CROSSWORD

COUPON CONTEST

SEE PAGE 3 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

FREE

THE Vermont Journal

NOVEMBER 04, 2026 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 44

Chester Selectboard adds Australian ballot voting to Town Meeting warning

BY NICK GIBERTI

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Selectboard voted on Oct. 21 to add a question asking voters to approve voting on the municipal budget by Australian ballot to the warning for the upcoming Town Meeting in March 2027. The question will be voted on the floor, as all such proposals are required to be in Chester. The selectboard had been informed in mid-September by Town Manager Julie Hance that a petition to add the Australian ballot question to the warning would likely be forthcoming should the board not do so itself.

A short discussion preceded the motion's approval, mostly revolving around the possibility of moving Town Meeting to a different day of the week in the hopes of encouraging greater participation if in-person attendance at the yearly budget presentation is no longer a requirement for voting on the budget, as would be the case if the change to Australian ballot is approved. Hance told the board that Town Meeting can be moved to any day between the first Tuesday in March and the preceding Saturday, but no concrete decision was reached. Ultimately, the question of whether to move Town Meeting day must also be voted on at a future Town Meeting.

The board also approved a fund balance policy for the Town of Chester, as recommended by the town's auditor, Ron Smith. The policy indicates that Chester will maintain 60 days worth of operating expenses – roughly $730,000 – as a balance to be used in emergencies and to cover temporary expenses in lieu of borrowing money.

The board responded to several questions and comments regarding how it proposes to create such a balance, including from resident and former selectboard member Bill Lindsay, who said that, while he feels that the policy is good and helpful, he is concerned about public reaction to a budget line item exclusively intended to create a reserve. "I think the idea is good, but when you reach into somebody's pocket," Lindsay said to the board, "they think 'why do I have to contribute more money?'"

Vice Chair Arne Jonynas explained that the policy itself does not specify how the town will go about building the fund balance, and that that will need to be an ongoing discussion among the board members as the budget is constructed. There was also some talk among board members of placing a portion of the Cyprus Mineral Funds into the fund balance, though board member Peter Hudkins cautioned that, once the Cyprus Funds become a potential source for the fund balance, it could lead to their depletion.

The board also took up its ongoing discussion of a possible transition to a July 1 – June 30 fiscal year with quarterly tax collection on Sept. 1, Dec. 1, March 1, and June 1. Currently, taxes are collected for a calendar year, Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, and are due in full on Sept. 15.

Because of the six-month gap between the end of the calendar year and the beginning of the following fiscal year, the first municipal budget paid on the quarterly schedule will need to reflect 18 months' worth of operating expenses. Therefore, should the town decide to adopt the fiscal year, tax payments will be collected as follows: Tax bills would be due in full on Sept. 15 of 2027 for the period covering Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2027. The next tax bill would be the first quarterly bill due on Sept. 1, 2028. However, the first four quarterly payments would cover Jan. 1, 2028 – June 30, 2029, a period of 18 months, to cover the transition to the fiscal year calendar. The funds covering the six-month gap from Jan. 1 – June 30, 2028, will be spread across the first four quarterly payments.

Of note, this 18-month budget applies only to the municipal portion of taxes, as the school district is already on a fiscal year, Hance explained. She also noted that taxpayers may still pay their taxes in full on Sept. 1 if they wish to do so.

Additionally, Hance told the board that, while interest will accrue on late quarterly payments at 1% per month, penalties cannot be assessed on late payments until a full year has elapsed.

The board also revisited its discussion on lighting for the Depot Street sidewalk project, which it had approved at its last meeting. Hance told the board that it was brought to her attention that VTrans changes its standard lighting routinely, and thus, if the board approves only the standard lighting, it may not be able to match the same lighting in the future, a relevant concern since the intention expressed at the previous meeting was to eventually extend the pedestrian lighting from the intersection of Depot Street and Bargfrede Road to the Chester Green.

The ornamental lighting, Hance said, is estimated at $495,000, a $45,000 increase over the standard lighting, of which Chester will pay 20%, or about $99,000.

After some discussion about the necessity and aesthetics of the lighting, a split board hesitantly gave Hance approval to pursue the ornamental lighting. The general feeling of those in favor, which included Chair Lee Gustafson and board members Tim Roper and, eventually, Lauren Fierman, was that the lighting could enhance Chester's economic vitality by guiding visitors toward the Green and increasing the town's aesthetic value.

PRESORTED STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SPRINGFIELD, MA
PERMIT NO. 82

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

Green Mountain Fireside opens Fireside Market

BY LISA STICKNEY

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – A new gift shop and marketplace has opened along Route 103 in Proctorsville, bringing together Vermont-made products, specialty foods, and locally sourced gifts under one roof.

Arnie and Peggy Campney, owners of the family-operated Green Mountain Fireside Specialties, have expanded their retail business with the opening of Fireside Market, located in the retail space adjacent to their Proctorsville stove showroom. The Campneys established Green Mountain Fireside Specialties in Ludlow, in 2018, specializing in indoor heating products and wood and gas stoves. In May 2025, they expanded their retail operations by opening a second storefront in Proctorsville. On Oct.1, they added Fireside Market to the location.

The family business includes the couple's children, who each play a role in the operation. Grace works as a retail associate at the new market, Mason serves as sales manager and divides his time between the Ludlow and Proctorsville locations, and Zach is the lead installer, handling installations on site.

The expansion also allowed the Campneys to make better use of additional warehouse and retail space that became available. What had once become a smaller showroom with room for only a few stoves has grown to accommodate approximately 20 wood and gas models, along with an expanded outdoor display area featuring firepits, grills, outdoor heating, and furniture.

The concept for Fireside Market developed as the Campneys learned that Grafton Village Cheese, which previously occupied the space, would be leaving its Proctorsville location at the end of September.

Peggy said, "I was sad for us to see them leave and wanted to continue the tradition, and we already had a small gift store with Vermont Flannel Co. products, Chandler Four Corners (Manchester) hearth rugs, and felt like expanding our retail shop along with culinary cheeses would be nice."

The market emphasizes Vermont-made and locally sourced products, including Vermont Teddy Bear, lavender products from Green Mountain Lavendar, Common Sense soaps and fragrance products, artisan marshmallows for a s'mores station, specialty chocolates, crackers, and other gift items. The culinary selection includes cheeses from Grafton Village Cheese, Vermont Farmstead, and Plymouth Artisan Cheese, along with specialty crackers and spreads.

Peggy reported that the first week of business went well. "It was great because Grafton Village Cheese fully supported us and didn't make an announcement,



Fireside Market staff, left to right: store manager Sherry DiBernardo, Kayla Ward, and Grace Campney.
PHOTO PROVIDED

and left the store shelves and refrigerators set up, and operates it as a sister shop." The Campneys were also able to benefit from the existing foot traffic.

"My passion is retail," Peggy said. "I always wanted a store like this. I love seeing people, and we love seeing customers and try to make it a fun experience." She explained that the market will continue offering items related to charcuterie and is considering expanding its offerings to include a selection of wines.

Fireside Market is open seven days per week, from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Green Mountain Firesides' Ludlow location is at 57 Pond Street in the Okemo Marketplace. Its Proctorsville location is at 2568 Route 103. For more information, call 802-975-0626.

American Legion Post 36 to host fundraising dinner for Eric Gilcris

LUDLOW, Vt. – Ballard-Hobart American Legion Post 36 in Ludlow will host a fundraising dinner on Friday, Nov. 13, from 5:30-7 p.m., to benefit Eric Gilcris, a Vermont resident, husband, father, and longtime cancer advocate who is once again battling brain cancer.

In 2011, Gilcris was diagnosed with Grade 4 glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer, and given an initial prognosis of just 6-12 months. Defying the odds, Gilcris has survived nearly 15 years and dedicated much of that time to helping others facing cancer.

In 2014, Gilcris and his wife, Anna, founded Cancer Canknot, an organization that has helped raise more than $100,000 for cancer research through charity golf tournaments, fundraising events, and community support.

Sadly, Gilcris' tumor has returned, and he underwent surgery on Oct. 13. As he and his family face the challenges of additional treatment and recovery, the community is coming together to offer support.

The dinner will feature chicken parmesan, pasta, garlic bread, and dessert. Proceeds will help Eric, Anna, and their family with medical and related expenses.

For years, Gilcris has devoted himself to helping others in their fight against cancer. Now it's our turn to stand beside him. The public is warmly encouraged to attend and support this worthy cause. For more information or to make reservations, please call 802-228-9807.

Mount Holly School ranks among top 8

MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. – At a time when Vermont's education system faces intense scrutiny over costs, student outcomes, and the future of small schools, new national school rankings offer an important reminder: Some of Vermont's highest-performing elementary schools are located in its smallest rural communities.

According to U.S. News & World Report's 2027 Best Elementary Schools rankings, the eight highest-ranked elementary schools in Vermont are all small rural schools, serving communities across the state. The top eight schools are (1) Rumney School, Middlesex; (2) Newton School, Strafford; (3) Montgomery School, Montgomery; (4) Craftsbury School, Craftsbury; (5) Orwell Village School, Orwell (6) Mount Holly School, Mount Holly; (7) Waterford School, Waterford; and (8) Peacham School, Peacham.

See SCHOOL on Page 2

INDEX

Health & Community.....4
Obituaries & Services 5
Calendar 6
Legal Notices 6
Classifieds & Opinion 7
Home & History.....8
Arts & Events & Outdoor.....9

OUR OFFICE

OFFICE ADDRESS:
8 High Street • PO Box 228 • Ludlow, VT

BILLING ADDRESS:
PO Box 116 • Rutland, VT 05702

PHONE NUMBER:
802-228-3600

WEBSITE:
www.VermontJournal.com

CONTACT US

SHAWNTAE WEBB
publisher@vermontjournal.com
ads@vermontjournal.com

NICK GIBERTI
editor@vermontjournal.com
calendar@vermontjournal.com

JOE MCCAFFREY
sales@vermontjournal.com

LISA STICKNEY
messagesales@vermontjournal.com

PAULA BENSON
billing@vermontjournal.com

DEADLINES

The deadline for all content is Thursday at 4 p.m. for the following week's publication.

EMAIL CALENDAR EVENTS
calendar@vermontjournal.com

EMAIL ADS AND CLASSIFIEDS
ads@vermontjournal.com

EMAIL PRESS RELEASES
editor@vermontjournal.com

"Board Games Mania" at St. Luke's Church

CHESTER, Vt. – For people fascinated by board games and looking to play with other enthusiasts, St. Luke's Church, the gray church at 313 Main Street in Chester, is offering members of the public ages 13 and up the opportunity to play a variety of board games on Sunday, Nov. 8, from 3-5 p.m., in Willard Hall, located behind and below the church. There is no charge for the program, refreshments will be served, and reservations are not required. Card tables will be set up, and games such as Qwirkle, Rummikub, Cribbage, Sorry, and Monopoly will be available. Participants are also encouraged to bring their own games, find new partners, and make new friends. If this activity is popular, sessions may be added. For more information, visit www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org/specialevents.

Wreath workshop at St. Luke's Church

CHESTER, Vt. – Reserve a place now for the wreath-decorating workshops scheduled for Nov. 19-21, in Willard Hall at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 313 Main Street (Route 11 West) in Chester, Vt. Those who register and pay by Saturday, Nov. 14, may take advantage of a discount on the price per wreath. Since the number of wreaths and workshop sessions is limited, participants must register early to ensure both a wreath and choice of workshop.

Choose from one of eight different workshops: Thursday, Nov. 19, from 9-10:30 a.m., 1-2:30 p.m., or 6:30-8 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 20, from 9-10:30 a.m., 1-2:30 p.m., or 6:30-8 p.m.; and Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9-10:30 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m. Each session will offer all the essentials to create a very personal, one-of-a-kind wreath. Men and women are welcome to come alone or register with a friend or group, and participants are encouraged to bring clippers and glue guns if they have them.

At the workshops, participants choose from an array of greens, berries, nuts and other natural materials, bows, and different embellishments that they would like to add to their premade evergreen wreath. Wire, glue guns, and other supplied equipment will make the decorating easy.

Checks should be made out to St. Luke's Church, designated in the memo line for the wreath workshop, and mailed to Lillian Willis at P.O. Box 318, Chester, VT 05143. For a flier to email to a friend, visit www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org. For additional information or required registration, please contact Willis at 802-875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net. The workshops will benefit both the church and the Chester Conservation Committee's youth environmental camp scholarships.

Public meeting on Okemo State Forest draft long-range management plan

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources is seeking public input on a draft long-range management plan for Okemo State Forest. The plan will guide future decisions about forest management, wildlife habitat, recreation, and conservation across nearly 8,000 acres of public land. Vermonters are invited to review the proposed management activities in the draft plan and submit comments from Oct. 26 through Dec. 10. An in-person public meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 9, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Ludlow Community Center, 37 Main Street in Ludlow, Vt., to present the draft plan and gather feedback.

Situated in the southern Green Mountains, Okemo State Forest covers 7,983 acres across the towns of Andover, Ludlow, Mount Holly, and Weston. It features large blocks of contiguous forests and important recreation opportunities (e.g., Healdville Trail, Buttermilk Falls, and Okemo Mountain Resort) and is home to the Terrible Mountain Natural Area. The forest also functions as a critical link in the Southern Vermont Wildlife Corridor, supporting wide-ranging wildlife species, such as black bears, moose, and bobcats.

Long-range management plans guide land management on state-owned public lands for a 20-year period, balancing ecological, recreational, cultural, and economic values. A public scoping meeting was held in December 2025 to provide background information about the Okemo State Forest and gather initial public input that helped inform this draft plan. This call for public comment on the draft management plan is the next step in the process.

The meeting is open to the public, and all are welcome to attend. Please visit the Okemo State Forest webpage, www.fpr.vermont.gov/okemo-state-forest, to read the draft long-range management plan and learn more about this public input opportunity. A recording of the meeting and a project StoryMap – an interactive webpage with maps, background information, and management highlights – will be available on the website, along with a form to submit public comments. Public comments may also be submitted in writing at the public meeting, or by email to anr.statelandsplanning@vermont.gov through Dec. 10.

Consciousness and Contact conference at Upper Pass Lodge

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Consciousness and Contact conference will be held at the foot of Magic Mountain, at the Upper Pass Lodge, 420 Magic Mountain Road in Londonderry, Vt., from Nov. 12-16.

This event represents a return to Vermont at this time, because the State of Vermont holds a particular place of leadership in America as our country and our world becomes increasingly chaotic and troublesome. To quote one of the conference's speakers, Peter Champoux, "A case can be made that American civilization emerged from the Northeast United States. Born in Boston and raised along the Erie Canal, and expressed its fortune in NYC. As this civilization enters its wisdom years, the northern quadrant of Vermont awakens its green ethos and sense of place in our collective consciousness over the next 100 years.

"Coming together in conference with educators, scientists, politicians, and mystics, this new, wiser, green ethos will be explored as a community. Set as a frequency in American field consciousness, its resounding call radiates from this continental center to the seven sacred directions of being."

The conference will be held at the foot of Magic Mountain, at the Upper Pass Lodge, where attendees will be welcomed by the general manager of the Lodge, Vince Presciti.

These events are not your standard conference experience, and not meant to be such. They require a flexible attitude and a willingness to be open to the group of people who gathered to perform a specific energetic function for the advancement of those gathering and the wellbeing of the planet. The last conference was held in 2021, five years ago. That event helped to create the opportunity for the return of the Wounded Knee artifacts stolen from the dead at the Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890.

SCHOOL

From Page 1

These schools serve relatively small student populations, yet their academic results place them among Vermont's best.

"Too often, the conversation about Vermont's small rural schools focuses almost exclusively on cost and enrollment, overlooking the quality of education these schools provide," said Cheryl Charles, chair of the Rural School Community Alliance Steering Committee (RSCA). "These rankings tell an important story. Small rural schools are not simply surviving; many are excelling academically and providing their students with an outstanding education."

The rankings come as Vermont continues to grapple with significant questions about education spending, school consolidation, and how best to improve student outcomes. RSCA believes academic performance must be central to those discussions. While fiscal responsibility is essential, decisions about the future of Vermont's schools should also recognize the educational value of institutions that are delivering strong results for students.

"Vermonters deserve an education system that is both affordable and effective," added Margaret MacLean, RSCA steering committee member. "But we should be careful not to equate bigger schools with better outcomes. These results demonstrate that small rural schools can deliver academic excellence, and any effort to reform our education system should build on what is working rather than put it at risk."

Beyond academic achievement, small rural schools play a vital role in their communities, providing a sense of belonging, strong relationships among students and educators, and opportunities for families to remain connected to their local schools.

As Vermont considers the future of public education, RSCA encourages policymakers to examine the evidence, recognize the successes of high-performing rural schools, and pursue reforms that protect educational quality and community vitality alongside fiscal sustainability.



JACQUES LOCKS Salon and Spa LLC
NEW HERE OR NEW TO THE STYLIST?
Clip this ad for a free product with a service provided!

603-543-0336
312 Washington St, Claremont, NH
Andrea Jacques, Owner/Curl Mistress
Kaylee Clough, Stylist

P&L EXCAVATING
Palmer H. Goodrich II · Chester, VT 05143 · 802-875-2819
Complete Site Work · Foundations · Septic Systems · Drainage
Driveway Construction & Maintenance · Asphalt Milling
Gravel · Sand · Topsoil · Field Mowing · Brush Mulching

PROBLEM SOLVED:
Aqua-Aid Systems
Water Conditioning
What's In Your Water?
IRON Stains? Smelly Water?
Hardness? RADON?
800-252-8484
Locally owned since 1984

Like us on Facebook! @VermontJournal

Beaver Pond FARM
Store open daily 9-5:30
Beaver Pond Farm
1047 John Stark Hwy, Newport, NH
603-543-1107
Find us on Facebook & Instagram
Apples, pumpkins, cider, and veggies
Our own grass-fed beef, maple syrup, and homemade jam
Fall Decorations
Lots of local food products... honey, cheese, milk, & more

DIAMOND POINT WEALTH PARTNERS
Formerly Huntley Financial Services
Derek Karner
802-228-5774
www.diamondpointwealthpartners.com
101 Main Street, Second Floor, Ludlow, VT
Securities and investment advisory services offered through Osaic Wealth, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC. Osaic Wealth is separately owned and other entities and/or marketing names, products or services referenced here are independent of Osaic Wealth.

puzzle page

CROSSWORD COUPON CONTEST

Complete a puzzle for a chance to win!

Downtown Development Bellows Falls Vermont Alliance

BFDDA helps keep our downtown lively, welcoming, and full of character for residents and visitors alike. Let us help you discover the historic charm of Bellows Falls.

Like BFDDA on FB
802-518-0369
bellowsfallsvt.org

$75 Gift Certificate – Expires Dec. 31, 2026
FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY – NOT VALID

ANASTASIA STAR CLOSET
Vintage Clothing & Styling
57 The Square
Bellows Falls, VT
802-380-1629
Social Media
@anastasiastarcloset

$75 Gift Certificate – Expires Dec. 31, 2026
FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY – NOT VALID

Frank's Fabrics & Crafts
It's a Material World.
10% OFF
MUST HAVE COUPON.
LIMIT 1 PER PERSON, PER TRANSACTION.
IN STORE ONLY
VALID THRU 12/31/26
STORE HOURS: MON-SAT 10A-5P, SUN 11A-4P
3607 CLAREMONT RD. CHARLESTOWN, NH
shopfranksfabrics.com

$75 Gift Certificate – Expires Dec. 31, 2026
FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY – NOT VALID

HEAD QUARTERS
"Springfield's best kept secret"
NEW HOURS
Tue & Fri, 9am-5pm
Wednesday, 9am-12pm
Saturday, 7:30am-12pm
Estd. 1988
Walk-In Only Salon
Valari Freeborne
Owner/Operator
802-885-9595
Springfield Shopping Plaza
Springfield, VT

$75 Gift Certificate – Expires Dec. 31, 2026
FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY – NOT VALID

JUDD'S AUTO REPAIRS
AUTO REPAIR - OFFICIAL INSPECTION STATION
802-722-4200
6109 US Route 5, Westminster, VT 05158
Open Monday - Friday 7:30 - 5:00, Closed Weekends

$75 Gift Certificate – Expires Dec. 31, 2026
FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY – NOT VALID

Maebelline's Breakfast & Lunch
802-885-2600
12 Clinton Street
Springfield, VT
Breakfast & Lunch Maebelline's Springfield Vermont

$75 Gift Certificate – Expires Dec. 31, 2026
FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY – NOT VALID

CROSSWORD COUPON CONTEST

The Rules

Participants must complete the Crossword or the Sudoku puzzle and mail this page to The Vermont Journal, PO Box 228, Ludlow, VT 05149. Must be received by Friday, Nov. 13, 2026. Limit one submission per person.

One participant will be selected by random drawing, and can choose one coupon from participating businesses on this puzzle page. Coupons are not valid until one is chosen by drawing winner. Coupon of choice will expire on Dec. 31, 2026, and will be mailed to the winner.

The answers to the puzzles and winner will be published the following week.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ TOWN: _____

COUPON OF CHOICE: _____

Weekly SUDOKU

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

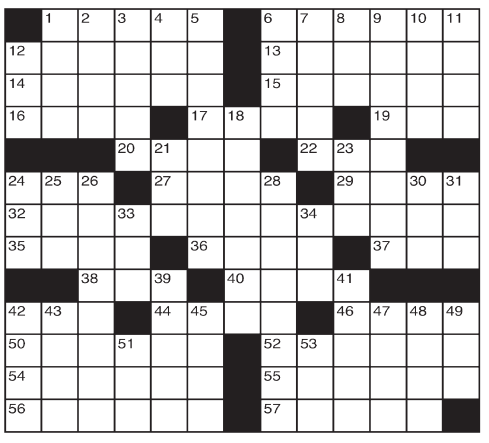
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Interior design
6 Views
12 Made over
13 "Phooey!"
14 Aromatic herb
15 Found out, to Brits
16 Party pooper
17 "Dream on!"
19 Prof's helpers
20 Poker pot money
22 Covert agent
24 Jungfrau, for one
27 Melodies
29 Emmy winner Falco
32 Paintings of artists, say
35 Dessert fruit
36 Not even one
37 Mom's mate
38 "— -hoo!"
40 Grant basis, at times
42 Home for mil. jets
44 Horse's halter?
46 Eight (Pref.)
50 Illusionist David
52 — app
54 Boris of tennis
55 Hearth remains
56 Gardeners, at times
57 Synthetic fabric

DOWN
1 Woodland grazer
2 Writer Buchanan
3 Line dance
4 Small bill
5 Affinity
6 Pieces for one
7 Kitchen VIPs
8 Coach Parseghian
9 Bowlful served with chips
10 Sicilian spouter
11 Swift jets
12 "Mayberry —"
18 Hot chili pepper
21 Snooze
23 Pod dweller
24 Nile viper
25 Director Spike
26 Listen to a recording
28 Football game prankster
30 Judge Lance
31 Mentalist's claim
33 Swing to and —
34 Deli bread
39 Proprietor
41 Surround sound name
42 Shortened wd.
43 Dog bane
45 Towel word
47 Jazz singer Laine
48 Shore bird
49 Hosp. areas
51 Mamie's man
53 "— Little Teapot"

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Allen Bro's FARM MARKET
SHOP LOCAL
Come Visit Our Farmstand For A Taste Of Vermont
OPEN 7 DAYS 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Exit 5 off I-91 • Rte 5 South • Westminster, VT
802 722-3395 • www.allenbrothersfarms.com

$75 Gift Certificate – Expires Dec. 31, 2026
FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY – NOT VALID

Tell our advertisers you saw them in the paper!

THE Vermont Journal

THE MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

MARIA'S MEXICAN FOOD
802.345.9241 | Mzacarias.10@gmail.com
571 VT-103, Chester | Next to One Credit Union
Find us on Facebook and Instagram

$75 Gift Certificate – Expires Dec. 31, 2026
FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY – NOT VALID

Gussie's Place
Boarding a country K9 kennel Daycare
Gail Stewart, Co-Manager
802-875-3535 | 248 Elm Street | Chester, VT 05143
GussiesPlace@vermontel.net | www.GussiesKennel.com | Facebook

$75 Gift Certificate – Expires Dec. 31, 2026
FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY – NOT VALID

THE NEW AMERICAN GRILL
GLOBAL FLAVORS LOCAL VIBES
live music - trivia night - open mic
802 824 9844 Press 1 for TAKEOUT
Mountain Marketplace
Junction of Rte 100 & Rte 11
Londonderry, VT

$75 Gift Certificate – Expires Dec. 31, 2026
FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY – NOT VALID

Open to All!
Springfield FOOD CO-OP
Community Owned Since 1992
6 Main St. Suite 1, Springfield, VT
802-885-3663
www.springfieldfood.coop

$75 Gift Certificate – Expires Dec. 31, 2026
FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY – NOT VALID

health & community

New southern Vermont initiative targets healthcare needs

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – This year, Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) will partner with employers and local training providers to create a new Southern Vermont LNA Hub. The hub was launched with funding from Vermont's Rural Health Transformation Program, which aims to strengthen the rural healthcare workforce network. This initiative will support training and recruitment for licensed nursing assistants (LNA), who are key to frontline healthcare delivery. The hub will make investments to improve training options and outcomes, including low-cost and no-cost training and job readiness support for LNA trainees.

One of the initiative's goals is to build a better understanding of local employer needs across nursing homes and hospitals. BDCC will survey local employers to assess current and projected needs. The collaboration will also generate recommendations and data to sustainably meet the region's entry-level healthcare needs.

The LNA Hub will create more on-ramps into health professions, increase job readiness, and build new employer partnerships, including new connections with schools. It is designed to welcome individuals who wish to pursue a career in healthcare but aren't sure where to start.

If you are an individual looking to start your career in healthcare, or a healthcare employer looking to get involved in the hub, please contact Jack Spanierman at jspanierman@brattleborodevelopment.com or fill out an interest form at www.cognitoforms.com/BDCC1/LNAHubInterestForm.

Dartmouth joins effort to increase lung cancer screening

LEBANON, N.H. – Dartmouth Cancer Center (DCC) joins healthcare organizations across New Hampshire in a statewide effort to increase awareness of lung cancer screening and help eligible residents determine whether they could benefit from this potentially lifesaving test.

Led by the NH Cancer Partnership, the initiative brings together hospitals, health systems, healthcare professionals, and community organizations with a shared goal: increasing the number of Granite Staters who receive recommended lung cancer screening.

DCC encourages people to understand their risk for lung cancer and talk with their healthcare teams about whether screening is appropriate for them. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States, and screening with a low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) scan can help detect lung cancer at an earlier, more treatable stage, yet only 31.1% of eligible New Hampshire residents are currently up to date with recommended lung cancer screening, according to 2024 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data.

"Throughout my career as a pulmonary physician, I have seen firsthand how much of a difference it can make when lung cancer is found early," said Dr. David J. Feller-Kopman, chief of pulmonary and critical care medicine at Dartmouth Health's Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC). "I want people to understand that screening is not about blame or judgment – it is about finding lung cancer as early as possible, when we have the best opportunity to treat it successfully. If you think you may qualify for screening, please ask. It could make all the difference."

People may be eligible for lung cancer screening if they are 50 to 80 years old; have a 20-pack-year history of smoking, such as smoking one pack of cigarettes a day for 20 years, or two packs a day for 10 years; and/or currently smoke or quit smoking within the past 15 years. Screening can identify lung cancer before symptoms develop, when treatment may be more effective.

"Lung cancer is unique in that it rarely causes symptoms until it has reached advanced disease, where treatments and survival are limited," said Dr. Dana M. Ferrari-Light, thoracic surgeon at DHMC. "But through a simple, painless, low-dose CT scan, we can catch it in its earliest stages. When we find lung cancer early, thoracic surgeons can use minimally invasive techniques to remove the tumor completely, turning what could have been a devastating diagnosis into a curable condition. Lung cancer screening doesn't just buy time – it saves lives."

At Dartmouth Cancer Center, patients with lung cancer have access to a multidisciplinary team of specialists, including pulmonologists, radiologists, thoracic surgeons, medical oncologists, and radiation oncologists.

The statewide campaign includes community education, outreach through local organizations, educational resources, and engagement with healthcare professionals to improve awareness and increase referrals for screening. By working together, participating organizations hope to reduce barriers to screening and ensure more New Hampshire residents have access to information and care.

Residents are encouraged to visit the campaign website, www.dhhs.nh.gov/lungscreening, to learn who qualifies for lung screening, understand the benefits and potential risks of screening, and talk with their healthcare team about whether screening is right for them.

For more information about lung cancer screening services at Dartmouth Cancer Center, speak with your healthcare team or visit cancer.dartmouth.edu/lung-thoracic/lung-cancer-screening.

Neighborhood Connections home heating assistance applications

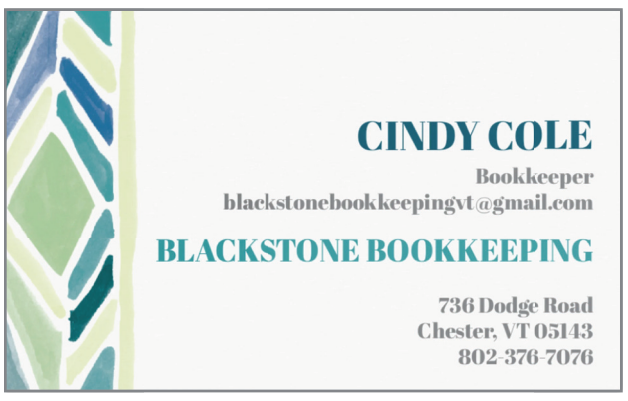
MANCHESTER, Vt. – The heating season is upon us, and fuel prices are up. Do you need help paying for heating oil, propane, wood, pellets, or electricity? If so, you may qualify for low-income home energy assistance. A household of two may qualify if its income is $3,336 or less per month. A single person may qualify if their income is $2,460.50 or less per month.

A representative from Neighborhood Connections in Londonderry will be at the Manchester Community Library on Thursday, Nov. 12, from 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., to help with applications for fuel assistance and Green Mountain Power's energy assistance program, as well as other government benefits programs.

From 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., the representative will be available to answer your questions concerning fuel assistance and other government benefits that are available, such as 3SquaresVT and 3SNAP (SNAP) benefits, health insurance, VPharm/Dr. Dynasaur, Medicaid (both general and long-term care), and Medicare Savings Programs. From 1:30-4:30 p.m., the representative will be available to help you apply for benefits. To schedule an appointment for application assistance, please call Neighborhood Connections at 802-824-6913 and ask for Malcolm Hamblett.







VISIT US ON facebook @VermontJournal

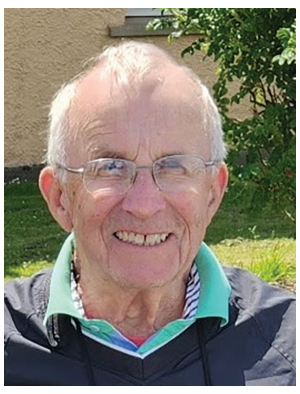
★★★★★
FIVE STARS. ONE CARING HOME.
Gill Odd Fellows Home of Vermont
Proud to Be a Five-Star Rated Nursing Facility!
Excellence in Care. Compassion in Every Moment.
We are proud to announce that Gill Odd Fellows Home of Vermont has earned a FIVE-STAR RATING!
This recognition reflects our commitment to providing quality care, personalized attention, and a warm, welcoming environment where residents are treated like family.
From skilled nursing and rehabilitation services to long-term residential care, our dedicated team works every day to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.
Small-Town Charm. Exceptional Care. A Place to Call Home.
Gill Odd Fellows Home of Vermont
8 Gill Terrace | Ludlow, VT 05149
802-228-4571
Contact us today to learn more about our services or schedule a tour!

obituaries

Wendell "Skip" Brown, 2026

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Wendell "Skip" Brown passed away suddenly on Monday, Oct. 19, 2026.

Skip was born in New London, N.H., the son of Wendell Stone Brown and Natalie Robinson Brown. The family lived in Grafton, N.H., during earlier years of his childhood, and moved to Saxtons River at the time he entered high school. He graduated from Bellows Falls High School in 1961. He attended the University of Vermont, following which he entered the United States Army. Skip served a year of active service in Vietnam, from 1964-1965.



Skip Brown, 2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Upon his return home, he began working at Holmes Transportation Inc. It was there that he met the woman who would become his wife, Leona Lamotte. Skip and Leona were married on Oct. 2, 1971, this year marking their 55th wedding anniversary. After briefly residing in Sanford, Maine, they returned to the Bellows Falls area, where they settled and began to raise their family. Skip worked as general manager for Burtco and Northeastern Culvert in Westminster for 20 years. Upon his departure from Northeastern Culvert, he branched out into positions in the petroleum and LED lighting industries, where he spent the remainder of his career, the last 20 years as a manufacturer's sales representative for TR2 Corporation of Mahwah, N.J. At the time of his death, he was still involved on a part-time basis. Skip thrived in this culture, which enabled him to maximize his talent and abilities.

Skip was a kind and caring man, generous in his willingness to help others in need. He was devoted to his family, ever involved in the kids' academics, sports, and music activities. This support carried through in his support of his grandson, Evan, the apple of his eye, as he and Leona made countless trips to Georgia to take in Evan's baseball and basketball games.

A sports enthusiast himself, Skip's passion was golf. Starting as a young boy caddying at Hooper Golf Club, he carried this passion lifelong, playing up to the time of his passing. He held the honor of being Bellows Falls Club Champion three times.

Skip leaves behind his wife, Leona; his daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband, Jon; his son, David; former daughter-in-law Teresa Brown; and his grandson, Evan.

There will be no calling hours. A memorial service and celebration of his life will take place at the Bellows Falls Country Club in May. Notice will be published prior to this. Those who wish to honor Skip's memory may make a donation to Dartmouth Cancer Center, the Multiple Myeloma Research Fund, or the White River Junction Veterans Administration Medical Center.

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

Paula D. Collins, 1944-2026

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Paula Diane (Clemens) Collins, 81, of Bellows Falls, Vt., died on Oct. 27, 2026.

Paula was born on Nov. 5, 1944, to John and Virginia (Griffin) Clemens. She grew up in Bellows Falls, graduated from Bellows Falls High School, and attended Cardinal Cushing College in Boston, Mass. She married Paul Collins in 2000.

For more than 30 years, Paula worked as a senior outreach specialist at Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS). She often took the people she served to evening events and outings on her own time, without pay, because she believed everyone deserved a full life and experiences that mattered.

She was a life member of the Women of the Moose, Chapter 1123, where she volunteered countless hours and sponsored 37 women into membership. She earned her Academy of Friendship Degree (1999) and her College of Regents Degree (2008), and went on to receive her red stole and red tassel, marking the final level of the College of Regents. Bingo was another big part of her life, and many of her friendships began at the bingo hall.

Paula believed that God made every person equal and loves each of us, no matter who we are, and she said so often. She lived that belief, standing up fiercely and without hesitation for anyone she felt was being treated unfairly or not being heard.

Above all, Paula was devoted to her family. Her daughters and granddaughters were the center of her life, and her love and support for them never wavered.

Paula is survived by her husband, Paul Collins; her daughters, Nancy Capron and Susan Dearborn and her husband, Bryn; her granddaughters, Grace, Sadie, and Beatrice; her brothers-in-law, Graham Collins and Richard Collins; her sister-in-law Anne Collins; and her cousins, Robert Griffin and Sandra (Griffin) Valiquette. She also leaves her lifelong friends, Catherine Welch and Claire (Kahkola) Buckley; her longtime friends and partners in adventure, Felicia Aron King and Karen Thomas; and her devoted canine companion, Molly.



Paula Collins, 1944-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

She was predeceased by her sisters-in-law Angela (Capron) Kneeland and Sandra Carnon, and her niece, Anne (Kneeland) Swanson.

A celebration of Paula's life was held on Monday, Nov. 2, from 4-7 p.m., at the Bellows Falls Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls. The Women of the Moose, Chapter 1123, will hold a memorial ceremony in her honor, followed by food and time to share memories. All who knew and loved Paula are welcome.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Paula's memory may be made to the Vermont Kidney Association, 1 South Prospect Street, Burlington, VT 05401, www.vermontkidneyassociation.org.

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

Constance Laplante, 1930-2026

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Constance Koski Laplante passed away peacefully, at the age of 95, on Oct. 6, 2026, at the Thompson House in Brattleboro, Vt. Connie lived a full life as a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, valuing her family above all else.

Constance was born in Ludlow, Vt., on Dec. 23, 1930. She was raised by Fred and Jennie Koski. The family moved to Springfield, Vt., where she grew up and graduated from Springfield High School.

During her life, she delighted in cooking fabulous meals for family gatherings and making every holiday special, and she loved sending greeting cards to people she cared about.

In high school, she met her true love, Reine Laplante. They married in May 1949. Following graduation, she was employed as an office manager at Young's Furniture, where she worked for many years.

Reine and Connie began ballroom dancing, for which they received rave reviews. Connie shined on the dance floor with her elegance and graceful style. They spent many weekends traveling around New England dancing with different bands and making lifelong friends over the years. She loved music and enjoyed attending various concerts in the area. They thrived on attending their grandchildren's many events, including swim meets, cross-country events, and many band concerts. You name it and they were there.

In the winter months they spent time in Florida, giving them lasting memories which they loved to reflect back on. Connie and Reine were also very active alumni and took pleasure in meeting with classmates.



Constance Laplante, 1930-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Connie was devoted to her church. Her strength and faith brought light to those around her. Connie will be remembered for her elegance, warmth, smile, and kindness.

She was predeceased by her son Stephen; her parents, Fred and Jennie Koski; her sisters-in-law Laura Walker and Anita Wehler; her brother-in-law Albert; her husband of 76 years, Reine; and her daughter-in-law Ellen Laplante.

Constance is survived by her brother-in-law Al; her sister-in-law Elaine Minadeo (Claude); her sons Mark (Sheila) and David; her grandchildren, David Charles, Christopher, Julianne, and Travis; and her great-grandchildren, Adam, Matthew, Penelope, and Gemma.

A graveside service will be held at St. Mary's Cemetery in Springfield, Vt., on May 22, 2027, at 11 a.m., with a reception to follow.

The family requests in lieu of flowers that you extend a thoughtful act of kindness to someone in need.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with the arrangements.

Joyce A. McCue, 1941-2026

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Joyce Ann McCue, 85, of Saxtons River, Vt., passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her loving family, on Oct. 27, 2026. She was born on Oct. 18, 1941, in Gilsum, N.H., to Wayne and Evelyn Buffum, and attended school in Alstead, N.H.

Joyce married the love of her life, Virgil McCue Sr., on Dec. 31, 1959. Together, they built a life and family filled with many years of memories. Virgil predeceased her, along with her brothers and sisters Ralph Buffum, Evelyn Buffum, William Jackson, Mildred Johnson, Isabel Owens, Ernest Buffum, Wayne Buffum Jr., and Arthur Buffum.

Joyce worked as a bank teller for many years, but her greatest joy was always her family. She had a special way of making everyone feel loved and welcomed, and she treasured the time she spent with those closest to her. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren held an especially dear place in her heart, and the bond she shared with them was truly special.

In her free time, Joyce enjoyed life's simple pleasures. She loved gardening, watching the birds that visited the feeders she always kept filled, spending time outdoors, and going for walks. She found happiness in the beauty of nature and the everyday moments that made life meaningful.

Joyce leaves behind her daughter, Jodi McCue, and her partner, Brett Goldsmith; and her son, Virgil (Chuck) McCue Jr., and his wife, Christie.

She will be lovingly remembered by her grandchildren, Kassandra Maxfield and her husband, Tim Maxfield; Chelsea Jones and her husband, Jeff Jones; Christopher McCue; Corey McCue; Selena McCue; Paige Rohane; Katherine Howard; and Caleb Rohane.

Her love and legacy will continue through her great-grandchildren, Ashlin, Aubrey, Avery, and Alton Maxfield; Ziya Jones; Omile Meyerrose; Violet and John Ryals; and Luna Hall.

Joyce is also survived by her brother, Earl Buffum, and his wife, Julie Buffum.

Joyce will be deeply missed by her family and all who knew and loved her. She leaves behind a lasting legacy of love, cherished memories, and the gift of making those around her feel special. She will forever hold a place in the hearts of the many people whose lives she touched.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Joyce McCue to Bayada Hospice, P.O. Box 8081, Brattleboro, VT 05301.

Services will be held at the convenience of the family. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.

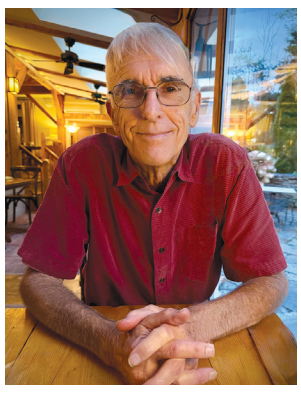
Charles Thomas Lauritsen, 1948-2026

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Charles Thomas Lauritsen, 78, died unexpectedly on Oct. 3, 2026, at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. Tom was born on Aug. 31, 1948, in Santa Monica, Calif.

Tom was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, a master carpenter and builder, a politician and environmentalist, and a resolute pacifist.

Tom and Kathleen cofounded Studio Time and Space in downtown Springfield, a nonprofit community space for yoga, meditation, and dance.

He is survived by his wife, Kathleen O'Donnell, of Springfield, Vt.; his children, Ramlah Lauritsen, of Springfield, Vt., Mathew Lauritsen, of Portland, Ore., and Seth Lauritsen, of Chester, Vt.; his stepson, Miles O'Donnell; his first wife, Neomi (Meixner) Lauritsen; his son-in-law, Jason Leonard, and daughter-in-law, Melissa Nelson; his grandchildren, Ezra and Asa Leonard, Charles and Mary Chakmakian, and Sophia and Ciaran Lauritsen; and other relatives, chosen family, and many friends, including lifelong family friends Steve and Truddi Greene.



Tom Lauritsen, 1948-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

He loved us, and we loved him.

Family and friends will gather at a later date to be announced. Knight Funeral Home in Windsor, Vt., is handling arrangements.

Mary Jane O'Hara, 2026

LUDLOW, Vt. – Mary Jane O'Hara, 85, a longtime resident of Ludlow, Vt., passed away peacefully in Easton, Pa., while surrounded by her sisters, on Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2026.

Services are to be held privately at the behest of her family.

The Finegan Funeral Home, of Easton, Pa., has been entrusted with the arrangements, www.fineganfuneralhomepa.com.

OBITUARIES:
A 200-word obituary is $100, and $0.60 per word thereafter. A photo is an additional $20. Email to editor@vermontjournal.com by Monday at 12 p.m.

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

CATAMOUNT ACCOUNTING & FINANCE
FOCUS ON GROWTH
Full-Service Bookkeeping • Payroll Services
Budgeting/Reporting • Fractional CFO Services
Flexible Rates Based Upon Need
30+ Years of Experience
www.catamountaccountingfinance.com
415-786-7751 • Springfield, VT

FOOD SHELF
BLACK RIVER GOOD NEIGHBOR SERVICES
37B Main St, Ludlow, VT 05149
Hours: Monday-Friday, 10 AM–3 PM
Phone: 802-228-3663
www.brgn.org
"We are here to help"
Serving Ludlow, Mt. Holly, Belmont, Cavendish, Proctorsville & Plymouth

David Chaves EXCAVATING
Family Owned & Operated Since 1980
Complete Site Work
From Clearing to Finish
Grading, Roads, Foundations
Septics & Drainage Problems
Specializing In
Equine Land Development & Ponds
802-824-3140
Londonderry, VT
Sculpting your piece of Vermont to fit your Dreams!

BURTCO, INC. SELF STORAGE
Accepting cars, trucks, and boats
for heated winter storage and indoor cold storage
burtcoselfstorage.com

Advertise with us online!
WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

calendar

UPCOMING

NOV. 6 –

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church Street, will hold its annual First Friday fundraiser Thanksgiving dinner on Friday, Nov. 6, from 5-6:30 p.m. Donations will benefit the emergency fuel fund administered through SEVCA. The menu includes turkey and all the trimmings. There is a small suggested donation.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Friday Night Bingo at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, will be held on Nov. 6. This is open to the public. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., and games begin at 6 p.m. You must be 18 or older to play. Concessions will be available, no outside food or drink.

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 36 and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 36 will be hosting a ham and turkey raffle on Friday, Nov. 6, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at the American Legion Post 36, 133 Main Street. There will be 10 rounds with numerous prizes per round. This event is open to everyone.

NOV. 7 –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Gerry Grimo & The East Bay Dance Combo will perform at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 7-9 p.m. This will be a Roaring '20s-themed social dance. Dress in period costume for good fun. Small suggested donation. There is a large dance floor and comfortable seating. Snacks will be available, BYOB.

WESTMORELAND, N.H. – The Westmoreland United Church, 9 Village Common, will serve a pork supper on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 5-6:30 p.m. Eat in or take out.

NOV. 8 –

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – Alfred Hitchcock's 1955 film "The Trouble With Harry" will be screened at the Latchis Theatre, 50 Main Street, on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 2 p.m. Following the screening, there will be a conversation with Jeanine B. Fros and Hitchcock scholar Steven DeRosa, moderated by Vermont filmmaker Bess O'Brien. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.app.arts-people.com/?show=363578.

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – The Perkinsville Community Church, 35 Church Street, is excited to welcome back the Poor Cousins on Sunday, Nov. 8, from 4-5 p.m. Naomi Morse (fiddle, voice) and Emmet McGowan (guitar, voice) have been playing music together since they met in York, England, in 2006. Based in Vermont, the duo performs various styles of roots music, including American old time, New England, Irish, Quebecois, and Scottish, as well as their own arrangements of classical and popular pieces. This concert is free, and everyone is welcome.

NOV. 12 –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The New Hampshire Telephone Museum is coming to the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Nov. 12, at 1 p.m., to present the history of telecommunications from the race to the patent office, the liquid phone, and the undertaker who invented the dial system, plus telephone movie trivia. This program is open to the public at no cost. Bring your family and friends to enjoy this event.

NOV. 14 –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – There will be a cozy and delicious stick season dinner served at the Springfield Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Road, on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 5:30-7 p.m. The menu will include a variety of homemade lasagnas, including meat, vegetarian, and gluten free, as well as fresh garden salad, garlic bread, and dessert. You may eat in or take your meal out. The cost is discounted for children ages 5 and up.

NOV. 16 –

LUDLOW, Vt. – A Red Cross blood drive will be held on Monday, Nov. 16, from 12-5 p.m., at the Ludlow Community Center, 37 Main Street. To make an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 800-RED-CROSS.

NOV. 20-22 –

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Okemo Mountain School will be hosting its annual Ski Swap on Friday, Nov. 20, from 4-7 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 22, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the Round House at Jackson Gore. New and used equipment will include skis, snowboards, and gear. To sell your used equipment, it must be dropped off at the Round House on Saturday, Nov. 14, Sunday, Nov. 15, or Wednesday, Nov. 18, between 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. All sales will benefit the Okemo Mountain School, www.okemomountainschool.org.

NOV. 21 –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – A turkey dinner will be served at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Saturday, Nov. 21. Those who wish to attend must sign up by calling 603-678-0433 by 3:30 p.m. the day of the dinner. Please leave your name, how many dinners, a call-back number, and whether you will be eating in or taking your meal out. The menu will be turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes with gravy, squash, rolls with butter, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie.

RECURRING

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.

MONDAYS –

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main Street, hosts the Black River Grief Support Group on the second Monday of every month, from 1-2 p.m. This is A safe space for individuals to share their experiences, find comfort, and learn coping strategies after a loss. Offered by Black River Good Neighbor Services. For more information, call 802-228-3663.

CHESTER, Vt. – American Legion Post 67, 637 Vermont Route 103, holds its monthly meetings on the second Monday of every month, at 7 p.m.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Bone Builders classes are held at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Monday mornings, from 9-10 a.m. These no-impact weight training classes are designed to increase or maintain bone density, improve balance, and decrease the risk for falls and fractures. They are free if you are a member of the senior center, or a small fee per session for nonmembers

TUESDAYS –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds chair yoga every Tuesday morning, at 9:45 a.m., with Brianna Renner. Free for members, small entry fee for nonmembers. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Tai Chi Vermont-certified teacher Jo Bregnard will lead a weekly Yang 24 tai chi practice online and in person from the Springfield Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Road, from 10-11 a.m., on Tuesday from Nov. 17 – April 27. All are welcome, and all classes will be recorded. For pricing details and to sign up, visit studio.jobregnard.com/product/96859.

WEDNESDAYS –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Bone Builders classes are held at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Wednesday mornings, from 9-10 a.m. These no-impact weight training classes are designed to increase or maintain bone density, improve balance, and decrease the risk for falls and fractures. They are free if you are a member of the senior center, or a small fee per session for nonmembers.

THURSDAYS –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Women's pool games are played every Thursday, from 12-3 p.m., at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights. Come be a part of this fun activity with likeminded women. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Memory Cafe is held on the second Thursday of each month, at the United Church of Ludlow, 48 Pleasant Street, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The memory cafe is free to attend, snacks included, and offers a safe and comfortable space where caregivers and their loved ones living with dementia or Alzheimer's can socialize, listen to music, play games, and enjoy other appropriate activities. This is a program of Black River Good Neighbor Services. For more information, contact Vicki at 802-376-3388, or Krey at 802-228-3663.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds computer clinics on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month, from 12:20-3 p.m. Bring your computer or laptop in if you need help with it. This is for seniors older than 50 only. Emily and Luke will help you troubleshoot any problems you are having. This is a free service, except for the cost of replacement parts. They can also help you with your cell phone, especially Android phones. To make an appointment, call the senior center at 603-543-5998.

FRIDAYS –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Bone Builders classes are held at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Friday mornings, from 9-10 a.m. These no-impact weight training classes are designed to increase or maintain bone density, improve balance, and decrease the risk for falls and fractures. They are free if you are a member of the senior center, or a small fee per session for nonmembers.

LEGAL NOTICES

Two Rivers Supervisory Union
Employment opportunity, part-time bus driver

The Green Mountain Unified School District is seeking a part-time bus driver. This school year position includes 4 to 6 hours of driving per day in the morning and afternoon. Additional hours are available. Class B CDL license with a school bus endorsement is required along with a background check and DOT medical card. Visit www.schoolspring.com/jobdetail?jobId=5936331 for more information.

CITY OF CLAREMONT

The City of Claremont, NH is soliciting formal proposals for the following:

Highway – 10-Ton Deck Over Trailer
Highway – Equipment Trailer
Highway – Loader
Sewer – Backhoe
Water – Pipe Truck

All Proposals Due: November 30th, 11:00 AM
Public Bid Openings: December 2nd, beginning at 10:00 AM
~Please check the RFP specifications for bid opening times.
~When mailing your bids, please mark your envelope(s) according to the instructions listed on the website for the equipment you are bidding on.

Bid Opening Location: City of Claremont City Hall, 58 Opera House Square, Claremont, NH 03743. For detailed information, please visit the City's Procurement Opportunities page at https://www.claremontnh.com.

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY

The Town of Londonderry is soliciting bids to plow and sand the Transfer Station for the coming 2026-2027 winter season, with an option to contract for the next two seasons as well. Proposals are due on November 12, 2026, no later than 3:00 pm. Navigate to our RFP page at www.londonderryvt.gov/rfpsto see the full bid document.

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY VERMONT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Londonderry Development Review Board will meet at 100 Old School St at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 5:30 to hold a public hearing for :

An application from Antone Dias for a mixed commercial residential use at land he owns at 2000 North Main St

An application from Matt Fournier & Higher Elevations LLC for a tiny home park on land they own at 441 Magic Mt Access Rd.

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

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

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT **PROBATE DIVISION**
Windsor Unit **Docket No.: 26-PR-05933**

In re ESTATE of : Marilyn A. Mahusky

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Marilyn A. Mahusky, *Decedent*
late of Chester, Vermont, *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: 10/29/2026 *Signature of Fiduciary*

Executor/Administrator		*Mailing Address*
Brian S. Anderson c/o Barry J. Polidor, Esq.		PO Box 279 | 64 Chester Road
Phone Number	*Email*	*City, State, Zip*
(802) 885-4530	polidorlaw@gmail.com	Springfield, VT 05156

Name of Publication: Vermont Journal
Publication Date: November 4, 2026
Name of Probate Court: Windsor Probate Court
Address of Probate Court: 12 The Green, Woodstock, VT 05091

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT **PROBATE DIVISION**
Windsor Unit **Docket No.: 26-PR-04532**

In re ESTATE of : George Noor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: George Noor, *Decedent*
late of Chester, *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: 10-27-26 *Signature of Fiduciary*

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

Name of Publication: The Vermont Journal
Publication Date: November 4, 2026
Name of Probate Court: Verrmont Superior Court, Windsor Unit
Address of Probate Court: 12 The Green, Woodstock, VT 05091

LEGAL NOTICES classy & opinion

Dear Editor,

The tables are folded, the shoppers have gone home, and the volunteers who worked the fall rummage sale at Fletcher Farm have probably earned a chance to rest. But the need the sale was organized to meet is not seasonal.

That is the point I hope residents of Ludlow and the surrounding Black River Valley carry away from the Oct. 17 letter by Black River Good Neighbor Services in The Vermont Journal. Executive Director Krey Kellington thanked the community for supporting the sale and explained that its proceeds help sustain a food shelf, clothing assistance, community meals, and financial and disaster assistance. These services reach Ludlow, Mount Holly, Belmont, Cavendish, Proctorsville, and Plymouth.

There is a lesson here that Christians ought to recognize. In Galatians 6, the apostle Paul tells believers to bear one another's burdens. He is not describing the feeling of being generous for one afternoon. Carrying a burden means remaining concerned when the task is no longer convenient or visible.

Rummage sales bring neighbors together in a way that has its own value. A shopper may find an affordable winter coat. Someone clearing a closet can give a useful item a second life. Volunteers work side by side and meet people they might not otherwise know. Those are good things. Yet the greater achievement is what happens later, when a neighbor who has fallen behind on necessities can receive help without being made to feel like a problem.

I am writing from Fort Collins, Colo., and have never volunteered at Fletcher Farm or used the services in Ludlow. I can nevertheless appreciate what the organization's message asks of its own community. The next good step is not simply another round of applause for the people who made the sale happen. It is asking what kind of support the food shelf, clothing program, and community meals will need in an ordinary week this winter.

That question deserves a practical answer from residents who know local circumstances. Some may have time for a shift. Others may be able to offer goods, financial support, or a useful professional skill. Families who need assistance should also know that seeking it does not diminish their dignity. The organization identifies its location as 37B Main Street in Ludlow and provides information about its services through its office.

Jesus taught that loving a neighbor is not the same as being noticed for generosity. In Matthew 25, He takes the needs of hungry and vulnerable people seriously. Christian faith has to reach past our warm feelings and into dependable action. It should also resist turning someone's hardship into a story told for our own praise.

So, thank the volunteers. Celebrate the successful sale. Then remember that a neighbor who needs groceries in February has not missed the season of compassion. The work of loving our neighbors continues after the last table is put away.

Sincerely,
Douglas Vandergraph
Fort Collins, Colo.

Dear Editor,

I recently attended the 36th annual World Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants Conference in Philadelphia – perhaps one of the last gatherings to include several Holocaust survivors. Those survivors were very young children when the Nazi persecution of European Jews began. Today, they fear that when their voices are gone, their stories will be forgotten.

As a founder of Vermont Holocaust Memorial, a child of Holocaust survivors ("2G") and descendant of its victims, I feel a profound responsibility to preserve their legacy. I attended with my daughter, a member of the third generation ("3G"), who is now carrying the mantle of remembrance in her own community. Watching her generation step forward gives me hope, but the urgency of their mission was unmistakable.

Throughout the conference, participants spoke of growing antisemitism, Holocaust denial, and false equivalencies that distort history. They worry that the Holocaust will become a footnote in history books rather than a defining lesson about the consequences of hatred, dehumanization, and indifference.

Eighty-one years after the end of World War II, its effects continue to haunt survivors and their descendants. Conference sessions explored intergenerational trauma, survivor guilt, and a particularly poignant question: "Are we allowed to be happy?" The Holocaust did not end emotionally when the war ended. Its losses reverberate through families, shaping identities and leaving absences that can never be filled.

As we commemorate the 88th anniversary of Kristallnacht, "The Night of Broken Glass," on Nov. 9–10, I am reminded that history is not something that happened only to others. I grew up with the knowledge that my grandfather, aunts, uncles, and cousins had been murdered simply because they were Jewish. I never had the opportunity to get to know them. Before the war, they were ordinary people: shopkeepers, businesspeople, homemakers, students, and playful children. They had dreams and futures that were violently taken away.

Their life stories are part of my inheritance. Descendants of Holocaust survivors and victims carry that legacy, whether they recognize it or not. We inherit the memories, the silences, and the responsibility to ensure that those who were murdered are remembered as individuals, not merely as statistics.

Yet, remembrance must also inspire hope. At the conference, the 3G participants spoke with resilience, confidence, and joy. They are finding new ways to preserve history, using technology and social media to share their experiences and stand proudly in their Jewish identities. Their voices are a breath of fresh air. They reminded us that honoring the past does not mean surrendering the future.

But hope alone is not enough. We must act.

Vermont remains one of the very few states without a requirement to teach the Holocaust in its secondary schools. Although many dedicated Vermont educators ensure that students learn this history, education should not depend on an individual teacher's initiative or a school's priorities.

Every student deserves to learn about Jewish life before, during, and after the Holocaust, what happened, and how an "enlightened" society descended into genocide. Students must understand the roles of perpetrators, bystanders, and those who resisted. They need historically accurate, carefully vetted resources that help them recognize antisemitism, challenge propaganda, and distinguish historical fact from deliberate distortion.

Vermont Holocaust Memorial supports educators through annual professional development workshops, exhibits, projects, and a speaker's bureau. These efforts are invaluable, but they cannot substitute for a consistent, statewide commitment.

When Holocaust education is not required, students may graduate without the meaningful understanding of one of history's most consequential atrocities. That allows room for ignorance, denial, and the normalization of prejudice. We cannot leave such an essential responsibility to chance. If it is not in the curriculum, it can be said that it never happened!

As survivors pass, the obligation to bear witness falls to their children, grandchildren, educators, and communities. Our task is not simply to preserve their testimony, but to ensure that the lessons remain relevant to each new generation. It is about equipping students with the knowledge to recognize where hatred leads and the courage to challenge it.

Vermont must make Holocaust education a priority by establishing a statewide requirement and ensuring that teachers have the proper training and resources to teach it responsibly.

I left the conference encouraged by my daughter's generation, but also mindful of what is at stake. When the last of the Holocaust survivors are gone, the world will still need witnesses. Vermont must ensure that future generations are prepared to carry the responsibility forward.

Sincerely,
Debora Steinerman, Co-founder
Vermont Holocaust Memorial
Jeffersonville, Vt.

CLEAN OUTS + MORE

EZ-Dump Enterprises has a 15-yard dump trailer available for rent. 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.

ELECTRICIAN

LEVI ELECTRIC – 917-417-7880 levielectricvt.com – Trusted residential electrician with 10+ years of experience. Upgrades, lighting, EV chargers, panels, service calls. Proctorsville-based. Quality work, fair pricing, free estimates.

FOR RENT

CHESTER, Vt. – Share home with LGBTQ-friendly couple offering lovely furnished space on rural property with saltwater fish, two dogs, chickens. $650/month. Compatible dog considered. No smoking. Covid vaccine required. 802-863-5625 or www.HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

FOR SALE

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – 2017 Volvo XC70 with 236,000 miles, 95% OEM replacement parts, currently inspected. Timing belt etc. replaced at 189,000, low compression in two cylinders, hard steering and turbo may need servicing. Great family project car. $1,700 OBO. Email usa67401@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED

LUDLOW/CHESTER, Vt. – Do you live in Ludlow or Chester and participate in local selectboard meetings? Write for us! Please email publisher@vermontjournal.com or call 802-228-3600.

SNOW PLOWING

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

Dear Editor,

Would you please join me in donating blood every five weeks in Ludlow?

I am the coordinator of the American Red Cross blood drives, held at the Ludlow Community Center as well as at the Ludlow American Legion in the summer. Years ago, my highest number of donors was 75, but I can't seem to get above 40 these days. It takes about an hour of your time and does so much good for your own body and another person in need.

Thank you to my regular, loyal donors. Please encourage first-time donors. For more information, visit www.redcrossblood.org. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Abi Karner
Ludlow, Vt.

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

Email ads@vermontjournal.com with your listing today

OPINION POLICY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Subject to space. May be edited for clarity, grammatical errors, and libelous statements. Must be kept under 400 words. Must include name and town for publication.

REBUTTALS: In the event that a direct reply or rebuttal to a letter is published, each party will get only one rebuttal thereafter.

All opinion pieces will be published in the opinion section of the newspaper. Viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal.

NOW HIRING DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ZONING TOWN OF LUDLOW, VT

The Town of Ludlow seeks a qualified professional to lead municipal planning, zoning administration, permitting, and community development.
Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in a related field or 3–5 years of planning/zoning experience. Vermont land-use knowledge preferred.
Benefits: Comprehensive health, dental, life and disability insurance; retirement plan; paid leave and holidays.
Salary: Commensurate with experience.
Apply: Submit cover letter, resume and three professional references to Penny Wu, Municipal Manager, at PWu@ludlow.vt.us or Town of Ludlow, PO Box 359, Ludlow, VT 05149.
Position Open until filled. Equal Opportunity Employer.
For more Application and Job Description details: go to our website: www.ludlow.vt.us

YOUR CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT BEGINS HERE

The Town of Ludlow Police Department is seeking a highly motivated individual ready to begin a career in law enforcement.

We'll sponsor and pay you to attend the Vermont Police Academy, upon successful program completion, a position with the Ludlow Police Department awaits you.

Starting pay: During entry-level training: $26.47/hour with benefits including insurances/pension
Submit cover letter/resume/ and employment application (www.ludlow.vt.us) to Chief Jeffrey Warfle via email Jeffrey.warfle@vermont.gov

Your career. Your community. Your opportunity.
APPLY TODAY!

Town of Ludlow, Vermont FT Patrol Officer Job Opening

Ludlow Police Department is accepting applications for a Full-Time Patrol Officer.

Seeking motivated certified candidates. Lateral transfers and out-of-state certified officers are encouraged to apply. Competitive starting pay is $30.96–$49.49/hour, commensurate with level of certification/experience, plus shift differentials of 5% and 7%.

Excellent benefits, including but not limited to, Insurance/ Pension/ PTO.

Must possess a valid driver's license, pass background, physical, psychological exams, and meet Vermont Criminal Justice Council requirements.

To apply: Submit resume, cover letter, and completed application to Chief Jeffrey Warfle at Jeffrey.warfle@vermont.gov. Application is available on Town's website www.ludlow.vt.us

yellow page BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Art Crafts Gifts

CREATE TOGETHER AT FLETCHER FARM
Discover your creative side - Workshops, studio hours, youth camps, and private events for everyone!
Ludlow, VT 802-228-8770 www.CreateTogetherVT.org
(12/09/26 - 52)

GALLERY AT THE VAULT
Art, Crafts, Gifts, Exhibits & Workshops
68 Main St., Springfield VT 802-885-7111 galleryvault.org
OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5
Upcoming Workshops
Needle-Felted Holiday Ornaments w/ Lisa Caron Hickey Nov. 7
Raku Pottery w/ Andrew Berends Nov. 7 & 14
Make a Wreath w/ Joanna Bombadil Nov. 21
Info & sign up: https://galleryvault.org/workshops/
Open Wall - ***Nature's Jewels*** Oct. 21 to Dec. 26
(01/06/27 - TFN - 13)

Builders/Contractors

A&J'S PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
Tree service – no job too big or too small. "Dangerous Trees are our Specialty." Also offering general contracting. Free Estimates & Fully Insured. 802-376-7000.
(01/20/27 - 13)

HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC
Navy Seabee Veteran owned. We pride ourselves on customer service, and getting the job done right the first time. We are looking to book up our season. Decks, custom tile shower, siding, doors, windows, drywall, foundation repair, you name we do it. Check us out on Instagram @nedthehammer. Ned Mortensen, cell 802-376-3275, edwin.mortensen@gmail.com.
(03/17/27 - 52)

PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION
Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville. 802-558-5267.
(11/11/26 - 13)

THE SEMI RETIRED PAINTER
Painting Interior and Exterior
All work done by the person you are paying
Small Honey Do List Projects as well
802-263-9693 rogcaw@msn.com
Roger, Perkinsville, VT
(01/27/27 - 13)

Chiropractor

FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC
Dr. Denise Natale 58 Parker Avenue, Proctorsville, VT 05153, 802-226-7977 Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(08/11/27 - TFN - 52)

Masonry

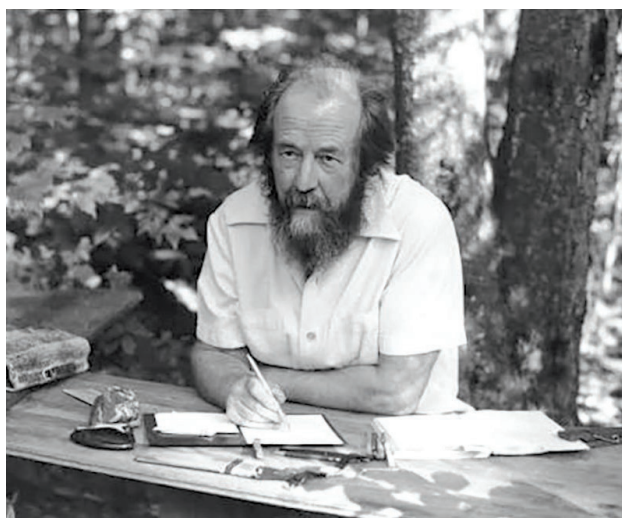
DRC STONE DESIGN
Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 39 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or stoneart49@gmail.com or visit drcstonedesign.com.
(11/18/26 - 13)

MOORE MASONRY
Fireplaces, chimneys and liners, chimney sweeps, patios, walls, steps, restoration and repairs. Fully insured, free estimates. Contact Gary Moore at 802-824-5710 mooremasonry802@gmail.com.
(04/07/27 - 26)

home & history

"Solzhenitsyn in Vermont" exhibit in Cavendish

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – In celebration of the Russian writer, Soviet dissident, and Nobel Laureate Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, who moved to Cavendish 50 years ago, the Cavendish Historical Society (CHS), in conjunction with the Cavendish Fletcher Memorial Library, is pleased to announce the exhibit "Solzhenitsyn in Vermont." This exhibit was developed by the Vermont Historical Society in honor of Solzhenitsyn's 100th birthday in 2018, and is currently on loan to CHS and the library.



Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn at his outside writing desk in Cavendish, Vt.

PHOTO PROVIDED

The "Solzhenitsyn in Vermont" exhibit celebrates the life and work of Russian novelist and historian Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, particularly his time living in Cavendish, Vt., and its influence on his life and work. Telling the story through photographs, quotes, and family memories, the exhibit includes five main exhibit panels, along with four timeline panels noting important moments from Solzhenitsyn's life.

The exhibit is now on display at the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library, 753 Main Street, Proctorsville, until Dec. 5. In addition to the CHS display are the autographed books Solzhenitsyn donated to the town upon his return to Russia.

The library is open to the public Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. For more information, or to arrange other times, call 802-226-7807 or email margocaulfield@icloud.com.

Podcast episode explores the life of James Hartness

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – What do precision manufacturing, Vermont politics, aviation, and amateur astronomy have in common? The answer is James Hartness, the innovative Vermont industrialist and governor whose influence can still be seen and felt in Springfield nearly a century after his death.



James Hartness with his most successful invention, the flat turret lathe.

PHOTO PROVIDED

The latest episode of the history podcast "That's One for the History Books," hosted by Marty Cohn and Hugh Ryan, explores the fascinating and largely underappreciated life of Hartness in Episode 177, "James Hartness – Vermont's Inventive Governor and Stargazer."

Hartness was much more than a successful businessman. Born in 1861, he entered the workforce as a young man and developed his expertise in the machine shop. He eventually joined the Jones & Lamson Machine Company in Springfield, where his innovations in precision machining helped transform American manufacturing.

"He approached virtually everything with the mind of an engineer," says Cohn. "Whether he was improving a manufacturing process, running state government, looking toward the future of aviation, or studying the stars, Hartness was interested in finding better ways to understand and improve the world around him."

The episode explores Hartness' contributions to precision manufacturing, including his patented inventions and his efforts to improve workplace conditions and education for employees. But perhaps the most surprising part of Hartness' story is his passion for astronomy.

At the Hartness House in Springfield, Hartness constructed an underground observatory featuring a retractable roof. His interest in astronomy brought him into contact with Russell W. Porter, an artist, Arctic explorer, engineer, and amateur astronomer whose extraordinary ability to visualize and explain telescope design helped make astronomy accessible to a broader audience.

Together, Hartness and Porter helped inspire the formation of Springfield Telescope Makers Inc., which ultimately led to the creation of Stellafane Observatory.

"Stellafane means 'shrine to the stars,' and the name captures something important about Hartness' vision," says Ryan. "Astronomy wasn't supposed to belong only to professional scientists. People could build their own telescopes, learn from one another, and explore the universe together."

That philosophy continues today through the annual Stellafane Convention, which brings amateur telescope makers and astronomy enthusiasts to Springfield from across the country.

The episode also examines Hartness' interest in emerging technology. Following the Wright brothers' historic flight, Hartness became an early supporter of aviation in Vermont, recognizing the potential of flight to transform transportation and commerce.

In 1921, Hartness brought that same practical, forward-looking approach to Vermont's Statehouse when he became governor. His administration focused on modernizing government, improving infrastructure, supporting economic development, and encouraging education and civic engagement.

Hartness also governed during a pivotal moment in American history, shortly after ratification of the 19th Amendment gave women the constitutional right to vote.

"James Hartness is a particularly interesting figure because his story crosses so many different parts of American history," Cohn says. "He represents the industrial transformation of the early 20th century, the modernization of government, the emergence of aviation, and the democratization of science. And all of those stories come together in Springfield."

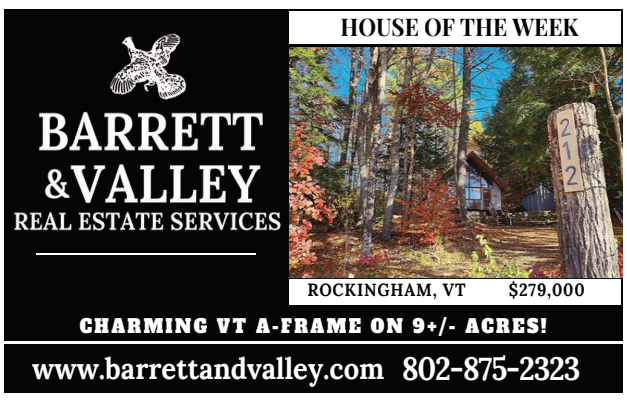
"That's One for the History Books" is a weekly podcast hosted by Cohn and Ryan that brings to light the stories of influential Americans whose contributions may have been overlooked or underappreciated.

Episode 177, "James Hartness – Vermont's Inventive Governor and Stargazer," is available now. Listeners are encouraged to share the episode with anyone interested in Vermont history, American innovation, manufacturing, astronomy, or the remarkable stories of people who helped shape their communities.

A collection of the podcast's third year of weekly scripts, "That's One for the History Books, Vol. 3," is also available in paperback and digital editions through Amazon. For more information about the podcast and upcoming episodes, follow "That's One for the History Books" wherever you listen to podcasts.



















arts, events & outdoor

Wild Goose Players present "Assassins"

PUTNEY, Vt. – The Wild Goose Players will bring one of American musical theater's most provocative and darkly humorous masterpieces to the stage this November with a new production of Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman's "Assassins." The limited-run production will be hosted at Next Stage Arts in Putney, Vt., offering seven performances across two weekends.

"Assassins" is a multi-Tony-Award-winning musical that bends time and space to bring a rogue's gallery of history's most notorious figures together. From John Wilkes Booth to Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, the musical explores the motives, delusions, and twisted American dreams of nine individuals who attempted – or succeeded in – assassinating a president of the United States. Driven by a brilliant, carnivalesque score by the legendary Stephen Sondheim, the production combines a terrifyingly sharp script with powerful music to look beneath the surface of American history.

Brought to life by the acclaimed local performers of the Wild Goose Players, this production promises a striking, intimate look at a masterwork of contemporary musical theater.

"We are excited to bring 'Assassins' to the Putney community at Next Stage Arts," said David Stern. "Sondheim's work is fiercely smart, challenging, and profoundly theatrical. It is a piece that provokes deep thought while delivering unforgettable musical performances, making it a perfect fit for our company and our audience."

The production, directed by Morganna Ekkens, features local favorites, including Isaiah LaPierre-Palmer, of Keene, as John Wilkes Booth; Shayna Bredbeck, of Bellows Falls, as Sara Jane Moore; and Liam Johnson, of Brattleboro, as the Balladeer. Musical direction is led by Carol Cronce, with scenic and lighting design by David Stern.

Evening performances will be held on Nov. 6, Nov. 7, Nov. 12, Nov. 13, and Nov. 14, at 7:30 p.m. Matinee performances will be held on Nov. 8 and Nov. 14, at 2 p.m. All performances will take place at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt. Tickets are discounted for seniors and students, and can be purchased in advance online at www.wildgooseplayers.com or at the box office prior to showtime. Due to the intimate layout of the venue and high anticipation for this production, booking tickets in advance is strongly recommended.

This production contains mature themes and historical depictions of violence, making it best suited for older adolescents and adult audiences.

Decatur Creek and Patty Keough at Stage 33 Live –

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Decatur Creek and Patty Keough split the bill in a 3 p.m. matinee on Nov. 8, at Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge Street in Bellows Falls, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance through www.stage33live.com, or at the door as available. Advance tickets guarantee entry. Only 40 tickets will be sold. All ticket money goes to the performers.

Doug Farrell, Jack Henry, and Beth Eldridge – each a talented singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist – banded together to form Decatur Creek, blending their solo styles to create an original acoustic sound. Influences run from traditional and roots Americana to country and folk, with well-crafted songs, warm vocals with tight harmonies, and crisp musicianship that flows with rhythm, soul, and wit. Decatur Creek is one of the region's real gems.

Keough, after spending time in the corporate mines, took to the stage and never looked back. She writes songs that get people crying; tears of laughter, or shared sorrow. She lives off grid in Vermont with farming friends, plenty of wine, and lots of cats. She does animal rescue – mostly cats, as they're 75% of the stray population – and uses all of her performance income, tips, and donations in her rescue activities.

Eli Burakian author talk on hiking in New Hampshire –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Author and nature photographer Eli Burakian will be presenting a talk on hiking in New Hampshire on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m., sponsored by The Well Collaborative, at 72 Pleasant Street in Claremont, N.H.

Burakian is a photographer, writer, and adventurer from Brownsville, Vt. He has published numerous books over the past two decades, including several hiking guidebooks about the northeast for Falcon Guides. In his talk, he will be sharing images and stories from his most recent guidebook, "101 Classic Hikes of the Northeast," and explaining what it takes to put together a guidebook.

Film showing honors Native American Heritage Month —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Filmmaker Andrea Sadler will help the Friends of the Rockingham Free Public Library in Bellows Falls celebrate Native American Heritage Month when she presents her 55-minute documentary "The Sacred Run, the lotus and the feather," on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 12-1:30 p.m., at the Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls.

The film traces the 1995 ceremonial run by indigenous peoples of the Americas, Japan, and 14 countries, carrying the message "All Life Is Sacred." Their journey concluded in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, marking the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombings.

Manna Jo Greene, the founder of Hudson Valley Sustainable Communities Network, describes the film, saying, "'The Sacred Run' weaves together the feather of ancient Native American wisdom with the lotus of Buddhism and indigenous Japanese traditions, showing that all people are one at heart – that we can be united in community, while honoring diversity. It is a powerful call for peace and justice."

A native of Ontario, Canada, world-traveling filmmaker Sadler is an activist for peace, social justice, and the environment. Over the years since she participated in the Sacred Run, she has hosted and joined many other peace walks. Besides her filmmaking and work as a transformational coach, she acts in theater, film, and television. No matter what the medium, Sadler explores balancing spirit through the heart. "I am passionate about consciousness," she explains. "How do we live on the earth in a balanced way with respect for all life? I'd like to inspire us towards awareness of life that flows through everything. This film is very close to my heart and soul."

This event is free and open to all.

Local author romantasy novel

REGION – Local author Jaye Kinton has released her new novel, "Edge," set in the Upper Valley of Vermont. Kinton has been writing almost since she could wield a pen. In the past, her articles have appeared in The Vermont Standard, The Valley News, Local Banquet magazine and other publications, but she much prefers writing dark fantasy.

According to the novel's description, "In the pastoral backwoods of Woodstock, Vermont, something is waking up. Something that will change the shape of the world as we know it. It begins with the arrival of the mysterious fire dancers. It begins with the twisted shadows, and with a sinister sorcerer. It begins – and ends – with ancient beings from before the dawn of time, and with the chill whisper of humanity's demise.

"This is life on Edge, where worlds collide, the lines between waking and dreaming blur, and darkness and danger lurk without and within. Where nothing is as it seems, and forbidden love comes with a catastrophic price. And where you're forced to reassess everything you believe, and everything you think you know about reality."

For more information or to purchase, visit www.edge-thenovel.blogspot.com.



SANEL NAPA
Auto Parts • HD Truck • Paint & Body
Kevin "Coach" Tallman
Industrial & Commercial Outside Sales
Serving the Southern Vermont Tier:
Brattleboro, Bellows Falls, Londonderry & Springfield, VT
(802) 738-8686
ktallman@sanelnapa.com

OVER 2000
BROKEN-IN TIRES
MANY SETS OF 4
GOODYEAR CANON TIRE, INC.
CANON TIRE
I-91, Exit 8, Ascutney, VT
802-674-5600
NEW TIRES TOO!!

LAWRENCE & LOBER ELECTRIC
Residential-Commercial-Generator-Fire Alarm-Security
UL Listed 24 Hour Monitoring
www.llelectricservices.com • info@llelectricservices.com
15 Barker St.
Bellows Falls, VT 05101
Tel: 802-460-3479
Fax: 802-460-3480

GREATER FALLS INSURANCE
serving VT and NH since 1996
Home • Auto • Farm • Business • Motorcycle • Recreational Vehicles
7190 US Route 5 • Westminster, Vermont 05158
802-463-1900 • www.greaterfallsinsurance.com

45 TAYLOR HILL
ATHENS, VT 05143
FULLY INSURED
FREE ESTIMATES
TAYLOR EXCAVATING LLP
TRUCKING & EXCAVATING
SEPTIC SYSTEMS, LAND CLEARINGS, DRIVEWAYS
COMPLETE HOUSE SITES
LANDSCAPING, WALL BUILDING
LAWN MOWING, SNOWPLOWING AND SANDING
802-869-2905 802-289-1508
DAN

PLUMBING & HEATING
FIBER INSULATION • ELECTRIC SUPPLIES
LAMBERT SUPPLY CO. INC.
YOUR ONE STOP BUILDING & MODERNIZING CENTER
409 Main Street • 603-542-5111
CLAREMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03743
LOU@LAMBERTSUPPLY.COM
MASONRY PRODUCTS

ONE STOP FOR ALL YOUR BUILDING NEEDS
DEPOT HOME CENTER
HELP WANTED
Part-Time & Full-Time, Inside and Out
ROOF RAKES, KEROSENE, HEAT TAPES, SLEDS, ICE MELTS,
PROPANE & ELECTRIC HEATER, PLUMBING SUPPLIES, WOOD PELLETS
Reg & Jan Bailey, *Owners*
Box 390, 56 Depot St. • Charlestown, NH 03603
Tel: 603-826-3251 • Fax: 603-826-5336
Open 7 Days a Week

R.E. HINKLEY CO., INC.
8 Lane Ridge Rd. • P.O. Box 832
Claremont, NH 03743
Heating Oil • Kerosene • Diesel Fuel
Propane • Air Conditioning • Plumbing
Systems Design • Installation & Service
~ Fully Insured ~
24/7 Emergency Service
www.rehinkey.com
(603) 543-3571

CHAVES EXCAVATING
ALL MATERIALS FOR COMPLETE SITE WORK
Sand • Gravel • Stone
Shurpac • Topsoil • Fill

5,000 lb. Hydraulic Hammer for Ledge & Rock Splitting
Portable On-Site Crushing & Screening Equipment
802-824-3140
Londonderry, VT

MORNINGSIDE
Service Station
• Custom Exhaust with Warranty
• Full Service Repair Facility
Veteran Owned & Operated
(603) 543-3166
16 Morningside Lane, Charlestown, NH

GENERAL AUTO SALVAGE CO. INC
New Hampshire and Vermont's Largest Auto Recycler!!!
WE BUY USED CARS & TRUCKS!
Complete – Delivered. Will pay $300 and up for 2014 or newer
800-562-3845 – 603-542-9595 – sales@generalautosalvage.com
239 Old Newport Road, Claremont, NH 03743

Create a wreath for the ESBR Festival of Wreaths fundraiser

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Expeditionary School at Black River (ESBR) will be hosting its first Festival of Wreaths fundraiser this upcoming holiday season. Local businesses and community members are welcome to participate. Simply acquire or create your own wreath or wreaths to decorate with your favorite themes to donate to the school. These wreaths will then be auctioned following the Fletcher Memorial Library's open house on Saturday, Dec. 5. Both events will be open to the public, who may view and bid on their favorite wreaths they hope to claim for their own festivities. All proceeds from the Festival of Wreaths will go to ESBR for local education. Please register for the Festival of Wreaths by Nov. 20 at www.esblackriver.org/first-annual-festival-of-wreaths-silent-auction. For more information and locations to purchase wreaths, please reach out to ESBR Chair Patrick Pullinen at ppullinen@esblackriver.org, ESBR Board Secretary Marissa Selleck at mselleck@esblackriver.org, or board member Melody Reed at melodious54@gmail.com.

ESBR is now in its seventh year of operation. As an independent school, ESBR offers a unique opportunity to utilize funding locally and help the community expand. Providing a specialized and financially viable secondary school option will help the community find ways to thrive. Further information on ESBR is available at www.esblackriver.org. If you would like to learn more about the school or get involved, please contact Head of School Michael Kell at mkell@esblackriver.org or visit www.esblackriver.org. Donations can be made by mailing a check to P.O. Box 485, Ludlow, VT 05149.

An evening of community storytelling

LUDLOW, Vt. – Vermont resident Samara Anderson is hosting storytelling events at every public library in Vermont, and you are invited. Come and join in on the creative and vulnerable act of storytelling on Thursday, Nov. 19, from 6-8 p.m., at Fletcher Memorial Library. Hear your neighbors and fellow Vermonters tell their stories, or sign up to share.

If you are interested in telling a story, email anderson_samara@yahoo.com. Anderson will provide details, support, and guidance. First-time storytellers are welcome and encouraged.

This program is free, open to the public, and accessible. Snacks will be available. Fletcher Memorial Library is located at 88 Main Street, Ludlow, Vt. For more information, visit www.fmlnew.org. or call 802-228-8921.

LARGEST SELECTION & LOWEST PRICES IN THE AREA!
Sale Ends NOV. 15TH
FREE DELIVERY AND REMOVAL OF OLD
AUMAND'S FURNITURE
WITHIN 50 MILES • PURCHASES OVER $600

ASHLEY

Mahoney — SOFA $499, LOVESEAT $469
Loreo — SOFA $559, LOVESEAT $539
Oltin — SOFA $569, LOVESEAT $539
Willowbend — SOFA $579, LOVESEAT $549
Allmaxx — SOFA $699, LOVESEAT $669
Lofwood — SOFA $719, LOVESEAT $679

Gaunlet — RECLINING SOFA OR CONSOLE LOVESEAT $789
Mackmenville — RECLINING SOFA OR CONSOLE LOVESEAT $829
Frohn — RECLINING SOFA OR CONSOLE LOVESEAT $839
Foreside — RECLINING SOFA OR CONSOLE LOVESEAT $899
Laresview — RECLINING SOFA OR CONSOLE LOVESEAT $899
Brysonview — RECLINING SOFA OR CONSOLE LOVESEAT $929

Best Home Furnishings

BALMORE — WALL HUGGER OR ROCKER $499
MILTON — WALL HUGGER OR ROCKER $619
RAIDER — WALL HUGGER OR ROCKER $629
MCGINNIS — WALL HUGGER OR ROCKER $639
MEXI — WALL HUGGER OR ROCKER $649
BROSMER — WALL HUGGER OR ROCKER $699

LA-Z-BOY

SHERMAN — ROCKER $549
NORTON — ROCKER $629
JASPER — ROCKER $679
MORRISON — RECLINING SOFA $1349, REC. LOVESEAT $1299, MATCHING RECLINER $679
JAY — RECLINING SOFA $1399, REC. LOVESEAT $1349, MATCHING RECLINER $719
TROUPER — RECLINING SOFA $1799, REC. LOVESEAT $1749, MATCHING RECLINER $819

LA-Z-BOY STATIONARY CLEARANCE - 50% OFF WHILE THEY LAST!

MACKENZIE, COLLINS, MEYER — YOUR CHOICE
SOFA---------- REG $1899 NOW $950
LOVESEAT---- REG $1799 NOW $900

SHILOH, CHARLIE — CHAIR & 1/2
REG $1899.99 NOW $750
REG $1899.99 NOW $750

PAXTON — LOVESEAT
REG $1899.99 NOW $750

POWER LIFT RECLINERS
OVER 75 IN STOCK
Jean $799
Destin $949

DOUBLE-SIDED BEDDING BY GOLD BOND
Made the Old Fashioned Way!
YOU CAN FLIP IT!

Kensington 3.0		Buckingham	
800 Pocketed Coils		1057 Pocketed Coils	
Firm, Plush, Pillow Top		Firm, Plush or Pillow Top	
TWIN	$599	TWIN	$899
FULL	$799	FULL	$1099
QUEEN	$899	QUEEN	$1299
KING	$1099	KING	$1649
10 YEAR WARRANTY		15 YEAR WARRANTY	

Eclipse

MOONLIGHT		ASTERIA	
YOUR CHOICE:X-FIRM, FIRM, CUSHION FIRM, PLUSH OR LUX PLUSH		COIL ON COIL YOUR CHOICE:X-SOFT, SOFT, MED, FIRM, OR X-FIRM	
TWIN	$479	TWIN	$649
FULL	$639	FULL	$869
QUEEN	$719	QUEEN	$969
KING	$959	KING	$1189

FREE 60-DAY LAYAWAY
AUMAND'S FURNITURE
Family Owned and Operated for 106 Years
12 MONTH INTEREST-FREE FINANCING
North Walpole, NH · Mon-Sat 8:30-5 · Sun 12-4 · 603-445-5321