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Vermont Journal JANUARY 01, 2025 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM **VOLUME 25, ISSUE 01**

JAN. 13 – Local brewery celebrates third opening

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. The Outer Limits tap room finally opened its doors again on Friday, Jan. 13. The Okemo Valley Chamber of Commerce welcomed the business back with a ribbon cutting ceremony. "This was our third opening," Owner Wesley Tice remarked. First was the grand opening in 2019, then they were shut down in 2020 during the pandemic, and now, back again after another disaster.

By Paula Benson JÁN. 29 - Layne Millington offered TRSU superintendent position

CAVENDISH, Vt. - After a three-month-long search process culminating in a public Meet the Candidates event on Monday, Jan. 29, the Two Rivers Supervisory Union (TRSU) Board has decided to offer the position of superintendent to Layne Millington, according to minutes TRSU shared with the Journal from their Feb. 1 regular meeting. Millington will replace Lauren Fierman, who resigned during the Green Mountain Union High School mascot controversy.

By Lorien Strange FEB. 20 - America's oldest cheesemaker turns 100

MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. - In 1824, the Crowley family of Healdville, Vt., started handcrafted, producing raw milk cheese from their kitchen in the family farmhouse. The Crowley Cheese Factory was built by A. Winfield Crowley in 1882. While continuing to make their cheese by hand in small batches, they were able to increase production, and began shipping their product via the railroads to "the shores of Maine and the streets of Manhattan."

ward with opening his new venture, Little Mexico, in Ludlow, Vt. One week after signing the lease, Vermont experienced the epic July 2023 flood disaster, and the plaza took on a landslide of water, mud, and debris that filled the parking lot, flooded the shops, and left destruction in its wake. When Torres and his team were finally able to celebrate the restaurant's grand opening in late February 2024, the space was a renovated, functioning work in progress. By Paula Benson

MARCH 9 - Proctorsville welcomes The Grafton **Cheese Company**

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. -Grafton Village Cheese Company first began cheddaring in 1892. While the company has since expanded beyond its early roots, now producing an awardwinning line of artisanal cave-aged varieties, the tradition of making handcrafted cheeses using premium raw milk from local, family farms continues. Recently, the village of Proctorsville became the latest home to the acclaimed cheesemakers.

By Paula Benson

MARCH 19 – Vermonters make plans for rare total solar eclipse

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. -The audience was standing room only on Tuesday, March 19, at the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library in Proctorsville. The crowd had gathered for the Eclipse 2024 presentation, given by astronomer Claudio Véliz, and sponsored by the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association (CCCA). A former astrophysics professor at Columbia University, Véliz has worked with NASA and the Havden Planetarium, and was excited to dive into his presentation on Vermont's potential front row seat to the April 8 solar eclipse. By Paula Benson APRIL 15 - Plymouth to revote on Bethany Birches

2024 in Review -

tax exemption

PLYMOUTH, Vt. - The board approved the warning to hold a special meeting to host a revote on Bethany Birches being exempt from educational taxes for five years. The topic became heated, with resident Robert Lambert asserting that the issue had already been voted on. "In my opinion, we shouldn't be voting again on this for five years." Cappellini expressed, "Bob, your point is valid...but Vermont statute allows for this."

By Shawntae Webb MAY 1 - Chester tackles nuisance goats

CHESTER, Vt. - The Chester Selectboard met on the first day of May, for their first of two bimonthly Wednesday meetings. The central topic under discussion was the creation of a nuisance ordinance dealing with unrestrained livestock in town, stemming primarily from a recurring issue in the area of the intersection of Andover Road and Potash Brook Road.

By Nick Giberti

MAY 23 - New England Cider Donuts sets up a sweet shop in Ludlow

LUDLOW, Vt. - New England Cider Donuts celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, May 23. Memorial Day weekend brought a perfect two days of warm, sunny skies, and a steady stream of customers into the shop.

By Paula Benson

JUNE 28 – Shaw's reopens in Ludlow

LUDLOW, Vt. - Nearly a year after closing, having lost all its inventory and sustained significant damage in the flood of July 2023, Shaw's in Ludlow held its grand reopening on Friday morning, June 28, at 9 a.m. The longempty parking lot was full to capacity, with many residents, town officials, Shaw's employees, and members of the Okemo Valley Chamber of Commerce on hand for the ribbon cutting cer-

emony. By Nick Giberti

JUNE 30 - Ludlow Fire **Chief Peter Kolenda retires** LUDLOW, Vt. - Retiring Ludlow Fire Chief Peter Kolenda waved as he exited the Ludlow Fire Station on Sunday, June 30, at 12 p.m. Kolenda was being honored with a boisterous "escort home," sirens blaring and lights flashing in celebration of the chief's last day on the job. Kolenda recently announced his retirement from the department, after serving the town for 25 years.

By Paula Benson JULY 1 - Londonderry re-

ceives seven planning commission resignations LONDONDERRY, Vt.

Board Chair Tom Cavanagh moved on to announce the resignations from planning commission members. He said there were "so many" resignation letters, "I'm not going to read them out loud." By Shawntae Webb

AUG. 24 - Blue Duck Deli opens after yearlong delay LUDLOW, Vt. - The Blue Duck Deli, located at 117 Main Street, Ludlow, has recently opened, bringing a new flavor into town. After suffering a yearlong setback in opening due to the catastrophic flood in July 2023, Bex Prasse and Craig Kovalsky are looking forward to bringing their unique experiences to the culinary scene in Ludlow.

By Bridget Cunningham AUG. 24 – Fourth annual Best of Vermont Summer Festival

LUDLOW, Vt. – The board LUDLOW, Vt. - The Okerevisited the notion of a

ing Quinn and the planning rentals, and a rental registry." commission to consider By Nick Giberti adding minimum lot size re-

quirements to the new zones

as an added layer of security

against overly dense local-

SEPT. 21 – 50th annual

Chester Festival on The

CHESTER, Vt. - This year,

the Chester Festival on the

Green celebrated its 50th

anniversary with even more

fun and entertainment for

OCT. 7 – Londonderry

will not assist with FEMA

LONDNDERRY, Vt. - At

their Oct. 7 meeting, the

Londonderry Selectboard

discussed a trash compactor,

the FEMA hazard mitigation

grant program application

processes, and the resigna-

tion of town administrator

NOV. 4 - FEMA denies el-

evation and flood-proofing

LÓNDONDERRY, Vt. –

The FEMA Hazard Miti-

gation Grant Program has

reported to the Town of

Londonderry that they are

not going to fund elevation

or flood-proofing projects.

Their main priorities are

buyouts. The homeown-

ers at 74 Main Street, who

previously submitted a pre-

application for elevation,

requested to move forward

NOV. 4 - Ludlow reopens

with a buyout application.

By Shawntae Webb

STR discussion

Shane O'Keefe.

projects

By Shawntae Webb

process, O'Keefe resigns

ized development.

By Nick Giberti

the whole family.

Green

DEC. 11 - Green Mountain's Jake Walker named Coach of the Year

CHESTER, Vt. - In recognition of his triumphant season, the Vermont State Coaches Association (VSCA) honored Walker as Small-School Coach of the Year, and Overall Coach of the Year.

Bv Paula Benson

DEC. 14 – Mountain Munchkins opens in Ludlow

LUDLOW, Vt. - Dan and Ali Singleton have embarked on a brand-new venture – a passion project of sorts for Ali – a children's boutique on Main Street in Ludlow called Mountain Munchkins. With an adorable logo designed by Wavy Grape Graphic Design Studio, Mountain Munchkins moved into the office on Main recently vacated by Huntley Financials.

By Paula Benson DEC. 16 - Londonderry to hold exit interviews

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – At the Dec. 16 Londonderry Selectboard meeting, the board voted to hold exit interviews with individuals who resigned over the last six months, in order to get a better scope on what went wrong, and determine where the board can improve in the future.

By Shawntae Webb

DEC. 21 – All aboard the Okemo Valley Holiday Express

REGION - All aboard the Okemo Valley Holiday Express! The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce invites everyone to experience the magic of the season with a special train ride this Dec. 21 and 22. DEC. 21 - Starry, Starry

By Paula Benson

FEB. 23 – Little Mexico serves up big flavor at Okemo Marketplace

LUDLOW, Vt. - Last July, restaurateur Oscar Torres was ready to move for-

mo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce hosted the fourth annual Best of Vermont Summer Festival on Saturday, Aug. 24, and Sunday, Aug. 25, at Okemo Field in Ludlow, Vt.

SEPT. 18 - Chester holds rural zoning hearing

CHESTER, Vt. - Due to the concerns voiced about density-based zoning, the board recessed the hearing for a future meeting, askshort-term rental (STR) registry, a topic which has been long-discussed in Ludlow and many surrounding towns. A 2-2 tie vote led to the abandonment of a previous STR registry effort in January, but since the recent Trailside fire at Okemo, town manager Brendan Mc-Namara said he had been receiving "a lot of feedback from the public regarding the town and short-term

Night in Chester

CHESTER, Vt. - Visit Chester, Vt., on Dec. 21, from 4-7 p.m., for Starry, Starry Night. Follow the luminaries throughout town to over 20 participating businesses offering refreshments and special events.

INDEX CONTACT US DEADLINES **ADS:** Real Estate. **OFFICE ADDRESS:** ads@VermontJournal.com 8 High Street • PO Box 228 • Ludlow, VT Obituaries/Services5 sales@VermontJournal.com **BILLING ADDRESS: NEWS:** PO Box 116 • Rutland, VT 05702 editor@VermontJournal.com **PHONE NUMBER: CALENDAR:** 802-228-3600 calendar@VermontJournal.com Opinion.....7 WEBSITE: **BILLING:** www.VermontJournal.com billing@VermontJournal.com

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

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Green Mountain Gardeners successful 2024

LONDONDERRY, Vt. -The Green Mountain Gardeners (GMG) capped off a successful year with their tradition of tabletop-treemaking and donations to support community organizations. The uniquely decorated tabletop trees and cookies from the Weston Women's Club and the Wantastiquet Rotary elves bring holiday cheer to the homebound.

In addition to collecting food for the food pantry, the GMG donated \$300 to Neighbors Pantry, and will make other donations in 2025.

The hallmark biannual Mountain Garden Walks on behalf of the club's Lib Thieme Scholarship, a fouryear scholarship for local youth, was a success. The tour of six local gardens raised over \$10,000 for the scholarship, which provides monetary assistance for college or vocational studies in environmental sciences, landscape design, conservation, agriculture, or ecology to area students.

GMG hosted a program on invasive species by Pieter van Loon of the Vermont Land Trust. The talk provided community members with tools to identify and eradicate invasive species.

At its annual meeting, GMG celebrated the receipt of numerous awards bestowed upon it by the Federated Garden Club of Vermont. The club received 10 awards. Of note, the statewide Golden Trowel Award went to Landgrove's Sally Ogden, for over 50 years of work on behalf of GMG.

Throughout 2024, GMG efforts included spring cleanup in Londonderry, working on the garden at the Londonderry Arts and Historical Society, main-tenance of Weston's Farrar-Mansur Museum, flower plantings at the town hall in Landgrove, and planting trees and bulbs in the Mountain Towns.

For those interested in joining the Green Mountain Gardeners and the opportunity to make a difference in the community, membership information can be found on their website at www. greenmountaingardeners.net/join-us.html.





Weekly SUDOKU 5 3 6

Wildlife rehabilitation talk at the library -

CAVENDISH, Vt. - On Jan. 18, at the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library, wildlife rehabilitator John Aberth will share his incredible story of saving two orphaned baby beavers, known as "kits." Over two years, Aberth rehabilitated the kits until they could be released back into the

wild. The event starts at 3 p.m., and is part of the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association's Walk and Talk series.

Aberth is a volunteer licensed wildlife rehabilitator who specializes in raptors (hawks, owls, and falcons), and some mammals, such as beavers, minks, and weasels. A retired college professor of medieval history, Aberth combines his wildlife expertise with engaging storytelling. He currently volunteers at Protect Our Wildlife, a Vermont wildlife advocacy group.

No registration is necessary, but seating is limited. For more information, email cavendishccca@ gmail.org.

FML thanks Sons of Ludlow Legion

LUDLOW, Vt. – Many thanks to the Sons of the American Legion Post #36 in Ludlow for their generous support. With their donation, the Fletcher Memorial Library (FML) was able to purchase and offer our new streaming platform Biblio+. The homepage is very much like that very popular home service. Biblio+ streams on most devices. It is free, and all you need is a library membership and to download the app. The Sons of the American Legion Post #36 have continued their support of Fletcher Memorial Library. Their partnership is very much appreciated.

FML's exceptional services hinge on generous support. Thank you to past donors. Our 25th annual fundraising auction, Love Your Library, will open online on Friday, Feb. 7, at 10 a.m., and end promptly on Friday, Feb. 21, at 3

p.m. Now through Feb. 1, we are accepting auction donations. Consider new items, small antiques, and gift certificates to local businesses - skiing, lodging, golfing, restaurants, and weekend getaways. Your imagination is the limit.

More details will be forthcoming. This is entirely an online auction. However, we will rotate items around the library to spark interest and those high bids.

All donations are tax-deductible. FML is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit.







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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

Moderate A Challenging ♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY!

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Weathervane farmers

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119 ronpatch27@gmail.com

Last week I wrote about factory made weathervanes of the 19th century. Continuing on that subject are blacksmith-made vanes and those made by weathervane farmers. Today, you can add to this list those who are laser cutting sheet metal to make reproduction vanes. Any individual handwork is long absent. There are more fake blacksmith-made vanes on the market than real vanes. As a decorative object for reasonable money, these are a fine accessory to have, and I would recommend, but not for the hundreds of dollars I see these vanes offered at.

Blacksmith vanes

Blacksmith vanes date back before factory vanes were introduced in about 1850. They were produced by individual blacksmiths with a wide range of subjects, styles, and skill levels.

Most will know there's a difference between steel and iron. Nineteenth-century blacksmith vanes are made of iron, not sheet steel of the 20th century. It is important for collectors to know this to avoid making costly mistakes.

Early 19th-century iron was not as pure as iron produced today. When the blacksmith heated and hammered the iron, he left his fingerprints and small hammer strikes. Sometimes on one side of the vane the blacksmith had a structural iron brace fastened to the

vane to strengthen it. This reinforcing brace may be 3/8 inch to 1/2 inch wide. If the vane is a horse, there might be a brace across the body, up the neck, and down the legs.

If you study a real blacksmith vane, you will notice there are no sharp edges anywhere. An original has been exposed to weather and erosion for 100 years or more. Vanes of modern creation will have sharper edges.

Years ago, I was picking on the road from Westminster West to Putney. There was a large barn with the best blacksmith-made horse vane I have ever seen. It was quite large and folky as hell. I tried to buy it without success. Every picker knew of it and tried to buy it. A vane like this will hold its value. 20th century

In the early 1980s, as weathervane prices rapidly increased, fake blacksmith vanes began to show up at auction. Making iron appear old is not difficult. A completed vane was buried in a manure pile. The manure would eat into and discolor the metal, and to the unwary looked genuinely old. This is why we use the word "fake." It is done to deceive.

Weathervane farmers

"Weathervane farmer" was a term I first heard in the early 1980s. These were people grinding out sheet metal vanes. I never saw a weathervane farm, but did hear of them. The farmer would cut out a bunch of vane profiles - horses, pigs,

A blacksmith-made novelty vane, circa 1930s-40s. PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

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and other figures. After the

manure treatment, or some-

times with the aid of acid,

they were ready to be ex-

the vanes on a post where

the weather could affect

them. There might have

been 50 vanes on a half-acre

lot. One or two hot sum-

mers, followed by winter's

ice and snow, the vanes

were now ready to market.

Unsuspecting buyers fell for these fake vanes. Today

they have reappeared on

the market as generational

collections have changed

hands. There's a new group

of unsuspecting buyers.

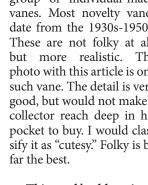
The farmer would place

posed to the weather.

Novelty vanes

Novelty vanes are another group of individual-made vanes. Most novelty vanes date from the 1930s-1950s. These are not folky at all, but more realistic. The photo with this article is one such vane. The detail is very good, but would not make a collector reach deep in his pocket to buy. I would classify it as "cutesy." Folky is by

This week's old saying I heard years ago. Two men were discussing if an antique was original or not when one said, "You can't be a little bit pregnant."



Memorial bench in Chester honors Barbara Westine

CHESTER, Vt. - Hundreds of people in Chester remember the remarkable Barbara Westine, whose enthusiasm, energy, and positive spirit encouraged and supported so many worthwhile causes. As one of the founding members of Chester Townscape, Westine provided both dedicated personal and professional support.

Chester Townscape (CT) is known for its many beautification projects around town - seasonal floral decorations in public places, such as bridge boxes and barrels of flowers; Christmas wreaths and greenery; perennial plantings at the information booth, Chester-Andover Family Center, Brookside Cemetery wall, pocket parks, and village gazebos; as well as larger projects, such as the restoration of the Hearse House and Public Tomb. Westine was involved in many of those efforts - but especially in the regular planting, tending, and watering of the flowers at the cemetery wall and information booth. She also arranged for NewsBank, for whom she worked a record number of years, to provide Townscape with meeting space for board meetings, and to supply printing, copying, and lamination services for the informational displays at CT's restored Hearse House. In recognition of her many kinds of help, Ches-

ter Townscape sought to create a lasting memorial to this outstanding citizen. A subcommittee of Nancy Chute, Cheryl LeClair, Ann Summers, and Rosann Sexton - CT volunteers who are also involved with the very same efforts around the Village Green - contacted the town and Scott Wunderle of Terrigenous. Wunderle had donated his services for the creation and installation of a stone bench beside the Public Tomb in honor of Suzy Forlie, another CT founder who was cochair of that CT renovation.

The chosen Westine memorial is a black, powder-

ductile-iron-andcoated, steel bench in the same style as that at the information booth garden, another CT project for the town. The town agreed on the bench's location, and contributed granite for the foundation of the base. Wunderle and Rachel Diak of Terrigenous contributed the labor for the placement, and the bench was donated by Chester Townscape with the generous support of additional memorial contributions. A cast-bronze plaque on the bench commemorates that collaboration with this wording: "Given by Chester Townscape and the friends

and family of Barbara Westine, 2024." The position of the bench is significant beside the restored Hearse House, and welcoming every passerby to that area of town where Westine was so personally involved in caring for its beauty, history, and central importance to the town and its residents.



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CHESTER APARTMENTS CHESTER, VERMONT

Apartments Available: One Bedroom Upstairs Unit

This housing complex is designed for anyone 62 years of age or older or disabled of any age.

Utilities, Snow & Trash Removal included Laundry Facility on Premises for Tenant Use Only **Income Guidelines Do Apply**

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REGION – A new year is a great excuse to reassess what you want and need to do for your home. From forming new cleaning habits, to renovation ideas, we're here to help you brainstorm new ways to make the most out of your space.

Evaluate your layout and furniture

After you've lived in your home for a while, your habits can change, and your home should adapt with you. Go through each room and look for ways you can make things a little smoother. Here are some examples:

Do you regularly forget where you put your keys when you last walked through the door? Consider installing a

hook or a nail near your door where you can hang them for easy access.

If you don't like paper clutter on your kitchen island, try designating a folder to keep everything together so it can be reviewed easily.

When you have company over, do you have to rearrange your furniture every time for movie nights or parties? Try furniture with hidden seating.

Are there stacks of books on your nightstand table? Maybe a new bookshelf is in order, or you can donate older books to your local library or a Little Free Library to make more room on your shelf.

Add reminders for home maintenance

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New Year's resolutions for homeowners

It can be hard to remember to do infrequent maintenance tasks around your home. Make life a little easier for future you. Create a resolution to sit down on your next day off to craft a list of all the important - but sporadic tasks to do throughout the vear, then add reminders to your calendar. Here are some examples to get you started: Test or change the batteries for your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors; clear out your dryer's lint trap; check the gauge and expiration dates on fire extinguishers; make sure your air vents are not blocked and are dust-free; if you have a fireplace, have it professionally inspected and cleaned. Prioritize energy efficien-

No matter the weather out-

side, there are simple ways

you can save money on en-

ergy. If you have a program-

mable thermostat, lower the temperature while you're out of the house or on vacation. LED lights use less energy than other types, but they still keep your home well-lit. Even opening curtains during the day and closing them at night can help warm or cool a room naturally.

Research renovation projects

If you know you'll get the bug to renovate your home during springtime, you can start planning now. Tasks like choosing paint, comparing contractors, or even deciding whether the project needs additional financial planning don't have to wait for the spring. Creating a budget for the project is a great way to start, as is comparing estimates and shopping for the right company.

Article provided by Freedom Mortgage.









2 BEDROOM APARTMENT AVAILABLE

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We do not discriminate against tenant applications on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, age, creed, gender identify, gender related characteristic or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling unit with one or more minor children or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, sexual orientation, marital status or disability.

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G. **Equal Housing Organization** THM is an equal opportunity provider and employer



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CHURCH SERVICES

January 01, 2025 | 5

ATHENS, VT.

Community Christian Church of Athens, 126 Brookline Road

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

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

St. Charles Church, 31 Cherry Hill St.

Masses are held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, at 7 a.m.; Wednesday, at 7 p.m.; Saturday Vigil Mass, at 4 p.m.; and Sunday, at 9 a.m. For more information, call 802-732-8721.

CAVENDISH, VT.

stjamesumcproctorsville.

St. James United Methodist Church, 570 Main St. Please join us Sundays at 8:45 a.m. with Pastor John Hawkins. All are welcome. For more information, call 802-674-3443 or go to www.facebook.com/

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

North Charlestown United Methodist Church, 471 River Rd.

Worship is Sundays at 9 a.m. Holy communion is celebrated the first Sunday of every month. Go to www. facebook.com/UMCOfNorthCharlestown for more information.

Charlestown Congregational Church, 71 Main St.

Sunday service starts at 10 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, call 603-826-3335.

CHESTER, VT.

Chester Baptist Church, 162 Main St.

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

Andover Community Church, 928 Weston-Andover Rd. Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and worship service 10:45 a.m. For more information, go to www. andovercommunitychurch.org.

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.firstbaptistlondonderryvt. org or call 802-856-7266.

LUDLOW, VT.

Annunciation Catholic Church, Depot and High St. Masses are celebrated on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 9 a.m. For further information, see our website at churchoftheannunciation.org, or call us at 802-228-3451.

MOUNT HOLLY, VT.

Alice M. Lindquist, 2024

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Alice Marie (Hazeltine) Lindquist, a "friend to everyone," passed away on Dec. 17, surrounded by her family, after a brief illness. She was 79.

Born in Springfield, Vt., to Clark and Elizabeth Hazeltine, she had one brother, Thomas W. Hazeltine, who predeceased her. She married the love of her life, Albert Charles Lindquist, in 1966. After traveling with Al during his military service, they returned to Andover and built the cozy log cabin that she called home for the rest of her life, and where she and Al raised two sons Christopher Enoch and Eric Scott.

She was a lifelong member of the Andover Community Church, and expressed her love of God in her everyday actions, caring for others as a nurse and home health aide, shuttling neighbors to appointments, baking pies for fundraising events, and more.



Alice Lindquist, 2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

She is survived by her husband, her sons, her nieces Tammie Hazeltine Holloway and Jeanette Hazeltine Haight, two daughters-in-law, four grandchildren, two grandnieces, and one grandnephew. Plans for a Celebration of Life in the spring will be announced at a later date.

The family would be grateful for donations in her name to Soaring Eagle Charity and Heritage Living Center at www.soaringeagle.org.

FULLY INSURED

Mary Ellen Bagley, 1941-2024

obituaries

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. -Mary Ellen (Abbott) Bagley, formerly of Bellows Falls, Vt., passed away on Dec. 20, 2024, at her assisted living facility in Orlando, Fla. She was 83, born in Claremont, N.H., in 1941, and was the fifth of seven children of Agnes (Little) and George Abbott. She graduated from Bellows Falls High School in 1959. Mary Ellen had been adopted by her aunt Ethelyn (Little) Bagley, and she and brother Edmund lived with her, moving to Florida in 1977. She worked for many years in Bellows Falls, maintaining telephone books and the Yellow Pages. In Orlando, she worked for an automobile parts store.

In retirement, Mary Ellen loved to read biographies. She was always ready to engage in spirited conversation, and enjoyed visitors and a good dessert. Mary Ellen belonged to Jehovah's Witnesses, and attended services in New Hampshire and Florida with family members. Most recently, she was a member of Orlando's Adanson Street Congregation.

Mary Ellen remained single throughout her life. Even though they predeceased her, she would enjoy recognizing her aunt Ethelyn and uncle Ralph Little Sr., he formerly of Bellows Falls and Jacksonville, Fla. Both made her life more pleasant for their presence.

She is survived by brothers George Lyman Abbott, of Claremont, and Edmund Leslie Abbott, of Orlando; nieces Susan Benware, of Virginia, Ann Marie Rogers, of Plainfield, N.H., Lisa Wallace, of Claremont, N.H., and others; as well as cousin Ralph Little of Jacksonville.

Baldwin-Fairchild Funeral Home at Chapel Hill, Orlando, is caring for her, and ashes will be spread according to her wishes.

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DAN



OBITUARIES:

A basic 200-word obituary is \$75, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. A black and white photo is an additional \$10. Email to editor@vermontjournal.com by Monday at 12 p.m.



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Village Baptist Church, 32 Church St.

We welcome all to come and worship with us Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call 802-259-2440.

WALPOLE, N.H.

Walpole Unitarian Church, Union and Main St. Sunday Service begins at 10 a.m. Services are also

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

WESTON, VT.

The Old Parish Church, 644 Main St.

A diverse, informal, and welcoming congregation. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. For more information, contact Jon Bliss, minister, at 802-824-4452 or email easthillfarm@vermontel.net.

CHURCH SERVICES:

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



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calendar

JAN. 3 –

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church Street, First Friday Fundraiser will be held Friday, Jan. 3, from 5-6:30 p.m. Dinner menu includes meatloaf, baked potato, vegetables, salad, dessert, and drinks. There is a suggested donation to benefit the Friends of the Rockingham Free Public Library. Please call ahead for takeout orders at 802-463-3220.

JAN. 5 -

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church Street, will host a free family movie afternoon on Sunday, Jan. 5, at 1 p.m. The movie showing will be "Inside Out." Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Everyone is welcome to attend.

JAN. 11 –

ANDOVER, Vt. - The Andover Snowriders will be holding their 12th annual pasta dinner on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 5-8 p.m., at Andover Town Hall. There will also be a silent auction, basket raffle, and cash raffle. The dinner includes your choice of pasta (penne, ziti, or spaghetti) and sauce (marinara, vodka sauce, or meat sauce), and sides of tossed salad, garlic knots, bread, desserts, drinks, and a seat at the auction table. Takeout orders will be delivered from 5-6:30 p.m. To order delivery, please call 720-425-1917, from 2-4:30 p.m. the day of the dinner.

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

HELP WANTED TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD

Rewarding Career as a Part-Time Administrative Assistant

The Town of Springfield, VT is seeking a part-time (20 hours per week) Administrative Assistant for the Town Manager's Office. The Administrative Assistant performs clerical, administrative and coordinative functions which include relieving the Town Manager of clerical details and considerable public contact. The position involves effective and tactful communication with public officials, the general public and other Town Departments. The ideal candidate should have good command of English grammar, spelling and business math; well-developed communication skills and the ability to maintain an effective working relationship with public officials at all levels and the general public; ability to compose business correspondence; and ability to exercise good judgment in time management. The pay is \$21.85 -\$30.70 per hour depending on experience. Applications and a complete job description can be found at https:// springfieldvt.govoffice2.com/jobs. Apply at the Human Resources Office, 96 Main Street, (802) 885-2104 (toshr@ vermontel.net). Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD HELP WANTED YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN

The Town of Springfield, VT announces an opening for a Youth Services Librarian position, a full-time, team-oriented role (35 hours per week). We are looking for a creative, passionate individual with a strong desire to work with children and young adults in a public service setting. The ideal candidate will bring enthusiasm and a commitment to supporting the growth and development of youth through library services. If you are dedicated to creating positive, engaging experiences for children and young adults, we invite you to join our dynamic team! Responsibilies include planning, developing and implementing library programs and services for children and young adults; providing professional expertise in library operations and youth services; collaborating with the Library Director to set goals and objectives for youth services, including budget preparation and grant applications; fostering a love for reading, learning, and sustainability among young patrons; and managing the library in the absence of the Library Director. This position requires a Master's Degree in Library Science from an ALA-accredited university, OR a Bachelor's Degree with Certification as a Public Librarian by the VT Dept. of Libraries, OR a combination of education and experience demonstrating extensive knowledge of library services for children and young adults. Pay is \$24.46 - \$30.35 per hour, depending on experience. Non-exempt Union position with an excellent benefits package. To apply, please visit the Human Resources Office at 96 Main Street or contact us at (802) 885-2104 or toshr@vermontel.net. A complete job description and application are available at https:// springfieldvt.govoffice2.com/jobs. The Town of Springfield is proud to be an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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.

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – The Perkinsville Community Church, 35 Church Street in Perkinsville, Vt., will be hosting live music every first Sunday, from 4-5:30 p.m., starting Jan. 5. This historic church has recently been renovated, and will be opening its doors to various other events in the coming months.

PLYMOUTH, Vt. - The Plymouth Historical Society will be open for winter hours on the first and third Sundays for the months of January-April. Hours will be 2 to 4 p.m., in the former Plymouth Elementary School, on Route 100 in Plymouth, Vt. Watch for the "Open" flag.

MONDAYS -

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

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

TUESDAYS -

LUDLOW, Vt. - Fletcher Memorial Library will hold an infant and toddler playground every Tuesday, from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., every Tuesday, from December-March. Playgroup is the perfect place for infants and toddlers to explore, learn, and grow together. Give your child the opportunity to make new friends and develop important social skills in a group while you connect with other parents and caregivers, share experiences, and build a supportive community.

W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. -Burger night is held every Tuesday, from 5-7 p.m., at the West Townshend Country Store, 6573 Vermont Route 30, West Townshend, Vt. There will be live music provided by a different local artist

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY VERMONT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Londonderry Development Review Board will meet at 139 Middletown Rd at 5:00 PM on Wednesday January 15, 2025, to hold a public hearing for an application from Scott Febbie and Rachael Bacon Febbie to do a two-lot subdivision at 212 and 220 Edgehill Rd. Please note: this meeting is being held at an earlier time than normal.

Those interested in seeing the application, submitting written comments, or attending the hearings remotely should contact the town's Zoning Administrator at zoningadmin@londonderryvt.org.

Pursuant to24 V.S.A. Sections 4464(a)(1)(c) and 4471(a), participation in the local proceedings is a prerequisite to take any subsequent appeal.

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT Windham Unit

In re ESTATE of: PAUL T. KANE

PROBATE DIVISION Docket No.: 24-PR-004943

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

LEGAL NOTICES

each week. For more

information, visit www.

802-874-4800, email

westtownshend.org, call

info@westtownshend.org,

or message the store on

WEDNESDAYS -

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. -

Knitting Together, every

Wednesday, 1-3 p.m., at

knitting hats and mittens

for our school kids. We

provide yarn, some

Village Square Booksellers,

direction, and an enjoyable

visit. Acrylic yarn donations

are always welcome. For

more information, contact

LUDLOW, Vt. - Fletcher

winter story time every

Wednesday, from 10:30-

11 a.m., from December-

March. Best suited for ages

5 and under. Story Time is

a wonderful weekly routine

to establish with your

young child. Each week

focuses on early literacy

activities, stories, songs,

and ends with a craft or

science exploration. It is a

areat opportunity for your

child to socialize and meet new friends, and for adult

LUDLOW, Vt. - Yoga with

meditation on Wednesdays,

at 10 a.m., at Black River

Senior Center. Call Lori at

603-401-8123 to register.

THURSDAYS -

CHESTER, Vt. - Bone

Builders Class in Chester

every Thursday, from 10-11

a.m. Classes will be held in

the First Universalist Parish

room. Classes are free and

open to all. Drop-in class,

of Chester community

caregivers to connect.

strength, balance, and

Memorial Library will hold

Caroline at 802-463-4653.

Facebook.

no registration needed. For details, contact Barbara at bwquilter1778@gmail.com.

CHESTER, Vt. - Knit Knite at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common Thursdays, from 5-8 p.m., and via Zoom, from 7-8 p.m.

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

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

FRIDAYS -

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

SATURDAYS -

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Edgar May Health and Recreation Center offers Springfield residents the opportunity to come for a free swim every Saturday, from 1-3 p.m. Participants may need to show proof of Springfield residency. For more information, call 802-885-2568, email info@edgarmay.org, or visit www.edgarmay.org.

W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. -Taco night is held every Tuesday, trom 5-7 p.m., at the West Townshend Country Store, 6573 Vermont Route 30, West Townshend, Vt. There will be live music provided by a different local artist each week. For more information, visit www. westtownshend.org, call 802-874-4800, email info@westtownshend.org, or message the store on Facebook.

PAUL T. KANE
Decedent
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.

12-19-24

Executor/Administrator		Mailing Address
JAMIE KAMEL		c/o Salmon & Nostrand, PO Box 535
Phone Number	Email	City, State, Zip
802-463-4507	maryjoclark@salmon-nostrand_r	Bellows Falls, VT 05101

Publication Date:

Name of Probate Court: Address of Probate Court:

January 1, 2025

Vermont Superior Court-Windham Unit-Probate Division 30 Putney Road, Floor 2 Brattleboro, VT 05301

DAILY -

REGION – If you want to drink that's your business, but if you want to stop, that's ours. Contact Alcoholics Anonymous at www.aavt.org or call your local hotline at 802-802-2288 and join a meeting. You are not alone.

OPINION

community news

Dear Editor,

The Chester Selectboard finds itself in an unfortunate state of disagreement with regard to moving the work of our planning commission forward. During the Sept. 18 and Oct. 16 public hearing to adopt proposed changes to the zoning bylaws, the selectboard heard objections from a few households regarding implementing a maximumdensity development model for the rural zoning districts. Following lengthy discussions, on Nov. 6, the board ultimately directed the planning commission to revise the bylaws to revert to the existing three- and five-acre minimum lot sizes there, and bring the rest of the proposed changes back for approval as written. This point is made clear within the approved minutes from that meeting, which read:

"Lee [Gustafson, selectboard vice chair] said it sounded like they had given the planning commission what they were looking for to make the next revision. Hugh [Quinn, planning commission chair] summarized he was hearing the consensus direction from the selectboard was not to pursue density-based zoning, and revert to fiveacre zoning in the green and three-acre zoning in the yellow, and change the name for the green zone to something they all agreed on, and leave the rest of the proposed changes. The members agreed with Hugh's summation, and said they appreciated all their work."

During the next public hearing, conducted on Dec. 18, members of two households voiced objections to the building setbacks in the proposed bylaws. Apparently some selectboard members misremembered what they'd agreed to at the November hearing, and either sided with the two households' objections over these relatively minor details, or were undecided as to how to vote between moving the revised bylaws forward or rejecting them yet again.

While it's never easy to tell members of the public that their preferences regarding a particular issue are outweighed by other factors, it is the role of community leaders to make those hard choices. The Chester Planning Commission worked on the bylaw revisions for many months, as directed by the selectboard, and with the support and guidance of experts in the field of municipal planning. The planning commission held many public meetings, and conducted multiple public hearings, all designed to elicit and incorporate the public's feedback to their proposed bylaw revisions. To further delay adoption of this work is an affront to each of those who participated in that process, and is a disservice to our town. I hope our selectboard can come together and move to adopt the revised rural zoning bylaws on Jan. 2, and allow our planning commission to move on to begin work on issues impacting the quality of life of Chester's residents and the sustained success of our business community.

Sincerely, Tim Roper, Selectboard Member Chester, Vt.

HCRS hosts disability-inclusive workplace award luncheons —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont's nonprofit community mental health and developmental services agency, recently hosted their third annual Developmental Services Employer Award luncheons to honor 72 local businesses for their dedication to creating disability-inclusive workplaces. These events, held in Windham and Windsor counties, on Oct. 17 and Oct. 21 respectively, celebrated employers who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in fostering supportive, accessible, and inclusive work environments for people with a disability.

Jennifer Merrill, HCRS developmental services (DS) employment manager, was instrumental in organizing these impactful events, which brought together HCRS staff, community partners, and business leaders to spotlight and support workplaces prioritizing equity and accessibility.

"Our community plays a crucial role in promot-

ing equity and ensuring access to good jobs for all," said Merrill. "These luncheons celebrate HCRS' commitment to fostering a workforce that values human dignity, and provides an opportunity to express our gratitude to employers for their transformative impact on the lives of our clients. Together, we form a collaborative network of employers, clients, and direct support professionals, working cohesively to provide tailored support services that meet the unique needs of employers and clients alike, enhancing community inclusion."

The luncheons underscored the critical role of employers in cultivating workplaces where employees of all abilities feel empowered to thrive. Attendees heard inspiring firsthand accounts from employees thriving in these inclusive environments, showcasing the far-reaching impact of these employment practices.

Alicia White, regional manager for HireAbility in Brattleboro and Springfield, delivered a compelling speech on the significance of creating workplaces where people with disabilities can fully contribute their talents and feel genuinely valued. White emphasized that every role within an organization contributes to a culture of inclusivity, and that partnerships between HCRS and local businesses are instrumental in breaking down barriers and fostering communities built on respect and opportunity.

Each honored employer received a special award recognizing their commitment to disability-inclusive employment. These businesses were celebrated for their efforts to promote workforce diversity through accessible workplace modifications, ongoing support for employees with disabilities, and meaningful job opportunities. These actions align with HCRS' mission to promote community engagement, equity, and personal growth for people with developmental disabilities.

Two special honors highlighted outstanding contributions to workplace inclusion. The Youth Impact Award was presented to DeCamp Waste Management and Vermont State Parks for inspiring youth with disabilities to join the workforce through innovative programs. The Adult Employment Award recognized Allen Brothers Farm Market and Price Chopper for their commitment to inclusive hiring practices, fostering opportunities for adults with a disability to thrive in their careers.

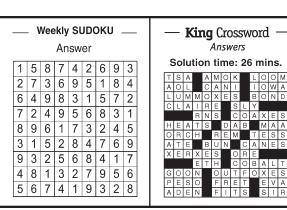
As HCRS strengthens its partnerships with local businesses to champion disability inclusion, these awards mark an important step in advancing Vermont's commitment to accessible and equitable employment. HCRS encourages other employers to explore the benefits of building a diverse workforce, and consider how they can contribute to a more inclusive and supportive job market.

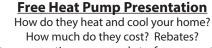
For more information about HCRS developmental services, visit www.hcrs. org/developmental-services.

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Cavendish Fletcher Community Library 573 Main St. Proctorsville, Vt Sat., Jan. 11 @ 1:00pm Refreshments provided

Event sponsored by the Cavendish Energy Committee and Cavendish Community and Conservation Association

Art Crafts Gifts

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arts & entertainment

FOLA presents evening with Ellis brothers

LUDLOW, Vt. - To begin the new year, Friends of Ludlow Auditorium (FOLA), in conjunction with the Book Nook, has arranged for an evening of readings and short movie screenings, featuring the Ellis brothers, Asher and Jackson, on Saturday, Jan. 4, at 7 p.m., in the Heald Auditorium at Ludlow Town Hall.

The Ellis brothers are both authors. Asher Ellis has published numerous books, including "The Curse of the Pigman," "The Remedy," "Cracker Jack," and "The Therapy."

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One reviewer of "The Curse of the Pigman" noted, "For fans of heart-pounding, edge-of-your-seat horror and suspense, 'Curse of the Pigman' by Asher Ellis is a gripping read that will keep you on the edge of your seat as you join Jason and his allies in a desperate fight for survival against a cult, cannibals, and an ancient curse in the isolated Town of East Valley."

Jackson Ellis has published "Lords of St. Thomas" and "Black Days."

One reader of his "Black Days" said, "What a ride. I enjoyed the characters,

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even a couple that weren't very likable. The scenery descriptions are wonderful and full of detail. The story is totally bizarre, and the twists turned out to be a lot of fun. It's certainly going to keep you turning pages...I read it in one go on a plane and the time just zipped by."

The authors will provide readings of excerpts from their books, along with some short films about them as well. The short films are "Oh, The Guilt," directed by Shahab Zargari and written by Roudi Boroum and Jackson Ellis; and "Trophy," directed by William Peters and written by Asher Ellis. Books by the Ellis brothers will be available, and questions from the audience will be discussed.

For additional information, call 802-228-3238.

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Raku pottery workshop through the VAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -Gallery at the VAULT is excited to offer a raku pottery workshop with Andrew Berends on two consecutive Saturdays, Jan. 11 and Jan. 18, from 1-5 p.m. each day. Register by Saturday, Jan. 4.

Berends will be teaching the exciting Japanese firing technique known as raku. The firings take about an hour, and you get a finished piece at the end. Raku is a fun, exciting technique, where pots are fired to 1,840 degrees, pulled out of the hot kiln, and manipulated with sawdust and water to change the look of the glazes. The glazes can be metallic, and/ or have a crackle effect, making each piece truly unique and one-of-a-kind. We will also fire pots with a technique known as "horsehair" raku, which creates interesting designs on the clay.

The class will include wheel throwing, slab making, as well as extruding instruction. The first day will include making all types of clay work, and the second day will be glazing and firing all the pots in the raku tradition. The class is geared towards teens through adults, and limited to five students.

The cost of the workshop is discounted for gallery members, and includes 25 pounds of clay, glazes, and firing costs. Wear old clothing, and bring pottery tools if you have them. Directions to Berends' studio in Springfield will be given at registration.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@ vermontel.net, visit www. galleryvault.org, or stop by the gallery.

contemporary. Founded by

violinist Jason Anick, the

quartet performs dynamic

and lyrical arrangements of

both gypsy jazz standards

and original compositions

that draw upon diverse in-

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Advance tickets are avail-

able at www.nextstagearts.

org. Next Stage will provide

a beer, wine, and cocktail

cash bar.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in down-

The Smack Dabs, Rhythm Future Quartet at Next Stage -

Stage Arts presents a double bill of good-time swing blues music from the 1930s from The Smack Dabs, and gypsy jazz from Rhythm Future Quartet, on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 7:30 p.m., at Next Stage.

The Smack Dabs specialize in good-time swing blues music from the 1930s, featuring the songs of Tampa Red, Big Bill Broonzy, The Harlem Hamfats, and many others. This delightful and timeless genre features a rich variety of musical styles, ranging from mournful blues to joyful celebrations, setting the stage for incredible solo

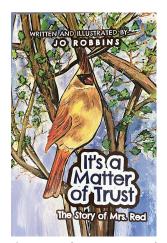
New artist at Gallery at the VAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – legal for 40 years in various Gallery at the VAULT is facets of law. She has also pleased to welcome new worked with multiple nonartist Jo Robbins, author profits. Robbins has three and illustrator of her first children's book, "It's a Matter of Trust". Robbins is a New England native living in Springfield. She worked as a para-

PUTNEY, Vt. - Next and group improvisations, and delighting audiences and dancers alike.

The core band includes Mark Earley on guitar, vocals, and kazoo; David Sparr on piano; Jim Gray on upright bass; Mark Berney on cornet; Kit Buckley on saxophone and clarinet; and Jon Kraus on washboard.

The acoustic jazz ensemble Rhythm Future Quartet has a straightforward agenda: to keep the spirit of gypsy jazz alive and expanding in today's musical universe. The virtuosic foursome, named for a Django Reinhardt tune, offers up a newly minted sound, influenced by the classic Hot Club of France, yet wholly





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Monday Open Mic Night at 8:30pm Tuesday Trivia at 6pm with Rick Davis Thursday Irish Session with Gypsy Reel at 6:30pm grown sons and four grandchildren, and she spends her free time in her home on the bank of a magical brook surrounded by those she loves. She plans on



The cover of "It's a Matter of Trust."

PHOTO PROVIDED

writing more books in the future.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street, Springfield, and is open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; and Fridays, from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit www.galleryvault. org or the gallery's Facebook or Instagram page. Gallery at the VAULT is handicap accessible.