

# JOURNAL

## OPINION

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July 28, 2021

## Frustrations remain even after broadband funds flow

by Linda Buermeyer

CORINTH—Dissatisfied with slow internet speeds while neighboring communities pay less for higher speeds, a group of Topsham Telephone customers has a new effort to call attention to their plight with highspeednow.org.

With more people working and learning online over the last 18 months, slow internet speeds in Corinth, Topsham, and other parts of the service area have intensified frustrations even as federal and state coronavirus relief funds targeted improvements.

In October, the Vermont Public Service Department awarded \$971,242.50 through the Vermont Universal Service Fund to Topsham Telephone, which has approximately 1,300 internet customers, to build a fiber network to reach 350 locations.

As of July 8, construction to 55 of those locations had been completed.

"We are now doing the installs of the 55," wrote an unnamed Topsham Telephone official in an email to Michael DeHart, the public service department's connectivity coordinator. "We are maybe halfway through, and we have most of the rest scheduled."

As a result of the construction, upload speeds of 25 Mbps and download speeds of 3 Mbps are now available at those locations, which were identified by state regulators as high priority locations.

The grant funding initially stipulated that construction must take place by a Dec. 31, 2020 deadline. That was extended to June 30, 2021 with final reports due July 15, 2021. Topsham Communications received an additional deadline extension to Aug. 16 when it states it will have completed fiber upgrades to an additional 296 locations identified by state regulators.

Regarding the timeframe, DeHart said, "The grant covers network

construction but does not cover in-home customer installation so Tops-Tele is in compliance with the state's requirements."

He further explained that the proposal process for the grants was very compressed, as was the construction timeline.

"Because applicants were not afforded much time to assemble their proposals, several current grantees including Topsham Telephone, have encountered unforeseen problems completing the work."

Sometimes, underground cable was required where it was not anticipated. In others, new pole construction was necessary.

Since the state funded so many simultaneous broadband construction projects with tight deadlines, contractor availability also became an issue heading into winter.

The 55 high priority locations are homes of school students with unmet distance learning needs and a medical center.

With the past year's difficulty in participating in remote learning and working from home, Topsham Telephone's poor quality internet forced one family to temporarily relocate to an area where internet is reliable and faster.

"We're working to fix this," wrote Topsham Telephone and Topsham Communications General Manager Bryan Marteeny in a July 19 communication to customers. "Topsham Telephone recognizes the demand for High-Speed Internet in our area. We will rise to meet this demand to better serve our community. We also recognize many of you are frustrated, unsatisfied and angry about the quality and cost of internet service. We take this very seriously and we are listening. ..."

See Frustrations on page 5

## New coffee shop packs a punch

by Linda Buermeyer

BRADFORD—A fresh jolt of energy arrived on Main Street in Bradford this spring.

Kendall and Travis Gendron of Corinth are the driving force behind Vittles House of Brews, a vibrant new destination for folks who crave a tasty cup of coffee.

Well-versed in the art of coffee brewing after her experience in Seattle coffee shops and some time managing a Starbucks, Kendall's 12-year dream of owning a coffee shop has materialized.

Of course, Vittles isn't new to Bradford. The Gendrons started their venture by launching the Vittles Espresso and Eatery a couple of years ago from a trailer on the Lower Plain near Kinney Drugs.

"When we found we had outgrown the stand, we started looking for space in Bradford," Kendall said in an interview.

Eventually, they found a natural fit.

In May, Vittles House of Brews opened for business where Local Buzz, owned by Sarah Copeland Hanzas, closed at the end of February after an 11-year run as downtown Bradford's coffee hub.

"I'm very excited for Vittles," said Copeland Hanzas. "It's fresh and new and is providing what folks expect in that base which is a good cup of coffee. It's great what Travis

and Kendall are doing."

Between the Buzz's closure and Vittles' opening, the Gendrons were busy. They redecorated the interior and painted the exterior.

"We are the decorators," Kendall said. "I put my heart and soul into the aesthetic of the shop. It's been 10 plus years in the making and I wanted to get it right."

Pleasing color and wall decorations greet patrons as they enter.

"I wanted to create a space that was moody, cozy and eclectic," Kendall said.

She knows how to use color to achieve the desired look.

Of the exterior hue, "I think the purple paint job helped with that, too!"

Kendall explained the meaning behind Vittles' goat head logo. There is a legend that the discovery of coffee began with goats. An Ethiopian goat herder noticed his herd acting rambunctiously and hyper after grazing on some berries. Those berries turned out to be coffee beans.

"The goat imagery also intersects with my love of horror movies and my overall aesthetic," she said.

With customers streaming in and out, Kendall is quick and

See Vittles on page 8



A fawn stops browsing to pose for a photographer.

JO PHOTO BY RICHARD SWENSON

## Board adopts lake road speed policy

by Meg Trogolo

FAIRLEE—The Fairlee Selectboard voted to enforce a zero tolerance policy for speed infractions on Lake Morey Road on July 19.

The town is considering posting new speed limit signs along the road, as well as collecting data on traffic and bicycle speeds around the lake, in an effort to make Lake Morey's recreational areas safer for pedestrians.

The Lake Morey Protective Association has been working with the selectboard to develop possible ways to address traffic on Lake Morey Road, and selectboard chair Peter Berger said that he wanted to prioritize collecting speed data as it would give the LMPA and board a

better understanding of the issue.

"We've been having discussions over the years about ways to handle the influx of both the camp traffic and out-of-towners, walking, biking, pedestrian," Berger said. "Capturing data would be my solution to know that [potential solutions] work."

The board also discussed the Main Street to Morey project, which aims to boost the local economy and bring more people and business to the section of Main Street between Lake Morey Road and the Fairlee Diner.

The Main Street to Morey

See Speed on page 5

## Groton warns vote on 2A resolution

by Meg Trogolo

GROTON—Groton will hold a special town meeting on Aug. 4 to vote on a resolution that would declare the town a "Second Amendment sanctuary."

If approved, the proposal would bar the town of Groton from using funds to store firearms that have been confiscated or are being stored "for the purpose of enforcing any other law that unconstitutionally infringes upon the right of the people of Groton, Vermont to keep and bear arms."

The resolution cites a number of U. S. Supreme Court decisions as well as Vermont state laws that require background checks for handgun and rifle purchases and prevent people from purchasing firearms under certain circumstances.

Groton resident Dan Webster wrote the resolution, which is two pages long.

In recent years, towns and counties across the United States have passed Second Amendment sanctuary resolutions in protest of perceived threats to gun ownership. The content of the resolutions varies greatly, with some simply affirming local opposition to gun control laws while others establish methods that local governments can push back against such laws.

Groton Selectboard Chair Wade Johnson Sr. said that given current federal and state gun laws, the resolution would not cause tangible changes for Groton if passed.

"I don't think there's going to be any difference in how the town government runs," Johnson said. "It depends on the administration that's in [federal] office about gun control."

Both Johnson and Webster expressed concern over the possibility of new federal and state gun laws.

"Our government is not adhering to constitutions. We have a governor that often times just votes whichever way the wind is blowing, and for the most part, he takes a very liberal look at the constitution,"

Webster said. "We have a president who is trying to take away from our first amendment rights. The right that seems to be the most under attack right now is the Second Amendment."

Vermont currently does not require residents to have any type of firearms license or training in order to purchase a gun, and both open and concealed carry are legal in the state. Residents cannot buy magazines that contain more than 10 rounds for long guns or more than 15 rounds for handguns.

President Joe Biden has proposed stronger enforcement of existing federal gun laws, particularly those that ban firearms trafficking and certain types of gun sales. His 2020 campaign website details plans to restrict gun sales, strengthen the federal background check system, and ban assault weapons, a term which his platform does not define.

Biden, however, has not moved towards repossessing guns from those who are currently legally allowed to possess them. In the first months of his term, he has not signed any major pieces of federal gun legislation into law.

In 2018, Gov. Phil Scott signed a law preventing most people under the age of 21 from purchasing guns in the state, requiring guns to be transferred through a licensed dealer, and banning bump stocks, which can make a semi-automatic firearm fire at the same rate as a fully automatic weapon.

Webster said that he wrote the Groton resolution when he learned that Burlington had adopted a "sanctuary city" policy, compliant with existing federal immigration laws, for undocumented immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

"Before that, the Second Amendment sanctuary town was basically symbolic, but it sets precedent that

See Groton on page 5

## Pavilion lined up for Elizabeth's Park

by Cheryl Thibeault

BRADFORD—Town officials hope a new building slated to go up later this year will make Elizabeth's Park an even more popular destination.

With financial support from the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation of Etna, New Hampshire and from a municipal fund set up by a late benefactor, Bradford Parks and Recreation Commission plans to build a new pavilion for community use in the fall.

For the past 10 years, children from Bradford and beyond have ice skated on a temporary rink at the park. The Bradford Fire Department floods the 100-by-40 rink and the surface is maintained with a creative Zamboni-type system on very cold nights. The rink has proven so popular with families that the selectboard started keeping the small outbuilding housing restrooms heated and open all winter.

In addition, Bradford Elementary School holds a weekly winter activity program, allowing students to experiment with a variety of outdoor activities, including Alpine and Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, sliding, and, of course, ice skating. The Bradford Parks and Recreation Commission made skates and helmets available for public use at the skating rink seven days a week throughout the season.

Because of the increased use, the commission has relied on a large pool of volunteers to help

shovel the rink after each snowfall. Several local businesses and families who regularly used the ice took up the responsibility.

But it's not just winter activities the pavilion is designed to shelter. After 2020, it became evident there was a strong need in the Bradford community for an outdoor space that could be used for community gatherings.

As a result of COVID-19, schools, churches, and community groups ceased many indoor activities, including church services and community meetings, in 2020. Last fall, BES rented two large tents for students to continue their music and physical education classes.

Discussions began between several members of the parks commission about how to address this need by building a pavilion-type structure on town property for community use. Eventually, they solicited bids in mid-May and they chose a \$75,000 proposal from Limlaw Construction, which came recommended by area farmers for their pole-barn-style wooden pavilions.

Much of the funding for the project comes from two sources. The Byrne Foundation has supplied a gift of \$20,000 and municipal Walter Lee Fund has pledged \$35,000.

Officials want to name the pavilion after Lee, the late resident

See Pavilion on page 5



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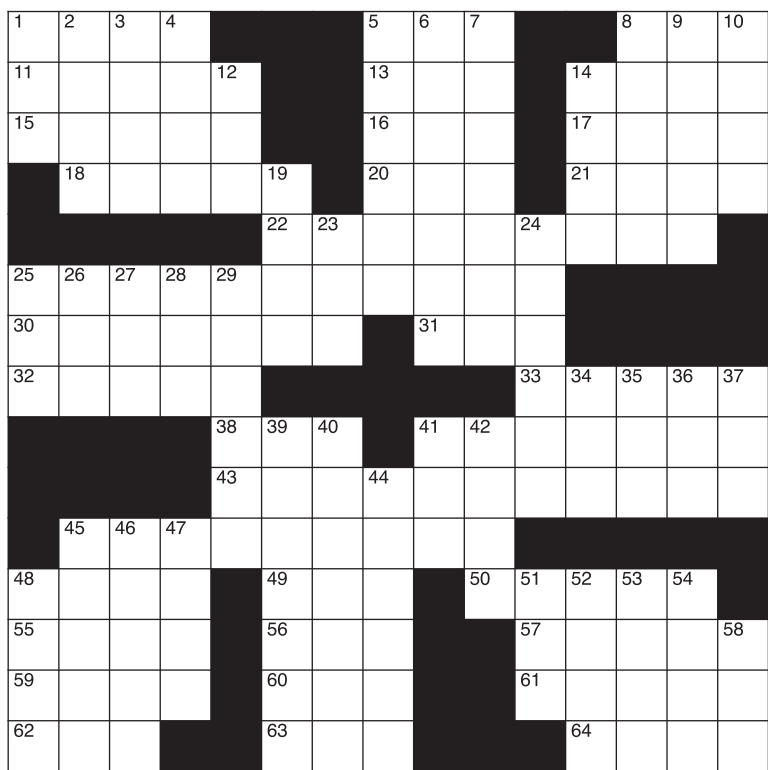
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 NORTH HAVERHILL—On Mondays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to noon, Drums Alive takes place under the tent at Horse Meadow Senior Center. Reservations are needed. Call 603-787-2539.

**CROSSWORD**



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Language group with Iranian influence
  - No seats available
  - Health insurance organization
  - Having a strong sharp smell or taste
  - Defunct European economic organization
  - Dutch word for "language"
  - Hard to penetrate
  - When you'll get there
  - Iranian city
  - Small fishes
  - Dry white wine drink
  - Turkish city
  - U.S.-born people
  - Synthetic resin
  - Major nerve in human body
  - Type of recording
  - Small drum
  - Alters
  - General's assistant (abbr.)
  - Venezuelan capital
  - Free of deceit
  - Member of Ancient Hebrew nation
  - Competition
  - Launch an attack on
  - Cavalry sword
  - Spiritual leader
  - One point east of due south
  - Afflicted
  - Database management system
  - Snake-like fish
  - Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
  - Small drink
  - Not wet
  - Impudence

- CLUES DOWN**
- Father
  - Performed perfectly
  - Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
  - Thin, compact object
  - One attempting to find something
  - No longer working
  - Egg-shaped wind instrument
  - Book of Genesis character
  - Volcanic craters
  - Brand of American automobile (slang)
  - Hip hop icon Kool Moe
  - Bangladeshi monetary unit
  - Self-immolation by fire ritual
  - Family of genes
  - Et \_ \_ \_ indicates further
  - Pacific Standard Time
  - S. American wood sorrel
  - Women's \_ movement
  - Chinese hoopster Ming
  - Layers of rock
  - Patriotic women's group
  - Solid water
  - Shade of brown
  - Very fast airplane
  - Put clothes on
  - Quality of one's character
  - Time zone
  - Primates
  - Pleasantly
  - Metrical feet
  - Rogue
  - German river
  - Relieves from
  - Swiss river
  - Prejudice
  - Actor Idris
  - Those who resist authority
  - Criticize

**Waits River**

Lois Butler  
 (802) 439-5174

The tent revival, led by Randall Butler, was a big attraction for Christians in the area as many people gathered under the tent last week.

Also under the tent was the memorial service for Lawrence Butler who died in April. Rev. Candace Ricker and Rev. Randall Butler officiated. Relatives and friends came from Texas, North Carolina, New Hampshire along with local residents. Thanks to all who came.

New Hope church had a salad supper on July 17. Quite a few people came to get salads in spite of all the things going on that night.

Church services at New Hope Methodist Church begin at 8:30 a.m. All are welcome. The Mountain View Church in West Topsham holds services at 10:30 a.m.

**Bradford**

Bobette Scribner  
 (802) 222-5456

Students are beginning to think about the end of summer and the beginning of school. Will this be a normal year with physical attendance or will many students still be remote? Is there a combination that some of them will use for maximum learning opportunities? One thing is for sure, future graduating classes will have different memories of high school than those who graduated in 2019 or earlier.

The community is opening back up. As I looked at last week's JO, there were so many ads. If you want or need a job, they are out there to find.

The challenges of school attendance may have left some middle and high school students unaware of their summer reading list. The Bradford Public Library can help you. Call them at 222-4536 for assistance.

We say goodbye to Phyllis Nemhauser, longtime Bradford resident and well known chef. Phyllis operated several restaurants in the local area. She was also very interested in her community. Young and old, Phyllis will be remembered by many.

The Bradford Academy's stage is coming alive with "Alice in Wonderland" the weekends of Aug. 13 and 20. Presented by the Old Church Theater group, Friday and Saturday shows are at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m.

Space on Main is sponsoring a Moonlight Parade on Aug. 22. Bring your paddleboard/kayak and meet at Bugbee Landing at 9 p.m. Glow sticks will be provided.

Fresh produce, dairy and sometimes bread and meat provided by Willing Hands and distributed by volunteers from HELP@fairleevt.org on Fridays

from 11 to 11:30 for anyone in the Upper Valley. Using the previous email, please request in advance. Reservations for the next week can also be made when picking up the food.

Bradford Flea Market on the Bradford Fairgrounds takes place Aug. 14 and 15. To request a vendor application, email thebradfordfair@gmail.com.

**Tours slated for new sub**

GROTON, CT—Tours of the USS Vermont are being offered by the crew of the USS Vermont at the Naval Submarine Base in Groton, Connecticut on Aug. 26 and 27 before the Commissioning Ceremony on August 28.

The USS Vermont is a Virginia-class, nuclear-powered attack submarine. The ship was commissioned last year, but the ceremony was delayed due to the pandemic.

Sign up for the tours are required, details and requirements can be found at: www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4daea92ba5f9c25-ussvermont

**FUN FACTS**

German chocolate cake doesn't come from Germany. It was named for a person, Sam German, who created a type of baking chocolate for Baker's in 1852.

**Good Local News!**



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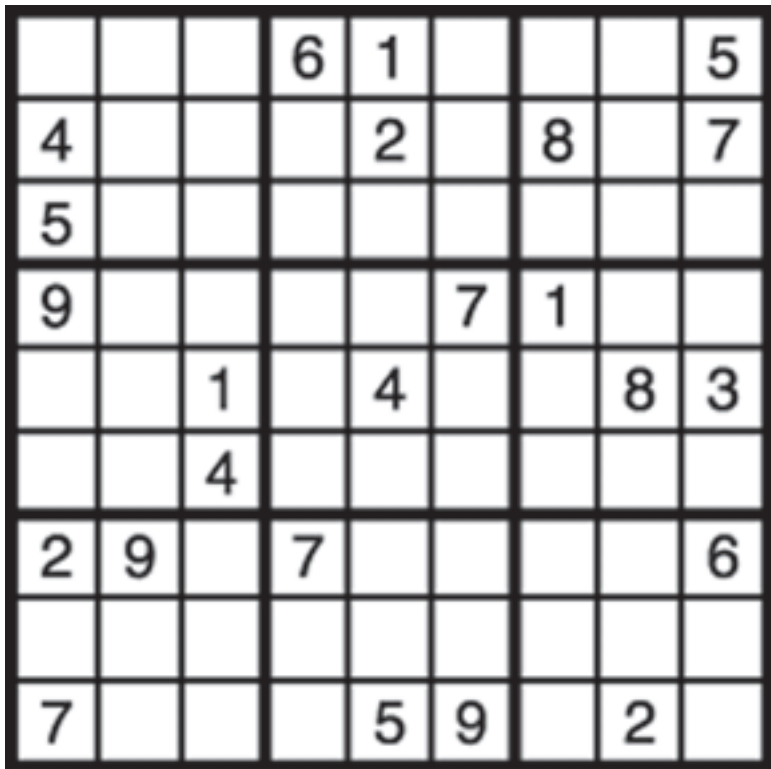
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East Corinth, VT  
 (802) 439-5321

Wells River, VT  
 (802) 757-2325

**ANSWERS ON PAGE 7**

**SUDOKU**



Level: Intermediate

**WORD SEARCH**

S K G Y R N Y D N A C N O T T O C D I O AGRICULTURE  
 P N Y Y A M N N R O C P O P D P B O L B BALLOONS  
 S C E P T L N F A I R G R O U N D S I T BANNER  
 Y G G W B W K F O C B B Y S R O P W W M BOOTH  
 A T L C N S N A C K S A B N R S P E M G BUMPER CARS  
 W L T E P W I B E B M N W R R P R N O P CHICKENS  
 O O B C E Y P N M D N N B A L U V T H U CHILDREN  
 S V C K P H T S G N F E C U T K C E C I COTTON CANDY  
 R U V A S R W I K C Y R N L V C H R H E ENTERTAIN  
 G E A G A D B S E N E B U G C O I T I K ENTRANCE  
 E Y T N C C L S I P W C T N S T L A C A FAIRGROUNDS  
 L R C H H E U E M R I U D I N S D I K C FERRIS WHEEL  
 B E I U G R M U I R R V Y R O E R N E L FESTIVAL  
 G I W V R U B E G F F E S E O V E F N E FIELDS  
 P T E I O D A A V L R V F H L I N K S N FUNNEL CAKE  
 H W D E D K B L V Y N R B T L L T S K N GATHERING  
 P E L S T E K C I T U W L A A N V G S U LAUGHTER  
 S E F R L A V I T S E F L G B D K P L F LEMONADE  
 E H P W O R E M M U S S F D H F P E A A LIVESTOCK  
 S L E M O N A D E B O O T H G K H W B T POPCORN  
 RIDES  
 SNACKS  
 SUMMER  
 TICKETS

**Summer festival is back**

RYEGATE—After the one-year hiatus due to Covid, the Ryegate Summer Festival Committee has prepared this year's summer festival, this time in Ryegate Corner between the Church and Town Clerk's office. It will be held from 4 to 9 p.m. on Aug. 7.

Many of the events will be back including the hay rides, free hamburgers and hotdogs, summer berry pie tasting, flower displays and veggie entries, along with lawn games, petting zoo, crafter demos, antique tractor display, and educational displays for the whole family. One hour of bingo is on the schedule as well. The music filling the air comes from Matt's Mobile Sounds and the evening ends with a street dance from 7:30-9 p.m.

Every family is encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blanket for seating and a dish to share. A nominal fee for the pie tasting will give everyone a sweet dessert and a chance to choose their favorite. The silent auction helps raise money for the days' expenses. This is an opportunity to contribute any homemade item or talent you would like to share such as homemade preserves, cooking a meal for two, doing a tea for four, mowing a lawn, guitar lesson, babysitting, offering fruits or veggies, a bouquet of flowers.

There has already been a Ranger ride, a cord of wood, lesson in calligraphy, Sip and Paint certificate, a Ticklenaked shirt, and gift certificate for camping and wood at Pleasant Valley Campground donated. Donations based on talents to share or volunteering time rather than monetary items are appreciated.

**Corinth meeting house to host biennial service**

CORINTH—The historic Meadow Meeting House in Corinth will be welcoming everyone for a biennial service by Rev. William Wick, with Estes organ accompaniment by Jenny Copeland, and, hopefully, professionally trained vocalist Ben Copeland on Aug. 8 at 3 p.m.

The meeting house is located on Chelsea Road (near intersection of Dearborn Hill Road) in Corinth.

The church was built in 1837, but the last full-time pastor left in 1917. Summer services and special events have been held over the years. Between 1927 and 1954, the Slack family held annual family reunions before turning control of a church fund over the meeting house association that continues to oversee the property's care.

**Hood to reopen next week**

HANOVER—The Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College will welcome all visitors back to galleries starting Aug. 4 on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays with varying hours.

There will be a celebratory reintroduction to the museum on Sept. 18 featuring light refreshment and live music, and the fall will also bring an inspiring range of lectures, gallery talks, workshops, and other in-person and virtual programming.

The fall exhibitions include "Trade Canoe: Forty Days and Forty Nights," "Form and Relation: Contemporary Native Ceramics," "Drawing Lines," and a video installation titled My Life as a Tunnel."

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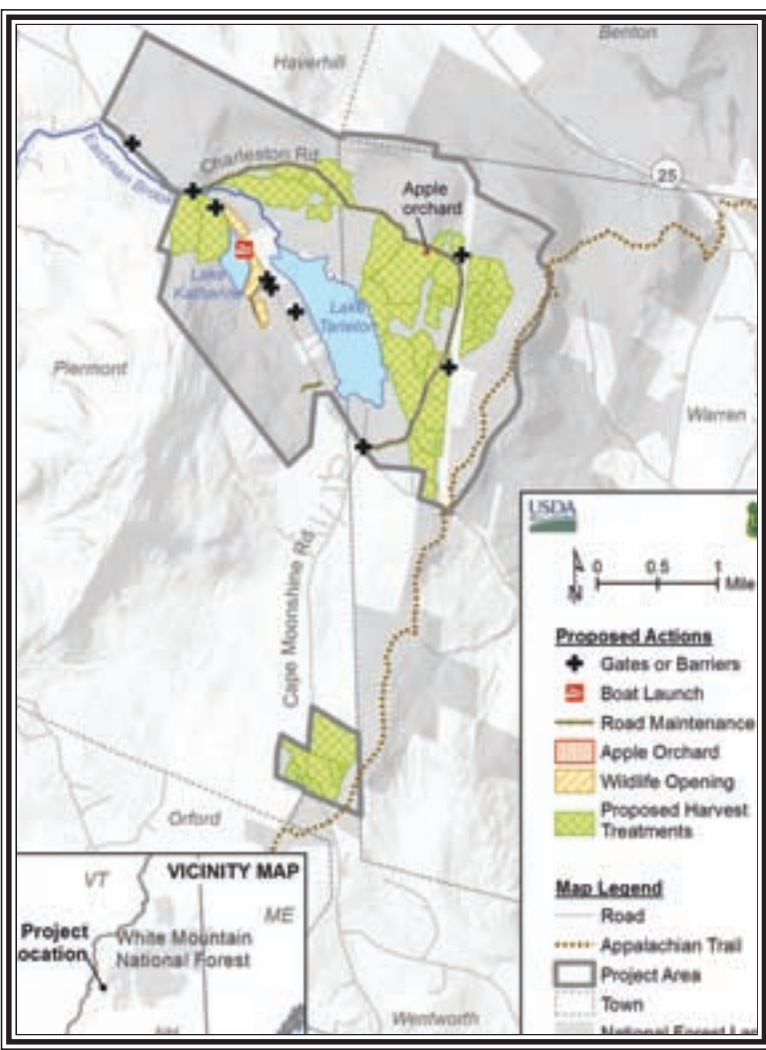
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A map produced by the U.S. Forest Service shows the area affected by the White Mountain National Forest's proposed project, set to begin in 2023.

COURTESY IMAGE

## WMNF publishes Tarleton plan

PIERMONT—A public comment period is open until Aug. 5 on a White Mountain National Forest plan to harvest timber on some 880 acres around Lake Tarleton and develop a boat launch on Lake Katherine.

According to a draft environmental assessment, the purpose of the project is to improve wildlife habitat diversity while making the project area resilient to the effects of climate change and insect and disease outbreaks.

In addition to a timber harvest, the U.S. Forest Service will buffer portions of Lake Katherine, reduce the size of the Tarleton Fields wildlife opening, and expand an apple orchard on Charleston Road. It will also gate and install barriers to restrict motorized vehicle access on Charleston Road and along Route 25C, reconstruct some existing roadway in the project area, build new log landings and expand existing ones.

Forest officials plan on developing a formal boat launch for hand-powered watercraft on Lake Katherine and develop a parking area off of Route 25C. The boat launch would replace an informal one independently developed by boaters.

The state of New Hampshire owns and operates a nearby boat launch off of Route 25C on Lake Tarleton.

In addition to WMNF's holdings around Lake Tarleton, the project would also incorporate the former Sentinel Mountain State Forest, which was transferred from state to federal ownership in exchange for land on Cannon Mountain in 2010. WMNF acquired the land around Tarleton in the late 1990s.

Comments may be submitted electronically through the project website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56394>. Additionally, supporting materials can be found there as well.



JULY'S FULL MOON—Through the trees in Woodsville, the July full moon was captured in this photograph.

COURTESY PHOTO BY DELORES DREW

## NH job stipend now open

CONCORD—Gov. Chris Sununu announced that the Department of Employment Security has opened applications for the Summer Stipend Program.

Announced on May 18, the Summer Stipend Program was created to coincide with the state's decision to end federal pandemic unemployment benefits. Anyone who was on unemployment the week of May 15 and subsequently found employment on May 18 or after, and held the job for at least eight weeks, is eligible to apply.

Individuals must have worked at least 20 hours a week and earned less than \$25 an hour. Those who worked 20 plus hours for eight weeks are eligible for \$500 while those who worked 37.5 plus hours for eight weeks are eligible for a \$1,000 stipend.

It is first-come first-serve, so the program will remain active until the \$10 million fund is drawn down.

Since announcing the Summer Stipend - Return to Work Bonus Program on May 18, over 21,000 individuals have stopped filing for unemployment benefits. The first wave of potentially eligible people that could have worked eight weeks since May 18 totals over 1,700 people.

Pay stubs are required to verify employment. Individuals who qualify and have worked at least eight weeks should sign into their NHES account and click on the large button that says "Alert! Summer Stipend Bonus" to determine and verify eligibility.

# COUNTRY 101.3

WYKR-FM

## Tune in to WYKR July 28 to Aug. 1 for Daily Rundown of North Haverhill Fair Events!

77th Annual North Haverhill FAIR

1299 Dartmouth College Highway, North Haverhill, New Hampshire 03774

Wednesday - Sunday, July 28 - August 1

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NHAB VAB

## Teen center receives foundation grant

BRADFORD—The Bradford Teen Center has been awarded a \$10,000 grant by The Couch Family Foundation in support of the center's programs to benefit youth from Bradford and surrounding Vermont towns. The foundation partners with Upper Valley organizations "working to improve children's health and well-being, early learning and development, family resiliency, and community vibrancy."

The Hub's mission is to provide a safe, enjoyable environment where teenage youth are heard, encouraged, and empowered. Its after-school and out of school programs are designed to stimulate creativity, enhance self-esteem, and develop social and educational skills; to encourage community awareness through community service projects; to foster leadership skills; and to provide a safe location for social and recreational activities.

**ONGOING BARN/MOVING SALE SATURDAY 10-2**

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77th Annual North Haverhill FAIR

1299 Dartmouth College Highway, North Haverhill, New Hampshire 03774

Wednesday - Sunday, July 28 - August 1

**Friday, July 30 @ 8:30 PM**

**Born to Run**

Alex Shillo's Tribute to Bruce Springsteen

**Saturday, July 31 @ 8:00 PM**

**Recycled Percussion**

Plus 2 Demo Derby Nights, 5 Days of Music, Fiesta Shows Ride Specials, Plenty of Displays & Food

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# Viewpoints . . . Yours and ours

The opinion page of the Journal Opinion is devoted to editorials, commentary and letters. The editorial under the heading editorial is the only column that expresses the opinions of the *Journal Opinion*. All others are the views and opinions of the authors only.

## Editorial

### When Zoom gets ugly

On July 19, the Haverhill Selectboard meeting came to an abrupt end for those who had joined the meeting by Zoom. Because of a few trolls, community members who have an interest in their town were deprived of hearing and knowing what their local elected representatives were debating.

People using pseudonyms, false names, or no names at all also joined the meeting. At first, the disruptions of background noise and crosstalk proved mere annoyances. Later, after everyone was muted, one individual asked to speak under the guise of having a question. He then proceeded to use a vulgarity and then asked the town manager out on a date.

Soon after, the chat window filled with comments, many of them vulgar and racist causing the selectmen to terminate the livestream, even though the regular meeting continued.

Haverhill Town Manager Brigitte Codling has since announced security measures for future Zoom meetings, which will now be streamed as webinars. Attendees will only be able to watch and listen to the meeting. Those who have provided first and last names and are recognized by the board can ask questions, but they will be muted after they finish asking the question. Attendees may also type out questions in the Q&A field, but those questions will only be visible to the meeting host.

“We hope that these changes allow for a smoother, less disruptive experience for the Selectboard and for attendees who are logged in to actually attend the meeting and not to disrupt the meeting,” Codling wrote in a post on a social media account.

For much of the pandemic, most of our area towns and school districts provided a remote viewing option for residents with reliable internet connections to join meetings from home. This was a boon to civic engagement as it helped people stay involved in town affairs, no matter where they live. Some towns will keep this going even though most public boards and committees have resumed in-person meetings.

This is undoubtedly a good outcome even if the quality of civic engagement is diminished as a result of remote access.

And we hope people won't be deterred by Haverhill's security measures. Although it has not always been smooth sailing, we believe the increased interest in town governance will pay dividends now and in the future.

### The fight over voting rights

by Lee H. Hamilton

Supreme Court has just signaled its willingness to allow the core value embedded in the 1965 Voting Rights Act—that what happens on the ground matters, whatever the intent—to fall by the wayside. In its decision, the Court essentially said that there's no legal recourse if you can't prove that a legislature acted with racist intent, regardless of how things play out in real life. There are state courts pushing back against this direction—New Hampshire's supreme court, for instance, just invalidated a law passed in 2017 because its impact fell unequally on voters. But that strikes me as a rearguard action.

When I began in politics, I thought it would be easy to protect the right to vote. I was dead wrong. One of my earliest votes in Congress was to support the 1965 Voting Rights Act, clearly one of the most important pieces of legislation in our country's history—and the one that the Supreme Court just undermined. I am constantly amazed at how much time, energy, and effort some people put into denying other people the right to vote. This is a battle, and those of us who believe that the health of our democracy rests on ensuring fair, equal, and unfettered access to the ballot box for all eligible voters have our work cut out for us.

###

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

#### MUNICIPAL WEBSITES

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### Boomer Funk

## Radio

by Scott Funk

Unless you count NPR, I haven't listened to the radio in this century. Probably wouldn't have started listening now, if iTunes hadn't wiped out my 7,000+ songs while syncing with my computer the other day, but we won't go into the evilness of that here.

So, I am back to cruising the car radio dial for rock 'n' roll. The first place it took me was back to my parents' car, where I would be pushing buttons during our vacations, trying to find something my dad would allow. Then came memories of stealthily listening to the radio after I was sent to bed.

Those were great adventures, with stations coming in from faraway places no one I knew had ever even been, like Chicago and Phoenix. This vicarious traveling was even better than settling on a station until I discovered the ultimate one—Wolfman Jack broadcasting from just over the Mexican border. It was perfect rock 'n' roll because it was pirate radio, and my parents didn't even know it existed.

Returning to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and radio today, it's a familiar place. Lots more stations, which doesn't surprise me. (But how do they fit them all in?) All that selection made it dangerous to channel surf until I recalled my car is, thankfully, equipped with hands-free technology.

Over the stations I went, pausing here and there to listen to a song, news, sports report, wacky interview, and even a commercial or two. Finally, I settled on a few stations I like and with those saved in the system, I have background music again.

It isn't the soundtrack of my life that I had programmed, but it's good sounds and something even better than what I had before—variety. Songs that I enjoy, but not prescribed by me. No, they aren't new; they are all oldies. These are just new to me in this century, and they brought back wonderful memories of times I had forgotten along with those songs.

Eventually, I found my old iPod with all my playlists intact. Surprisingly, I haven't ditched the radio, especially my old habit of scanning the dial when traveling. Yes, most of the formats are the same now, but the local news and commercials are different. In an odd way, it heightens the distance from home. It adds to the feeling I'm back on the road again, maybe not as aimless as before, but still capable of enjoying a little something unanticipated, along the dial or around the bend.

###

Scott Funk lives, works, and writes in Vermont. His Boomer Funk columns are available at [www.vermontfunk.com](http://www.vermontfunk.com), as are his blogs and archived Aging in Place columns.

### UNH Extension

## Controlling invasive Japanese knotweed

by Emma Erler and Jan Woodbury

Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) is one of the most noxious invasive plants in the Northeast. It spreads readily and is very difficult to eliminate from the landscape once it has become established.

Native to Asia, it was introduced to the United States sometime during the late 1800s as an ornamental plant. Unfortunately, it crowds out native species and can grow at a rate of up to 8 centimeters (3 inches) a day in the spring. It is found in every state except North Dakota, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Florida and Hawaii.

**Identification**  
 Many people mistake Japanese knotweed for bamboo, as the stems are jointed and hollow. Unlike bamboo the plant has large semi-triangular leaves that alternate on the stem. It is a large, fast growing shrub-like plant that can grow through asphalt and concrete and reach 9 feet in height. It has large woody rhizomes that can grow up to 10 feet deep and 40 feet long and remain dormant for years.



#### Control

No matter which control method is used, knotweed is hard to eradicate, and removal is usually a slow process. For those who do not want to use chemicals, a few techniques have been proven effective. Small, new populations are perhaps easiest to remove by hand-pulling or digging. Use a shovel or digging fork at any point during the growing season to loosen the soil around the rhizome and extract the plant.

Larger, well-established patches of Japanese knotweed are easier to control by smothering. Smothering is most effective in early summer once the plants have put on a significant amount of growth and have exhausted some of the

reserves in their rhizomes. In the beginning of June, cut stems close to the ground and cover them with heavy 7-mil black plastic or non-woven landscape fabric. Put mulch on top of the smothering material to improve its appearance. Smothering can take upwards of five years.

Knotweed should not be mowed, as mowing can result in spread. It can regenerate from rhizome pieces as small as half-inch under the right conditions. If it is cut, any cuttings should be allowed to dry out in the sun before disposal. It should never be composted.

Japanese knotweed can also be effectively controlled with herbicides containing the active ingredient glyphosate, but timing is key. The flow of nutrients in Japanese knotweed is in one direction. In the spring and throughout the growing season, sugars and nutrients move upward from the roots to the shoots. In the later summer and fall, the flow reverses, and sugars and nutrients are returned to the plants' rhizomes in preparation for winter. As a result, chemical applications have been found to be most effective after flowering, and up

until the first killing frost. It may take three to five years of repeated applications to eradicate it.

If you are thinking about controlling Japanese knotweed this fall, it's a good idea to wait until after the plants are done flowering to limit impacts to pollinators. Japanese knotweed is popular among foraging bees. Before applying any herbicide product, make sure to thoroughly read and follow the label instructions.

To learn more about Japanese knotweed and its control, check out "Preventing the Spread of Japanese Knotweed," a guide created by the NH Department of Agriculture. Go to <https://bit.ly/knotweedcontrol> to view or download a copy.

###

Emma Erler is a UNH Extension Landscape and Greenhouse Field Specialist and Jan Woodbury is a Master Gardener.

### ABOUT THIS PAGE

The opinion page of the Journal Opinion is devoted to editorials, commentary and letters. The editorial on the left side under the heading editorial is the only column that expresses the opinions of the *Journal Opinion*. All others are the views and opinions of the authors only.

We encourage readers to comment on matters of interest and will publish letters regardless of their politics providing they are in good taste. We ask that you limit letters to 400 words or less and write no more than twice per month. All letters must be signed with contact information given for verification.

The publisher reserves the right to verify the accuracy of letters, edit letters for clarity, space and content, and limit the number of letters from any writer to two a month. Anonymous letters or letters judged to be libelous will not be published.

The deadline for letters and commentaries is Monday at noon. They may be mailed to the *Journal Opinion*, PO Box 378, Bradford, VT 05033, emailed to [editor@jonews.com](mailto:editor@jonews.com) or faxed to (802)222-5438.

### Silver Insights

## Not counting raindrops

by Elena A. Chevalier

The eagerly awaited "normal" summer of 2021 offers many of its own challenges having nothing to do with the P-word.

Last week I heard the sounds of rumbling, but it wasn't thunder that time. The loud scraping outside my house sent me to the window. Even before I looked, I knew both the source and the reason.

Sure enough, I gazed down the long sloping driveway, past the Grand Canyon-style gullies, to the man with a broom attempting to sweep gravel out of the road.

Then through the trees, some heavy equipment came into view. A bucket scraped the tar, gathering more of my driveway to push back up the hill.

Before the relentless rains and the previous night's deluge, our driveway used to be smooth and solid. Off and on, that is.

Despite previous attempts by both the state

and others to make berms or dig water-diverting ditches, gravity always wins.

The news said that we were in the midst of a moderate drought, but I wonder who changed the definition of drought? How can water-logged lawns and woods and rivers constitute a drought?

Maybe our little town just hit the northern New Hampshire rain jackpot this summer?

Soon enough, the scraping stopped. Most of the gravel had been moved and smoothed over the bottom 10 feet or so of our driveway.

I have learned that no degree of wishing or wanting ever moves the plowing further up to fill the 8-inch deep ravines formed during each heavy storm.

But I have nothing to complain about. I am thankful our car wasn't washed away and our house is not filled with a foot or more of mud.

Especially after seeing the heartbreaking videos of heinous floods afflicting so many parts

of our globe—the southern United States, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, China and so many more places have suffered unimaginably.

My mind and heart cannot fathom the extent of misery and loss that such flooding creates. But added to this are the images of the truly devastating drought and wildfires out west. They vie for my emotional attention.

Understandably, the deep ditches that must be filled and flattened—again—become trivial inconveniences.

I turn back to my work, centering again on my own little corner of my own little world. But I renew my resolve to continue to do what I can to help others in their need.

And I remind myself to count today's blessings instead of yesterday's raindrops.

Then I hear drip, drip, drip, and I see the rain has returned.

Time to start counting. But not the raindrops.

# JOURNAL OPINION

AN AWARD-WINNING INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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•Frustrations

(continued from page 1)

He wrote that the company is upgrading its fiber optic network and the core infrastructure. This means replacing old copper wire which has worked well for telephone connections but is inadequate to meet modern internet needs.

According to Marteeny, two construction companies have been enlisted to help: Vance Line Construction, LLC of West Danville and LayerEight, a Plattsburgh company for fiber splicing and installation.

Topsham Communications plans to ensure that its existing DSL network is operating at top performance by periodic maintenance and by making improvements.

A second circuit is to be added to the internet.

"This will bring an added layer of security, resiliency and reliability to all internet consumers," Marteeny wrote.

Neither a timeframe nor prices were mentioned in the announcement and that bothers highspeednow.org spokesperson Rob Rinaldi.

While Rinaldi is pleased that Topsham Telephone's long silence is broken, he would like the company to be more forthcoming as to where the concentration to improving the service will be focused.

He still remains concerned about the cost discrepancy between what the Topsham community is charged and what Topsham Telephone offers Fairlee residents.

The service area of Topsham Telephone has grown and now reaches all of Topsham and Corinth, and parts of Bradford, Newbury, West Fairlee, Vershire, Orange and Washington.

Topsham Communications has expanded its offering of internet, phone and digital television to parts of Fairlee, West Fairlee, Bradford, and Orford.

Despite its service area, the company is down to only one technician.

Dissatisfaction with Tops-Tele's internet is a long-standing condition of its customers.

Dick Kelley of Corinth said, "My dissatisfaction started in 2008 when the company took stimulus money and used it to improve their bottom line by offering faster speed to Orford."

Topsham Telephone was founded by J.P. Dickerman in 1899 with the first service connection between two remote farm houses.

In 1953, it was bought by Frank Sahlman Sr. who ran the business from his West Topsham home until the 113 Fairground Road in East Corinth location was acquired in 1980.

When he died in 1990, the business was purchased by Citizens Telephone Company of Hammond, New York.

Don Ceresoli Sr. and his family are the current owners of Citizens Telephone and Topsham Telephone.

Posted on the highspeednow.org website: "None of this is the fault of the employees at the Topsham Telephone office. Don't be frustrated with them. They have very little control over speed/pricing. And right now, they are understaffed. Have patience with them," urges highspeednow.org.

In the meantime, both Rinaldi and Kelley have adopted a "wait and see" attitude to Tops Tele's promised improvement.

Email: lbuermeyer@jnews.com.

•Speed

(continued from page 1)

project began in 2019, funded by a grant from the State of Vermont's Better Connections program. Its website states that it intends to "provide a clear set of implementable tasks for the Town of Fairlee that are intended to support a safer, healthier, and more economically vibrant community."

The end result of the project was a report detailing the current economic and environmental condition of that area, recent community events held there, and possible future improvements that could benefit the town center.

"It's an ongoing project to be linked to surface water and biking and pedestrian access along the corridor," Berger said.

There will be an informational meeting and discussion about the Main Street to Morey report in August. The report itself is available on the Fairlee town website.

Meanwhile, board members are looking at ways to provide shared septic service to the community, and will study Fairlee's current wastewater capacity. Berger said that the study will be funded by a \$100,000 grant coming from the state of Vermont as part of the American Rescue Plan federal pandemic relief package.

According to Berger, there will be public meetings concerning this study and potential shared septic service plans later in the year, depending on when the town is able to access funding.

During the July 19 meeting, the selectboard also discussed the return of Fairlee's police cruiser, as well as the possibility of a tai chi program at the Fairlee Town Hall, which would be funded by attendees' donations.

VT plans fall maple event

MONTPELIER—This fall, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets and the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing are partnering to celebrate the maple industry with a list of special events, specialty products and exciting activities all across the state.

First introduced in a limited fashion in 2020, the Vermont Maple 100 is designed to promote the many ways to use and enjoy Vermont maple syrup and specialty products by connecting consumers, tourists, travelers and maple enthusiasts to the landscape of Vermont maple. This industry spans far beyond the iconic sugar house in the woods, to include many businesses across Vermont, value added products, artisans and of course, Vermont maple syrup.

Join the list of maple activities, adventures, and maple-inspired products being highlighted across the state by signing up. Maple related events could include tastings, food and beverage pairings, featured menu items at restaurants, lodging packages, hiking or biking trails, sugarhouse tours, ice cream, or any other maple-focused activity or event. The deadline to be a featured event for the Maple 100 is Aug. 6.

For questions about the Maple 100, email julia.scheier@vermont.gov.



This provided photo shows an example of what the Walter Lee Pavilion will look like in Elizabeth's Park.

COURTESY PHOTO

•Pavilion

(continued from page 1)

who bequeathed \$292,000 to the town over 20 years ago to support youth and other recreational initiatives in Bradford.

Charles Barrett, a member of the Bradford Park and Recreation Commission, said that Lee's will had specified that only the interest on the bequest was to be used for the maintenance and improvement of children's recreational facilities in Bradford, with special preference given to Elizabeth's Park.

Capital reserve funds may cover the balance, although Bradford Parks and Recreation is launching a fundraising campaign and seeking alternative funding sources as well.

Since Elizabeth's Park is only a few hundred feet from BES and borders the Oxbow High School property, the commission is investigating if any of the new federal coronavirus funding could support the project. In addition, there are some local funding sources that could support part of that total, including additional funding from Walter Lee's bequest.

To help generate some interest in the pavilion, a Family Fun Day has been scheduled for Aug. 21 at Elizabeth's Park from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For a donation to admission, the event will include games, food, and entertainment. The commission will be soliciting area businesses

for monetary donations or contributions of items for a silent auction and door prizes.

In addition, the Parks and Recreation Commission is challenging every household in town to save their returnable cans and plastic bottles from now until the Family Fun Day and either bring them to Elizabeth's Park on that day or redeem them and bring a donation.

If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation to the Pavilion Fund, the Bradford Town Treasurer Jennifer Rivers has set up a dedicated account. Checks can be made out to the Town of Bradford, with a note for the Pavilion Fund, and mailed to PO Box 339, Bradford, Vermont 05033.

BINGO

NORTH HAVERHILL—Bingo is held at Horse Meadow Senior Center, North Haverhill, outside under the tent on Thursdays from 1 to 2 p.m. For reservations, call 603-787-2539.

FUN FACTS

What's inside a Kit Kat? Broken Kit Kats that are damaged during production—they get ground up and go between the wafers inside, along with cocoa and sugar. That's a way to not let anything go to waste.



A new pavilion will go up later this year at Elizabeth's Park next to the playground.

JO PHOTO BY RICHARD SWENSON

Blake Memorial Library

EAST CORINTH—Story hour takes place every Thursday at 10 a.m., at the Blake Memorial Library under the new tent, Rain or Shine. Join Wendy for fun stories, songs and crafts.

The next book discussion is on Aug. 6 at 4:30 p.m. for "Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists and the Ecology of New England," by William Cronon, facilitated by Suzanne Brown. Copies of the book are available at the library. This will be held at the library under the tent, rain or shine. For more information, visit blakememorial.org.

A children's book reading and book giveaway will take place Aug. 4 at 3:30 p.m. Join in for the author's reading of "Free For You and Me," and then some fun action poems that get everyone moving. After the readings there will be a large selection of new books to give away. This is sponsored by Clif and will be held at the library under the tent.

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•Groton

(continued from page 1)

other towns can do sanctuaries that have bite and piece to them," Webster said.

Not everyone in Groton is excited about the resolution.

Deborah Jurist, who served on the Groton Selectboard from 2017 to 2020, said she found the proposal vague and overreaching.

"The last paragraph of this document puts forth the idea that the selectboard can make its own determination as to whether a law is constitutional and then act on this determination," Jurist said. "I don't believe that that power is vested in the selectboard of any town."

The special town meeting will be held on Aug. 4 at the Groton Community Building at 6 p.m. The resolution can be found at www.grotonvt.com.

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**OUSD PROPERTY PURCHASE INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS**

Wednesday, August 11 and Tuesday August 17, 2021  
 5:30 pm

**PLEASE NOTE THIS IS AN IN-PERSON MEETING AND REMOTE THROUGH ZOOM**  
 (all State COVID guidelines will be followed)  
 at Oxbow Union High School

**JOIN ZOOM MEETINGS!**  
**August 11th ZOOM MEETING:**  
 https://zoom.us/j/95862623916?pwd=ZnVqN3IxaVRhc1BsM0VURFhNc0EvQT09  
 Meeting ID: 958 6262 3916 Passcode: 455843  
 Dial by your location +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

**August 17th ZOOM MEETING:**  
 https://zoom.us/j/93532013432?pwd=SFVUKzU1WVBUYlRkR1htOHZPdUNYQT09  
 Meeting ID: 935 3201 3432 Passcode: 093222  
 Dial by your location +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

**AGENDA**  
 5:30 pm - Welcome- Review of meeting rules  
 5:35 pm- I. Informational meeting

- Financial Information: OUSD surplus, OUSD process for purchasing property & voting rules
- Newbury Property for Outdoor Classroom (Presentation from teachers) Link to land details: https://www.zillow.com/homedetails/0-Checkerberry-Ln-Newbury-VT-05051/2076571272\_zpid/ Public comment • Adjourn

**Links to additional information:**  
 Map school to Checkerberry  
 Notes from land tour:  
 https://oesu.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Meeting-minutes-4\_30\_21.pdf  
 Minutes from board meeting with teacher presentation:  
 https://oesu.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/OUSD-Board-Meeting-5-12-21.pdf  
 Recording of board meeting with teacher presentation:  
 https://zoom.us/rec/share/oYODMpyjY9c4G\_ZZFJmDErcsv4FFNqtKqK5V5pK15m4pS\_axPzKXt\_SU0B2p1jLt\_NRTVp1Q8cV8QZ  
 Zoom Recording password zhrp9u#E

Copy of presentation by the teachers: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1W6z7XV7nlThqbPFK\_CxE6yuLmHbtorQJE5Vib96AX8E/edit?usp=sharing



# OBITUARIES



## Brian J. Boland

POST MILLS—Brian Jeffrey Boland of Post Mills died on July 15, 2021 at the age of 72.

Born on Long Island in Huntington, New York, he graduated from John Glenn High School in 1967. He received his bachelor's degree in art and art education from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn NY, attended Cornell University and returned to Pratt for his master's degree. As a thesis project, Brian designed and built his first hot air balloon (as a large sculpture) and tethered it on the campus May 15, 1971.

Brian and his young family moved to Farmington, CT where he had taken a position as an art and photography teacher at Farmington High School. It is a town and school that fondly remembers him still. While teaching, he continued his interest in hot air balloons, built several more, began flying them and earned his commercial license in 1973. Brian eventually gave up teaching at FHS to pursue a life in ballooning, designing and building hundreds of hot air balloon and airship systems. He set several world records in his own lighter-than-air aircraft, has flown all over the world and logged over 11,000 hours of flight time. Along the way he also received a fixed wing license. His many innovations in ballooning were freely shared with others. He was a natural teacher who shared his skills and love of aviation with many. He so enjoyed flying, that, if not flying with others, he took solo "therapy flights" every day he could (with great appreciation for the many neighbors and others who gave him rides back home).

He purchased the Post Mills Airport in 1988. Today, Post Mills Airport is recognized as a world epicenter of experimental hot air ballooning and reflects Brian's expansive personality and creativity. It is home to the private Museum of Rusty Dusty Stuff, the Vermontasaurus, fire trucks, treehouses, and many other flying, driving, and floating creations which have graced local parades, lakes, rivers, and celebrations over the years. Brian's impact on the Post Mills community will be long lasting.

Brian was predeceased by his parents, Frank and Margaret Boland;

and his son, Jeffrey. He is survived by his life partner, Tina Foster, of Post Mills; his sister and brother-in-law, Sue and Art Weyermuller of Myrtle Beach, SC; and his brother, Kevin Boland of Winter Springs, FL. He also leaves countless dear friends and colleagues from Post Mills, the surrounding area and from the near and far reaches of the worldwide ballooning community.

A celebration of his life will be held on the airfield at Post Mills Airport on Aug. 1 at 2 p.m. Please bring stories and memories. Anyone who has any pictures they would be willing to provide for an exhibit may bring them, and perhaps a little snack to share. There will be some music, a chance to tell some tales, and time and space to enjoy the company of others and Brian's indomitable spirit. Bring a chair if you can. Due to Vermont now being in "high risk" COVID transmission status, we encourage masking. We will also hold the experimental balloon and airship association gathering in September as previously scheduled.



## James Miller 1946 - 2021

ATLANTA, MO—A resident since 2016, James "Jim" Miller, formerly of Fayette, was called home to heaven around 5:30 a.m. on July 22, 2021. He was 74 years old.

Jim's life began in Woodville on July 26, 1946, the son of Donald and Elizabeth Miller. They lived in Bradford, where he attended school at Bradford Academy and graduated in 1964.

After graduating from East Coast Aero Tech in 1966, and his brief stint in the military from August 1968-July 1970, where he was a CH-47 "Huey" flight crew member in Vietnam, he married Marianne Metcalf of Piermont on Aug. 26, 1972. He was a civil service helicopter mechanic at Fort Devens in Massachusetts for 23 years.

He is survived by his wife, Marianne of Atlanta, MO; four daughters, Kim and Don Burgett of Moberly, MO, Catherine and Mick Martin of Mankato, MN, Amy and Erwin Santos of Auckland, New Zealand, and Mary and Andrew Richey

of East Berlin, PA; along with 25 grandchildren and four great grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, George and wife Sandy of San Diego; his sister, Jean, and brother Douglas and wife Barbara, all of Bradford.

He was caring and kindhearted, a hard worker, builder and carpenter, and an avid gun enthusiast. He served children as a missionary to Belize, helped strangers through disaster relief, taught adult Sunday school for years, and served as a Deacon at his church.

He is predeceased by his father, mother, and brother, Donald. Yes, he is gone, but he will never be forgotten.

A memorial service will be held in his honor on July 30 at 2 p.m. with visitation at 1:30 at Atlanta Baptist Church, 319 North Atterberry Street, Atlanta, MO. Military honors will follow the service in the church grounds.

Jim can say as did Franklin Graham at his dad's funeral, "Don't grieve for me, I'm not dead. I'm more alive than I've ever been. I've just changed addresses!"

Donations can be made to Alaskan missionaries, Chris and Sam Hall through Atlanta Baptist Church or to "Such a Time as This," a woman's ministry that offers assistance to women by providing job and life skills (also through Atlanta Baptist Church).

Condolences may be shared at [www.carryager.com](http://www.carryager.com).

Arrangements entrusted to Carr-Yager Funeral Home, Fayette, MO.



## Julia Crocker 1925 - 2021

EAST RYEGATE—Julia H. (Foster) Crocker, 95, of Wallace Street, died on July 24, 2021 at the Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, St. Johnsbury.

Julia was born in Groton on Sept. 25, 1925 to Ralph B. and Jessie M. (Smith) Foster.

She graduated from Groton High School. On Nov. 3, 1944, she married Chester Allen Crocker Jr.

Julia loved baking, knitting, and attending plays. She also wintered in Florida for a time. Mostly, she loved family gatherings and her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband of 60 years, Chester A. Crocker on Dec. 5, 2004; her daughter, Martha Foster Crown on Feb. 23, 2021; and three sisters, Dorothy Welch, Martha Rogers, and Jean Malnati on May 15, 2019.

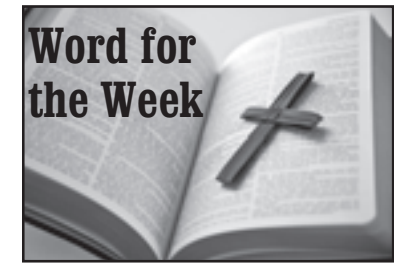
Survivors include her three sons, Stephen A. Crocker of East Ryegate, Ralph F. Crocker and wife Candice of Peacham, and James S. Crocker and wife Patricia of East Ryegate; a son-in-law, Russell Crown of Groton; 10 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren; and nieces and nephews. Calling hours will be held Aug. 3 from 6-7 p.m. at Ricker Funeral Home, 1 Birch Street, Woodsville. A graveside service will be on Aug. 4 at 11 a.m. in the Groton Village Cemetery with Pastor Candace Ricker of the Groton United Methodist Church officiating.

### AFTERGLOW

*I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one,  
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.  
I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,  
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.*

*I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun  
Of happy memories that I leave  
When life is done.*

Ricker Funeral Home and Cremation Care of Woodsville is in charge of arrangements. For more information or to offer an online condolence, visit [www.rickerfh.com](http://www.rickerfh.com).



### A DEBT OF GRATITUDE

by Dr. Dennis Prutow  
A religious lawyer asked Jesus to name the first and greatest commandment. Jesus did not hesitate. He quoted the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" (Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37).

Here is a word under this heading of love. "You shall fear only the Lord your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name" (Deuteronomy 6:13). These words are similar to the First Commandment, "You shall have no other gods before Me." (Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 5:7). We express love for God with worship, reverence, and respect.

Satan tried to get Jesus to repudiate His love for the Father. "The devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, 'All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me'" (Matthew 4:8-9). Jesus would have none of this devilry. "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only'" (Matthew 4:10).

Jesus worshipped the Father. His obedience was not a burden but a way to show His love. We fail in love. We are imperfect. The loving obedience of Jesus Christ pays the debt of gratitude we owe.

## THETFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

THETFORD—The following is the Thetford Police Department activity report for July 4 to July 10:

On July 4, at 9 p.m., Robinson Hill Road for directed patrol—traffic enforcement based on speeding complaint; 11 p.m., Starksboro—reported stolen vehicle, meds and other personal property. Determined incident did not occur in Thetford.

On July 5 at 10:31 a.m., Pavilion Road for directed patrol—traffic enforcement based on speeding complaint; at 10:35 a.m., Route 132 for loose cows in roadway, owner located.

On July 6 at 12:19 p.m., Clay Road for tree on utility lines—GMP removed; at 2:47 p.m., Route 5 to assist Upper Valley Land Trust with camp set up on UVLT managed property; at 4:08 p.m., Pavilion Road for directed patrol—traffic enforcement based on speeding complaint.

On July 7 at 10:35 a.m., Route 244 to attempt to locate subject calling for help on radio, unfounded; at 10:57 a.m., Route 5 for burglary—entry and theft of items from apartment; at 11:51 a.m., Main Street for 911 hangup—misdial, no emergency; at 2:58 p.m., West Fairlee Road for complaint of speeding vehicle.

On July 8 at 8:17 a.m., I-91 south to assist VSP by removing a roll of tubing from the roadway; at 11:59 a.m., Robinson Hill Road for directed patrol—traffic enforcement based on speeding complaint; at 4:02 p.m., Tucker Hill Road for directed patrol—traffic enforcement based on speeding complaint.

On July 9 at 12:18 a.m., New Boston Road to assist Royalton VSP attempt to locate subject, not found; at 4:12 p.m., Route 5 for landlord/tenant dispute; at 6:51 p.m., Whippoorwill Road for trespass and possible theft.

On July 10 at 5:16 p.m., Picknell Road for VIN check.

## THETFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

THETFORD—The following is the Thetford Police Department activity report for July 11 to July 17:

On July 11, at 5:07 p.m., Route 5 to assist EMS; at 5:59 p.m., Route 113 for found cell phone—returned to owner; at 6:50 p.m., Route 113 for possible damage to vehicle, may have occurred elsewhere, additional information pending.

On July 12 at 11:35 a.m., Godfrey Road for motor vehicle unlock; at 8:11 p.m., Route 113 for directed patrol—traffic enforcement based on speeding complaints.

On July 13 at 1:35 p.m., Wilson Road for motor vehicle unlock; at 6:58 p.m., Houghton Hill Road for directed patrol—traffic enforcement based on speeding complaints; at 7:43 p.m., Route 5 for report of someone yelling for help, unable to locate source.

On July 14 at 2:04 p.m., Main Street for 911 hangup—misdial, no emergency; at 4:50 p.m., West Fairlee Road for directed patrol—traffic enforcement based on speeding complaints; at 7:23 p.m., Gove Hill Road to assist FD with fire alarm.

On July 15 at 6:16 a.m., Whippoorwill Road to assist EMS; at 7:40 a.m., Route 113 for directed patrol—traffic enforcement based on speeding complaints; at 8:30 a.m., Pavilion Road for directed patrol—traffic enforcement based on speeding complaints; at 11:28 a.m., Route 113 to assist FD with fire alarm.

On July 16 at 10:43 a.m., Tucker Hill Road for Directed patrol—traffic enforcement based on speeding complaints; at 11:05 a.m., Camp Farnsworth Road to assist FD with fire alarm; at 5:33 p.m., Route 113 for report of male exposing himself, additional follow up pending; at 10:49 p.m., West Fairlee Road for directed patrol—traffic enforcement based on speeding complaints.

On July 17 at 12:32 a.m., Route 5 for business alarm, false; at 11:39 p.m., Route 5 for report of someone yelling for help, unable to locate source.

## VA offers show

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION—The White River Junction U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Healthcare System has announced that Re-Creation's "Rockin' in the USA!" show will appear at the Briggs Opera House in White River Junction on Aug. 5 bringing a new stage presentation to veterans and their community.

This year, the White River Junction VA Healthcare System has partnered with Briggs and Kinney Pike Insurance to offer this free event to veterans and their community. The performance will be held on Aug. 5 at 6 p.m. To reserve tickets, visit [www.eventbrite.com/re-creation-usa-musical-performance-tickets-162579739377](http://www.eventbrite.com/re-creation-usa-musical-performance-tickets-162579739377) or call Katherine Tang at (802)295-9363 ext. 5880. This event is open to veterans and the community at large.

## Baitfish ban signs to go up at area pond

MONTEPELIER—The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and partners will soon place new signs near eight ponds where the use of baitfish is prohibited. The signs will remind anglers that use of baitfish poses a threat to the wild native brook trout that have existed there for thousands of years.

Brook trout are Vermont's official coldwater fish. The signs will be posted at public access points near the following ponds: Beaver Pond (Holland); Blake Pond (Sutton); Cow Mountain Pond (Granby); Jobs Pond (Westmore); Lewis Pond (Lewis); North Pond (Chittenden); Unknown Pond (Avery's Gore); and Noyes Pond (Groton).

## Hybrid Prouty raises \$4M

LEBANON—The 40th Prouty, New England's largest family-friendly fundraising event, concluded with a record-breaking success of raising more than \$4 million in support of cancer research and patient and family support services at Dartmouth's and Dartmouth-Hitchcock's Norris Cotton Cancer Center.

This year's Prouty was a hybrid event with supporters participating virtually from June 1-July 11, and golfing, cycling and walking July 9-11. Despite the ongoing pandemic, more than 2,500 participants and volunteers joined the effort.

The level of virtual participation was truly inspiring with large groups of participants creating their own Prouty. All around the country people participated by rowing, hiking, kayaking, gravel riding and many century bike rides.

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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PASTOR  
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SERVICES  
Sunday at 10 a.m.  
(Child care provided)  
802-222-9021

**Calvary Baptist Church**  
Central Street  
Woodsville, NH  
PASTOR  
Pastor Alan Morrison  
SERVICES  
Sunday at 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
603-747-3157

**Congregational Church of United Church of Christ**  
N. Main Street  
Bradford, VT  
Interim Pastor  
Pastor Jeff Long-Middleton  
SERVICES  
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.  
Handicapped accessible  
802-222-4034

**Corinth Bible Church**  
840 Center Road  
Corinth, VT  
PASTOR  
Pastor Nathan Old  
SERVICES  
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.  
(Child care provided)  
802-439-5060

**East Corinth Congregational United Church of Christ**  
East Corinth, VT  
PASTOR  
Kelly Ann Donahue  
SERVICES  
Worship Service at 10 a.m.  
Sunday School after Children's Message  
802-439-5417

**Fairlee Community Church**  
Church on the Common  
Fairlee, VT  
PASTOR  
Richard Hodge  
SERVICES  
Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.  
802-333-7053

**Grace United Methodist Church**  
North Main Street, Bradford, VT  
PASTOR  
Pastor Ami Sawtelle  
SERVICES  
Sunday Service, 10 AM  
No nursery, No Sunday school  
Handicapped Accessible  
[www.graceumc.info](http://www.graceumc.info)  
802-222-9062

**New Hope United Methodist Church**  
Route 25  
Waits River, VT  
PASTOR  
Candace Ricker  
SERVICES  
Sunday 8:30 a.m.  
802-439-6091

**Newbury Congregational Church**  
Route 5, Newbury, VT  
Combined Service with Wells River CC  
Service at 10 AM  
Call 802-757-2261 for service location  
802-757-2261

**Piermont Congregational Church**  
101 Church St.  
Piermont, NH 03779  
Sunday Services 10 a.m.  
603-272-4842

**St. Joseph's Catholic Church**  
21 Pine Street  
Woodsville, N.H.  
PASTOR  
Rev. M. Sebastian Susairaj  
SERVICES  
St. Joseph's, Woodsville  
Lord Day Mass  
Saturday 5 pm  
Sun 7:15 am & 10:45 am  
Daily Mass  
Mon and Sat 9 am  
Wed and Fri 5:30pm  
Call for Other Services  
603-747-2038

If anyone loves me,  
he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him,  
and we will come to him  
and make our home with him.  
**John 14:23**

**St. Martin's Episcopal**  
Lake Morey Rd.  
Fairlee, VT  
PASTOR  
Rev. Mark W. Preece  
SERVICES  
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
First Sunday of Every Month:  
9:15 a.m. Informal Communion  
802-333-9725

**Topsham United Presbyterian Church**  
Next to East Topsham  
Town Hall  
SERVICES  
Sunday Service  
9:30 AM  
Inspirational Messages  
802-439-6199

**Trinity Church of the Nazarene**  
41 Nazarene Drive  
North Haverhill, NH  
PASTOR  
Rev. George Hemway  
SERVICES  
Sunday Worship 10:45 AM  
Wednesday Bible Studies  
1 PM & 7 PM  
603-787-6177

**West Newbury Congregational Church**  
West Newbury, Vt.  
PASTOR  
Rev. David Pruitt  
SERVICES  
Sunday 10:45 a.m.  
802-429-2869

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.  
**Psalm 32:8**

Lord, you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.  
**Psalm 51:6**

Teach us to number our days aright that we may gain a heart of wisdom.  
**Psalm 90:12**

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  2. Be willing to turn from your sins (repent).
  3. Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
  4. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave.
  5. Pray and invite Jesus Christ to come into your heart and control your life through the Holy Spirit (receive Him as Lord and Savior). Amen.
- Read the Bible to grow! Lean on the Lord. You are now God's new creation. He will never leave you.



# Fornwalt, Sanville win big

BRADFORD—Lucky's Trailer Sales night Feature winners were Jordan Fornwalt in the Sabal & Sons DIRTcar Sportsman Modifieds; Ricky Sanville in the Wells River Chevrolet DIRTcar Sportsman Coupes; Lucas Wheeler in the LaValley Building Supply Dirt Stocks; John LaForest and Kevin LaForest in the Peanuts Auto LLC Four Cylinders Feature; and Chris Donnelly in the Empire Super Sprints.

Jordan Fornwalt was able to hold off the hard-fought challenges of his competitors to cross the line first under the checkers for his second win of the season. This brought the points battle a bit closer moving in to the second half of the season. Richie Simmons had a good run finishing in second with Robert Tucker taking the final victory lane spot.

Ricky Sanville scored the win in Wells River Chevrolet DIRTcar Sportsman Coupes making it his second win of the season putting him in the elite multi winners club. Coming from deep in the pack he took over the lead to cruise on for the win. Cody Gregoropoulos held on for second with Flying Ryan Christian grabbing third.

The USAC DMA Midgets were off and will return to action July 31 as will the C.A. Miller Limited Late Models.

The LaValley Building Supply dirt stocks are on the verge of having enough cars to have three heats to set up their main event as car counts continue to grow. Despite the increased competition, Lucas Wheeler continues to dominate the field as he scored his fifth win of the season. The ones looking at his dust crossing the line second and third behind him were Mike Stender and Jesse Dunham.

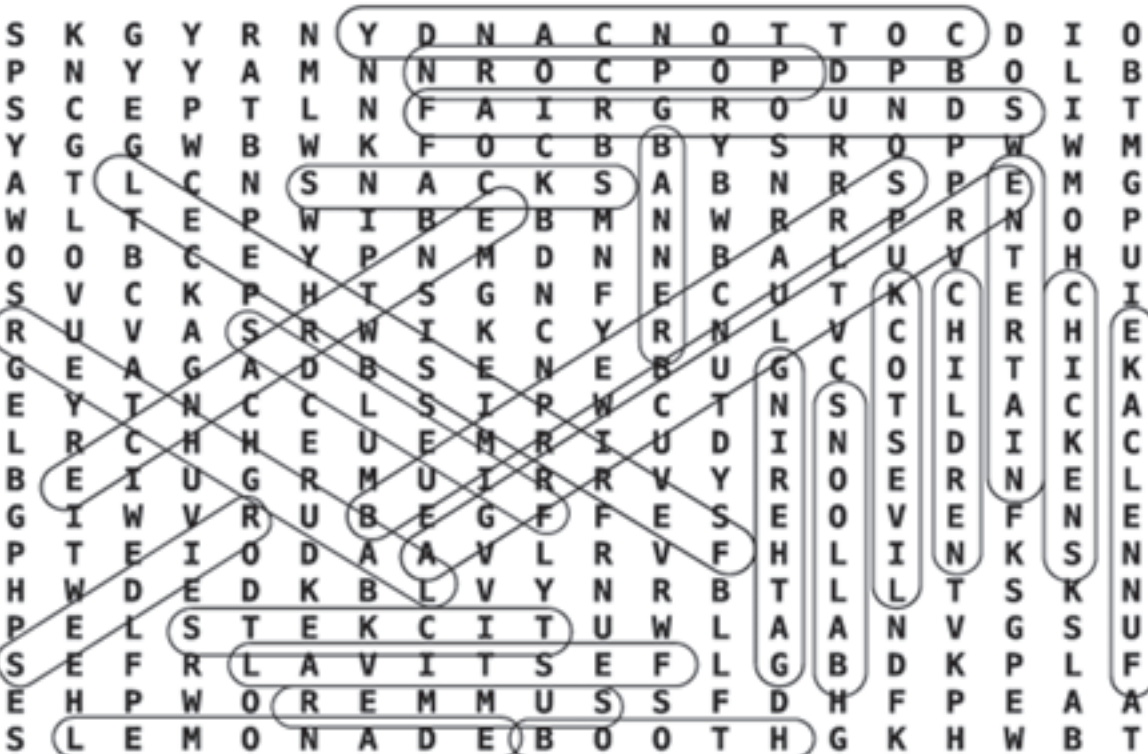
The victory lanes for the Peanuts Auto LLC Four Cylinders didn't stand after post-race inspections took three of the top six who were there out of the finishing order due to infractions found. This made it a LaForest front row with John LaForest being scored the official winner in feature one, Logan Martin in second and Tom Brown back in action getting the third-place position. In the second feature, Kevin LaForest crossed the line first for the win with Jonathon Baker in second. Devon Spinks is recorded as the official third place finisher.

The first ever appearance of the Empire Super Sprints is now officially in the books. The 21 strong field of cars took to the Ridge like they raced here regularly. The green to checkers 25 lap main event ticked off quickly, and when the checkers waved on the field it was local boy Chris Donnelly of Piermont proving he is the all-knowing professor of the Ridge who crossed the line first.

**BINGO AND EXERCISE**  
BRADFORD—Bingo and Chair Exercises via Zoom take place Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Bradford Public Library. Stay fit and socialize during Covid with Julia Connolly of Newbury. For adults with mild physical challenges or memory issues. For Zoom invite or more information, write juliamayconnolly@gmail.com.



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



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•Vittles

(continued from page 1)

efficient as she whips up the requested beverages.

The Gendrons make a great team.

It was love at first sight when Travis, stationed at Fort Lewis, came into a Seattle-area restaurant where Kendall was working.

"We went on a date the day we met and we will be celebrating our 10-year wedding anniversary later this month," Kendall said.

"Travis is full of amazing ideas."

It was he who insisted that the beans must be roasted in-house.

"He roasts all the coffee beans which are all fair trade and organic," she said.

On a recent Saturday visit, the *Journal Opinion* found the business was as robust as the coffee and all ages were represented.

The inside tables were all occupied as were the two on the sidewalk.

Jonathan Pollner of Bradford comes into the shop every day.

"I like the whole dynamic of the shop and the Gendrons are enjoyable to talk to," he said.

It was Bradford resident Phil Sharp's second visit to the shop. "I think it is great," he said. "It's

unique to have this place. I like the lattes. I like the breakfast sandwiches and how they [the Gendrons] have opened up the place. It is appropriate how the opening up coincides with the opening up from Covid. I give it a high rating."

Head cook Dana Sager, also of Bradford, started working Saturdays only at first.

"Then it started expanding," she said. "It is very exciting."

She and Travis were high school friends who stayed in touch.

Sager's enthusiasm for the menu is obvious.

"I love that we are coming up with stuff that is really fun," she said. "We try for what is different, playful."

Indeed, on the menu, there are imaginative names for an array of hot dog dishes, including Nacho Libre, Kay-ow Tipipa, and T-Dogg Special.

Other menu items in which Sager delights are the Day-o Sammy and the Belafonte.

Kendall said the shop is hosting a Drag and Brew, a drag queen show on the evening of July 31.

"We were going to advertise," she said, "but the tickets were sold out within five hours."

There are plans for Vittles to host future special events. In the meantime, its regular hours at 142 Main Street are Tuesday through Saturday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. The shop is closed Sunday and Monday.

And fear not, motorists in need of a coffee or snack. The drive-through stand on the Lower Plain will remain open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Email: [lbuermeyer@jonews.com](mailto:lbuermeyer@jonews.com).



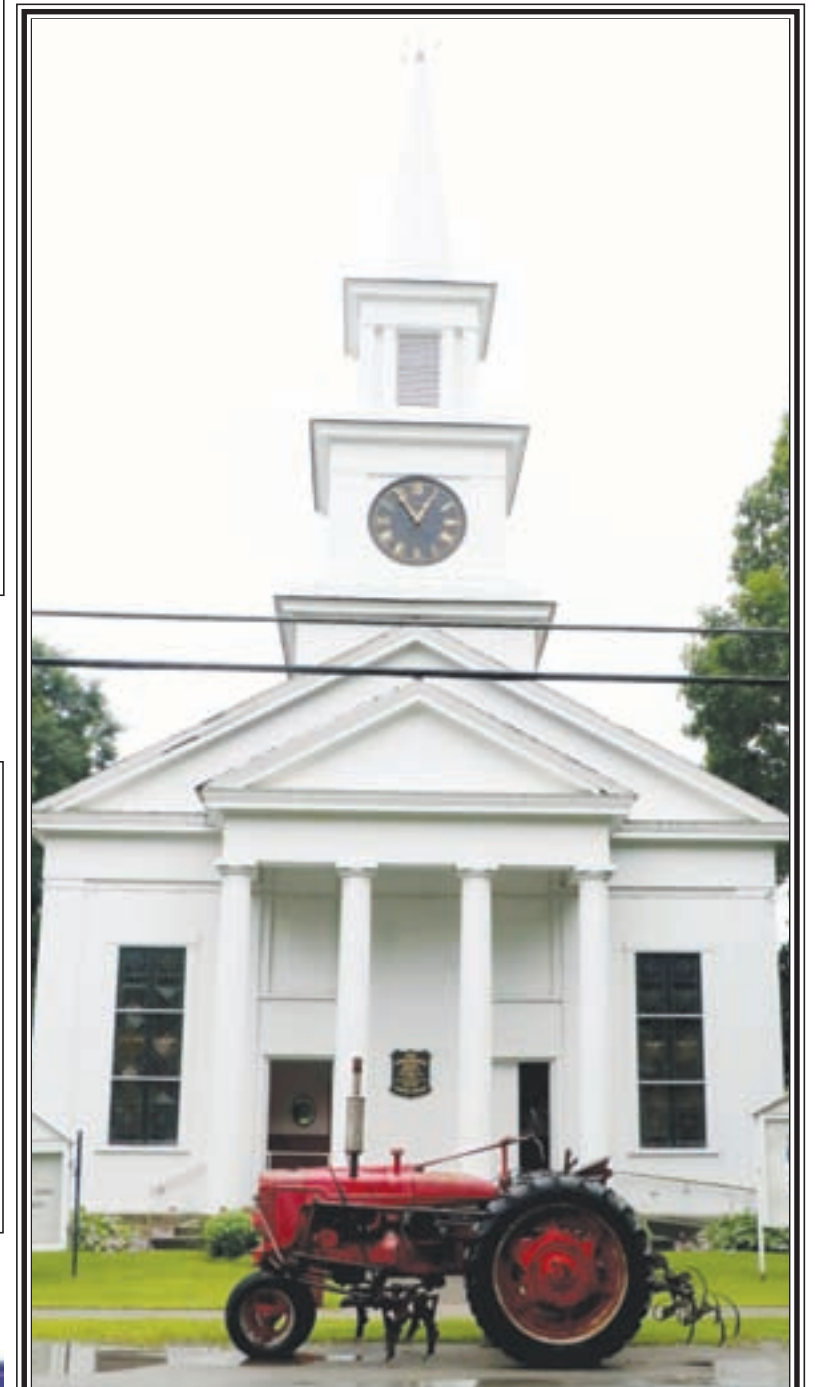
Before opening in May, Kendall and Travis Gendron of Vittles House of Brews redesigned the interior space of the former Local Buzz. JO PHOTO BY RICHARD SWENSON



Kendall Gendron of Vittles House of Brews on Main Street in Bradford prepares coffee for customers on Saturday. The coffee shop opened in May taking over the space formerly occupied by the Local Buzz. JO PHOTO BY RICHARD SWENSON



Patty and Gill Williams are all smiles as they perform a duet on Sunday at the First Congregational Church of Newbury during the 4th Annual Bernard Thurston Red Truck Musical Festival. JO PHOTO BY RICHARD SWENSON



In memory of longtime community member Bernard Thurston, the 4th Annual Red Truck Music Festival was held at the 1st Congregational Church of Newbury on Sunday. Thurston's tractor was on display in front of the church. JO PHOTO BY RICHARD SWENSON

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**Back Porch News...**  
Good, Local News.

**Student achievements**  
Leon Kuhne of Lyme graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a bachelor's degree in software engineering.

###  
Emmanuel College in Boston has named **Hannah Davis** of East Thetford to the Dean's List for the spring 2021 semester.

**Good Local News!**

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# Classifieds

## HAVERHILL COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT INVITATION TO BID

### Replacement of Entrance Doors and Framing at Woodsville High School

SAU 23 is requesting Bids for the replacement of the doors and framing of the middle entrance at the Woodsville High School.

The bid submittal deadline will be 2:00 p.m., August 6, 2021. Bids will be accepted via email to the address listed, or sealed bids marked "WHS entrance" delivered to the SAU 23 office.

To obtain a copy of the job specifications and schedule a walk through contact Bert Vines, SAU 23 Facilities Maintenance Manager at bvines@sau23.org or 603-787-2113 Ext. 125.

## Seeking Contractor Quotes

for several of our facilities in Randolph & Bradford Vermont

Seeking written quotes & proof of insurance for the following projects:

- Vinyl siding of a building in Randolph
- Repair and painting of a historic porch in Randolph
- Painting a small gym floor and gym walls in East Randolph
- Repairing a slate roof in Randolph
- Expanding the parking lot & installing an outside basketball court in East Randolph
- Tear down an existing building, replace it with a 24 x 24 building on a slab & manage the installation of its water & electricity in Randolph
- Spring painting of a building's exterior in both Randolph & Bradford



- Interested contractors should email Amanda Higgins at ahiggins@claramartin.org to arrange an on-site meeting.
- Quotes & proof of insurance to be submitted to Mark Hamilton at mhamilton@claramartin.org.

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## PIERMONT VILLAGE SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT POSITIONS

FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Applications are being accepted for two full-time and one part-time one-on-one positions as an Instructional Assistants to assist with the implementation of IEP goals and objectives pertaining to social, emotional and behavior development. Previous experience is a plus but willing to train the right applicant.

Applications are also being accepted for an Instructional Assistant for a preschool student for the 2021-2022 school year. This would be mornings, five days per week.

To apply please send a cover letter, resume and references to:  
Bruce Labs, Principal  
Piermont Village School  
131 Route 10  
Piermont, NH 03779  
Email: blabs@sau23.org

## GLENCLIFF HOME

is accepting applications for  
HEALTH FACILITY CLEANER III

AVAILABLE

Part Time w/Flexible Hours  
2nd Shift: 3 pm-11pm  
Salary (2nd Shift Differential included)  
Hourly \$14.08-\$16.28



Education: High school diploma or high school equivalency credential.

Experience: One year of experience in the cleaning and maintaining of a health facility or other public institution with some experience as a lead worker or as a supervisor. Each additional year of approved work experience may be substituted for one year of required formal education.

Shannon Perkins, Health Facilities Cleaner Supervisor  
393 High Street, PO Box 76, Glencliff, NH 03238  
(603) 989-5221

Shannon.J.Perkins@dhhs.nh.gov  
Applications can be completed and benefits reviewed online at:

<http://das.nh.gov/hr/index.aspx>

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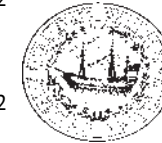
Full Time & Part Time w/Flexible Hours  
2nd Shift: 3pm-11pm  
3rd Shift: 11pm-7am

#### Registered Nurse (RN) I-III

2nd Shift (Differential & 15% Enhancement included)  
Annual: \$63,315.20-\$86,827.52  
Hourly: \$30.44-\$41.74  
3rd Shift (Differential & 15% Enhancement included)  
Annual: \$66,434.16-\$89,947.52  
Hourly: \$31.94-\$43.24

#### Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) I-II

2nd Shift (Differential & 15% Enhancement included)  
Annual: \$55,736.16-\$70,968.56  
Hourly: \$27.28-\$34.12  
3rd Shift (Differential & 15% Enhancement included)  
Annual: \$59,856.16-\$74,088.56  
Hourly: \$28.78-\$35.62



Direct Care \$20.00/wk. (\$1,040.00/year)

To provide professional nursing care to residents within an assigned unit and provide support medical care as directed by medical staff and pursuant to objectives and policies of the nursing department and Glencliff Home. Must possess and maintain a current license as a RN/LPN in NH. Salary and Position determined by years of experience and certification.

State of New Hampshire benefit package  
Health/Dental/Vision/Prescription Plan  
Single \$22/2-person \$44/Family \$66 (Bi-Weekly)

Michelle Booker, Director of Nursing  
393 High Street, PO Box 76  
Glencliff, NH 03238  
(603) 989-5226

Michelle.Booker@dhhs.nh.gov  
Applications can be completed and benefits reviewed online at

<https://das.nh.gov/hr/index.aspx>

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is accepting applications for

### LICENSED NURSE ASSISTANTS (LNA)

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Full Time & Part Time w/Flexible Hours  
2nd Shift: 3pm-11pm  
3rd Shift: 11pm-7am

#### LNA I

2nd Shift (Differential included)  
Annual: \$30,430.40-\$35,068.80  
Hourly: \$14.63-\$16.86  
3rd Shift (Differential included)  
Annual: \$30,742.40-\$35,380.80  
Hourly: \$14.78-\$17.01

#### LNA II

2nd Shift (Differential included)  
Annual: \$32,718.40-\$37,814.40  
Hourly: \$15.73-\$18.18  
3rd Shift (Differential included)  
Annual: \$33,030.40-\$38,126.40  
Hourly: \$15.88-\$18.33



Direct Care \$5.00/wk. (\$260.00/year)

Requirements: High school diploma or high school equivalency credential. Must possess and maintain a current license for Nursing Assistant as approved by the New Hampshire Board of Nursing. Valid driver's license required if responsible to transport residents to appointments. LNA I, no experience required. LNA II, two years of experience required.

State of New Hampshire benefit package  
Health/Dental/Vision/Prescription Plan  
Single \$22/2-person \$44/Family \$66 (Bi-Weekly)

Michelle Booker, Director of Nursing  
393 High Street, PO Box 76  
Glencliff, NH 03238  
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Michelle.Booker@dhhs.nh.gov  
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## GLENCLIFF HOME

is accepting applications for  
FOOD SERVICE WORKER (FSW)

AVAILABLE

Full Time & Part Time w/Flexible Hours  
1st Shift: 5:30am-1:30pm  
2nd Shift: 11am-7pm

#### FSW I

1st Shift  
Annual: \$24,169.60-\$27,081.60  
Hourly: \$11.62-\$13.02  
2nd Shift (Differential included)  
Annual: \$26,374.40-\$28,329.60  
Hourly: \$12.68-\$13.62



#### FSW II

1st Shift  
Annual: \$25,604.80-\$28,579.20  
Hourly: \$12.31-\$13.74  
2nd Shift (Differential included)  
Annual: \$26,852.80-\$29,827.20  
Hourly: \$12.91-\$14.34

FSW I Requirements: Completion of eight years of grammar school or its equivalent, with no experience required.

FSW II Requirements: Completion of eight years of grammar school or its equivalent. Each additional year of approved formal education may be substituted for one year of required work experience. Six months' experience as a waiter/waitress, dining room attendant and/or food service worker.

State of New Hampshire Benefit Package  
Health, Dental, Vision and Prescription Plans  
Single \$22/2-Person \$44/Family \$66 (Bi-weekly)

Jim Cormiea, Director of Food Services  
393 High Street, PO Box 76, Glencliff, NH 03238  
(603) 989-5220

James.E.Cormiea@dhhs.nh.gov  
Applications can be completed and benefits reviewed online at:

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## ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY

(COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE)

The Office of the Grafton County Attorney currently has a full-time position available for a highly motivated attorney. The Assistant County Attorney is responsible for discussing legal aspects of criminal cases with police, program development, law enforcement training and community relations, although the primary responsibility is the prosecution of cases in the Superior Court. Applicant must have Juris Doctor Degree and be a member in good standing of the NH Bar and interested in joining a great team. Salary range is \$62,212-\$86,112.

Please send resume and cover letter to:  
Grafton County Human Resources  
3855 Dartmouth College Hwy., Box 3  
North Haverhill, NH 03774

or

Apply online, visit:

[www.co.grafton.nh.us/employment-opportunities](http://www.co.grafton.nh.us/employment-opportunities)  
Email: [hr@co.grafton.nh.us](mailto:hr@co.grafton.nh.us)

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## GOOD LOCAL NEWS!

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A pair of fawns amble about the edge of a yard.

JO PHOTO BY RICHARD SWENSON



The First Congregational Church of Newbury was full of music lovers on Sunday for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Red Tractor Music Festival featuring local musicians, including Patrick Ross (pictured here).

JO PHOTO BY RICHARD SWENSON

## New trail signs lined up for Tucker MT

NEWBURY—The Friends of Tucker Mountain recently received a \$5,000 grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation to design and install interpretive signs along the trails of Tucker Mountain Town Forest in Newbury. The signs will describe historical sites like old cellar holes, natural features including vernal pools and other wildlife habitats, and other forest information.

The grant will help further the organization's mission of enhancing the recreational experience and promoting stewardship of Tucker Mountain Town Forest. It is the goal of Friends of Tucker Mountain to help users learn more about history, ecological processes, wildlife, and forestry to promote stewardship and respect for the natural environment.

**CRAFTING**  
NORTH HAVERHILL—Crafting is held under the tent at Horse Meadow Senior Center on Tuesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. Call 603-787-2539 for a reservation. Crafting with Eileen is on Aug. 3 and 17; florals with Jane on Aug. 10; needlework crafts with Gerri on Aug. 24; there will be no class on Aug. 31.

**FUN FACTS**  
Almost all commercially grown artichokes, 99.9 percent, come from California. One town in particular, Castroville, is nicknamed "the Artichoke Capital of the World."

## Agency studied Covid impact on health insurance

MONTPELIER—The Vermont Department of Financial Regulation released a report examining the financial impacts of COVID-19 on Vermont's commercial health insurance marketplace to determine whether any consumer premium relief is warranted.

The report found COVID-19 mitigation measures, such as the postponement of non-essential medical and surgical procedures, resulted in excess profits for health insurers in 2020, however, as pandemic conditions improved, much of the deferred medical care returned resulting in potential losses in 2021.

The report found that only two market segments had COVID-19 related profits when reviewing 2020 and 2021 together at this time. Specifically, BCBSVT's Medicare Supplement and Cigna's large group market segments, which together totaled approximately \$2.2 million in COVID-19 related profits. However, the report also concludes that additional premium relief in these or other market segments may be warranted in the future.

Pandemic mitigation measures also had favorable financial impacts on providers of other lines of insurance. For example, DFR previously approved \$24 million in premium relief for Vermont auto insurance policyholders due to significant reductions in driving during the pandemic and \$3.2 million for dental insurance policyholders due to pandemic restrictions on routine dental care.

Regarding the health insurance premium relief, Cigna has already returned approximately \$118,000 to its eligible large group policyholders and DFR will require BCBSVT to incorporate consumer relief totaling approximately \$2.1 million in its upcoming 2022 Medicare Supplement filing.

DFR plans to review other 2022 Medicare Supplement filings and VEHI's upcoming rate filing to determine if any additional COVID-19 related rate relief is appropriate.

## NEK Broadband completes major planning goal

After months of research, the communications union district NEK Broadband has created a business plan to bring reliable high-speed internet throughout the Northeast Kingdom.

Barnet, Groton, Peacham, and Ryegate are all among the member towns.

The network will be based on fiber optic cable added to existing utility poles. The new plan includes service goals, the sequence of construction phases, and a financial model.

NEK Broadband has embarked on a project where 33,336 residential and business addresses have been identified in the three counties: Caledonia, Essex or Orleans. Of these, 20,258 addresses are underserved or unserved. The organization will develop funding for and oversee the construction of 2,803 miles of backbone and distribution fiber so that every address has the option to subscribe to the 100 Mbps speed or more a fiber optic network offers.

With the business plan completed, grant applications will proceed and as funds are awarded, more progress will be made.

### BREAKFAST

WEST BARNET—Breakfast (inside/sit down) will be served at Lake View Grange Hall in West Barnet on Aug. 14 from 8 to 10 a.m. Menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, home fries, sausage, bacon, white, wheat, rye, challah toast, coffee tea and juice. Adults \$8, Over 60-\$7, under 12-\$4

## Pain workshop series coming up

NORTH HAVERHILL—Horse Meadow Senior Center is partnering with UNH Extension on a virtual chronic pain workshop series. In this workshop, attendees will learn ways to manage symptoms and meet health goals. They will create a weekly action plan to help meet goals so they can do the things in life they want to do.

Workshops are offered monthly at different times (morning, afternoon and evening opportunities), seven consecutive dates with each 2.5-hour session building upon the session before; full participation in the seven weeks is highly encouraged; virtual course conducted via Zoom; NH residents only at this time.

In this workshop, participants will discover problem-solving strategies to deal with fatigue, pain, frustration, isolation and poor sleep; uncover physical activities for maintaining and improving strength, flexibility, endurance; learn how to pace activity and when to rest; discover the importance of good nutrition in pain management; improve communication with family, friends and health professionals; understand appropriate use of medications and how to evaluate new treatments; and benefit from the support and encouragement from others also living with chronic pain.

Find out more or register at [extension.nh.edu/tags/chronic-disease-self-management](http://extension.nh.edu/tags/chronic-disease-self-management)

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