

Obituaries

Lori Gillson-Herron

Lori Gillson-Herron, also known as “Ma Dukes,” a beloved local sales representative from Brooklyn, New York, died on February 28, at the age of 54, after a valiant battle with pancreatic cancer.

Lori was born on March 3, 1966, to her mother Vivian Barile and father Daniel Gillson. Lori is survived by her stepfather Joseph Barile; her aunt Judy; her uncles Charlie and Billy; her cousins: Danny, Kimberly, and Crystal; her second and third cousins: Kristen,

Joshua, Faith, Justin, Joel, and Maddie; and her beloved boyfriend Paul Patneau.

Lori had an energetic personality and a heart like no other. She touched many lives with her generosity and passion for life. Lori did not have any children of her own, however, she was “Ma” to so many who were lucky enough to consider her a bonus mom. She would make herself available day or night for anyone who might be struggling and needed her support.

She was one of a kind and her presence is deeply missed, but the memories she created will never be forgotten. Lori had a true love for all animals but especially her own fur babies: Abby, Shadow, and Matrix.

Family and friends are invited to attend a celebration of life gathering on March 13 at 11 a.m. at the Curtis-Britch & Bouffard Funeral Home, located at 4670 Darling Hill Road in Newport. Online condolences at curtis-britch.com.



A new direction for the Old Stone House

The Old Stone House Museum & Historic Village launched a new logo and website this week to match the new direction on which it has embarked.

Work to revitalize the institution began with hiring a new dynamic staff and efforts to enlist a still-growing group of accomplished advisors, according to Molly Veysey, Old Stone House Museum & Historic Village executive director.

“We are excited to emerge in our region as the hub of culture, community, and education we know we can be,” Ms. Veysey said. “Our new image reflects this energy even while we’re staying true to our mission of preservation, education and inspiration.”

The Old Stone House Museum & Historic Village takes its new direction from the example of Alexander Lucius Twilight, an innovative educator who built the monumental Old Stone House dormitory at the heart of the village. Noted for being the first African American graduate of any United States college or university (Middlebury College, 1823), Mr. Twilight was also the first African American to be elected to the Vermont House of Representatives (1836).

Efforts this past year by museum staff and volunteers resulted in the Vermont State House designating September 23 as Alexander Twilight Day. United States Representative Peter Welch also read a remembrance of Mr. Twilight into the Congressional Record before sharing it at a ceremony for the first officially designated Alexander Twilight Day this past September.

The new Old Stone House brand reflects not only the legacy of Mr. Twilight but also the museum’s efforts at becoming a regional hub and community gathering place, according to Ms. Veysey.

Despite a pandemic, this past year saw the construction of a new, one-mile Twilight Educational Trail, the completion of pandemic-safe educational and family programs, the installation of a new state roadside marker recognizing Mr. Twilight, the addition of a WiFi hot spot in Brownington, and the delivery of nutritious foods to local food banks from the museum’s giving gardens.

Veysey added that 2021 promises to be a big year. The museum will begin work to interpret trails at Willoughby State Forest’s Civilian Conservation Corps camp S-55, install a new Alexander Twilight exhibit, expand its Giving Gardens, add new educational and adult programs, and much more.

To better connect with the Northeast Kingdom community and beyond, work on the museum’s brand began in fall 2020 in partnership with Flek, Inc., of St. Johnsbury. This work was made possible due to funding from the Northern Community Investment Corporation.

“The momentum leading to our brand’s launch has brought new partnerships and ideas to one of our region’s most important historical places,” said Carmen Jackson, Old Stone House Museum & Historic Village Board of Trustees President. “We’re not just looking to spark our own community but to create new opportunities for people in our local region and beyond.

“We believe this starts with an emphasis on Mr. Twilight and Brownington being the home of his choice,” Ms. Jackson added. “It makes our grounds the physical manifestation of the man. We’re excited to see where it leads us in partnership with those who are touched by our work.”

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Old Stone House Museum & Historic Village was established by the Orleans County Historical Society and has been operating as a museum since 1926. Through educational programs that use select items from its permanent collection as teaching tools, the museum embraces hands-on, experiential learning as a way of connecting individuals to their own community’s past.

Notable past activities have included a barn raising with area vocational students and a tree trimming and replanting project that was

incorporated into the third grade science curriculum at the Brownington Elementary School. Adult education programs have taught such traditional crafts as blacksmithing, rug hooking, stone wall building, and tree pruning. Spring and fall field days for area schools, as well as the Time Travelers Day Camp held in the summer, have emphasized hands-on craft activities, theater, and the scientific exploration of the garden and grounds.

The new brand launched this week aims to attract visitors from throughout the region while also engaging new members of the local community.

“Now, more than ever, we intend to serve as a community resource,” Ms. Veysey said. “We believe our institution can provide essential services and spark dialogue on inequality in our shared society.” — from the Old Stone House Museum & Historic Village.

Public hearings on deer and moose, March 23, 25, 26

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department will hold online public hearings on deer and moose management for 2021 on March 23, 25, and 26.

The online public hearings will have department staff and Fish and Wildlife board members participating.

The meetings will start with a 30-minute pre-recorded presentation on the proposed 2021 moose hunting season and current health status of Vermont’s deer herd. Public comments and questions will be taken at the electronic meetings and by phone. The department will post written responses on its deer and moose hearing webpage after the hearings.

For more information and to join the online hearings, go to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website www.vtfishandwildlife.com and click on the “public hearings schedule” on the home page.

In addition to the public hearings, anyone can leave a comment on the proposals with a telephone message by calling (802) 265-0043 or by emailing ANR.FWPpublicComment@vermont.gov.

Moose comments must be received by March 31, deer comments by May 14. — from Vermont Fish and Wildlife.

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Card of Thanks

The family of Beverley Poutre would like to thank everyone who helped her and were kind to her in her last years. A special thank-you to her doctors: Lippman, Desanto, Peck, and Dr. Wyllie, who was a great boss and friend to her. Thank you to everyone who sent cards, flowers, and condolences. They were greatly appreciated. Thank you to all the employees of Bel-Aire, who shared a smile and kind words with her, which she valued above all!

A special thank-you to Cathy Graham and Carol Cooke, who went the extra mile to keep us connected to Mom during this last year.

Faye Hilliker and family
Mary Kaye Fortin and family
Daniel Poutre

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