



*Chester Winter
Carnival*
Feb. 15-16
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The Killarney celebrates 20 years

BY PAULA BENSON

The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. – It is well known that running a restaurant involves a lot of hard work, long hours, planning, dedication, and learning to pivot when necessary. In recent years this has been especially true, and many smaller businesses did not make it. Fortunately, one of Ludlow’s longstanding establishments, a favorite of both locals and visitors alike, The Killarney, is still going strong, and preparing to celebrate their 20th anniversary.

Located at 44 Pond Street, at the base of Okemo Mountain Road, The Killarney is a convenient après ski stop, but also has the feel of a neighborhood hangout. Mark and Judy Verespy began the work to reopen the fine dining restaurant as an

Irish pub in late 2004, and first welcomed customers on Feb. 5, 2005.

Mark Verespy said when he and Judy started out, it was a learning experience. “I liked to cook, but I wasn’t a ‘kitchen guy,’” Mark said.

That’s where Jim Allen, Killarney’s head chef for 18 years, stepped in and helped to develop the pub menu, including the award-winning Buffalo chicken wings recipe.

Judy had gone to school for restaurant management before becoming a teacher, so together, they made it work.

Although Allen recently retired, he and Mark remain great friends, and the team at Killarney maintains the same philosophy: keep it simple, and stick with the basics. Mark said their most popular items are the scratch-made shepherd’s

pie, and their much-raved-about fish and chips.

Although the regular menu might lean toward traditional pub fare, Mark is quick to say, “I mean, we have the ability to do ‘fancy stuff,’ and we do. Ossobuco, or pork shank, or scallops, we’ve got those on the menu too.”

Mark first visited the Okemo Valley when he was in college and his family vacationed here. He had started working in the restaurant business at age 16, and continued until he “got hired from behind the bar” to work for Seagram’s.

Mark said he spent 16 years employed by the well-known beverage brand, moving from Connecticut, to Buffalo, N.Y., to Wisconsin. After coming back east to work in the Boston market, Mark recalled, he had an epiphany. While talking

to a restaurant owner one day, he heard a voice telling him he was on the wrong side of the bar. He decided he wanted to own his own place.

Because Mark’s family is Irish, he was leaning toward the idea of an Irish pub. He joked that he couldn’t call the pub by one family name without excluding another, so he landed on Killarney, named after the town on the shore of Lough Leane, part of Killarney National Park in Ireland. The area around Killarney, like Ludlow, has many lakes and rivers, as well as mountainous terrain.

As they ready for the 20th anniversary celebration on Wednesday, Feb. 5, Mark looked back on the many festivities they’ve hosted over the years – bridal showers, birthdays, and bachelor parties, and



The Killarney celebrates 20 year anniversary.

PHOTO BY PAULA BENSON

reflected on all the people who started as customers and are now friends.

Mark is excited for the regulars to come celebrate with them, but encourages everyone to stop by, commenting, “We’ll [be serving] a big cake for the anniversary!”

The Bear Mountain Boys,

a local band whose lead vocalist is Patrick Ross of Tygart Mountain Sports, will perform, and there will be plenty of giveaways of merchandise, including T-shirts and chicken wings. For updated information, follow The Killarney on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheKillarney.

Lunar New Year celebration

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Wednesday, Jan. 29, tai chi class participants from numerous towns served by Senior Solutions gathered in the Great Hall at the Springfield Medical Center to celebrate lunar new year, or what the Chinese refer to as their Spring Festival. Attendees practiced tai chi, enjoyed some sweet treats, and rotated among several stations set up in the hall to make traditional Chinese decorations and write their wishes for the new year.

According to the Chinese zodiac, 2025 is the Year of the Snake. Event organizers Jo Bregnard and Sue Rubel have hung a large snake wall decoration in the Great Hall near the stairs. Taped to the snake are wishes participants have for the year 2025. The snake will be displayed for the month of February, and the public is invited to add their wishes to the snake. Slips of paper, writing implements, and tape have been left by the window for



Tai chi participants celebrate the lunar new year.

PHOTO PROVIDED

you to add your wish.

Jo and Sue would like to thank the following people for helping make this event a success: Bob Flint, for giving permission to use the Great Hall for this event; Senior Solutions, for sponsoring the event, and specifically Liza Eager, the new nutrition and wellness director, for assisting; tai chi teachers Helena Wu, Leah Gessner, and Tamasin Kecic, who brought some of their class participants from Londonderry, Ludlow, Guilford, and Chester to join Springfield tai chi-

ers; Anne Bower, one of the cofounders of Tai Chi Vermont, who Zoomed in remotely to the event and demonstrated Yang style tai chi; everyone who attended either in person or remotely; and finally, Ted Foster and Richard Barber, who helped with setup and breakdown of the hall.

Happy Lunar New Year to all, and please add your wishes to the snake. The more wishes we add, the more luck we have in 2025.

Ludlow hears engine replacement schedule, high school building concerns

BY NICK GIBERTI

The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Selectboard met for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Monday, Feb. 3, beginning by discussing a municipal planning grant application for flood proofing and zoning modernization, appointing board member Noah Schmidt as the selectboard representative to the Ludlow Planning Commission, and approving a Sons of the American Legion coin drop on Saturday, April 6.

The board then heard a detailed presentation from Ludlow Fire Chief Ben Whalen, explaining the need for replacement

of two pieces of fire apparatus, and laying out the schedule for future replacement of all relevant apparatuses within the department. Currently, Ludlow’s Engine 3 and tower truck are in need of replacement, having been put into service in 2004 and 1994 respectively. Both pieces of equipment are past their expected lifespans, and Whalen said that Engine 3 has broken down during service calls in the past. “We have now had multiple calls where that truck’s pump has died while we were doing firefighting operations,” Whalen said, emphasizing that this makes for a dangerous situation for both firefighters and the community at large.

Whalen’s plan included recommended replace-

ment schedules for all new and future department apparatuses, recommending 20 year service lives for pumps, and 25 years for tower trucks and tankers, as well as shorter periods for other, smaller department purchases. The schedule also recommended bonding any piece of equipment with a lifespan of 20 years or more, rather than utilizing the department’s equipment fund, which Whalen explained to the board is for other, interim, typically less costly purchases. The total cost for both trucks, including discounts for purchasing both trucks at the same time and payment up front, would total \$3,079,550. The purchases will be put to the

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FML 25th annual auction –

LUDLOW, Vt. – The 25th annual Love Your Library fundraiser auction for the Fletcher Memorial Library (FML) goes live on Feb. 7, at 10 a.m., and ends Feb. 21, at 3 p.m. The auction will be open 24/7.

New items are being posted daily, and will be accepted through Feb. 14. The preview is now open. If there is an item you would like to see, stop into the library, 88 Main Street in Ludlow, and we will do our best to accommodate you. We will have a rotating

display of many of the items throughout the library.

The auction can be accessed at www.32auctions.com/FML25.

Think gifts for any occasion, shop early for the holidays, or just get that item that you love. All proceeds fund our technology needs, patron needs, and online services such as Libby, Biblio+, Pass program, etc.

Fletcher Memorial Library is not a Ludlow municipal department. Rather, the library was built and given to

the town to serve as a free library for the residents of Ludlow and Cavendish by Gov. Allen M. Fletcher on Nov. 1, 1901. We have happily expanded our free service area to include Mount Holly and Plymouth.

FML is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization governed by a board of trustees. Your support is tax-deductible, and your donations are very much appreciated.

For more information, visit www.fmlnews.org.

“Gather” book discussion at Fletcher Memorial Library

LUDLOW, Vt. – Fletcher Memorial Library will host a Vermont Reads “Gather” book discussion on Monday, Feb. 10, at 6 p.m., in the Community Room of the library. This discussion will be led by Suzanne Brown, a retired visiting assistant professor at Dartmouth College, who has led Vermont Hu-

manities and New Hampshire Humanities Council book discussions for more than 30 years.

“Gather,” written by Vermont author Kenneth Cadow, is a story about a resourceful teenager from rural Vermont who works hard to take care of his mother, who is trying to overcome

her addiction to opioids. Copies of the book are available at Fletcher Memorial Library, Cavendish Fletcher Community Library, and Mount Holly Town Library, thanks to Vermont Humanities.

Join us on Feb. 10, at 6 p.m., to discuss “Gather” and its themes of rural life, resilience, class differences, addiction and recovery, housing and food insecurity, a deep relationship to the land, and the power of community.

This program is free and open to the public. Fletcher Memorial Library is located at 88 Main Street, Ludlow, Vt. Please call 802-228-8921, or visit www.fmlnews.org, for more information.

February Memory Cafe

LUDLOW, Vt. – Come join the Black River Memory Cafe, scheduled for Feb. 13, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., taking place at the Ludlow United Church, located at 48 Pleasant Street in Ludlow.

This month’s topic of discussion is “Sundowning and Adult Day Services,” with guest speaker

Sue Pollard, RN and Springfield Area Adult Day director.

Black River Memory Cafe, a program offered by Black River Good Neighbor Services, is run by trained volunteers offering a safe and comfortable space where caregivers, their loved ones, family members, and friends can socialize, listen

to music, play games, and enjoy other appropriate activities.

Caregivers and their friends and family are very welcome to attend without their loved ones.

Healthy snacks will be available. For more information, contact Vicki at 802-376-3388, or Krey at 802-228-3663.

Stretching and strengthening

LUDLOW, Vt. – Learn simple stretching and strengthening exercises in a 30-minute session.

Taking place on Feb. 20, at 12:45 p.m., at the Ludlow Community Center, instructor Elise Alenick Junker will lead 30-minute sessions in-

corporating yoga, Pilates, and dance barre with intentional breathing to wake up and move our bodies.

The first two sessions will be seated, with the option for standing and movement with further practice.

Junker has a 25-year ca-

reer as a dance instructor and performer, with additional study in yoga and Pilates. The classes take place following the community luncheon, at 12 p.m., so plan to have lunch and exercise. This class is offered by Black River Good Neighbor Services.

LUDLOW

From Page 1

voters of Ludlow at Town Meeting.

The board then discussed the lease of the Black River High School building to the Expeditionary School at Black River (ESBR), with town manager Brendan McNamara telling the board that the school and town had a new proposal for \$12,000 per year. ESBR Board member Gary Blodgett told the selectboard that the school currently has 13 students, and is continuing its outreach

and expansion efforts.

However, Ludlow resident Eric Alden spoke to the board regarding his concerns about the high school building, noting that the board, when they had accepted ownership of the building in 2020 after the closure of the school, had set a five-year timeline to decision the future of the building. “That decision has been kicked down the road,” Alden said, “The town has spent, since it has owned the building, about \$500,000... and it has received back about \$20,000.”

Board members broadly expressed support for ESBR, though board member Noah Schmidt did acknowledge that, “Ultimately, we need to get to the point of not having the taxpayers subsidizing [ESBR].” Selectboard Vice Chair and Acting Chair Justin Hyjek suggested that the board could form a committee to explore options for the future of the building, though no motion could be made, as the discussion was

not warned specifically, and was part of the municipal manager updates portion of the meeting.

McNamara also informed the board that there would be another local options tax public forum on Wednesday, Feb. 26, and that the upcoming vote on the merger of the town and village would take place at the Village Annual Meeting in early April. He also noted that Ludlow had found a new police chief in Sgt. Jeff Warfle, who will replace Police Chief Jeffrey Billings in early April. Warfle has been a member of the Ludlow Police Department for five years.

Ludlow will hold its public informational meeting on Monday, March 3, at 7 p.m., to discuss and vote on the articles on the Town Warning. Australian ballot voting will be held the following day, Tuesday, March 4, from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., at the Heald Auditorium in Ludlow Town Hall.



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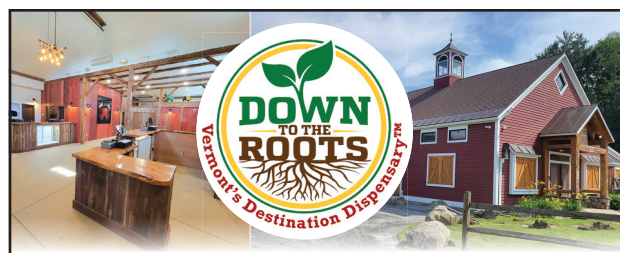
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Chester Town Hall weathervane

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

A couple years ago an out-of-town antiques dealer brought to my attention that the eagle weathervane on top of Chester Town Hall was precariously leaning to one side. It was only a matter of time before it fell.

I went into the town hall and asked Amie O'Brien to come outside with me. I showed her how the eagle was going to be lost if nothing was done. Amie acted quickly, requesting town employee Steve Vertefeuille look into it.

Steve arranged for the vane to be taken down and repaired. It was taken down by Jay Murray of "Dances with Roofs." After repair, Springfield Fire Department, with their 95-foot platform truck,

put the vane back on top of the town hall.

Craftsmanship

Most readers will know that craftsmen of the 19th century took great pride in their workmanship. Weathervane craftsmen were no different. Weathervanes were hand-fitted and lead-soldered.

As an example, a wing is two pieces, comprised of a top and bottom section. Each copper section was molded under pressure. Before these two pieces could be joined together, hand fitting of the two wing sections was needed. With tiny hammers and rasps, the craftsman made the two pieces fit together like a glove. Next, the edges of the wing were expertly soldered. Fake vanes have sloppy soldering.

This hand fitting was repeated many times with

the different body parts. When the vane was finished, it was covered in gold leaf.

Louis Marshall

At the historical society are many documents and photos donated by Ted Spaulding and his brother John Leon, aka "Gramp." In those donations is a ledger kept by Louis Marshall. Louis was a steeple-jack. I found mention of Louis taking the eagle vane down for repair. When our vane was taken down two years ago, it was painted with silver radiator paint. I believe it was Louis who painted it with radiator paint. It is now painted gold.

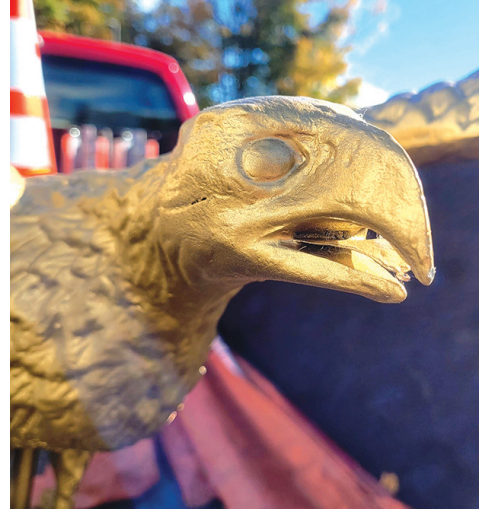
The day Louis took the vane down, he had rigged ropes for climbing and a rope to let the vane down to ground level. Louis lowered the vane down to his helper. The vane was taken to a blacksmith near the bear carver. This place was torn down a few years ago.

The repairs were made while Louis stayed on top of the cupola. A sudden wind came up, almost knocking Louis off the cupola. All Louis had to hang on to was the hole in the cupola in which the cardinal rod was inserted. The wind died down as quickly as it appeared. Louis finished the job without further incident.

As a sidebar, Louis built and installed the fire escape at the academy building.



Chester Town Hall weathervane. PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE TOWN OF CHESTER



Closeup of eagle head. Notice the detail. PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE TOWN OF CHESTER

Vane values

Weathervanes can be valuable if everything comes together. Like old coins, prices are determined by rarity and condition. In the antiques trade, weathervanes are sold as sculpture.

I was told years ago, "Once you have seen the best vane, you can judge all others." Because this vane has been painted, it would not be the best. In the past I have written about fake vanes. Study the detail in the eagle head. As you travel around antiques shops, compare the detail in this eagle head with those you see. They are not

even close.

My thoughts

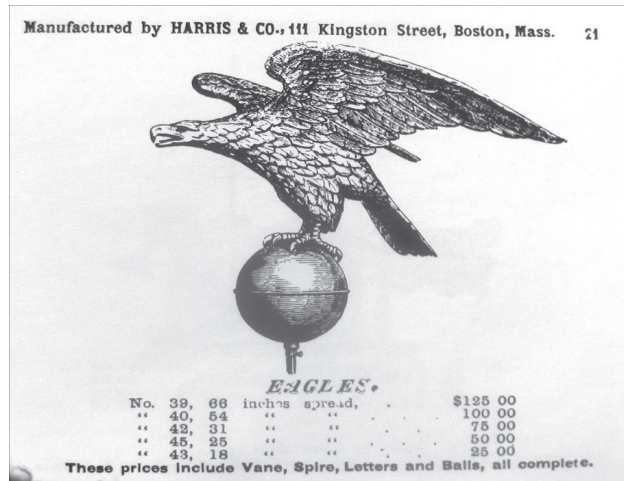
I did not personally see this vane, only photos. Wingspan was not measured, but estimated 50 inches. It's my opinion that this vane was made by Harris & Co., or Cushing and White.

Instead of an old saying, I offer a short story. In the 1980s, weathervane values rose rapidly. Every picker and antiques dealer kept their eyes open for vanes on a barn as we drove around. Sometimes we got lucky, but

most people didn't care to sell their vane. When they couldn't be bought, some resorted to theft.

Such was the case at the home of Alice and Jane Farrell in the Stone Village. They had a giant rooster vane on top of their barn. Everyone tried to buy it, but it wasn't for sale.

It was stolen by helicopter in the mid-1980s, at about 6 a.m. Jane was very private, and didn't want the police involved. At the time this was a \$10,000 vane.



An eagle vane from a 19th-century Harris & Co. vane catalog. PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

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obituaries

OPINION

Rudolph Michael, 1938-2025

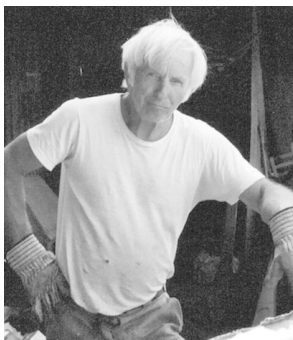
PLYMOUTH, Vt. – Rudolph “Rudi” Michael passed away Jan. 20, 2025. A free and uninhibited spirit, Rudi was jester and mentor to a large circle of close and devoted friends, young and old, who join in remembering him for his generosity and his rascally humor.

Rudi was born July 1, 1938, in Plymouth Notch, Vt., the second of six children, to Arnold and Violette (Derby) Michael. He was educated in the tiny one-room schoolhouse in Plymouth Notch, and at Black River High School in Ludlow. After school, Rudi worked for many years alongside his father as a skilled carpenter and all-around tradesman in residential and commercial construction.

In “retirement,” Rudi worked far harder than he needed to in his locally famous firewood business, and made many friends among his customers for his quirky style and honest dealings.

An avid outdoorsman, Rudi was a near-legend in his younger days as a cunning and deadly deer hunter; he was perhaps even better known as a thrilling and fearless driver, tearing up the roads in chrome and tailfins. In time he made peace with the deer, and became famous for poking along in his creaky old wood truck. A voracious reader and keen student of history and politics, Rudi was host to countless front-porch debates on every topic under the sun.

Rudi was predeceased by



Rudolph Michael, 1938-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

his father and mother, and by all five of his brothers and sisters: Rodney Michael, Ralph Michael, Marguerita (Maggie) Hutt, Marilyn (Lyn) Seward, and Mary Ann (Nan) Underhill.

He is survived by nieces and nephews, his many tried-and-true friends, and above all, his beloved dog Breken.

Walter R. Turco Jr., 1945-2025

CHESTER, Vt. – Walter Robert “Bobby” Turco Jr., 79, surrounded by family, on Jan. 19, 2025, peacefully went home to his Lord and Savior, Jesus. Bobby was born in Springfield, Vt., on July 4, 1945. Growing up in Chester, Bobby lived a life marked by a deep connection with the outdoors. An avid outdoorsman, Bobby was a trapper, hunter, deep woods fisherman, and respected by all who knew him and of his knowledge.

Bobby graduated from Chester High School. After graduation, he married his sweetheart Susie. They started a family, and established a life on Flamstead Mountain. In the early years, they enjoyed spending time at their summer home in the Moosehead Lake region of Maine. Bobby was employed for 10 years at Cone & Blanchard machine shop in Windsor, Vt., and later attended Danny Ward Horse Shoeing School in Virginia, which led to a successful horseshoeing business. His entrepreneurial spirit thrived as he owned and operated the Trapper’s Cache, becoming a well-respected buyer of fur, antler sheds, and ginseng in the region.

Bobby was happiest in the woods; he was a true mountain man, known for foraging mush-

rooms, ginseng, antler sheds, and fishing in the most remote locations.

Bobby was a longtime member of the Vermont Trappers Association. This past year, he donated all of his traps, boiled and waxed, to the association, to help the next generation. He did his best to always advocate the importance of preservation of the Fish & Wildlife Department. His love for the outdoors was a passion he enjoyed sharing with his family and friends. It was not uncommon back in the day to load his bluetick hound up and a group of kids in the truck and head out coon hunting. He spent many fun youth hunting weekends with his grandchildren, always sharing his knowledge along the way. He was a voracious reader, and had a great appreciation for history. Bobby and Susie enjoyed many trips out west, as well as spending time at their vacation home on Dyer Bay in Downeast Maine, family hikes along wild blueberry-edged trails to remote beaches, digging clams with the grandkids, and laughs around the table at night playing Old Maid.

Bobby was a devoted member of the Chester Baptist Church. His faith was an important aspect of his life.



Walter Turco Jr., 1945-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

Bobby is survived by his loving wife of 59 years Susie Turco; children Leanne Smith, Justin Turco (Tammie), Sarah Yake (John), and Hannah Monier (Russell); grandchildren Brodie, Molly, Maggie, Kyle, Chase, Shiloh, and Jeb; sister Jane Milnes; and several cousins. Bobby was preceded in death by his parents Walter and Doris Turco, and his brother Michael C. Turco.

A memorial service will be held at Chester Baptist Church, on Saturday, Feb. 1, at 10:30 a.m. A burial service will be held in the spring.

Bobby’s life was one marked by his love for nature and his dedication to his family. His legacy will live on in the hearts of those who knew him, and in the natural beauty of the mountains he loved so much. We miss you dearly, but know we will see you again in heaven.

Dear Editor,

Voters attending Rockingham’s March 1 Town Meeting, at 2 p.m., at the Bellows Falls Middle School, will decide the future of our fire and rescue services. Article 9 will ask the voters to approve the creation of a single Municipal Fire and Rescue Department managed by the town. The plan includes three stations located in Rockingham, Saxtons River, and Bellows Falls.

Voters are asked to attend an informational meeting being held at the Rockingham Free

Public Library, on Feb. 22, at 10 a.m. This meeting will outline the plan, and provide accurate information. This plan is to improve the emergency service response to the entire town by utilizing trained personnel that work and reside within the town, eliminating the need for responders to drive past fire stations with town-owned equipment. Currently, responders’ use of resources is limited by their department membership and its response zone. Working togeth-

er, we can eliminate response zones, reduce response times, and provide services quicker. Moving forward, taxes will be reduced by working together as one, eliminating redundant apparatus and equipment, and spending taxpayer money on firefighter safety, training, and up-to-date equipment, instead of equipment that is unused and costs money to maintain. This creates a safer and more positive atmosphere for responders, helping with recruitment and retention.

Rockingham’s current emergency service model is outdated, costly, and lacks any town oversight. We ask you to attend town-hosted meetings to get accurate information. Get informed, and get out and vote.

Sincerely,
Peter Golec
Saxtons River, Vt.

Dear Editor,


Sometime during the dark hours of Sunday, Jan. 26, someone misdirected their energy by smashing two flower boxes on the Depot Street Bridge in Proctorsville, and hurling them into the frozen river below. If you look over the railing, you can see the red plaid ribbons, greenery, and

tiny solar lights still glowing.

Volunteers from Cavendish Streetscapes have maintained those boxes summer, winter, spring, and fall for the pleasure of residents and visitors. It is with gratitude we appreciate all the compliments received for our efforts and offers of support from 99% of residents

to help repair the damage. It is with hope that the 1% inflicting the harm will own up, replace the broken boxes, and redirect their energy to helping others.

Sincerely,
Cavendish Streetscapes Committee



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Easy Accordion Books with Deborah Stuart 4/26 \$35
(04/16/25 - TFN - 13)

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(11/05/25 - 52)

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(11/19/25 - 52)

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(02/12/25 - 13)

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(07/09/25 - 26)

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(12/05/25 - 13)

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(08/13/25 - TFN - 52)

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(02/19/25 - 13)

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(07/09/25 - 26)

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(03/19/25 - 13)

obituaries

Samantha M. Amidon, 1975-2025

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Samantha M. Amidon passed away suddenly on Jan. 25, 2025, at her home. She was born on Dec. 21, 1975, in Bellows Falls, Vt., to Robert Royce and Jane Darrell. She attended and graduated from Fall Mountain Regional High School as an honor student.

Samantha enjoyed arts and crafts, trips to NYC, and loved her children.

Samantha is survived by her mother Jane Darrell; and her children Bailey Darrell, Garrett Aither, and Allison Aither.

There will be no services at this time, and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

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

Harry D. Bays, 1938-2025

ALSTEAD, N.H. – Harry Douglas “Doug” Bays, formerly of Alstead, passed away peacefully on Jan. 24, 2025, surrounded by the love of his family and wonderful care team at Applewood Nursing Home in Winchester, N.H. Born on Feb. 28, 1938, in Lookout, W.Va., to Mary (Bays) Foster, Doug grew up in the majestic mountains of West Virginia attending school, working his grandfather’s farm, and falling in love with Betty Ellen Jones from Anstead, W.Va. Doug joined the United States Army in 1958, and served during the Vietnam War, stationed throughout Europe. Doug and Betty married in 1962 and soon moved up north to New Hampshire, where they have remained since. Although Doug and Betty divorced in 1994, they remained friends, and always continued to care about each other.

Doug was very good at fixing most anything with or without a motor. He was often presented with lawnmower and other small-engine repair requests from neighbors and friends, and soon many other community members, which he enjoyed immensely. He worked for many years at Fuller Machine as a machinist, proving his worth in engineering and troubleshooting. Doug also had a great love of country music. You could always hear Johnny Cash, Merle, or Willie playing on his stereo, or even live music in the living room with his knack at playing guitar and various other instruments. He played in a few bands in his younger years, including with his buddy Pat Lake & the Rhythm Ranchers, of Keene. His musical influence inspired his daughter’s love of music to this day.

Doug was a member of Al-

stead and Acworth Fire and Rescue through the years, and also a member of the local VFW. He loved his community, and cherished being a part of the annual parades, speeches, and memorial services.

Doug is survived by his daughters Karen Ducharme and her husband John, of Charlestown, and Betty (Bays) Compos and her husband Peter, of Chesterfield, N.H.; his brother Guy Foster Hayden, of Hampton, Va.; his beloved grandsons Cameron Hall, of Crossville, Tenn., Alex Parenteau, of Franklin N.H., and Andrew Parenteau, of Keene, N.H.; as well as many beloved cousins and loved ones. He always lit up at the sight of his grandchildren, and loved spending time with them, as well as when chatting with his dear cousins Charlotte and Virginia. Doug was also very appreciative of his good friend Scott Gendron, who was always willing to give him a helping hand and listen to his corny jokes; and his sweet friend June Moore, who loved him like family.

He was predeceased by his mother Mary, his young son Kevin Douglas Bays, his dear friend Harriet Bascom, and his very best friend Larry Huffling, as well as several Jones Family relatives that always considered him as one of their own.

There will be a memorial service on Thursday, Feb. 6, at 6 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.

In lieu of flowers, please consider giving to HCS Hospice in Keene, N.H.

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

David G. Joslyn, 1952-2025

BRADFORD, Vt. – David G. Joslyn, 72, of Bradford, Vt., passed away peacefully, from complications of diabetes, with his family by his side, on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025. David was born April 14, 1952, at Camp Kilmer, N.J., the son of Gordon Jr. and Daphne (Beddoe) Joslyn, who predeceased him. He graduated from Bellow Falls High School in Bellows Falls, Vt., in 1972, and from Johnson State College in Johnson, Vt., in 1976, with a teaching degree in special education. He married Barbara Larabee, of Bradford, Vt., on July 7, 1979.

David was a special education teacher at Oxbow High School, and later the special education coordinator at River Bend Career & Technical Center, for a total of 33 years. He was a beloved teacher of hundreds of students during that time, and remained in close friendships with many of them, and their children and grandchildren, over the years. He volunteered for the Vermont Special Olympics for many years. He also was an EMT, working as a volunteer on the Bradford Fast Squad, and on weekends and summers for Woodsville Ambulance Service in Woodsville, N.H., Upper Valley Ambulance in Fairlee, Vt., and ambulance duties at Bear Ridge Speedway for many years. David was a member of Masonic Charity Lodge #43 in Bradford, Vt.

He was very involved in Bradford Youth Sports, coaching little league baseball teams and the basketball teams that his sons played on. He spent several years coaching junior high girls basketball at Oxbow High School. He was a volunteer ski instructor at Northeast Slopes, where his own sons eventually learned to ski.

His greatest joy was raising and spending time with his sons Matthew and Benjamin. He taught them both to ski, Matt later taking up snowboarding, spending many winter weekends at Northeast Slopes and Dartmouth Skiway. He also golfed with them, and would spend a lot of summer days fishing with them and taking them to Dartmouth Football games, and so much more.

He loved NASCAR, and was looking forward to the 2025 season. He was a certified scuba diver, and, with his best friend Joe Truss, spent many hours diving in the lakes and rivers of Vermont, and the ocean in Pemaquid Harbor, Maine. He



David Joslyn, 1952-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

loved Maine, and spent years vacationing with his family every summer in the York/Ogunquit/Wells/Kennebunkport areas, and special vacations in Pemaquid Harbor, Maine, renting the same house for 30 years with special friends Joe and Linda Truss, and making many friends there.

David is survived by his beloved wife Barbara of 45 years; his two sons Matthew and his partner AnnMarie, and his stepdaughters Hailee and Natalie, of Claremont, N.H., and Benjamin, of Bradford, Vt. He is also survived by his brother, with whom he shared a very wonderful and close relationship, Brian Joslyn (Kathy), nephew Gregory Joslyn (Verna) and their children Abigail and Steven, and nephew Christopher Joslyn, all of Bellows Falls, Vt. He is also survived by his wife’s brothers and sisters Dale Larabee, Don Larabee (Laura), Jon Larabee, and Jac Larabee; sisters-in-law Brenda Clapp (Larry) and Joni Larabee; 16 nieces and nephews; and many great-nieces and great-nephews. He was predeceased by one brother-in-law James Larabee. He loved them all.

Calling hours will be on Friday, Feb. 7, from 6-8 p.m., at Hale Funeral Home, Route 5N, 187 Upper Plain, Bradford, Vt. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 2 p.m., with a reception to follow in the vestry at the Bradford Congregational Church, Main Street, Bradford, Vt. A private burial will be held at the convenience of the family.

Memorial contributions in Dave’s memory can be made to www.specialolympicsvermont.org, or Vermont Special Olympics, 16 Gregory Drive, Suite 2, South Burlington, VT 05403.

Arrangements are in the care of Hale Funeral Home, 187 Upper Plain, Bradford.

Those wishing to express online condolences may do so at www.halefuneralhome.com.

Reine J. Laplante, 1931-2025

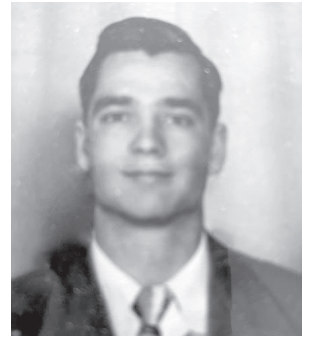
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – With deep sadness we announce the passing of Reine Joseph Laplante, at the age of 93, on Jan. 22, 2025, at the Springfield Hospital, after heart failure. Reine lived a full life as a devoted husband, father, brother, grandfather, and great-grandfather, valuing his family above all else.

Reine was born in Putney, Vt., on Oct. 15, 1931, to Omer and Laura Laplante. The family moved to Proctorsville, Vt., where he grew up and graduated from Springfield High School.

During high school, he excelled as a star player in basketball. He was even asked to play with the Harlem Globe Trotters. Reine was also an incredible pole vaulter, breaking the Vermont state record.

In high school, he met his true love Constance Koski. They married in May of 1949. Following graduation, he was employed as an inspector for E.R. Fellows Co. in Springfield, where he worked for 43 years, retiring in 1993.

His interest in landscape oil painting began in high school. He continued painting throughout his life. In their later years, Reine and Connie began ballroom dancing, which they received rave reviews for. They spent many weekends traveling around New England, dancing with different bands and making lifelong friends over the years. He loved music, and enjoyed attending various band concerts in the area. In the winter months they spent time in Florida, giving them lasting memories which they loved to



Reine Laplante 1931-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

reflect back on. Reine and Connie were also very active alumni, and took pleasure in meeting with classmates.

Reine was devoted to his church. His quiet strength and faith brought light to those around him. Reine will be remembered for his integrity, gentle spirit, smile, and strong character.

He was predeceased by his son Stephen, parents Omer and Laura Laplante, sisters Laura Walker and Anita Wehler, and brother Albert.

Reine is survived by his wife Constance of 76 years; his brother Al; sister Elaine Minadeo (Claude); his sons Mark (Sheila) and David (Ellen); grandchildren David Charles, Christopher, Julianne, and Travis; and great-grandchildren Adam and Matthew.

A graveside service will be held at St. Mary’s Cemetery in Springfield, Vt., on May 17, at 11 a.m., with a reception to follow.

The family requests in lieu of flowers that you do a thoughtful act of kindness.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with the arrangements.

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

calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO SPRINGFIELD VOTERS

Absentee Ballots for the Annual Town and Town School District Meeting being held Tuesday, March 4, 2025, will be available at the Springfield Town Clerk's Office on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. If you wish to vote by absentee ballot, a request for these elections must be made, please contact the Town Clerk's Office in writing, by phone or by email. If you make your absentee request in person, you can choose to vote your ballots and return them before leaving the Town Clerk's Office. If returning your ballots by mail, allow extra time for postal delivery and use two Forever stamps. An Absentee Request Form can be found on the town's website <https://springfieldvt.gov> or you may request your ballots online at <https://mvp.vermont.gov>. The deadline for requesting absentee ballots is Monday, March 3, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. You may register to vote on Election Day at the polls and then proceed to vote on that day. You may also register to vote any time at the Town Clerk's office or online at <https://mvp.vermont.gov>. Prior to March 4, 2025 absentee ballots may be returned in-person, through regular mail and afterhours through mail slots located in town hall entrances. All voted absentee ballots must be received at the polls by the Town Clerk before the close of polls at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. The polls are located at Riverside Middle School in the gymnasium and will open on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Town Clerk's Office will not be open on March 4, 2025. Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk, CVC - 96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont 05156 (802) 885-2104 tosclerk@vermontel.net

FEB. 7 – BELLOW FALLS, Vt. – The First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church Street, will hold their First Friday Fundraiser on Friday, Feb. 7, from 5-6:30 p.m. The spaghetti dinner will be to support Habitat for Humanity, in honor of President Jimmy Carter. The menu includes spaghetti, garlic bread, green salad, desserts, and beverages. There is a small suggested donation.

FEB. 8 – LUDLOW, Vt. – A basket raffle will be held on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the Ludlow American Legion, to benefit the Gill Odd Fellows Home activities department.

S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The South Londonderry Free Library invites children of all ages to a special Valentine's Day art program with Casey Junker Bailey, on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 10:30 a.m. Hand-dyed and decorated papers, ribbons, and lace will be used to create beautiful gallery-style valentines. Each family will also receive a copy of the book "A Pinch of Love." The program is appropriate for all ages and free of charge, thanks to a grant from The Stratton Foundation. For more information, go to www.slflibrary.org/event-calendar.html, or call the library at 802-824-3371.

FEB. 14 – PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – The Okemo Valley Women's

Club will hold their annual Bake and Appetizer Sale on Friday, Feb. 14, from 2-6 p.m., at Singleton's Store in Proctorsville. Proceeds from these and other projects support the club's many community activities.

FEB. 12 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 1 p.m., Rust and Rain will be playing at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street, for the senior center's Valentine's Day party.

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.

THURSDAYS – TYSON, Vt. – The Tyson Ladies Aid Library Association meets the first Thursday of each month, typically at the Tyson Library. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. and meetings start at noon. New potential members are always welcome. Please call Janine Norman at 802-228-8764 for more information or to verify meeting location.

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

WARNING ANNUAL TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING HYBRID (PHYSICAL and REMOTE)

The legal voters of the Town of Springfield and Town of Springfield School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at Riverside Middle School Gymnasium in said Town on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. (8:00 o'clock in the forenoon) until 7:00 p.m. to vote by Australian ballot for Town and Town School District Officers, for all appropriations to be voted by Australian ballot, and all other items of business to be voted by Australian ballot.

A public informational hearing will be held in-person, and will be accessible remotely by electronic means, at the Springfield High School on Monday, March 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. to hear reports of the Town Officers, Town School District Officers and Committees, to discuss all Australian ballot articles on the Annual Town and Town School District Meeting Warning and to do any other business that can legally be done under this Warning.

IN-PERSON PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING WILL BE ACCESSIBLE REMOTELY BY ELECTRONIC MEANS:

- **ZOOM MEETING ID: 884 5145 2290**
- **By computer:** Join meeting by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88451452290>
- **By smartphone, tablet, or other device:** Download and open the <https://zoom.us/> app. You may have to create a free account or sign into your existing account. Select the option to join meeting and enter the Meeting ID. One-tap mobile device click here: +13052241968
- **By telephone:** Dial +1 305 224 1968 and when prompted enter the Meeting ID. Note that long distance rates may apply. Dial-in participants use *9 to raise/lower hand and *6 to mute/unmute.
- **Meeting link** can also be accessed on the home page of the Town of Springfield website
- **Watch live** on SAPA TV or stream it from Sapatv.org

ARTICLE 1: To elect the following Town Officers and Town School District Officers for the ensuing year:

Cemetery Commissioner	School Directors	Town School
District Moderator	Selectboard	Library Trustees
Trustee of Public Funds	Town Moderator	

ARTICLE 2: Shall the Town vote a salary of FIFTY and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$50.00) per meeting for the Town Moderator for the ensuing year?

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town vote to pay each Selectperson the sum of FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$500.00) to help defray the costs and expenses incurred in serving the Town in that office?

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of FIFTEEN MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY-TWO THOUSAND, FORTY-NINE and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$15,872,049.00) for the budget of the Town for salaries, incidental and necessary Town expenses, including highways, and for the purposes for which the law requires appropriations, and for which a Town may legally vote?

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of ONE MILLION and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00) for repaving, road construction, gravel road improvements, and ancillary professional services for the projects specified in the Road Surface Management System Report dated December 2021 or other duly warranted sidewalk improvements?

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town authorize the assessment of a one percent (1%) local option tax on rooms and meals pursuant to 24 V.S.A. section 138, the proceeds of which shall be applied as General Fund revenue to reduce the municipal tax rate?

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) to offset Springfield Area Public Access TV's operating costs to record, broadcast, archive, and promote up to 25 Selectboard meetings, up to 25 School Board meetings, the annual Town Meeting, and the outreach work it does to promote government transparency, media literacy, and community connection in our community?

ARTICLE 8: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve a payment of FIFTY and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$50.00) per meeting for the Town School District Moderator for the ensuing year, the funds for which are included in the school budget?

ARTICLE 9: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the payment to each School Board member of FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$500.00) to help defray the costs and expenses incurred in serving in that office, the funds for which are included in the school budget?

ARTICLE 10: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District authorize the Town Treasurer, subject to the direction and approval of the School Board, to borrow money in anticipation of taxes needed to meet the requirements of the Town School District for the ensuing year?

ARTICLE 11: Shall the voters of Springfield Town School District approve a contribution of \$800,000 from the district's FY24 surplus to the district's capital fund for the purpose of paying capital expenses as identified in the capital plan approved by the board?

ARTICLE 12: Shall the voters of Springfield Town School District approve a contribution of \$800,000 from the district's FY24 surplus to the district's operating expense reserve fund for the purpose of paying unexpected operational expenses?

ARTICLE 13: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the School Board to spend FORTY MILLION, SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-TWO THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$40,742,326.00), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if

approved, will result in education spending of \$13,918 per pupil. This projected spending per pupil is 3.98% higher than spending for the current year.

ARTICLE 13A: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District authorize the School Board to convey the 0.9 plus or minus acre parcel of land located off Southridge Street in Springfield, Vermont bearing Parcel ID 29-2-73 to the Springfield Housing Authority for use in connection with developing market rate housing to grow the grand list and ameliorate the housing shortage?

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,500.00) to the Springfield Community Band for eight (8) concerts?

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,000.00) to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Springfield in responding to the emergency needs of the community and to provide all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need?

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$63,500.00) to help support the high-quality home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse and Hospice for VT and NH? Care is provided regardless of ability to pay.

ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of EIGHT THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$8,500.00) for the support of Senior Solutions (formerly Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont) for help to support seniors and their families who are trying to remain at home and not be placed in a nursing home?

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of FOUR THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$4,000.00) to help support the Valley Health Connections (formerly Precision Valley Free Clinic) to help the uninsured access health care?

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TWELVE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$12,500.00) for the support of the MOOver /n/a the Current operated by Southeast Vermont Transit, Inc., to provide transit services to the residents of the Town of Springfield?

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,500.00) to Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community of Springfield through volunteer service?

ARTICLE 21: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) to assist with the cost of operating the Meals on Wheels Program of Greater Springfield that provides daily hot & cold congregate and home delivered meals and other nutritional needs to the qualified residents of Springfield?

ARTICLE 22: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$3,000.00) to Windsor County Partners d/b/a Windsor County Mentors, for youth mentoring services provided to the children of Windsor County?

ARTICLE 23: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) to the Springfield Supported Housing to assist families and individuals find permanent housing and provide in home case management services for 6 months to two years after placement?

ARTICLE 24: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$65,000.00) to the Springfield Family Center to assist with the cost of providing free meals, a free food shelf, and other services related to hunger as well as make referrals to partner social-service organizations in the community?

ARTICLE 25: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of FOUR THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$4,000.00) to the Women's Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to women and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the Town?

ARTICLE 26: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,500.00) to the Springfield Art and Historical Society to assist in preserving, maintaining, and displaying, for the public, the history and art of the Town of Springfield, Vermont?

ARTICLE 27: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,000.00) to Turning Point Recovery Center Drop-In Center and Transition House to help with the everyday cost of providing recovery services and housing for men and that are in recovery from alcohol, substance abuse and co-occurring disorders?

ARTICLE 28: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) to help support outpatient, mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc.?

ARTICLE 29: Shall the Town of Springfield, VT appropriate the sum of FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) to the Springfield Area Parent Child Center to provide wrap-around services for young children and their families, including but not limited to: diaper & formula bank, developmental screenings and early intervention therapy, community workshops & trainings, family case management, activity bags, high quality preschool & childcare center, welcome baby bags, and fun community events like the Family Festival, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

Dated this 20 day of January, 2025
at Springfield, County of Windsor
and State of Vermont.

Kristi C. Morris, Chair
Tara Chase
Heather Frahm
Michael E. Martin
Michael Schmitt

Dated this 27 day of January, 2025
at Springfield, County of Windsor
and State of Vermont.

Troy Palmer, Chair
Jessica Austin
Jessica Cady Burlew
Denise Hunter
Stephen Karaffa

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

Flood Brook kindergarten registration

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Parents residing in the towns of Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru, Weston, or tuitioning towns are invited to contact the Flood Brook School office at aalford@floodbrook.org or tgreene@floodbrook.org, from March 3-7, to register their child or children

who will be 5 years of age by Sept. 1, 2025, for the 2025-2026 kindergarten class. When you contact us, we will provide further information on the registration process. The following documentation is also required for registration: birth certificate, current immunization record, current physical exam, proof of residency (lease or deed plus one other form of ID with address). For more information, please call 802-824-6811.

Volunteer coaches

REGION – Girls on the Run Vermont (GOTRVT) needs coaches. Volunteer coaches utilize a curriculum to engage teams of girls in fun, interactive lessons for the spring season, which begins the week of March 17. Teams meet twice a week for 90 minutes.

Please visit www.gotrvt.org/coach for full details, or email info@girlsontherunvermont.org.

Green Mountain Union High School has an opening for the following position

Girls Varsity Softball Coach (March 2025)

Email todd.parah@trsu.org to apply

Calling all square dance callers

LUDLOW, Vt. – Plans by Black River Good Neighbor Services (BRGNS) are currently underway to begin a square dance activity, to be held at the Ludlow Community Center following a monthly community luncheon.

If you are experienced with square dance moves

and techniques, can instruct dancers through a sequence of moves using verbal cues, and have a two to three hours per month to spare, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Krey Kellington, executive director, Black River Good Neighbor Services, at 802-228-3663, or email vicmas48@gmail.com.

CLEAN OUTS

EZ-Dump Enterprises has firewood for sale and is available for home/apartment/storage clean outs and disposal, and trash and junk removal. Serving Springfield and all surrounding areas in VT & NH. Call 802-376-1168 or email ezdump.bl@gmail.com.

OTHER

KILLINGTON, Vt. – Mountain Breeze Property Management, LLC specializes in caretaking, housekeeping and grocery services. mountainbreezepropertymanagement.com 802-770-4129.

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

TOWN OF ROCKINGHAM

The Town of Rockingham is issuing an RFP for Design & Engineering Services for the downtown infrastructure upgrade and improvement on the corner of Mill, Westminster and Bridge Street in Bellows Falls, Vermont.

Please email executiveassistant@rockbf.org or call 802-463-3964 ext 1119 for a copy of the RFP.

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD TAXPAYER NOTICE

The third quarter installment of the 2024-2025 Town & Town School District Taxes is due and payable February 15, 2025. Payments can be made as follows:

- In person or through the mail.
- Dropped into our mail slot located in the white door that faces Main Street or into the mail slot located in the door on the second floor at the top of the outside stairs.
- Electronically on the town's website at <https://springfieldvt.gov>. A fee is charged for this method of payment. Payment receipts available in person or by including a stamped self-addressed return envelope or an email address. Town Hall is open M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Barbara A. Courchesne, Treasurer, CVT

TOWN OF GRAFTON, VERMONT Invitation to Bid 2025 PARK CARE

The Town of Grafton is requesting proposals for lawn mowing and trimming around plants and bushes in the Grafton Parks. This work shall be completed between April 1st and November 1st of 2025. Complete bid requirements may be obtained from Morgan Wilbur, Town Administrator, P.O. Box 180, 117 Main Street, Grafton VT 05146. (802) 843-2552 or email townadmin@graftonvt.org

TOWN OF GRAFTON, VERMONT Invitation to Bid 2025 CEMETERY CARE

The Town of Grafton is requesting proposals for lawn mowing and trimming around each headstone, monument, cemetery trees, small plants, and bushes located on cemetery grounds. This work shall be completed between April 1st and November 1st of 2025. Complete bid requirements may be obtained from Morgan Wilbur, Town Administrator, P.O. Box 180, 117 Main Street, Grafton VT 05146. (802) 843-2552 or email townadmin@graftonvt.org

Town of Mount Holly Seeks Select Board Clerk

The Town of Mount Holly seeks an experienced, part-time clerk/administrative assistant, to start immediately. Pay starts at \$19/hour and is commensurate with experience. Exact hours range weekly but are typically 6-10 hours/week.

Responsibilities include managing weekly correspondence for the Select Board; managing the Select Board's digital and paper archive; onboarding new Town employees, vendors and contractors; managing the Select Board's weekly invoices and orders; serving as the Town's human resources point of contact; warning public meetings; taking and posting minutes at Select Board meetings; corresponding with the Town's attorneys and other legal counsel; and supporting administration of various grants, applications, certifications and permits. Candidates must have demonstrated proficiency in G Suite productivity tools, such as Gmail, Drive, Docs, and Sheets, and must have superior organizational and written communication skills. References required.

Interested candidates should submit questions and letters of interest to the Mount Holly Select Board at mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com or can mail letters to Mount Holly Select Board at PO Box 248, Mount Holly, VT 05758. All letters of interest should be accompanied by a resume and a list of two references who can attest to the candidates' prior work experience.

Town of Londonderry, VT JOB OPENING

Road Crew Member/Equipment Operator

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

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

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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO BROWNFIELDS REUSE AND ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY LIMITATION ACT PROGRAM

Please take notice that 100 River Street Venture LLC whose mailing address is 550 W B St, 4th Floor, San Diego, CA 92101, is applying to the Vermont Brownfields Reuse and Environmental Liability Limitation Program (10 V.S.A. §6641 et seq.) in connection with the redevelopment of property known as 100 River Street in the Town of Springfield. A copy of the application, which contains a preliminary environmental assessment and a description of the proposed redevelopment project is available for public review at the Springfield Clerk's Office and at the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation offices in Montpelier. Comments concerning the application and/or the above referenced documents may be directed to Shawn Donovan at (802) 522-5683 or at shawn.donovan@vermont.gov. Comments may also be submitted by mail to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Waste Management Division, 1 National Life Drive – Davis 1, Montpelier, VT 05620; attention: Shawn Donovan.

TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN NH We're Hiring! Join Our Team Today! Looking for a career with great Pay & Benefits? Look no further!

Come work for the Town of Charlestown!

We're seeking **motivated, passionate individuals** to join our team. With **competitive pay, excellent health and dental benefits, retirement plans, and more**, this is more than just a job – it's your future!

Positions Available:

- Water/Waste Water Licensed Superintendent
- Experienced Finance Clerk
- FT & PT Police Officers
- Transfer Station Attendant
- Cemetery Sexton
- PT Building Inspector
- PT Deputy Building Inspector

Don't miss out! Start your career with us today. **Apply now** and take the first step toward a brighter tomorrow!

For more information **Visit www.charlestown-nh.gov, click on Volunteer & Employment. Application available on the website or come in to the Town Office at 233 Main St. Charlestown NH**

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD HELP WANTED MAINTENANCE WORKER II TRUCK DRIVER

The Town of Springfield, VT is seeking a highly motivated individual to fill a full-time Maintenance Worker II position within the Public Works Department, with a minimum of two to three years' experience. Requires the ability to perform semi-skilled work related to the operation of trucks, light-duty motor equipment and manual labor. Must be able to make accurate reports of materials hauled and maintenance scheduled. Reports to the Highway Superintendent and/or Working Foreman. A Maintenance Worker II is often required to work independently and will occasionally supervise. Requires an understanding of job safety, a valid motor vehicle operator's license, and a CDL B license. Grade 14, Pay Scale of \$18.98 to \$23.02 per hour. This is a non-exempt union position with an EXCELLENT benefits package. Apply at the Human Resources Office, 96 Main Street, (802) 885-2104 (tosh@vermontel.net). Applications may also be downloaded from the Town's website springfieldvt.gov/jobs. The Town of Springfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

community

LEGAL NOTICES

GFWC-VT scholarships available

REGION – The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Vermont (GFWC-VT) announces the availability of scholarships for Vermont women beyond the traditional high school

to college age track, seeking to further their education, training, or to upgrade their skills in preparation for entering or advancing in the workplace. Applicants must submit a specific

plan for their education or training. Applications are due to Betty Haggerty, 16 Taylor Street, Bellows Falls, VT 05101, by March 15; her contact information is included on the application.

The scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$1,500. GFWC-VT has been awarding this financial aid, which is funded through contributions from the state federated clubs and from individuals, for 31 years.

The scholarship is named for late Barbara Jean Barker, of Poultney, who served as GFWC-VT president from

1992-1994, and who was instrumental in establishing the program. Women receiving the awards over the years have come from a wide range of Vermont towns.

Applications for the scholarship can be obtained from Betty Haggerty, hubett@hotmail.com. They are also available through

federated women's clubs in Vermont towns and through Vermont State University, which includes CCV and Vermont Tech, sites around the state. Information is also available through the VSAC booklet of financial aid. The scholarships will be awarded at the state federation's Annual Meeting in April.

TOWN OF CHESTER WARNING NOTICE OF TOWN MEETING

The Legal Voters of the TOWN OF CHESTER are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Chester Town Hall, Second Floor in said Town of Chester on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 6:00 pm., to act on the following Articles. Voting on Article 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be by Australian ballot on March 4, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall Second Floor.

ARTICLE 1: To elect Town Officials for the ensuing year as provided by the Public Laws of Vermont. Voting by Australian Ballot.

ARTICLE 2: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Five Hundred Twenty Four Thousand Dollars (\$524,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of purchasing a Grader for the highway department in the amount of \$374,000 to be financed for a term of 10 years, and paving sections of Flamstead Road in the amount of \$150,000 to be financed for a term of 7 years. This equipment is replacing existing equipment at the end of useful life and are not additions to the town inventory. Voting by Australian Ballot.

ARTICLE 3: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Two Million Nine Hundred Eighty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$2,982,900), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of financing the cost of construction for the replacement of the Depot Street Force Main, Gravity Main, and First Avenue Pump Station. It is anticipated that the debt service on the bonds will be paid from revenue generated by wastewater user fees. Voting by Australian Ballot.

ARTICLE 4: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed One Million One Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$1,140,000), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of financing the purchase of a solar photovoltaic generation facility currently located on town property (Jeffery Well site). It is anticipated that the debt service on the bonds will be paid using revenue generated by, and electricity costs savings resulting from the facility. Voting by Australian Ballot.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town of Chester will vote to approve borrowing for the purchase of a police cruiser for the Police Department in an amount not to exceed \$70,000 to be financed for a term of 4 years. This equipment is replacing existing equipment at the end of useful life and is not an addition to the town inventory.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$4,225,000.00 to be paid to the Chester Town Treasurer on September 16, 2025, to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's indebtedness.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters establish a Housing Reserve Fund as a means to receive ongoing sources of funding to support the preservation and production of housing and increase opportunities for families and individuals to access affordable homes in Chester.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of five years, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings occupied by the Gassetts Grange #327. The municipal taxes in 2024 for the Gassetts Grange #327 were \$1,215.00, and \$2,180.00 for Education.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of five years, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings occupied by the Chester Rod & Gun Club. The municipal taxes in 2024 for the Chester Rod & Gun Club were \$1,869.00, and \$3,354.00 for Education.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of five years, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings occupied by the Green Mountain Softball, Inc. The municipal taxes in 2024 for the Green Mountain Softball, Inc. were \$772.00, and \$1,386.00 for Education.

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THIRTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVEN DOLLARS (\$13,807) to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND AND FORTY FOUR DOLLARS (\$3,044) to help support outpatient, mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND FORTY DOLLARS (\$3,040) to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Chester in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$900) to the Women's Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to women and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the Town, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,200.00) for the support of Senior Solutions (formerly Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont) for help to support seniors and their families who are trying to remain at home and not be placed in a nursing home, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$2,250 (two thousand two hundred fifty dollars) for the support of the MOOver Rockingham to provide transit services to the residents of the Town of Chester, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$800 (eight hundred dollars) to support Windsor County Mentors, for youth mentoring services provided to children in Windsor County, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$400 (four hundred dollars) to Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community of Chester through volunteer service, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,800.00) toward the support of the Community Cares Network of Chester and Andover, Inc. a non-profit organization which provides services to senior citizens, helping them to stay in their homes longer safely, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$4,000 (four thousand dollars) to Meals on Wheels of Greater Springfield, Inc. for continued support and services to the citizens of the Town of Chester in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 21: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY DOLLARS (\$5,570) to Neighborhood Connections, Inc. and Mountain Town Connector to cover the cost of providing services in Chester in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

ARTICLE 22: Shall the town appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to the Black River Area Community Coalition for continuing to work within the Chester community preventing youth substance/alcohol misuse in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

Dated at Chester, Vermont on this 17th day of January 2025.
Arne Jonynas, Chairman
Peter Hudkins

Lee Gustafson
Arianna Knapp

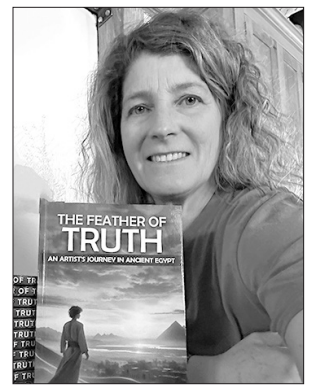
Tim Roper

Local author's children's book about ancient Egypt –

WESTMINSTER WEST, Vt. – Histria Books is pleased to announce the release of "The Feather of Truth" by Emily A. Weinberg. This book is published by Histria Kids, an imprint of Histria Books dedicated to outstanding works for children that both educate and entertain.

In a world where devo-

tion shapes destiny, one young artist's journey will challenge the pillars of an ancient empire. Uli, a young stone artist raised by priests, is sent to find his way in the bustling city of Thebes, Egypt, in 1166 B.C.E. Just as he starts to climb the social ladder, he is abruptly reassigned to labor in the tombs of the western desert.



Emily Weinberg. PHOTO PROVIDED

TOWN OF CHESTER NOTICE OF HEARING FOR SUBDIVISION PERMIT

Roy and Renee Amsden have applied for a Subdivision Permit for a property located at 37 Roland Road in the Town of Chester. The proposed minor subdivision will divide the existing property into a Parcel 1 of 14.4 acres (surveyed) and a remainder Parcel 2 (not surveyed) of approximately 69.5 acres.

The Town of Chester Development Review Board will conduct a site visit at 5:15 PM on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 37 Roland Road and will hold a hearing on this application at 6:00 PM on Monday, February 24, 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 30nd day of January 2025.

Preston Bristow
Zoning Administrator
(802) 875-2173
zoning@chestervt.gov

TOWN OF CHESTER NOTICE OF HEARING FOR BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENT

Steven Mancuso has applied for a Boundary Line Adjustment between properties located at 322 Amsden Hill Road and 37 Roland Road in the Town of Chester. The proposed Boundary Line Adjustment will reduce the land owned by Roy and Renee Amsden of 37 Roland Road by 0.7 acres and increase the land owned by Steven Mancuso of 322 Amsden Hill Road by 0.7 acres. No new parcel will be created.

The Town of Chester Development Review Board will meet at 322 Amsden Hill Road at 5:00 PM on Monday, February 24, 2025, to conduct a site visit, and will hold a hearing on this application at 6:00 PM on Monday, February 24, 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 Zoom 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 30th day of January 2025.

Preston Bristow, Zoning Administrator
(802) 875-2173
zoning@chestervt.gov

There, he faces deplorable working conditions, rampant corruption, and widespread thievery. Struggling to reconcile his devotion to the gods with the harsh realities around him, Uli leads a workers' strike, only to be captured by Assyrian tribesmen and enslaved. In the midst of these challenges, he intercepts an assassination plot against Pharaoh Rameses III.

As Uli navigates treacherous terrain in his quest for belonging, he strives to uphold his faith in the gods and his devotion to the Pharaoh amidst a society on the brink of collapse. Inspired by actual historical events, "The Feather of Truth" explores how religion permeated every aspect of life in ancient Egypt, guiding people to live in harmony with the divine and their earthly ruler.

Travel to ancient Egypt in this fast-paced adventure filled with historical detail, friendship, exotic scenery, and action.

Emily Weinberg is an elementary educator. She enjoys writing historical fiction and realistic fiction for older children. Emily believes that books are the easiest way to teleport to exotic places, and explore the wonders of our world and the realms of imagination. An adventurer, scholar, house-builder, and teacher, she loves big, hands-on projects, and isn't afraid to get messy. Emily lives with her family in Westminster West, Vt.

Learn more at www.the-featheroftruthnovel.com. "The Feather of Truth" is available at www.histriabooks.com, and from all major book retailers.

Moving with kids

real estate

REGION – As soon as you've decided to move, talk to your kids about it. Explain where you're moving and why, and do your best to help them understand. Time is the biggest factor – the more time you can give your kids the space to process this information, the better. If your children are older, consider looping them in before the move is decided so they can help with your search for a new home. Let them ask questions, and be honest and transparent with your answers, but focus on the positives when possible. Moving to a new home is a big undertaking for kids of any age, so do your best to support them as best you can.

Go through closets and toys before you start packing. Determining whether or not there is anything your child wants to donate will minimize how much you need to pack. This is especially relevant if they recently hit a growth spurt – you can use this time to donate clothes that no longer fit. Sorting through and organizing their belongings will also give your kids a better understanding of how they can help pack.

Next, set deadlines for packing to make it feel less



Try to make moving fun and positive for children.
PHOTO PROVIDED

overwhelming. This can help you just as much as it helps your kids. Work backwards from the day you'll need to have all of your boxes packed and ready to go, and from there, go room by room. As you're packing, try letting your kids decorate their moving boxes with markers or stickers. This way the boxes are labeled, and your kids can feel involved in the packing process while also expressing themselves. When the movers arrive, introduce them to your kids so they feel like they're part of the process.

Put together a moving essentials kit with your kids. This should be different

than your adult moving essentials to leave out of the movers' truck, like medication or important paperwork. Instead, these should be kid-focused essentials like comforting stuffed animals, toys, a book, and favorite snacks. Be sure to make this list together before all of your boxes are packed, so you don't unin-

tentionally pack something important.

Once you're in your new town and the moving truck has arrived, do your best to make unpacking fun. Play fun music or take a fun snack break by exploring the nearest ice cream shop in your town. While you're getting settled, try letting your kids help decorate their new spaces if they're old enough to do so. Whatever you can do to let them make their own decisions will help give them a better sense of control during the transition.

Sticking to your routines after you move can help kids feel a little more grounded in their new space. Whether it's a morning breakfast routine on Sundays with waffles, or tacos on Tuesday, keep up the tradition. If you don't have any routines, starting a new tradition can help create a sense of excitement

about your new home. Try starting a monthly movie or game night to get everybody relaxing together.

Technology can make it easier to keep in contact with friends, so do your best to help your kids set up virtual chats with people they miss – especially if they don't have devices of their own to use. Depending on how old your kids are, consider throwing a going away party with memory book or scrapbook pages for friends to sign in and write messages.

Help your kids love their new neighborhood by

showing them fun activities. This can range from a nearby playground or park, to cool new restaurants or museums. Get involved in the local community, too. Visit your nearby library to find community events and children's programming to help you and the kids make new friends at your new home. Your local librarian can also help teach you about the town – ask for books about local history, and go on an adventure to look for local landmarks.

Article provided by Freedom Mortgage.



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129 LINCOLN AVENUE
MANCHESTER CENTER, VT. 05255

1-802-362-4663 OR 1-802-367-5251
1-800-545-1833, EXT. 326 (HEARING IMPAIRED)

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Kelley Real Estate
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Lorien Kelly, REALTOR®
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USDA Guidelines Do Apply

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THM Property Management
129 Lincoln Ave.
Manchester Center, VT 05255
802-367-5252
802-367-5251
Hearing Impaired 1-800-545-1833 ext. 326

We do not discriminate against tenant applications on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, age, creed, gender identity, 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.
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
THM is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15				16				17			
18				19			20				
21	22			23	24						
25	26	27			28			29	30	31	
32					33						
34				35	36						
37				38							
39	40	41		42	43			44	45	46	47
48				49				50			
51				52				53			
54				55				56			

ACROSS

1 Beansies

5 Enfold

9 Stanley Cup org.

12 Luau dance

13 Roof overhang

14 Parisian "yes"

15 Pedestal occupant

16 Sketch

17 Trio after Q

18 Church organ feature

19 Retrieve

20 Bogus

21 Canonized Fr. woman

23 Soul, to Sartre

25 "Fantasia" ballerinas

28 Esteem

32 Commence

33 Biblical king

34 Gave a speech

36 Sipping aids

37 Weep

38 Spigot

39 "Holy cow!"

42 Away from SSW

44 Foot fraction

48 Flight stat

49 "Misery" star James

50 Olympian Lipinski

7 Online icon

8 Church seat

9 Director Ephron

10 Corn cover

11 Low-calorie

20 Frenzied state

22 Photocopier need

24 Maestro Zubin —

25 "Westworld" network

26 Suffix with hotel

27 Links org.

29 Notable time

30 Tier

31 Mag. staff

35 Energetic person

36 Shorthand pros

39 Profit

40 Shoppe description

41 Pack cargo

43 Handle

45 "The Lion King" lion

46 Gullet

47 Slugger Aaron

49 Purring pet

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outdoor news

Bill McKibben to speak on the climate crisis

PERU, Vt. – The worsening effects of climate change are now a near-daily feature of our news. Forest fires spreading to the city continue to ravage Los Angeles and its surroundings. Hurricanes are more severe than ever. Snowstorms are penetrating more deeply into the South. And here in Vermont, the years that separate severe floods are getting closer together. In response to this crisis, the Londonderry Conservation Commission is hosting well-known Vermont environmentalist Bill McKibben, with a presentation entitled “Back to the Wall, Face to the Sun.” He will speak on climate change and how we can all play a part in minimizing the damage of a warming planet. All are invited to this

free program, which will take place on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 4 p.m., at the Burr & Burton Mountain Campus. McKibben is an award-winning environmentalist, educator, journalist, and author of 20 books. He has written extensively on the impact of global warming and the role of government policy. His recent children’s book “We Are Better Together” is “a hopeful, inspiring picture book celebrating the power of human cooperation and the beauty of life on Earth, beautifully illustrated by artist Stevie Lewis,” according to Goodreads. According to his website, “His 1989 book ‘The End of Nature’ is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change, and has appeared

in 24 languages. He serves as the Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College, as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and he has won the Gandhi Peace Prize, as well as honorary degrees from 20 colleges and universities. He was awarded the Right Livelihood Award, sometimes called the alternative Nobel, in the Swedish Parliament. Foreign Policy named him to its inaugural list of the world’s 100 most important global thinkers.” Please join us on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 4 p.m., at the Burr & Burton Mountain Campus, located at 3067 Hapgood Pond Road, Peru, Vt. This program is sponsored by the Londonderry Conservation Commission, and is a free event.

Conservation Camp scholarships

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Precision Valley Fish and Game Association is once again offering scholarships for youth ages 12-16 who wish to attend Green Mountain Conservation Camp. This camp, offered each

year, is a wonderful opportunity for youth who want to learn more about the outdoors, and campers will receive their Vermont hunter education and bowhunter education certifications. Advanced sessions are available for those who have already

attended the basic session. If you are interested in attending, please contact Kyle Chivers at 802-302-4113, or Louis White at 802-289-3416. You will need a Sponsorship Agreement Form completed prior to registration.

Hydro dam public input

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VT DEC) is in the process of releasing draft 401 Water Quality Certifications for the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon dams, owned by Great River Hydro. These are being released in succession, with public comments due on the draft for Wilder by Feb. 6, Bellows Falls by Feb. 26, and Vernon, which will be released shortly,

sometime in March. This is the only opportunity for the public to comment on what the VT DEC will require as conditions in the federal licenses that will affect over 120 miles of the Connecticut River – between Newbury and Vernon, Vt. – for the next 40 years. Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) has read the draft 401s for Wilder and Bellows Falls, and is concerned that appropriate conditions to protect water quality and recreational access for the Connecticut

River are not adequate as proposed. It is imperative that the public comment on this process to make sure that the VT DEC is doing all that they can to protect this resource for the people of the State. Anyone who uses and enjoys the Connecticut River has a vested interest in how this resource is affected by the hydroelectric facilities. Commenting allows residents to illustrate the importance of protecting the Connecticut River. The public comment period ends on Thursday, Feb. 6, at 4:30 p.m., for the Wilder Dam; and Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 4:30 p.m., for the Bellows Falls Dam. The public hearing for the Bellows Fall Dam will be held on Feb. 12, at 5:30 p.m., in the Lower Theater at town hall, 7 The Square, Bellows Falls. The notification of public comment period, draft 401 Water Quality Certification, and the portal for submitting comments can be accessed through the Vermont Environmental Notice Bulletin. Search for “Wilder,” “Bellows Falls,” or “Vernon” as the activity name.

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Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

King Crossword Answers
 Solution time: 21 mins.

C	A	P	S	W	R	A	P	N	H	L	
H	U	L	A	E	A	V	E	O	U	T	
I	D	O	L	D	R	A	W	R	S	T	
P	I	P	E	G	E	T	F	A	K	E	
S	T	E	A	M	E						
H	I	P	P	O	S	R	E	V	E	R	E
B	E	G	I	N		H	E	R	O	D	
O	R	A	T	E	D	S	T	R	A	W	S
C	R	Y	T	A	P						
G	O	S	H	N	N	E	I	N	C	H	
A	L	T	C	A	A	N	T	A	R	A	
I	D	O	A	M	M	O	C	L	A	N	
N	E	W	T	O	E	S	H	I	A	W	K

arts & entertainment

É.T.É and Yann Falquet at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts and Twilight Music present an evening of Quebecois music from Canada and the U.S., by two trios – É.T.É, and Yann Falquet with Emily Troll and Eric Boodman – on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 7:30 p.m., at Next Stage.

É.T.É transforms the nostalgia of a kitchen party into an unforgettable concert experience that celebrates the joie de vivre of Quebecois culture. With soaring vocal harmonies, a deep groove, step-dancing, and rich instrumentation, the trio creates their own trad universe with original compositions and unique arrangements of Quebecois and Acadian

repertoire. Since winning the OPUS prize for Discovery of the Year 2017-2018, Élisabeth Moquin (fiddle, step-dancing, vocals), Therry Clouette (bouzouki, podorythmie, vocals), and Élisabeth Giroux (cello, vocals), have shared their original, lively take on Quebec traditional music with audiences worldwide.

Perhaps best known as a founder and one-third of the Quebecois traditional music trio Genticorum, Yann Falquet has developed a personal guitar style for Quebec folk music, inspired by the playing of the accompanists of different cultures, such as Brittany, Scandinavia, Ireland, and North

America. A dynamic and versatile singer and instrumentalist who has collaborated with numerous internationally known folk music artists, Falquet expresses his love of traditional music with a new sound, accompanied by Emily Troll and Eric Boodman.

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. Sponsored in part by the Délégation du Québec à Boston.

Glen David Andrews Dance Party

PUTNEY, Vt. – The vibrant sounds of New Orleans are coming to Putney this Valentine's Day. Glen David Andrews, a native son of the legendary Treme neighborhood, will bring his electrifying performance to Next Stage Arts on Friday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m. Known for his commanding voice, fierce trombone sound, and unforgettable stage presence, Andrews will light up the night with a powerful blend of jazz, funk, gospel, and rock that will have you dancing in the aisles.

With a career that spans across genres and continents, Andrews has earned his reputation as one of New Orleans' most dynamic musical forces. Whether collaborating with iconic acts like Galactic, Trombone Shorty, Rebirth Brass Band, and Allen Toussaint, or headlining major festivals like the New Orleans Jazz Festival, Andrews' music transcends boundaries, and captures the heart and soul of New Orleans culture. Expect a high-energy, feel-good show that blends explosive brass sounds, soul-stirring grooves, and the infectious energy that only a true New Orleans legend can bring.

Andrews' collaborations span a diverse array of artists, including Galactic, Rebirth Brass Band, Delfayo Marsalis, and Ivan Neville, as well as performances at some of the world's most renowned venues like Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, and The NYC Blue Note. He has also made a name for himself with his own albums, showcasing his versatility and ability to blend New Orleans roots with contemporary influences.

Don't miss your chance

to experience one of New Orleans' finest talents live in Putney. This concert is sure to be a night of unforgettable music and dancing, full of that distinctive,

soul-stirring energy only Glen David Andrews can deliver.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.nextstagearts.org.

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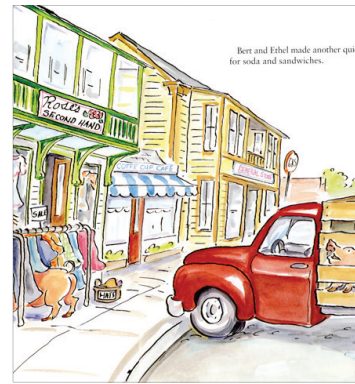
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NXT Gallery exhibits Eileen Christelow

PUTNEY, Vt. – NXT Gallery is proud to present "Eileen Christelow: Illustrations," an exhibition celebrating the work of the acclaimed author and illustrator of more than 30 children's picture books. The opening reception will be held on Sunday, Feb. 23, from 3-5 p.m., at Next Stage Arts, located at 15 Kimball Hill, Putney, Vt. The exhibit will remain on view through May 11.

Christelow is best known for her beloved "Five Little Monkeys" series and "The Great Pig Escape," a charming tale set in Putney. Her work spans a variety of subjects, from playful adventures to nonfiction stories like "VOTE!" and "Robins! How They Grow Up."



One of Christelow's illustrations. PHOTO PROVIDED

In this exhibition, visitors will have the rare opportunity to see original illustrations from her books, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process that brings her characters and stories to life.

"I start with sketches: Who are the characters? What are they doing?" says Christelow. "As I change

the words, I change the pictures. As I change the pictures, I might decide to change the words again. It's an evolving process that can take months."

Christelow's transition from traditional media like watercolor and acrylics to digital tools like Photoshop and Wacom tablets revolutionized her process, giving her the flexibility to move characters, experiment with colors, and refine every detail. However, she notes, "I do miss the feeling of real paper."

The opening reception will offer an opportunity to meet the artist, hear about her creative journey, and explore the vibrant world of her illustrations. Light refreshments will be served, and the event is free and open to the public.

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Tuesday Trivia at 6pm with Rick Davis
Thursday Irish Session with Gypsy Reel at 6:30pm

CHESTER WINTER CARNIVAL

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Winter Carnival is held annually on President's Day weekend, this year falling on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 15 and 16, at the Pinnacle, off Lover's Lane in Chester. The fun-filled weekend includes sledding, ice skating, horse-drawn sleigh rides, kids' snowmobile rides, and an evening snowshoe hike, led by the Chester Conservation Committee (CCC).



Horse drawn sleigh rides from Smokeshire Farms. PHOTO BY OTIS NELSON

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Kids snowmobile rides from the Chester Snowmobile Club at Buttonwood Farms, the field across from the Pinnacle.

12 p.m.
Sledding and ice skating at the Pinnacle.

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Horse-drawn sleigh rides from Smokeshire Farms at the



Sledding and ice skating at the Pinnacle. STOCK PHOTO

Pinnacle.
5 p.m.
Guided snowshoe hike at Brookside. CCC guided. Snowshoes if conditions are favorable, or microspikes/yak tracks required if limited snow. A headlamp or flashlight is required. Meet behind the academy building at 5 p.m.

Contact Matt McCarthy for more information at 802-875-2173 or recreationinchester@yahoo.com.



Chester Winter Carnival 1940, featuring dog sled races. PHOTO PROVIDED BY CARLA WESTINE, CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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