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Ludlow Fire Department to hold second Five Alarm 5K

BY BRIDGET CUNNINGHAM

The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. - This upcoming Labor Day weekend, the Ludlow Fire Department will be hosting the second annual Five Alarm 5K. Last year, 135 participants ran/walked in the 5K. The goal for the association is for this to become an annual event for Ludlow locals and those in neighboring communities, so the participation can continue to grow each coming year.

To preregister for the road race at a discounted rate, visit www.pinnaclestrive.com. Day-of registration begins on Saturday, Aug. 31, at 7:30 a.m.,

with the race starting at 9 a.m. With every registration, the participant will be given a T-shirt to wear during the race. The registration fee goes to the Ludlow Firefighters Association to aid the local volunteer fire department in maintaining the safety of our local communities. The money gained from this event will also help aid the department in the recruitment of firefighters, purchasing new and up-to-date safety equipment, as well as retaining the volunteers they currently have.

The Ludlow Firefighters Association is hosting this road race in place of the auction that has been put on in years past. The goal the department is hoping to reach for this year's race is 150 participants involved in the 5K. Each runner will be placed in an age category, where awards will be given in each category for different placements. The race will also be professionally timed, with each participant being given their respective time as they cross the finish line. Along with the monetary benefit towards the fire department, they would also like to promote a close sense of community through events such as these that allow families to spend the day outdoors together and engage with other members of the community who are participating.

Londonderry prioritizes RIVER project grant proposals

BY SHAWNTAE WEBB

The Vermont Journal

LONDONDERRY, Vt. -At the Aug. 5 meeting, the Londonderry Selectboard heard from two representatives of the Windham Regional Commission, Alyssa Sabetto and Meghan Arpino, to go over the town's initial project proposals to apply for the hazard mitigation grant through the Resilience Initiative for Vermont Empowerment and Recovery (RIVER) project.

The commission is looking at the feasibility and eligibility requirements, along with the urgency of each project. "What projects make a difference in terms of flood mitigation?" Sabetto posed to the board. Eligible project examples include floodplain restoration or dam removal, upsizing bridges and culverts, floodproofing of municipal or commercial buildings, structural elevations, road relocation or elevation, and buyouts.

Sabetto reported that at this time they are gathering information in order to create conceptual designs for the projects that the town wants to move forward with. The RIVER project will only award a few projects per town. She also confirmed the funds would be distributed throughout the state, so they would likely be in competition with other towns for grant funding.

Town administrator Shane O'Keefe suggested the board sit down with FEMA to see what would be approved by them for funding or partial funding. Arpino cautioned that projects that had already been started, completed,

or approved for funding by another federal agency, would not be considered by the RIVER project for grant

Board member Martha Dale expressed that the there are 11 properties proposed list of projects seemed "granular" compared to what needed to be done after the flooding last year. Sabetto agreed, adding that grouping items into one larger project might help make their project more competitive for approval rather than "one culvert here and there."

Board chair Tom Cavanagh urged the importance of getting Cobble Ridge Road Bridge replaced, though FEMA had already denied that project. Sabetto expressed they may continue to "see that repetition" of denial from other organizations. Cavanagh pressed that in the event of an emergency, the only way they would have been able to access those properties would be by helicopter, saying, "The fact that no one realizes this [importance] is a joke to me." An alternate access would be the second option for this project, to get access for life-saving emergency responders. "That's people's lives," Cavanagh said.

The board also discussed how FEMA won't pay for construction of a new fire department building. Arpino suggested they use the commission's resources to get that project off the ground, though they may not be able to complete it. Cavanagh said he'd rather use the grant funding for more urgent projects, since the town already has land for the building.

It was suggested to elevate

the entire strip of Main Street, referring to the Town Plan analysis performed by Stevens & Associates. Resident Chad Stoddard noted that along Main Street, and the buyout would cost \$7.1 million. The Town Plan document that the commission was using as a reference for projects has since been removed from the town's website. "The document needs to be put to bed," stated Stoddard. Cavanagh confirmed the document was on the site for two years before it was taken down, adding, "I think everyone had a chance to see how ridiculous it

After more deliberation, the board agreed to prioritize their top three projects, respectively, in the order of culvert replacements, Cobble Ridge Road Bridge replacement or alternate access, and North Village floodplain.

The board moved to discuss interviews for the planning commission applicants. They voted to reduce the size of the planning commission to five members, and if they determine they need to add more seats, they will use the recommendations from the newly appointed members. Dale suggested screening for backup options or replacements if necessary.

The interviews took place on Wednesday evening, Aug. 14.

The Londonderry Selectboard meets on the first and third Mondays of each month, at 6 p.m.

Music in the Meadow—

CHESTER, Vt. - The 20th Music in the Meadow fundraising concert to benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation will be held on Saturday, Sept. 7, from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., at the Motel in the Meadow, Route 11 West, Chester, Vt.

This year's amazing entertainment is performed by local musicians who donate their time and talent. This year's lineup is James Joel, Better Days Band, John Sullivan, The Illusion, Bear Mountain Boys, Mark Shelton, and Intercept.

Back for 2024 will be the very popular silent auction, with donations from many local businesses and residents. Hot food and cold drinks will be available to purchase, as well as T's Boba Tea Pop Up Shop with her custom-made refreshing beverages. This year we are planning to have a cornhole tournament, family games area to keep your kids busy with our skee ball station,



Music in the Meadow 2023.

PHOTO PROVIDED

frisbee golf, and several other games. Raffle tickets will also be on sale for the grand prize queen quilt, hand made by Sue Ashe and Sue's Quilt Studio, with additional items on the day of the concert. The drawing will be at the end of the concert, Sept. 7, at approximately 7 p.m.

The past 19 concerts have raised over \$115,000 in support of Komen's mission to "save lives by meeting the most critical needs in our communities and investing in breakthrough re-

search to prevent and cure breast cancer." All proceeds collected go to the 2024 Komen Vermont More Than Pink Walk, which will be held in Manchester, Vt., on Oct. 5.

Bring a blanket or your lawn chair, or join us under the tents in the meadow for a great day. Hope to see you there.

For more information, feel free to contact us at Motel in the Meadow, 802-875-2626, or find us on Facebook at Music in the

Chester Selectboard talks Julian Quarry violation enforcement

BY NICK GIBERTI

The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. - On Aug. 7, the Chester Selectboard held their regularly scheduled meeting in the Chester Town Hall. Chief among their concerns for the evening was the enforcement of two structure violations against Julian Materials LLC, who operate a quarry near Gassetts commonly known as the "Julian Quarry."

Before the discussion of the quarry, however, the board met in their capacity as water and wastewater commissioners, to increase water and sewer rates. Town manager Iulie Hance noted that Chester has not increased rates in several years, and was therefore "playing catch-up" with the current increases. The board approved a water base rate increase of \$3, and a water consumption rate increase of \$0.25. There was no increase to the wastewater consumption rates at this time.

Moving on to the discussion of the Julian Quarry, planning and administrator Preston Bristow briefed the board on two structure violations, and sought permission to proceed with enforcement action against Julian Materials. The structures in question were described by Bristow as "a house that is partly in floodplain,"

Julian had agreed as part of a notice of violation appeal several months ago to remediate these violations, but had yet to do so. Because taxpayer money would inevitably need to be spent to enforce these provisions, Bristow needed to come before the board and seek approval to proceed with legal enforcement of the violations.

The board was generally in agreement that enforcement was needed, and gave Bristow approval to proceed. Hance noted that, if possible, town attorney Jim Carroll will seek to recover his legal fees as part of any case against Julian, though she was not certain that this was possible in environmental court, where the Julian case will be heard.

While the quarries have been the subject of ongoing concern from residents over noise and pollution, some of which is allegedly in violation of their use permits, Bristow explained to the board that "structure violations are much clearer to enforce than use violations." Hance also noted that Carroll felt the other violations not relating to the structures were less legally clear-cut, and riskier to attempt to enforce in terms of their probability of success in court.

Mike Leclair, a resident of Gassetts who said he has been dealing with the quarry situation for several years, rose to address the board, unsatisfied that

and "a shed...that doesn't they were only enforcing meet setbacks." Bristow ex- certain provisions of the plained to the board that previous agreement, and not its entirety. He claimed that Julian was still trucking materials between their two quarry properties, as well as operating the quarry after 5 p.m., both of which he said are also violations of the previous notice of violation settlement. "We can't afford to give them one inch, because they take a mile," Leclair emphasized to the board.

> Board Chair Arne Jonynas sympathized with Leclair, and expressed frustration with the fact that, while Julian can act with "total disregard for the law," the selectboard must follow all laws and procedures necessary to avoid "compound[ing] and making things worse."

Finally, Hance reviewed the town's quarterly financial reports, during which time she noted that, of about \$2.5 million in floodrelated expenses stemming from the July 2023 flood, Chester had received only \$400,000 in reimbursement. She conceded that this is a statewide issue, though she was confident that Chester would eventually see the full amount it was owed. "It will get reimbursed, it's just that [FEMA's] timing is less than desirable," Hance told

Opting to skip their second meeting of the month unless an urgent issue arises, the Chester Selectboard's next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 4, at 6:30 p.m., at the Chester Town Hall.

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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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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 no DVDs or CDs, etc. will review donations before accepting them. Acceptable items include all genres of fiction except paperback romances. Nonfiction 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 -

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 understand-

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, not being used. bigger and better with the addition of raffle prizes and even more merchan-

"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

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

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appreciation for the support of our

wonderful community.

months. These include collaboration with Westminster Cares to bring reading materials to those in the Meals-on-Wheels gram; 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 ac-

cess 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 provided. Community 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.



Window Dressers preparing inserts.



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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

"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. 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 Tav-

"Today the Fillebrown

histories at

Rockingham

FALLS,

Finding family

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

"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

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 com-

"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."

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Londonderry, VT

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 the exploration the "I now" and the "I then."

There m o s t

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 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 emeritus 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

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.



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BELLOWS Vt. - Wayne Blanchard

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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

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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.





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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

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

Your Home Loan Lender of Choice

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 debt-to-inyour come 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

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 out-

to do your homework of look for the borrower.

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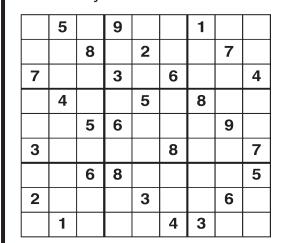
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www.OkemoValley.com and www.KelleyRealEstate.com



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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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nerware

9 Tabasco, for

10 Last (Abbr.)

"Gloria in

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50 Scott Turow

for short

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55 Lairs 36 Grove units **DOWN**

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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 Preedom, 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 singalong.

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 Mu-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 "overarousal" 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 danger-

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 overgreeter 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 longlasting 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 overgreeting, and is also getting rewarded for calm behav-

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.

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 sepcific 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 Northhampton Commercial College in Northhampton, Mass., and became employed by the Aetna Life Insurance Company in Hartford, Conn. It was there when she met at a dance her husband-tobe, 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.

ATHENS, VT.

Community Christian Church of Athens, 126 **Brookline Road**

Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., and prayer meetings are held Wednesdays, at 7 p.m. If you have questions, call 802-869-2513. The 9:30 a.m. Sunday service is also streamed on Facebook Live at the Church's Facebook page.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

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

Living Hope Assembly of God, 582 Rockingham Rd. Pastor Brenda Farkas welcomes all to Sunday worship at 10 a.m., the message at 10:30 a.m. with Children's Church for ages 3-7, and fellowship. Live streaming available at 10:30 a.m. at Living Hope Fellowship Facebook page, and Living Hope Fellowship Youtube. Services can also be found at www.sapatv.org and www. fact8tv.com.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

Charlestown Seventh-day Adventist Church, 242 Main St.

Saturday Services include Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. and Worship Service at 11:15 a.m. and a healthy lunch for all after the service. All are welcome, call 603-276-2383 for more information.

CHESTER, VT.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 313 Main St.

Services are on Wednesdays at 5:30-6 p.m. and on Sundays at 10 a.m., both in person and by Zoom, followed by coffee hour. All are welcome. Handicapped accessible. For a link to the Zoom service or more information about services and events, please visit www. stlukesepiscopalvt.org.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

Second Congregational Church of Londonderry, 2051 N. Main St.

Worship service is at 9:30 a.m. in person or online. Fill out a form at www.2ndcongregationalchurchvt.org to be sent a link to the live stream.

LUDLOW, VT.

Annunciation Catholic Church, Corner of Depot and 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 services and meetings.

Tyson Community Church, Corner of Rt. 100 and Dublin Rd., opposite Echo Lake Inn.

Services are Sundays at 10:30 a.m. No service last Sunday of the month. Email terry.bascom@pm.me or call 802-228-2480.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 90 Park St.

Sunday Liturgy is 9:30 a.m. and Saturday vespers at 5 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-2615 or Parish Council President Thomas Barton at 802-263-5719.

Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Rd. Sunday Services are at 10 a.m., in person and on Zoom. For more information, go to www.uuspringfieldvt.org.

Springfield Assembly of God, 269 River St.

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

Springfield United Methodist Church, 10 Valley St. Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. Springfield United Methodist Church welcomes everyone! The church

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

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

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 longstanding member of the Bartonsville 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.

First Congregational Church of Walpole UCC, 15

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, or via

Zoom. For Zoom links, please call 603-756-4075. For

facebook.com/FirstCongregationalWalpoleNH.

Sunday Service begins at 10 a.m. Services are also

available via Zoom. For links and updates, go to www.

First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 US

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in our historic church

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 westminstercongoline@

gmail.com, or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.

com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Westminster-

and on Zoom. We have a children's message each

more information, go to www.walpolenhucc.org or www.

Walpole Unitarian Church, corner of Union and Main

WALPOLE, N.H.

walpoleunitarianchurch.org.

Inc-1506511432980057.

Route 5

WESTMINSTER, VT.

Washington Sq.



Irene Schaefer, 1929-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

returned to work as a paraprofessional at Cherry Hill School in Bellows Falls, Vt., as well as Dover Elementary School.

An avid and talented painter, woodworker, and quilter, she would enter her crafts at the Vermont State Fair in Rutland, Vt., and always came home with a ribbon. These passions she shared with several generations of her family. She was still actively quilting and painting up until late July.

Irene was an outstanding person that never judged, and would forgive quickly. She gave freely so much of her time, always helping others that needed her. An amazing woman that taught so much to so many over the years, she will be fondly remembered by many and greatly missed by her family and friends.

She is survived by her sister Loretta Parent; her children Louise Wright, stepdaughter, Judy Gonthier, stepdaughter, Debora Rosewolf, Julie Buffum (Earl), Fred Bussino (Jackie Spinelli), Melinda Bussino, and William Bussino (Katie Benson); and multiple generations of grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

She was predeceased her parents, husband Charles Dolloph, ex-husband Fred Bussino, husband Russell Schaefer, son George Dolloph, daughter Norma Nichols, granddaughter Gabby Dolloph, and stepson Fred Marshey.

Calling hours will be held on Aug. 31, from 12-1 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt., followed by a memorial service at 1 p.m.

There will be a gathering after the service held at the Bellows Falls Moose Club.

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. 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

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 ank 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.

derful wife, stepmother, grandmother, aunt.

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

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.

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DAN

calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

AUG. 16 -

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – The Vermont State Society National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, working in conjunction with the State of Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the 250th Anniversary Commission, is pleased to announce the dedication of the NSDAR America 250 Patriot Marker. This marker recognizes the dedication and sacrifice that American Patriots gave in pursuit of freedom and selfgovernance. The dedication and unveiling will be at the Bennington Monument State Historic Site on Friday, Aug. 16, at 10 a.m.

W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – On Friday, Aug. 16, from 5-7 p.m., The Buzzards will be performing 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.

AUG. 17 -

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Okemo Valley Women's Club will hold their annual fundraising yard and bake sale on Saturday, Aug. 17, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The sale will be held on the lawn in front of the Okemo Mountain School, at 53 Main Street, Ludlow.

MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. – The Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department is holding a ham supper at the Odd Fellows Hall in Belmont on Saturday, Aug. 17. The meal starts at 5 p.m., and

Rd., Plymouth, Vermont to consider:

Applicant: Bryan Cole

Location: 2389 Kingdom RD.

Application Number: 2024-15

offers an eat-in or takeout option, with takeout available at 4:45 p.m. The cost is discounted for those under 12 years old. Children under 5 are free. Please call 802-259-2460.

NORWICH, Vt. - The Montshire Sensory Friendly Hour, on Aug. 17, from 9-10 a.m., is a time for families to enjoy a lesscrowded visit, and may be appealing to individuals who have sensory processing differences. Admission is free. There will be reduced lights and sounds from select exhibits, a quiet respite space, sensory kits to borrow with noise-cancelling headphones and other supplies, and a sensory map. Preregistration is appreciated, but not required. To register, visit mms.formstack.com/forms/ sensory_friendly_visit.

AUG. 20 -

W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – On Tuesday, Aug. 20, from 5-7 p.m., Bob Ray and Friends will be performing 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.

AUG. 22 –
LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Second Congregational Church in Londonderry, Vt., 2051 North Main Street (Vermont Route 11), is thrilled to announce the third community lunch of 2024, on Thursday,

Aug.22, at 12 p.m. Chef

TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING

BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION

AND ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

A public hearing before the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Town of

Plymouth will be held on Tuesday, Sept 3, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. in the Municipal Building, 68 Town Office

Type of Application: Conditional Use application to build a 20 x 24 garage within the Shoreland Overlay

Patty Pettit will be preparing a sumptuous feast for all. Our servers will cater to your every need. All are welcome. A freewill offering will be gathered. No takeout available. For more information, call the church office at 802-824-6453.

AUG. 23 -

W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. –
On Friday, Aug. 23,
from 5-7 p.m., Two Bit,
Two Man, Froggy Went
a Courtin' Orchestra will
be performing 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.

AUG. 24 -

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. –
Sound Investment will be performing classic rock and modern country music at VFW Post 771, 191
River Street, at 7:30 p.m.
This performance is open to the public. For more information, call 802-885-6008.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - On Saturday, Aug. 24, Crown Point Road Association (CPRA) will be hosting a driving tour to view Markers 1-8, all located in Springfield, Vt. Meet at the parking lot at The Fort at No. 4 in Charlestown, N.H., at 10 a.m. Join CPRA members and local historians to hear about the beginnings of the 1759 military road. The driving tour will be approximately two hours long, with an optional hike to Marker 3 adding an

hour. Barry Griffith (802-492-3573) and Lonnie Lisai (lonnielisai@gmail.com) will be hosting this event.

W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – On Saturday, Aug. 24, from 5-7 p.m., The Buzzards will be performing at the West Townshend Country Store's taco night. The store is located at 6573 Route 30 in West Townshend. For more information, email info@westtownshend.org or call 802-874-4800.

AUG. 24-25 -

LUDLOW, Vt. - The Best of Vermont Summer Festival will be held Saturday, Aug. 24, from 12-7 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 25, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., at Okemo Field on Route 103 in Ludlow. The Best of Vermont Summer Festival is everything you love about summer in Vermont - live music, antique tractors, clowning around at the Kids Zone, and lots of fun. There will also be specialty food items, local brews and spirits, wine tastings, barbecue, ice cream, Vermont cheese, maple, handcrafted artisan crafts, fine art, and more. For more information, visit www.yourplaceinvermont. com/best-of-vermontsummer-festival.

AUG. 26 -

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street in Ludlow, Vt., will serve lunch on Monday, Aug. 26, at 12 p.m. The menu will be pizza, tossed salad, and brownie a la mode. Free cash bingo will follow. Please make reservations by calling 802-228-7421.

SUNDAYS -

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. –
Bellows Falls Loyal Order
of Moose will be hosting
a community breakfast on
the first and third Sunday
of every month downstairs
at the Bellows Falls Moose
Lodge, 59 Westminster
Street in Bellows Falls, from
8-10 a.m. All you can eat
for a minimal cost.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Meet on Depot Street in downtown Ludlow every Sunday through Oct. 13, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., to shop at our vibrant farmers market. Find a variety of local produce each week, along with fresh baked goods, handmade crafts and gifts, cold beverages, live music, and more. We can't wait to see you for fresh food, community, and fun.

MONDAYS -

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.

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

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

TUESDAYS -

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. -Come check out TOPS -Take Off Pounds Sensibly. We are a nonjudgmental, affordable, and supportive weight loss group. The first visit is free. We are taking Covid precautions so a mask is required while attending the meeting. All are welcome; youth must be at least 9 to attend and have parental permission. Meetings are every Tuesday at 25 Cherry Hill in Bellows Falls. Weigh-ins start at 5:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS -

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. –
Knitting Together, every
Wednesday, 1-3 p.m., at
Village Square Booksellers,
knitting hats and mittens
for our school kids. We
provide yarn, some
direction, and an enjoyable
visit. Acrylic yarn donations
are always welcome. For
more information, contact
Caroline at 802-463-4653.

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.

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

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

FRIDAYS -

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

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, cloting, 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.

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD

The Town of Springfield is soliciting contracting services to demolish buildings located at 52 Valley Street and 67 Furnace Street. Work includes full building demolition and restoration of the land. Interested contractors must email Charles Wise at toszoning@vermontel.net to request the complete solicitation. Pre-bid meetings can be scheduled between August 14-29, 2024. Project bids to be received by email or in-person by 10am, September 5, 2024. Demolition work can be scheduled anytime between Fall 2024 and Spring 2025. Additional details can be found in the solicitation.

The Town of Rockingham Public Hearing Notice Town Plan Adoption September. 03, 2024

The Town of Rockingham is seeking input from its citizens regarding community development. Rockingham Selectboard will hold a public hearing 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.

Date and Time: The public hearing is scheduled for 5:00 pm on September 03, 2024.

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

The Square, Lower Theatre Zoom: Meeting ID: 696 830 477 | Passcode: welcome

The Town Plan document is available for public review on the Towns' Website at https://www.rockinghamvt.org/home and available to view in paper/hard copy in the Town Clerk's office at 7 the Square, Mon to Thu from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm. Community members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the plan to engage constructively during the hearing

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 Gary Fox Phone: 802.376.5425



TOWN OF GRAFTON Equipment Operator/Truck Driver

The Town of Grafton, Vermont is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time Equipment Operator/Truck Driver. Job duties include snow plowing, salting, and sanding in the winter months, and general highway maintenance and construction work in the other months. The employee must be able to perform general labor duties and minor repairs and maintenance to the highway equipment. Ability to communicate in a courteous manner to co-workers and the general public is required. Must have a valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

The Town of Grafton is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer and does offer an excellent benefits package.

Applications will be accepted until Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at $3:00~\mathrm{p.m.}$

Apply to: Morgan Wilbur, Town Administrator, PO Box 180, Grafton, VT 05146, or by email at townadmin@graftonvt.org

Town of Londonderry, VT JOB OPENINGS

Road Crew Member/Equipment Operator

Work includes plowing, grading, ditching, road repair, road-side mowing, culvert work, chainsaw operation, equipment maintenance, and other duties. A clean driving record, a CDL license, and the ability to pass drug/alcohol tests are required. Highway/road maintenance experience preferred. This is a full-time position with excellent benefits.

Further information is available on the Town website: www. londonderryvt.org. Applicants must complete and submit a required Employment Application, which can be found in the Town Forms section of the Town website. Submit via email to townadmin@londonderryvt.org or mail to: Town of Londonderry, 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT 05155. Other supporting information from applicants is welcome.

Positions opened until filled. The Town of Londonderry is an equal opportunity employer.

Adam and Beverly Proctor have submitted an application for a conditional use permit to excavate in a floodway at 1166 Vt. Route 100. This application will be reviewed under Section 404 of the Weston Zoning Regulations.

NOTICE OF WESTON

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD HEARING

The Vermont Country Store has submitted an application for site plan review of outdoor seating at the former Bryant House Restaurant. This application will be reviewed under section 708 of the Weston Zoning Regulations.

The Weston Development Review Board will hold a hearing on these applications on September 4, 2024 starting at 5:00 PM.

Those interested in seeing the applications, submitting written comments, or finding out how to attend the meeting online should contact the Zoning Administrator at: Town of Weston P.O Box 98, Weston Vt. 05161 or Zoning@westonvt.org.

TOWN OF WESTON ROAD CREW MEMBER

The Town of Weston seeks to add full-time, year-round member to our Road Crew. We take pride in maintaining the Town's equipment, roads, and facilities and creating improvements where we can, the successful applicant will be team players willing to do their best and learn along the way.

Candidates are required to hold a VT Driver's License, have a High School diploma or equivalent and a valid CDL Class B Driver's License, successfully pass a background check, and participate in drug testing.

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

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

AUCTION

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. - Contents of storage unit #59 rented by Robert Rosati and units #85 and #95 rented by Virginia Cutting at Perkinsville Self Storage will be auctioned off at 4215 Route 106, Perkinsville, VT 05151 on Aug. 29, 2024, at 10 a.m. 802-263-

FOR RENT

PLYMOUTH, Vt. - Share beautiful, well-kept home with woman in her 70s who needs help organizing her garage. Private bedroom, semi-private bath. \$400/mo. all included. 802-863-5625 or www.HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required.

FOR SALE

CHESTER, Vt. – Bridgestone Blizzak DM V2 tires for sale, 235/55R19 105T, very good condition, changeable hub size. Were on a 2015 Range Rover,

traded car in. Must see. \$600 cash. Call 802-376-3113.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Enhanced Vision Merlin HD Ultra projector for sale. Projects photos, small print documents, and more onto its built-in monitor, which also swivels to the position you need it. Multiple zoom settings, and light and brightness adjustments. \$250 OBO. Call 802-289-4389.

HELP WANTED

PLYMOUTH, Vt. - The Plymouth Schoolhouse licensed childcare has opened up a second classroom and we looking for a toddler teacher to join the team for the upcoming school year. The right individual will have a background in childcare and college credits in Early Childhood Classes. Must be first aid/CPR certified. This could be a part or full time position. We value creativity, kindness and community, and helping children find the wonder in the world around them. We look forward to welcoming a new person to the staff, so we can continue to best serve our surrounding communities with providing high quality childcare in a small setting. If you

Featured pet: Brady—

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -Handsome Brady has had part of his adoption fee sponsored thanks to Christmas Trees at Bishop Farm. This guy loves to eat food and play ball, he'll play until you are tired. Give him a squeaky toy and he is in heaven. He has lived with cats, but might do best as an only dog. He is an active boy who would love someone to go for walks or hikes with. If he sounds like the guy for you, we are open Wednesday-Saturday, from 12-4 p.m., so come on in and meet this uniquelooking dog, or call for more



PHOTO BY PRIORITY PETS

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

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are interested in visiting the program and learning about the opportunity, please contact

Lauren Skaskiw at 802-417-6895 or email plymouthschoolhouse@ gmail.com.

TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT LABORER

The Town of Charlestown is seeking a qualified individual to fill the position of Highway Department Laborer.

This position is full-time, year-round. Duties include but not limited to snow plowing with plow and wing, and general labor. Previous experience with heavy equipment and road maintenance. Additional requirements are a good work ethic, positive attitude, hard worker and a team player. Must pass a pre-employment physical.

Applications can be dropped off at our Selectmen's Office located at 233 Main Street Charlestown, NH, mailed to P.O. Box 385 Charlestown, NH 03603, or emailed to Ddezan@ charlestown-nh.gov.

The Town of Charlestown is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN 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 opera-

tion 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.

TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN CEMETERY SEXTON

The Town of Charlestown is seeking a Cemetery Sexton. This position is a part-time seasonal position (April 1 to November 1) with no benefits.

The Sexton supervises the operation of the cemeteries to include sales of plots, recording burials, filing permits and researching old burial records. The Sexton also performs a variety of public relations and marketing duties to include assistance with site selection and payments as well as consulting with bereaved families. Other duties include maintenance of the cemeteries such as mowing, tree trimming, etc.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. High School Diploma or Equivalent.

2. Valid NH Drivers License

3. Ability to be bonded.

Interested candidates should complete an application and/ or resume and submit to: Charlestown Town Office - Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 385, Charlestown NH 03603 or email it to 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.

TOWN OF CHESTER

Looking for an opportunity to serve your community? The Chester Housing Commission has a volunteer position open for appointment. The responsibilities of this commission are to monitor, review, evaluate and recommend improvements in the delivery of housing services to address community needs. Interested parties should submit a letter to julie.hance@chestervt.gov or Town of Chester, P.O. Box 370, Chester, VT 05143 by August 30, 2024.

TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/TRUCK DRIVER/LABORER

The Town of Charlestown is seeking a qualified individual to fill the position of Highway Equipment Operator/Truck Driver/Laborer.

This position is full-time, year-round. A CDL License is required. Duties include but not limited to snow plowing with plow and wing, and general labor. Previous experience with heavy equipment and road maintenance. Additional requirements are a good work ethic, positive attitude, hard worker and a team player. Must pass a physical, and a drug & alcohol test.

Applications can be dropped off at our Selectmen's Office located at 233 Main Street Charlestown, NH, mailed to P.O. Box 385 Charlestown, NH 03603, or emailed to Ddezan@ charlestown-nh.gov.

The Town of Charlestown is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

FULL-TIME and PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER OPENINGS

Full time/Part time certified in New Hampshire and/or eligible for certification through the New Hampshire Police Standard and Training Council.

The Town of Charlestown Police Department is seeking a motivated, team oriented person who possesses good problem solving and communication skills that is interested in working in a tight knit community where community policing is a priority. The candidate selected will perform criminal investigations, crime prevention and community involvement assignments along with traffic enforcement.

Minimum Requirements: Applicants must be a U.S. Citizen; must be 21 years old by the anticipated date of the agility test. Applicants must be a high school graduate or equivalent. Candidates must meet the Physical Fitness Testing minimums and will be re-tested once every three years if hired. Must be a full time certified police officer in New Hampshire, or if certified in another state, must be eligible for certification with law package through the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council. The hiring process consists of a medical screening, physical agility test, Police Oral Board, polygraph examination, in depth background investigation, psychological evaluation, and drug screening. Salary is based on experience and your time in law enforcement is transferable.

Full time positions are benefit eligible.

If you have any questions please feel free to call Chief Patrick Connors at 603-826-5747.

To Apply: An application can be found on the Charlestown Town Website at https://www.charlestown-nh.gov/employ-

Please submit a completed application, resume, and cover letter to: Chief Patrick Connors, Charlestown Police Department, PO Box 1465, Charlestown, NH 03603.

~The Charlestown Police Department is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer~

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arts & entertainment

Springfield Community Players to hold auditions for "Pumpkins of Peril"——

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

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, pri-

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

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

Stage Bandwagon Summer Series presents Vermont native indie/soul singersongwriter 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

Thursday - Locals Night

Friday - Singo at 7pm

Saturday 8/17 - CLOSED

PUTNEY, Vt. - The Next 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

Vt. - Grant Peeples is darkly hilarious and dead serious, often at the same time. Fred Gillen Jr. is a globetrotting, truthtelling 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 Straight, 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 axesharp socio-political tunes, raucous humor, and heartgigging ballads that keep an ever-critical eye on American culture and identity.

Fred Gillen Jr. has released 11 acclaimed fulllength 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.stage-33live.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 be efit the restoration of our beloved Playhouse and museums, still recovering from last year's floods.

One-hundred-thirtyeight 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-

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

PUTNEY, Vt. – The 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 Duen-

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de'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.





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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 infor-

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

mation, call 802-387-5772

or visit www.twilightmusic.



DiTrani Brothers.

PHOTO PROVIDED

tet with acoustic bassist

Benjamin Richards, they

recently released their

third album, "Dust Har-

SOTH

WESTON, Vt. - The

Sundays on the Hill

(SOTH) Concert Series

Committee is so excited

to have the Brass Connection return to per-

form in the Old Parish

Church, on Route 100

in Weston, Vt., on Aug.

25, at 4 p.m. This brass

quintet will take the au-

dience on a musical od-

Brass Connection is an

exciting group whose

members collectively

have over 100 years of

musical experience en-

tertaining audiences at

the world's concert halls,

churches, music festi-

Formed in 2000, the

yssey.

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-

Saxtons River Sunday concert series -

SAXTONS 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

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

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

Born out of frustration ring 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.

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

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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."



The Brass Connection returns to

The Brass Connection.

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 Na-

PHOTO PROVIDED

tional 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.

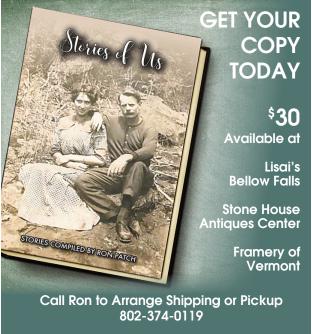


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health & community

Ludlow Dental Center moving to Chester -

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 re-

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-

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, run- CEO Olivia Sweetnam said,

ner-up Dr. Moss Linder), and Best Pediatricians (Cynthia Howes, CPNP, runner-up Dr. Elizabeth Linder).

Commenting on these awards, Grace Cottage "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

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.

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Mountain Valley Health Council Board message LONDONDERRY, Vt. ume of patients. Modifica-

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 voltions 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 Ardell 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 residents.

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

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