair to enjoy our concerts.

Cooper Field is located at 41 Sand Hill Road in Putney. Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.nextstagearts.org; kids under 12 free. For more information, visit the website or call 802-387-0102.

This performance is sponsored in part by AARP Vermont. Support for the Bandwagon Summer Series is provided by M&T Bank, Oak Meadow, The Porch Cafe & Catering, Brattleboro Reformer, and Barr Hill.

Weston Theater Company presents "Jersey Boys"

WESTON, Vt. – Weston Theater Company takes audiences for a musical ride chronicling the rise of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons in "Jersey Boys: The Story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons," playing at Weston's Walker Farm Theater from June 12 – July 13.

Rock out with four young men of the 60s as they rise from the streets of New Jersey to conquer the music industry and forge friendships that stand the test of time. One of the greatest sensations in the history of popular music, Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons will sweep you off your feet with doo-wopping melodies that resonate today. The hits just keep coming, including "Sherry,"

"Big Girls Don't Cry," "December 1963 (Oh, What a Night)," and "Can't Take My Eyes Off You." "Jersey Boys" is the ultimate celebration of the spirit of rock 'n' roll. It's the Tony and Grammy Award-winning musical you won't want to miss.

Weston's production of this iconic musical is directed by John Simpkins, known for his Drama Desk-nominated production of "Bloodsong of Love," and many collaborations with Tony nominee Joe Iconis. Simpkins says, "Our team is excited to have the Weston audiences experience the epic musical 'Jersey Boys' in the intimate Walker Farm space. In addition to the iconic and legendary songs of The Four Seasons, the show is full of history, off-stage intrigue, and the price of success and fame. Join us as four kids singing under a streetlamp in New Jersey can help us all remember the power of music and friendship."

The show introduces Adam Marino as Frankie Valli. Also new to Weston are the performers playing The Four Seasons: J.P. Qualters as Tommy DeVito, William Spinnato as Nick Massi, and Aidan Cole as Bob Gaudio.

Weston welcomes Matt DaSilva as Bob Crewe, and Dan Teixeira as Norm Waxman. Weston Young

Company alum Allie Seibold plays Francine Valli. In their Weston debut, Gabby Harker plays Lorraine Delgado, and Elaine Cotter plays Mary Delgado. Also joining Weston for the first time are Damien DeShaun Smith as Barry Belson, and Michael Barra as Gyp De Carlo. Dante D'Antonio plays Joe Pesci, and Nick Case plays Hank.

Choreography is by Natalie Malotke. Weston welcomes back costume designer Tracy Christensen. Bringing the stage from the 50s to the 70s is set designer Lee Savage, whose awards include Helen Hayes, NAACP, and Connecticut Critics Circle. Lighting design is by John Lasiter. Mike Tracey joins the team as sound designer. Bringing you the beats we all know and love is music director Darren R. Cohen, and seasoned Weston alum Jeremy Yaddaw returns as music coordinator. Director, actor, and composer Miles Messier orchestrates from the keyboard, and performer Calyx Ryu, guitarist for the band Jack Flowers and Petal Tones, plays guitar. Sean Decker plays electric bass, and Amanda Lee Morrill is on drums. Last but not least, Kate Forman joins on woodwinds.

Discounts are available for Vermont residents. Tickets are available online

and by calling the Weston Box Office at 802-824-5288.

Following "Jersey Boys," catch the irrepressible Junie B. Jones in "Junie B. Jones: The Musical," embark on a mystic quest in "Pippin," escape to the Appalachian mountains in "The Porch on Windy Hill," and question the fabric of reality in "The Woman in Black."

Discounts are available for Vermont residents. Tickets are available online and by calling the Weston Box Office at 802-824-5288. Weston Theater Company builds on and enhances the unique assets of its Vermont village campus to produce a diverse, entertaining, and challenging season of live professional theater and high-impact events; enrich the theatergoing experience with education and outreach programs for all ages; and make significant contributions to the American theater through training programs, play development, and retreats. It is a nonprofit organization supported in part by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and an ever-growing family of individuals and organizations who believe in the impact the performing arts make on its community. Learn more at www.westontheater.org.

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