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Jamaican Jewelz, a not-so-hidden jewel

BY PAULA BENSON

The Vermont Journal

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Right off the bat, Julian “Jewelz” Johnson gives off an energy that is both youthful and maternal.

On Monday afternoon, Jan. 6, Jewelz was wearing a pretty, multi-blue patterned head scarf and a green chef’s apron with the tag on the outside when she burst through the kitchen door into the restaurant dining room to introduce herself. “I am Chef Jewelz, Jewelz, Mama Jewelz, that’s what people call me.”

Jewelz likes to laugh, and she’ll wink at you playfully after making a point, but she confessed that she knows hard work, disappointment, and failure. The words Jewelz uses to describe herself are “ambitious,” “passionate,” “driven,” and also “grateful” and “appreciative.”

“If what you’re doing doesn’t evoke passion, you’re not doing it right, or you should be doing something else,” Jewelz re-

marked.

What Jewelz and her husband Duane Perkins have been doing since last Nov. 1 is establishing the first brick-and-mortar restaurant location for Jamaican Jewelz, their food truck and catering company. Built up over the 14 years since moving to Vermont, Jamaican Jewelz has become a familiar name in the area, best recognized by their big, yellow truck, “The Beast,” that makes appearances at local festivals and events.

“I say I am a ‘farmers market baby,’” Jewelz joked. She and Perkins started out at the Bellows Falls Farmers Market with just a table, a tent, and a cooler that Jewelz would literally pull through the village streets from their house to the market.

Eventually they purchased a “little food cart” for \$2,500, and moved around a bit, staying in one spot long enough for someone to complain. There is



Julian “Jewelz” Johnson and husband Duane Perkins.

PHOTO PROVIDED

no question that Jewelz is in love with her adopted hometown and state, and is a part of the community, but she has faced some adversity.

Jewelz reported that after the former Bellows Falls development director Francis “Dutch” Walsh, who had supported her, retired in 2016, she received a letter from the town calling her mobile business “an eyesore.”

At one point, Jewelz said, someone stole their sign. She shook her head. “You just have to move on.”

And that they did. Now, in addition to the trucks, which will continue to operate in warmer months, and their line of sauces available for purchase directly from them or at local markets like Lisa’s and the Springfield Co-op, you can find Jamaican Jewelz the restaurant at 65 The

Square, in the downtown area of Bellows Falls.

Jamaican Jewelz plans to be open six days per week, closed Wednesdays. The space is bright, with a sparse decor – Jewelz says she is still finding their footing – but when you walk through the front door and are greeted with the aromas of curry and jerk spices, your focus will be the food.

As Jewelz gave a quick tour of the kitchen, she challenged, “Look around. Tell me what you notice is missing.”

It took a moment, and Jewelz stated broadly, “Right? No stove! I am industrious,” she continued. “I can cook on a matchstick. But without a stove, I am limited.” Jewelz held out her arms. “I can’t express myself!”

Jewelz’s family emigrated to the U.S. from Jamaica when Jewelz was a child. She credits her mother with her tenacity as much as her desire to cook. “My mother

was very tough.”

The first meal Jewelz ever made was “brown stew chicken” when she was only 9 years old. Jewelz said they lived in New York, and her mother worked the night shift at the post office.

One night when leaving for work, she told her daughter, “I want you to have dinner ready for me when I get home.”

Jewelz admits it was not only being left to figure it out on her own, but the pressure of “you will have dinner ready” that excited her.

Even though Jewelz said she wants to “live a quiet life with family,” she also feels an eagerness to keep moving, keep trying new things, and go where the moment takes her. For at least through the end of her two-year lease, this is the spot.

Jewelz partners with local, small farms to source fresh ingredients. A list of farmers, menus, and more information can be found at jamaicanjewelz.square.site.

Springfield Town Library expands sustainability programs, Sustainable Libraries Initiative

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Town Library is proud to announce its expanded commitment to sustainability as part of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, aligned with the American Library Association’s strategic direction of sustainability. As part of its ongoing efforts to reduce its environmental impact and promote a sustainable future for generations to come, the library is launching new recycling services and community-based programs.

In addition to its collaboration with Springfield Rotary Club and the Trex soft

plastic collection, which has removed almost four tons of plastic out of the waste stream since February 2023, the Springfield Town Library is expanding its environmental initiatives with two new recycling services, in partnership with the Black River Action Team (BRAT) and Call2Recycle.

The library is launching an ink cartridge recycling program as a fundraiser in collaboration with BRAT, the local community-driven organization focused on environmental conservation and restoration in the Black River watershed.

Through outreach, education, and hands-on conservation projects, BRAT works to improve the health and sustainability of local ecosystems. The library is excited to provide residents with a dropoff spot for their used ink and toner cartridges, which will be recycled through partnerships with certified recycling services. Proceeds from the collection will go toward supporting Black River Action Team, as well as library programming and services, making it a win-win for both the environment and the community.

In collaboration with

Vermont Solid Waste Management Program and Call2Recycle, the Springfield Town Library also now serves as a dropoff location for used household batteries. Call2Recycle is a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to the safe and responsible recycling of batteries and cell phones. The library is now one of more than 30,000 collection sites across the U.S. and Canada. Working with Call2Recycle provides a convenient way for residents to recycle their used batteries and devices, protecting the environment and supporting a circular economy. This service helps

reduce the environmental impact of hazardous waste, and ensures that batteries are recycled properly, keeping harmful chemicals out of landfills and waterways.

“We’re excited to offer these new services to our community, and to collaborate with local partners like the Black River Action Team,” said library director Sue Dowdell. “By providing convenient and accessible recycling options, we’re not only helping protect the environment, but also empowering our community to take meaningful action toward sustainability.”

The Springfield Town Li-

brary is dedicated to fostering a resilient, sustainable community by embodying the triple bottom line methodology – practices that are environmentally sound, economically feasible, and socially equitable. By incorporating the principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle, the library is advancing efforts to ensure that our shared natural environment remains healthy for future generations.

For more information about the Springfield Town Library’s sustainability initiatives and recycling programs, please contact Dowdell at 802-885-3108.

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ADS:
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Bellows Falls community safety

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Monday, Jan. 13, from 5-6:30 p.m., Greater Falls Community Justice Center will be hosting a community discussion titled “Community Safety: What does it mean to you?” at the Rockingham Library.

Participants will include local state legislators, members of the Bellows Falls Police Department, the

codirector of the Attorney General’s Civil Rights Unit, community leaders, and representatives from local organizations. Springfield’s police chief will also share about Springfield’s success with Project Action, a collaborative initiative to address crime and safety in this nearby community.

There will be an opportunity for all present to share

appreciations and/or concerns about community safety, and ideas for moving forward to build more trust, collaboration, accountability, and support.

This event is free and open to the public. The Rockingham Free Public Library is located at 65 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.

Bellows Falls Woman’s Club

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Members of the Bellows Falls Woman’s Club will meet on Jan. 14, beginning at 1:30 p.m., at the United Church, School Street. The program presenter will be Probate Judge Jodi Parrott

French.

At the Dec. 10 meeting, members brought their gifts for the residents of two area elder care homes, Sterling House and Morning Glory Manor. Gifts were delivered just before Christmas,

bringing cheer to the residents. Club members enjoyed a social time at the meeting.

The local club is a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, an international women’s organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. Through monetary and in-kind donations, the club supports many area organizations and agencies, including the Bellows Falls Area Senior Center, Fall Mountain Food Shelf, Our Place Drop-in Center, Rockingham Free Public Library, Bridge Library, Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire, and Parks Place Resource Center. At graduation, the club will give a scholarship at Bellows Falls Union High School and at Fall Mountain Regional High School.

Area women interested in joining the club and helping with its projects may call Membership Chairman Sally McGaffigan at 603-445-2527.

Dear Editor,

The Springfield Santa Claus club would like to thank the many individuals and businesses that helped make the 2024 season another successful one.

The generosity and caring is especially appreciated again this past year. Because of your generosity, the Santa Claus Club was able to again help make the holidays a lot brighter and warmer for many children and seniors.

This was completed even though we had to move twice in a few months. We now have found what we feel is our forever home at the Springfield United Methodist Church. A huge thank-you to Pastor Gerry and the church trustees for welcoming the Santa Claus Club to the church. Yes, we have the use of a small elevator. A big deal to us “oldies.”

Also, another huge thank-you to the won-

derful high school students (you know who you are) who loaded, carried, and organized everything so “us” adults were saved a lot of work and aches and pain. Some of these students helped repack, set up for the giveaways, and more. We look forward to working more with you all.

This year, we helped supply outerwear and gifts for 102 families (256 kids), as well as gifts for 182 senior citizens.

Santa had the outerwear giveaway in October for youth, and in December we were able to do the gift giveaway for both the children and seniors. The gifts are based on the needs and wishes of the youth of the Springfield School District and seniors of our community. With the joint effort of our elves and Keagan at the Springfield Family Center, we were also able to give some of the families holiday meal boxes.

2024 is the sixth year I have been the director of the

Santa Claus Club, and I am thrilled at what has been accomplished by the wonderful community members and volunteers we had helping in one way or another. The 2024 season may be over, but Santa’s elves continue the work year-round. Thousands of hours are spent by our volunteers to see that Santa’s work is done. No volunteer is turned away.

Please understand that we are a standalone nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. The only thing anyone is paid is the satisfaction and joy of giving.

Thank you one and all for your support through this holiday season, whether it is by purchasing gifts, or your monetary donation that helps us purchase outerwear, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. We wish you and yours a very happy and healthy 2025.

Sincerely,
Jean Patoine, Director
Springfield Santa Claus Club

Windmill Hill Ridgeline Reserve grows by 96 acres

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – The Windmill Hill Ridgeline Reserve has grown by 96 acres after the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association (WHPA) acquired and conserved the land with the Vermont Land Trust (VLT).

The conservation completes a 22-year effort by the WHPA to protect this forestland for wildlife, biodiversity, and climate resilience, and to improve public access to nature and an extensive trail system in southern Vermont.

The addition is near the WHPA’s Jamie

Latham trailhead, in the middle of a long corridor running north from Putney Mountain to Rockingham.

It includes one of the highest points of elevation in the town of Westminster, and abuts land already conserved by the WHPA along the Windmill Hill ridgeline. The WHPA was concerned about protecting the natural resources and preventing forest fragmentation, particularly after three lots and a cell phone tower were proposed for the site.

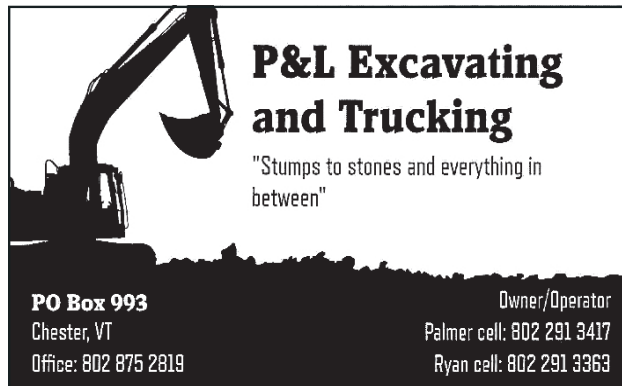
“Widening this conserved area along the ridgeline will give wildlife more room to move, and creates an important buffer habitat at the higher elevations,” said WHPA Board President Jennifer Latham.

The newly conserved land includes an accessible, flat clearing that is an ideal activity area for groups to gather, such as for school

outings or WHPA events. Volunteers have been hard at work removing non-native plants from these acres, and cleaning up debris left by a previous owner, including tires and junk cars.

VLT and WHPA have worked together for more than 25 years on multiple projects, and the WHPA has now conserved 2,800 acres in the Windham County towns of Athens, Brookline, Grafton, Rockingham, Townshend, and Westminster.

Along with support and assistance from VLT, donations from Pinnacle supporters and grants from the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB), The Nature Conservancy, William P. Wharton Trust, Davis Conservation Foundation, Bafflin Foundation, and the Windham Foundation made the acquisition of the land possible.



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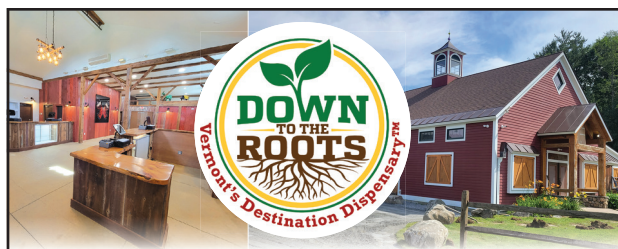
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Chester Fire Department history

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

A few years ago, I began writing the history of Chester fires and fire departments. In doing that research, I found the stories below. The first story, while not a local fire history, is worthy of inclusion. The dozens of other histories are more representative.

March 9, 1906

“Henry Clay Ingraham, 70, who was well known in Chester, an old resident of West Springfield, Mass., and a veteran railroad man, died at his home on Main Street at 3:15 February 15, as a result of a long period

of suffering with a nervous disease which finally culminated when he was obliged to take to his bed the week before.

“Mr. Ingraham was born in Chester, Vermont, November 19, 1835. His father was a farmer and he remained on the home place until he was about 25, when he entered the Rutland railroad as a fireman. In the course of time he was promoted to be an engineer, and in 1871 he came to West Springfield, Mass., and entered the employ of the Boston & Albany. From that time until 1899 he ran an engine on the railroad. His retirement was forced because he had happened to be one of the two victims of one of the most peculiar accidents that have happened here-

about. The engine that he was running blew up on the Athol branch and both Mr. Ingraham and his fireman, Edward Comins, were seriously injured. Mr. Ingraham lost one eye and suffered a nervous shock from which he never fully recovered. Comins was hurt in the back and never after did any work.

“Mr. Ingraham knew that his engine was leaking

when he took it out of the roundhouse on that last morning and he spoke to some of the keepers about it, but they assured him that it was all right. Just what caused the explosion has never been definitely learned. The rending force seemed to center just in front of the cab on the right hand side, but although the boiler was almost completely demolished the engine did not leave the track.

“Mr. Ingraham left the road immediately after the accident, never fully regained his former health. He was a member of Amity Lodge of Odd Fellows, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineering, and the Red Men.

“His wife, Theresa, a sister, Mrs. Adams of Chester, Vermont, and one son, Harry E. Ingraham of West Springfield survive him. The funeral was held the following Sunday at his home at two o'clock.”

June 22, 1906

“What came near being a serious fire started in W. W. Richardson and Sons’ store in the Fletcher block last week Wednesday night. Caught in the partition in the north end and gained considerable headway when discovered, but the prompt action of the firemen with plenty of water soon got it under control after a short stubborn fight. The damage was more by water than by fire. Dr. F. B. Newell’s den-

tal parlors were upstairs and the water damage there was large. Had not the fire been seen at the time it was, there is much doubt but which the Fletcher block and the hotel would have destroyed.

“Those who have always fought against our water system begin to realize that it is of some use after all.”

Sept. 29, 1906

“The Firemen had an unusually beautiful day Friday for their parade, and everything passed off successfully. The parade started at nine o'clock with the Grafton Cornet band at the head. Grafton Company Aid No. 1 showed up with most of its members and with the steamer and hose cart; Yosemite company made a good showing, and the sound of the bell on the old hand engine brought to the mind the days when our village was not guarded by the water power system, of which we are now so proud, nor did our town own the steamer that has stopped so many fires for us. This little engine when needed responded with all its might.

“The ball game which took place in the afternoon



The Yosemite Fire Company in October 1903. John Marshall is driving the engine.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

between the two companies, was certainly excited and during the past season baseball there has not been such a good attendance nor so much noise and enthusiasm. Beard and Richardson were the battery from South street, with Farr and Phelps for Depot street. It looked during the first half of the game that South street was being done brown, but they turned the tables in the seventh inning and won out by a score of 15-13. [Go Chester!]

“The Chester orchestra gave an hour’s concert at 8 o'clock and made a decided hit with the music they furnished for the dance afterward. Several of the number were demanded the third time. The march was led by Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Carpenter. A turkey supper was served by Thomas Storms in his restaurant.”

This week’s old saying: “A man in a hurry didn’t plan well, or he’s from Connecticut.”



Earl Horton’s Yosemite uniform on display at the Chester Historical Society. PHOTO PROVIDED BY CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Featured pet: Nova

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Nova is a 90-pound dog looking for a patient, loving home. Nova adores the people she knows, but takes time to warm up to new people. She is a very goofy girl that loves attention and food. At 2 years old, she has lots of energy, and will bless you for many years. Please stop by the Springfield Humane Society, Wednesday-Saturday, from 12-4 p.m., and give this bashful girl a loving home. To learn more about Nova, or to sign up for one of our low cost cat spay/neuter clinics, call 802-885-3997.

Springfield Humane

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real estate

Real estate terms

2-1 buydown – A 2-1 buydown is a concession or incentive negotiated with a seller or builder that temporarily reduces a buyer's mortgage interest rate by 2% the first year, and 1% the second year of your mortgage. In the third year, the interest rate goes back to the fixed rate obtained from the lender.

Adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) – An adjustable-rate mortgage has an introductory interest rate that lasts a set period of time, and adjusts every six months thereafter for the remaining loan term. After the set time period, your interest rate will change, and so will your monthly payment.

American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI) – A nonprofit professional association that sets and promotes standards for property

inspections. Look for this accreditation or something similar when shopping for a home inspector.

Amortization – Repayment of a mortgage over the loan term through regular monthly installments of principal and interest, based on an amortization schedule. If you have made your required monthly payments, at the end of the loan term (e.g., 15- or 30-year mortgage), you will own your home.

Back-end ratio – One of two debt-to-income ratios that a lender analyzes to determine a borrower's eligibility for a home loan. The ratio compares the borrower's monthly debt payments to gross income.

Backup offer – A backup offer is one made on a home where the seller has already accepted an offer. The backup

puts the buyer in line to buy the home if the accepted offer falls through.

Bumpable buyer – A buyer whose purchase agreement includes a contingency that allows the seller to continue to market the home to other prospective buyers. For instance, a buyer may agree to buy the home only if they can sell their own home first. That buyer can be bumped if a better offer comes along.

Buyer's agency fee – The fee or commission paid to a buyer's agent or brokerage for finding and managing a home purchase for a buyer. Typically represented as a percentage of the sales price, the fee is paid by the seller at closing.

Buy-rent breakeven horizon – A concrete point at which buying a home makes more financial sense than renting one.

Cash-value policy – A homeowners insurance policy that pays the replacement cost of a home, minus depreciation, should damage occur.

Closing disclosure – This is a statement a borrower will receive from their lender at least three days before closing on a home. The line items

should look similar to what a borrower sees on their loan estimate when first applying. There are limits to how much any fees can change in the time period between application and closing day, so borrowers should review their closing disclosure closely and ask their lender about any changes.

Comparative market analysis (CMA) – An in-depth analysis, prepared by a real estate agent, that determines the estimated value of a home based on recently sold homes of similar condition, size, features, and age, that are located in the same area.

Comps – Short for "comparable sales," these are homes in a given area that have sold within the past several months that a real estate agent uses to determine a home's value.

Contingencies – Conditions written into a home-purchase contract that protect the buyer should issues arise with financing, the home inspection, or something else.

Conventional loan – A home loan not guaranteed by a government agency, such as the FHA or the VA.

Debt-to-income ratio (DTI) – A ratio that compares a homebuyer's expenses to gross income.

Depository institutions – Banks, savings and loans, and credit unions. These institutions underwrite as well as set home loan pricing in-house.

Due diligence – An in-depth investigation of a property that helps ensure you know as much about a property as you can before buying it. Due diligence officially starts once an offer has been accepted, and typically involves a home inspection, review of property records to ensure improvements received the necessary permits, etc., within a period of time agreed to by the buyer and seller. Buyers can renegotiate their offer if they uncover problems, or they can cancel the offer without paying a penalty.

Earnest money – A security deposit made by the buyer to assure the seller of his or her intent to purchase.

Escalation clause – A clause or addendum to a real estate contract or offer that states a buyer is willing to raise his or her offer price to a predetermined amount if the seller receives a higher competing offer for the property.

Escrow state – A state in which an escrow agent is responsible for closing.

Fair Housing Act – A federal law that makes discrimination based on a person's race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), national origin, disability, or familial status illegal within the housing context, including buying a home or getting a mortgage.

Federal Housing Administration (FHA) – A government agency created by the National Housing Act of 1934 that insures loans made by private lenders. The Federal Housing Administration is part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

FHA 203(k) – A rehabilitation loan backed by the federal government that permits home buyers to finance money into a mortgage to repair, improve, or upgrade a home.

FHA loan – Loans from private lenders that are regulated and insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). FHA loans are different from conventional loans because they can be approved for borrowers with lower credit scores, and may allow for down payments as low as 3.5% of the total loan amount. Maximum loan amounts can vary by county.

Information provided by Zillow Group. Continued next week.



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NE-455084

obituaries

E. Ingrid Anderson, 1941-2025

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. – E. Ingrid Anderson, 83, died at home on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025, after a period of declining health. Born Elaine C. Anderson on Sept. 3, 1941, in Gardner, Mass., she was a daughter of Dorothy (McCarthy) and Paul Anderson. She later changed her name to Ingrid, in honor of her Swedish heritage. She attended Gardner schools, and graduated from Fitchburg State College/Burbank Hospital School of Nursing with a Bachelor of Science in nursing. She married Robert T. Francoeur, and had three children; the marriage ended in divorce. Ingrid lived in Weathersfield for the past 36 years.

Ingrid worked for many years as a registered nurse (RN), director of nursing, and/or administrator in various care homes in New England. In 1979, she purchased Cedar Manor Nursing Home in Windsor, Vt., and served as its administrator. While there, she implemented numerous innovative programs for the residents. After selling the home in 1988, she worked as an RN in several area facilities, including Springfield Hospital, and as a consultant administrator at others. Nursing was a true calling for Ingrid; she touched the lives of so many, especially the elderly.

For health reasons, she had to leave her profession early, but volunteered for many area organizations, including the Vermont Statewide Independent Living Council, Red Cross, RSVP, and New Beginnings. She was given the Governor's Service Award in "recognition of valuable contributions to older persons and persons with disabilities" in 2002.

Ingrid enjoyed birding,



Ingrid Anderson, 1941-2025.
PHOTO PROVIDED

wildlife watching, gardening, cooking, and baking – she was known for her Swedish braids and holiday cookies. She was a big fan of Dartmouth's women's hockey team.

Ingrid was predeceased by her parents and her sister Suzanne Lauer. She is survived by her partner of 44 years and spouse Debra Diegoli, of Weathersfield; her children Renee Francoeur, of White River Junction, Jaqueline (Michael) Binder, of Moorestown, N.J., and Robert J. Francoeur, of Weathersfield; her brothers Paul and Jon; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews; her dog Abby; and cats Sam, Sasha, and Ziggy. She is also survived by "second son" Adam Perron, of Windsor; and Pam and Floyd Buck her friends, neighbors, and helpers. Ingrid and her family greatly appreciated those who visited, and who helped with her care, and the folks from Bayada Hospice.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield is handling arrangements. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Shriners' Hospitals for Children or Bayada Home Health Care. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Paula Green, 1960-2025

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Paula (Barber) Green, 64, was sung into heaven to be with Jesus, whom she loved, on Jan. 1, 2025. She was born on April 22, 1960, at 2:22 a.m., the daughter of Alan J. Barber and Audrey (Christiansen). Not many write their own obituary, so in this task I take great pleasure. I have lived a life filled with adventure, peppered with great sorrow. And yet, neither adventure nor sorrow carried any real importance in light of the great and undeserved gifts I have been given.

First of all, I leave no one behind. Love does not die, nor can it be left behind. Rather, it is eternal; coming from an eternal God. Therefore, I take with me my love for my devoted and adorable daughter Crystal Shaw ("be a good girl"); my four incredibly amazing grandchildren Tori Amsden, Timmy Amsden, Brandon Shaw, and Mitchell Shaw; my ever faithful and loving mother Audrey Richards; and two of the sweetest sisters God ever gave anyone, Elaine Hofland and Allison O'Neil.

Wrapped up into the love God gave me are so many more precious family members, whether born, married, or adopted into us.

Paula was employed as a landscape architect with SWCA for



Paula Green, 1960-2025.
PHOTO PROVIDED

many years. She was a member of the Calvary Chapel in West Townshend, Vt., and Grace River Church in Claremont, N.H.

A Celebration of Paula's Life will be held on Friday, Jan. 10, at 3 p.m., at Grace River Church in Claremont, N.H.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Springfield Wrestling, 24 Ellis Street, Springfield, VT 05156.

Isaiah 44: 21-22, "Remember these things, Jacob, for you, Israel, are my servant. I have made you, you are my servant; Israel, I will not forget you. I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you."

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., is assisting with arrangements.

Maura Brady Garoutte, 1954-2024

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Maura Brady Garoutte, of Charlestown, N.H., passed away peacefully at home on Dec. 27, 2024, after battling a long illness. Maura was born in New Haven, Conn., on March 3, 1954, to the late John and Lillian Brady. She spent her youth in Hamden, Conn., before moving to New Hampshire.

Maura is survived by her children Matthew Kaiser, Bethany Kaiser, and John (Maura) Garoutte; grandchildren Camden and Brayden Kaiser; siblings John (Mary) Brady, James (Molly) Brady, Kathleen (Derek) Bratton, Carol (Don) Lewis, Thomas (Linda) Brady, and Rita (Joseph) Cosgrove; and many nieces and nephews. Maura was predeceased by her beloved husband John Marion (Mike) Garoutte, and nephew Luke VanRanst.

After graduating from St. Mary's High School in New Haven, she worked as a veterinary technician in Connecticut and New Hampshire, before establishing and running The Groomin' Room for over 40 years. Early in her career, Maura enjoyed showing dogs in various American Kennel Club competitions. Amongst other dogs, Maura also showed two of her own dogs, Piper and Willie, both Deerhounds who earned their championship status.

Maura was an avid reader,



Maura Garoutte, 1954-2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

and a gardener who enjoyed toiling in her own soil and tending to her flowers. She frequented floral nurseries and public botanical gardens. Travels took her to most of the 50 states – including her beloved Alaska, as well as Nova Scotia and Bermuda.

Many cherished memories of Maura include her lifelong love of animals, but her greatest joy came from spending time with her friends and family. She loved watching "Jeopardy!" and going to trivia nights. Maura led a life close to her family. Her presence and guidance will be dearly missed.

Calling hours were held at Stringer Funeral Home in Claremont, N.H., on Friday, Jan. 3, from 5-7 p.m. Catholic Mass was held at St. Catherine in Charlestown, N.H., on Saturday, Jan. 4, at 11 a.m. Burial followed in St. Catherine Cemetery. Friends and family gathered following the burial.

Beverly J. Johnson, 1946-2025

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – Beverly Jean (Blanchard) Johnson, 78, passed away peacefully on Jan. 1, 2025, with family by her side.

Beverly was born on April 2, 1946, in Rutland, Vt. She was the fourth of five children of James E. and Vivian (Moore) Blanchard. She grew up on the family farm in Plymouth Notch. Beverly graduated from Woodstock High School in 1964, and went on to graduate from Northampton Business College.

Beverly married Cedric Russell Johnson on Oct. 25, 1969, and soon after relocated to Manchester, Conn. Beverly worked various part-time jobs while her son Andrew was young, then started a more than 20-year career with the State of Connecticut. Upon both Beverly and Cedric's retirements, they relocated back to Plymouth, Vt., where they enjoyed spending time with family and friends, taking trail rides on their side by side, walks with their beloved dog Festi, and feeding hummingbirds and turkeys in the yard.

Beverly is survived by her loving husband Cedric; son Andrew and his wife Diana; her four grandchildren Brandon, Skylar, Lexi, and Kailey Hope; and great-grandson Hunter; sister Phyllis Martin; and brother Nelson Blanchard. She was predeceased by her parents, her brother Wayne, and her sister Lola.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Center for Conscious Living & Dying



Beverly Johnson, 1946-2025.
PHOTO PROVIDED

at www.cldd.community/donation.

Committal and Celebration of Life will be at a later date.

An online guestbook can be found at www.cabotfh.com.

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Michelle Willis Gosselin, 1973-2024

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Michelle Willis Gosselin, a loving wife and mother, passed away on Dec. 15, 2024, after a short but difficult battle with cancer. She was born in Springfield, Vt., on July 22, 1973. She attended Springfield, Vt., public schools, graduated from Wesleyan University in 1995, and received a master's degree in information technology from Drexel University. For many years, she worked at Riverstone in Manchester, N.H., and for the past few years at Concord Group in Bedford, N.H. She was very active in her adopted town of Weare, N.H., helping out at and attending PTA events, dance programs, and sports activities. She loved to read, take walks, spend time with her family, and especially to be at the ocean.

She is survived by her husband Kevin, and their two children Kaitlyn and Ben; her parents Fred and Betsy (Gilbert) Willis; and her brother and sister-in-law Matthew and Jessica Willis, and their children Melia, Brady, Gavin, and Molly. She is also survived by her mother-in-law Joan Gosselin; sisters-in-law Carol (Mike) Greene, Lynn



Michelle Gosselin, 1973-2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

(Earl) Holbrooks, and Donna (Jim) Woods; and numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins. She was predeceased by her father-in-law Richard Gosselin.

Michelle was an amazing woman with a laugh so infectious you couldn't help but laugh with her, a smile so contagious that she would light up every room she entered, and a soul so kind-hearted that you had no choice but to love her. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Even though we know we can't get her back, we are happy she is at peace. Goodbye to the best mother, wife, sister, daughter, aunt, and friend anyone could have asked for.

Huzon "Jerry" Stewart Celebration of Life rescheduled

CHESTER, Vt. – The time of the Celebration of Life for Huzon J. "Jerry" Stewart has been changed. It will be held at the Chester American Legion Post 67 on Jan. 11, 2025, at 1 p.m.

OBITUARIES:

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

CHURCH SERVICES:

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

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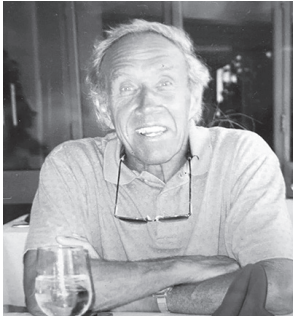
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obituaries

LEGAL NOTICES

Robert E. Langevin, 1929-2024

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Robert E. Langevin, born Feb. 1, 1929, at the age of 95. He died of natural causes from a life well lived. left this world on Dec. 31, 2024, Bob began his life in Irvington,



Robert Langevin 1929-2024.
PHOTO PROVIDED

N.J., the son of Armand and

Hazel (Taylor) Langevin. He is predeceased by his wife of 40 years Mary (Kordos) Langevin, daughter Karen (Langevin) Bushway, and brother Armand Langevin. He leaves behind three children Donna Bischofberger (Armin), Nicole Moriarty (Thomas), and Robert A. Langevin (Lori); and grandchildren Brighton Bischofberger, Tanner Bischofberger (Mariah), Alexis Duquette (Ryan), and

Chase and Mary Langevin. Bob adored his five great-grandchildren Hayden, Kamden, Mila, and Ryan Duquette, and his newest grandchild Sydney Bischofberger, whom he finally got to meet this year.

Early on in his life, Bob started a newspaper route, and at 16 purchased and converted a Divco milk truck, expanding his route for many years. He was very proud of his delivery days, saying he “hardly ever missed a porch.”

When he married his wife Mary in 1955, they spent a short time in Miami, Fla.; he learning the building trade, and Mary working as a car hop. He was called to duty from 1951-1953, and served as Army military police/carpenter stationed in Dachau, Germany, to assist with rebuilding efforts in Europe. He excelled in carpentry, and started his home-building business upon returning to New Jersey, building more than 100 homes over the next 40 years. Many of his subcontractors became life-

long family friends. After a visit to Bromley Mountain after his Army discharge, Bob fell in love with skiing and the Vermont mountains. He later brought his family to Vermont, and spent many winters skiing Bromley and Magic, and volunteering with JISP teaching local school children.

After retiring from building, and following his wife’s passing, Bob relocated to their home in Jupiter, Fla., which they had purchased due to their love of Florida beaches and lighthouses. He was blessed to have had 30 years in paradise before returning to Vermont due to failing health to be cared for by his children.

Bob had a great love for his children, and his wish was always for them to be happy. He was a generous man, and will be greatly missed. A Celebration of Life, most likely beachside, will be planned for a later date.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., is assisting with arrangements.

TOWN OF CHESTER NOTICE OF HEARING FOR SUBDIVISION PERMIT

Gary Hooke, principal of Gardian, LLC, has applied for a Subdivision Permit for a property located at 1831 VT Route 10 in the Town of Chester. The proposed minor subdivision will divide an existing parcel of 7.76 acres into a Lot 1 of 4.12 acres and a Lot 2 of 3.64 acres.

The Town of Chester Development Review Board will conduct a site visit at 3:15 PM on Monday, January 27, 2025, at 1831 VT Route 10 and will hold a hearing on this application at 6:00 PM on Monday, January 27, 2025, at the Chester Town Hall at 556 Elm Street in Chester. A copy of the application and additional information may be obtained from the Zoning Administrator. Participation in this hearing in person, via videoconference, or in writing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

A link to participate in this hearing via Zoom videoconference may be found on the Town of Chester website home page at www.chestervt.gov.

Dated at Chester, Vermont this 2nd day of January 2025.
Preston Bristow
Zoning Administrator
(802) 875-2173
zoning@chestervt.gov

Town of Springfield - Selectboard Notice of Public Hearing January 13, 2025

The Town of Springfield will hold a Public Hearing at 6:00 PM on Monday, January 13, 2025 for the purpose of receiving public input concerning the July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026 Springfield Town Budget. This will be a hybrid meeting. The Public Hearing will be held at 96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont. It will also be possible to attend via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85353393632>
Meeting ID: 853 5339 3632

Kristi C. Morris, Chair
Springfield Selectboard

TOWN OF CHESTER NOTICE OF HEARING FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

Jessica Rigollaud has applied for a Conditional Use Permit for property located at 1961 Popple Dungeon Road in the Town of Chester. The proposed use is to construct a dwelling closer to the road than the required minimum setback.

The Town of Chester Development Review Board will conduct a site visit at 4:00 PM on Monday, January 27, 2025, at 1961 Popple Dungeon Road and will hold a hearing on this application at 6:00 PM on Monday, January 27, 2025, at the Chester Town Hall at 556 Elm Street in Chester. A copy of the application and additional information may be obtained from the Zoning Administrator. Participation in this hearing in person, via videoconference, or in writing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

A link to participate in this hearing via Zoom videoconference may be found on the Town of Chester website home page at www.chestervt.gov.

Dated at Chester, Vermont this 2nd day of January 2025.
Preston Bristow
Zoning Administrator
(802) 875-2173
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HELP WANTED TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD

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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.gov/office2.com/jobs>. Apply at the Human Resources Office, 96 Main Street, (802) 885-2104 (tosh@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! Responsibilities 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 tosh@vermontel.net. A complete job description and application are available at <https://springfieldvt.gov/office2.com/jobs>. The Town of Springfield is proud to be an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (DRB)

WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL
Westminster, Vermont

Legal Notice

The Westminster Development Review Board will meet at 6:00 pm on **Monday, February 3, 2025** to consider the following:

Application # 25-33

Application #25-33 (**PRELIMINARY PLAT HEARING**) Shannon Gilbert (Owner & Applicant) – property located at **123 US Route 5**. The Applicant is requesting a Major Sub-Division. This Application will be reviewed under **Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 446 Residential District; Article X Agricultural Overlay District (Partial) and Section VIII Subdivision of Land (Major)** 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 – Thursday from 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

— **King Crossword** —

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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— **Weekly SUDOKU** —

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CALENDAR

health news

HCRS staff volunteer at Springfield Family Center —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont's nonprofit community mental health agency,

highlights the volunteer efforts of its billing team at the Springfield Family Center. On Sept. 26, billing team members Heather Lockwood, Karen Whitney,

Jennifer Rupp, and Melanie Murphy participated in a team-building volunteer activity at the Springfield Family Center, helping to prepare lunches, unloading donations, restocking shelves, and organizing inventory.

The experience not only allowed the team to bond, but also provided an invaluable opportunity to witness and better understand the pressing food needs within the local community. "Our time at the Springfield Family Center was incredibly rewarding," shared Lockwood. "It felt good to know that even a few hours of volunteering could make a real difference." Whitney added, "It was eye-opening to see how many people

rely on these services every day. It's a reminder of how important it is to support organizations like this."

The Springfield Family Center, a vital community resource, distributes over 100 meals daily, and provides food boxes tailored to individual needs, including fresh produce, grains, meats, and even pet food, available for in-person pickup. The family center has experienced an increase in demand since relocating to a more visible location in the Springfield Plaza, and volunteer efforts like those of the HCRS billing team help sustain these critical services.

During their visit, the team met with Springfield Family Center staff mem-

bers Steffanie Baker, operations and kitchen manager; and Keegan Mack-Chase, food shelf coordinator, who shared insights about the Center's work and their annual holiday project, which provides seasonal food boxes to local families. The project highlights the growing need for collaboration as a community to ensure our neighbors in need are supported. Furthermore, the experience served as a reminder that community food needs persist year-round, not only during the holidays, emphasizing the importance of ongoing support.

Inspired by the work of the family center, the billing team organized a food drive at HCRS' Spring-

field office to support the Springfield Family Center's holiday initiative. Staff donations of nonperishable food items will be delivered to the family center before the holidays, helping to provide festive meals to families in need.

For the billing team, this effort went beyond volunteering — it strengthened their connection as colleagues and their commitment to making a positive impact. "It's meaningful to work together as a team while also giving back to the community we're part of," said Murphy.

For more information about the Springfield Family Center and its programs, visit www.springfieldfamilycenter.com.

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.

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. — The Weathersfield Center Community Contra Dance and Social will be held on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 6-9 p.m., at the Weathersfield Center Church and Meeting House, 2579 Weathersfield Center Road, Perkinsville, Vt. The dance will be called by Quena Crain, with open band led by Naomi Morse (fiddle) and Amy Englesberg (piano). No special clothing, footwear, or experience required. You're welcome to dance, listen, sit, or chat, and enjoy that cold beverage you brought along.

JAN. 18 — SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — Cori Santgate and Myric McBain

will present "Vermonters Ahead: the 172nd and the Invasion of Luzon, Philippines, 1945" on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 2 p.m., at the Springfield Art and Historical Society, 65 Route 106, North Springfield, Vt. This program is free and open to all. For more information, call 802-886-7935, or email sahs@vermontel.net.

JAN. 29 — SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — The Springfield Senior Center Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 1 p.m., at the senior center, 139 Main Street.

SUNDAYS — CHESTER, Vt. — Six Loose Ladies hosts Odd Bobbins Spinners the second Sunday of each month from 1-4 p.m. at their location on the Common in Chester.

WEDNESDAYS — LUDLOW, Vt. — Fletcher Memorial Library will hold 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 great opportunity for your child to socialize and meet new friends, and for adult caregivers to connect.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
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| 47 | | | | 48 | | | 49 | | | |
| 50 | | | | 51 | | | 52 | | | |
| 53 | | | | 54 | | | 55 | | | |

ACROSS
 1 Screen star Lamarr
 5 Abrupt turn
 8 Wild party
 12 Half a sextet
 13 Equi-
 14 Tennis great Arthur
 15 Crystal-tapping sound
 16 Solicit
 18 Funnel-shaped bloom
 20 Herring's cousins
 21 Squealer
 22 Chemical suffix
 23 Montana city
 26 Scare badly
 30 Buckeyes' sch.
 31 Tibetan bovine
 32 "Ujalume" writer
 33 Dress store section
 36 Broadway duds
 38 Cat doc
 39 Life story
 40 Madonna role
 43 "Cutie," e.g.
 47 Peevish
 49 Actor Jannings
 50 "No —!" ("Sure thing!")
 51 Quibble
 52 Sandwich option
 53 "Auld Lang —"
 54 Away from SSW
 55 Ladies of Spain (Abbr.)
 5 "Hush!"
 6 On the Aegean, say
 7 Inherited
 8 Tub user
 9 China setting
 10 Not barefoot
 11 Coop group
 17 " — it Romantic?"
 19 Scot's refusal
 22 "A spider!"
 23 Jazzy style
 24 Exploit
 25 Boy king
 26 Mas' mates
 27 Wall St. debut buy
 28 Dandy guy
 29 "You bet!"
 31 However
 34 ICU hookup
 35 Pond duck
 36 In shape
 37 Hermits
 39 Davis of "Jezebel"
 40 Actor Omar
 41 Quite
 42 Lay — the line
 43 Nabokov novel
 44 Love god
 45 " — 18" (Uris novel)
 46 Right angles
 48 Raggedy doll

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Art Crafts Gifts

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Raku Pottery with Andrew Berends
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Painting the Winter Landscape in Watercolor
 with Rob O'Brien, 1/11/25 \$85

Chinese Calligraphy with Jonathan Root
 1/25/25 \$38. (Material Fee: \$5)

Calligraphy with Love with Jorika Stockwell 2/8/25 \$40

Make Fabric Bowls with Beth Ezold 3/15/25 \$68
 (01/15/25 - TFN - 13)

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 (11/05/25 - 52)

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 (03/09/25 - 13)

arts & entertainment

Rockingham Library events

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Rockingham Free Public Library, in collaboration with Main Street Arts, invites the community to a hilarious evening of mystery and murder with a production of “Murder by the Book,” a play written by Louise Teasdale and sponsored by mystery author Louise Penny.

The Town of Two Spruce is about to lose their beloved library. A team of volunteer actors come to its financial rescue by staging a murder mystery fundraiser. But, on opening night, a real murder most foul threatens to thwart their theatrical aspirations. Lucy the Librarian and a team of quirky volunteer actors and library lovers scramble to solve the crime before the curtain rises and the library is lost forever.

Performances will be Fri-

day, Jan. 17, and Saturday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 19, at 2 p.m., at Main Street Arts in Saxtons River. Tickets are general admission, and are available online at www.mainstreetarts.org, and at the door. Directed by Sam Howard, the show features a talented ensemble of local actors.

The script for the play comes compliments of an interesting project created by mystery writer Penny, and playwright Teasdale. The play’s original script was too specific to Quebec’s Eastern Townships area. Other communities wouldn’t get the jokes. So, Penny commissioned Teasdale to write a royalty-free and adaptable script that can be produced by any library, anywhere.

For more information, contact Sam at [\[vices@rockinghamlibrary.org\]\(mailto:vices@rockinghamlibrary.org\) or 802-463-4270, or go to \[www.mainstreetarts.org\]\(http://www.mainstreetarts.org\). This production will benefit the Rockingham Free Public Library.](mailto:youthser-</p>
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On Saturday, Jan. 18, from 3-5 p.m., the library, in collaboration with Flat Iron Coffee House and Village Square Booksellers, welcomes Vermont poet and musician Toussaint St. Negritude, for a reading to celebrate the launch of his debut collection of poems, “Mountain Spells.” St. Negritude will read selections, tell stories, play the bass clarinet, and sign books at the Flat Iron Cooperative Coffee House, 51 The Square in Bellows Falls, Vt.

This library-produced event is free and open to the public. Copies of “Mountain Spells” will be available for sale, and the café will sell refreshments. The recommended attire for this event is “fabulous.” For more information about the event, please contact the library at 802-463-4270 or assistant@rockinghamlibrary.org. For more information about the author, visit www.toussaintnegritude.com.

Next Stage Arts performances

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts presents a special duo collaboration between cellist Mike Block and master kora player Yacouba Sissoko on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 7:30 p.m., at Next Stage.

Block is a Grammy-winning, multi-style cello player, composer, singer, and educator, with a passion for cross-cultural collaborations. Hailed as “one of the bravest, most intriguing musicians on the American fusion scene” by Gramophone magazine, he was acclaimed by the New York Times for his “vital rich-hued solo playing,” and was called “a true artist...a sight to behold” by Salt Lake City Deseret News. In addition to his solo performances and touring

bands, since 2005 Block has been a member of the Silk Road Ensemble, founded by Yo-Yo Ma, with which he has been featured as a cello and vocal soloist, contributed arrangements and compositions, and earned a 2017 Grammy Award for Best Global Music Album.

Master kora player Sissoko devotes his musical gift to expanding the awareness of West African history and culture, spreading the word of peace, and empowering his listeners to take charge and realize their imagined futures. His performances have a magical effect on audiences as he skillfully transforms the traditional songs and stories of his forefathers into modern-day messages of peace, love, and harmony. Born to a well-known djeli family in Kita, Mali, Sissoko started

learning the kora and the oral traditions associated with it from his grandfather at the age of 9. For centuries, djelis have been the musical storytellers, a position that is inherited through a family bloodline. Highly respected within their communities, they are the keepers of the factual history and the fictional fables of past rulers, nobles, social groups, and families. The kora, a 21-stringed plucked instrument with a gourd resonator, is the traditional instrument accompanying their songs.

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

Applications for Vermont Week

REGION – Vermont Studio Center (VSC) in Johnson, Vt., is pleased to announce that applications for Vermont Week 2025, May 5-12, are now being accepted through Jan. 31. Each year, Vermont Week at

VSC provides fully funded residencies for 30 Vermont artists and writers, which includes private accommodations, private studio space, nourishing daily meals, and access to Johnson Village amenities. Vermont Week will culminate with an Open Studios celebration on Sunday, May 11, from 2-4 p.m.

“We are thrilled to be able to offer fully funded residencies to Vermont artists and writers,” VSC executive director Hope Sullivan said. “It is only with the unwavering commitment of our supporters that we can provide a place for artists and writers to create, get inspired, and continue to enhance Vermont’s vibrant art commu-

nity.” Vermont Week 2025 is supported by an anonymous donor, along with Acrisure, Maggie McLeod Macdonald Fund, McSoley McCoy & Company, and Donald Blake Inc.

VSC’s residency programming includes a visiting artists and writers program, which invites renowned visual artists and writers to mentor residents, present readings, and give talks. This year’s Vermont Week visiting artist is Carolyn Kuebler, and the visiting writer is Misoo Bang.

Carolyn Kuebler’s debut novel, “Liquid, Fragile, Perishable,” was published in May 2024 by Melville House. Her stories and essays have appeared in The Common and Colorado Review, and “Wildflower Season” (Massachusetts Review) won the 2022 John Burroughs Award for Nature Essay. For the past 10 years, she has been the editor of the award-winning New England Review in Middlebury, Vt.

Misoo Bang is a Korean American artist who expresses her emotional narratives and storytelling through painting and drawing. Her recent works, “The Giant Asian Girls” and “The Lotus Flower” series, explore the intersection of gender-based violence and racial stereotypes faced by Asian women in the United States.

Vermont Week at VSC first started in 1984, and is marked as an honored tradition at VSC. Artists and writers that have resided in Vermont as their primary state for the last year are encouraged to apply through Jan. 31. For more information, and to submit your application, visit www.vermontstudiocenter.org.



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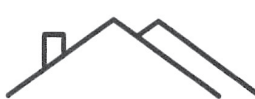


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