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THE MESSAGE

OF THE WEEK

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Claremont hears preliminary pool, race track plans —

BY ANNE DEMPSEY
The Message

CLAREMONT, N.H. – At the Claremont City Council meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 14, Mayor Dale Girard announced that the Claremont Parks and Recreation department will run the Crown Point Pigskin 5K, on Sunday, Feb. 8, starting at 11 a.m.

City manager Nancy Bates stated that, regarding the PSNH/Eversource case, the court issued a settlement order which amounts to \$100,000. This figure is much lower than expected. The case still needs to wait 60-90 days for any appeals, then the city will send out the final refund. Bates also said there is a vacancy for a planning and development director, which will be posted in the near future, and that the 17 Water Street project is still waiting for the final legal costs.

Director of public works Alex Gleeson discussed the use of the sewer department fund balance. He requested that the transmission repair of the 2005 Volvo L90E loader at the waste sewage plant be paid for out of the unrestricted fund balance. Bates stated that money that lapsed from last year's budget could cover this cost. The repairs have already been made. The cost for labor and repairs came to \$57,576.46.

There was a long discussion about the owner of a property on Grissom Lane's request for a right of way through city-owned property. The city council requested that the landowner submit specific plans and costs to the council before any further discussion.

Bates reviewed the maintenance and repair projects on the city hall building's clock tower. She requested that approximately half the

funds to pay for this work come out of the capital reserve fund, and the other half come from the building maintenance and repair fund.

Director of Claremont's parks and recreation department Justin Martin proposed to the council that the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center collaborate with the Upper Valley Aquatic Center (UVAC). Martin said, "By working with UVAC, an organization that excels in aquatic programming, we can leverage existing pool capacity without capital investment, while providing consistent professionally run programs for Claremont residents and surrounding communities." Council members responded enthusiastically, and asked that Martin and a representative from UVAC provide them with a presentation that would include

more specific plans and any costs involved. Martin agreed.

Police Chief Brent Wilmott spoke as a representative of the licensing board with regards to the licensing of the Claremont Motorsports Park. Currently, the licensing board issues an annual license to the park. Wilmott said that the licensing board "has authority to set conditions that are essential to the health and safety of the public, including adequate guard rails, seating facilities, and control of traffic to and from the facility." Since the board currently has no authority to set schedules, decide the number of races that happen during the year, or determine when the gates open and close, the board is considering establishing a new ordinance or modifying the current one to include these parameters. First, however, Wilmott wanted feedback from the

city council. The city council members requested that he write up and present to the council the new or modified ordinance which the council could put to a vote.

Executive director of the Turning Point Network of Claremont Pascale Graham reported on the feasibility study that was developed for four Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant units of permanent housing at 227 Broad Street, with state-of-the-art security measures and accessibility to individuals of varying needs for the survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other situations. This study, which cost \$22,670, was paid for with city funds. Unfortunately, the building costs ran from a high of \$2.1 million to a low of \$1.8 million. Graham closed by saying the cost was too prohibitive to consider moving forward.

Bates and director of human resources Shannon Thibodeaux discussed the important use of LinkedIn in successfully hiring three administrators last year. They requested that LinkedIn continue to be used in the future to recruit staff. Bates said, "LinkedIn is not in the budget for this year, but we need to get people in here." She expressed her concern that staff could start leaving because of their workload. Some of the administration positions have been vacant this year; because of this, there is extra money in the budget. The council agreed to using LinkedIn for a year. Bates said she would come back later about the needed budget transfers.

The Claremont City Council meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month, at 6:30 p.m., in the Claremont City Hall Council Chambers.

Cheshire Kids Farm Camp Scholarship accepting applications

WALPOLE, N.H. – Does your child have interest in farms or gardening? Promote their curiosity and send them to a local farm camp this summer.

The Cheshire Kids Farm Camp Scholarship connects young people with agriculture and the natural world around them. This scholarship aims to inspire the next generation of local farmers and food supporters by giving regional children the opportunity to experience sustainable farming first-hand and watch their efforts bear fruit. This scholarship program is intended for local youth who otherwise would not be able to participate in a farm summer camp program.

Scholarship-eligible programs include select farm camps and after-school

programs at Stonewall Farm, Orchard Hill, Kroka Expeditions, UMass Farm Academies, and memberships to Northeast Organic Farming Association – New Hampshire (NOFA-NH). Scholarships cover the full program cost unless otherwise noted.

The Cheshire Kids Farm Camp Scholarship was first created in honor of Jeffrey P. Smith. During his lifetime, Smith, a former member of the Monadnock Localvore Steering Committee, was an enthusiastic supporter of sustainability and local agriculture. He firmly believed in the connection of all living things, and stressed the importance of working in harmony with the systems of the universe. He dedicated much of his life to helping others and

the environment surrounding him. Seeing himself as a steward instead of an owner of the land, he felt the earth was entrusted to us for safekeeping during our lifetimes, to be passed along intact to future generations.

To keep that vision alive, the Jeffrey P. Smith Farm Scholarship Program was created in August 2009. As of 2026, the name has been changed to the Cheshire Kids Farm Camp Scholarship, to be more descriptive of its intention.

In order to continuing to honor Smith, one scholar-



Kids learn about planting at a farm summer camp.

PHOTO PROVIDED

ship recipient will be chosen as the Jeffrey P. Smith Awardee. The program's purpose is to send children to an area farm camp to dis-

cover the inherent rewards that come from cultivating with one's hands and heart.

The Cheshire County Conservation District is now accepting applications and donations to the Cheshire Kids Farm Camp Scholarship. Applications are due by Feb. 28.

To learn more about participating programs, view application materials, or donate to the scholarship fund, visit www.cheshireconservation.org/cheshire-kids.

Donations to the scholarship fund are accepted year-round. This program would not be possible without the funding support of the You Have Our Trust Fund of Fidelity Charitable. Matching donations provided by the Cheshire County Farm Bureau, Keene Elm City

Rotary Club, Keene Lions Club, and the generosity of community members.

If you would like to make a donation to support future funding of the scholarship, please do so at www.cheshireconservation.org/donate.

Donations to the fund may also be made by mail. Checks can be made payable to "CCCD," and addressed to 11 Industrial Park Drive, Walpole, NH 03608. Please include "Cheshire Kids Farm Camp Scholarship" in the memo line. Contributions of any amount are greatly appreciated and make a difference.

Interested applicants may also request a printed copy of the application by contacting info@cheshireconservation.org, or calling 603-904-3011.

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DEADLINES

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

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December Elks BFUHS Student of the Month

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Union High School (BFUHS), in partnership with the Bellows Falls Elks Lodge 1619, is proud to announce that Natalie Douglass, daughter of Kevin and Jaimie Douglass, of Saxtons River, Vt., has been selected as the Elks Student of the Month for December. This recognition honors students who demonstrate strong academic effort, positive attitude, reliable attendance, and meaningful contributions to both school and community life.

Douglass consistently demonstrates a high level of academic commitment, and takes great pride in producing thoughtful, original work. She challenges herself in rigorous coursework, contributes insightfully to classroom discussions, and is known for bringing creativity, depth, and maturity to her academic pursuits. Her reliable attendance and preparedness further reflect her strong sense of responsibility and commitment to learning. She is a proud member of the Jesse A. Judd/Marilee B. Huntoon Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Douglass is widely re-



Natalie Douglass. PHOTO PROVIDED

spected by both peers and staff for her positive attitude, dependability, and integrity. She has emerged as a quiet but influential leader within the school community, and is recognized as a student who consistently leads by example.

Beyond the classroom, Douglass makes outstanding contributions through extracurricular involvement and leadership. She is an exceptional goalie for the varsity girls soccer team, where her composure, resilience, and leadership helped guide the program to its first winning season in more than 15 years. For her efforts in goal, Natalie earned SVL First Team All-League honors. In addition, she is an active member

of the girls tennis team and student council. Her longstanding commitment to horseback riding further highlights her discipline, perseverance, and willingness to challenge herself through new experiences.

Natalie's dedication to animals, leadership, and responsibility also extend into her future plans. Through years of working at equestrian facilities, she has developed a strong work ethic and a passion for animal care, earning increasing responsibility and mentoring younger students. She plans to further her education with concentrations in animal science and business, continuing her commitment to both service and professional growth.

Douglass represents the values of the Elks Student of the Month program with distinction, and Bellows Falls Union High School and the Bellows Falls Elks Lodge are proud to recognize her for this well-deserved honor.

Parks Place thanks volunteers and supporters

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Parks Place Community Resource Center extends its heartfelt gratitude to the generous volunteer “elves” and local businesses who helped make the holiday season brighter by purchasing gifts for children in our community. Through their kindness, donations, and dedication, hundreds of children were able to experience the joy, warmth, and magic of the holidays.

These volunteers and business partners stepped forward during a busy time of year to ensure that families facing hardship could still celebrate the season with dignity and hope. Their generosity embodies the true spirit of the holidays, and reflects the strength and compassion of our community.

“Every gift purchased and every dollar donated represents a child feeling seen, valued, and remembered during the holidays,” said Jennifer Jung Tolaro-Heidbrink, executive director of Parks

Place Community Resource Center. “Our volunteer elves and local businesses stepped up in an extraordinary way, and we are deeply grateful to M&T Bank for their generous support. Together, this community made it possible for families facing hardship to experience joy, dignity, and hope during the holiday season.”

A family served through the holiday gift effort shared, “The kindness behind this gift reminded us that we’re not alone, and that our community truly cares.”

Parks Place also extends a sincere thank-you to M&T Bank, through the M&T Charitable Foundation, for a significant financial donation that supported this holiday gift effort and helped ensure children and families were supported during the holiday season.

“M&T Charitable Foundation is honored to support Parks Place Community Resource Center and their holiday gift program for children,” said Kathleen L. Schirling, vice president and senior regional program officer at M&T Charitable Foundation. “This initiative

ensures that families facing hardship can still experience the joy and warmth of the season, and that every child feels valued and cared for. At M&T Bank, we believe in strengthening the communities we serve by supporting programs that bring hope and dignity to those who need it most. Helping Parks Place fulfill this mission reflects our commitment to creating brighter futures and fostering a spirit of compassion during the holidays.”

The collective support of volunteers, local businesses, and community partners makes it possible for Parks Place to continue connecting individuals and families to the resources they need throughout the year.

As we reflect on this season of giving, Parks Place wishes to thank everyone who helped make the holidays meaningful for the children and families we serve. We wish our community, partners, and supporters a safe, healthy, and happy New Year, and we look forward to continuing this important work together in the year ahead.

Springfield Players auditions

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Community Players will hold open auditions for their season opener “Dinner With Friends,” written by Pulitzer Prize winner Donald Margulies and directed by Matt Munroe.

Auditions will be held on Monday, Jan. 26, and Friday, Jan. 30, from 5-8 p.m., at Black River Innovation Campus, 60 Park Street in Springfield. Drop in during the time block on either day to audition. The production is casting two men

and two women to play characters in their 30s to late 40s.

Munroe, an actor and filmmaker, is excited to direct a show that was a meaningful acting experience for him during his company year at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City 20 years ago.

For details about the show and the audition process, visit www.springfieldplayers.org/auditions.

Dear Editor,

As we turn the page on the holidays, I want to thank our customers in North Springfield for the patience, kindness, and support you showed our local postal service team during the busiest mailing and shipping season of the year.

Our carriers, clerks, and plant teams worked hard to keep mail and packages moving for families, small businesses, and neighbors who rely on us. Behind every delivery is a local employee who lives here, shops here, and cares about getting it right.

Now that the holiday rush is behind us, our focus is simple: steady, dependable service every day, along with continued improvements that help us handle today's mix of letters and packages more efficiently.

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Sincerely,
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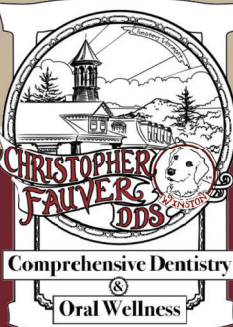
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health

Ludlow Health Center new practice director –

LUDLOW, Vt. – North Star Health is pleased to announce the appointment of Rosalind “Roz” Klezos as the new practice director of Ludlow Health Center. Klezos is experienced in clinical care, operations, and team leadership, and has a longstanding commitment to serving patients in our region.

Klezos brings a broad and well-rounded healthcare background to her role. She began her career as a respiratory therapist with Springfield Medical Care Systems before it was rebranded as North Star Health. Klezos later worked as practice manager of specialties practices at Mount Ascutney Hospital, and most recently served as a psychiatric practice manager at Dartmouth Health, where she led teams and supported complex clinical operations.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to return



Rosalind Klezos, new practice director of Ludlow Health Center. PHOTO PROVIDED

home to North Star Health and the Ludlow community,” Klezos said. “I’ve had the privilege of learning from exceptional health care leaders, and I’m excited to bring that knowledge, along with my passion for patient-centered care, back to the place that shaped me.”

Klezos believes deeply in providing access to care for those who need it most, and finds inspiration in the power of

imagination, motivation, and strategic transformation that stand to strengthen the health of the Ludlow area.

“We are thrilled to welcome Klezos to North Star Health,” said Joshua R. Dufresne, chief executive officer. “Her well-rounded experience, collaborative spirit, and commitment to patient-centered care make her an excellent fit for the North Star team, and the obvious choice to lead Ludlow Health Center.”

In her new role, Klezos will oversee daily operations, support staff development, and work closely with community partners to ensure Ludlow Health Center continues providing accessible, high-quality care to families across the region.

HCRS appoints CEO

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The board of directors of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) announced the appointment of Anne Bilodeau as the organization’s next chief executive officer, effective April 1.

Bilodeau has been with HCRS since 2019, and has served as chief operating officer for the past four years. In this role, she has played a central part in advancing the agency’s mission and strengthening its operations, positioning her well to assume this leadership role. As CEO, Bilodeau will provide overall strategic and operational leadership for the nonprofit organization, working closely with the board of directors to set vision and direction, ensure strong financial stewardship, and foster a positive organizational culture in support of HCRS’ mental health, substance use, and developmental services.

“After a thoughtful search process, the board is delighted to welcome Anne as our next CEO,” said Phil Blackburn, chair of the HCRS Board of Directors. “She brings a deep commitment to our mission, strong operational expertise, and a clear vision for the future of community mental health services in our region.”

Bilodeau will succeed George Karabakakis, who will retire at

the end of June following 32 years of dedicated service to HCRS. Under Karabakakis’ leadership, HCRS expanded to 20 locations, and its annual revenue now exceeds \$70 million.

“George will be remembered for his focus on building strong relationships, developing innovative programming, and consistently making decisions based on doing what is right,” Blackburn added.

Bilodeau joined HCRS as chief human resources officer six months prior to the onset of the Covid pandemic, where her leadership during an unprecedented period was highly regarded by staff and clients alike. She was promoted to chief operating officer in 2022, and in that role spearheaded the agency’s efforts to become certified as a community behavioral health center. She also led HCRS’ contract with the Department of Mental Health to deliver statewide enhanced mobile crisis services in partnership with Vermont’s nine other designated community mental health agencies.

In addition, Bilodeau has

been instrumental in advancing the use of technology to improve operational efficiency and support service delivery. She is an active member of Vermont Care Partners network of community mental health agencies, and serves on the board of Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. She holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Regis College, and a master’s degree in professional studies from Pennsylvania State University.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to lead this incredible organization, and to build on the strong foundation created under George’s leadership,” said Bilodeau. “The dedication of HCRS staff and the impact of the services provided to thousands of people across southeastern Vermont are truly inspiring.”

“I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have served HCRS and our communities,” said Karabakakis. “I have every confidence in Anne’s ability to take on this role, and know that HCRS will continue to thrive under her leadership.”

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obituaries

Ellen L. Aron, 1946-2026

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – Ellen L. Aron, of Brattleboro, passed away on Friday, Jan. 9, 2026, at the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. Ellen was born on Aug. 20, 1946, in Bellows Falls, Vt., to Hollis and Evelyn (Adams) Rhoades. She attended schools in Walpole, N.H. On Nov. 12, 1971, she married Charles Aron, who recently predeceased her.

Ellen worked for many years as a nurse's aide at Maplewood Nursing Home in Westmoreland, N.H. Ellen was a member of the First Congregational Church of Westminster and the Red Hat Society. She loved music, and she adored her family.

She is survived by her children Felicia (David) King and Michelle Aron. She is also survived by her grandchildren Kristi Campbell and Lucas Aleman-Aron, as well as great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

There was a funeral service on Saturday, Jan. 17, at 2 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home,



Ellen Aron, 1946-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt. Burial was held privately at the Westminster New Cemetery in Westminster, Vt. After the service, there was a reception at the Moose Lodge, across from the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the First Congregational Church of Westminster, P.O. Box 122, Westminster, VT 05158.

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

Richard R. Beers, 1936-2025

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Our beloved and devoted husband, father, and grandfather Richard Raymond Beers passed away peacefully at home, with his family by his side, on Nov. 29, 2025, in Springfield, Vt.

Richard is survived by his wife Marjorie; son Richard Allen Beers; daughters Brenda O'Brien and Jennifer Beers; grandchildren Josh,

Justin, Michael, Rachel, Mackenzie and Maggie; and seven great-grandchildren. His son Michael Beers predeceased him.

Richard was born in Butler, Pa., and he attended school there.

He served in the Army National Guard, in the one 101st Infantry in New York.

A Celebration of Life for Richard will be held in April.

Nancy P. Parsons, 1942-2026

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Nancy P. Parsons, 83, of Charlestown, N.H., died peacefully on Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026, at the Sullivan County Home in Unity, N.H. Nancy was born on June 19, 1942, in Arlington, Mass., the daughter of J. Malcolm Sr. and Alice (McNichol) Potter. Her early years were spent in Arlington, later coming to Bellows Falls, Vt., where she attended St. Charles School and graduated from Bellows Falls High School. From there she went on to graduate from Cardinal Cushing College with a degree in education.

Nancy began her teaching career as a third grade teacher in Charlestown, and spent most of her 30 years of teaching in the Charlestown schools. She finished her career as the Title 1 project manager in the Fall Mountain School District. Nancy had a lifelong passion and commitment to education and teaching.

Nancy is survived by her devoted husband Ernest Parsons, who she married on June 19, 1965, in Rockingham, Vt. Nancy and Ernie spent their entire marriage as residents of Charlestown, N.H. Nancy is also survived by her two daughters Mary Franck and her husband Karl, of Litchfield, N.H.; and Amy Parson and her wife Colleen Flynn, of Manchester, N.H. She is also survived by her brother Malcolm Potter and his wife Diane, of Bellows Falls, Vt. Nancy is further survived by her grandchildren Elizabeth Franck, Connor Franck, and Matthew Franck, all of



Nancy Parsons, 1942-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

Litchfield, N.H., as well as many nephews and nieces.

Nancy enjoyed traveling with Ernie, particularly trips to the beaches of Maine, and taking afternoon "Sunday" drives. Nancy was an avid reader, sharing her love of reading with her family and friends, and was a dedicated book club member.

Nancy was an active and involved member of her community, a member of the Fall Mountain Educational Endowment Association, and a member of the St. Catherine's Ladies Club. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and family.

Calling hours were held on Friday, Jan. 9, from 4-6 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home in Bellows Falls, Vt. A funeral Mass was held on Saturday, Jan. 10, at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Charlestown, N.H. Burial followed at St. Charles Cemetery in Westminster, Vt.

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

Allyn H. Johnson, 1930-2026

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Allyn H. Johnson, 95, died peacefully on Friday, Jan. 16, 2026, at the Veterans Administration hospital in White River Junction, Vt., surrounded by his loving wife and family. He was born Nov. 14, 1930, in Springfield, Vt., the son of Carl H. and Dorothy M. (Olney) Johnson. He graduated from Springfield High School, and served in the Army National Guard from 1950-1952, being stationed in Germany for a time during his service.

Allyn was employed as a machinist with Fellows Gear Shaper in Springfield, Vt., retiring after 29 years of service.

He was a lifelong resident of Springfield, a life member of the Robert L. Johnson VFW Post 771, and a member of the Springfield Senior Center and the Charlestown Senior Center. He was a Christian man and member of the Andover Community Church in Andover, Vt.

Allyn enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, gardening, motorcycles, the ocean, and the beach.

He was predeceased by his parents, his first wife Rose (LaFrance) Johnson, his second wife Geraldine (Boucher) Johnson, his son Rick Johnson, and his stepdaughter Marcella Strom Fazzolare.

He is survived by his wife



Allyn Johnson, 1930-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

Margaret (Holt) Bemis-Johnson, daughter Debra Richardson, granddaughter Amy Mitchell, daughter-in-law Michelle Johnson, and grandson Carl Johnson. He is also survived by his stepchildren Theresa Methot, Laureen Palmer, Janeen Ackerson, Mary Richardson, Jamie Lee King, Gillian Bemis, and Martin Bemis; 20 grandchildren; and 25 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 21, from 2-4 p.m., at the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, Jan. 22, at 11 a.m., at the Andover Community Church in Andover, Vt. Burial will be in the Pine Grove Cemetery at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Andover Community Church, or to the Springfield Humane Society.

Dolores Kathan, 1928-2026

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – In the early hours of Jan. 9, 2026, our beautiful matriarch Dolores "Doe" Currier Kathan, 97, of Bellows Falls, Vt., passed quietly away, with her family by her side. She was welcomed by her heavenly father and her family who she has missed so much.

Doe was born on Sept. 22, 1928, in Littleton, N.H., to Leo and Neva LeClerc. She was adopted by her stepfather Clayton Currier, who loved her deeply. She attended St. Rose of Lima in Littleton, N.H., St. Charles School, Bellows Falls High School, and North Phoenix High School in Arizona. After her graduation in 1946, Doe returned to Bellows Falls, Vt. On her 15th birthday, Doe met the love of her life Clayton "Bud" Kathan. They were married on June 28, 1947, at St. Charles Church in Bellows Falls.

Doe was predeceased by her husband of 66 years in 2013, her son David Kathan in 1965, her daughter Bonnie (Kathan) VanAmberg in 1989, an infant brother David LeClerc, stepbrother Thomas LeClerc, and her parents and grandparents.

She is survived by her daughter Pam Kathan, of Charleston, S.C.; her son Thomas (Pam), of Dalton N.H.; grandsons Mike (Annie) VanAmberg, of Newnan, Ga., Chris VanAmberg and special friend Karen McElroy, of Bellows Falls, Jennifer (Will) Williams, Cory (Jonathan) Chewing, and Ryan (partner Hadasah Little), all of Charleston, S.C.; great-grandchildren



Dolores Kathan, 1928-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

Halle, Ellah, Clayton, Charlie, Colby, and Cyrus, of Charleston, S.C., and Ian and Sarah, of Newnan, Ga.; and the McArdle family, of Montpelier Vt. She is also survived by a sister-in-law Carol Miller (Mike), of Brattleboro; nieces Donna Kathan, Judy Wolfe, and Debbie Armor; nephew Jim Kathan; and her lifelong friend Ainsley.

Doe's family would like to thank the Visiting Nurses and Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire, and Gene, Diane, Daniel, Stacey, Casey, and many others who shared in her case. We also want to thank Karen McElroy, David McElroy, Donna Kathan, Julie Sines, and Fr. Victor Cruz; your gentle loving care made all the difference in her life.

Funeral services and a Celebration of Doe's Life will take place in the spring.

Donations can be made to the St. Jude Children's Hospital.

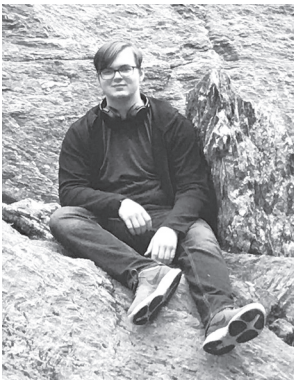
Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt.

Phineas Tillman, 2001-2026

GRAFTON, Vt. – Phineas "Phin" Harvey Alexander Tillman, of Grafton, Vt., passed away unexpectedly on Monday, Jan. 12, 2026, in Walpole, N.H., at the age of 24. Phineas is survived by his mother Pamela Johnson-Spurlock, stepfather Patrick Spurlock, and sisters Helen and Madeleine Spurlock, of Grafton, Vt.; his father Mitchell Tillman, stepmother Joy, and brothers Braedon and Hudson Tillman, of Tifton, Ga.; grandparents Steve and LeaJean Manry, of Blakely, Ga.; and grandparents Glen and Cynthia Spurlock, of Grafton, Vt.; as well as many loving aunts, uncles, and cousins. He is preceded in death by his grandfathers Harold Johnson and Dale Tillman.

Phineas was born in Tifton, Ga., on June 4, 2001, and spent the first 14 years of his life in southwest Georgia. He moved to Vermont with his family, and is a graduate of Green Mountain Union High School in Chester, Vt., where he was involved in band and theater productions. He went on to attend the University of Vermont before transferring to Vermont State University, where he earned a degree in radiology. He worked at Walgreens in Walpole, N.H., and was set to begin his new career.

Phineas was a loving son, brother, grandson, and nephew. To those who knew Phin, he was the kindest soul, full of joy and laughter, and could bring a smile to your face. He had everything going from him, and was a sweet young man who loved his mother and his sisters tremendously, as well



Phineas Tillman, 2001-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

as the family cats, chickens, and dogs. He loved video games, Japanese anime, and fantasy novels, and was looking forward to getting out and becoming independent. One of the happiest points in his life was getting to study abroad in Japan during the summer as a high school senior through The Experiment in International Living.

A candlelight vigil was held Saturday, Jan. 17, at 5 p.m., at the Brown Fuller Memorial Park, 4 Bridge Street in downtown Bellows Falls, for Phin's New England friends and family. A Celebration of Life ceremony will be held in Georgia, in early summer, and announced later.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Child's Play Charity, to honor Phin's love of video games and the health care field, as well as to The Experiment in International Living, to help other students have opportunities to learn and travel internationally.

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

OBITUARIES



A 200-word Obituary \$100.
\$0.60/word thereafter.

Black and White Photo \$20.

Email to editor@vermontjournal.com

Due by **Monday 12 p.m.**

Death Notices, Funeral Services,
and Thank You Notices **under 50 words are free**

obituaries

LEGAL NOTICES

Susan M. MacNeil, 1953-2025

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Susan Marie MacNeil, a devoted community leader, advocate, and beloved matriarch, passed away unexpectedly at her home in Bellows Falls, Vt., on Jan. 10, at the age of 72. She leaves behind a remarkable legacy of compassion, service, creativity, and fierce love for the people and causes that mattered most to her.

Susan was born on July 21, 1953, in Cambridge, Mass., to Jean and Charles MacNeil. In 1959, her family moved to Coventry, Conn., where she was raised and attended local schools. Even at a young age, Susan stood out for her intellect and enthusiasm for life. She excelled academically, was an avid and lifelong reader, and brought energy and spirit to everything she did, including her role on the cheerleading squad. Susan later made her home in Keene, N.H., where she became deeply rooted in the community, before eventually settling in Bellows Falls, Vt.

No matter where she lived, Susan showed up fully and generously, believing that communities are strengthened when people commit themselves to one another. Her professional life was defined by public service and fearless advocacy. For decades, Susan dedi-

cated herself to nonprofit, arts, health, and civic organizations throughout New England. She was especially committed to supporting individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS, working during a time when stigma and fear often kept others at a distance. Susan approached this work with humanity, dignity, and persistence, ensuring that those most marginalized were seen, respected, and cared for.

After moving to the Keene area in the late 1980s, Susan held countless leadership roles, some paid, many volunteer, all undertaken with the same devotion. She served as PTA president at both Franklin and Marlow elementary schools, later becoming an executive board member of the New Hampshire State PTA Association. At Keene State College (KSC), she served as vice chair and then chair of the Operating Staff Council, earning recognition as a KSC Outstanding Employee. Susan’s love for the arts and community connection led her to roles as director of marketing and, later, interim executive director of the Colonial Theatre. In 2000, she became executive director of AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region, a position she held until 2008, and again from 2009 until the organization merged in 2014. During her tenure, she created and nurtured beloved fundraising and community-building events, including Just Desserts, Keene Karaoke IDOL, and later Southern Vermont IDOL, programs that brought joy, talent, and togetherness from across New England. One of Susan’s most meaningful contributions was her work bringing pan-

els of the AIDS Memorial Quilt to local communities each year for World AIDS Day. First encountering the quilt in Washington, D.C., in 1996, Susan often said that seeing it in person was life-changing. That experience became a catalyst for her lifelong commitment to AIDS advocacy and remembrance.

Susan also worked with the Keene Unitarian Universalist Church and the 100 Nights Shelter before relocating to Bellows Falls in 2015, where she joined Landmark College. She quickly immersed herself in civic life, lending her experience to Keene Pride and Bellows Falls Pride, helping these organizations navigate challenges and grow stronger. Even after a work-related accident in 2022 limited her physical abilities, Susan continued to advocate, promote events, and support others however she could. She served as a Bellows Falls Village Trustee, was active with the Rockingham Arts & Museum Project and Rockingham for Progress, and championed the preservation of the historic Miss Bellows Falls Diner. Susan also hosted a local television talk show, provided voiceovers for commercials, acted in local theater, wrote screenplays, published books, and volunteered wherever help was needed. If a cause was underserved or difficult, Susan stepped forward.



Susan MacNeil, 1953-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

a constant presence in the lives of her extended family. Susan deeply admired her mother, and credited her with instilling the compassion, generosity, and strength that guided her life. Susan cared for her mother through the end of her life, an experience that profoundly shaped her advocacy around end-of-life care. After her mother’s passing in 2022, Susan wrote and self-published “18 Minutes: A Daughter’s Primer on Life & Death,” inspired by the final moments they shared. She went on to advocate for amplified phones in hospital rooms, and created a traveling workshop, “Life, Death and Cake – Preparing for a Good Death,” helping others navigate end-of-life planning with honesty and grace. Susan’s sense of family extended far beyond blood. She cultivated a wide “found family” of friends, colleagues, artists, and neighbors, who relied on her loyalty, encouragement, and unwavering care. On her refrigerator was a bumper sticker that read, “And what difference did you make today?” When asked about it, Susan simply said, “That’s really how I’ve lived my life.”

Susan is survived by her brothers Bill MacNeil, of Sebring, Fla., Donald MacNeil and his wife Debbie, of North Windham, Conn., and Bruce MacNeil and his wife Betsy, of Keene, N.H.; her son Justin Ellsworth, of Bedford, N.H.; her granddaughter Kiyah Dannan Glenn-Ellsworth, of Keene, N.H.; several nieces; a nephew; and grand-nieces, all of whom will forever cherish the light she brought into their lives.

Public calling hours will be held on Jan. 23, from 4-6 p.m., at Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt. All are invited to gather afterward for food and drink at Ciao Popolo, 36 The Square, Bellows Falls, Vt., beginning at 6 p.m. Susan MacNeil lived her life by showing up – with compassion, courage, kindness, and conviction. Her difference was immense, and her legacy will continue in every life she touched.

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

NOTICE OF AN UPCOMING WESTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD HEARING

Little Pond Partners LLC has submitted an application for final plat review for a subdivision which is located off Little Pond Rd. in Andover and Weston. This hearing is for the seven lots which are wholly or partially in Weston only. The application will be reviewed under the Town of Weston Major Subdivision Regulations.

Joel Maxwell has submitted an application for a change to a condition on the final plat of the Seckler subdivision off of Old Tavern Rd. This change deals with a security bond for the construction of the subdivision improvements.

The Weston Development Review Board will hold a hearing on these applications at the Weston Town offices and on zoom on February 4th, 2026 starting at 5:00 PM.

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

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

TOWN OF CHESTER
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

The Town of Chester is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Director of Finance. The Director of Finance oversees and manages the financial and accounting functions of the Town of Chester. This role safeguards the Town assets and ensures compliance with GAAP and GASB. The Director provides financial analysis to support the Town Manager and Selectboard goals, manages cash flow reporting, and leads the supervision and performance of a small Finance team. In addition, this position partners with the Town Manager and department managers to ensure accurate and timely reporting and operational support. The Director of Finance should expect to be hands-on in daily operations.

Applicants must possess strong financial acumen and knowledge of governments and governmental accounting. Technical expertise in general ledger, accounts payable, accounts receivable, and payroll is required, as well as knowledge of taxation, Department of Labor regulations, insurance, and employee benefits. Applicant must also possess strong analytical, judgment, and decision-making skills.

This position is a full-time position with modified remote work options available.

Qualification requirements include a Bachelor’s Degree in a relevant field (or comparable years of service) with 3-5 years of experience in Government accounting, preferably in Vermont. Salary range is \$80,000 to \$90,000 per year based on qualifications in addition to a comprehensive benefits package.

Please submit Letter of Interest and Resume to the Chester Town Manager’s Office, julie.hance@chestervt.gov or mail to 556 Elm Street, P.O. Box 370, Chester, Vt, 05143.

HELP WANTED
TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
Chief Wastewater Operator

The Town of Springfield, VT is seeking a Chief Wastewater Operator for a full-time position in the Wastewater Department. The Chief Operator supervises the Operators and the Laboratory Technician normally assigned to the division; actively participates in the technical work, maintenance, and operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Pumping Stations, Composting Facility and Pre-Treatment Facility; and assists the Wastewater Superintendent with technical knowledge. This position requires considerable knowledge of materials, methods, equipment and techniques commonly used in wastewater treatment. Overtime is required and applicant must be able to work under all weather conditions. This position requires a VT Class IV Wastewater Certification and a valid Motor Vehicle Operator’s License. This is a non-bargaining position with a pay of \$29.09 - \$33.18 per hour and an excellent benefits package. Applications and a complete job description can be found at <https://springfieldvt.gov/jobs>. Apply at the Human Resources Office, 96 Main Street, (802) 885-2104 (HumanResources@SpringfieldVT.gov). Equal Opportunity Employer.

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT
Windsor Unit

PROBATE DIVISION
Docket No.: 25-PR-06965

In re ESTATE of : Edward A Conlon, III

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Edward A Conlon, III, Decedent
late of Plymouth, Decedent’s Town of Residence

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

Dated: Signature of Fiduciary

Executor/Administrator Sean Conlon, Administrator		Mailing Address c/o Law Offices of Amanda L. S. George, PLLC
Phone Number 802-875-7777	Email amanda@amandageorgelaw.com	City, State, Zip Chester, VT 05143

Name of Publication: The Vermont Journal
Publication Date: January 21, 2026

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court - Windsor Probate
Address of Probate Court: 12 The Green
Woodstock, VT 05091

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

BUYING/SELLING

BUYING-SELLING Coins, Paper \$\$, Vintage Sports Postcards, Comics. See our displays at antique centers in Chester and Quechee. Open 7 Days. 802-379-2353. House calls available.

COINS, COIMIC BOOKS, POKÉ-MON, SPORTS CARDS, POST-CARDS, and other collectibles. Saturday, Jan. 31 at Charlestown, NH Senior Center, and Saturday, Feb. 14 at Brattleboro Holiday Inn. 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Contact 802-379-2353 or pepsijoseph@yahoo.com.

CLEAN OUTS + MORE

EZ-Dump Enterprises has a 15-yard dump trailer available. We're also here for heating equipment, appliance removal, home/storage unit clean outs, stump grinding, and refinishing/repairing gravel driveways. Serving Springfield, Vt. area. Call/text 802-376-1168 or email ezdump.bl@gmail.com.

FOR RENT

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Senior woman sharing beautifully situated home. 2nd floor bedroom. Plenty of

outdoor storage available. Guest to share cleaning, firewood, yard-work. No smoking, no drugs, no pets. Separate studio space available. Covid vaccination required. \$500/month. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

SNOW PLOWING

TOWN & VILLAGE OF LUDLOW DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing before the Ludlow Development Review Board will be held on Monday February 9, 2025 at 6:00 P.M., in the Francis J. Heald Auditorium, at the Ludlow Town Hall, 37 Depot Street, and via Zoom, to hear the following applications:

- Reeves Consulting application 094-95-PUD Amendment #6 to review a screening plan for a previously approved platform tennis court.
- Revival Ventures, LLC application SUB-26-002 for a Preliminary Sketch Plan Review prior to a subdivision application.
- Summit Distributing for Melinda Richards Taggard Trust application 154-86/87-CU, Amendment #3 to construct a new fuel canopy.

The meeting Agenda will be available on Ludlow's Web page, www.ludlow.vt.us with the Zoom ID and the URL link. Additional information about this application is available in the Planning and Zoning office at the Town Hall.

Erin Ladd
Director of Planning & Zoning

LUDLOW, Vt. – Snowplowing and sanding, Ludlow area, residential only. Reasonable rates. Contact SK Logging at 802-384-0313.

TRIP

Atlantic City Bus Trip, April 19-21, 2026. For more information, Call Simone at 802-463-3573 or 802-463-3992. Leave message if no answer.

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

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT Windsor Unit

PROBATE DIVISION Docket No.: 25-PR-07347

In re ESTATE of : James Hart

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: James Hart Decedent

late of Springfield Decedent's Town of Residence

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

Dated: Jan. 15, 2026

Signature of Fiduciary Mary L. Bang

Executor/Administrator Mary L. Bang		Mailing Address c/o Parker & Ankuda, PC., PO Box 519	
Phone Number 802-885-2582	Email parkerankuda@vermontel.net	City, State, Zip Springfield, VT 05156	

Name of Publication: The Vermont Journal

Publication Date: January 21, 2026

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Windsor Unit

Address of Probate Court: 12 The Green Woodstock, VT 05091

STATE OF VERMONT
WINDHAM COUNTY, SS.

NOTICE OF SALE

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of lands in the Town of Rockingham and Village of Bellows Falls, in the County of Windham are hereby notified that the taxes and/or water and sewer taxes assessed by such Town and Village for the years indicated are, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described lands in such Town, to wit:

- **14 Riverfront Drive**
For the years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Juanita M. Ordinetz to John J. Banholzer and Juanita C. Banholzer by deed dated January 31, 1997 and recorded in Book 238, Page 465 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- **35 Front Street**
For the years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Bank of New York Mellon, fka The Bank of New York, as Trustee to Scott Kirkpatrick by deed dated October 27, 2017 and recorded in Book 377, Page 283 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- **36 Front Street**
For the years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Stephen L. Moore to Scott Kirkpatrick by deed dated August 29, 2019 and recorded in Book 393, Page 183 of the Rockingham Town Land Records. Subject to an easement conveyed by Scott Kirkpatrick to Stephen L. Moore by Easement Deed dated August 29, 2019 and recorded in Book 393, Page 190 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- **6 Henry Street**
For the years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to Jahangir Mozaffari by Special Warranty Deed dated March 21, 2019 and recorded in Book 389, Page 320 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- **57 Atkinson Street**
For the years 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Peter S. Higgins and Shannon R. Higgins to Leah Quinn by deed dated March 19, 2018 and recorded in Book 381, Page 31 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- **10 Green Street**
For the years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Homeland Properties to Robert Remy-Powers and Donna R. Remy-Powers by deed dated February 1, 1990 and recorded in Book 212, Page 375 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- **27 Upper Bartonville Road**
For the years 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. Being all

- and the same lands and premises conveyed by Melvin W. Hakey and Prudence I. Hakey to Orman M. Richards, Jr. by deed dated June 9, 1978 and recorded in Book ____, Page 498 of the Rockingham Town Land Records. Blanche M. Richards is now deceased. Reference is made to the Contingent Remainder Deed from Orman M. Richards, Jr. to Robert M. Richards dated July 11, 2019 and recorded in Book 392, Page 267 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
- **9 Lincoln Street**
For the years 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Thomas R. Miller, Robert C. Miller and Marilyn Frost to Donald C. Tretler, Jr. by deed dated June 16, 2015 and recorded in Book 355, Page 18 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
 - **1 Center Street**
For the years 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee of the Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust Inc. Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-FX1 to Lindsay Van Schoick and Courtney Van Schoick by deed dated April 26, 2017 and recorded in Book 372, Page 17 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
 - **24 Laurel Avenue**
For the years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Honorata Waryas to Walter J. Waryas and Marjorie F. Waryas (now deceased) by deed dated June 23, 1972 and recorded in Book 169, Page 347 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
 - **54 Williams Street Ext.**
For the years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Seldon H. Newcomb to Agnes R. Zielinski and Edward S. Zielinski (now deceased) by deed dated September 1, 1942 and recorded in Book 100, Page 164 of the Rockingham Town Land Records. Contingent remainder granted to Walda S. Richmond (also known as Sue Richmond) of Hanover, New Hampshire by Limited Warranty Deed dated February 17, 2009 and recorded in Book 317 at Page 401 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
 - **154 Rockingham Street**
For the years 2024-2025. Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Applegreen of New England, Inc. (f/k/a Petrogas Group New England, Inc.) to Zig Vermont, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company by deed dated May 10, 2024 and recorded in Book 438, Page 21 of the Rockingham Town Land Records.
 - **961 Pleasant Valley Road**
For the years 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 being all the same lands and premises conveyed by H.M. Savage & Sons, Inc. to Roy Batchelder and Carol Batchelder by deed dated June 14, 2011, and recorded in Book 330, Page 67 of the Rockingham Town Land Records being Parcel Number 060020961. Also including a Mobile Home, Make: Marlett, Year: 1966, Serial Number 1230029, Size: 12 x 65

- and so much of said lands will be sold at public auction at Rockingham Town Office, a public place in such Town, on the 5th day of February, 2026 at Ten O'clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.
- You have the right to request in writing, at least 24 hours prior to the tax sale date set forth above, that only a portion of the property be sold to satisfy the delinquent tax bill. Should you wish to proceed with this request, you must follow the procedure set forth in 32 V.S.A. § 5254; clearly identify the portion of the property to be sold, and include a certification from the Act 250 district coordinator and the town zoning administrator that the portion identified may be legally subdivided.
- If you qualify under 24 V.S.A. § 1535, you may be able to receive an abatement of the property taxes, interest and collection fees you owe to the town. Abatement means that your taxes could be reduced or eliminated. You have the right to appear before the Board of Abatement and explain why you think your taxes should be abated. To apply for an abatement, you must contact Kathleen Neathawk, Town Clerk, by phone at (802) 463-4336, ext. 1102, via email at clerk@rockbe.org, or via mail at 7 Square, 2nd Floor, Bellows Falls, VT 05101. Warning: There are unpaid property taxes at your property in Rockingham, Vermont which you may own, have a legal interest, or may be contiguous to your property. The property will be sold at public auction on February 5, 2026 unless the overdue taxes, fees and interest is paid. To make payment or receive further information, contact the Rockingham Tax Collector, immediately at the Town of Rockingham, 7 Square, 2nd Floor, Bellows Falls, Vermont 05151, telephone number (802) 463-3964.
- If this property is your primary residence, you may be able to get help with delinquent property tax and utility payments through the Vermont Homeowner Assistance Program (VHAP). VHAP can help you avoid tax sale and transfer of your property by paying delinquent property taxes, water and sewer charges, interest and penalties. You can apply for VHAP online at vermonthap.vhfa.org. For advice about the program and help completing the application, call Vermont Legal Aid at 1-800-889-2047. If you apply for VHAP, you must notify your town in writing, and your property will not be sold or transferred wile your application is pending. Dated at Bellows Falls, Town of Rockingham, County of Windham and State of Vermont, this 30th day of December, 2025.

_____/s/ Scott Pickup
Scott Pickup, Collector of Town, Village, Town School District Taxes, Water and Sewer Taxes

calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

JAN. 24 –
ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – Join Vermont Vines Vineyard on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., for Jamelot, featuring wine in the vineyard and some great '70s and '80s dancing goodness. It may be chilly outside, but things will be hopping at Vermont Vines. Our tasting room opens at 12 p.m., so feel free to come early, sip some of our finest wines, and get ready for an unforgettable evening. Come for the wine, stay for the tunes. We can't wait to see you there. Cover charge supports local farms and music.

S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The South Londonderry Free Library invites families to celebrate winter and the warmth of friendship with art teacher Casey Junker Bailey, on Saturday, Jan. 24, at 10:30 a.m. Children

of all ages (and grownups too) will make artwork inspired by the picture book "The Most Beautiful Winter." The workshop is free of charge, and each family will receive their own copy of the beautifully illustrated book to keep. For more information, contact the library at 802-824-3371. We hope to see you there.

JAN. 28 –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street, will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 28, at 1 p.m. For more information, contact executive director Lori Jonhson at 802-885-3933 or lorijohnsonssc@gmail.com.

JAN. 31 –
CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The Tri Town Collectors Club will start its summer seasonal shows featuring

comic books, coins, paper money, vintage and modern sports cards, Pokémon, postcards, and other collectibles on Saturday, Jan. 31, at the Charlestown Senior Center, 223 Old Springfield Road. This daylong series of hobby activities is packed with fun for the whole family. Besides the usual offerings, there will be a special quiz for collectors. There is no admission charge. Anyone wishing to set up to sell their material may do so by contacting Joe Fuller at 802-379-2353 or pepsijoseph@yahoo.com.

FEB. 6 –
CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, will host fundraiser bingo on Friday, Feb. 6. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., and the games begin at 6 p.m. Open to the public, must be 18 years old or older to play. Concessions will be available through intermission. If you are interested in helping with future events, please call Cheryl at 603-543-5998.

SUNDAYS –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Catamount Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol meets Sundays, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., at Hartness Airport in Springfield. The Civil Air Patrol is the auxiliary unit of the U.S. Air Force tasked with the mission of supporting America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space, and cyber power. Cadets

as young as 12 and senior members of any age make up this diverse group of volunteers.

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

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Cozy Stitches pop-in sewing class is held on Mondays, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street. Start your week with a cozy morning of sewing, chatting, and sharing ideas. Bring your own hand-sewing, knitting, crocheting, or mending projects, and enjoy the company of others who love to create.

TUESDAYS –
LUDLOW, Vt. – Strengthen your core, improve posture, and enhance your overall mobility with a Pilates/yoga fusion class at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street, every Tuesday, from 8-9 a.m. All levels welcome. Contact Lori Wright to register at 603-401-8123, or email loriwright163@gmail.com.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Sew What is held Tuesday afternoons, from 2-4 p.m., at the Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street. Spend your Tuesday afternoon working on sewing projects in a relaxed and welcoming space. Bring your own supplies and enjoy time to sew, learn, and have fun with others. Sewing machines are provided, or you can bring

your own if you prefer. Both groups are free to attend and open to all skill levels. For more information, visit www.springfieldtownlibrary.org, or call the library at 802-885-3108.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Head to the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse in Springfield, Vt., 21 Fairground Road, on Tuesdays, at 10 a.m., from Nov. 11, 2025 – March 24, 2026, to learn from and practice with Tai Chi Vermont-certified teacher Jo Bregnard. Classes are 60 minutes, and will also be livestreamed via Zoom, as well as recorded for those who can't make it to the meetinghouse. To learn more or register, visit studio.jobregnard.com/product/90038.

WEDNESDAYS –
CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds bingo every Wednesday afternoon. You must be at least 55 years old, and purchase your cards by 12:45 p.m. Games begin at 1 p.m. Concessions are available until the game begins. We average around 30-40 seniors who love to attend, visit with their friends, and try to win a little extra money.

THURSDAYS –
CHESTER, Vt. – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Thursday, from 10-11 a.m. Classes will be held in the First Universalist Parish of Chester community room. Classes are free and open to all. Drop-in class, no registration needed. For details, contact Barbara at

bwquilter1778@gmail.com.

LUDLOW, Vt. – A gentle flow yoga class for all levels to improve balance and flexibility, relieving tension from your day, will be held Thursdays, from 6-7 p.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street. Mats and blocks provided. Contact Lori Wright at 603-401-8123 or loriwright163@gmail.com to register, or with any questions.

FRIDAYS –
BELLOWES FALLS, Vt. – On Fridays from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., John Bohannon will teach tai chi and qi gong at the Rockingham Library in Bellows Falls, Vt. No special equipment or clothing is required.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – If you are interested in playing or learning the game of mahjong, please come to the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Fridays, at 1p.m. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Come show off your masterpieces at the Claremont Senior Center Knitters Group, on Fridays, from 1-3 p.m., at 5 Acer Heights. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

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

Town of Weston, Vermont Warning Special Town Meeting

The legal voters of the Town of Weston are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Walker Farm Theater, located at 705 Main Street, in said Town, on **Saturday, February 14, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.**, to transact the following business:

- Article 1.**
To elect a Moderator for said meeting.
- Article 2.**
To see if the Town will vote to enter into an Agreement with the State of Vermont to accept the award of a Community Development Block Grant of up to \$3,000,000 from the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, which, together with evidence of other resources of up to \$670,354, will total \$3,367,354, to be used for upsizing the Lawrence Hill Road Bridge and the removal of the Mill Dam.
- Article 3.**
To transact any other business relating to the foregoing articles that may legally come before said meeting.

Dated at Weston, Vermont, this 14th day of January, 2026.

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(12/9/26 - 52)

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Workshops galleryvault.org/workshops
Beginner Pysanky with Shannon Wallis 3/14 1-4:30
Watercolor Skills with Kim Eng Yeo 3/21 & 28 10-12
Dot Mandala Workshop with Antje Ruppert 3/28 2-4 p.m.
Turkish Map Fold Book with Deborah Stuart 4/18 11:30-1:30
(04/15/26 - TFN - 13)

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community

“Make Your Own Houseplant” workshop —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Saturday, Jan. 24, at 12 p.m., please join the Rockingham Free Public Library to make your own houseplant and explore the library’s seed library.

We will use clippings from houseplants, add some moss, and create a lovely little jar where it can grow roots. We will have a limited number of plant clippings and mate-

rials available, so feel free to bring your own glass jar or other container. Afterwards, take a tour of the Rockingham Library’s seed library, and begin to plan your garden for next year.

This free program will take place at the Rockingham Free Public Library on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 12–1 p.m.

This program is part of

Rockingham Free Public Library’s Rockingham Gathers program, made possible by a 2025 AARP Vermont Winter Placemaking Grant. For more information about this and other programs, call 802-463-4270, visit www.rockinghamlibrary.org, or stop by the library at 65 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.

Vermont Adult Learning new locations —

REGION – Vermont Adult Learning (VAL) recently moved its Windsor County learning centers to new offices in White River Junction (Community College of Vermont, 145 Billings Farm Road) and Springfield (River Valley Technical Center, 307 South Street).

“The new locations offer practical advantages that translate directly into better service,” said Matthew Bentley, VAL’s regional director for Windsor and Windham counties. “These moves create opportunities for closer alignment with technical

and workforce training programs in the region, which is an increasingly important bridge in today’s economy.”

The new locations offer increased classroom capacity, improved layout, and closer proximity to other education and training programs. The expanded spaces allow VAL to offer more flexible scheduling, quieter areas for one-on-one instruction, and room for additional classes serving learners with diverse needs and goals.

“These relocations represent more than a change of address,” Bentley continued.

“Being situated within a larger technical learning environment also opens doors for collaboration that strengthens pathways to careers and continued education. It marks an opportunity to grow, creating space that better supports adult learners and the work required to help them succeed.”

VAL’s Windsor County team will be hosting open house events in the coming months. More information will be made available at www.vtadullearning.org.

FML seeks donations for Love Your Library Auction —

LUDLOW, Vt. – Fletcher Memorial Library is seeking donations for the Love Your Library Auction. The auction will be held from Feb. 9-23, and the library will accept donations until Feb. 5.

Auction proceeds fund Fletcher Memorial Library’s online services, museum and park membership passes for loan, and more. These services are available to library patrons at no charge, and, if you live in Ludlow, Mount Holly, Plymouth, or Cavendish, you are eligible for a free library card.

Your ongoing support of our annual auction ensures that Fletcher Memorial Library remains a dynamic

and accessible resource for our community, fostering a culture of learning and connectivity for generations to come.

Ideas for great auction items to donate include new items, gift certificates (skiing, lodging, golf, restaurants), artisan-created items, small antiques, and gift baskets. Support Fletcher Memorial Library while supporting local businesses. All donations are tax-deductible.

Fletcher Memorial Library is celebrating our 125th year. As quoted by Gov. Stickney on the occa-

sion of the library’s dedication in 1901, “Fletcher Memorial Library is truly a jewel within our community.” The staff and Friends of the Library welcome and look forward to your support.

If you have questions, or would like more information, please visit the library’s website, www.fmlnews.org, give the library a call at 802-228-8921, or stop by. The library is located at 88 Main Street, Ludlow, Vt.

OVRCC welcomes new staff —

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce (OVRCC) is pleased to announce the addition of two new team members, Riley Karl and Uli Donohue, who joined the organization in December. Their arrival marks an exciting new chapter for the chamber as it continues to strengthen its capacity to serve members, support local businesses, and promote the Okemo Valley region.

Karl is a Chester native, and brings a strong blend of local knowledge, creativity, and leadership to OVRCC. She has spent 12 seasons teaching skiing in Okemo’s Snow Stars program, and is the owner of a thriving photography business. Her work spans family portraits, business branding, and action sports photography. Community members may recognize her from the Ludlow Farmers Market, or from her photo featured on the cover of the summer/fall issue of Okemo Valley Magazine. She completed a bachelor’s degree in public communication, and worked for



Riley Karl (left) and Uli Donohue.

PHOTO PROVIDED

three years in corporate search engine marketing at GroupM. Karl’s artistic eye and community roots make her a valuable addition to the chamber’s communications and visual storytelling efforts.

Donohue has called the Okemo Valley home since 2009, and has been deeply involved in the region ever since. Her background includes more than a decade as a math and science tutor at Okemo Mountain School, several years serving as treasurer on the board of the Ludlow Farmers Market, and experience as a licensed Vermont real estate advisor. Donohue has a passion for learning and education, having completed five higher education degrees and certificates, in the fields of mathematics, education, and software development.

Whether snowboarding, paddleboarding, hiking, or exploring Vermont’s scenic backroads, Donohue embodies the spirit of discovery that defines the region. Her community engagement and organizational experience bring added strength to OVRCC’s member services and outreach.

Both Karl and Donohue are enthusiastic about contributing to OVRCC’s mission of supporting local businesses, fostering economic vitality, and celebrating the unique character of the Okemo Valley. Their combined experience and passion for the region will help the chamber continue to grow and serve its members with excellence.

For more information about the Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, visit www.yourplaceinvermont.com.

River Singers season —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The River Singers Community Choir, led by Mary Cay Brass, will start their winter/spring session on Tuesday, Feb. 3, at the Westminster West Church in Westminster West, Vt. The choir, in their 35th year, is a unique multigenerational community choir dedicated to singing an eclectic mix of soulful, thrilling music from many lands.

This season’s music will present songs of joy, love, and peace from many

Eastern European countries – Croatia, Macedonia, and Serbia, as well as the Republic of Georgia, and Lithuania.

Guest conductor Dr. Kathy Bullock – performer, arranger, and scholar of African American traditions, and professor emerita from Berea College, as well as guest professor at Bennington College – will join us for two workshops and con-

certs in the spring.

The River Singers has a longtime, deep tradition of presenting in song visions of social justice. This session, the focus is on freedom songs from South Africa, and a new national anthem, “Arise Arise.”

If you are interested in joining, please contact mcbrass@vermontel.net, or visit www.marycaybrass.com.



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pros to know

Builders achieve high-performance certification

REGION – On Dec. 16, nine area carpenters completed training to earn the Sustainable Energy Outreach Network’s (SEON) Level I High Performance Builder certification. The newly certified builders represent three Windham County companies: Bull Creek Builders, GPI Construction, and Mindel and Morse Builders, all members of SEON.

To achieve certification, participants successfully completed two courses: “Basics of High Performance Building,” and, most recently, the hands-on course “Water, Air, and Thermal Continuous Control Layers.” With this most recent cohort, a total of 27 carpenters and builders have now earned SEON’s Level I certification.

The knowledge and skills gained through these courses are foundational for addressing building challenges in Vermont’s cold and wet climate. Most building failures can be traced to a lack of understanding – or improper application – of building science principles. As instructors often note, “It’s the attention to detail that distinguishes a durable,



Carpenters who recently completed the SEON Level I High Performance Builder certification.

PHOTO PROVIDED

energy-efficient home.”

For homeowners planning to build or renovate, selecting a builder with a trained workforce is critical. These skill sets are essential for proper compliance with Vermont’s energy code, and for creating long-lasting, high-performance homes.

The Sustainable Energy Outreach Network is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit training organization that delivers in-person courses throughout Vermont. To learn more and view the 2026 training schedule, visit www.buildingscience.org.

Flood risk mitigation conversation

REGION – Join Black River Action Team, Mount Ascutney Regional Commission, Connecticut River Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, and Lake Champlain Sea Grant for a virtual conversation on Thursday, Feb. 5, at 6:30 p.m., to hear about actions the state and local

organizations are taking to reduce flood risk and protect our communities. All community members are welcome.

In this conversation, participants will hear about the work and goals of local organizations; the 2024 Flood Safety Act, the state’s water-

ATG honors employee —

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Advantage Truck Group (ATG) has named its 2025 Pete DePina Legacy Award winner for Vermont, recognizing Michele O’Brien from its Westminister location for making an impact on her fellow employees, customers, and the company.

“Michele consistently performs a truly Herculean task: keeping our facility running flawlessly. As a proactive self-starter, she has been instrumental in not only maintaining our Elite Support certification, but also ensuring we exceed its criteria. She embodies excellence through her tenacious drive to consistently improve our facility and her



Michele O’Brien (center right) receives the Pete DePina Legacy Award.

PHOTO PROVIDED

unwavering commitment to enhancing the experience of those around her,” ATG President and CEO Kevin Holmes said.

The highest recognition an ATG team member can receive, this award is given annually to one team member at each ATG location who most embodies the values and qualities employee Napoleon “Pete” DePina was known for, including integrity and a quiet leadership grounded in humility, generosity, and selfless service to others.

“Our ability to provide the best service for our customers reflects the dedication and contributions of our team members,” Holmes said. “This award honors team members who go beyond expectations, and whose efforts and atti-

tude, like Pete’s, elevate the quality of service across our network, and make a positive impact on the people around them.”

Team members were nominated by their peers for the award. Winners were presented with a monetary award that they will continue to receive as part of their profit-sharing bonus each year throughout their employment with the company.

The largest Daimler Trucks North America dealer in New England, ATG offers employees performance pay programs and benefits starting day one, company training programs, and career development and advancement opportunities, all in a culture that is committed to giving back to its communities.

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Efficiency Vermont announces 2026 rebates

REGION – Vermonters can keep their New Year’s resolutions to save energy with 2026 rebates and financial support from Efficiency Vermont and partners across the state, including weatherization incentives while funding lasts.

“Improving your home’s energy efficiency in 2026 is an investment that will pay off for years to come,” said Peter Walke, Efficiency Vermont’s managing director. “It’ll pay off literally, with lower energy bills. With improved comfort. With lower emissions thanks to more deliberate energy use. And by lowering demand, it supports a more affordable electricity system for everyone connected to our shared grid.”

Now is the perfect time to plan a home energy project. Find a contractor in the Efficiency Excellence Network near you to start your project or begin planning for spring.

Heat pump heating sys-

tem rebates are available through a joint program offered by Efficiency Vermont and your electric utility. Efficiency Vermont’s website also has information on additional incentives that may be available from your utility.

Weatherization rebates offering up to 90% cash back are also available from Efficiency Vermont, with limited-time funding from the Vermont Department of Public Service, supporting increased incentives for low- and moderate-income households. Free weatherization services for low-income households are also available through the state’s Weatherization Assistance Programs.

Incentives and solutions that can help Vermonters embrace energy savings in 2026 include the following.

Free resources to prioritize energy investments in the new year – Understand current offers or diagnose high bills by calling Efficiency Vermont’s

energy advisors. You can also schedule a free virtual home energy visit with an Efficiency Vermont energy expert to get personalized advice and a list of next steps toward your goals.

Up to 90% cash back on weatherization projects – Air sealing and insulating your home lowers energy bills, makes a home more comfortable year-round, and improves indoor air quality. Weatherization also makes it easier to embrace clean technologies like heat pumps. Increased weatherization incentives are only available through the end of 2026, or while funding lasts.

Rebates for heating systems that work for your household – Save up to \$475 on a ductless “mini split” heat pump, or save up to \$2,200 on a ducted heat pump. Or opt for advanced wood heating with a wood or pellet stove (and a \$400 rebate), or get \$6,000 off central wood heating systems.

Save up to \$1,000 on water heaters that use heat pump technology – Get a \$600 discount when you upgrade to a heat pump water heater, bringing the efficiency and savings of a heat pump to the hot water needed in your kitchen, bathroom, and laundry room. Income-eligible households can get an additional \$400 back.

Create a healthy home with appliance rebates – Control your home’s temperature and save on energy bills with up to \$100 cash back on a smart thermostat, or manage moisture in your home with up to \$90 off a dehumidifier. You can also get up to \$400 off a heat pump clothes dryer or washer/heat pump dryer combo unit. If you’re already planning for summer, get up to \$150 off a window AC unit.

Businesses can save on energy investments, too. Businesses can get up to \$25,000 in additional funding for custom projects, or take advantage of increased

incentives for preapproved LED lighting projects. These incentives are only available for projects completed by November 2026.

Low-income households may qualify for additional support, including a voucher for up to \$1,200 for replacing one eligible household appliance, such as a refrigerator, freezer, or clothes washer. Additional offers include free weatherization through the state’s weatherization assistance programs, and free efficient products like LED light bulbs and water-saving devices. Contact Efficiency Vermont for details.

Windham County residents are also eligible for special rebates thanks to a county-specific grant program. Income-eligible residents of Windham County can get up to \$15,000 toward wood or pellet central heating systems (furnace or boiler). This is in addition to the \$6,000 rebate from Efficiency Vermont for these wood heating sys-

tems. See www.erc-vt.org/windham-county-central-wood-pellet-program for details.

Similarly, residents can get up to \$1,200 on a wood/pellet stove, in addition to Efficiency Vermont’s \$400 rebate. Details can be found at www.erc-vt.org/windham-county-stove-program.

Vermont lenders can also help you achieve your New Year’s energy goals with financing that removes upfront costs for home energy projects. Low-interest home energy loans offer up to \$25,000 for home energy upgrades, with 0% interest for income-qualified borrowers. Or you can pay off a project on your utility bill using the Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program. Contact Efficiency Vermont for qualifying information.

Additional rebates may also be available from your electric or gas utility. Contact Efficiency Vermont’s energy advisors to learn about all available offers.

What shapes your mortgage rate

REGION – If you’ve glanced at the market lately, you’ve probably noticed rates shifting more than you expected. One headline says they’re cooling, the next says they’re climbing, and somewhere in the middle you’ll see an advertised rate that doesn’t match the one you were quoted.

It’s completely normal to wonder how lenders actually decide on a rate, and why the number you see online isn’t always the number you end

up with.

Every mortgage rate starts with the broader economy. Inflation, Federal Reserve decisions, and investor demand all influence the general range lenders work within. These factors move daily, which is why rates can change even when nothing in your own finances has.

From there, your personal snapshot fills in the rest. Credit history, debt levels, your down payment or available equity, and the

type of loan you choose all help determine your exact rate. It’s why two people can apply on the same day and get two different numbers – their situations simply aren’t identical.

This is also why advertised rates don’t always tell the full story. Most of those numbers are based on ideal scenarios – excellent credit, a specific loan setup, and sometimes discount points paid upfront. They’re meant to give you a sense of what’s

possible, not predict your final quote.

Once you start the process with a lender, a lot happens quickly behind the scenes. Automated reviews, investor requirements, risk assessments, and daily market updates all play a role in pricing. Because the market moves in real time, your available rate can shift until you choose to lock it in – and that’s perfectly normal.

A rate lock helps take the guesswork out of the

equation by keeping your rate steady while your loan moves toward closing. In a market that changes often, that kind of stability can make the whole process feel a lot clearer.

If you’re curious about what rate you might realistically qualify for this year, you don’t need a stack of documents to get started. A quick

conversation can give you a solid snapshot based on your goals and financial picture – and it’s almost always more accurate than trying to compare advertised rates on your own. Let’s connect to discuss how I can help make your next step easier.

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

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arts & entertainment

Richard Emery retrospective show

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – “Nature at Its Finest” is a special commemorative show to honor Richard Emery at Gallery at the VAULT, on view through Jan. 31. Emery was a very talented local acrylic artist and woodworker.

“My grandfather was a very good woodcarver. Drawing and painting just come natural to me, like breathing. It’s just something I do without really thinking about it,” Emery said of his work.

Describing how he started his woodworking, Emery said, “My father was a logger, and after I graduated from Springfield High

School in 1972, I went to work with him. He retired about 1980, and in ‘83 I started work at Green Mountain Log Homes in Chester. When the big log home boom hit, we got so busy that for a time I did very little painting. Green Mountain closed down in ‘92, but I still managed to do work for just about everybody else who had anything to do with log homes. Then I got into building log railings and log furniture. All this means I have about every type of wood-working machine and tool, very handy when it comes to making frames. In 2010, I decided to get back into

painting again, using acrylics now.”

Richard was a very talented, self-taught artist who was as proud of his frames as his art. His wood-burned pieces and carvings are amazing. He passed this year. We miss him.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, and is open Wednesday-Saturday, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit Facebook, Instagram, or www.galleryvault.org. Gallery at the VAULT is accessible.

Carl Goulet and Sandiland & Vincent

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Like many rural musicians, Carl Goulet is a hidden gem who flies a little under the radar – an honest and heart-forward performing songwriter with the chops and fluency of artists who get a lot more attention. He is passionate, sometimes political, sometimes humorous, and always thoughtful. The Daily UV said that his album

“Gazebo” “charms the listener with gentle melodies, yet packs a punch with the depth of wisdom and love.” The clarity and purity of his writing and performing is seldom matched.

Similarly, Sandiland & Vincent have carefully honed their craft over years, producing songs with beautiful arrangements and tight, rich harmonies. Vincent has been playing guitar and bass for more than 50 years, and

Sandi has been in bands and duos since she was 19.

This is going to be a sweet yet weighty two-for-one 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday, Jan. 25. Tickets can be purchased in advance through www.stage33live.com, or at the door as available; advance tickets guarantee entry. Only 40 tickets will be sold. All the ticket money goes to the performers. The performances will be recorded and filmed.

Raku pottery class

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the VAULT is excited to offer a raku pottery workshop with Andrew Berends on two consecutive Saturdays, Feb. 7 and Feb. 14, from 12-4 p.m. each day. Register by Saturday, Jan. 31.

Berends will be teaching the exciting Japanese firing technique known as raku. Raku is a 16th-century technique developed in Japan for making tea-ceremony ware. It has been

developed in this country to produce really interesting pottery. The firings take about an hour, and you get a finished piece at the end. Raku is a fun, exciting technique, where pots are fired to 1,840 degrees, pulled out of the hot kiln, and manipulated with sawdust and water to change the look of the glazes. The glazes can be metallic, and/or have a crackle effect, making each piece truly unique and one-of-a-kind. We will also fire

pots with an exciting new technique known as horse hair raku, which creates interesting designs on the clay. The raku firings can be done indoors or outdoors, depending on the weather.

The class will include wheel-throwing, slab-making, and extruding instruction. The first day will include making all types of clay work, and the second day will be glazing and firing all the pots in the raku tradition. Emphasis will be on being creative, and learning the basics of pottery, including making the work, glazing, as well as firing. The class is geared towards teens through adults, and limited to four students.

residence at Anderson Ranch in Snowmass, Colo. Upon moving to Vermont in 1988, he became a professional production/art potter, and has exhibited internationally, as well as being represented by over 180 galleries nationally.

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

PUTNEY, Vt. – The Artist Residency Performance at the Big Barn, 49 Main Street in Putney, Vt., will be held on Saturday, Jan. 31, from 3-4:30 p.m. Artist Residency Concerts are free for all audience members as part of Yellow Barn’s “Pay What You Can” program. Donations to this program are always appreciated, in advance or at the door.

Yellow Barn alumni Daniel Chong, Jessica Bodner, and Daniel Anastasio return to Putney with poet

Naomi Shihab Nye for a Yellow Barn Artist Residency, culminating in a performance of music and poetry in conversation. Blending moments of reflection with bursts of playfulness, their collaboration seeks to reveal a new perspective on the emotional core of each piece – musical and poetic – through thoughtful juxtaposition.

Following their performance, the artists will lead an open conversation with the audience.

Rock River Players’ “No Kings Cabaret”

WILLIAMSVILLE, Vt. – The Rock River Players (RRP) present a “No Kings Cabaret” on Friday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 25, at 3 p.m., at the Williamsville Hall, 35 Dover Road, Williamsville, Vt.

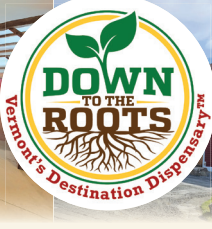
This year’s RRP cabaret features Kay Beckett, Jonathan Benney, Tino Benson, Peter Broussard, Walter Cramer, Shafiya Finger, Sean Fitzharris, Eden Gorst, Sue Kelly, Alex Lacey, Annie Landenberger, Randy Lichtenwalner, Jon Mack, Stewart McDermet, Cherie Moran, John Moran, Nick Morgan, John Ogorzalek, Jeff Seabaugh, Dawn Slade, T. Breeze Verdant, Rose Watson, and Rev. Yolanda. Dan DeWalt is the accompanist. Jess Guerrero is on lights.

Among several acts on the program will be songs

by a variety of composers, including Tom Lehrer, Phil Ochs, Jonathan Larson, Craig Carnelia, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Bob Dylan, Stephen Schwartz, Kander and Ebb, and Howard Crabtree. There’ll be a short improvisation set, original satire, revived satires, “news” clips, and excerpts from Sinclair Lewis’ scathing novel “It Can’t Happen Here.”

Special guest Rev. Yolanda will perform “I Pledge Allegiance to Myself,” about the power of loving oneself completely.

Seating is at cafe tables, cabaret style. Various expertly prepared home-baked goods will be available by donation. Cabaretgoers are invited to bring whatever beverages they wish. To purchase tickets, visit www.rockriverplayers.org, and for more information, email verbatimvt@gmail.com.



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