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Springfield to vote on firearms restrictions ordinance Nov. 5

BY PAULA BENSON
The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Selectboard held a special meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 1, where they set the dates for an informational meeting and special town meeting pertaining to the ordinance that prohibits the discharge of firearms in Hartness Park.

The selectboard signed Ordinance 2024-0002 on Aug. 12, at the recommendation of the ordinance committee, although it has not gone into effect yet. When a group of Springfield residents learned of the new restrictions, they exercised their rights as citizens and distributed a petition to repeal the ordinance, which they presented to the board at the Sept. 23 meeting. Once the required number of signatures was obtained, it was incumbent that the board put the ordinance up for a townwide vote.

Town manager Jeff Mabus noted that holding the special vote on Nov. 5 to coincide with the national election would elicit a higher voter turnout and save the town the cost of a separate election. He reminded the board that voter turnout for this type of special vote was typically something like one registered voter out of six, but holding the vote on Election Day could give almost half the town the opportunity to weigh in on the issue.

Since the informational meeting can be no more than 10 days in advance of the voting date, the board determined that meeting would take place on Monday, Oct. 28, at 6 p.m., prior to the regular selectboard meeting.

Town clerk Barbara Courchesne said she would be mailing out the ballot and information packets on the special vote starting Oct. 7. Courchesne also

told the meeting that absentee and early voting would be available. Interested voters should visit the town hall or the town's website.

The polls will be open on Tuesday, Nov. 5, from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m., at Riverside Middle School. Courchesne explained that as voters arrive, they will receive, separately, ballots for the general election and a ballot for the vote on the ordinance repeal. The ordinance vote will utilize "separate checklists, checkers, and a separate conversation about whether or not [voters] want to participate in the local election." At the end of the night, different individuals than those working the general election will hand-tally the paper ballots.

Ordinance 2024-0002 is posted on the Springfield town website.

Blake Higgins Dam on Saxtons River successfully removed

BY JOE MILLIKEN
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Located on the Saxtons River in Bellows Falls, the 90-foot-long Blake Higgins Dam has a long history, and several rebuilds going back as far as 1838, when it was originally created to generate electricity for one of the nearby paper mills.

Fast-forward some 185 years, and a recent \$450,000 removal project headed by the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) that recently removed the old concrete and timber dam that had been blocking fish access to the Saxtons River for spawning for nearly two centuries.

Recognized as a "clear water project," the endeavor has taken years of fundraising, grant writing, and planning to reach this point, according to Ron Rhodes, the director of restoration programs for the CRC.

"The State of Vermont contacted me back in 2019," Rhodes stated in a recent interview. "So, it has taken six years to get this project done. The dam removal was first identified as a 'pri-

ority project' in the state's 2010 Stream Geomorphic Assessment and in subsequent Basin Plans, which is how the Agency of Natural Resources sets priorities for such things as state funding in each of our Vermont watersheds."

Along with the unblocking of the spawning access, the dam removal also frees up sediment that continues to build up behind the dam and subsequently seeps into the Saxtons River. In addition, it will also relieve and lower potential flood elevations in the area by some 7 feet, which in turn gives the river more room to expand.

"Removing the dam will increase sediment transport downstream, instead of it being trapped upstream of the dam," Rhodes said. "It will also improve water temperatures for cold water species, as water ponding above a dam is warmer."

The dam removal also benefits the spawning of sea lamprey, the American eel, and American shad, as the Saxtons River is one of the best sea lamprey spawning rivers in Vermont.

"The spawning for our native sea lamprey is the reason why we received Vermont Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services funds for the

project," Rhodes added. "Another of our largest supporters was the State of Vermont Clean Water Block Grant, which focuses on water quality."

The habitat in the Saxtons River, from the Connecticut River to the Twins Falls in North Westminster, is considered prime spawning habitat, as the gravel in the streambed is the ideal size for the lamprey to spawn in. While some sea lampreys become parasitic because of overcrowding, and can endanger trout populations, lamprey are relatively benign in the waters of the Connecticut River.

"Projects like this take a lot of time and partnerships to make happen," Rhodes concluded. "CRC couldn't complete projects like this without our federal and state agency partners, the local groups, neighbors and town entities, and really good local contractors, in this case, SLR Engineering and Adams Construction."

"Another cool aspect of this project is that CRC now owns the abutting land, and a recreational access has been installed as part of the dam removal project, with new parking and steps." For more information, visit www.ctriver.org.

Rollin' on the River concludes

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The second annual series of Rollin' on the River roller skating events rocked and rolled every Saturday evening in September.

After a successful first year in 2023, SAPA TV and Springfield on the Move brought back this fun and healthy community event for children K-12. The upper parking garage area at 100 River Street was transformed into a popup roller skating rink pumping with music and full of smiles over four consecutive Saturdays.

In addition to skating to their hearts' content, around 100 students in grades K-12 enjoyed playing the giant yard games provided by the Springfield School District's afterschool program, All-4-One, who also sponsored the Sept. 7 event. SAPA TV and Markee Lawrence of "Word Time with Miss Markee" ran arts and crafts, literacy, and board game tables, with plenty of color and sparkle. The Edgar May Health and Recreation Center sponsored the Sept. 14 event, bringing an information table with free passes and gear to share the gift of healthy family activity. Letti's Besitos served up delicious Mexican food and drinks for both of these events.

On Sept. 21, the Springfield Area Parent Child Center sponsored the event, and provided fun activities outside, including a delightful bubble machine. That evening, Twin State Roller Derby skaters also came out to pump up the energy on



Skaters had fun at a Rollin on the River event. PHOTO PROVIDED

our skate track and demonstrate their amazing skating skills. By popular demand, we added a Grownups' Skate Sesh this year, and saw some totally rad skaters. The Springfield High School Alumni Association sponsored our Cosmos Night event on Sept. 28, where we held an '80s and '90s costume contest, with a prize going to the skater with the best costume. Springfield on the Move provided free pizzas, snacks, and drinks on these two evenings.

We are grateful for the ability to access the parks and recreation department's Cosmos Closet, as well as the generous donations to our Amazon wish list that made it possible for nine of our participants to get free roller skates and safety pads to keep. The Dance Factory and Uplift Acrobatics each donated gift certificates for raffle prizes, sharing the gift of artistic movement and camaraderie with our community. We thank our community partners: the 100 River Street owners

and maintenance staff, the Town of Springfield, Springfield Public Safety, and the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce, as well as several volunteer parents, guardians, and community members, who all were so generous with their time and resources to make these safe and fun events for all.

This has truly been a team effort by a wide range of local stakeholders who want to provide opportunities for youth to have fun, healthy activities to choose from outside of school hours. We are already looking forward to skating with you all again next September.

You can help make this event accessible to more families next year. Donations can still be made to our Amazon wish list so even more skaters can participate in 2025, at www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/M2JUX1UE3OP?ref=wl_share.

BFWC helps to overflow BFOH

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Members of the Bellows Falls Woman's Club are pictured at the recent food drive at Bellows Falls Opera House (BFOH) to benefit Our Place Drop-in Center. They and others donated many bags and boxes of non-perishable food to the cause, and also volunteered at the drive. The club participated as its part

in the General Federation of Women's Clubs annual National Day of Service, with its focus on hunger and food insecurity. PHOTO PROVIDED



Businesses owners come together under BizConnect

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) is excited to announce that the popular BizConnect series will be hosting its first event in Bellows Falls. Building upon their ongoing commitment to foster a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, the program invites business owners and leaders to connect for a light breakfast and a big opportunity at the Waypoint Center, 17 Depot Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.,

on Oct. 16, at 8 a.m.

"We are excited to host the BDCC and this BizConnect, and opportunities for business owners to meet in Bellows Falls to have coffee together," said Betsy Thurston, the executive director of Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance (BFDDA). "This is an opportunity to discuss shared business issues and collaborate on solutions."

This event is cohosted by the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance and the Town of Rockingham

Development Office, entities with long histories of supporting business development, connection, and growth in their communities.

Refreshments are provided. Attendance is complimentary, though registration is required. Business owners interested in joining BDCC and Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) at the BizConnect event should sign up at www.brattleborodevelopment.com/bizconnect.

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DEADLINES

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

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editor@vermontjournal.com

Grafton Village Cheese seeks buyer or partner

GRAFTON, Vt. – The Windham Foundation, based in Grafton, Vt., announced today that it is seeking a partner or buyer for its iconic Grafton Village Cheese Company (GVCC). A program of the foundation for decades, the cheese company is the award-winning producer of hand-crafted aged cheddar and cave-aged sheep milk cheeses. Part of the mission of the Windham Foundation is supporting Vermont rural towns economically and culturally, the cheese company being an example of a local food company that benefits both agriculture and employment.

Last year, the foundation brought in CEO Curt Alperer, a seasoned business leader, to position the company for long-term success. Alperer sees great opportunity for the GVCC brand with adequate financial support. Alperer and a committee of the Windham Foundation Board that oversees GVCC have determined that taking advantage of this opportunity will require either new investment to grow the company, or a sale to a better-positioned partner with access to larger markets.

“Grafton Village Cheese Company is an iconic Vermont brand with a great deal of potential. It has

been built over years with so much love and commitment by our employees,” shared Alperer. “We have a great team, an award-winning product, and a dedicated customer base which we are very proud to serve. We are hopeful a new partner will emerge with the resources to build on this legacy and take advantage of the huge potential to grow the brand.”

Lisa Ventriss, incoming chair of the Windham Foundation Board, shared that the decision was based on the company’s considerable potential and the resources needed to meet that potential. “After thoughtful consideration of Curt’s analysis, the foundation has determined it is no longer the right partner to take advantage of this next level of exciting growth. This is a difficult but necessary step forward to capitalize on the potential of the business and ensure its future success. The foundation remains a strong and critical local partner, and will continue to focus its efforts on the Grafton Inn; Grafton Trails/Outdoor Center; grant-making; and philanthropic, charitable, and educational programs in and around the village of Grafton.”

Citing the tremendous value of the Grafton Village Cheese Company

brand and the quality of the products, the chair of the foundation’s committee overseeing the cheese company, Tim Briglin, said that he is hopeful a partner or buyer will emerge who values the enterprise and sees the opportunity as much as the foundation has over the years. He shared, “GVCC has a bright future with the right partner, resources, and access to larger markets. We look forward to the conversations we will have with interested partners and exploring the next chapter of this great organization.”

The foundation credits the skilled staff and artisanal cheesemakers of GVCC for its many awards, including multiple first, second, and third place awards in recent years at the American Cheese Society, The Big E, and the International Cheese & Dairy Awards. The foundation believes this record of achievement will carry it forward into its next chapter.

Kurn Hattin hosts annual Adopt-a-Cottage

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Wonderful things happen when friends and family gather around the dinner table, and that was certainly the case at Kurn Hattin Homes’ annual Adopt-a-Cottage event this month.

The evening provided Kurn Hattin’s family of children and staff an opportunity to express their gratitude to the sponsors who support the cottages. It also gave sponsors the chance to spend quality time with the children and visit the six cottages on campus.

Guests enjoyed ice-breaking activities and dinner with the children their sponsor, fostering warm interactions. One standout activity – a communal art project – sparked lively conversations and produced artwork that will be displayed in the cottages as a special keepsake of the evening.

Following dinner, sponsors visited their adopted cottages, accompanied by the children and their

houseparents. They shared dessert, learned about the children’s daily lives, and saw firsthand how their contributions positively impact cottage life.

“The girls took us on a tour of Maysilles Cottage. They were all so proud to show us around, and of how neat and clean they keep it,” said Mascoma Bank area manager Cat LiVolsi. “The best part of the evening for me, though, was getting outside and joining the girls for a good laugh on the playground. We were pushed on the swings, we played in leaf piles, and we were able to ‘hang out’ and be kids with the kids.”

Mike Chelstowski, a long-time member of Keene’s Elm City Rotary (ECR), reflected on the event and said, “The ECR main focus in its community service is to help children. It’s rewarding to see how well the kids are cared for, how appreciative everyone is, and how the kids, who may be shy at first, warm up to us.”

“The world should know that Kurn Hattin Homes is a beautiful facility, with caring

staff who provide the kids with structure and warmth in a safe environment,” he added.

Echoing the supportive sentiment, LiVolsi said, “It’s important that Kurn Hattin receives as much support from the community as possible to ensure that the children who arrive there are provided with what they need to succeed in life.”

The Adopt-a-Cottage program provides funds for essential needs and special projects each year. This year, donations will help furnish bookshelves and reading materials for the cottage libraries, enriching the children’s learning environment.

Thank you to the sponsors who support the Kurn Hattin Homes Adopt-A-Cottage program: Diane and Luke Bazin, Cota & Cota, Keene Elm City Rotary, Mascoma Bank, Savings Bank of Walpole, Streeter Contractors LLC, and Dave and Lisa Therrien.

For more information about the Adopt-a-Cottage program, please contact Kim Fine at kfine@kurnhattin.org or 802-721-6914.

“Vermont’s Demonic Dozen”

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Thursday, Oct. 17, at 6 p.m., Springfield Town Library welcomes author Joseph Citro for “Vermont’s Demonic Dozen.”

Dare to be scared? Please join us for a curated selection of the strangest things that have ever happened in the Green Mountain State, all with Halloween overtones. Gear up for America’s spookiest holiday with a sampling of terrifying treats,

presented and evaluated by Citro, Vermont’s minister of mysteries. So gather ‘round for some pre-Halloween chills. Bring your tale to tell.

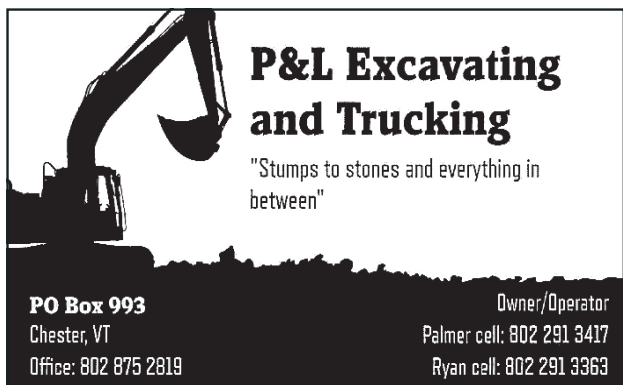
Native Vermonter Citro has done more than anyone to keep Vermont’s weird tales alive in popular culture. After publishing five successful novels, he turned his attention to collecting offbeat Vermontiana, historic and folkloric. He was the first writer in the history

of our state to compile and publish a volume of Vermont’s most unusual tales; “Green Mountain Ghosts, Ghouls, & Unsolved Mysteries” has been in print since 1994. Through some 20 books, and with more than 20 years on public radio, Citro has revealed many of Vermont’s most fascinating and darkest secrets. Now in semi-retirement, he and Vermont artist Robert Brunelle are developing a

series of illustrated books collectively called “Green Mountains, Dark Tales.” So far three have been published.

There will be a discussion to follow. A selection of Citro’s books will be available for sale.

This event is free and open to the public. Sign up for a reminder on our calendar of events at www.springfield-townlibrary.org/calendar.



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70th Springfield Rotary Club Penny Sale

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The 70th annual Springfield Rotary Club Penny Sale returns this year on Saturday, Oct. 19, at 6 p.m., with doors opening at 5 p.m., at Riverside Middle School in Springfield.

There will be over 300 prizes donated by area

businesses and individuals. And, as always, each chance at a prize costs only a penny.

There are three prize series – Red, White, and Blue – and each series boasts at least 100 prizes. Each series ticket is a chance to win any of

the prizes – a penny per chance. Of course, to increase chances of winning, most people buy several tickets in each series.

Members of the Springfield Rotary Club are out in the community soliciting prizes. They also are selling chances for the penny sale’s grand prize drawing for \$5,000 in cash. In addition to the grand prize, the tickets give the holder a chance in the door prize drawing for \$500 in cash. Attendees must be present to win the door prize. Grand prize tickets are now available

from any Springfield Rotarian, and they will also be available at the penny sale.

The penny sale is the Springfield Rotary Club’s single largest annual fundraiser, money that the club returns to the community through scholarships and financial support to community projects and organizations. Thanks to the success of past Penny Sales and their supporters, the Springfield Rotary Club has raised and given back to the community over \$600,000.

The Rotary Club of Springfield, founded in 1927, is an active community service club of more than 40 members who engage in community and human service projects. For more information, visit www.springfieldvtrotary.org.

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A Vermont legend

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
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Bob and Susie Turco and I have been friends since my high school days. When I first knew them, they lived in the little house next to the library. I would often stop by when walking home from high school. As the pages of the calendar turned, we went our separate ways.

Last week, Bob invited me to stop by on Sunday. His son Justin was bringing his apple grinder and cider press to make cider. After Kendall church, I stopped by. It was a beautiful fall day.

When Bob was doing his farrier work, he took the cider press as partial payment. The apple grinder he built from scratch. His grinder is classic Yankee ingenuity.

How it was built
For the grinder, Bob took

a round and straight piece of limb wood, through which he bored a hole lengthwise. Then he put an iron rod through the center. The outside diameter of the limb has hundreds of sheetrock screws driven halfway in. You load the apples in the top of the hopper. Unless you want your knuckles softened, a block of wood is used to push the apples down.

One end of the rod stuck out an inch or so, to which a pulley was fastened. Below this, Bob used something like an old washing machine motor with another pulley. A fan belt was placed around the two pulleys. Turn the power on and you are ready to grind apples.

The grindings drop into a five-gallon bucket. Justin passed the apple pulp though the grinder three times. Everything of these

unwashed apples gets ground; skin, stems, and seeds. The pomace was dumped over the bank for deer to enjoy.

The cider press
Justin lined the press with burlap. An iron leadscrew rises vertically from the center. Load the pulp into the burlap-lined, wooden-slatted barrel. A two-piece cover is placed on top of the slotted barrel, then some cribbing, with a huge nut on top of the leadscrew. You screw the nut down to squeeze the juice out of the pulp. Three-foot long extension bars on the nut provided more pressure. Those turning the extension bars worked hard. I went home with two gallons.

Munchies
Susie and her granddaughters prepared a wonderful fall fare. There was a large pot of chicken soup with gluten-free noodles.

Another pot was chicken and rice, crackers on the side. We dipped our cups in the cider. We had fresh donuts and warm apple crisp with vanilla ice cream on the side to top it off.

Woodsmen
I don't know a better woodsman than Bob. He's an excellent tracker, knows wild mushrooms and conks, and how to read sign. A couple years ago, Squatty wounded a monster buck. Bob took up the trail, tracking him several miles before he was found. These are skills few have today.

Furs, ginseng, and antlers

For many years beginning in the late 1970s, Bob had his fur buyer's license. Bob would take his furs to the city to get the highest price. For several years, Bob had his ginseng license. He bought ginseng dug by pick-



Left to right: Bob Turco, me, Justin Turco, and Susie Turco. PHOTO PROVIDED

ers from Vermont and New Hampshire. This he also sold in the city.

Bob bought antler sheds from moose and deer. In northern New Hampshire and Maine are shed hunters. Bob put an ad in a sportsman magazine that he was buying sheds. His phone rang off the hook. Shed hunters spend hours and hours in the woods in late December and January. This

is when moose and deer shed their antlers. Bob drove as far as Jackson Hole, Wyo., to sell his antlers. It was very profitable. Bob provided well for his family.

Bob and I both made the right decision as how to make a living. Buy here, sell there.

Instead of an old saying, I offer my thoughts. "I love Vermont and her people."

Springfield Hospital diagnostic imaging

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Hospital's diagnostic imaging (radiology) department is pleased to host the upcoming Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce Mixer on Wednesday, Oct. 16, from 5:30-7 p.m. This event is open to chamber members and the public.

Over the past few years, Springfield Hospital has

department. Refreshments will be served. Attendees are encouraged to use the front entrance of the hospital, and a staff member will escort you to the reception area on Level B.

Please RSVP to the mixer event by contacting Taylor at the Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Visit www.springfieldvt.com/event-details/october-member-mixer.



The new nuclear medicine unit at Springfield Hospital. PHOTO PROVIDED

made a substantial investment in upgrading the MRI, nuclear medicine, fluoroscopy, echocardiogram, and digital X-ray units, as well as a new C-arm for X-ray use in the operating room, and portable X-ray unit for use in the emergency department and inpatient care unit. Come learn more about the new diagnostic imaging equipment at Springfield Hospital, as staff guide you on a tour of the department. Springfield Hospital staff collaborate with Dartmouth Health, whose radiologists read the exams based on their protocols, and the results are shared with your doctor.

Please join us to learn more about all that is new in diagnostic imaging at Springfield Hospital, as staff guide you on a tour of the

er, or call 802-885-2779.

For more information about the diagnostic imaging department, contact Hayley Druschel, director of diagnostic imaging, at 802-885-7324, or visit www.springfield-hospital.org/radiology-diagnostic-imaging.

Living well and long

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Thursday, Oct. 17, at 6:30 p.m., at the Rockingham Library, Dr. Carol Blackwood will discuss what steps to take in order to live a healthy and long life.

During her medical career spanning 20 years, she has cared for people of all ages, from prenatal to death. Let her plant some seeds of evidence-based

knowledge to help you along your way. It's never too early or too late to improve your health and wellbeing.

Blackwood has most recently worked at the VA Community Clinic in Keen, N.H., retiring in 2021. She currently fills in for doctors at the Springfield Hospital, and

serves as the vice-chair of the Rockingham Library Board of Trustees. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, email programming@rockingham-library.org, call 802-463-4270, or stop by the Rockingham Library at 65 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls.

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Annamarie Pluhar, our presenter, is the author of *Sharing Housing: A Guidebook for Finding and Keeping Good Housemates* and is also the founder of *Sharing Housing*, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit.

Find more info at SharingHousing.org and SharingHousing.com

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outdoor news

Bellows Falls Tweed Ride

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls joins a global community of people who enjoy a vintage-inspired biking event. The foliage this year aligns perfectly with the second annual Tweed Ride, sponsored by Bellows Falls Pride. Meet up on Saturday, Oct. 12, at 51 The Square, downtown Bellows Falls, Vt., at 11 a.m., for an 11:30 a.m. departure.

registration or admission fee is required. The Tweed Ride harkens back to an earlier time of enjoyable, casual outings that provided a chance for families and riders to come together. This casual round-trip route is accessible for everyone on a bike, with no large hills, and the group will stop for anyone needing to catch up.

Contact Bellows Falls Community Bike Project

for a loaner bike, Anastasia's Closet for the perfect costume, and, upon return, join fellow riders at the Flat Iron Cooperative for tea and prizes. Vintage attire is encouraged, but not required. Helmets are welcome. The Tweed Ride is led by Aaron Almanza, an experienced tweed rider. More information on Facebook and www.bellowsfallspride.com.

Springfield Lions Fishing Tournament a success

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Lions Club held its 11th annual fishing tournament on Sunday, Sept. 15. The winning bass was 4 pounds, 12 ounces, caught by Robert Morrill; the winning perch was 15 ounces, caught by Scott Wallace. In all, 36 anglers spent a wonderful day on the water and reported a total of 47 fish. This was another year without a northern pike reported.

The Springfield Lions Club provides over 2,500 vision screenings for school and preschool age children



Anglers show off their catches. PHOTO PROVIDED



A smallmouth bass caught. PHOTO PROVIDED

in over 10 area towns, eyeglasses for those who cannot afford them, and sponsors work activities and funding to a number of area charities. Lions Clubs International is the leader in measures to prevent blindness and restore vision around the world. We are always looking for new members who want to join our mission.

The Springfield Lions Club is pleased to thank our 2024 Fishing Tournament sponsors for their generous donations. Platinum sponsors were Alva Waste Services, HB Energy

Solutions, Ken Millay, and Stanley Patch. Gold sponsors were VTel, Willow Farm Pet Services, Wolfe Dental Care, Cota & Cota, Imagetek, Ultimate Auto Body, State Farm Insurance, and Vermont Timber Works. Silver sponsors were Green Mountain Classics, Red House Press, Brady & Donahue, and Parker & Ankuda Law Office. Bronze sponsors were Beardsley Inc., Springfield Food Co-op, Vermont Dry & Cure Technologies, Woodbury Florist, and Peter Andrews.

Native plants presale for next spring

WINDHAM, Vt. – Looking to plant more native species next year? The Fourth Corner Foundation in Windham is offering a presale for native plants.

Now through Oct. 30, a listing of over 40 na-

tive plant species is available for pick up in May 2025. To order, visit www.thefourthcornerfoundation.org. Pricing is based on a wholesale structure to make them highly affordable.

Proceeds will go towards

a 2026 donated native plant installation for a local organization. If you know an organization that would benefit from a garden installation, or have any questions about the sale, please email Kate Fellows at kate@4cfoundation.org.

Springfield Hospital Golf Challenge a success

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Hospital hosted its 24th annual Golf Challenge on Sept. 12, at the Crown Point Country Club in Springfield, Vt. Proceeds from this year's fundraising event go to the annual giving campaign to support the refurbishment of the patient rooms on the inpatient care unit.

Ninety-five tournament participants enjoyed a variety of competitions on the course, in addition to 18 holes of scramble golf tournament play. Ten-thousand dollars was available on hole five, for a hole-in-one, thanks to the Ludlow Insurance Agency. This prize was not awarded, but the weather, course conditions, and work by the staff and volunteers made for a fantastic day of golf.

Winners in the A Flight were: first place, gross score – Eric Abel, Bob Kay, Maki Kobayashi, and Parker Hewit; second place, gross score – Rick Marasa, Brian Perkins, Christina Graves, and John Jackson; first place, net score – Dan Patria, Mary Patria, Jeff Matulonis, and Mike Langdon; second place, net score – Carri Cahoon, Denel McIntire, Tim Rumrill,



Members of the Red House Press Team celebrating Mary Patria making the putt for the putting contest. PHOTO PROVIDED

and Richard Cahill.

Winners in the B Flight were: first place, gross score – Chad Illingworth, Beverly Rakin-Byrne, David Byrne, and Roger Gillies; second place, gross score – Eric Warren, Dan Frost, Robert O'Brien, and Stuart Currie; first place, net score – Peter MacGillivray, Steve Ankuda, Deke Dexter, and Mike Martin; second place, net score – Mike Pinney, Collin Pinney, John Jeinnings, and Logan Jeinnings.

Closest to the pin for women through a random draw was Sarah Flore. Closest to the pin for men was Bob Kay, and closest to the 150 pole was Mike Lang-

don.

The sponsors and raffle prize donors made this year's tournament a fundraising success. The sponsors this year at the Gold Tournament level of \$5,000 were Coverys, M&T Bank, and The Richards Group.

Sponsors at the Tournament level of \$1,000 were BlueWater Health, Connecticut Valley Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine, NFP Property & Casualty Services, Ovation Healthcare, Splendid Splinter Vacation Rental, Springfield Cadillac GMC, and Vail Law Office.

Sponsors at the Tee/Green level of \$500 included Claremont Savings Bank, Connecticut Valley ENT, GPI Construction, Health Plans Inc., ImageFIRST, Infinit North America, Kinney Drugs Foundation, Richard and Carole Lechthaler, Mack Molding Company Inc., Northeast Delta Dental, and Vermont Mechanical Inc.

The Eagle sponsors at the \$250 and up level were American General Life Insurance Company, Bellows Falls Country Club, Black Rock Steakhouse, Corebridge Financial, Crothall Healthcare, Fullerton Inn, Gilberte Interiors, KGA Inc., Red House Press, and Nathan and Sarah Roth.

The Birdie sponsors at the \$100 level included Mike and Diane Halstead, Leader Distribution Systems Inc., and David and Cindy Loxsom.

"Many thanks go to our sponsors and participants for their generous support, and to the staff and volunteers that organized this event. I am grateful to all who made this event a fundraising success," commented Robert Adcock, CEO of Springfield Hospital.

To see a list of all of the sponsors and donors of the raffle prizes, go to www.springfieldhospital.org/sponsors-for-the-2024-golf-challenge.

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River Artisans Cooperative Yard Sale —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — On Saturday, Oct. 14, the members of the River Artisans Cooperative will be holding their annual yard sale event along the sidewalk next to Ciao Popolo, right in the center of Bellows Falls. We'll be there at the intersection of The Square and Bridge Street. The co-op members have been saving great stuff all year, and you will find treasures gal-

lore. This is a yard sale not to be missed.

As one of the oldest cooperatives in the state, we are proud to represent over 25 members. We invite you to stop in and enjoy browsing all the many items — beautiful jewelry, knitwear, paintings and photography, handmade journals, soaps and candles, leather and wood items, stained glass, and much more. If you make

a purchase at the yard sale and mention that you saw this article, we invite you to go around the corner and into our store to be given a free unique bookmark as well. You can find us at 28 Village Square in Bellows Falls, Thursday-Monday, from 11 a.m. — 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.riverartisanscooperative.com.

Seth Glier and Rosier at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. — Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present an evening of contemporary and indie folk music from the U.S. and Canada, by Massachusetts-based singer-songwriter Seth Glier and Montreal-based quintet Rosier, on Friday, Oct. 11, at 7:30 p.m., at Next Stage.

Five-time Independent Music Award winner and Grammy-nominated contemporary folk singer-songwriter Glier's gifts are an innate curiosity and a fierce desire to connect with other people. His musical acumen provides him with a vehicle for both. Glier has shared the bill with a diverse list of artists, ranging from the likes of Ronnie Spector, James Taylor, Ani DiFranco, and Glen Campbell. As a producer, music director, or studio musician, he has collaborated with Sophie B. Hawkins, Tom Rush, Antje Duvekot, Richard Shindell, Doctora Qingona, Dar Williams, Nick Carter, and Cyndi Lauper. With a commitment to using songwriting as a tool for positive change, he has written with the students in Parkland, Fla., for the Parkland Project, cowritten with sol-

diers at Walter Reed, and is an advocate for autism awareness, citing his autistic brother Jamie as his greatest nonmusical musical influence.

Bilingual, female-fronted Rosier balances traditional melodies and lyrics, and instrumentation firmly rooted in indie-pop. By blending the pop textures of synthesizers and the rock tones of electric guitars with more traditional instruments like acoustic guitar, banjo, and fiddle, with lyrics rich in Franco-Canadian living heritage, Rosier creates a bridge between the stories of yesterday and today. Béatrix Méthé (vocals, fiddle and synthesizers), Sarah Marchand (vocals, piano, and keyboards), Marie Savoie-Levac (bass), Éléonore Pitre (acoustic and electric guitar, backing vocals), and Colin Savoie-Levac (guitar, banjo, lap steel, feet, and backing vocals), with guest drummers, have been sharing this Quebecois heritage around the world for over a decade.

Formerly known as Les poules à Colin, Rosier redefines Quebec's living heritage through a modern

lens. With their sixth album "Elle Veille Encore" to be released this fall, they paint a multifaceted portrait of women in society, past and present.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance at www.nextstagearts.org. For more information, call 802-387-0102. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar.

Silk scarf show at Gallery at the VAULT —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — "Moonlight in Vermont" is a special show of exceptional, hand-painted flowing silk scarves by guest artist Teresa Flowers, at Gallery at the VAULT, only until Oct. 30. The scarves includes flowers, music, and celestial magic, with a bit of whimsy. There are square as well as long scarves.

Flowers brings this latest selection of original, hand-painted designs from her studio in Lincolnshire, England. Her work is on display in galleries around the U.K., and exclusively available at VAULT. They really are beautiful, and a fabulous way to add the new season's colors to your wardrobe.

Gallery at the VAULT is

located at 68 Main Street in Springfield, and is 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, visit www.galleryvault.org, or stop by the gallery. Gallery at the VAULT is handicapped accessible.

John John Brown at Stage 33

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — John John Brown's "Songs, Stories, & Art — Lessons from Strangers" brings giant comics, iconic photographs, and moving panoramas to the stage, weaving together storytelling songs and visual arts in live performance. The protagonists come from all walks of life — from an aging Vietnam vet, to a trumpet-playing orphan, a married couple debating evolution, to a young man with mental illness wandering the aisles of Walmart.

Steeped in storytelling

and fingerpicking, Brown is deep in the singer-songwriter tradition. He's a Kerrville New Folk winner, a winner of the South Florida Folk Fest, an Emerging Artist at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, and an invited performer at the 50th anniversary of Woodstock at the original site of the legendary festival.

Brown's "Songs, Stories, & Art — Lessons from Strangers" is at Stage 33

Live, 33 Bridge Street in Bellows Falls, Vt., on Saturday, Oct. 19, at 7 p.m. Tickets are discounted in advance through www.stage33live.com. There is limited seating; advance tickets guarantee entry. Advance ticket sales will close at midnight the day before the show, or when 40 tickets have been sold. Tickets at the door as available. The event will be recorded and filmed.



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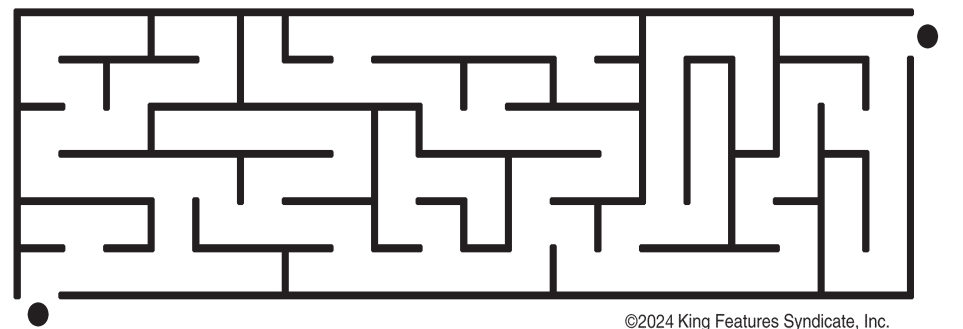
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What are you going to be for Halloween?

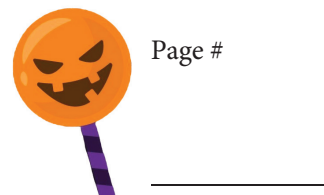
Kids' Maze



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“Vermonters and the Underground Railroad”

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Michelle Sherburne will present the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) program “A Closer Look at Vermonters and the Underground Railroad in the Pre-Civil War Era” on Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 2 p.m., at the Nolin Murray Center next to St. Mary’s Church, on Pleasant Street in Springfield. This is on a Wednesday rather than a Tuesday, when the OLLI programs are usually held.

Building upon last year’s tremendous interest in Vermont’s role in the Underground Railroad, Sherburne will return for a closer look

at its local history. We’ll zoom in on networking examples from four compass points in Vermont: Burlington, Springfield, Thetford, and Ferrisburg. In Burlington and Thetford, locals had a system in place to aid freedom seekers from one household to another discreetly, due to dangers of exposure, capture, and ruined reputations. Underground Railroad agents worked together to move people through their town northward to full freedom in Canada.

Another form of networking will be shared about the Robinsons in Ferrisburg, who used their Quaker ties and family connections to receive and pass along freedom seekers. We’ll meet Vergennes native Delia Webster, whose mission to help freedom seekers in Kentucky and Indiana made

her notorious, for which she was in and out of jail and the news constantly. We’ll hear more about Springfield’s own Noah Safford and his association with New England abolitionists, and his local Springfield efforts of moving freedom seekers along the Underground Railroad.

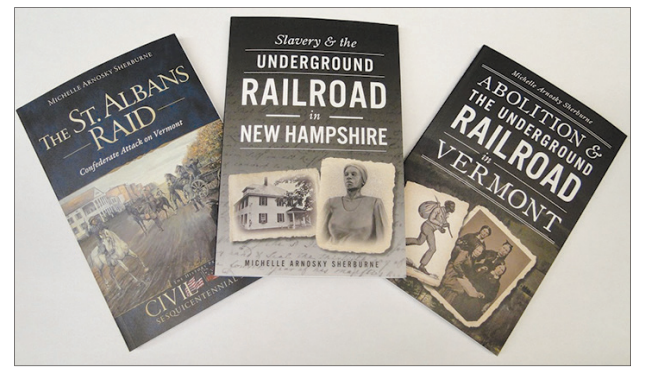
Sherburne is an author, Vermont historian, and newspaper publisher. She has spent decades researching pre-Civil War and Civil War history, specifically about Vermont’s abolitionist movement and the effort to help freedom seekers in the Underground Railroad. She has written several books on the subjects.

Sponsored by the University of Vermont, OLLI is run by local volunteer members, and is geared mainly towards seniors who are 50 years of age and over who

enjoy learning for the fun of it. Anyone who would be interested in this type of program, regardless of their age, is welcome. The programs are held Tuesday afternoons, at 2 p.m., and last about an hour and a half.

You may view the entire semester of programs by going to the website www.learn.uvm.edu/olli/springfield. Preregistration can be done online at this website with a credit card. You may also register over the phone, using your credit card, by calling 802-656-8407 during regular office hours, Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. There is a membership series fee, or nonmembers are welcome and encouraged to attend individual programs for a single program fee.

If you prefer to register by mail, send your contact information – name, address,



Michelle Sherburne’s history books.

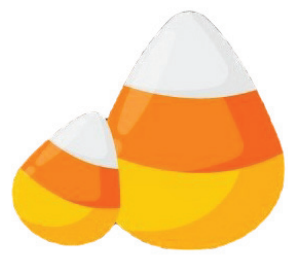
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phone number, and email address – indicating full series membership, or which specific program(s) you wish to attend. Mail this information and your check made out to “University of Vermont – OLLI” to UVM Non-Credit Registration Office, 85 South Prospect Street, Box 34, Burlington, VT 05405.

If there are weather-related

changes to the schedule, you can check the above website on the morning of the program.

The following program, on Tuesday, Oct. 29, will be “Vermont’s Supernatural Side: Chroniling Our State’s Ghost Stories and Unexplained Phenomena.” Joe Citro, a Chester native, will present this special Halloween program.



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