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Rockingham improvements to electrical infrastructure

BY PAULA BENSON
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Rockingham Select-board held their regular meeting in the lower theater on Tuesday, March 19. Chair Peter Golec called the meeting to order promptly at 6 p.m.
 After no public comments were presented, town man-

ager Scott Pickup began his report with a request for volunteers to serve on town committees, expressing that many empty seats would be available as of April 1. He invited anyone interested to email him directly at manager@rockbf.org.

Kaylynn Monroe of National Grid gave a presentation on the River Valley Reliability Project. The scope of the project spans from the Wilder Substation in Hartford, Vt., through New Hampshire, and into Bellows Falls. Monroe said there will be 509 structures replaced, resulting in improved electric reliability, and the reduction of future maintenance and repair costs throughout the region.

Field work, land surveys, and construction reviews began in fall 2023 and are ongoing, with permitting to start during 2024-2025, and construction scheduled to begin December 2026, extending through March 2030. Pickup encouraged everyone to call 833-874-6988, or visit www.rivervalleyreliabilityproject.com for more information.

Regarding the lease and purchase agreement for

the Bellows Falls train station, Pickup reported that the draft of the agreement would be presented on April 2 to the newly-elected select-board for review. \$75,000 has been approved by voters to go toward the purchase of the station, with other money coming from the general fund to pay for engineering costs, including funds from the planning and development offices, budgeted with the intention of covering the costs of predevelopment, research, and planning work.

The project consists of three stages. The predevelopment work and purchase are part of the first stage. The second stage includes exterior work, like restoring the masonry facade, windows, and doors, in accordance with the U.S. Department of the Interior historic preservation standards. This portion is fully funded by grants and matching funds.

The board considered the proposal from Main Street Arts (MSA) to gift the MSA building located at 37 Main Street to the Village of Saxtons River. Board member Rick Cowan reported that MSA had received a quote of \$60,000 to demolish the building.

With funds from a municipal planning grant, the town had conducted a feasibility study which identified top projects supported by residents, including a multi-use building, a park, and a fire station. Cowan discussed hiring a consultant to see what other towns have done, and assess the impact of such a proposal, before moving forward.

The board concluded that more information was needed before acting on the proposal.

Pickup informed the board on multiple grant updates, including the 2024 Sustainable Energy for Schools and Municipalities Program application, which paid for the reinforcement of the town hall roof. The grant requires a local match of \$20,000 for project completion, and comes with an expected savings of \$200,000 in energy costs.

Tuesday night was board member Susan Hammond's last meeting, as announced by Cowan, who thanked her for 10 years on the board.

The Rockingham Select-board will hold its organization meeting on Tuesday, April 2, at 7:30 p.m., and a regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16.

Newly-renovated Studio 92 hosts open house

BY JOE MILLIKEN
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Studio 92, a new hair salon and art space located on The Square in Bellows Falls, recently hosted an open house event at their newly renovated store front, and not long after having officially opened their doors back on Feb. 2.

The owners, hair stylist Erica Daniels and artist Tim Wells, who met in Boston in 2020, had moved to Walpole in 2021, and after scouting around the area for a salon for Erica to work at, decided that opening her own salon was a better path to take. Then, while visiting nearby Bellows Falls, they wandered around and fell in love with the town.

"We found the old Shona and Real Scoop buildings, and started investigating the feasibility of buying and renovating the buildings," Wells said in a recent interview. "The plan also developed to include a studio space for my sculptural endeavors."

Wells and Daniels recently completed extensive renovations on the two historic buildings on Rockingham Street, after purchasing the buildings about a year ago. The former Shona Grill building is now the home of the aforementioned Studio 92, and the art deco style building right next door, the former home of the Real Scoop ice cream shop, is also newly renovated and ready to be rented as a commercial space.

The renovation process of both historic structures was extensive and expensive;



Owners Erica Daniels and Tim Wells cut the ribbon at their recent Studio 92 open house on Rockingham Street in Bellows Falls, as members of the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce look on.

PHOTO BY JOE MILLIKEN

however, Daniels and Wells are excited about the possibilities for both store fronts moving forward. The two buildings are neighboring another historic structure in the Miss Bellows Falls Diner, which is also in the process of being fully renovated and restored.

The new Studio 92 is a unique and beautiful space, as the owners installed a new roof, new floors, and interior walls and trim, while the second building, at 94 Rockingham Street, has new wiring, plumbing, interior walls and insulation, fully accessible bathrooms, and a new roof. Daniels and Wells are open to practically any type of creative new business that might want to utilize the downtown location.

"The Real Scoop building is still vacant, but we've had very promising preliminary talks with a group of entrepreneurs from Bellows Falls," Wells said. "If the process goes well, it's possible they could be open sometime this summer or fall. We were

looking for a business with ties to the town, that offers a good product or service, that would bring realistic, significant value to the town. These folks check all those boxes and more, so we're excited to continue moving forward with them."

The aforementioned open house at Studio 92 was a success, with support coming from the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce, various community members and residents, and refreshments provided by the local 7 Balls Brewing.

"The ribbon-cutting event was fun," Wells concluded. "It was a first for both of us – and we had a great turnout. Folks in this town have been nothing but welcoming and receptive to us, and having previously lived in towns where locals weren't exactly welcoming of outsiders, we've been thrilled to find Bellows Falls to be the opposite."

BFUHS Partners with The Jed Foundation

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Union High School (BFUHS) is proud to announce its partnership with The Jed Foundation (JED), a leading nonprofit dedicated to safeguarding emotional health and preventing suicide among teens and young adults nationwide. Through this collaboration, BFUHS will implement JED High School (JED

HS), a comprehensive program designed to enhance mental health support and suicide prevention efforts within the school community.

JED's signature programs, JED High School and JED Campus, have a proven track record of providing critical support to over 500 high schools, colleges, and universities across the coun-

try. By joining JED High School, BFUHS demonstrates a steadfast commitment to prioritizing the emotional wellbeing of its students.

As part of the JED HS program, BFUHS will embark on a collaborative strategic planning process facilitated by JED

See **BFUHS** on Page 2

Kurn Hattin Homes Career Awareness Program

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Kurn Hattin Homes for Children is proud to announce their new Career Awareness Program, which is designed to introduce the Homes' eighth graders to a diverse array of local businesses and organizations, so that their experiences in real world settings might positively influence and guide future educational choices and professional career paths.

The first official destination for the students in the Career Awareness Program (CAP) was at Subaru of Keene. The visit ticked all the boxes. Hosted by Justin Tyler, service and parts director, and Anthony Hart, senior master technician and shop foreman, the tour included stops in the sales showroom, as well as the service area. The students were introduced to a variety of career opportunities, and the educational background and skillsets required to successfully pursue those jobs. They also learned that there's a place for all people in the auto industry; people who have earned a GED, those who have earned an advanced college degree, and ev-



Service technician Meagan Sherman demonstrates her job to Kurn Hattin students.

PHOTO PROVIDED

everyone in between.

Bob Swartz, vice president and CEO of the Fenton Family Dealerships and organizer of the CAP visit, said, "Introducing students to the auto industry provides them with valuable insights into various aspects of technology, innovation, economics, and sustainability, preparing them for future careers and enabling them to make informed decisions as consumers and global citizens."

Jeff Lubas, general manager at Subaru of Keene, concurred, "We are so grateful to be able to have a positive impact on someone's future." Then, referring to the changing population of the auto industry, he told the students that ev-

ery year more and more women are getting in to the business, both in sales and service.

In fact, one of the highlights of the visit was meeting service technician Meagan Sherman. She's proof positive for the Homes' students that all are welcome in every area of the auto industry. Toward the CAP goals, it's this type of eye-opening experience and heightened awareness that will help prepare Kurn Hattin Homes' graduates for futures with limitless potential.

The Career Awareness Program has plans to visit a wide variety of local participating businesses and organizations, including the Colonial Theatre and Showroom, Len-Tex Corporation, Whitney Brothers, Fireworks Restaurant, Savings Bank of Walpole, Badger Balm, the Keene Beauty Academy, RE/MAX Town & Country, and Monadnock Community Hospital, with other destinations in the planning stages. If you would like to discuss adding your organization to the Career Awareness Program, please contact Lorie Rogers at 802-721-6917 or lrogers@kurnhattin.org.

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Elks BFUHS February Student of the Month

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – It is a pleasure to announce that Kaylee Desmarais has been named the Elks February Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School (BFUHS). Kaylee, a senior, is the daughter of Matthew and Amanda Desmarais, and resides in Saxtons River.



Kaylee Desmarais.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Kaylee has worked hard in her classes throughout her high school career. Not only does she excel in traditional academic subjects, but she also seeks out opportunities for advanced learning, extracurricular academic competitions, and projects.

ready to learn. She consistently attends classes and extracurricular activities punctually and reliably. She is an active member of her classes, and a pleasure to work with.

Kaylee maintains a can-do attitude, and a willingness to learn and grow. Her positive outlook not only benefits her own learning journey, but influences those around her. Her optimism and determination serve as an inspiration to her peers and teachers alike, creating a supportive and encouraging atmosphere within the school community.

In addition to her academic achievements, Kaylee is an active and valued contributor to the school and community. Whether she's organizing a fundraising event, leading a student initiative, or participating in community service projects, Kaylee consistently demonstrates her commitment to making a posi-

tive impact within the school community. She is an active member of the BFUHS music and drama programs, and has participated in musical programs outside of school.

Kaylee's dedication to community service not only reflects her strong sense of social responsibility, but also showcases her compassionate and altruistic nature. Through her involvement in community service projects, Kaylee serves as a role model for her peers, inspiring others to engage in meaningful acts of service and kindness. She has done community service at the Saxtons River Elementary School's after school drama program, and the BFUHS drama program as well.

Clearly deserving of recognition, BFUHS and the Elks are proud to have Kaylee represent us as the February Student of the Month.



BFWC donates to Fall Mountain Food Shelf

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Pictured are Bellows Falls Woman's Club (BFWC) President Nancy McAuliffe and club member Betty Haggerty with some of the bags of nonperishable food items that club members donated to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf at the club's March 12 meeting.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Short story discussion at Rockingham Library

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Pick up a copy of the short story "I Am Pizza Rat" by Han Ong, and join the discussion of it on Monday, April 1, at 3 p.m., at the Rocking-

ham Library. It's surprising how many personal connections can be made reading this compact form of literature. Large-print copies are available too. The Rockingham Library will

meet on the first Monday of each month to discuss a different short story. For more information, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, or call the library at 802-463-4270.

SRDC grant for Park Street redevelopment

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – U.S. Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vt., announced this week that he has secured nearly \$30 million in federal funds in the recently-passed budget to support 19 Vermont projects. The projects will improve local infrastructure and accessibility, bolster economic revitaliza-

tion, preserve community landmarks, and build more affordable housing. Project recipients were nominated by Sen. Welch through the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) process. One of the recipients was for the Springfield Regional Development Corporation (SRDC), which will receive

\$1 million for the Park Street School: Business Incubator & Accelerator in Springfield.

The funding was included in the six-bill "minibus" appropriations package for fiscal year 2024, passed by the U.S. Senate on Friday, March 8. SRDC executive director Bob Flint expressed his appreciation for the continued Congressional support. "We are grateful for the ongoing enthusiasm from our delegation for this important project. We appreciate the recent site visit from Sen. Welch, and thank him and his staff for the nomination and support for the CDS award."

Celebrate Earth Day at The Nature Museum

GRAFTON, Vt. – The Nature Museum invites everyone to join them on April 20, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., to celebrate Earth Day, with a full day of programs.

The Nature Museum will host an Earth Day Open House. Explore the diversity of wildlife neighbors in Vermont, from small insects to big mammals. Live native animals will be showcased by the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, and museum educators will delve into the fascinating worlds of bats, and our native wild cats. Guests can enjoy nature-

themed exploration, play, and creativity with activities like bug hotel making, fairy house building, scavenger hunts, and craft-making. The Magic Forest playscape will be open for play, and visitors can also see the ongoing wetland restoration project and explore the awakening pollinator garden. Indoors, interactive exhibits highlight Vermont flora, fauna, and geology.

The Nature Museum meadow, pond, and playscape expansion project continues to progress. Planned improvements include a parent seating area near the playscape, a play campsite, a sand pit, a "bear

den," a wetland boardwalk, and easy-to-navigate trails connecting to the Village Park Trails and Windham Foundation trails. The project also includes a new map of The Nature Museum grounds, and a meadow management plan developed with the Xerces Society to support native species, pollinators, and wildlife for years to come.

April vacation camps are also being offered during the week of April 23-25, for children ages 4-11. For more information about these events and the ongoing expansion projects, visit The Nature Museum's website at www.naturemuseum.org.

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BFUHS

From Page 1

experts. This process evaluates existing initiatives while fostering positive, systemic change within the high school community. The program equips schools with essential resources, including assessment tools, feedback reports, a strategic plan, and ongoing support from the JED High School team.

BFUHS' membership in JED High School commences with the formation of an interdisciplinary, cam-

pus-wide team dedicated to implementing program enhancements. The school will conduct a confidential self-assessment survey to evaluate its current mental health promotion and suicide prevention efforts. Upon completion, JED experts will provide BFUHS with a comprehensive feedback report, outlining areas of success and opportunities for improvement.

Over the next 36 months, BFUHS will collaborate closely with JED to implement targeted enhancements aimed at bolstering student wellbeing. While all self-assessment responses and feedback reports remain confidential, BFUHS is committed to provid-

ing periodic updates to the community on its progress and opportunities for further engagement.

Principal O'Ryan expressed enthusiasm about the partnership, stating, "At BFUHS, we are deeply committed to nurturing the holistic wellbeing of our students. Partnering with The Jed Foundation allows us to access invaluable resources and expertise to strengthen our mental health support systems and foster a culture of resilience within our school community."

For more information about the JED High School program and its commitment to mental health, please visit www.jedfoundation.org/jedhighschool.

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The old way

BY RON PATCH

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I live in a different world than most people. I remember in high school the teacher asked us seniors what we wanted to do when we left school. You can imagine many of the answers: college, marriage, riding a motorcycle west through Colorado, or Joe Booth, who wanted to be a doctor.

I said I wanted to be a hermit. The kids all laughed. The teacher said that wasn't possible. Maybe not, but what was possible was a place where I could be me. I've always identified with the old ways. It was only natural I found the antiques business.

My world

By now, I've paid my dues. I don't feel guilty, or selfish, if I don't participate in today's crazy world. I enjoy my own company. I always have something to do, and

I'm never bored.

The antiques business has changed a lot in 50 years. I think of my friend Fitzie from Vergennes. Fitz was stationed in Alaska in World War II, working on the Al-Can.

He was a hoarder of parts. Fitz collected parts for railroad lanterns, burners, globes etched with the name of the railroad line. He collected weathervanes, clock parts, antique knives, early license plates, Model-T parts, anvils, and blacksmith-made bear traps, some made from early car springs, and what he called "old man stuff."

Fitz scrapped out treadle sewing machines. The cast iron bases were sold to the public for \$15. The buyer would add a marble or wood top. These bases made a decorative side table. Fitz had a use for the drawers from these machines. There were usually two oak drawers on each side of the ma-

chine. Fitz built a wall rack to hold them.

This rack was about 6 feet wide, and went from a counter to ceiling. There were probably 40 drawers. Whatever small items he stashed in a drawer, he put that item on the front of the drawer. One drawer might have a Hepplewhite drawer knob for a pull. Pull this drawer out and it was full of Hepplewhite hardware.

Another drawer might have brass pulls for Victorian and oak furniture. On the front of that drawer was a brass pull with bail. All of these drawers were identified this way. When he needed a part for a project, all he had to do was glance up to see the drawer he needed. Fitz was a master scrapper.

His three-story shop and house was full to the rafters the same way. Many people knew of his hoard, but he rarely sold a part – unless he liked you.



A 1923 Vermont motorcycle license plate.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

Fitz and I were close. I could call him up and ask if he had a particular part I needed. He'd always say, "Yes. Do you want a left-handed snobble, or a right-handed widget?" In days gone by I knew several people like Fitz. They are all gone now.

2024

Lee Decatur does business the old way. I used to repair clocks. I collected clocks and clock parts of all types. Lee, though 10 years my senior, is still repairing clocks. Lee has access to my clock parts today. No money changes hands.

A while back, I needed

a new front door deadbolt installed. Lee did it for me, no charge. He's done other projects for me over the years. No one keeps score.

Maybe I can't be a hermit, but I can still deal with those who understand the value of their word or a handshake.

Sundays I go to Kendall church. It's not a church, but a meeting of likeminded people. Kim's older brother Lee is always there. Lee comes up from Keene. Dana often sits in. Dana lives in Andover. Last week we talked about how to grow pepper and tomato plants from seed, and how to pickle cucumbers. I can't wait to try

what I learned.

It's difficult to find people today who know how to do business. Today people can be demanding. I guess that's the new world. Fortunately, I still have customers that understand how to make a deal.

Today with a click of your smartphone you can have antique parts delivered to your door. This is a poor substitute for relationships developed between buyer and seller of my day.

This week's old saying was a plumber's ad: "Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

Violinist Johnny Gandelsman at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts presents violinist and former member of Silkroad Ensemble Johnny Gandelsman, performing works written in response to the turbulent and disconnected time of the early pandemic and the murder of George Floyd. The anthology of compositions will be performed at Next Stage as part of Gandelsman's year-long residency at the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth on Wednesday, April 3, at 7 p.m. Part two of the series was performed at Next Stage in February, to a deeply appreciative audience.

"We are thrilled to host Johnny Gandelsman at Next Stage Arts for an extraordinary evening of music that transcends bound-

aries. Johnny's upcoming show, a copresentation with Dartmouth Center for the Arts at Dartmouth, is not just a performance; it's a journey into the heart of his latest project, "This is America," says Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts. "With roots in the groundbreaking Silk Road Ensemble, and as a founding member of Brooklyn Rider, Johnny brings a wealth of cultural influences to the stage. His ability to seamlessly blend genres is a testament to his artistry. Join us for an unforgettable night as we explore the musical landscapes he has crafted through his collaborations and solo endeavors."

In 2020, in response to the turbulent and discon-

nected time of the early pandemic and the murder of George Floyd, Gandelsman invited a wide array of American or U.S.-based composers to reflect on the current state of society in a personal and intimate way.

Over the course of a year-long residency at the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth, Gandelsman performs the anthology and expands the project with three new Hopkins Center-commissioned pieces. Part three of the series will include a new work by Gabriel Kahane, performed by Gandelsman as part of his compelling anthology. Kahane will be in residence to shed light on his new work.

Painting flowers in watercolor at the VAULT—

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Popular artist Robert O'Brien is offering a one-day workshop, "Painting Spectacular Flowers in Watercolor," on Saturday, April 13, from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., through Gallery at the VAULT.



A flower painted by artist Robert O'Brien.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Students will learn basic floral painting techniques, with an emphasis on values and composition. Layering and blending color into soft edges will also be taught. You will focus on painting from a close-up photo. A critique and class discussion

will be held at the end of the session. This course is open

Saturday, April 6, and include your phone number and email so we can send you the directions. A supply list will be provided upon registration.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street, Springfield. We are open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Fridays, from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit www.galleryvault.org. The gallery is ADA accessible.

to all levels of painting ability.

The class will be held at the Great Hall in Springfield, with its great light and space. The cost of the class is discounted for gallery members. Please register by

Reed Foehl at Stage 33 Live

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Grammy-nominated songwriter Reed Foehl will perform at Stage 33 Live in Bellows Falls, Vt., on Saturday, April 20, at 7 p.m., with highly regarded session drummer Jeff Berlin. Singer-songwriter Tommy Crawford opens. Tickets can be purchased in advance through www.stage33live.com, or at the door. Advance tickets guarantee entry. Only 40 tickets will be sold. The event will be recorded and filmed. This show was rescheduled from January, due to weather.

Reed Foehl writes stories of the human condition, with lyrics and voice that push boundaries while paying homage to tradition; dusty, patient, genuine folk Americana. His sixth studio album, "Wild Wild Love" (2022), was recorded with The Band of Heathens in Austin, Texas. He now resides in the Green Mountains of Vermont, and continues to tour across the globe.



Reed Foehl.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Foehl first hit radars as the lead singer of the relentlessly touring Boulder, Colo., band Acoustic Junction. His songs have appeared in TV and film productions, including the feature "Just Friends," "Joan of Arcadia," "Laguna Beach," "The Biggest Loser," "Dawson's Creek," and "Party of Five."

He was nominated for a Grammy Award for the song "Fly," cowritten with Southern artist Brent Cobb, which country legend Lee Ann Womack recorded.

Foehl will be joined by drummer Jeff Berlin, veteran of the Boston scene, who has recorded and performed with – in addition to Reed – Jeffrey Foucault, Bow Thayer, Boris McCutcheon, and many more. He's played on over 100 albums.

Tommy Crawford, multi-instrumentalist singer-songwriter, will open. A talented solo musician, Crawford is better known for his work in live theater and independent film as an actor, composer, lyricist, ar-

ranger, and music director. He is a founding member and director of NYC-based band/songwriting/theater collective The Lobbyists, which often explores the intersection between musical performance and theatrical storytelling. Tommy is a lifetime artist member of Ensemble Studio Theater, and a graduate of Yale University in theater studies. His most recent studio album, "Athena and the Moon," was released in 2022.

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opinion

Dear Editor,

I would like to congratulate the BFUHS board members who produced the budget with a 3.5% increase, despite a concerted effort to vote it down and replace it with a more expensive version. The budget that passed provides the funds for the services to the

students. We need to elect candidates who support responsible budgets that this community and its residents can afford. With that in mind, I hope you will join me in voting for Jason Terry and Mike Stack in the coming election.

On the town side, our

budget is up 3%, not including the library and social services articles. The tax rate currently is estimated at an increase of 10 cents, resulting in a tax rate for 2025 of \$1.25. Last year the tax rate was \$1.15. We used funds from the unrestricted fund balance in the amount of \$250,000 to reduce the tax rate in 2023-2024. We do not have that luxury this year. I would ask you to join me in voting for Jamey Berrick and Deb Wright, who are willing to question expenditure requests.

Paid for by Peter Golec
Rockingham Select-board chair

Dear Editor,

I am the current Rockingham School Board Chair, and running for reelection.

Being fully informed on all issues and supporting all people is essential. I ask hard questions of administrators and staff. I listen and consider community member needs when deciding on issues. A school board member must act as a voice for all of the people.

My background provides perspective. As a parent, I had a special needs child and a high achieving student. Their varying needs showed me how parents must constantly advocate. I

taught at Central Elementary and at the high school, providing varied instruction supporting students and families. As a taxpayer, I strive to keep costs down while providing programs that create student success.

As chair of the Supervisory Union Policy Committee, I have updated all policies. On the Board Negotiations Committee, I am working with the team to respectfully negotiate a fair settlement that will attract good teachers for our schools, but will also not overburden taxpayers. Business office problems from before I was on the board are being addressed. I feel tax dollars need to be used conscientiously in or-

der to get the most for our money.

I strive for excellent schools, and programs that provide opportunities for children. I believe it is important for elected officials to fulfill commitments made to taxpayers. I want to be a voice for our community, and advocate for our schools and our taxpayers. My goal is to provide the best education possible for Bellows Falls, Saxtons River, and other Rockingham students at a reasonable cost. I ask that people vote for me on April 2.

Paid for by Priscilla Lambert
Rockingham School Board Chair

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Subject to space. May be edited for clarity, grammatical errors, and libelous statements. Must be kept under 400 words. Must include name and town for publication. Viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal & The Shopper.

POLITICAL LETTERS Due to the volume of political letters we receive during elections, and the increased cost of adding pages to the paper to print them all, as of March 2023 we are charging a fee for political letters at the rate of \$75 for 200 words, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. Political letters include electioneering for a specific candidate, party, or article that may impact one's vote.

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Dear Editor,

Claremont residents have a long history of fighting pollution, protecting the health of our most vulnerable neighbors, and fighting for the thriving economy we all deserve. We are concerned to see an out-of-state company bulldozing ahead with a dangerous proposal to build an industrial-scale waste transfer station in a city still recovering from the Wheelabrator incinerator's toxic legacy.

For the past five years, Acuity Management Inc. has been pushing a proposal to build one of the largest construction and demolition (C&D) facilities in New England near a residential neighborhood and an elementary school on Maple Avenue.

The company's own estimate says the facility will receive nearly 80 trucks a day loaded with up to 500 tons of mixed C&D waste, which contains lead, mercury, and PFAS.

Acuity's operation would truck 130,000 tons of potentially dangerous waste through the city annually, putting strain on our region's roads and releasing harmful particulate matter into the surrounding air and water. The majority of this toxic waste will not be recycled at all, but rather sent by rail for disposal in other communities targeted by the waste industry.

Early in Acuity's application process, the Claremont planning director determined that local land-use regulations prohibited a proposal for a major change of use at the proposed site. In August 2022, the zoning board of adjustment (ZBA) upheld the decision. A subsequent bipartisan letter of support from Claremont's state representatives helped bolster the ZBA's position.

Rather than respecting local land-use regulation, Acuity has decided to take the city to court for the zoning board's decision. The threat of legal action continues to hang over our community. Furthermore, despite overwhelming rejections at a local level, Acuity has aggressively pursued their state-level permit applications to the Department of Environmental Services (DES).

The clear threat this proposal represents to the region's public health, infrastructure, and economic development obliges DES to respect land-use regulation and deny the siting of another major waste facility in Claremont. Though the out-of-state company would like to keep this intimidation behind closed doors, we encourage residents to stay updated on the process, express their appreciation for the city's stance, and call on the DES to deny any forthcoming proposals. We know the agency has a statutory responsibility to weigh local land-use regulations before signing off on permits, and it is clear that Acuity's intended use is prohibited under the City Code.

Sincerely,
Jim Contois, Reb MacKenzie, Nelia Sargent, and Judith Koester of A Better Claremont
Hayley Jones, Vermont and New Hampshire state director of Slingshot



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

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ACROSS

1 Weighing device
6 Sitar tunes
11 Fearful
12 Using the Internet
14 Eagles' homes
15 Julianne and Demi
16 Away from SSW
17 Auto style
19 Wager
20 Food regimen
22 Carrou of Broadway
23 Visibility hindrance
24 Cancel
26 Journeys
28 Head of st.
30 Animal doc
31 "Lolita" author
35 Summary
39 Plow pullers
40 Felon's flight
42 Sitarist
43 Soccer's Hamm
44 Prom duds
46 Heavy weight
47 E-business
49 Boring type
51 New citizen, perhaps

DOWN

1 Picturesque
2 Life's work
3 Onassis nickname
4 Cask sediment
5 '50s Ford
6 Peter the Great, e.g.
7 Shortly
8 Day- — paint
9 Car safety feature
10 Allergy season sound
11 Hourglass fillers
13 "Melrose Place" actor
18 "Lion" star
21 Yank at
23 Misanthrope
25 — choy here!
29 Library array

31 — plume
32 Wise sayings
33 "Scram!"
34 Preventive shot, in slang
36 40 winks
37 Sidesteps
38 Lipstick shades
41 Repairs
44 Rent
45 Foolproof
48 Hollywood trickery (Abbr.)
50 Ruby or Sandra

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obituaries

EASTER SERVICES

First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 US Route 5, Westminster, Vt.

On Holy Thursday, March 28, a soup meal will be served at 5 p.m. in the Church Hall, with service at 6 p.m. in the church. On Good Friday, there will be music and private meditation from 12-3 p.m., with service at 6 p.m. Easter Sunday sunrise service will be at 6:30 a.m., in the Mayo Building at Kurn Hattin Homes. Breakfast will be served from 7:15-9:45 a.m., at the church. There will then be a 10 a.m. Easter service in the church. Rev. Richard O'Donnell welcomes you, your family, and friends to join us. We would be honored to have you.

First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church St., Bellows Falls, Vt.

On Thursday, March 28, there will be the Maundy Thursday White Supper and Communion at 5:30 p.m. Easter Sunday, March 31, will begin with sunrise service at the gazebo at Oak Hill Cemetery, at 6:45 a.m., with breakfast to follow at the church. Traditional Easter Sunday service will begin at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

Ludlow Baptist Church, on the Green, 99 Main St.

A Good Friday service will be held at 6:30 p.m. Easter Sunrise service at the gazebo on the Green will begin at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast to follow at 8:30 a.m. in the church. Sunday School for all ages will begin at 9:30 a.m., with Morning Worship service to begin at 11 a.m. Join us to celebrate Jesus.

CHURCH SERVICES

ASCUTNEY, VT.

Open Bible Baptist Church, 168 Cemetery Rd.

Sunday services are being held in the church. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m., Sunday morning service is 11 a.m., and the afternoon service is 1:30 p.m. Wednesday evening service is at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call the church at 802-674-2266 or visit www.obbcvt.org.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St.

Services are held most Sundays at 10 a.m., in-person. Please join us. All are welcome. For more information go to Facebook @ImmanuelEpiscopalChurch or to our website www.immanuelepiscopal.org.

CAVENDISH, VT

St. James United Methodist Church, 570 Main St.

Please join us Sundays at 8:45 a.m. with Pastor John Hawkins. All are welcome. For more information, call 802-674-3443 or go to www.facebook.com/stjamesumcproctorsville.

CHESTER, VT.

First Universalist Parish of Chester, Route 103 North

Services are Sundays at 10 a.m. in person. Sunday services run from September to early June. Contact chestervtuu@gmail.com for a Zoom link for the service.

GRAFTON, VT.

Grafton Community Church, 55 Main St.

Worship begins Sunday at 10 a.m. View sermons on Zoom. For more information, go to www.graftoncommunitychurch.org or call 802-843-2346.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

Second Congregational Church of Londonderry, 2051 N. Main St.

Worship service is at 9:30 a.m. in person or online. Fill out a form at www.2ndcongregationalchurchvt.org to be sent a link to the live stream.

LUDLOW, VT.

Annunciation Catholic Church, Corner of Depot and High St.

Masses are celebrated on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 9 a.m. For further information, see our website at churchoftheannunciation.org, or call us at 802-228-3451.

MOUNT HOLLY, VT.

Village Baptist Church, 32 Church St.

We welcome all to come and worship with us Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call 802-259-2440.

PERKINSVILLE, VT.

Bow Baptist Church, 1102 Route 5, Weathersfield Bow

Sunday services are 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m., and Wednesday Bible Study and prayer at 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-546-4902.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Church of Christ, Rt. 11, 972 Chester Rd.

Sunday Bible Study for all ages at 10 a.m.; Worship Service at 11 a.m. includes a group meeting for children. Live or past services can be viewed on Facebook at SpringfieldVTChurchofChrist. Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., adult class on different topics meets in the Fellowship Hall, accessed by parking in the back of the church. For more information, call Jamie Kurpiel, Evangelist, at 870-615-0452 or email jkurpiel@yahoo.com. If no answer, call 802-886-2670.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 90 Park St.

Sunday Liturgy is 9:30 a.m. and Saturday vespers at 5 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-2615 or Parish Council President Thomas Barton at 802-263-5719.

CHURCH SERVICES (CONT.)

WALPOLE, N.H.

Walpole Unitarian Church, corner of Union and Main St.

Sunday Service begins at 10 a.m. Services are also available via Zoom. For links and updates, go to www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org.

WESTMINSTER, VT.

First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 US Route 5

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in our historic church and on Zoom. For more information, call 802-518-0321, email us at westminsterconline@gmail.com, or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurch-of-Westminster-Inc-1506511432980057.

Beware of eclipse scams

REGION – April 8 provides northern New England with a rare treat as the “path of totality” for a solar eclipse will pass over the region. Eclipses are not scams, but they offer more opportunities for scams. Safe viewing of the eclipse requires the use of glasses that allow viewing, but block the intense light from the sun. One very likely scam could have a financial and health impact: the sale of counterfeit and copycat viewing glasses that do not block solar light, and could cause blindness.

The vast majority of solar glasses for viewing the eclipse meet international safety standards, but criminals are inserting the tainted goods into the marketplace. They appear on websites, social media, email, and even through legitimate vendors or online auction sites such as eBay. As with other products available on the internet, or even in brick-and-mortar stores, look for some basic indicators that all may not be as it seems. Be wary of products available from unknown manufacturers or sellers. If you don't recognize the name, don't take a chance. When shopping online, don't trust product reviews. They are too easy to falsify. Instead, turn to reputable sources of information such as the Better Business Bureau, Consumer Reports, or the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Another excellent resource can be found online at www.consumerworld.com.

Look for misspellings or poor grammar in product descriptions and promotional statements. Reputable companies have their literature proofread before publication.

Examine the packaging and look for quality issues when making purchases in a retail or discount store, or from a website. Know the product return policy before buying.

Be sure that there is contact information on the packaging to allow you to connect with the manufacturer if you encounter an issue.

If obtaining a free item, don't assume that it is safe. Look for evidence. Many civic and religious organizations are distributing free solar eclipse viewing glasses. The fact that the organi-

zation has good intentions does not protect it from being a victim of criminals.

If you discover that you have received a counterfeit or copycat product, report it. Your report may save others from loss or injury. You may report them to the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov, New Hampshire Consumer Fraud Protection at www.doj.nh.gov/consumer or 888-468-4454, or the Vermont Consumer Assistance Program at ago.vermont.gov/cap or 800-649-2424.

Counterfeit and copycat products are scams. In some cases, they result in loss of the money paid to criminals, but far too often they can be harmful or cause death. Ask yourself, “Is buying and using a cheap, dangerous pair of ‘protective’ glasses worth losing my eyesight?”

While millions will be able to witness the eclipse from their homes, others living outside the “path of totality” will be traveling to the places where viewing will be best. If you are contemplating the trip, beware of a scam that could ruin your journey. Lodging in some areas may either be premium priced, or even unavailable. This situation is not unique to the eclipse, and is repeated whenever there is an in-demand event occurring in a community or area. Criminals are keenly aware of the scarcity, and seek to take advantage by offering opportunities for “deeply discounted” rooms or homes. The deals may appear on legitimate websites such as Vrbo or AirBnB, in social media posts, and even well-designed websites. Save yourself from potential financial loss and disappointment. Verify any reservations before making payment and pay by credit card. Legitimate reservation and booking sites will not accept gift cards, money orders, or cryptocurrency, and don't transfer money using Zelle or Venmo.

If you have any questions or comments, email them to egreenblott@aarp.org. Elliott Greenblott is a retired educator and coordinator of the AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Network. He hosts a CATV program, “Mr. Scammer,” produced and distributed by GNAT-TV in Sunderland, Vt., www.gnat-tv.org.

Margo Hrubec, 1947-2024

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Margo Hrubec died peacefully in her home in Bellows Falls, Vt., after a long illness.

She was born to Beatrice and Anthony Hrubec in New York City.

Art was always at the center of her life. Margo studied at the Art Students League and Parsons School of Design in New York City. From there, she secured a job as a graphic designer for Scholastic Magazine.

Margo was an avid skier. In 1992, she moved to New England. She lived in Spofford, N.H., Saxtons River, Vt., and Bellows Falls, Vt.

She worked for a while at Church & Main in Keene, and later began to paint and to make quilts.

Margo is survived by her brother and sister-in-law Brett Anthony and Gaylon Palmer; Ian Palmer-Anthony, nephew; Miranda Palmer-Anthony, niece;



Margo Hrubec, 1947-2024 PHOTO PROVIDED

and grandniece and nephew Jayden Palmer and Jordan Baker, all of Fair Oaks, Calif.; and many friends.

Margo's wit, humor, and creativity were a source of inspiration to all who knew her. She had a marvelous fashion sense, and was a wonderful cook and gardener. She was an excellent conversationalist in all aspects of art – film, literature, music, and visual art. She is greatly missed.

James P. Johnson, 2024

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On March 13, 2024, James P. Johnson, a native of Walpole, N.H., died peacefully in his sleep, at his apartment in Bellows Falls, Vt. There are no calling hours or services. Burial will be private. To

read the full obituary, please visit www.fenton-andhennessy.com.

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

Mabel Ward, 1934-2024

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Mabel Ward, 89, passed away at her home in Cavendish on Monday, March 18, 2024.

She was born on Nov. 29, 1934, in Cavendish, Vt., to the late Francis and Mildred (Dunlap) Ward.

She grew up in Cavendish, and attended grade school there. She went on to attend and graduate from Black River High School in Ludlow, Vt.

She was a member of the Grange, as well as the treasurer for the Cavendish Volunteer Fire Department.

She is survived by her partner of 29 years Charlie Dean and his son Eugene Dean; and by Charlie's stepchildren Paula Howard, Mark Howard, and Richard Howard.

She was predeceased by her parents.

A funeral service will take place on Friday, March 29, at 10 a.m., at the St. James Methodist Church in Cavendish, Vt.

Burial will follow in the Cavendish Village Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent in Mabel's name to the Da-



Mabel Ward, 1934-2024. PHOTO PROVIDED

vis Memorial Chapel, 99 Summer Street, Springfield, VT 05156, to assist with funeral expenses.

Arrangements are entrusted to the care of the Davis Memorial Chapel, Springfield, Vt.



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OBITUARIES:
A basic 200-word obituary is \$75, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. A black and white photo is an additional \$10. Email to editor@vermontjournal.com by Monday at 12 p.m.

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

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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

MARCH 30 –
 SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Vermont Volunteer Services for Animals will be holding a rabies vaccination clinic on Saturday, March 30, from 1-2:30 p.m., at Riverside Middle School, for a nominal fee. To volunteer to help with this event, call 802-672-5302, or email skaskiw@vermontel.net.

APRIL 4 –
 CHESTER, VT – St. Luke's Episcopal Church will host a Memory Café on Thursday, April 4, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Memory Cafes are nonjudgmental places where caregivers socialize, share stories, and learn about resources. Senior Solutions staff and volunteers will engage with your loved one while you meet with other caregivers. Come with your loved one who has dementia, Alzheimer's, or Parkinson's. Music and refreshments provided. Free for everyone.

APRIL 5 –
 BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The

First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church Street, will hold their First Friday Supper on Friday, April 5, from 5-6:30 p.m. The menu will be mac 'n' cheese, pulled pork, green salad, dessert, and a beverage. Vegan and gluten-free options will also be available. For take out, call 802-463-4311 before 5 p.m. Net proceeds will benefit the Saxtons River Community Fund.

CHESTER, Vt. – Upstairs @ Town Hall will host poet Sydney Lea on Friday, April 5, at 7 p.m., at the Chester Town Hall. Lea was the poet laureate of Vermont from 2011-2015. In 2021, he received the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts. He will read from and sign his book "What Shines." The event is cosponsored by the Stone Village Pottery Experience. Admission is free.

APRIL 6 –
 SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join us for a Comfort Foods

Dinner on April 6, from 5:30-7 p.m., at the Springfield Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Road. The upcoming solar eclipse has inspired us to gather to celebrate what our good Earth has to offer. Choose from our favorite macaroni and cheese recipes, meatloaf, baked beans, and a variety of salads. Top your meal off with desserts including sun, moon, and star cookies. Selection includes gluten-free and vegetarian dishes. There is a small cost, discounted for children. Reservations are not necessary.

APRIL 15 –
 LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street, will be serving lunch on Monday, April 15, at 12 p.m. The menu will consist of American chop suey, tossed salad, and cupcakes. Free cash bingo will follow. Please make reservations by calling 802-228-7421. All are welcome.

APRIL 18 –
 CHESTER, Vt. – Upstairs @ Town Hall will host jazz musician Eugene Uman on Thursday, April 18, at 7 p.m. Uman is the director of the Vermont Jazz Center, and an extraordinary musician, composer, arranger, and educator. He will perform with some of the best jazz musicians in

New England. Admission is free.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – There will be a Bingo Evening and Basket Raffle on Thursday, April 18, at 6:30 p.m., at VFW Post 771, 115 River Street, to benefit the Edgarc May Stingrays youth swim team. This event is for ages 16 and up. Doors open at 5 p.m. There will be many games, food and beverages for purchase, as well as a 50/50 raffle. All proceeds will be donated to the Stingrays youth swim team.

SUNDAYS –
 SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Catamount Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol meets Sundays, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., at Hartness Airport in Springfield. The Civil Air Patrol is the auxiliary unit of the U.S. Air Force tasked with the mission of supporting America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space, and cyber power. Cadets as young as 12 and senior members of any age make up this diverse group of volunteers.

MONDAYS –
 BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Free Tobacco Quit class led by Sarah Doyle, Mondays, from 6-7 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Extension, Bellows Falls.

Dinner included. Call or text Sarah at 802-289-0045 or email sdoyle@springfieldmed.org.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Overeaters Anonymous 12-Step Recovery Program is Mondays, from 7-8 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Extension in Bellows Falls. The program is free. For more information go to www.aa.org.

WALPOLE, N.H. – Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in St. John's Parish Hall, Walpole.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Zumba classes, Mondays at 9:30 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. All fitness levels welcome. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Aquatic Aerobics, Mondays at 10:35 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

TUESDAYS –
 BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Come check out TOPS – Take Off Pounds Sensibly. We are a nonjudgmental, affordable, and supportive weight loss group. The first visit is free. We are taking Covid precautions so a mask is required while attending the meeting. All are welcome; youth must be at least 9 to attend and have parental permission. Meetings are every Tuesday at 25 Cherry Hill in Bellows Falls. Weigh-ins start at 5:45 p.m.

CHESTER, Vt. – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Tuesday, from 10-11 a.m. Classes will be held in the First Universalist Parish of Chester community room. Classes are free and open to all. Drop-in class, no registration needed. For details, contact Barbara at bwquilter1778@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAYS –
 LUDLOW, Vt. – Cardio & Sculpt, Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call

802-228-1419 for more information.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Aqua Sculpt, Wednesdays at 10:35 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – The First Congregational Church of Westminster's Souper Wednesdays are held every Wednesday until May 1, from 12-2 p.m., in the Church Fellowship Hall, with several delicious soups to try. All are welcome.

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

CHESTER, Vt. – Knit Knite at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common Thursdays, from 5-8 p.m., and via Zoom, from 7-8 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Free Chair Yoga classes for ages 50 and over are held on Thursdays from 9-9:45 a.m., at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street. All equipment is provided.

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

WALPOLE, N.H. – Alcoholics Anonymous women's meeting, a 12-step recovery program for women who have a desire to stop drinking, is happening every Thursday at 6 p.m. at the St. John's Episcopal Church at the corner of Westminster and Elm streets in Walpole, N.H. For more information, call Viva at 802-732-8330.

FRIDAYS –
 BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Fridays from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., John Bohannon will teach Tai Chi and Qi Gong at the Rockingham Library in Bellows Falls, Vt. No special equipment or clothing is required.

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Main Street Arts, 35 Main Street, will hold the "Originals & Traditionals" Open Mic Night on the fourth Friday of every month, from 7-9 p.m., hosted by musician Putnam Smith. Sign-ups begin at 6:30 p.m. All material should be original or "traditional" (i.e., in the public domain). Each performer can perform two songs or up to 10 minutes, whichever comes first. If you have any questions, please contact Smith at putnamsmith@gmail.com.

SATURDAYS –
 PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – On Saturdays at 9 a.m., join Lori Wright for a yoga class. Contact Lori Wright at 603-401-8123 or visit www.dgbodyworks.com for more information. Private classes are available.

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

**Town of Londonderry, Vermont
 Invitation to Bid**

The Town of Londonderry, VT is seeking bids for excavation contractor services for flooding and related repairs to the Memorial Park pond. Bid documents can be viewed on the Town website – www.londonderryvt.org. The deadline to submit bids is 2:00 PM on April 5, 2024.

Liam Elio, Mountain Towns Recreation Director

**NORTH WALPOLE VILLAGE DISTRICT
 NOTICE**

Residents of the North Walpole Village District are hereby notified:
 Voting on the 2024 Budget & Warrant articles is scheduled for 7:00pm on Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024 at St. Peter's Church basement on Church Street, North Walpole, NH.

Residents may pick up the Village Report at the following location: Village Hall after March 12th, 2024

North Walpole Village Commissioners

**NOTICE
 Town of Cavendish
 Public Hearing
 Town Plan Enhanced Energy Chapter**

The Town of Cavendish invites the public to a hearing to discuss the draft Enhanced Energy Chapter to be included in the Cavendish Town Plan. A copy of the draft Energy Chapter can be found on the Towns website www.cavendishvt.com

Time/Date: 6:00 PM April 15th, 2024

Location: Cavendish Town Hall
 37 High Street
 Cavendish VT

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 813 1239 1910
 Passcode: Cavendish

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/TRUCK DRIVER/LABORER

The Town of Charlestown is seeking a qualified individual to fill the position of Highway Equipment Operator/Truck Driver/Laborer.

This position is full-time, year-round. A CDL License is required. Duties include but not limited to snow plowing with plow and wing, and general labor. Previous experience with heavy equipment and road maintenance. Additional requirements are a good work ethic, positive attitude, hard worker and a team player. Must pass a physical, and a drug & alcohol test.

Applications can be dropped off at our Selectmen's Office located at 233 Main Street Charlestown, NH, mailed to P.O. Box 385 Charlestown, NH 03603, or emailed to Ddezan@charlestown-nh.gov.

The Town of Charlestown is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

The legal voters of the Town of Springfield School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at Riverside Middle School Gymnasium in said Town on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. (8:00 o'clock in the forenoon) until 7:00 p.m. to vote by Australian ballot for the following article:

ARTICLE 1: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the School Board to spend THIRTY-NINE MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-SIX THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED TWO and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$39,496,702.00), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

A public informational hearing will be held in-person, and will be accessible remotely by electronic means, at the Springfield High School on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the proposed school budget as presented in Article 1.

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

- GOOGLE MEET ID LINK: meet.google.com/enj-gczi-xxd
- By telephone: Dial +1 413-829-7957 and when prompted enter the PIN 987 978 147#.
- Meeting link can also be accessed on the home page of the School District Website: [ssdvt.org](https://www.ssdvt.org)
- Watch live on SAPA TV or stream it from [Sapatv.org](https://www.ssdvt.org)

Dated this 15th day of March, 2024 at Springfield, County of Windsor and State of Vermont.

Troy Palmer, Chair

Jessica Cady-Burlew
 Jessica Cady Burlew

Denise Hunter

Stephenn Saraffa

Mary Krueger

Board of School Directors
 Springfield Town School District

Notice posted in four public places on the 15th day of March 2024

M&T Bank Mall
 North Springfield Post Office
 Springfield Municipal Office
 Springfield Town Library
 Springfield District Website <http://www.ssdvt.org>

Attest: Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk, CVC

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**BELLOWS FALLS VILLAGE CORPORATION
 PUBLIC NOTICE
 WATER MAIN FLUSHING**

THE BELLOWS FALLS VILLAGE CORPORATION WATER SYSTEM WILL BE FLUSHED WEEKDAYS FROM 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. BEGINNING Monday, April 1, 2024, AND CONTINUING THROUGH Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

SOME AREAS MAY EXPERIENCE ROILY WATER BUT THIS CONDITION SHOULD CORRECT ITSELF IN A SHORT TIME.

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS, PLEASE CALL THE BELLOWS FALLS WATER DEPT. AT 802-463-1232. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

Brian Joslyn
 Chief Operator, Bellows Falls Water Dept.

NOTICE TO SPRINGFIELD VOTERS

Absentee Ballots for the Springfield Town School District Meeting being held Tuesday, April 16, 2024, are available at the Springfield Town Clerk's Office. If you wish to vote by absentee ballot, and you didn't already make a request for "all local elections" with your pre-Town Meeting absentee ballot request, please contact the Town Clerk's Office as soon as possible in person, in writing, by phone or by email. If you make your absentee request in person, you can choose to vote your ballot and return it before leaving the Town Clerk's Office. If returning your ballots by mail, allow extra time for postal delivery. An Absentee Request Form can be found on the town's website <https://springfieldvt.gov> or you may request your ballots online at <https://mvp.vermont.gov>. The deadline for requesting absentee ballots is Monday, April 15, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. You may register to vote on Election Day at the polls and then proceed to vote on that day. You may also register to vote any time at the Town Clerk's office or online at <https://mvp.vermont.gov>. Prior to April 16, 2024, absentee ballots may be returned in-person, through regular mail and after hours through mail slots located in town hall entrances. All voted absentee ballots must be received at the polls by the Town Clerk before the close of polls at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2024. The polls are located at Riverside Middle School in the gymnasium and will open on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Town Clerk's Office will not be open on April 16, 2024. Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk, CVC - 96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont 05156 (802) 885-2104 tosclerk@vermontel.net

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

Best of Vermont Summer Festival seeks vendors and sponsors

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce celebrates the fourth annual Best of Vermont Summer Festival on Saturday, Aug. 24, from 12-7 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 25, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., in Ludlow, Vt. This event will take place at Okemo Field on Route 103 in Ludlow. Use of the field was generously donated again by Lead Sponsor Okemo Mountain/Vail Resorts.

This festival is a great opportunity for everyone including locals, new residents, second homeowners, and visitors to enjoy specialty foods; wine, spirits, and brew tastings; artisan products; fine art; live music; agriculture demos; children's activities, antique vehicles; and more. We are excited to announce Okemo's Waffle Cabin will be joining the fun. The Best of Vermont Summer Festival will be marketed throughout the Okemo Valley region, the state of Vermont, New Eng-

land, and the Northeast. Mary W. Davis Realtor & Associates is the festival's Presenting Sponsor this year. Other sponsors are in process, and will continue to be listed on the chamber's special festival website, www.yourplaceinvermont.com/best-of-vermont-summer-festival.

The chamber's festival committee is seeking additional sponsors, vendors, and volunteers. They are also seeking special event sponsors for other special festival activities. Sponsor and vendor forms are now available on the festival website page. To learn more about becoming a sponsor, visit www.yourplaceinvermont.com/sponsorships. If you would like to be a vendor at the festival, visit www.yourplaceinvermont.com/vendors. Discounts will be given to participating Okemo Valley Chamber Members, and returning vendors will also be given preferential locations.

Sponsors or vendors who are not yet members of the Okemo Valley Chamber who are interested may join online at www.yourplaceinvermont.com/online-application.

Volunteers are welcomed for the festival committee, as well as for festival set up, break down, and during the event. Those interested in participating may also contact chamber director Carol Lighthall directly by emailing her at clighthall@yourplaceinvermont.com.

GUNS WANTED

REGION – Guns wanted. Hand-guns, rifles, or shotguns. Top prices paid. Call Ray at 802-775-2859 or 802-236-7213.

HELP WANTED

LUDLOW, Vt. – Full time bartender wanted at the American Legion in Ludlow. Work nights. Stop in or call 802-228-9807.

WANTED

SPRINGFIELD AREA – Hardwood logs wanted. If you need trees removed give me a call. If you want hardwood trees cleaned up and removed, log length or cut, I'm your guy. 603-443-7009.

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www.VermontJournal.com ~ click "Submit Classified Ad" on the top black menu

LMHUUSD School Board

Has an Immediate Opening

The Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District (LMHUUSD) seeks two Ludlow Town resident interested in serving as a member of our local school board. The term of this position will be until Town Meeting Election Day held on Tuesday, March 4th, 2025. The Board meets regularly, the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and others as necessary. Members may fulfill additional responsibilities such as serving on board committees.

Please submit a letter of interest to:

LMHUUSD Board
 c/o Lauren Fierman
 609 VT Route 103 South
 Ludlow, Vermont 05149

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SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER VACANCY

Springfield School District seeks a School Board member to fill the remainder of a term for one year (April, 2024 through March, 2025).

Interested parties should submit a letter of interest to Colleen Amaya, Admin Asst to the Superintendent camaya@ssdvt.org by March 31, 2024.

TOWN OF ROCKINGHAM

The Town of Rockingham is seeking applications for the following committees: Connecticut River Joint Commission-2, Animal Control-1, Tree Warden-1, Town Service Officer, Conservation Commission-2, Energy Committee-4. If interested, please contact the Town Manager at Manager@rockbf.org, or call 802-463-3964 or 802-376-9780.

Town meeting is on April 1, 2024, in the opera house starting at 7 PM. There will be handouts available for articles up for voting. Please be sure to obtain one. Attendance by zoom is permitted, but, only persons in attendance at the meeting can vote, as per statute there is no voting by zoom.

Town reports are available 10 days before town meeting at these locations: Lisa's Market, Library, Town Hall, Saxtons River Market.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

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 Open Wall: *Thoughts of Spring*

Workshops <http://galleryvault.org/workshops>
Raku Pottery w/ Andrew Berends 4/6 & 4/13
Painting Flowers in Watercolor w/ Rob O'Brien 4/6
Flowers in Texture & Color w/ Julie Crabtree 4/27
 (04/24/24 - TFN - 13)

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 (11/20/24 - 52)

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 (05/15/24 - 13)

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 (05/22/24 - 13)

Okemo Valley TV

LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

- Average Daves- Top 10 Movies Since 2016
- Governor Scott Press Conference
- Ludlow Farmers Market Block Party Fundraiser
- Vermont Legislature 101 with State Representative Tessa Buss
- Local Government and School Board Meetings

Okemo Valley TV now has its own app on all of the main streaming platforms! Apple TV, Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Google Play, and mobile (iOS & Android)
 (04/03/24 - TFN - 13)

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 (08/07/24 - 26)

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 (06/05/24 - 52)

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 (08/14/24 - TFN - 52)

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 (01/29/25 - 52)

Health & Wellness Weeks

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Maternal and child health care talk at Springfield Library

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) director of maternal/child health Stephanie

Mozzer, to learn about their services.

VNH maternal/child health services offer wellness and clinical support for expectant mothers and children needing care. Our nurses have extensive experience in pediatrics and family healthcare.

This event is free and open to the public; contact the library at 802-885-3108 with any inquiries, or visit our calendar of events to sign up at www.springfieldtownlibrary.org/calendar.

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STOCK PHOTO

Black River Valley Senior Center offers tai chi classes

LUDLOW, Vt. – Here is the opportunity to try something new. Tai chi classes are now being held every Thursday, at 9 a.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street in Ludlow, Vt. Each session is one hour long, and contains relaxation, focusing, and

meditation techniques.

Tai chi improves self-control and self-understanding. Classes will help to improve your sense of balance, coordination, boost your immune system, and increase lung capacity and blood flow.

Classes are open to the public, and are free for

those 60 years and older. A small donation is appreciated for those under 60 years. If you are not already registered, please contact the Black River Valley Senior Center at 802-228-7421, or certified, experienced instructor Helena Wu at 802-289-7369.

HCRS welcomes new staff



Left to right: Christopher Hackett, Sarah Roberts, Brennan Snider, Madalyn McAllister, and Andrew Bennett.

PHOTO PROVIDED

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont's community mental

health agency, is pleased to announce the appointment of nine new professionals in February, whose talents will augment HCRS' ser-

vices across Windham and Windsor counties.

HCRS welcomes the following new employees: Christopher Hackett, behavioral interventionist in Hartford; Sarah Roberts, case manager in Brattleboro; Brennan Snider, behavioral interventionist in Brattleboro; Madalyn McAllister, case manager in Springfield; Andrew Bennett, DSP stabilization/skill development in Brattleboro; Alison L. Brokenshire, DSP employment in Springfield; Julia Cribby, administrative assistant in Bellows Falls; Frank Fairbanks, stabilization specialist DS in Bellows Falls; and Britny Hill, office generalist in Springfield.

These new hires will support the nonprofit agency's team of more than 500 staff, providing comprehensive mental health, substance use, and developmental disability programs, which serve more than 4,000 individuals annually across southeastern Vermont.

A "CAN DO" Company! - TEAMWORK with TOM

- Is it time to improve family or business relationships before paying expensive legal fees and court costs? Do you simply need a referee to avoid never speaking to family again?
- Do you need a *Life Coach* to help make a clarity plan to act on and achieve your goals?
- Do you need to settle debts or work through a financial issue before people *Lawyer Up*?

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I started this company called **The Flat Table** to help people create conditions for fair and successful outcomes. **TOM SALMON, CPA**. MA degree in Conflict Resolution. Certified dispute resolver (DRPA). 21-year Veteran of the U.S. Navy (Seabees) Reserves. 15-year Senior Executive. 10-year Licensed Teacher.

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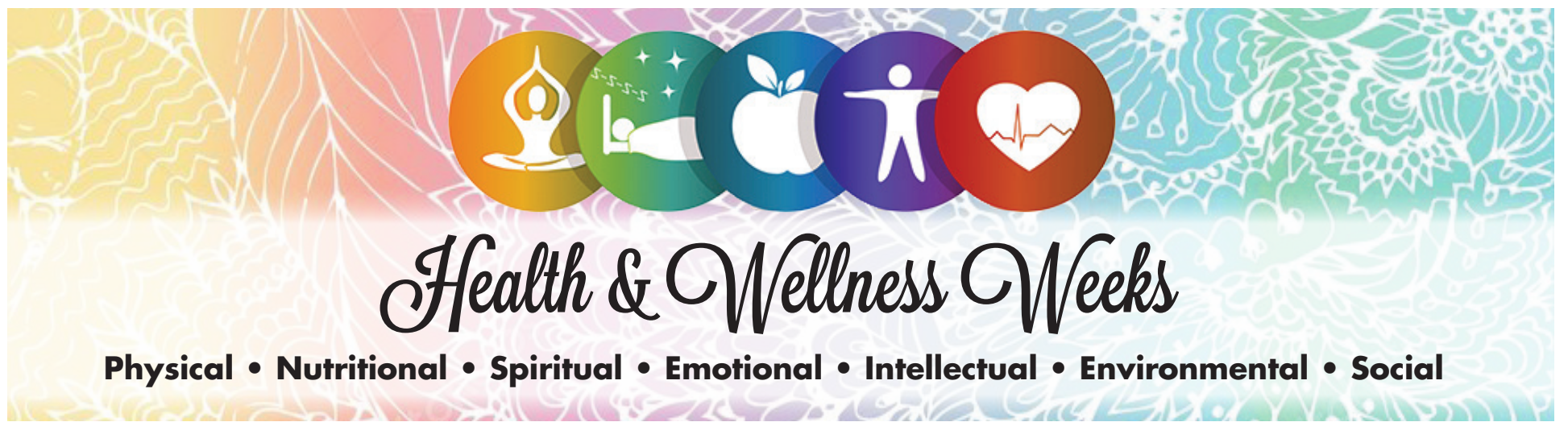
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A welcoming environment awaits at Kokopelli's –

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Kokopelli is a Hopi symbol of fertility, dance, and music. Often called “the humpbacked flute player,” Kokopelli is known as a prankster, healer, and storyteller.

Tanya L. Nichols, owner of Kokopelli's in Bellows Falls, was first introduced to the mythical figure 30 years ago. “The story I heard was that he was born

much taller than what was typical for his tribe, so he tried to make himself smaller by hunching over,” Tanya explained – an odd, charming character, prone to mischief. Tanya said she has always been drawn to that joyful, playful, abundant, life-affirming spirit.

In 2019, Tanya tore her shoulder and had to have surgery. The recovery was going slowly, and she didn't

know what her next step was going to be. Her husband Ron suggested she go into business for herself, but Tanya didn't feel she had the confidence.

Tanya had assembled quite a large collection of rocks, crystals, and minerals over many years, and the idea of owning a store where she could offer these unique treasures sounded exciting. The opportunity

to open Kokopelli's came when Tanya learned of a vacancy in her brother-in-law's building at the corner of Atkinson Street and Route 121.

Kokopelli's sells gemstones, handmade crafts, rugs, statues, locally sourced jewelry, original art, incense, and sage bundles, and of course Kokopelli-inspired items and memorabilia. “These are

all things from my heart,” Tanya explains. She loves Southwestern decor, and Native American pieces, every item carefully curated by Tanya.

“I am a person who wants to touch and see and feel all the things. I will pick up every single piece, hold it up, hold the light on it. I want to feel I've connected with all the crystals

I get.” “Freeform fluorite was my first rock purchase,” Tanya recalled. “When I picked it up, it rested in my palm like it was carved to fit.”

Kokopelli's is a unique addition to the retail community in Bellows Falls. The shop is closed Sunday and Monday, and open at “11ish” Tuesday-Saturday.

Westminster Institute evening tai chi class

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Want to take tai chi, but can't attend a daytime class? A new beginner tai chi class begins at Westminster Institute on April 11. Taught by Leslie Lassetter on Thursdays, at 6 p.m., classes are cosponsored by Westminster Cares and Oriental Healing Arts Association (OHAA).

Designed for the older adult, OHAA Tai Chi was developed by martial arts master Gene Gaudreau following a motorcycle accident. No longer able to compete, he used his extensive tai chi/qi gong expertise to develop senior safe/senior friendly classes. Ben Davis introduced OHAA Tai Chi classes at Westminster Cares about a decade ago, and began training Leslie Lassetter to teach soon after.

Studies show that this centuries-old art can improve balance, reduce the risk of falling, relax the body, calm the mind, improve coordination, and expand range of motion, not to mention lift the spirits and improve one's sense of wellbeing.

OHAA senior instructor Leslie Lassetter has taught in Westminster and Bellows Falls, Vt., and in Claremont, N.H. Besides her movement therapy background, she has taught and written English country dance. Look up her channel “Tai Chi with Leslie” on YouTube, or see it on local FACT TV.

Thursday evening classes meet for an hour, at 6 p.m., timed for those still working by day. Wear comfortable clothing and soft-soled, indoor shoes. In warm weather, her classes enjoy meeting outside.

Partial scholarships are available to cover the cost of the class. Classes are held at Westminster Institute, 3534 Rout 5, Westminster, Vt. Masks are optional. For more information, contact Donna Dawson at wecares@sover.net or 802-722-3607.

There are also limited spots available in an intimate beginner tai chi class on Tuesdays, at 9:45 a.m. This seated/standing class caters to those who are recovering from injury or surgery, or those in need of more focused attention in a small group setting. Contact Donna Dawson per

above.

Tai chi is getting lots of press. It's even prescribed by doctors. Many studies sing tai chi's health-worthy praises. Because the moves

are slow, it is often called meditation in motion. Come join in. Generate some healing chi, and experience what tai chi is all about.

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Springfield, Vermont 05156

National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week



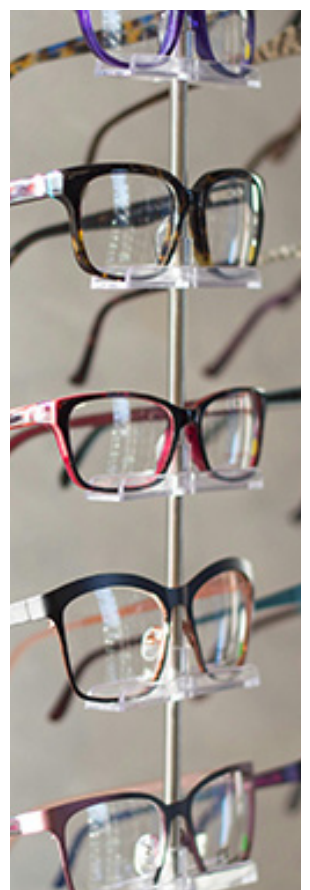
DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2021, 85% of Vermont youth in 9-12 grade did **NOT** binge drink in the last 30 days.
- Or that the rate of youth who did **NOT** use cannabis was 80%.

For more information, visit us at greaterfallsconnections.org

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Don't miss the Solar Eclipse!

April 8, 2024

Partial eclipse at 2:14 p.m. Total eclipse at 3:25 p.m. Partial eclipse until 4:37 p.m.

Make plans for rare total solar eclipse

BY PAULA BENSON
Vermont Journal & Shopper

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – The audience was standing room only on Tuesday, March 19, at the Cavendish Fletcher Community Library in Proctorsville. The crowd had gathered for the Eclipse 2024 presentation, given by astronomer Claudio Véliz, and sponsored by the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association (CCCA).

A former astrophysics professor at Columbia University, Véliz has worked with NASA and the Hayden Planetarium, and was excited to dive into his presentation on Vermont's potential front row seat to the April 8 solar eclipse.

As many Vermonters are aware, that path is going to be in the northern part of our state. "Anywhere north of Middlebury, basically," Véliz said.

Véliz began by explaining that we have solar eclipses because of the moon's orbital plane, which is tilted about 5 degrees compared to Earth's orbit around the sun. Because of this, we on Earth see the moon as it passes above or below the sun, as it travels between us and the sun. The eclipse is the Moon's shadow on

Earth. One important safety tip he offered is that wearing protective eyeglasses during the time leading up to and immediately after the total eclipse is vitally important. Regular sunglasses do not offer enough protection, the sun's ultraviolet rays will damage your eyes.

Additionally, the protective shield should be placed in front of the optics – binoculars, a telescope – and not the other way around.

Véliz confirmed that #14 welders' glasses would also work.

Regarding viewing the eclipse, Véliz encouraged keeping the viewing optics still, which makes a huge difference in the clarity of the image.

Véliz reported that another event will occur during the eclipse, a massive comet, 12P/Pons-Brooks – or the "devil comet," so named because of the appearance of two "horns" of explosive gas and ice – will be making a rare appearance in the sky.

"Also, Venus, Jupiter, and a whole bunch of bright stars will be visible," stated Véliz.

Historically, as eclipse followers are aware, there is a high chance of clouds on April 8. Véliz remarked, "Veterans know to remain mobile."



Don't miss the eclipse!
STOCK PHOTO

For people planning to travel north for an optimal viewing experience, Véliz suggested making alternate plans, just in case. But, he added, "regardless of weather, the experience is a lot more fun to do with a group."

Véliz announced that a new, hydrogen-alpha filter solar telescope will be set up on Hoisington Field in Perkinsville during the afternoon of April 8, roughly from 2-4:30 p.m. The Southern Vermont Astronomy Group (SoVerA) had worked with the Weathersfield Proctor Library and the Reading Public Library to receive a \$5,000 grant and purchase the telescope. The hydrogen-alpha filter allows for extremely clear images not possible with less expensive viewers.

The total eclipse will occur around 3:30 p.m., depend-

ing on exact location, and the full eclipse will last about 3 1/2 minutes.

In Cavendish, the eclipse will happen at 3:26 p.m., with 98% obscuration expected in the area. Temperatures can drop 10-15 degrees, and the eerie feeling of total darkness in the middle of the afternoon can be unsettling.

Véliz reported, "During the 70-80 minutes leading up to, and after the total eclipse, many people will tear up. It can be a powerful feeling, and it affects all of us differently."

"If you have animals, like chickens, observe them," Véliz suggested. "They will behave strangely."

Véliz offered some hope if our weather doesn't cooperate, and we are denied the experience of watching a total solar eclipse from our backyard. He told the audience there are two to three, or as many as six solar eclipses per year. In the years between 2028-2038, there will be five eclipses in Australia and New Zealand, and Véliz advised attendees start planning to travel there for at least one of them.

The Nature Museum

GRAFTON, Vt. – The Nature Museum invites everyone to join them on April 8 to witness a celestial spectacle with a solar eclipse viewing.

From 12-5 p.m., The Nature Museum is hosting a solar eclipse viewing party. Activities include celestial craft-making and safe viewing of the eclipse using provided glasses. Educators will share the science behind solar eclipses, along with historical information and mythological lore. The

museum's indoor exhibits, grounds, and playscape will be open for exploration and play throughout the event. Don't miss this rare opportunity, as the next significant solar eclipse won't occur until August 2044. "Here in Grafton, we're really excited to see a near-total eclipse," says museum director Nikolas Katrick. "We can't wait to share the moment with neighbors, visitors, and Grafton Elementary School next door."

For more information, visit www.nature-museum.org.

Springfield Town Library

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Tuesday, April 2, at 6 p.m., join Claudio Véliz at the Springfield Town Library for his presentation "The 2024 Total Solar Eclipse."

Attendees will receive

eclipse glasses. This event is free and open to the public. Call the library at 802-885-3108 with any inquiries, or visit our calendar of events to sign up at www.springfield-townlibrary.org/calendar.

SAPA TV

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – For those who wish to prepare for the solar eclipse, SAPA TV, the Springfield area's public access TV station, will host an eclipse primer talk on Monday, April 2, at 5:30 p.m.

SAPA employee Kevin Paquet, who is also a

member of the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group, will explain the basics of how eclipses work, what to expect on the big day, and how to observe a solar eclipse safely.

The talk will be held in the SAPA TV offices at 335 River Street, Springfield. No registration is required.

Get a pair of viewing glasses at these business locations while supplies last!

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