



Home Sweet Home

Real Estate Section on Page 4

email sales@vermontjournal.com to advertise!

ECRWSS
PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
JOURNAL, LLC

8 HIGH ST
LUDLOW, VT 05149-1008
Postal Patron

THE SHOPPER Newspaper

AUGUST 14, 2024 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

VOLUME 63, ISSUE 33

GNL expands clothing and accessories department

BY PAULA BENSON

The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Just over a year after opening in their new warehouse location in the Springfield Plaza, Great Northern Liquidation (GNL) has announced they are expanding into the formerly empty retail space adjacent to them, bringing GNL's total footprint to nearly 20,000 square feet. The space, which was once included in the scope of the larger warehouse, was easily reconnected after taking down a partially completed wall.

GNL owners Lisa and Rick Young bought the racks from the downtown Springfield SEVCA store that recently went out of business, and they want to help fill the void left in the community by the thrift store's closing. GNL already carries a small selection of clothing and accessories, and Lisa said they had more inventory in storage, so made the decision to create a dedicated department that will offer resale clothing, purses, shoes, and jewelry.

Lisa and Rick's son Ricky has a keen eye when it comes to design and placement of merchandise, and the three are working together to complete the final touches on the new space,



GNL to expand clothing department, featuring bargain prices. PHOTO BY PAULA BENSON

at this point mainly brightening up the lighting. The plan is to have the front half stocked by the end of August, then continue moving toward the back of the building, updating the space and filling in the rest of the department's inventory. Other store items will juggle around a bit to accommodate the expansion; rugs will move to the new "back wall," and their selection of art pieces will relocate to the entrance of the new space, inviting customers in. The entrance from the parking lot remains the main store entrance.

Lisa held a contest on GNL's Facebook page asking customers for suggestions on a name for the newly designed department, and said there were many good ideas, and a lot of amusing submissions. One of her favorites was a

take on "GNL," suggesting they call the new section "Good 'n Laundered." Lisa thinks they will probably go with "The Clothing Connection."

By late August, the new department should be up and running, and a grand opening will be planned for some time in September, after the store has had a chance to reset.

GNL continues to take donations of clothing and accessories, and Lisa said, "sometimes we can pay," but the idea is to keep sales at bargain-level pricing to further serve the needs of the Springfield community.

Follow GNL on their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/GreatNorthernLiquidation, for current deals and announcements.

Boccaccio's & Cason's Corner offers tanning

BY JOE MILLIKEN

The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Boccaccio's & Cason's Corner, located at 56 Green Street in Bellows Falls, recently renovated and opened a new space in the salon that offers three new tanning beds, and no appointment needed.

"We worked on the renovations for the tanning room, which took about three months to complete, and opened the new room in March," Boccaccio's owner Sheila Quelch said in a recent interview. "We are now working towards moving our nails and pedicure services, complete with new nail stations and pedicure chairs, into the tanning area as well, creating more space in the main salon."

Since purchasing Boccaccio's four years ago from original owner Lori Brown, Quelch has done a remarkable job to create a new look and atmosphere in the salon, while still maintaining the reputation and solid business foundation that was created by Brown, her former boss of 28 years.

In the wake of the pandemic, Quelch agreed to purchase the Bellows Falls location of Boccaccio's, when Brown had become concerned



The new tanning section of Boccaccio's in Bellows Falls. PHOTO BY JOE MILLIKEN

about continuing to operate both the Bellows Falls and Springfield locations of her business. Quelch purchased the Bellows Falls location without thinking twice, because she felt an emotional attachment to not only the salon, but also the loyal clientele she has developed over the years.

She proceeded to completely remodeled the entire workspace, including the addition of the Cason's Corner children's area, dedicated to helping kids with special needs such as autism, ADHD, and brain injuries.

"We are able to offer a few things in Cason's Corner, such as quieter hair clippers and hair dryers, a special Mickey Mouse 'roadster racing chair,' and some colorful cartoon wall murals that we hope help make the hair cut experience a little easier for children and their parents," Quelch said. She

also said that Cason's Corner has helped create many new client relationships over the last three years, and that families have driven from all over New England to visit the salon.

Quelch anticipates the remainder of the new tanning space will be completed soon, and in the meantime the tanning beds remain busy. There is also a plan to install a fresh, new business sign in the front of the building, a final touch to cap off the incredible transformation of Boccaccio's & Cason's Corner.

Boccaccio's & Cason's Corner is located at 56 Green Street in Bellows Falls, and the hours are Monday, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. The phone number is 802-463-4495, and they are currently accepting new clients.

Springfield School District updates

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The board of the Springfield School District would like to thank the voters and the community for their support of the 2024-2025 budget. After six meetings between the board, administration, and community, many concerns and ideas were exchanged, which resulted in very positive energy surrounding the board and community engagement. On Tuesday, May 21, the community approved the fiscal year 2025 budget.

During the budget meetings, the community raised many valid questions and asked the board to consider different approaches to the budget development. As a result of the meetings, the board believes there is real positive energy coming from the community. One positive result is that there are a number of community members who have already stepped up to be a part of the fiscal year 2026 budget committee, to help formulate the budget. Some common themes that came out of the budget meetings were to consolidate buildings, reduce administrative overhead, improve student success, and better understand the district's capital plan.

Although the board has

taken actions in the past to reduce administration, the board is constantly evaluating the district and its staffing to run more effectively and efficiently. The board looked at the opportunity of the vacant principal position at Elm Hill School. After much evaluation, consideration, and planning, the district has decided it would be best from both an educational standpoint and a budgetary standpoint to combine the pre-K director position and the Elm Hill principal position into one primary principal position.

The consolidation in leadership will provide an opportunity for our youngest students to experience a more consistent approach to their education. There will be a focus placed on play-based instruction, developmentally appropriate practices, and helping our primary age students develop the necessary social skills they need to be successful both inside and outside the classroom. There will be an emphasis placed upon literacy, math, physical activity, recess, and outdoor learning. We are committed to strengthening our ties with our families and community.

The district has reas-

signed staff with the skills and expertise in primary education to work in this new primary education environment. We are looking forward to and expecting great results to come out of this change. The community's conversations during the budget meetings helped us make this decision, which we believe will ultimately provide a stronger start to our students' education, while at the same time saving the taxpayers money going forward.

Currently, the administrative offices have been moved from Park Street to Springfield High School (SHS) last spring. The district is operating two pre-K classrooms out of the third floor of the River Valley Technical Center (RVTC). The RVTC was not designed for pre-K aged students.

The board will engage in discussions with the administration to determine the best way to consolidate our facilities to four (Elm Hill School, Union Street School, Riverside Middle School, and SHS). Currently, the district administration is temporarily located at the high school through June 30, 2025, and pre-K is located at RVTC on a year

to year basis.

The board will soon select community members for the upcoming fiscal year 2026 budget development, with an immediate need to

provide input into the district's capital plan, which the board adopts each year.

We look forward to engaging with the families and community as we perform

this very valuable work at future board meetings.

For more information, contact Board Chair Troy Palmer at 802-885-7805 or tpalmer@ssdvt.org.

Springfield on the Move hosts Annual Meeting

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield On the Move (SOM) will host its Annual Membership and Business Meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 27, from 5:30-7 p.m., at The

Copper Fox Restaurant, 56 Main Street, Springfield, Vt. Light refreshments will be provided, and a cash bar will be available. This meeting is open to the public.

Bellows Falls Woman's Club pasta supper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Pasta is on the menu Friday, Aug. 23, when the Bellows Falls Woman's Club (BFWC) puts on a pasta supper to benefit its scholarship program.

The line forms at 5 p.m., at the United Church of Bellows Falls, 8 School Street, with entrance through the accessible rear door. Servings continue until 7 p.m.

A variety of hot and cold pasta dishes, homemade focaccia bread, a salad bar, desserts, and beverages are among the offerings to eat in or take out. Vegetarian and gluten-free options will also be available.

The cost is discounted for children 6-12, and children under 6 are free.

The supper is a fundraiser for the club's scholarships that are awarded each year to graduates of Bellows

Falls Union and Fall Mountain Union high schools.

The BFWC was organized in 1901, and is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, which is dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

Further information about the local club can be found at www.bellowsfalls-womansclub.weebly.com, or on Facebook.

INDEX
Real Estate Section 4
Opinion..... 4
Obituaries/Services 5
Calendar 6
Legal Notices 6-7
Classifieds/Business Directory 7
Arts & Entertainment 8-9

CONTACT US
OFFICE ADDRESS:
8 High Street • PO Box 228 • Ludlow, VT
BILLING ADDRESS:
PO Box 116 • Rutland, VT 05702
PHONE NUMBER:
802-228-3600
WEBSITE:
www.VermontJournal.com



DEADLINES
The deadline for all content is Friday at 12 p.m. for the following Wednesday publication.
EMAIL YOUR SHORT, 2-3 SENTENCE CALENDAR EVENTS calendar@vermontjournal.com
EMAIL YOUR DISPLAY ADS AND CLASSIFIED LISTINGS ads@vermontjournal.com
EMAIL YOUR PRESS RELEASES, ARTICLES, AND PHOTOS editor@vermontjournal.com

Springfield Library book sale donations

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Friends of Springfield Town Library (FOSTL) will accept book sale donations on the following Saturdays during library hours: Aug. 17, Aug. 24, and Sept. 7. FOSTL members will be in the Flinn Room from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on these days. Please note that only the following items in great condition will be accepted at the Library during their

open hours. Members will review donations before accepting them. Acceptable items include all genres of fiction except paperback romances. Non-fiction donations are limited to biographies, history, and animals. All children's books in great condition will be accepted. Preference is for picture books and chapter books. Please do not bring any media –

no DVDs or CDs, etc. Why is there a review process? FOSTL will only be able to use the front rooms of the Springfield Armory this year. Therefore, space is very limited. Thank you for being understanding. The book sale will be on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the armory.

Treasures on the Green postponed to Sept. 7

WESTON, Vt. – Treasures on the Green, the town-wide tag sale that benefits local nonprofits, hosted by the Weston Women's Club, was postponed from the scheduled date of Aug. 10, due to the heavy rain and high winds that prevented setup on the afternoon before. The rescheduled date is Sept. 7, 10 a.m. – 4

p.m., on the Weston Green, bigger and better with the addition of raffle prizes and even more merchandise. "One man's junk is another man's treasure" does not apply. Junk goes to the transfer station. We're talking about items of quality – some utilitarian, some decorative, some for the home, and some for the garden – that are simply

not being used. There will be furniture, cooking implements, housewares, garden decor, artwork, and more. The sale items have been augmented by two wonderful raffle prize baskets donated by the generosity of the Vermont Country Store. Join us on Sept. 7, find a treasure or two, and benefit your community. We look forward to seeing you.

Exciting changes at the Westminster Institute and Butterfield Library

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Libraries around the State of Vermont and the country are retooling themselves to meet the changing needs of today's society and their local community. So, too, is the Butterfield Library. In many small Vermont towns that have lost their general store, the library has become the focal point for the community, providing a space to gather, connect with neighbors, and have a sense of place. In an effort to meet our community's changing needs, the board of directors of the Westminster Institute/Butterfield Library held a community forum in 2017 to gather input and ideas about the future of the

institute and the Butterfield Library. The community forum was followed by several strategic planning sessions with an outside consultant. The final strategic plan made recommendations for physical upgrades to the building to support new program directions, improve rental spaces, and transform the library space. Many of the facility upgrades have been completed. The one remaining space to focus upon is the library. The vision for the library is as the centerpiece of all future development. With a new design and focus as a community gathering space, it will be the driver of generating and hosting community activities of all types for all ages. With the hiring of our new librarian, Alison Baitz, and building upon the work of our previous librarians, some exciting things have begun over the past few

months. These include collaboration with Westminster Cares to bring reading materials to those in the Meals-on-Wheels program; a summer reading program where people of all ages track the fun they have in order to be eligible for prizes; a Friends of the Institute group, led by new board member Jen Perry; review of our overall book collection to make room for new purchases; redesigning the main floor to maximize space for books; converting some of the downstairs into space for educational and craft classes; rearranging books to best suit patrons' interest; enhancing the children's collection area on the second floor with improved lighting and comfortable furniture; a monthly column in the Gazette discussing what's going on at the library; meetings with folks from other libraries to gather and share ideas,

resources, and grant information opportunities; chatting with patrons and trustees about what kind of future events we can sponsor; and we're happy to announce that a new elevator is being installed to create easy access from floor to floor. These are just a sample of the exciting things that are happening. Sometimes things get messier before they get better, as with any changes. Baitz and others are working hard to make things happen this summer, with the hope of having many changes in place by our Centennial Celebration on Sept. 14. We ask for your patience and support, and hope you'll stop in to say hello. The library is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, from 1-6 p.m.; and Saturday, from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Get your windows measured for insulating inserts

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – If your house or apartment is cold and drafty in the winter, we can help you be more comfortable and save money on fuel. The Rockingham Energy Committee will be building low-cost, insulating window inserts for local residents this fall, for the fourth year in a row. The WindowDressers program is run by a nonprofit in Maine, and costs are kept low by assembling the inserts at an all-volunteer community workshop. The workshop this year will be held from Oct. 11-16, at the St. Charles Social Hall, 25 Cherry Hill Street, Bellows Falls, the same site we used in past years. Everyone receiving inserts is expected to volunteer for one or more building sessions; you can choose which task(s) you want to do, and training is provided. Community members not

getting inserts are encouraged to help at the workshops also – it's fun to build things with your neighbors. If you're interested, call or text 802-444-1860, or email rockinghamvtenergy@gmail.com, and we can set up a measuring visit. Two volunteers will come to your home to measure your window frames with a laser measuring tool so the inserts can be custom made for your windows. All measuring must be done by Sept. 9. Typical windows cost \$50-60 per insert, but special pricing is available for low-income residents. For more information, visit www.windowdressers.org/insulating-inserts.



BLACK RIVER GOOD NEIGHBOR SERVICES SENDS BEST WISHES & SINCERE REGRETS OF THE UPCOMING RELOCATION OF TWO OF OUR CORE MEMBERS: BOB KOTTKAMP and PETER LABELLE

THEY HAVE SERVED OUR COMMUNITY TIRELESSLY OVER THE YEARS. WE WILL MISS THEM. FAREWELL GENTLEMEN.

THRIFT SHOP
37B Main Street
Ludlow, VT
Phone: 802-228-3663

FOOD SHELF
37B Main Street
Ludlow, VT
Phone: 802-228-3663
www.brngn.org



Window Dressers preparing inserts. PHOTO PROVIDED

P&L Excavating and Trucking

"Stumps to stones and everything in between"

PO Box 993
Chester, VT
Office: 802 875 2819

Owner/Operator
Palmer cell: 802 291 3417
Ryan cell: 802 291 3363

Join Us for a Grand Opening BBQ

AT FALL MOUNTAIN PHARMACY!

Wednesday, August 21st, 2024
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Fall Mountain Pharmacy at 78 Atkinson St.
Bellows Falls, VT 05101

CELEBRATE WITH US!

We are thrilled to announce the grand opening of Fall Mountain Pharmacy and invite you to join us for a fun-filled community BBQ! This is the perfect opportunity to meet our friendly staff, explore our new pharmacy, and enjoy a delightful social event with your neighbors.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Delicious Food:** Enjoy a variety of mouth-watering hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, dessert, and more!
- Meet the Team:** Get to know the pharmacists and staff who are dedicated to providing the best healthcare services to our community.
- Family Fun:** Bring your family and friends for an afternoon of great food, good company, and community spirit.

You're Invited!

WHY FALL MOUNTAIN PHARMACY?

At Fall Mountain Pharmacy, we are committed to offering personalized care, comprehensive health services, and a welcoming environment for all our customers. Our team is here to support your health and wellness needs with professionalism and a personal touch.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Don't miss this chance to be part of our special day! We look forward to celebrating with you and showing our appreciation for the support of our wonderful community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

☎ 802-428-4023 ✉ Jeff@fmpvx.com 🌐 fmpvx.com

UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP!

Meet the New Owners
At the Cornish Fair, Aug. 16-18

Ask Us About A \$2,000 Tax Credit

CENTRAL BOILER CLASSIC EDGE TITANIUM HDX

By efficiently harnessing renewable wood energy, a Central Boiler can substantially reduce, or completely replace the need for expensive fossil fuel heating sources like electric, propane, and oil. This translates into SIGNIFICANT LONG-TERM SAVINGS, making it a cost-effective investment for homeowners.

New England Outdoor Furnaces
877 John Stark Highway
Newport, NH 03773

603-863-8818

newenglandoutdoorfurnaces.com

Scan the QR Code and Like us on Facebook!

The Fillebrown family of Baltimore and Cavendish

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

The following history was written by Jim Zimmer of Cavendish. Much of Jim's information comes from "Genealogy of The Fillebrown Family."

Today, Jim and his wife Cathy live in the circa-1840 James Fillebrown place. Their home is pretty much original. It is very welcoming. You shift to a lower gear as you enter. Notice the cat peering down at you from high atop the cupboard.

You can find more stories written by Jim Zimmer in my latest book, "Stories of Us." It's available at The Framery of Vermont, Stone House Antiques Center, and Lisai's in Bellows Falls.

James Fillebrown
"James Fillebrown born 1786 was a smuggler during the 1807 embargo with Canada. After the embargo was lifted, he married

Weltha Piper, daughter of Noah Piper, early settler in Baltimore, Vt. Both James and Weltha possessed the pioneering spirit and built a strong log cabin on the summit of Hawks Mountain about two miles above their relatives in Baltimore.

"They soon had altercations with the wild beasts of the forest, bears and wild cats ate the crops James and Weltha planted and threatened the family as well.

"James had learned the craft of brick-making from his father and between farming seasons left the mountain to mold and fire bricks at various building sites.

"Weltha, like all stalwart pioneer women, cared for the cabin and the children (their first two daughters), while James was gone. One night, Weltha hearing strange noises descended the ladder from the sleeping loft to dispatch a porcupine which had worked its

way under the foundations into the cabin.

"James spent much time clearing forest for his fields. One day, when he failed to come home to dinner, his wife found him white and faint from loss of blood. With great difficulty, Weltha managed to get him back to the cabin and set off down the mountain to get the doctor...

"In 1822, the family sold the Hawks Mountain property and moved across the Black River to Cavendish. Probate papers were signed at the Dutton Tavern (the tavern was moved and restored to become part of Shelburne Museum.) [Author's note: Years ago I sold to Shelburne Museum a well-documented Windsor armchair belonging to Emily Dutton. The chair now resides at Shelburne in the Dutton House, aforementioned as the Dutton Tavern.]

"Today the Fillebrown

family home in Cavendish is the house that sits at the intersection of East and Brook Roads. Turn at Belnaps.

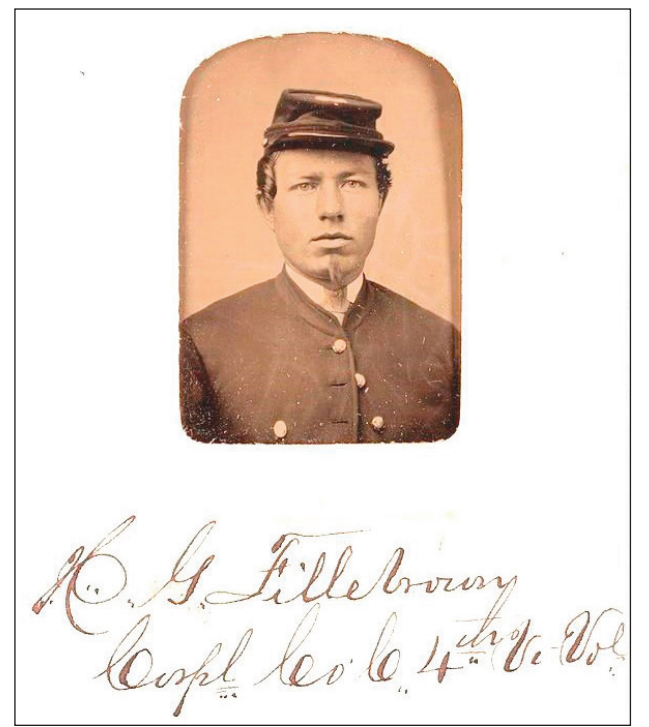
"Following the move from Hawks Mountain to Cavendish, the Fillebrowns had no more confrontations with wild animals. Their corn and apples went unmolested.

"James made bricks for the first meetinghouse and the first store in town. In addition to farming and brick-making, James cleared his land and built stonewalls along property lines, most of which survive to this day.

"James and Weltha are buried at the Cavendish Cemetery on Center Road. They had nine children in all."

Henry G. Fillebrown
"Henry Green Fillebrown, 1843-1865, was son of James and Weltha.

"On April 2, 1865, the 1st Vermont Brigade broke



Autographed H.G. Fillebrown tintype CDV. PHOTO PROVIDED BY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

the Confederate line of entrenchments at Petersburg, Va., at the end of a lengthy siege. The war ended one week later.

"Corporal Fillebrown was in every engagement with the 4th Vermont Regiment. He was on furlough on April 2, but would not permit his regiment to go into battle without him. He was mortally wounded in the assault, and is buried with his comrades-in-arms at the Petersburg Military Cemetery."

Peck's Roster

I checked "Peck's Roster," "Vermont Soldiers and Sailors in the Civil War," for Henry Green Fillebrown's company C history, and found:

"Windsor County furnished a larger number

than any other for the Fourth, being company C [Henry Fillebrown's company]...

"Its original aggregate, as regiment, was 1,048, of whom it is believed less than forty deserted, some of whom returned. The most numerous desertions were from companies C and K.

"The smallest losses, B, E, F, I, and K, and of these, ten in B was the least. Four companies - A, C, D and G - each lost over twice that number."

Do you remember going to a fondue party? This week's old saying I sometimes use when someone bids me farewell. It is me playing with words, "Fondue, to you too."

Memoir workshops with Pam Bernard

WALPOLE, N.H. - Award-winning writer and mentor/coach Pam Bernard announces a new series of her popular memoir workshops, to begin the first week of September. Workshops are three hours, once a week, for eight weeks. Days and times vary from series to series.

Memoir is characterized by the exploration of the "I now" and the "I then." There are almost

are among the many literary journals that have published her work.

Visit Bernard's website at www.pambernard.com. For more information, including dates and times, email pambernardwriter@gmail.com (preferred), or call 603-756-4177.



A previous memoir workshop. PHOTO PROVIDED

always two versions of the writer on the page: the adult narrator who is telling the story, and the previous version of the writer - a previous, younger adult, or a child - who is a character in the story being told. Both need to be heard and to be revealed. To add to the complexity, each iteration of a writer's former self also has a past. That self does not exist simply in the moment. Even a small child has an emotional history, no matter how unformed. These so-called craft considerations form the basis of Bernard's approach to teaching how to shape a vivid and moving personal narrative.

Above all, developing an authentic, believable voice defines the memoirist's core task. When writing about personal experience, a writer must locate that voice in order to tell her story with authority, but also the kind of vigor that brings experience to life. Katherine Clarke, professor emerita at Antioch University New England, said, "Pam's special gift is listening for the authentic voice of a writer to emerge. Her groups are designed to welcome and nourish this voice. When I began to write from my life, she heard me before I did."

Bernard, a writer, painter, teacher, and writing mentor, is the author of four books, the most of recent a verse novel titled "Esther." She received her Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from Warren Wilson College Program for Writers, and bachelor's degree from Harvard University. Her awards include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Nimrod, Cimarron Review, and Valparaiso

Finding family histories at Rockingham Library

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Wayne Blanchard will demonstrate how to navigate the expanding resources available online to find full-text copies of family and local town histories on Thursday, Aug. 22, at 10:30 a.m., at the Rockingham Library. Bring your own laptop to explore on your own.

Discovering online book collections can be a way to find family history. For those exploring their genealogy, family histories could be a way to help unlock secrets

of the past and lead to a way to expand the family tree. Especially for those with some New England heritage, many town histories also contain brief genealogies of the families who lived there. See what people in the past have put in print.

OVER 2000 BROKEN-IN TIRES
MANY SETS OF 4

CANON TIRE
I-91, Exit 8, Ascutney, VT
802-674-5600
NEW TIRES TOO!!

BLACK RIVER GOOD NEIGHBOR SERVICES
37B Main St, Ludlow, VT 05149
Hours: Monday-Friday, 10 AM-3 PM
Phone: 802-228-3663
www.brgn.org
"We are here to help"
Serving Ludlow, Mt. Holly, Belmont, Cavendish, Proctorsville & Plymouth

CHAVES EXCAVATING
ALL MATERIALS FOR COMPLETE SITE WORK
Sand • Gravel • Stone
Shurpac • Topsoil • Fill

5,000 lb. Hydraulic Hammer for Ledge & Rock Splitting
Portable On-Site Crushing & Screening Equipment
802-824-3140 Londonderry, VT

HUNTLEY FINANCIAL SERVICES
Getting a second opinion on your financial future may:
• Lower your investment fees
• Improve your performance
• Help you understand your investments and risk
• Make sure you don't outlive your money
Call us today to set up a no risk private consultation. Isn't your peace of mind worth the time?
802-228-5774
116 Main Street, Ludlow, VT
Member FINRA/SIPC
Securities offered exclusively through American Portfolios Financial Services Inc.

Out of Water? Call Us First!

We Service All Types of Pumps
24 Hr. LIVE Answer Phone
Same Day Service
WELLS & PUMPS
Sta•Rite & Gould Pumps
Flexlite and Amtrol Pressure Tanks

DRILLING GEOTHERMAL HYDROFRACKING
800-831-8883
FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1972 *Serving VT and NH*

GREAT NORTHERN LIQUIDATION
802-885-6464 ~ Like us on Facebook
Springfield Shopping Plaza
WE BUY AND SELL: Furniture, Home Decor, Collectibles, Rugs, Appliances, Electronics, & more!
FREE CURBSIDE DELIVERY for orders over \$100 in the Springfield, Chester, Charlestown, Rockingham area

P&M Auto & Service
280 River Street, Springfield
802-885-4963
802-885-6200
Bankruptcy • Bad Credit
First Time • Divorce
Ask about our **Guaranteed Credit Approval**

2019 Chevrolet Equinox Fully Loaded

2018 Chevrolet Malibu Fully Loaded

2018 Hyundai Tuscan Fully Loaded

2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee Fully Loaded

2017 Ford F150 XLT Fully Loaded

2017 Subaru Crosstrek Fully Loaded

real estate

OPINION

Tips for new homebuyers applying for a mortgage loan —

LUDLOW, Vt. — Before considering a home loan application, it's important to maintain a good FICO credit score, which plays a significant role in the mortgage process. Applicants will want to make sure their credit report is as accurate as possible, and that no one who could potentially harm their score has access to their credit. Dispute any inaccuracies with the national credit report providers, such as accounts that you didn't open, or addresses that aren't yours, and take immediate steps to investigate what could be identity fraud. There are three major credit bureaus: Experian, TransUnion, and Equifax.

FICO scores range from 300-850, and a good credit score will fall between 670-739. A very good score is between 740-799. Scores are calculated based on several financial factors that determine creditworthiness. Victoria Blodgett at Prime Lending reminds her clients they can get a free credit report once a year at www.annualcreditreport.com, and provides details on what lenders look for when calculating credit scores.

According to Prime Lending, 35% of a credit score is based on an individual's payment history. Do you pay your bills on time, or have a history of

collections? 30% is based on the outstanding balance carried on each account, and in total. 15% of a credit score is determined by length of credit history, 10% is calculated based on how often an individual applies for new credit, and another 10% reflects types of credit, secured credit cards, car loans, retail accounts, etc.

Making payments on time, avoiding high balances, and spending wisely will keep your credit score in the good to very good range.

Prime Lending has compiled a list for their clients, "Dos and Don'ts of the Mortgage Process," to help them avoid mistakes that could jeopardize their loan application. For instance, don't acquire any additional credit lines, or make any large purchases, like buying a car or new appliances, which will change your debt-to-income ratio. Don't change jobs. A mortgage lender may verify employment on the day of closing as a quality control check. Additionally, Victoria

asks clients to notify her of any changes to their salary or other compensation that differs from the information on the existing loan application. Do keep documentation, or a "paper trail," on any large deposits into an account, or if funds are transferred from one account to another.

In general, it is important to do your homework of researching loans, lenders, and interest rates, and to be honest with yourself about what you can afford. Doing your due diligence at the outset will benefit you down the road, ensure that the loan process goes smoothly, and that the terms of the loan reflect a realistic financial outlook for the borrower.

Dear Editor,

Black River Academy Museum (BRAM) would like to thank our panelists at our Old Time Stories event held on Aug. 8. Our panelists were Jennifer Stowell, Alice Nitka, Dennis Devereux, Ronnie Freedom, Peter Kolenda, and Stewart Schmidt. The stories they shared with us included tales of Ludlow, Cavendish, and Mount Holly. Topics ranged from boys being boys, to good hearted deeds, to historical events and Ludlow's past.

In addition, we would like to thank the Springfield ukulele players for the music for our campfire sing-along.

It was well attended, and all who participated had a great night of entertainment. If you missed this event, be sure to check out Okemo Valley TV.

Sincerely,
Black River Academy Museum
Ludlow, Vt.

Dog training: the over-greeter

REGION — Some dogs are naturally very affiliative toward humans. They love people. This is often a genetic trait. It is a trait that I select for when getting a puppy from a breeder. If that puppy doesn't throw themselves at me, then I'm not getting that puppy. I want a dog who will be safe around humans.

This sociability trait tends to show up in the sporting breeds like golden retrievers and Labradors. I also see it a lot in doodles, who are a mix of poodle and a sporting breed. But lots of breeds can be genetically predisposed to love people, and love them a lot.

The behavior tends to escalate at adolescence (7-8 months old) and can become really difficult to manage. This is "over-arousal" or "over-excitement." The dog loses his or her mind temporarily when presented with the opportunity to greet a human.

Rejoice if you have a dog who loves people. Even if it is a bit difficult right now, we can take steps to change the behavior. A dog who fears people is a bigger problem, one that is much more difficult to change and is potentially dangerous.

Think about what young puppies learn about humans. When the puppy approaches a human, what does the human do? The human reaches down and makes puppy noises and pets the puppy, right? The puppy jumps on the human, trying to reach the face. This is very self-reinforcing to the dog. The dog loves the attention and will do it again and again. But now the dog weighs 50 pounds, and jumping isn't cute anymore.

Management is your first step. If you set up your home environment to actually prevent the dog from "rehearsing" the behavior, you can interrupt it before it is rehearsed.

In the long term you want to teach your dog to greet visitors politely and briefly, but for young, exuberant dogs this is not realistic. Adolescent dogs have little to no impulse control.

To manage your over-greeter at home, you need to have a safe place to secure your dog when visitors arrive in the home. The most highly charged moment for dogs is when people walk through the threshold of your home. This is when you need to actually prevent the dog from practicing the behavior.

If you have a dog who is crate-trained, then using the dog's crate is the

best possible way to safely secure your dog. Put your dog in its crate with a long-lasting food treat before the guests arrive. Once everyone is in the home and sitting down, the excitement is lowered a notch.

Still using management, you can put your dog on a leash, treats with you, and bring your dog out to join you and your visitors. Have your mat or other familiar station by your side and begin to reward your dog for settling on the station. Do not let your dog greet your visitors.

Do this for about ten minutes, rewarding the dog intermittently for settling with you, and then calmly return the dog to the crate with something yummy. You have just successfully navigated a full training loop without letting the dog "self-reinforce" by the over-greeting behavior. You can repeat this after a half hour or so. Each time you bring your dog out, the dog should be able to regulate itself a little bit more.

Sometimes you do want your dog to greet a visitor. Here is what I recommend. I learned this from Suzanne Clothier. She calls it, "Go say hi, one, two, three." It allows the dog to greet, but keeps it very short, so the dog doesn't get over-stimulated.

Here is how to practice this technique. With your dog on a leash, and about 8 feet away from your visitors, visitors sitting down, wait for your dog to offer you attention (eye contact) and then give the dog a simple cue (sit, down, touch).

When your dog responds to your cue, the dog's reward is to go over to greet the visitor when you say the words "go say hi."

As your dog is greeting, count out loud, "One, two, three." After the "three count," with food in your hand, lure the dog away from the visitors, and then give the dog the food. Repeat the exercise three times. Then go back to having your dog lie quietly by you on its station. Then return the dog to the crate.

You are creating a predictable routine for the dog that ensures that the dog is not rehearsing the over-greeting, and is also getting rewarded for calm behavior.

Over time and with maturity, dogs will grow out of this behavior if you start preventing the self-reinforcing. If the dog continues to self-reinforce, the behavior will continue.

Written by Noel Hoffmann, dog trainer.



BUYING OR SELLING? MEET THE PROFESSIONALS

Love WHERE YOU LIVE

Purchase • Refinance • Renovation

Victoria Blodgett
NMLS# 179656 | Senior Loan Officer

802-975-0350 | vblodgett@primelending.com

www.vbprimelending.com

Your Home Loan Lender of Choice

126 Main St #1C
Ludlow, VT 05149

PrimeLending

MARY W DAVIS
REALTOR & ASSOCIATES

802.228.8811
info@davisandcompany.com
www.okemorealestate.com

HELPING YOU MAKE MEMORIES SINCE 1958

Alger Real Estate Agency

2 Valley St., Suite B
Springfield, VT 05156

alger.gale@gmail.com
Cell (802) 376-9966
Office (802) 885-2100
Please ask for website

Gale Alger, Broker

Lorien Kelly, REALTOR®
732.670.8001
Lorien@KelleyRealEstate.com

Kelley Real Estate
In the Heart of the Okemo Valley
72-B Pond Street, Ludlow, VT 05149
www.KelleyRealEstate.com

Kelley Real Estate
In the Heart of the Okemo Valley

Tyleen Murray, Broker REALTOR®
Cell: 802.777.8047
Ty@KelleyRealEstate.com

Office: 802.228.5333
Fax: 802.228.5343
2-C Lamere Square, Ludlow, VT 05149
www.OkemoValley.com and www.KelleyRealEstate.com

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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!

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18			19		20	21				
22		23					24	25		
26	27	28		29			30			
31			32			33				
34			35			36				
37		38			39					
40				41			42	43	44	
45	46			47	48		49			
50				51			52			
53				54			55			

ACROSS

1 Persian leader
5 Kipling hero
8 Dull sound of impact
12 Earring site
13 Enzyme suffix
14 Bagel feature
15 River to the Baltic
16 Boom times
17 Director
18 Spanish explorer
20 Some babies
22 Contemplate anew
26 Vatican VIPs
29 Televised
30 Italian article
31 Jazzy
32 Fitzgerald
33 Automaton, for short
34 Farmland unit
35 Oklahoma city
36 Weir
37 Grove units
38 Contemplate anew
40 Eyebrow shape
41 Excuses
45 Pocket bread
47 Passing craze
49 Aloe —
50 Scott Turow book

DOWN

1 No neatnik
2 "Today" cohort
3 First victim
4 Chamomile product
5 Island of Hawaii
6 MSN, for one
7 Camper's din-nerware
8 Daring swim-wear
9 Tabasco, for one
10 Last (Abbr.)
11 "Gloria in Excelsis —"
19 Surprised cries
21 Rowing need
23 Model
24 Concerning
25 Burnsian turn-downs
26 Bartlett, for one
27 Shoppe descriptor
28 Mollifies
32 Timid
33 Showed up
35 Pol. party org.
36 Business card no.
38 Face-to-face exams
39 — Warbucks
42 Actress
43 Neuwirth
44 Press
44 Without
45 Soda
46 Chef Garten
48 Santa — winds

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

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.

CHURCH SERVICES

obituaries

Marilyn Belyea, 1939-2024

S. BURLINGTON, Vt. – Marilyn Albrecht Belyea, 85, of South Burlington, Vt., passed away suddenly on July 31, 2024, where she resided in the Quarry Hill Residence Retirement Home. Marilyn was born on Jan. 2, 1939, in Bridgeport, Conn., to mother and father Gladys and Lewis Albrecht. She moved with her family in 1951 to Chester, Vt., then Londonderry, Vt., and graduated from Chester High School in 1957. Marilyn loved horseback riding, and often rode her horse with a friend from Buttonwood Farm in Chester. She then attended and graduated from Northampton Commercial College in Northampton, Mass., and became employed by the Aetna Life Insurance Company in Hartford, Conn. It was there when she met at a dance her husband-to-be, Scott Belyea, who had just retired from the U.S. Navy. Scott and Marilyn were married on May 20, 1961, in Chester, Vt., then moved to West Hartford, Conn., where Scott became

a firefighter with the West Hartford Fire Department. In 1988, Marilyn and Scott moved to Milton, Vt., where they resided until moving to the Quarry Hill Residence in 2022.

Marilyn loved family and friends, taking walks, listening to Elvis Presley, playing board games (and winning) and anything chocolate. She was kind and thoughtful, and seldom complained.

Marilyn loved the Vermont country, wildflowers, birds and other wildlife, and often enjoyed the outdoors while she and Scott visited her brother- and sister-in-law Eugene and Janet Albrecht in Andover, Vt., who she is survived by. She was predeceased by her husband Scott, mother and father, and a brother Ronald Albrecht of Bangor, Maine. She is survived by nephew Chris Albrecht, Albuquerque, N.M.; nephew Steven Albrecht, Andover, Vt.; niece Karen Albrecht, Fort Wayne, Ind.; niece Kathy Albrecht, Clearwater, Fla.; and niece Rondi Albrecht, Bangor, Maine.

William Brown Celebration of Life

GRAFTON, Vt. – A Celebration of Life for William Brown, who passed away on June 27, 2024, will be held on Thursday, Sept. 5, from 1-4 p.m., at the Grafton Inn in Grafton, Vt.

Irene T. Schaefer, 1929-2024

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Aug. 5, Irene was called home to be with the Lord.

Born in Ware, Mass., on Jan. 16, 1929, to Bertha (Kulig) and George Lanou, Irene moved with her family to Saxtons River, Vt., where her father ran a sawmill for many years.

Irene was first and foremost a homemaker and a mother, always having a houseful of children around. Irene was a foster parent for many years, and her home was a weekend getaway for Kurn Hattin Children in the '60s, when children were allowed to visit families on weekends and holidays.

Never one to sit around, she was very industrious when it came to earning extra money while being a full-time homemaker. She taught her children at an early age the importance of hard work and creative thinking. We would pick pinecones, learn what princess pine was, and how to harvest it in the fall for wreath-makers. She sewed at home for Toni Totes from Newfane, and did home work for Guthrie Inc. out of North Walpole.

Always ready to lend a helping hand, Irene connected with a group in Springfield that wanted to give pajamas to local children for Christmas. An accomplished seamstress, she would sew countless pairs of flannel pajamas for children. She was a long-standing member of the Bartonville Grange #481 of Rockingham, Vt., and a cofounder and leader of The Great Gorge 4-H club for many years. As a project one summer, she located the long-forgotten cemetery on Williams River Road in Rockingham, Vt., and had the members mow a path to it and clean up the downed trees. An entrance gate was built that said, "Enter Quietly as we Rest in Peace." The path to the cemetery was kept clear for many years.

She was employed by Springfield Hospital for many years, where one of her greatest accomplishments was making pajamas for children of all ages that were admitted to the hospital. After she retired, she

can be reached at 802-885-3456.

WALPOLE, N.H.

First Congregational Church of Walpole UCC, 15 Washington Sq.

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

Walpole Unitarian Church, corner of Union and Main St.

Sunday Service begins at 10 a.m. Services are also available via Zoom. For links and updates, go to www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org.

WESTMINSTER, VT.

First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 US Route 5

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in our historic church and on Zoom. We have a children's message each Sunday and following church is a time of fellowship in the Hall with coffee and snacks. For more information, call 802-518-0321, email us at westminstercongonline@gmail.com, or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurch-of-Westminster-Inc-1506511432980057.

45 TAYLOR HILL
ATHENS, VT 05143

FULLY INSURED
FREE ESTIMATES

TAYLOR EXCAVATING LLP

TRUCKING & EXCAVATING
SEPTIC SYSTEMS, LAND CLEARINGS, DRIVEWAYS
COMPLETE HOUSE SITES
LANDSCAPING, WALL BUILDING
LAWN MOWING, SNOW PLOWING AND SANDING
802-869-2905 802-289-1508
DAN

Ronald K. Chute, 1927-2024

CHESTER, Vt. – Ronald Kinsman Chute, 96, died at home in Chester, Vt., on Aug. 5, 2024.

Ron was born Nov. 4, 1927, in Cambridge, Mass., to Austin Aubrey Chute and Hilda Kinsman Chute. He graduated from The Rivers School in 1945 while attending Williams College on an accelerated schedule. After enlisting in the U.S. Army, Ron spent 16 months in the occupation of Japan. He returned to Williams and graduated in 1949. On Feb. 23, 1952, he married Nancy Morrison Stewart, daughter of Samuel and Ruth Stewart, in Huntingdon, Pa.

Ron and Nancy lived in the Midwest and Connecticut during his career as a marketing and general management executive in the domestic and international consumer packaged goods industries. In 2012, they moved from Washington, Conn., to Chester, Vt. Ron is survived by his wife, and his three children Stewart Kinsman Chute of Hampton, Conn.; Ann Austin Vuille of Bolinas, Calif.; and David Morrison Chute of Rowayton, Conn., and Chester, Vt. They have seven grandchildren: Julia Ruth Chute, Elisabeth Perret Comer, Gillian Gay Comer, Emma Morrison Chute, Sarah Kinsman Chute, Austin Ronald



Ronald Chute, 1927-2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Chute, and Benjamin Philip Chute.

Ron was a member of Delta Psi fraternity. He played ice hockey and lacrosse at school. Afterward, he played field hockey and was a member of the New York chapter of U.S. Olympians. Later, tennis became a favorite sport. He served on several local historic commissions.

With retirement, Ron returned to oil painting, a talent he developed early in life. He died leaving a life of love for friends, children, grandchildren, and Nancy, the heart of his life. His devotion to his family is expressed by his son David: "An ambitious man who overcame challenges. A dedicated father. My father was a kind person who respected and loved his family."

Funeral arrangements are private.

Mary Ellen Plut, 1949-2024

RICHMOND, Texas – Mary Ellen Plut, 75, of Richmond, Texas, passed away on May 2, 2024.

She was born on March 25, 1949, in Brooklyn, N.Y., to Robert and Mary Ellen Warner.

She grew up in Saxtons River, Vt., and attended Bellows Falls High School and Castleton University. She taught at BFUHS from 1971-1977.

She is preceded in death by her parents.

Mary Ellen married Frank Plut on Jan. 1, 2001, and they were married for 23 years.

Mary Ellen is survived by her husband Frank; stepchildren Aaron Plut and wife Angela, and Heather Plut Kiefer and husband Terry; five wonderful grandchildren Aidan and Audrey Plut, and Cameron, Parker, and Spencer Kiefer; her brother Mark Warner and wife Ronnie; and nephew Seth Warner and wife Katie.

Mary Ellen was a won-



Mary Ellen Plut, 1949-2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

derful wife, stepmother, grandmother, sister, and aunt.

Her vibrant smile, super attitude, and wonderful conversations will be missed by all who knew her.

Mary Ellen's memorial service will be at Calvary Episcopal Church, 806 Thompson Road, Richmond, Texas, on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025, at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Calvary Episcopal Church Laundry Love Program.

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.

Harvey Replacement Windows, Raynor Garage Door Sales & Installation, Garage Door Repair & Vinyl Siding

BILL STANKEVICH Building & Remodeling

Full Service Care Taking

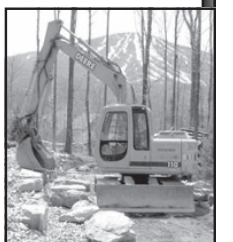
173 Baltimore Road
Perkinsville, VT 05151

802-263-9374
Fax 802-263-5129

David Chaves EXCAVATING

Family Owned & Operated Since 1980

Complete Site Work
From Clearing to Finish
Grading, Roads, Foundations
Septics & Drainage Problems



Specializing In
Equine Land Development & Ponds

Sculpting your
piece of Vermont
to fit your Dreams!

802-824-3140
Londonderry, VT

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

arts & entertainment

Springfield Community Players to hold auditions for “Pumpkins of Peril”

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Community Players will hold auditions for “Pumpkins of Peril – A Halloween Murder Mystery,” by local playwright Thomas Compos, on Wednesday, Sept. 25, from 6-7 p.m.; and Saturday, Sept. 28, from 1:30-2:30 p.m.; or by appointment by calling director Patty Greene-Pawelczyk at 802-289-4325 or emailing pagreene113@gmail.com. The performance will be held on Oct. 26, from 6-10 p.m., at The Hartness House, 109 Front Street, Springfield, Vt.

This is a cold read audition. The script will be

available audition nights, no preparation needed. We need nine actors. The play is written for seven males and two females, however, three or four roles could be played by any gender. Actors should be 18 years and older.

Parts open for audition are: Professor Al Ucard, a notorious night owl; Penfield, the professor’s assistant; Mina Parke, a florist who has caught the professor’s eye; Harry Talbot, who suffers from selenophobia, an irrational fear of the moon; Doctor Proctor, town skeptic, here to debunk any paranormal

claim; Perry “Cowboy” Pokis, who was actually born in Passaic, N.J., but dresses like an Old West gunslinger; Esme Deamon, who prefers to dress all in black, and believes she can cast “the evil eye” on her enemies; Jack O. Landrum, head of the local ghost-hunting group; and Leonard Skully, private eye.

The readthrough will be held Oct. 2, from 6:30-8 p.m.

The rehearsal schedule is Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, from Oct. 5-23, with a Friday, Oct. 25, dress rehearsal.

Myra Flynn on the Bandwagon Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – The Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series presents Vermont native indie/soul singer-songwriter Myra Flynn, on Saturday, Aug. 17, at 6 p.m., at Cooper Field, 41 Sand Hill Road in Putney, Vt.

Flynn spends her career embracing dichotomy. Half Irish and half African-American, her original indie/soul songs blend soulful vocals with a lyrical delivery that doesn’t let one get too comfortable. As New England Deli Magazine puts it, “Her vocal influences have as much in common with Ani DiFranco and Shawn Colvin as they do with Rihanna and Jill Scott.”

“We love being able to present Vermont-based artists, and Myra has been on her way to building a national name for herself. As a regular at the Flynn’s Jazz Festival, Myra’s name is getting around for anyone interested in soul, funk, R&B, and beyond,” says Keith

Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts. “Myra’s range as an artist is a model for how Vermont artists can tackle a national stage. Her presence as part of the series is an opportunity to ensure that southern Vermont knows the power and presence of Myra Flynn.”

Flynn spent her Vermont childhood clad in leopard print and platform shoes, singing and dancing atop anything that looked remotely like a stage. These days, not much has changed. She has since shared stages with Ivan Neville (Dumpstaphunk), Mike Gordon (Phish), Gabrielle Gordon (Natalie Merchant), Sonya Kitchell, Rayvon, Res, Alexa Ray Joel, Slick Rick, Anais Mitchell, and Lee “Scratch” Perry.

Myra’s latest album, “Shadow Work,” was released in the summer of 2023. Margaret Grayson of 7days describes “Shadow Work” as “...five songs

deeply concerned with relationships of all kinds. Flynn, who splits her time between Vermont and Los Angeles, sings of mothers and daughters, romantic relationships gone wrong, and the people who get us through the hardest times. She considers big questions about how a person ought to be in the world, but she conducts her case studies on the most intimate of stages. In certain moments, she questions herself, wondering if she’s doing enough for the people she loves; other times, she offers full-throated declarations of her own worth in the world. The same song can hold both sentiments, and Flynn’s ability to capture complicated, conflicting emotions in her lyrics swept me away.”

Tickets are discounted in advance at www.nextstagearts.org; kids under 12 are free. For more information, visit the website or call 802-387-0102.

Support for the Bandwagon Summer Series is provided by M&T Bank, Lawson’s Finest Liquids, Oak Meadow, The Porch Cafe & Catering, Brattleboro Reformer, The Commons, and We Clean Heat Pumps.

Grant Peeples and Fred Gillen Jr. at Stage 33

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Grant Peeples is darkly hilarious and dead serious, often at the same time. Fred Gillen Jr. is a globetrotting, truth-telling troubadour. Each takes a different path to the same destination.

Grant tours coast to coast and is a regular performer at The Woody Guthrie Folk Festival, the 30A Songwriters Festival, and The Florida Folk Festival. He’s the recipient of the Focus Foundation Award for Creative Excellence, which cited the “humor, compassion, and wisdom of his songs,” and their “unflinching social insight and cultural acuity.” He’s credited with 11 studio albums. He’s published three books of poetry.

Tallahassee born and raised, life started mostly simple, and then got increasingly complicated. He started writing songs. He moved to Nashville. He left Nashville a year later. He got himself a

nightclub and booked everyone from BB King to the Judds, The Temptations to George Strait, Jerry Lee Lewis to Dionne Warwick, Bonnie Raitt to Jerry Jeff Walker. He went broke in the nightclub business. He moved to a remote island in the Caribbean off the Miskito Coast of Nicaragua, and stayed there for more than a decade before getting the itch back. He got a \$100 guitar, and he’s been playing every day and writing songs ever since. A self-described “tree-hugger that watches NASCAR,” Grant is known for his axe-sharp socio-political tunes, raucous humor, and heart-gripping ballads that keep an ever-critical eye on American culture and identity.

Fred Gillen Jr. has released 11 acclaimed full-length albums, and has performed all over the U.S. and Europe. His live performances are spontaneous and full of storytelling, and he enjoys audience participation. His songs have been featured on ABC’s “All

My Children,” NPR’s “Car Talk,” and CMJ’s New Music Marathon Sampler. His version of Woody Guthrie’s “I Ain’t Got No Home” was featured on “Pete Remembers Woody,” a collection of Pete Seeger’s spoken stories about Woody Guthrie. Besides playing with his heroes like Seeger, he’s opened for such artists as Merle Haggard, Todd Rundgren, and the David Bromberg Big Band. His songs incorporate elements of a huge swath of folk, rock, roots, and Americana music, and though he covers a wide variety of lyric topics, his overarching message is simple: “we’re all in this together.”

Grant Peeples and Fred Gillen Jr. will perform at Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge Street in Bellows Falls, Vt., on Aug. 18, at 6 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance through www.stage33live.com, or at the door. Only 40 tickets will be sold; advance tickets guarantee entry. The event will be recorded and filmed.

Blue Flames concert and community picnic

WESTON, Vt. – On Saturday, Aug. 24, from 4-6 p.m., everyone is invited to come to Weston’s Town Green for a special Blue Flames Steel Band Concert, to benefit the Weston Community Association. The rain date is Sunday, Aug. 25.

Bring a picnic, family, and friends, and come listen to some wonderful music by the enchanting Blue Flames Steel Drum Band, who, for the 15th year, are donating their talent, good will, and support, this year to benefit the restoration of our beloved Playhouse and museums, still recovering from last year’s floods.

One-hundred-thirty-eight years ago, nine



Blue Flames.

PHOTO BY PAUL MYERS

pioneer women turned a smelly frog pond and muddy swamp into what is now called the most beautiful Town Green in Vermont. The “Ladies of the Green,”

in the spirit of their ancestors, welcome all to join in sharing their spirit of community, and help provide some assistance to our neighbors in need.

Soles of Duende on the Bandwagon Summer Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – The Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series presents dance trio Soles of Duende on Saturday, Aug. 24, at 6 p.m., at the Pun-

tey Inn, 57 Puntey Landing Road.

Bonded by their deep love of music, their crafts, and their true connection, Soles of Duende is on a lifelong mission to elevate the joy and music of true collaboration across disciplines, and the celebration of the forms they practice. Based in the sounds of tap, flamenco, and Kathak, Soles of Duende’s

fire is the spirit that lives within each of these women to celebrate their connection given their beautiful differences, and to uplift the forms that made them.

“Live music meets dance from three different ethnic traditions sounds like a perfect way of exploring culture while seeing virtuosic talent,” says Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts. “This group has been getting a lot of attention in New York, and while they’re on the rise, we wanted to bring them to southern Vermont. There is so much about Soles of Duende that deserves attention – talent, merging of dance and live music, and the fact that these women are exploring connections of culture through dance is worth noting.”

Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.nextstagearts.org, and kids under 12 are free. For more information, visit the website or call 802-387-0102.

Thursday - Locals Night
Friday - Singo at 7pm
Saturday 8/17 - CLOSED
for a Private Wedding
Sunday - Lunch and Dinner
Full menu and specials on our Facebook Page

BLACK LINE TAVERN

Thursday 4-9pm
 Friday 4-10pm
 Saturday 11am-10pm
 Sunday 11am-7pm

magicmntn.com 495 Magic Mountain Access Rd, Londonderry

Little Mexico

Taco Tuesday
 Half Price Tacos

Nacho Typical Wednesday
 \$10 Nachos with pepper jack and cheddar, lettuce, tomato, sour cream, salsa, and guacamole
 \$9 House Margaritas

Buy One / Get One
 Buy any entree or classic and get a second half off
with Live Music
 Sammy Blanchette in the lounge
 Monday, August 19, 5-8pm

All Specials Dine-In Only

Variety of New Menu Items
Now Open for Lunch @ 11:30!
 802-300-7007 ~ 57 Pond St – Ludlow, VT

JOHNNY'S Kitchen

126 Main Street | Ludlow, VT
 802-228-2400 | JohnnysKitchenVT@gmail.com

LOCAL BLUEBERRIES
 ~ OUR OWN ~
CUCUMBERS
CORN
SUMMER SQUASH
ZUCCHINI
TOMATOES

PETES STAND LOCAL PRODUCE

Open Daily 9-6

Route 12
Walpole, NH

Like us on Facebook

THE NEW AMERICAN GRILL
 LONDONDERRY, VERMONT

Large Variety of Menu Items!

AFS WEALTH MANAGEMENT

FINANCIAL PLANNING • INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT • TAX STRATEGIES

Hudsen W Hagland, CFP®
 Investment Advisor

www.afswm.com
 802-875-8100

arts & entertainment

DiTrani Brothers on Tavern Lawn

PUTNEY, Vt. – Twilight Music concludes its 21st Twilight on the Tavern Lawn series of bluegrass, folk, rock, world beat, jazz, pop, and zydeco summer concerts on Sunday, Aug. 18, with roots, ragtime, and jazz quartet DiTrani Brothers. The concert begins 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. Copresented with Next Stage Arts Project, the series is sponsored by the Town of Putney, 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.



DiTrani Brothers.

PHOTO PROVIDED

DiTrani Brothers, by way of bent melodies and driving rhythms, play perilous tunes for the hopeful, with elements of Balkan music

and early American jazz and swing. They deliver both wistful and raucous performances at venues ranging from The House of Blues in New Orleans to DIY backyard stages. Originally from North Bend, Wash., brothers Bobby and Walker DiTrani began writing songs together while traveling across the country, playing music on the streets. Since then, they've recorded two albums, and toured throughout the U.S. with drummer Eddie Gaudet. Now a quar-

ter with acoustic bassist Benjamin Richards, they recently released their third album, "Dust Harvest."

Saxtons River Sunday concert series

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Music comes to the Saxtons River Park in a series of free, outdoor, late-summer Sunday concerts.

On Aug. 18, at 4 p.m., The MoonDogs will perform a "quirky blend of folk, blues, and gypsy jazz," with original tunes by group founder and guitarist Dante Corsano, Charlie Laurel on bass, Dave Sullivan on violin, and Drew Kovach on washboard. The rain date is Aug. 25.

The MoonDogs can be heard busking on Main Street in Brattleboro on Saturdays, and

during the monthly Gallery Walk.

The concert on Sept. 15, at 4 p.m., features Swing Low, who describe their style as "jazz standards and pop classics with mesmerizing vocals and swinging grooves." The four-member group includes Nick Scalero on saxophone, Ashok on bass, Maryann McArdle on keyboard, and vocalist Ajlan Beer. The rain date is Sept. 22.

Swing Low performs regularly in venues around the southern Vermont area.

The series rounds out Sept. 29, at 3 p.m., with the Main Street Arts String

Band under the direction of Jill Newton, offering traditional French Canadian, Celtic, Scandinavian, and American fiddle tunes. In case of rain, the concert will move across the street to Main Street Arts.

The String Band meets at MSA every Wednesday, from 5-6:30 p.m., and welcomes players to sit in on their sessions.

The Saxtons River Park Committee is sponsoring the series, which is open to all.

Notice of cancellation and rescheduling will be posted on the Saxtons River and Saxtons River Park Facebook pages.

"Finding Hope Within" art exhibit at Rockingham Library

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – "Finding Hope Within" is the theme of a collective art exhibit on display at the Rockingham Library until the end of September. All of the featured artists are women currently incarcerated in Vermont's Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility.

Born out of frustration during a Covid lockdown at the prison, Heather Newcomb of Vermont Works for Women, which is based at the facility, decided to offer a challenge to the prisoners: create an artwork that expresses "finding hope within." What started as a small seed of an idea grew into a full art exhibit, including collage, poetry, drawing, and fiber art. This exhibit is now touring through Vermont, primarily displayed in public libraries.

Per the facility's regulations, art materials were limited. Artists could only sign their initials to their art, and their artwork cannot be returned to them after being publicly exhibited.

Cocurators of the exhibit are Heather Newcomb of Vermont Works for Women and John Vincent of A Revolutionary Press. Vermont Works for Women helps women transition out of Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility into gainful employment and develop the necessary skills to live independently and to connect to the community. A Revolutionary Press, located in Middlebury, Vt., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit

printing press which aims to spread radical and revolutionary ideas. A lot of what the press is currently doing is focused on issues of incarceration.

On Sept. 28, Rockingham Library will host a discussion circle exploring the realities of life while incarcerated, the challenges of re-entering society afterwards, and the meaningfulness of creating art during these life adjustments.

The art exhibit and the discussion are both free and open to the public. For more information, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, call 802-463-4270, or stop by the Rockingham Library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt.



"What Healing Means to Me."

PHOTO PROVIDED

The Brass Connection returns to SOTH

WESTON, Vt. – The Sundays on the Hill (SOTH) Concert Series Committee is so excited to have the Brass Connection return to perform in the Old Parish Church, on Route 100 in Weston, Vt., on Aug. 25, at 4 p.m. This brass quintet will take the audience on a musical odyssey.

Formed in 2000, the Brass Connection is an exciting group whose members collectively have over 100 years of musical experience entertaining audiences at the world's concert halls, churches, music festi-



The Brass Connection.

PHOTO PROVIDED

vals, bandstands, and gazebos from Austria to Mexico, and from Florida to Maine. They appeal to a wide audience and have performed over 300 concerts, includ-

ing an appearance on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered." The members have performed with groups ranging from the Boston Symphony Or-

chestra and Boston Pops, to the Ice Capades. They perform many styles of music, including classical, ragtime, Dixieland, blues, patriotic, swing, Broadway show selections, and the Tijuana brass.

The concert on Aug. 25 will be a pops-style eclectic program drawing from some of these genres. Admission is still very reasonable for adults. Children 12 and under may attend at no charge. The doors open around 3:30 p.m., and there are no reserved seats, no advance tickets, and admission is paid at the door. For more information, visit www.sundaysonthehill.org.

At Brattleboro Hearing Center your hearing healthcare is our top priority.

Our Doctors of Audiology keep up with the latest technology and our research-driven practices provide the best possible outcomes in the treatment of hearing loss. We're proud to offer personalized, patient-centered care.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Brattleboro, VT • 802-254-3922
Swansey, NH • 603-354-3325
Greenfield, MA • 413-773-5119

www.BrattleboroHearing.com



GET YOUR COPY TODAY

\$30 Available at Lisai's Bellow Falls Stone House Antiques Center Framery of Vermont

Call Ron to Arrange Shipping or Pickup 802-374-0119

The Killarney an Irish Pub

44 Pond Street • Ludlow, VT
www.killameyludlow.com
802-228-7797
Pub open at 3pm • Dinner at 5pm

DOWN TO THE ROOTS Vermont's Destination Dispensary

Vermont's Destination Dispensary Local Craft Grown THC & CBD Products • Friendly Knowledgeable Staff • Quintessential VT Barn

Discounts for All 21+:
Everyday 4:20 – 5:20pm Happy Hour Discounts
M-F Discounts • Details on our Website

Additional Discounts:
VT/NH Residents • Seniors • Veterans
State Medical Card Holders

Labor Day Event, Mon, Sept 2, 12-3pm:
FREE Grilled Burgers, Hotdogs & Vegan Sausages
Lawn Games & Smores @ the Firepit

1st Anniversary & Customer Appreciation Day:
Fri, Sept. 13, 11am – 7pm
FREE Food! Discounts! Details on our Website!

7 Pineview Dr, Chester • 802-374-0095 • DownToTheRootsVT.com

Cannabis has not been analyzed or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). For use by individuals 21 years of age and older or registered qualifying patient only. KEEP THIS PRODUCT AWAY FROM CHILDREN AND PETS. DO NOT USE IF PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING. Possession or use of cannabis may carry significant legal penalties in some jurisdictions and under federal law. It may not be transported outside of the state of Vermont. The effects of edible cannabis may be delayed by two hours or more. Cannabis may be habit forming and can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. Persons 25 years and younger may be more likely to experience harm to the developing brain. It is against the law to drive or operate machinery when under the influence of this product. National Poison Control Center (800) 222-1222.

WE ARE YOUR LOCAL PAPER!
WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

WW Building Supply

Big projects or small improvements, we're ready to help!

Send us a project question! We have the knowledge and customer service you want. We provide the right solutions and we're building relationships within our community.

55 YEARS STRONG 1969 - 2024

Proud To Be Local Est. 1969

Ready to meet with us? Reach out to Phil today!

Text or Call (802)-289-9787
phil@wwbuilding.com

wwbuilding.com
hello@wwbuilding.com

health & community

Ludlow Dental Center moving to Chester

LUDLOW, Vt. – Ludlow Dental Center announces its relocation to Chester, Vt., combining services with Chester Dental. This transition follows a successful trial period that forced Ludlow Dental Center to close after the devastating flooding in July 2023. Effective Sept. 3, all patients of Ludlow Dental Center will be seen at Chester Dental Center, located at 55 Route 11 West.

The trial period of combined operations from June-November 2023 demonstrated that merging services allows for streamlined operations, cost savings, and improved delivery of dental care. The organization wants to underscore that it will maintain the same capacity to serve dental patients, ensuring that appointment availability and services will not be reduced.

As the region grapples with the effects and uncertainty of extreme weather, moving dental operations to Chester protects from future flood risks. The past two years have shown that historic flooding is becoming more frequent, a reality we must all face. The relocation mitigates some risk from the effects of flooding, and is a more central location within North Star Health's service area.

Patients can be assured that they will still see all the familiar faces at the new location. Dr. Michael Foster, DDS; Debra Yurek, dental hygienist; and Siobhan Nadler, dental hygienist, will continue to share smiles and provide the exceptional care patients have come to expect. "We are optimistic about relocating to Chester and uniting the North Star dental team under one roof.

This move consolidates duplicative operational costs, which will allow us to explore service offering expansion at Chester Dental," said Barbara Hodgkins, RDH, director of dental services. "Our dedicated team remains committed to our patients' health and wellness." Joshua Dufresne, CEO, acknowledged, "We understand that patients who are used to visiting our Ludlow

location may need some assistance to adjust to this change. Our community health team is ready to support you if you need access to transportation or other services to make this transition as seamless as possible." Questions about the move or scheduling appointments at the new Chester Dental Center can be directed to 802-875-2878.

Grace Cottage wins awards in all categories

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Grace Cottage was a big winner in this year's Brattleboro Reformer Readers' Choice Awards poll. The winners were announced by the Reformer on Saturday, Aug. 3.

Grace Cottage won in every category for which it was eligible, including Best Hospital, Best Pharmacy, Best Place to Work, Best Physical Therapy, Best Emergency Care, Best Doctors (Dr. Ewa Arnold, runner-up Dr. Moss Linder), and Best Pediatricians (Cynthia Howes, CPNP, runner-up Dr. Elizabeth Linder).

Commenting on these awards, Grace Cottage CEO Olivia Sweetnam said,

"I have worked in many hospitals and other organizations throughout my career, but I have never experienced an organization as unique and with employees as caring as at Grace Cottage. I am constantly impressed and amazed by the fact that everyone at Grace

Cottage goes the extra mile to help patients, coworkers, and community members. There really is no place like it." Grace Cottage has consistently won awards in this contest over the years. This is the eighth year in a row that Grace Cottage has won

Best Place to Work and Best Physical Therapy, and the sixth year in a row for Best Hospital, Best Emergency Care, Best Doctor, and Best Pharmacy. For more information about Grace Cottage, visit www.gracecottage.org, or call 802-365-9109.



2 Imtec Lane, Bellows Falls, VT 05101 • (800) 843-2600 • www.sonnax.com

A Marmon | Berkshire Hathaway Company

Now **Bellows Falls, Vt.**

Hiring



Warehouse Workers

Packaging Workers

Machine Operators

CNC Operators





Sonnax Transmission Company is an industry leader in the cutting edge design, manufacture and distribution of the highest quality products to the automotive aftermarket, commercial vehicle industries, and industrial sectors utilizing drivetrain technology.

Join an exciting front-line team focused on developing and delivering the best products in the automotive industry, a team whose imagination, hard work and results are rewarded. Benefits include:

- Medical/dental/vision insurance
- Group life/supplemental insurance
- 401(k) retirement savings plan with company matching
- Paid holidays/vacation/personal days
- Employee assistance & discount programs
- Tuition reimbursement...and more!

Join Our Team

View Current Openings & Apply Today!

www.sonnax.com/careers

Scan code to visit website.



Mountain Valley Health Council Board message

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – For 46 years, the Mountain Valley Health Council Board of Directors has focused its efforts on first building, then operating, the Mountain Valley Health Center in Londonderry. In 2014, the board recognized that small, independent rural health centers were no longer a financially viable, sustainable model. A realignment took place when operations of the Mountain Valley Health Center were turned over to what is now North Star Health.

Over the past 10 years, the board has continued to raise funds to support Mountain Valley Health Center by providing the facility essentially rent-free to North Star Health, covering the cost of maintaining the grounds and building, and supporting some staff costs. North Star has added new staff and services to the health center to serve the increasing vol-

ume of patients. Modifications to the facility that accommodated this increase in patient volume were paid for by the council. As both organizations move forward navigating the complexities of the current nonprofit health care system, the council board has made a strategic shift in its future direction, and will become purely a grantmaking organization. The council will use the reserve funds to support the Mountain Valley Health Center as needed, and leverage their fundraising expertise to bolster North Star's fundraising initiatives.

This change takes place as longtime Chair Michael Morfit steps down, and newly elected co-Chairs Skip Raymond and Barbara Ardel take over as of July 1. Said Morfit, "I leave knowing that we are in good hands with North Star Health. It is important that all of us who have supported the center

over the years continue that support for North Star. They have earned our trust."

As the board moves forward, Denis Pinkernell is retiring from the board, having served on it since 2010. Jim Wilbur, who re-joined the board in June of 2023, is taking on a new role, serving as a director on the North Star Health board representing the interests of the Mountain Towns area. Bill Sinsigalli, a resident of South Londonderry, who joined the Mountain Valley Health Council in January of 2024, will replace Jim as the new Treasurer. Bonny Johnson continues to serve as the council's secretary, with Elsie Smith and Esther Fishman continuing their invaluable service. All of these moves will ensure a smooth transition of board operations, and a responsive, caring, and financially viable health care system in place for our local residents.

Household Hazardous Waste Depot




Do you live in Andover, Athens, Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester, Grafton, Ludlow, Plymouth, Reading, Rockingham, Springfield, Weathersfield, West Windsor, or Windsor? Then you can bring your HHW to our Depot from now through September. Visit www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org to make an appointment and see the list of what we take.



Or call 802-674-9235. \$10/vehicle for up to 10 gallons of HHW.








Like saving money? Like saving energy?

Vermont customers have exclusive access to great rebates. Whether you want to get a new, efficient appliance, switch to a heat pump, or weatherize your home, **we've got you covered.**

Check out available rebates and choose which ones are best for you by calling (888) 921-5990 or use your phone's camera to scan the QR code below and **visit efficiencyvermont.com/vpps**



efficiencyvermont.com | (888) 921 5990