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Friendship, festivals, and duct tape appreciation

BY PAULA BENSON

The Vermont Journal

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – The Golden Honey Festival began with four friends and a straightforward concept to “do something fun for the community, something proactive for the small business owner/independent crafter people, and be a fundraiser,” said Julie Wood, co-owner of the Golden Stage Inn.

“And spread bee awareness,” added Jess Goodman, co-owner of Goodman’s American Pie.

12 years along, this annual celebration of honey and honeybees, with multiple beekeepers, honey sellers, and featuring American Pie’s now-famous conception, the honey-apple pizza, created the very first year, has become a beloved tradition in the Okemo Valley.

That first year welcomed just 14 vendors, and this Saturday about 35 vendors are scheduled to arrive, setting up booths that will fan out across the beautiful, peaceful grounds of the Golden Stage Inn property. Always held on the second Saturday of September, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., this year’s festival will fall on Sept. 14, with proceeds going toward the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association (CCCA).

Jess and Craig Goodman, and Julie and Mike Wood are the festival’s founders and organizers, and everyone has mixed feelings about the fact that this year could be the last one they host all together.

With their hands busy rolling up wildflower seed balls, best friends Jess and Julie laughed and joked, and shared how they were first introduced.

Julie said it was Mike who first spotted Jess on the slopes of Okemo. He noticed Jess because of the large strip of duct tape on her ski jacket, and had a feeling that the women were destined to become BFFs. Once home, Mike excitedly announced to Julie, “You



Jess Goodman (left) and Julie Wood. PHOTO BY PAULA BENSON

have to meet this woman.” Julie explained. “Turns out I own several pairs of shoes that are held together with duct tape, my winter coat has duct tape. I caught that on the chicken pen.”

“And I burned mine on the pizza oven, several times,” added Jess, with a laugh.

Jess, Julie, Craig, and Mike are each the kind of hardworking, practical Vermonter who commits to, appreciates, and encourages neighborhood vitality and connectedness. Also, they know how to have fun.

Jess and Craig have been making pizzas, turning up at events and fundraisers, and growing their business for almost 25 years. They have recently acquired a new facility that will be dedicated to production of their line of frozen pizzas, and eventually takeout orders.

Julie and Mike are about to embark on their own new adventures, as they move toward final sale of the Golden Stage Inn, after more than 14 years as grateful innkeepers and stewards of the historic property. Should all go as planned, Julie and Mike will most likely be introducing the inn’s new owners to the public at the end of September.

Mike, a CPA, will take over the lease at an office just down the street from the inn to continue his practice. Julie plans to take some time to

consider her options.

Luckily, the new owners are keen to continue hosting the honey festival, and will be attending this year to observe.

“I think we should offer one year of transition, then we should get out,” Julie stated.

“I’m just giggling,” remarked Jess, “thinking about all the years we said it would be our last year. It’s been our last year for like four years.”

“But we kept having fun,” Julie remarked. She recalled how in past years, her father would stand at the entrance taking a head count and selling honey sticks, “telling the same jokes to kids over and over.”

“Cute as a button,” Jess commented.

“This day always makes me think about my dad,” Julie added.

“It’s just a fantastic festival, with lots of local support,” Jess said. “The honeybees like it.”

Insider’s tip: Goodman’s does not sell their honey-apple pizza at the Lamere Square shop. It is available from the mobile truck, but missing one special twist.

“On the day of the honey festival we also make the dough with honey,” Jess revealed.

You won’t want to miss it.

Ludlow talks flood mitigation, reappraisal

BY NICK GIBERTI

The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Selectboard met Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 2, beginning with a discussion of a possible speed limit reduction on South Hill Cross Road. Municipal manager Brendan McNamara noted that this discussion was spurred by several recent incidents, including a dog being struck by a vehicle, and a truck colliding with a telephone pole. McNamara did caution, however, that enforcement would likely be an issue, and suggested that any action on the speed limit begin with a speed study, as his previous experience had indicated that perceptions of speed by those living along the road and the actual average speed of vehicles often differ significantly.

The board then heard Kelly Stettner, director of the Black River Action Team (BRAT) and district manager of the Ottauquechee Natural Resources Conservation District, who gave her thoughts on future flood mitigation strategies. In her opinion, “Flooding in Vermont is not a problem to be fixed,” Stettner told the board, “it is a condition to be managed.” To that end, Stettner suggested several possible courses of action beyond digging deeper river channels, which she explained can often have the opposite of its intended effect, allowing more water into the channel which then moves faster during high water events, thereby increasing bank erosion and worsening the effects of flooding.

A major mitigation strategy, Stettner said, was to slow the water down, which can be achieved in part by planting native trees and shrubs along shoreline and floodplain areas. While Stettner acknowledged that trees often need to be removed for construction of homes, she believes that

it was possible to promote the idea of planting more low-growing shrubs and vegetation among homeowners and property owners, which would contribute to slowing down floodwater. Stettner also believes that this strategy should be deployed on municipal property, “properties that we probably shouldn’t develop or redevelop,” such as the former sites of Ludlow’s dog park and Little League fields. These areas, Stettner explained, could be used as flood plain buffers, and could become what she called “working floodplains,” allowing the areas to be used as low-maintenance nurseries. Cuttings could be harvested from the trees and shrubs, which could then be used to propagate the plants in other floodplain areas.

Stettner additionally noted that reducing the volume of water entering the river, and promoting healthier soil to increase rainwater absorption, would also result in less flooding in the future.

The board then heard from Ryan Silvestri of New England Municipal Consultants concerning the forthcoming 2026 town-wide reappraisal. The State of Vermont, Silvestri told the board, has ordered Ludlow to perform the reappraisal based on the town’s coefficient of dispersion, a number which reflects the quality of a town’s assessment data. A reappraisal is triggered when that number reaches 15%; Ludlow’s is currently at 22%.

Ludlow intends to perform what Silvestri called a “statistical reappraisal,” meaning that the appraisal will be based on data such as permits and other municipal records, and will not require full inspections of all properties in Ludlow. However, in order to perform a statistical reappraisal, the state requires Ludlow to validate its data by fully reappraising 10% of the properties in town, or about 300 properties, which will be chosen at random. Silvestri will then perform visual inspections of all properties from the road to confirm the data,

which could lead to a full inspection of the property if there is any visible improvement which does not show in the town’s records.

Silvestri emphasized that “higher value does not equal higher taxes,” explaining that, at present, Ludlow’s common level of appraisal (CLA) stands at 77%. The CLA is determined by the difference between property valuations at the last townwide reappraisal, and the sale prices of any properties sold since then. This results in all Ludlow taxpayers’ state education tax rate being increased, to compensate for the difference in assessed value and current market value of the properties in town. However, this assumes an even increase in property values across all properties in town. In reality, certain properties will have seen a greater increase in their value than others, and the reappraisal will correct for this discrepancy. After the reappraisal, the CLA will be set at 100%, and the base education tax rate set by the state will not need adjustment until the CLA changes again.

Finally, the board allocated the remainder of Ludlow’s available ARPA funds, awarding \$32,730.50 to Fletcher Farm School to fund their reorganization into a community arts space. Susan Balch, interim executive director of Fletcher Farm, and Pollyanna Sidell, development director, explained to the selectboard that the board of Fletcher Farm “recently came to a decision that we want to be a community arts center,” and that the ARPA funds would serve as “part of that transition,” allowing the organization to purchase equipment for four studio spaces, to be available to the local community. This would include equipment for ceramics, jewelry-making, and fiber arts, and would represent a restructuring of Fletcher Farms, necessitated by recent financial difficulties, towards a more community-oriented space for engaging in artistic practice.

See **LUDLOW** on Page 2

Treasurer returns funds to BRAM

LUDLOW, Vt. – State Treasurer Mike Peciak returned \$150,000 of unclaimed property to businesses, nonprofits, and service providers across Vermont’s 14 counties on Monday, Sept. 9, and Tuesday, Sept. 10. Among these institutions was Ludlow’s Black River Academy Museum (BRAM). The treasurer stopped at BRAM on Sept. 10, at 8 a.m., to return unclaimed property in the amount of \$1,226.18. Museum director Georgia Brehm and President Sue Pollender were on hand to receive the funds, telling the treasurer that the money would aid in the museum’s education ef-

forts and school programs.

The Unclaimed Property Road Tour aims to raise awareness of the more than \$130 million of unclaimed assets the treasurer’s office holds, and encourage Vermonters and local organizations to search www.missingmoney.com for unclaimed property.

“When our office returns unclaimed property, that money goes back into our economy, often to organizations that support our neighbors and strengthen our communities. As local businesses and service providers face workforce challenges, rising healthcare costs, and flood recovery,

it’s critical to return these funds to their rightful owners. I hope Vermonters will take a moment to search for unclaimed property at www.missingmoney.com,” said Peciak.

Unclaimed property includes forgotten assets like uncashed checks, security deposits, investments, insurance proceeds, and other financial property. Financial institutions annually report these properties and turn them over to the state. The treasurer’s office safeguards assets until claimed by rightful owners or heirs.

In fiscal year 2024, the treasurer’s office returned a record 19,010 individual

properties, totaling \$5.8 million. However, the state collected \$18.14 million of additional unclaimed property, the most in 20 years. As the total amount of unclaimed property continues to grow, Treasurer Peciak hopes Vermonters will join him in spreading the word about the opportunity to recover missing money.

“Anybody can have unclaimed property. It isn’t just individuals – businesses, nonprofits, municipalities, schools, and even the state have forgotten assets held by our office. I encourage Vermonters to search not only their own names, but also their friends and family

and their favorite companies and nonprofits. The process is quick and easy. These dollars can make a real difference in people’s lives,” said Treasurer Peciak.

Visit www.missingmoney.com to check for unclaimed property. For inquiries regarding a claim or assistance with the claims process, contact the state’s



Left to right: BRAM director Georgia Brehm, President Sue Pollender, and Treasurer Mike Peciak. PHOTO BY NICK GIBERTI

Unclaimed Property Division at 802-828-2407 or unclaimed.property@vermont.gov.

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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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Cheese Week in the Okemo Valley

REGION – The celebration of Vermont Cheese Week is in full swing. Beginning Sept. 7 and running through Sept. 15, visitors and residents alike have the opportunity to enjoy special cheese events, samplings, pairings, cheesy menus, and activities.

The Okemo Valley has joined the Vermont Cheese Council's statewide effort. In the Okemo Valley, there are more than 10 local businesses, including retail shops, restaurants, and cheese producers, that have come together to showcase the artistry of Vermont-made cheese for Cheese

Week.

This exciting week showcases the rich cheese-making heritage of the Okemo Valley, home to one of the highest concentrations of cheddar producers in the state and some of the oldest cheese-making factories in the United States, dating back to the 1800s. From wine and cheese, to cheese making, to family fun events, there are lots of activities and delicious options. Local cheese producers include Crowley Cheese, Grafton Village Cheese, Plymouth Cheese, and Spring Brook Farm Cheese.

Chefs within the region

are offering creative cheesy specials, from garden-inspired dishes, to gourmet pizzas, to classic French onion soup, and more. Cheese Week dining experiences include Calcutta's, Coleman Brook Tavern at Okemo, Echo Lake Inn, Off the Rails, and Stemwinder. Retail shops, including the Vermont Country Store, Wine & Cheese Depot, and Yeah Wine Shop have also joined in. For the full list of Cheese Week events and activities, visit www.yourplaceinvermont.com/vermont-cheese-week.

Friends of FML hold first book sale in five years

LUDLOW, Vt. – Friends of the Library hosted their first book sale in five years, to benefit Fletcher Memorial Library (FML). The sale was a huge success, netting over \$2,000 for the library. The Friends would like to thank all of the volunteers, people, and businesses who donated, as well as community members who turned out to buy the books. Special thanks, in no particular order, goes to: Shaw's for boxes and bags, The Plymouth Strawberry Fest for boxes, Able Waste for a dumpster, Okemo Resort for tables, and Celebration Tent Rental. Special thanks to volunteers who helped set up tents, tables, and cart boxes of boxes: Windsor County Youth Services volunteers; Jerry, Jeff, and Eli Milligan, and friend Ben; Max Lysoy; Jim McCloskey; Patrick Pullinen;

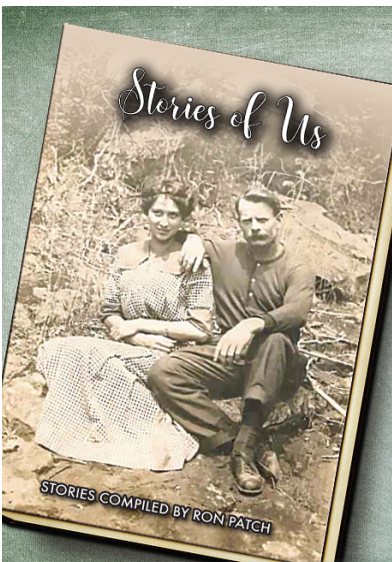


Friends of the Fletcher Memorial Library Book Sale. PHOTO PROVIDED

Michael Kershaw; and Tim, Henry, and AJ Wynn. We could not have done it without you. Shannon Stark and friends also operated a lemonade stand to benefit Ludlow Recreation.

Friends of the Library's

mission is to support the library by promoting public awareness, encouraging support of the library through gifts and volunteerism, and promoting the cultural and informational importance of the library. To that end, we are recruiting new friends to join us. You can join by becoming a supporting member of the Friends of the Library through a donation, or become an active member who helps plan and run events such as the book club, book sale, cultural events, and the annual auction. Our next meeting is September 24, at the Fletcher Memorial Library. If you love books and want to support our beautiful library, please join us, or contact Judy Pullinen at judy.pullinen@gmail.com. You can also pick up information about Friends of the Library at the library desk.



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ESBR first week back

LUDLOW, Vt. – As summer has officially come to a close and another school year starts, the Expeditionary School at Black River (ESBR) shares exciting first week updates for the 2024-2025 school year. To start, it is with great honor that we announce that ESBR's approval as a State of Vermont Approved Independent School stands for another year, whereby families may continue to utilize their duly deserved education tax dollars at ESBR rather than solely depending on volunteer fundraising efforts. This has always been one of our primary goals to provide a financially feasible option for our community.

Next, we welcome our new head of school, Michael Kell. The ESBR heads of school have always been beyond dedicated to this cause, and Kell is no exception. Several amazing returning staff members join him, and he has been busy recruiting new instructors to join ESBR's team. With many years of experience in education, including innovative learning opportunities, we are grateful to have him leading as our new head of school.

Following in the footsteps of the community's flood recovery theme last school year, this year's theme is "What Makes Vermont Strong." Examining both history and current events, as well as exploring resources available right here in the Green Mountain State, the school year is already off to an exciting start. Last week, the students visited both the adventure (ropes) course at Okemo for team building, and partook in a field trip to Fort Ticonderoga to discover the early history of Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain

Boys. On top of this, we couldn't have asked for better weather to start the year with these outdoor expeditions.

Furthermore, we have a new meal plan implemented this fall. Every Wednesday, we have a different community member volunteer to prepare a meal to bring in for the students. So far, we've had a barbecue to kickstart the first day back on Wednesday, Aug. 28, just recently a mac and cheese extravaganza, with a chili and cornbread meal to follow. About three months worth of Wednesday volunteers have been scheduled, but we hope to keep it going as long as possible; if anyone wishes to volunteer, please reach out. We can be flexible with the Wednesday meal plan to accommodate volunteers. The students love it, and it's clear they really benefit from this meal plan. Again, anyone interested is more than welcome to reach out.

As for fundraising, there are always supplies, programs, and support to expand upon, so we'll continue to host fun events to help raise funds for these resources. We are excited to announce the American Legion is once again hosting a chicken barbecue benefit for ESBR on Saturday, Sept. 21. Volunteers start grilling around 8 or 9 a.m., and meals will be available by 10:30 or 11 a.m., and will go until sold out. This is a really fun and easy fundraiser, and we cannot thank the Legion enough, they do a lot of work to give back to the community as a whole. Keep your eyes out for more details in the near future, as we are also planning a holiday craft fair on Saturday, Nov. 30; we look forward to this fun and exciting fundraiser as well.

Another local upcoming event will be the 40th annual Harvest Fair. This is hosted by the parent-teacher group (PTG) of the Ludlow Elementary School. It

is a great fundraiser for the PTG, whose goal is to provide strong programs and fun events that the grade school might not otherwise get to benefit from. The Harvest Fair will be held on the front lawn of the ESBR premises, and it is a long-standing tradition many of us at ESBR are familiar with, so it is an honor that they have chosen to host it there for several years running now. With fun crafts, games, and delicious food, it is the perfect fall setting for peak leaf peeping season. Please visit the Ludlow Elementary School Parent-Teacher Group Facebook page for further information.

Lastly, several board positions were up for renewal this cycle, and there was a rotation of member roles. Gary Blodgett remains a board of trustees member, but our current chairperson is Patrick Pullinen, with Suzy Buckley as vice chair. The rest of the board is grateful to have these members remain so dedicated to the school and wellbeing of the students and their families. There are openings for more board members, any interested persons are welcome to reach out to Pullinen. We'd be honored to expand our board; a diverse group of thinkers is what helps keep a school innovative.

As always, thank you to everyone for your support. There are already 11 students for this school year, which is up from last year. As news of our growth and approval travel, we know enrollment will continue to expand. We could not have done this without the community's support, and the students and their families. Again, anyone with interest is welcome to inquire, whether it is for your student, or to volunteer. You may reach out to Pullinen at ppullinen@esblackriver.org, or leave a message for Kell on the school's line at 802-228-3727.

BRGNS Fall Rummage Sale

LUDLOW, Vt. – Black River Good Neighbor Services (BRGNS) is pleased to announce its annual Fall Rummage Sale at Fletcher Farm, 611 Route 103 South in Ludlow, on Friday, Sept. 27, and Saturday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. each day.

The sale includes the former Fletcher Farm barn filled with seasonal clothing, shoes, fall and

winter sporting goods, active wear, housewares, linens, furniture, books, a boutique, bake sale, grill, and much more.

Proceeds from this sale benefit BRGNS' food, financial, and disaster assistance programs. Funds raised will help the cost of utilities, heating fuel, rent, and food for qualified individuals and families residing in Ludlow, Mount Holly, Belmont, Cavendish, Proctorsville, and Plym-

outh. The need is especially important this year, particularly for folks who have been impacted by severe flooding events.

Mark your calendar for Sept. 27 and 28, and come explore all the many unique bargains.

For further details, please contact Krey Kellington at Black River Good Neighbor Services Thrift Store, 37B Main Street, Ludlow, at 802-228-3663, or email brgoodneighbors@gmail.com.

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LUDLOW

From Page 1

The selectboard was supportive of this effort, and awarded Fletcher Farm their requested amount of ARPA funds.

The remainder of the ARPA funds, \$27,425.73, were allocated to Ludlow Area Sport Trails (LAST), as discussed at the board's Aug. 5 meeting, to support their construction of mountain biking trails in Ludlow.

The Ludlow Selectboard meets on the first Monday of each month, at 6 p.m., at the Heald Auditorium in Ludlow Town Hall.



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Some Bellows Falls history

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

In my mail this past week, from an anonymous donor, came a 1937 book titled, "Vermont: A Guide to the Green Mountain State, 1937," written by Workers of the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration for the State of Vermont.

This project was part of Roosevelt's New Deal. Thank you, kind soul, for sending me this book.

The following is an excerpt from the book, describing Bellows Falls.

"BElLOWS FALLS lies on one of the most sharply defined series of terraces that the Connecticut River has cut throughout its long course. On the New Hampshire side towers Mount Kilburn, stark and craggy; to the west rise the green hills of Vermont. Bellows Falls is definitely divided in three levels; the bottom lands, shaped into an island by a canal, are occupied by industry and a railroad; the middle level is the business

mart; the upper sections are residential. The main thoroughfare, Westminster Street, is hemmed in by the bluff covered by homes and the industrial flats along the river. The height of the two- and three-story brick buildings packed on either side is accentuated by the extreme narrowness of the street.

"The tall brick tower of the Town Hall overshadows this canyon; projecting signs hang over narrow sidewalks, and store-windows reflect the jam of pedestrians and automobiles. Compressed between the walls of the vari-shaded brick, the small central square makes a peaceful oasis in the most crowded business district of the State.

"A concrete stairway, an unusual device for Vermont, climbs from Westminster to the level of School Street. From the flats below, the smoke of factories and locomotives rises to shroud the defile made by the river and hangs in a gray pall over the dark bulk of Mount Kilburn, standing grimly like a backdrop for

the Bellows Falls drama of concentrated industrialism and commercialism. The scene has a strong similarity to that of Brattleboro, and less, to that of Windsor.

"The town's most distinctive scenic feature is the falls, originally called Great Falls and named, like the town itself, for Colonel Benjamin Bellows, of Walpole, an early promoter. The falls are divided at their verge by a large rock, which at low water diverts the whole flow into the sixteen-foot western channel below, the narrowest point in the river's entire length.

"During a freshet the waters dash against the rock, rise high into the air, and fall in smashing sheets fifty feet below to drive through both channels with a violence that has altered the near-by landscape several times.

"Usually destructive, these freshets have occasionally been beneficial, as when the one of 1797 created the river bank sites of several of the town's present factories by filling a worthless swamp-hole with allu-

vial deposits.

"At least a dozen persons have gone over these falls and lived. The first of whom there is any record was an Abnaki squaw, whose adventure was celebrated in print as early as 1781. Carelessly allowing her canoe to be drawn to a point where she could not paddle against the current. The squaw drank a bottle of rum that she was taking to her brave and lay down in the canoe to await her fate.

"She was fished out below the falls, quite safe and quite drunk. The latest person known to have made the brief but perilous trip was Captain Paul Boynton, who passed over the falls in a rubber suit in 1879 before a crowd of two thousand people.

"The falls occasioned the construction here, between 1792 and 1802, of the first



Railroad bridge with stone arches. Tucker covered bridge upper left. No-tice locomotive on bridge.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY DANNY CLEMONS

canal in America upon which work was actually begun, though not the first completed for navigation. Built by John Atkinson of London, it was retained until 1858, though little used after 1840. Nine locks were necessary to lift the barges, rafts, and small steamers over the falls.

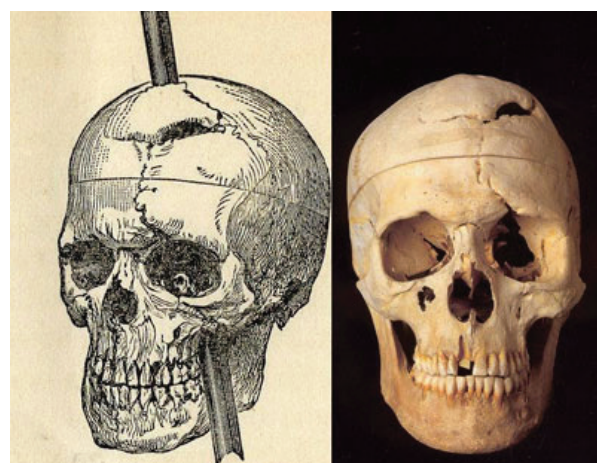
"In the early 1830s the 'William Hall' made a trip up the river. The trip ended at Hartland and was never repeated, for the 'William Hall,' a side-wheeler, was bigger than any boat the canal-builders had envisioned

and had to be drawn past the falls by means of ox-power, via the village street.

"After the late 1840's the railroads soon destroyed all commercial navigation on the northern Connecticut, and the shrill blasts of their locomotives, instead of the merry, rowdy songs of the boatmen, were flung against the gaunt sides of Mount Kilburn to reverberate with piercing intensity over the town."

This week's old saying, "The only thing constant is change."

Annual Phineas Gage Walk and Talk



The skull of Phineas Gage, with drawing showing the tamping rod that pierced it.

PHOTO PROVIDED

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Once again, the Cavendish Historical Society (CHS) will be holding the annual Phineas Gage Walk and Talk on the Sunday closest to the date of the accident. On Sept. 13, 1848, Gage, a railroad foreman, had a tamping rod pass through his head as a result of a blasting accident, and lived for 12 more years.

His accident made medical history, thanks to the dedication of Dr. John Harlow, the Cavendish physician who documented his injury and course of recovery. Harlow was able to secure Gage's skull and tamping rod, which now reside at the Warren Anatomical Museum. Thanks to Cavendish Labs, CHS has a 3D exact replica of Gage's skull.

This year's walk and talk takes place on Sunday, Sept. 15, at the CHS Museum, Route 131 in Cavendish, Vt. The program begins at 2 p.m. The walk includes the location of the accident, Dr. Harlow's home and surgery, and the boarding house where Gage was taken after his injury. Note this event takes place rain or shine.

The site of the accident is

approximately ¾ of a mile from the museum, and by the time other sites of interest are visited and we return to the museum, you will have walked close to two miles. Participants can stop at any time. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

This program is free and open to the public. Donations are welcomed. For more information, please call 802-226-7807, or email margocaulfield@icloud.com

Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission, coordinator honored

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – State Historic Preservation Officer Laura V. Trieschmann presented the award for Preservation Excellence to the Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission and their coordinator, Walter Wallace. The award recognizes the stewardship and ambitious efforts of the commission to encourage the appreciation and preservation of Rockingham's long and rich Native American heritage, important Revolutionary War history, and 19th and 20th century development. John Leppman, Karen Jarret, Annette Spaulding, and Elijah Zimmer serve as commissioners.

"The Division for Historic Preservation is exceptionally proud to honor the Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission and their dedicated coordinator," stated Trieschmann. "Their efforts to provide education, celebrate our history, and foster excitement in preservation deserves recognition, and should serve to inspire others."

Designated as a Certified Local Government in 1993, Rockingham has strengthened its local preservation efforts through direct participation in the identification, evaluation, registration, and preservation of historic properties. This engagement, with funding in part from the State Historic Preservation Office, includes Old House Awards, technical support to property owners through workshops and consultations, speaker series, and support for the stewardship and interpretation of Rockingham's many sites and historic districts. For the Rockingham Meeting House, a National Historic Landmark built in 1787 and owned by the town, the commission has organized a conference on graveyard conservation, conducted historic window assessments, and analyzed the original paint colors (it was

red).

The enthusiastic stewardship of Rockingham's heritage has resulted in several significant grant awards from the National Park Service. In 2022, the town received Vermont's first Underrepresented Communities Grant to revisit the sacredness of the Bellows Falls petroglyph site and update the Bellows Falls Island National Register of Historic Places nomination. In February 2024, the town was awarded a Save America's Treasures grant for the restoration and preservation of the Rockingham Meeting House, which is the largest intact 18th-century public building in Vermont. Just this month, the town rep-

resented Vermont as one of 19 historic preservation projects from nine states receiving funding through the Semiquincentennial Grants, which were created specifically for places like Rockingham Meeting House that represent the founding of our nation.

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health

OBITUARIES

Ask the health officer discussion –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Town Library will host “Ask the Town Health Officer” on Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 6 p.m. Join us for an interactive discussion with Chuck Wise, our deputy health officer and zoning administrator.

Do you worry about the health of your home, espe-

cially if you are a tenant? Do you worry about a property in your neighborhood? By law, every town and city in Vermont has a local board of health. The local board of health consists of the town health officer and the selectboard. The duties and responsibilities of the board of health are established by

state statute.

Town health officers have four specific duties: investigating possible public health hazards and risks within the town; taking action to prevent, remove, or destroy any public health hazards; taking action to lessen significant public health risks; and enforcing

health laws, rules, and permit conditions, and taking the steps necessary to enforce orders.

This is your chance to ask questions, share concerns, and learn more. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with others and get the answers you need.

Second annual Age Successfully Fair

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Senior Solutions, the area agency on aging for southeastern Vermont, in partnership with Our Place Drop-In Center, Parks Place Community Resource Center, and the Bellows Falls Senior Center, will be hosting the second annual Age Successfully, A Health & Benefits Fair on Friday, Sept. 20, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Waypoint Center, 17 Depot Street in Bellows Falls. This event is free and open to the public, and there will be a free barbecue.

This is an opportunity for older Vermonters to learn about and sign up for wellness-based benefits and services, with over 30 exhibitors scheduled to

appear. Nearly 200 area seniors have come to previous fairs to learn about the goods and services available in the community.

Older Vermonters and their caregivers in our community often are unaware of all the opportunities that are available to them. This fair offers a “one-stop shop” to find the services best suited for their needs. Exhibitors this year include Senior Solutions, Our Place Drop-In Center, Bellows Falls Senior Center, AARP, Assistive Technology Services from the State of Vermont, Athena Advocacy, Bayada Hospice, Dartmouth Cancer Center Community Outreach and Engagement, Economic Services Divi-

sion of the Department of Child and Family Services, FCP Live-In Homecare, Greater Falls Connections, Green Mountain RSVP, HCRS, Lincoln Street, My DNR Wish, NorthStar Health, Parks Place, Putney Community Cares, Rockingham Arts & Museum Project, Rockingham Library, Sharing Housing, Tai Chi Vermont, Turning Point, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Vermont Department of Health, Vermont Legal Aid, Visiting Angels, Visiting Nurses, and more.

There will be a free Bone Builders class demonstration presented by Green Mountain RSVP, and a tai

chi class demonstration that people are welcome to participate in.

For questions and more information, please contact Suzanne Burge, Senior Solutions, at 802-822-0498 or sburge@seniorsolutionsvt.org; Teagan Kosut, Bellows Falls Area Senior Center, at 802-463-3907 or bfasc@sover.net; or Amanda Reed, Our Place Drop-In Center, at 802-463-2217 or amanda@ourplacevermont.org.

This event is made possible from the generosity of Mascoma Bank, Bellows Falls Area Senior Center, Our Place Drop-In Center, Parks Place, and the Town of Rockingham.

Belle McKnight graveside service

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – A graveside service for Belle McKnight, who passed away Aug. 7, will be held on Sept. 21, at 2 p.m., at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Proctorsville, Vt.

Richard H. Damon, 1934-2024



WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Richard H. Damon, 90, of Westminister, Vt., passed away on Aug. 20, 2024, at his home, with his loving family by his side. Richard was born on March 25, 1934, in Bellows Falls, Vt., to Melvin and Arena (Haskell) Damon. He attended schools in Bellows Falls, and graduated from Bellows Falls High School. Richard served his country in the Army. He married Patricia Chapman, who passed away in 1993. Richard worked as an electrician for Interstate Electric.

Richard loved to play cribbage, and spend time with his family and his dog Marley.

Richard is survived by

his children Stephen and Kathleen Damon, three grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents; wife Patricia; and siblings Melvin and Dennis Damon, and Mary Brandt.

A graveside service will take place on Saturday, Sept. 14, at 10 a.m., at Rockingham Meeting House Cemetery in Rockingham, Vt. A gathering at the Moose Lodge will follow.

In lieu of flowers, please consider giving to Westminister Cares.

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

Mary McDermid, 1943-2024

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Mary E. Craigue McDermid died on Aug. 28, 2024, surrounded by her family. She was born on June 15, 1943, the first of five girls born to Barbara E. (Rumrill) and Bertrum C. Craigue. Mary attended school in Springfield, Vt., graduating in the last class from the old Park Street High School in 1961. After graduation she worked for W.T. Grants and Wheelers Pharmacy, before going to Worcester, Mass., to Wards School of Business for keypunch class. After returning to Vermont, she went to work for Sears in the credit department. After having her son, Mary went to work at SEVCA food and nutrition, where she helped start food shelves, community gardens, and worked with the weatherization program. She also worked for Legasse advertising, and finally for the Springfield Family Center and its spin off, Precision Valley Free Clinic, from which she retired from working full time in 2010, but continued to work at the clinic until 2019.

Mary loved all things Elvis related; she collected all his movies, music, and anything Elvis. She also liked windchimes, family cook-outs and reunions, word-search books, puzzles, candle-



Mary McDermid, 1943-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

pin bowling, and going out with friends, especially trips to Maine with her lifelong friend Jayne.

She is survived by her son Brian McDermid, his wife Lori, and their children Aidan and Julianna; daughter Lisa Ramsey and her son Kyle; her sisters Donna Craigue, Ruth Davis, Janet Craigue, and Joan Fletcher; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will take place on Saturday, Sept. 14, at 2 p.m., at Rockingham Meeting House Cemetery in Rockingham, Vt.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to St. Jude Children's hospital in her memory.

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

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01 Oct	1:00 - 4PM	The Hungry Heart Viewing of this VT-based, award-winning documentary, Directed by Bess O'Brien, followed by discussion about the film and substance misuse in our region.
08 Oct	1 - 2:45 PM	"Hey Kiddo" Book Discussion Discussion about Jarrett Krosoczka's autobiographical graphic novel, and how substance abuse impacts children, families and communities. Participants receive a free copy of the book in advance.
	3:00 - 4 PM	Elevate Youth Services Presents A panel of young adults will present and answer questions about how substance misuse has impacted their lives.
15 Oct	1:00 - 3PM	Discussion with Turning Point Learn about Turning Point's programs and listen to stories from a panel of community members who've experienced substance misuse.
	3:00 - 4PM	NARCAN Training Turning Point will demonstrate proper administration of NARCAN. Participants get a free NARCAN kit.
	4:00 - 6PM	Community Meal Participants who attended any of the workshops in the series are invited to stop by for dinner at the Training Center!



REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!
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Join the Facebook Event page for updates



CHURCH SERVICES

obituaries

George E. Benson Sr., 1939-2024

LUDLOW, Vt. – It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of George Edward Benson Sr., 85, on Sept. 6, 2024, surrounded by his family, at Springfield Hospital.

George was born on March 9, 1939, in Springfield, Vt., one of four children, to Marvin Fay Benson Sr. and Monica Lamere Benson. George graduated from Black River High School in 1957.

Upon graduation he began his successful career in the car industry, selling used vehicles in Rutland, Vt. He owned and operated Geo. Benson's Auto Sales from 1965-1976, with much of this time in Springfield, Vt.

In 1976 he moved to Ludlow, Vt., and operated Benson's Chevrolet Inc. with his brother Marvin, until Marvin's retirement. After receiving his 25-year Chevrolet dealer recognition from General Motors in 2001, he partnered with his son, George Jr., and they operated the dealership together until his passing.

On June 13, 1964, George married the love of his life, Janice J. Sheehan, to whom he always referred as his bride. Their love story spanned more than 60 years, and they raised five children.

George was a loving husband, proud dad, grandfather, and great-grandfather. His first grandchild nicknamed him "Namp," which became his name to many in and outside his family. He was an avid outdoorsman, and his love of the woods was year-round. His passion for maple sugaring started in his early years with his father. He passed his passion on to his son Mike, and they sugared together for years. George and his brother were the first two in Ludlow to earn the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America, which is an Eagle Scout. He enjoyed many summer family trips to the beach in Maine, and



George Benson Sr., 1939-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

loved to host barbecues with family and friends at the lake. His annual moose hunting trip to Canada was a 50-year tradition, as well as hosting deer camp in Vermont for over in 55 years.

He is predeceased by his parents, his brother Marvin F. Benson Jr., his two sisters Anita B. Simonds and Paula B. Seal, and his son-in-law Tony Ciufio.

George is survived by his wife; his children George Benson Jr. and his wife Mary, Michael Benson and his wife Melissa, Kimberly Lampert and her husband Jonathan, Gregory Benson and his wife Katherine, and Angela Benson-Ciufio and her fiancé Jeffrey Michaud; his grandson Trevor Benson and wife Kaitlyn; granddaughter Erika Lardner and husband Tom; grandsons Nicholas Ciufio, Tophier Ciufio, and Garrett Benson; granddaughter Emily Benson; great-grandson Liam Lardner; great-granddaughters Tierney Lardner and Sadie Benson; and many cousins.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Foley Cancer Center, 160 Allen Street, Rutland, VT 05701.

A memorial visitation was held at Benson's Chevrolet Inc. in Ludlow, Vt., on Tuesday, Sept. 10, from 5-8 p.m.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at 11 a.m., at The Catholic Church of Annunciation, also in Ludlow, Vt.

CAVENDISH, VT.

Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St.

Sunday services are 10 a.m. online or in person.

Online services are on Facebook at 10 a.m.

Go to www.facebook.com/Cavendish-Baptist-Church-258814894244302. More at www.CavendishBaptist.com or call 802-226-7131.

CHESTER, VT.

Chester Baptist Church, 162 Main St.

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

LONDONDERRY, VT.

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

Worship service is Sunday at 10 a.m. at the church. Services will still be live streamed at www.firstbaptistslondonderryvt.org/streaming-worship.html. For more information, visit www.firstbaptistslondonderryvt.org or call 802-856-7266.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main St.

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

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.

WALPOLE, N.H.

St. John's Episcopal Church, corner of Westminster and Elm St.

Sunday services are 10 a.m. in person or via Zoom. For more information, go to www.stjohnswalpole.org, email pastor@stjohnswalpole.org, or leave a message at 603-756-4533.

WESTMINSTER, VT.

First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 US Route 5

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

Jane L. French, 1935-2024

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Jane Lee (Burney) French passed away on Aug. 31, 2024, at Pine Heights Home in Brattleboro, at the age of 89.

Jane was born April 4, 1935, to Lawrence W. and Phoebe (Dawson) Burney, in Charlestown, N.H.

Jane attended schools in Charlestown, and graduated from Charlestown High School in 1953.

On Sept. 27, 1953, Jane married Albert E. French of Cambridgeport, Vt., and they made their first home there before moving into Bellows Falls.

Jane held positions at Mary Meyer Toy Company as a seamstress, H.A. Manning as a supervisor/compiler, and at 5C Head Start as a day care worker and family counselor. She thought this job was her most rewarding. It was not unusual to be out and about with Jane and run into one of her Head Start kids. Several remembered her and would speak to her, and she remembered them all. She also served as a volunteer program chair for the SHARE/SERVE Food Program in the 1990s, distributing free food to the community.

Jane and Albert spent their retirement years setting up at flea markets, where they enjoyed talking to people and making friends.

Jane was a devoted member of the First Baptist Church of Bellows

Falls for over 60 years. She held many offices there throughout this time, including the position of supervisor/coordinator, and teacher of Sunday School for over 30 years, but the mission programs were her passion, always encouraging the congregation to act as "the hands and feet of Jesus" at home and around the world.

Jane was predeceased by her parents; her husband Albert; and siblings Gale and Spencer Burney, Janice Moore, Glenna Phelps, and Bonnie Mitten. She is survived by children Gail Davis, Laurie Noyes, Cindy Cole (Ron), and Thomas (Hyon Suk - Ann). Jane also leaves eight grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren, as well as several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at the First Baptist Church in Bellows Falls on Saturday, Sept. 14, at 1 p.m. A private burial will be held at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to First Baptist Church Missions, 9 Church Street, Bellows Falls, VT 05101; or Westminster Cares, 3534 U.S. Route 5, Westminster, VT 05158.

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

Ruth M. Wilson, 1937-2024

BALTIMORE, Vt. – Ruth M. (Bailey) Wilson, 87, passed away on Aug. 30, 2024, at her home in Baltimore, Vt., with her devoted husband of 52 years by her side. Ruth was born April 16, 1937, in Burlington, Vt., and raised in Springfield by her loving parents Orin Bailey and Avis (Crowley) Bailey.

On June 9, 1972, Ruth married her beloved husband Edward, and together they raised a beautiful family of seven children and created countless cherished memories. Her kindness, strength, and willingness to help others will continue to inspire us, and her memory will forever be cherished.

Ruth is survived by her spouse Edward E. Wilson of Vermont; her children Michael (Peggy) Hall, Juli (Bud) Desautels, Patrick (Laureen) Hall, Lisa (Bill) Hall, Fawna (Patrick) Start, and Dennis (Tracy) Wilson. She is also survived by 15 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.



Ruth Wilson, 1937-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

She was predeceased by her parents, Aunt Louise (Whitehead) Coates, daughter Nicki D. (Wilson) Farren, and grandson James E. Ferguson.

Graveside services will be held on Sept. 22, at 10 a.m., at Oakland Cemetery, Springfield, Vt., with reception to follow at the American Legion in Chester, Vt., at 12 p.m.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Davis Memorial Chapel of Springfield, Vt.

Barry D. Moore,



1943-2024

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Barry D. Moore, 81, of Claremont, N.H., died Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024. He was born March 28, 1943, in Rutland, Vt., to Harlan and Ethel (Maxham) Moore.

He attended grade school in Bridgewater Corners, graduated from Windsor High School in 1961, then joined the Army National Guard in 1962.

Barry married his high school sweetheart, Sandra Flack, on May 5, 1962. He started his trucking career in 1963, picking up milk cans at local farms, then purchased his first truck. Shortly after, Barry started his own business with two new Mack trucks and did excavation work, log hauling, and aided in the construction of Interstates 89 and 91. After concluding his business in 1982, Barry worked for several other companies, including Jewell Enterprises, F.M. Blood Construction, C&I Construction, and St. Pierre Incorporated.

In between his busy work schedule, Barry enjoyed roller skating, bowling, and camping with friends and



Barry Moore, 1943-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

family. He was the president of Good Sam Windham Wanderers Camping Club, and spent many winters camping in Florida.

Barry was predeceased by his parents, his brother Conrad Moore, and his sister Audrey Brown.

He is survived by three children Danne Moore of Ludlow, Vt., Deana Burnham of Proctor, Vt., and Darre Moore of Springfield, Vt.; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a special friend, Delores Eastman of Springfield, Vt.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Barker Farm, located at 303 Barker Road, Ludlow, Vt., on Sept. 14, at 2 p.m.

Patricia Patterson, 1941-2024

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Patricia "Patty" Patterson, born on Nov. 26, 1941, passed away peacefully on Monday, Aug. 26, 2024. Patty, aka "Grammie" or "Gram," was a tender and loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

She was predeceased by infant daughter Tina, husband Norman Patterson Sr., and son Norman Patterson Jr. She is survived by daughter Lorry Lachapelle; long-time partner Dick Williams; three grandchildren Michelle Lachapelle, Justin Lachapelle, and Nicole Patterson; and two great-grandchildren Blake and Emma Lachapelle.

To be around her was to be home, to feel a warmth and genuine kindness that was contagious. As a selfless and generous caretaker, she truly took pleasure in looking after others. When she wasn't bustling around the house, making something to eat, shopping, or tending to her dog (or two), she spent her afternoons re-watching "Law & Order," or TLC's "What Not to Wear." In the summertime, you could easily find her outside in a lounge chair, swinging by the campfire telling stories until midnight, or she and Dick would spend days going to bluegrass festivals. Many Friday nights, she and her cousin Sylvia would be out at Cactus Jacks in White River Junction dancing the



Patricia Patterson, 1941-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

night away to country music or her sweetheart, Elvis.

Having one leg shorter than the other didn't stop her from living a full and vivacious life – all it took was a trip to the cobbler for a "lift kit" on her shoes and she was "off like a herd of turtles," as she would say. This was her witty, and often flirtatious, sense of humor. She wasn't afraid to challenge some young guy in the car next to her to a race to the next stop light – even in her Buick LeSabre, she most likely won and then gave him a wink. She had a genuine love for life itself, but also appreciated its journey and patience. Patty was a born Vermonter who preferred the longer, yet scenic way around – often stopping for a vanilla ice cream on the way. But now that she's passed into our hearts and memory, we trust that the view is better from above.

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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

SEPT. 1-30 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Community Closet at Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church Street, will hold a bag sale on summer clothes throughout the month of September. Fill a bag with clothes for a small fee. The Community Closet accepts SEVCA vouchers.

SEPT. 13 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls will be

delaying their First Friday Fundraiser Supper, originally scheduled for Sept. 6, to the second Friday, Sept. 13, from 5-6:30 p.m., to honor the calling hours of Hugh Haggerty, something a majority of our patrons and workers will wish to attend. The menu on Sept. 13 will include barbecued chicken, potato salad, green salad, corn on the cob, desserts, and beverages. It will be to benefit the Bellows Falls

Rotary Club, in honor of Hugh Haggerty, a long-time member and officer.

SEPT. 14 – WESTON, Vt. – Come join the Weston Volunteer Fire Department this Saturday, Sept. 14, as we celebrate our 75th anniversary. We'll be gathering on the Weston Town Green with lots of firetrucks, food, music, and games, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Meet firefighters from area towns, and see the tools and equipment we use to do our job. Fun for the whole family.

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The North School Preservation Society will hold a yard sale fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., rain or shine, at 5 School Street. The sale will include a variety of household items, arts and crafts supplies, sewing machines, furniture, books, tools, and much more.

RUTLAND, Vt. – The first annual Rutland MINT Soap Box Derby will be held on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 1-2:30 p.m., as part of the Whoopie Pie Festival in downtown Rutland. The track runs down Center

Street, beginning at Court Street and ending just after Wales Street. Spectators will have an opportunity to get in on the action with early voting, winner predictions, and prizes. For more information, visit www.rutlandmint.org, or www.rutlandwhoopiepiefest.com.

SEPT. 15 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series presents Colombian "indie-tropical" group La Sonora Mazuren on Sunday, Sept. 15, at 5 p.m., at the Robertson Paper Company Field, 21 Island Street in Bellows Falls. Tickets are discounted in advance at www.nextstagearts.org, and kids under 12 are free. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar. Bring lawn chairs or blankets for outdoor seating on the grass.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The Charlestown Historical Society invites you to the 250th anniversary celebration of the Little Red Schoolhouse on Sunday, Sept. 15, at 1 p.m. The schoolhouse is located at 1591 Acworth Road, Charlestown, N.H.

SEPT. 17 – LUDLOW, Vt. – In an informative workshop on Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 11 a.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center, an M&T Bank professional will help you learn how to identify the signs of identity theft and fraud, identify strategies to protect yourself from identity theft and fraud, and learn how to protect your data using safe habits.

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.

MONDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Free Tobacco Quit class led by Sarah Doyle, Mondays, from 6-7 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Extension, Bellows Falls. Dinner included. Call or text Sarah at 802-289-0045 or email sdoyle@springfieldmed.org.

TUESDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Tuesday, from 10-11 a.m. Classes will be held in

the First Universalist Parish of Chester community room. Classes are free and open to all. Drop-in class, no registration needed. For details, contact Barbara at bwquilter1778@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAYS – ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – Frances LeMoine Barsky facilitates a creative writing workshop at the Rockingham Library every Wednesday, from 1-2:30 p.m. Poetry, flash/short fiction, and narrative fiction is emphasized, but not to the exclusion of other genres. Even memoirs can be included in the mix. Make sure to bring a laptop, or a pad of paper and a favorite pen. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 802-463-4270, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, or stop by the Rockingham Library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.

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

Now Hiring

Windsor County Coordinator

Green Mountain RSVP, a program that matches volunteers aged 55+ with volunteer service opportunities is seeking a coordinator for Windsor County.

32 hour, home-based position with flexible hours (can be a four-day work week). Employer provides excellent benefits, including contribution to HSA and paid time off from start of employment.

Must have car and be willing to travel (mostly in Windsor County, VT) about 50% of the time. Must enjoy speaking with people and building relationships with non-profits.

Associate's degree or 3 years of experience in non-profits preferred, basic computer skills required.

See website for full position description and how to apply:
www.rsvpvt.org

NOTICE OF HYDRANT FLUSHING
Cavendish Municipal Water System
Monday, September 16th, through Wednesday, September 18th, 2024
During the hours of 8 am to 5 pm

System users are reminded that: Flushing hydrants may cause temporary discoloration and turbidity of the water. We apologize for any inconvenience to our users, however this very important system maintenance procedure must be conducted each spring and fall. The flushing program allows the pipes to be purged and the hydrants checked for proper operation.

Users are advised to avoid drinking the water or washing clothes (especially whites) while discoloration is in evidence. Following hydrant flushing in your area, users should run cold water until it clears before resuming normal use. It is also a good idea to flush residential water heaters after the water clears following a hydrant flush in your area. Thank you for your cooperation,

Cavendish Municipal Water System
For additional information call 802-226-7291

Hiring Announcement from the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union Bus Driver

Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union (BRSU) is a public school system located in southwestern Vermont. We are in search of Bus Drivers at Flood Brook School in Londonderry, VT. The Bus Driver will have the responsibility of a designated bus route in the morning and afternoon of school days with the possibility of additional driving throughout the day. Responsibilities include transporting students to and from school, maintaining a clean and mechanically sound bus at all times, obeying all traffic laws, performing pre/post trip inspections of the bus, and ensuring the safety of students at all times.

Compensation starts at \$22.00 per hour (with the potential for more, depending upon years of experience) with benefits. This position reports to the Director of Transportation.

We encourage all interested candidates to apply, as we are more than willing to train the right person. For more details about the role and to apply, please visit www.SchoolSpring.com and enter Job ID 4740052.

BRSU is a Professional Learning Community which demonstrates best practice in teaching and is committed to high levels of achievement and success for all students. We offer a cohesive and collaborative work environment. We have excellent benefits and take pride in our inviting work culture filled with dedicated professionals. BRSU is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Town of Plymouth, Vermont
Highway Department Position Available

The Town of Plymouth has an opening for a Town employee in its Highway Department. This is a full-time, year-round position. Duties will include snow plowing, sanding and salting roads, road construction, maintenance and other related duties. Applicant must hold a valid VT CDL and have experience operating a dump truck with a plow and sander.

Competitive salary as well as a great Municipal Benefit Package to include health & dental insurance, retirement plan, paid holidays, and paid vacation. Overtime is required in the winter for storm events and compensation is 1.5 times the hourly rate.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF PLYMOUTH
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Town of Plymouth is seeking qualified contractors to demolish and stabilize a residential property located at 4283 Route 100 that has been acquired through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. We are inviting you to submit a proposal for this project.

The scope of work includes the complete demolition of residential structures, site stabilization, and compliance with all applicable environmental regulations.

Please find the detailed RFP outlining the project requirements, submission instructions, and evaluation criteria on our website at www.plymouthvt.org or call 802-500-1815 ext. 1

Please send bid proposals to clerk@plymouthvt.org or mail to Town of Plymouth, 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, Vermont 05056, Reference 4283 Route 100 no later than 2 P.M. on Thursday, October 3, 2024 and bid selection will happen on October 7, 2024 at the regular Select Board meeting.

NOTICE OF WESTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD HEARING

Town of Weston and the Friends of the Weston Community Inc. on behalf of the Wilder Memorial Library have submitted an application to renovate and expand the existing Library building at 24 Lawrence Hill Road

Sean Rotermund has submitted an application to build a house within the riparian setback at the corner of Lawrence Hill Rd and Serenity Lane.

The Weston Development Review Board will hold a hearing on these applications on October 9, 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.


Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

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.

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

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

Legal Notice

The Westminster Development Review Board will meet at 6:00 pm on **Monday, October 7, 2024** to consider the following:

Application # 25-11 Application #25-11 Molly Marino (Owner) – property located at 3214 US Route 5. The Applicant is requesting an Inground Pool in the Historic District. This Application will be reviewed under **Section 311 Site Plan Review, Section 445 Village District Zone and Article IX Historic Preservation District Zone** of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

Application # 25-12 Application # 25-12 Timothy & Brenda Eno (Owners) property located at 5003 US Route 5. The Applicant is requesting a Minor Subdivision. Application will be reviewed under **Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 446 Residential District; Article XI Flood Hazard Overlay District and Article VIII Subdivision of Land (Minor)** of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

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

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

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT
Windham Unit

PROBATE DIVISION
Docket No.: 24-PR-02914

In re ESTATE of: Barbara Fink

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Barbara Fink
Decedent

late of Londonderry
Decedent's Town of Residence

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

Dated: 09/06/2024 Signature of Fiduciary
Dennis Fink
Dennis Fink (Spouse, 2024 (S.1) (EST))

Executor/Administrator	Mailing Address
Dennis Fink, Executor	c/o Law Office of Amanda L. S. George
Phone Number	City, State, Zip
802-875-7777	PO Box 587, Chester, VT 05143

Name of Publication: Vermont Journal

Publication Date: September 11, 2024

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Windham Unit

Address of Probate Court: 30 Putney Road
Brattleboro, VT 05301

LEGAL NOTICES

opinion/classifieds

Dear Editor,

The Cavendish Community and Conservation Association (CCCA), working with the Town of Cavendish, thanks all the sponsors for the Concerts on The Green in Proctorsville this summer. The concerts were well attended and always thoroughly enjoyed. Music and the company of neighbors and friends bring us together in the best of ways.

Thank you to M&M Excavating, Gassetts Group, Castle Hill Resort and Spa, The Cavendish Community Fund, and Singleton's Market. For information on our various activities and the work we do, go to our website at www.cavendishccca.org.

Sincerely,
Robin Timko
Cavendish, Vt.

Dear Editor,

Another election season is upon us. Ballots will be mailed out starting Monday, Sept. 23. I am asking my fellow Vermonters to again take consideration of candidates that will put a stop to the never-ending tax and spend agenda of the Democratic supermajority in the legislature and senate. As a lifelong Vermonter, I am not alone in stating that my working class friends, family, and neighbors are hurting under the burden of high taxation placed upon us.

The Windsor County Republican Party has candidates that are focused exclusively on the economic and social issues facing Vermonters. Every day, the news outlets share the ongoing criminal acts in our neighborhoods, the lack of affordable housing, the tragedy of the heroin/fentanyl epidemic, failing schools, and a health care system that is overloaded and near collapse. These candidates will demand a much overdue accounting

of how our hard-earned and limited tax dollars are being spent, and address these problems. They will work to restore fiscal responsibility and balanced government to our state.

Please join me in voting for the following Vermont State Senate candidates: Jonathan Gleason of Ludlow, Andrea Murray of Weathersfield, and Jack Williams of Perkinsville.

Please also vote for long-time volunteer firefighter, public servant, and home builder Steve Radonis of Plymouth for state legislator representing Woodstock, Plymouth, and Reading.

Retired businessman Kevin Winter is running to represent Ludlow, Mount Holly, and Shrewsbury. He needs your vote.

All of these candidates stand with Gov. Phil Scott against the legislature's tax hikes.

Sincerely,
Stuart Lindberg
Cavendish, Vt.

ESTATE SALE

CAVENDISH, Vt. - Estate Sale of Helen Fuller, Saturday, Sept. 14, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. 1011 Knapp Pond Road, Cavendish. Complete contents of home, car, Honda Shadow motorcycle, snowblower. More info at rumorhasitvt.com.

FIREWOOD

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Premium dry/seasoned hardwood for sale, 16" length, \$350 per cord, \$150 1/3 cord. Free box of hardwood kindling with full cord purchase. I also have solo stove 12" dry hardwood 1 cubic foot for \$8 per bundle. Call 802-376-1168.

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - Firewood in the Andover, Weston, Londonderry, Windham area. \$140

you cut & split, 1.5 ton Dump Truck load of 8-10 foot delivered, cut last winter. Also cut & split, dry or green. Call 802-875-2646 evenings.

FOR HIRE

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - For Hire: new 10 yard Maxx-D dump trailer. Need mulch or other material delivered or demolition removed? Tractor services also available with backhoe and grapple. Give us a call at 802-376-1168.

FOR RENT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - EZ-Dump Enterprises, New Maxx-D dump trailer 7'x14' 10 yards for rent, \$450 per day including 1st ton disposal fee. Call or text 802-376-1168.

HELP WANTED

LOUDLOW, Vt. - Blue Duck Deli is looking to hire a barista. We are looking for somebody who has a desire to learn the art of craft coffee in a fast paced environment. Other responsibilities include assisting the kitchen team with food service when needed and maintaining the dining area. Contact blueduckdeli@gmail.com for inquiries.

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

POLITICAL LETTERS Due to the volume of political letters we receive during elections, and the increased cost of adding pages to the paper to print them all, political letters are charged at the rate of \$75 for 200 words, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. Political letters include endorsing, electioneering, or campaigning for a specific candidate or party.

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.

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:

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

Additional requirements are a good working ethic, positive attitude, hard worker and a team player.

Interested candidates should complete an application and submit to: Charlestown Town Office - Human Resources Department, PO Box 385, Charlestown NH 03603 or email Ddezan@charlestown-nh.gov. An application may be found at www.charlestown-nh.gov or at the Town Office 233 Main St. Charlestown, NH.

The Town of Charlestown is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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:

- High School Diploma or Equivalent.
- Valid NH Drivers License
- 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.

Two Rivers Supervisory Union Early Childhood Special Educator

Two Rivers Supervisory Union has an opening for an Early Childhood Special Educator in the Chester-Andover and Cavendish Town Elementary School Preschool program for the 2024-2025 school year. A Vermont teacher license with an endorsement in Early Childhood Special Education is required. Contact Mary Barton at 802-875-3365 for more information or apply on School Spring job ID: 4773588.

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.

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/employment>.

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~

CLASSIFIEDS

Start at \$20 per week for 4 lines of text. Buy 3 get 1 Free!

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.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

Art Crafts Gifts

GALLERY AT THE VAULT

Art Crafts Gifts & Workshops
68 Main St., Springfield 802-885-7111
OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5 & Fri. 11-7
Shop Handmade www.galleryvault.org

Art in the Alley Sept. 13
Make Paste Papers
Stop by between 3-5 Free!

Art for the Senses Exhibit
Oil Paintings by Lynn VanNatta
On view until September 18

Open Wall Show: Celebration
Until October 9
(10/16/24 - 1FN - 13)

Builders/Contractors

HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC

"Not just for bangin' nails."

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

Follow us on Instagram @netthehammer
(11/20/24 - 52)

PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION

Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville. 802-558-5267.
(11/13/24 - 13)

Campground

CATON PLACE CAMPGROUND

2419 EAST ROAD, CAVENDISH VERMONT
SEASONAL SITES AVAILABLE FOR 2025! REASONABLE RATES!
802-226-7767, Catonplacecamp@gmail.com.

Full hook up sites, pull thru, and tent sites. Views of Okemo! Large Private Sites!
(11/06/24 - 13)

Chiropractor

FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC

Dr. Denise Natale 58 Parker Avenue, Proctorsville, VT 05153, 802-226-7977 Hours: Tuesday 1pm-6pm, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-6pm.
(08/13/25 - 1FN - 52)

Electrician

KJ ELECTRIC LLC

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

Masonry

DRC STONE DESIGN

Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 32 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or stoneart49@gmail.com or visit drcstonedesign.com.
(11/20/24 - 13)

MOORE MASONRY

Fireplaces, chimneys and liners, chimney sweeps, patios, walls, steps, restoration and repairs. Fully insured, free estimates. Contact Gary Moore at 802-824-5710 mooremasonry802@gmail.com.
(12/04/24 - 26)

Tools

\$\$ CASH PAID FOR OLD TOOLS \$\$

PLANES, AXES, STANLEY ITEMS, ETC.
802-579-5891
(09/18/24)

arts & entertainment

La Sonora Mazuren comes to Bellows Falls —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series presents Colombian “indie-tropical” group La Sonora Mazuren on Sunday, Sept. 15, at 5 p.m.

La Sonora Mazuren is the latest addition to the already-rich indie-tropical scene out of Bogota, Colombia. Deeply rooted in the popular sounds and rhythms of South America, the group draws from cumbia, chicha, guaracha, champeta, and other styles mostly from Ecuador, Colombia, and Peru.

Far from being folklorists or revivalists, La Sonora Mazuren combines synthesizers and electric guitars with accordion and percussion to create a futuristic style indebted to early pioneers such as Polibio Mayorga or Bogota’s own Eblis Alvarez, of Meridian Brothers fame, who also produced their debut album. The result is a psychedelic feast reminiscent of the golden years of

Tropicalia.

“This is their first ever U.S. tour, brought to us by our friends at Barbés in Brooklyn. This cumbia band has been making waves without ever having toured in the U.S. I think that this group is on their way to being a big name in cumbia,” says Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts. “The group has an infectious style that inspires people to dance. We’re excited to bring them to southern Vermont for this tour.”

The Bandwagon Summer Series is a family-friendly outdoor cultural performance series running from early May through mid-October. More than 20 performances ranging from a diverse group of musical styles, circus arts, dance, and theater will take place at ballfields, farms, and parks throughout Windham County. Kids under 12 always get in for free, and a

dedicated play area will be available at all shows. Refreshments are sold on site, including the return of the hugely popular Barr Hill cocktails. Bring a picnic and a blanket or fold-up chair to enjoy our concerts.

Robertson Paper Company Field is located at 21 Island Street in Bellows Falls. Tickets discounted in advance at www.nextstagearts.org, and kids under 12 are free. For more information, call 802-387-0102 or visit the website.

This concert is supported in part by the Bellows Falls Area Development Corporation.

Support for the Bandwagon Summer Series is provided by M&T Bank, Lawson’s Finest Liquids, Oak Meadow, The Porch Café & Catering, Southern Vermont Solar, and Confluence Acupuncture.

OLLI: “Saving the ‘Lost’ Paintings of Vermont” —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Author Anita Rafael will launch the fall 2024 semester of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), with the program “Saving the ‘Lost’ Paintings of Vermont: The Lyman Orton Collection,” on Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 2 p.m., at the Nolin Murray Center, next to St. Mary’s Church, on Pleasant Street in Springfield.

Rafael will tell the story of the magnificent art collection of Lyman Orton, proprietor of The Vermont Country Store, and how he went about collecting this artwork for nearly half a century to ensure that these treasures stayed in their home state of Vermont. She’ll show photographs of many of the pieces, and describe how she helped to collect and tell the stories behind the scenes, and the artists that depict a true love of Vermont in the landscape and the lives of Vermont’s people. Included will be pieces by Rockwell Kent, Luigi Lucioni, Dean Fausett, Henry Shokler, and Stuart Eldredge of Springfield – all from a time that Orton calls the “golden era” of the painters in Vermont, from 1910-1970.

Orton is sharing his collection with Vermonters at locations throughout the state. Many of the paintings are currently on exhibit until the end of the year at the Vermont Historical Society’s Pavilion Museum in Montpelier.

Rafael is the coauthor of the book chronicling this fascinating collection and the story behind it. She is a writer living and working in an 1840s carriage barn she rehabilitated in 2005, in the Village of Wardsboro, Vt. Her feature articles about people, places, arts, food, travel, and events in Vermont have appeared in lifestyle magazines and newspapers throughout the State of Vermont since 2007, as well as on websites and travel blogs.

Sponsored by the University of Vermont, OLLI is run by local volunteer members, and is geared mainly towards seniors who are 50 years of age and older who enjoy learning for the fun of it. Anyone who would be interested in this type of program, regardless of their age, is welcome. The programs are held Tuesday afternoons, at 2 p.m., and last about an hour and a half.

You may view the entire semester’s programs by going to www.learn.uvm.edu/olli/springfield. Preregistration can be done online at



“Pillars of Vermont” by Luigi Lucioni. PHOTO PROVIDED

ion Museum in Montpelier. Rafael is the coauthor of the book chronicling this fascinating collection and the story behind it. She is a writer living and working in an 1840s carriage barn she rehabilitated in 2005, in the Village of Wardsboro, Vt. Her feature articles about people, places, arts, food, travel, and events in Vermont have appeared in lifestyle magazines and newspapers throughout the State of Vermont since 2007, as well as on websites and travel blogs.

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You may view the entire semester’s programs by going to www.learn.uvm.edu/olli/springfield. Preregistration can be done online at

this website with a credit card. You may also register over the phone using your credit card by calling 802-656-8407 during regular office hours, Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. There is a membership series fee, and nonmembers are welcome and encouraged to attend individual programs for a single program fee.

If you prefer to register by mail, send your contact information (name, address, phone number, and email address) indicating full series membership or which specific program(s) you wish to attend. Mail this information and your check made out to “University of Vermont – OLLI” to UVM Non-Credit Registration Office, 85 South Prospect Street, Box 34, Burlington, VT 05405.

If mailing in the registration, please allow 10-14 days from the date of mailing check to receipt and processing.

If there are weather-related changes to the schedule, you can check the above website on the morning of the program. The next program, on Oct. 1, will be “The Long World War II.” Andrew Buchanan, senior lecturer in the UVM history department, will describe how today’s global world order is still being influenced by the events and politics of World War II.

Springfield Community Players present “Godspell” —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – If you walk by the Springfield Community Players Theater on South Street these days, you are apt to hear the songs of “Godspell” filling the air, as the cast prepares the players’ next production.

“Godspell” conceived and originally directed by John-Michael Tebelak, with music and new lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, is a musical based upon the Gospel according to Saint Matthew. Filled with gentle humor and tuneful songs, Act 1 is

a series of parables told in comic fashion, while Act 2 touches on the Passion of Christ. The songs are in different styles, from folk, to vaudeville, to rock, with the most recognizable song being “Day by Day.”

“Godspell” is under the direction of Don Gray, with Cindy Hughes as musical director, Kay Burge as accompanist, and Kallah Turner as choreographer.

Xzavior Fitzwater takes on the role of Jesus, while Tim Jones has the dual

role of John the Baptist and Judas. The followers of Jesus are played by Sonja Skalecki, Samantha Wood, W. Lynx Brammer, Arielle Descoteau, Summers Williams, and Nick Hattam.

This is a lively show filled with delightful songs and lots of humor, and is sure to touch the heart.

“Godspell” is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International.

The musical will be presented at the Springfield Community Players Studio at 165 South Street, Springfield, Vt., with performances on Sept. 20, 21, 27, and 28, with curtain at 7:30 p.m. There will also be Sunday matinees on Sept. 22 and 29, with curtain at 2 p.m. Tickets are discounted for students and seniors, and may be reserved online at www.springfieldcommunityplayers.org, or by calling 802-885-4098.

URBAN ENIGMA
— BARBERING —
RODNEY SPURGEON | 603-826-0820
16 North Main Street | Charlestown, NH

Honey Festival
Saturday, Sept. 14
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PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present a contemporary folk double bill with Rakish (Maura Shawn Scanlin and Connor Hearn) and The Early Risers (Ashley Storrow and Putnam Smith) on Friday, Sept. 20, at 7:30 p.m., at Next Stage.

Violinist Maura Shawn Scanlin and guitarist Connor Hearn unite to form Rakish. The pair gets their namesake from the traditional Irish tune “Rakish Paddy,” an origin that aptly suits the duo and their shared background in traditional Irish and Scottish music. Yet “rakish” itself also suggests something strikingly unconventional in its appearance, and Scanlin and Hearn knowingly embrace this wealth of connotation in their music, drawing on the music they grew up with and performing it with their own slant. In a performance that toes the line between concert music and session music, Rakish explores tunes and songs from Irish and American folk traditions in a way that reflects their shared interest in and love for old traditional tunes and chamber music. Scanlin, a two-time U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion and a winner of the Glenfiddich Fiddle Competition, wields the technical range of a classical violinist and the deep

sensitivity of a traditional musician. Hearn, a native to the Irish music communities of Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Md., makes his home in Boston, Mass., playing and teaching guitar. As a duo they have performed at venues and festivals across North America, and can be found teaching at fiddle camps across the country.

The Early Risers are a folk duo from Vermont, made up of Ashley Storrow and Putnam Smith. Both rootsy and lyric-driven, their original songs feature close vocal harmonies and arrangements on a wide array of instruments – banjo, guitar, mandolin, piano, and shru-ti-box. Their debut album, “Making Life Sweet” went to #1 on the National Folk DJ Charts in November 2019.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance at www.nextstagearts.org. For information, call 802-387-0102. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar.

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arts & entertainment

Dot mandala, vinegar graining workshops

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the VAULT is happy to offer a dot mandala workshop with Antje Ruppert on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 2-4 p.m.

You will use special dotting tools to create your mandala. Ruppert will introduce the tools and their application, and will provide practice sheets and a series of patterns to try out for the “perfect” dot placement, namely a sort of half-round, almost bead-like looking dot, to create a 3D feel.

Once ready, you will be provided with an 8-inch by 8-inch sheet of heavy card stock in a variety of colors, on which the center is already premarked for the placement of the first dot. You will be given a strip of six small paint pots, and can choose from a variety of acrylic paints. This is a very meditative and calming, creative experience, and absolutely beginner friendly.

Take your paint pots home for your own creations. Ruppert will explain how tools can be fabricated from things



A dot circle mandala. PHOTO PROVIDED

you have at home – toothpicks, Q-tips, dowels, pencils with erasers, etc.

The cost includes materials, and is discounted for gallery members. Registration through Wednesday, Sept. 11.

Explore the traditional art of vinegar graining with Corinne “Corky” Bond at Gallery at the VAULT on Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Discover the history and artistry behind this decorative technique, and create your own stunning piece by the end of the day. With all supplies provided except

your project piece, you will work through each step of the process, transforming a simple object into a beautifully grained masterpiece.

Bring a project piece such as a simple wooden picture frame, wooden foot stool, small wooden or nice cardboard box, or any other small item with flat, paintable sides. The cost of the workshop is discounted for gallery members. There will be a small materials fee, only if you need a project. Register by Sept. 25.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street, Springfield. We are open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Fridays, from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

For more information, stop by the gallery, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit www.galleryvault.org or the gallery’s Facebook and Instagram pages. Gallery at the VAULT is handicap accessible.

Saxtons River Sunday Concert Series continues

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – The Sunday music series at the Saxtons River Park continues Sept. 15, at 4 p.m., with the group Swing Low, who describe their style as “jazz standards and pop classics with mesmerizing vocals and swinging grooves.” The rain date is Sept. 22.

The four-member group includes Nick Scalerio on saxophone,

Ashok on bass, Maryann McArdle on keyboard, and vocalist Ajan Beer.

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 (MSA).

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

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

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

Indie filmmaker showcase at BFOH

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – A story of obsession with singer-songwriter Ani DiFranco, and a dark comedy about bungling criminals will be the first two indie films to screen as part of the Bellows Falls Films Independent Filmmaker Showcase at the Bellows Falls Opera House (BFOH) in September and October.

The Bellows Falls Opera House is a municipally-owned film and live event venue located in the heart of Bellows Falls. In an effort to provide accessible opportunities for independent filmmakers to screen their films in a fully operational theater, the Bellows Falls Opera House has created BFFilms, in special arrangement with Rockingham Entertainment Development (RED). BFFilms seeks to offer a variety of films to the public by inviting independent filmmakers from throughout New England to present commercially viable projects without the burden of excessive upfront costs. Ticket sales will be handled through the Bellows Falls Opera House website, www.bellowsfallsoperahouse.com.

“Dear Ani” (www.dearani.com) kicks off the

series on Saturday, Sept. 21, and will be presented by New Hampshire filmmaker Keith Wasserman (www.keith-wasserman.com). Described as an odyssey of music, art, and mania, the film is about an aspiring songwriter who, more than 20 years ago, began a creatively obsessive correspondence with music icon Ani DiFranco, believing her reply letters were encoded in the lyrics of her songs. Three additional shorts will be shown, and Wasserman will be available for a Q&A and merchandise sales following the film. Reserve tickets online at www.bellowsfallsoperahouse.com/special-events.

“Dead English” (www.vimeo.com/891311592?share=copy) will be presented on Tuesday, Oct. 8, with actor, filmmaker, and musician Matt Munroe (www.mattmunroe.com). The dark comedy explores what happens after a bungled heist goes wrong, and two friends are forced to deal with the body of the individual they burgled. A Brothers Munroe Production, Munroe is a Vermont native who spent 20 years in Los Angeles, and has returned home to live in southern Vermont. He was cast in the film “Independence Day: Resurgence.” Munroe will be available for



“Dear Ani” poster. PHOTO PROVIDED

a Q&A after the film. Reserve tickets online at www.bellowsfallsoperahouse.com/whats-playing-2.

Additional films are booking throughout the end of the year, and will be announced soon. Dates in 2025 are being reserved now. For more information, or to explore booking your independent film, contact Susan MacNeil at susan@svidol.com.

Cindy Moses stained-glass art at River Artisan Cooperative

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The River Artisan Cooperative in Bellows Falls now offers colorful and delicate stained-glass pieces by artist Cindy Moses of Maple Leaf Design. Each piece is unique, and they are stunning hanging on a wall or particularly on a window with the light coming through.

Cindy makes earrings and jewelry, which are also very appealing with their delicate lines, but stained glass is a new artform for her. The year before last, she saw some examples in a gallery and was captivated. She had worked with glass before, making

beads, but the idea of using it to make small art pieces was new to her. She says she is particularly interested in the way colored glass with clear open space around it works. Since learning that Moses is creating these pieces, many people have given her boxes of all kinds of stained glass, and she is having a wonderful time with all the colors. They are a perfect and unusual gift for a birthday, holiday, or special occasion.

Come visit us and enjoy our rich array of handcrafted items. We’re the perfect shop for finding made-in-Vermont gifts. The River Artisan



Stained glass ornaments. PHOTO BY DEBORAH STUART

Cooperative shop is located at 28 Village Square in Bellows Falls. We are open Thursday-Monday, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.riverartisanscooperative.com or call 802-591-2085.

Join the Fairy House Festival as an event volunteer

GRAFTON, Vt. – The Nature Museum in Grafton is preparing to host the 15th annual Fairy House Festival on Saturday, Sept. 28, and Sunday, Sept. 29, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Guests of all ages walk the fairy house trails and discover a magical village. This family-friendly annual tradition is possible because of the strong community support from Fairy House builders and volunteers who help host this re-

gional treasure. Each year, over 60 volunteer builders create a fairyland of small structures built out of natural materials, opening a portal to the incredible world around us through observation of nature’s details. The creativity of the builders is the heart of this magical festival, and every year local artists, businesses, families, and classrooms come together to create a unique fairy village

full of surprises. Builders receive two free tickets for admission, and registration to become a builder is open on the Nature Museum website. Slots are limited and filling fast.

Festival volunteers sign up for three-hour shifts, which include posting flyers ahead of the event, helping with grounds setup, greeting visi-

tors along the fairy house trail, guiding family activities, and more. Open to everyone over age 14, volunteers receive free admission and a T-shirt, and students receive community service hours.

Visit www.nature-museum.org to register as a builder or event volunteer, or to purchase tickets and

plan your day for this autumn tradition.

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home sweet home

Why getting approved for a mortgage first matters

REGION – Are you among the myriad of potential homebuyers who will be jumping off the sidelines and getting into the homebuying game if rates drop? Go into your home search prepared by getting approved for a mortgage before you house hunt.

Not only can a mortgage approval help you under-

stand what you can spend on a home, but you will also receive a mortgage approval letter to prove to sellers that you have been approved for your home loan. Approval means an underwriter has reviewed your application and has verified all necessary forms of income, assets, and credit. All loans are subject to final credit approval and

acceptable property. Conditions and restrictions may apply.

To get approved for a mortgage, you will need to provide all of your monthly debts compared to your pretax monthly income, also known as your debt-to-income ratio (DTI); the loan amount divided by the appraised value of the home, or loan-to-value ratio (LTV); your credit history, to see how you have repaid debts (credit card debt, auto loans, etc.) in the past; your credit

score, which estimates the likelihood you will repay the money you borrow; two years' worth of W-2s, 1099s, child support, alimony, Social Security, or other sources that prove your income; and documentation that can prove at least two years' worth of your employment history.

Depending on your situation, there may be additional documentation necessary to get mortgage approval.

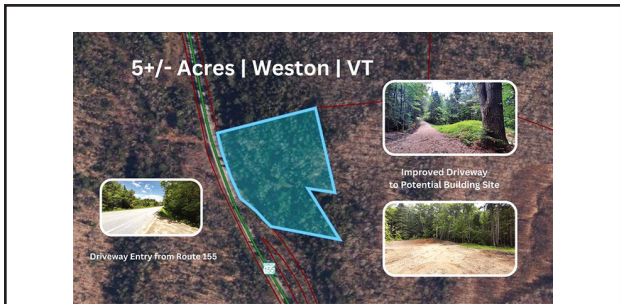
It's worth noting that a mortgage approval is

different than a mortgage qualification. While a qualification means your lender has provided an estimate based on the initial information you provide, an approval takes the process a step further by having an underwriter perform a full review. All loans are subject to credit approval. A qualification is not an approval of credit, and does not signify that underwriting requirements

have been met. Conditions and restrictions may apply.

How much home can you afford? Crunch the numbers on your homebuying budget with this free home affordability calculator at lo.primelending.com/vblodgett/calculators/how-much-home-can-i-afford.

Submitted by Victoria Blodgett, Prime Lending, Ludlow, Vt.



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SEVCA assistance with Homestead Declaration, Property Tax Credit Claim

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – If you are a Vermont homeowner, you can receive a reduction in your property taxes by filing a Homestead Declaration, but you need to act fast to ensure you meet the Oct. 15 deadline. Once filed, your tax rate is discounted based on your income. Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) offers free assistance with filling out the Homestead Declaration. If you are a Vermont homeowner, you are required to file a Homestead Declaration every year to receive the homestead property tax rate. Many individuals can lower their property tax bill by filing a Property Tax Credit Claim. The final

deadline for these claims is Oct. 15.

This assistance is part of our Volunteer Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Every year we help scores of people file their taxes via the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. We also assist Vermont residents with filing their Homestead Declaration, Property Tax Credit Claim, and Renter Rebate Claim. If you are interested in having your taxes prepared, or need assistance with your Homestead Declaration, Property Tax Credit Claim, or Renter Credit, go to www.sevca.org/tax-services, or call or text our direct line to the VITA program at 802-428-3032.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Broadway flop

5 Foot part

9 Urban carrier

12 Vivacity, in music

13 "Funny!"

14 Flamenco cheer

15 Rural tourist attractions

17 Skier Tommy

18 Actress Neuwirth

19 Serious

21 Wide, fancy necktie

24 Jazz singer Laine

25 Noggin

26 Reeve role

30 Einstein's birthplace

31 Mini-plateaus

32 Green prefix

33 Pudding choices

35 Firecracker sound

36 Grecian vessels

37 Embedded spies

38 Bas-relief medium

40 Reed instrument

42 Pirates' quaff

43 Duncan Hines products

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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DOWN

1 Telly network

2 Granada gold

3 Russian space station

4 Chocolate-coated treat

5 Melville captain

6 Demolish

7 "Evita" role

8 Pesters

9 Fast-food deal

10 Balm ingredient

11 Tavern order

16 Bumped into

20 "— the ram-parts ..."

21 Border on

22 Actress Ward

23 College

24 Handout for a freshman

24 Tax prep pros

26 Brief moments

27 Can. neighbor

28 Dreaded breakout

29 Eggy drinks

31 Prop for Mr. Peanut

34 Apr. address-ee

35 Aircraft manufacturer

37 May honoree

38 Clench

39 Franc replacer

40 Gumbo need

41 Existed

44 Have a cold

45 Tic-tac-toe loser

46 Sch. URL sender

47 Filming site

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