

Apple Blossom - May 2 and 3
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Spring Home & Garden, Pages 14-16

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Local hiker conquering cancer, Pacific Crest Trail

BY JOE MILLIKEN
The Vermont Journal

N. WALPOLE, N.H. – North Walpole-native and 1984 Fall Mountain Regional High School graduate, Dean Gay, is sharing his very personal story, because it is an important and inspirational story to tell. A life-long athlete and now an avid hiker, Dean, otherwise known by his trail name, 4Runner, was at the top of his game in January of 2024, having just secured a permit to hike the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), something that he had been working towards for several years.

“My start date was April 14 at the southern terminus in Campo, Calif., along the Mexican border,” Dean said in a recent interview. “The adventure would take me 2,650 miles through California, Oregon, and Washington, to the northern terminus on the Canadian border.”

As Dean prepared for his hiking adventure, his life would suddenly take a dramatic turn, for one day while on his daily training hike, he noticed a swollen gland on the left side of his neck. After visiting his doctor and having an ultrasound and CAT scan, he then visited with an ears-nose-throat (ENT) specialist who confirmed a cancer diagnosis, and performed a biopsy on the swollen lymph node.

The biopsy results indicated a P16-positive squamous cell carcinoma, which the doctors told Dean was the most responsive to treatment and the best-case scenario. Surely a positive ray of light amongst the clouds.

“It was still a shock to me,” Dean stated. “Me? A healthy, 58-year-old outdoor adventurer, really? However, what I then started to realize, as cancer invaded my life, was that now the smaller nuances would need to be celebrated.”

The next few months would be a whirlwind of appointments and treatments for Dean, his wife Theresa, and their three sons. Theresa would take on many roles in helping her high school sweetheart; head nurse, lead support, patient advocate, and recording secretary all in one.

After a PET scan revealed, thankfully, that the cancer had not spread throughout his body, Dean learned that it was only in his lymph nodes and at the base of his tongue. Needless to say, Dean and his family and friends were happy and relieved that the cancer had not spread.

“What relief,” Dean said. “I had the best night of sleep that night! Then, the doctors had ordered that I try to gain some weight before my treatments, so I

PHOTO PROVIDED

See **HIKER** on Page 2



Dean Gay.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Animation creation at Elm Hill School

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – What does it take to make a stop-motion animation with a production crew of 80 second graders at Elm Hill School in Springfield? If you want to watch it, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvYzLnWPM1w.

Melissa Post, experienced in the magic of making stop-motion movies even before the age of computers, and Diane Kemble, fellow retired Springfield teacher and frequent collaborator, began by looking for books or poems that lend themselves to the stop-motion format, as well as being rich in content. This year, Douglas Florian’s book of poetry, “Insectlopedia,” was chosen.

Post and Kemble worked on gathering information and materials, as well as working out the logistics with Elm Hill School’s teachers. Clay or paper insects and backgrounds were mostly prepared with the children in their art classes.

Children then filmed their insect poems in groups of two or three and rotated the jobs of taking the pictures or moving the insects, following Post’s precise directions. They filmed at 18 frames per second, and usually took three frames per move of the insect. That translates into six moves of an insect per second of film. The animation is 10 ½ minutes long.

While some children were animating, Diane involved others with illustrating small handmade books, which featured all the poems. The children had large photographs of the insects to work from and used fine markers and stamps to decorate their books.

Funding for art materials and some animation equipment has been provided by grants from the Claremont Savings Bank over the past three years and is also made possible by Gallery at the VAULT, where Post and Kemble have been involved for many years.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Animation of a moth.



Lions Club fights hunger with “Food from the Heart”

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – With compassion in action, members of the local Lions Club stepped up to tackle food insecurity through their “Food from the Heart” initiative, aligned with Lions Clubs International’s global cause of hunger.

Thanks to the dedication of Springfield Lions volunteers, the club and Shaw’s patrons braved the snow and rain and collected more than 250 pounds of food, delivered to the Springfield Family Center for residents in need. In addition to the food drive, the team raised \$282 to support future hunger relief efforts.

“Our mission is to serve, and when we see hunger in our own backyard, we act,” said club President Joe Wilson. “Every can of food and every dollar collected makes a difference.”

This initiative reflects Lions Clubs International’s worldwide commitment to ensuring no one goes to bed hungry. The Lions continue to demonstrate that even small, local efforts can have a powerful ripple effect across the community.

If you would like more information about the Springfield Lions Club or are interested in joining, don’t hesitate to get in touch with Joe Wilson at 802-591-2812.

Selectboard supports town library proclamation

BY PAULA BENSON
The Vermont Journal

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – At the Springfield Selectboard meeting held on April 14, the board voted to delay the second increase in library fees for non-residents, which they had approved in 2023. The first increase went into effect on January 1, 2024, and the second was scheduled to begin on July 1, 2025. Library director Sue Dowdell had requested that the July 1 increase be delayed by 6 months to Jan. 1, 2026.

Springfield resident and chair of the library trustees patrice jones relayed that Dowdell’s suggestion was due to “current economic circumstances, wanting to make the library more accessible to people, and feeling this was not a good time to raise our fees.”

Jones presented the board with a proclamation from the trustees stating their opposition to the dismantling of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a federal organization that supports the nation’s public libraries, museums, and archives. This proclamation would mirror the one the trustees had approved, a draft of which was provided in the meeting packet.

The document had been prepared in direct response to an executive order the president issued on March 14, which essentially went into effect on March 31 when all IMLS staff were placed on administrative leave and all activities ceased.

The IMLS funds the Vermont Department of Libraries, which in turn helps fund local public library services and programs. Jones said it’s hard to determine exactly how much is funded by the federal program because “there is a lot that we don’t

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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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EMAIL YOUR PRESS RELEASES, ARTICLES, AND PHOTOS
editor@vermontjournal.com

BF Rotary adult spelling bee fundraiser

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Rotary Club is excited to announce its upcoming adult spelling bee fundraiser, taking place on Friday, May 9, at 7 p.m., at the Moose Lodge in Bellows Falls. This lively and entertaining event will bring together community members, local businesses, and spelling enthusiasts for a night of fun competition, in support of Rotary’s service projects, charitable giving, scholarships, and more.

If you think you have what it takes to be crowned spelling bee champion, gather a team of four and sign up today. Registration costs are by team, and only 10 teams will be able to compete. Don’t miss this chance to showcase your spelling skills while supporting a great cause. Businesses and individuals looking to make an impact can become event sponsors. Various sponsorship levels are available, offering pro-

motional benefits such as brand recognition, advertising opportunities, and onsite engagement. The deadline for sponsorship and team registration is Friday, May 2. For sponsorship details, team registration, and more information, please visit www.bfrotary.club/page/adult-spelling-bee. You can also call or email Sam Howard, at saam-jm@gmail.com or 802-376-9983.

Department of Public Health talks to Rotary

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Jackie Lindamood and Tabbi Daly from the Vermont Department of Public Health office in Springfield talked about the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program at the recent Springfield Rotary Club meeting, held at the SAPCC Training Center. WIC provides access to healthy foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to health care and other community resources to income-eligible Vermont residents who

are pregnant, breastfeeding, or have a new baby, and children under age 5. There are 575 WIC recipients, but that number represents only half of those who qualify. For more information, go to www.healthvermont.gov/local/springfield/wic-springfield.



Jackie Lindamood, left, and Tabbi Daly talked about the WIC program. PHOTO PROVIDED

Curious Crafters program

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Young makers, builders, and crafters are invited to join Curious Crafters, a fun and educational Saturday morning drop-in kids crafting program filled with hands-on, STEM-inspired projects designed especially for kids ages 4 and up.

Beginning Saturday, May 10, the weekly drop-in program will run every Saturday, from

10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., offering a rotating schedule of exciting craft activities that combine creativity with science, technology, engineering, and math concepts. No two Saturdays are the same, and kids are encouraged to explore, experiment, and most importantly, have fun.

No registration is required. Simply drop in any time during program hours. Whether your child stays for 20 minutes or the

full two hours, they’ll walk away with a fun creation and some new knowledge about how the world works. Come get inspired, get messy, and make something amazing. For more information, call 802-463-4270, email youthassistant@rockinghamlibrary.org, visit www.rockinghamlibrary.org, or stop by the Library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls. This event is free and open to the public.

HIKER

From Page 1

started eating a lot of ice cream, but little would I know that within a few weeks, I would not be able to tolerate ice cream and most other foods and liquids.”

After meeting with his team of doctors – ENT, oncologist, and radiation oncologist – it was determined that a combination of radiation therapy and chemotherapy was the better option than surgery, and starting in late February, Dean endured seven weeks – 35 treatments – of radiation therapy.

“In my mind, I was still thinking that I could just get on the Pacific Crest Trail a little later than planned, and I naively

thought I could still go on my training hikes during treatment. But radiation treatment in the mouth and neck areas assaults your functions of eating, swallowing, and breathing. I had to force myself to consume even water because it was so painful, and by the end of the treatments I had lost 45 pounds.”

Of course, Dean was forced to postpone his PCT hiking adventure while he recovered from his enduring, painful treatments, but this is where this story gets much better. Dean had a lot of support around him during his illness, and has bounced back to once again to continue his passion of hiking.

“What kept me going during my cancer ordeal was my dreams, my passion, and my village of supporters. From my wife, sons and

family, to friends, neighbors, and coworkers. I also have immense gratitude for my team of doctors and all who provided kindness and hope at the hospitals.” On the final day for 2025 PCT permits to be issued, and almost one year after his cancer ordeal, Dean secured his ticket, and on April 18 finally realized his dream of hiking the 2,650-mile Pacific Crest Trail, which he is currently tackling. You can follow Dean Gay’s daily journey on YouTube by searching “Dean’s List.” Dean is also hiking to raise awareness and funds for the cancer organization that helped him: Support for People with Oral and Head and Neck Cancer (SPOHNC). Donations can be made in Dean’s honor at www.spoyncstore.org/pages/memorial-honorarium.

LIBRARY

From Page 1

pay for because the Vermont Department of Libraries pays for it. They provide the infrastructure for inter-library loans. They provide a number of the eBooks that people check out...They provide training to staff and numerous other things.” Jones also told the board the IMLS is the conduit through which federal funds become

available to public libraries. “Any grant that you have heard of [the library] getting has come to us through that way.” Vice chair Michael Martin questioned whether the state would be able to step in to provide the services previously supported by IMLS. Jones felt that, although possible, given everything that will lose funding as federal programs continue to disappear, the idea of the state having the funds available

seems unlikely. “Unfortunately,” Martin commented, “there is going to be a tremendous groundswell of information similar to this in many other departments. We don’t know the full ramifications because it’s only been a short period of time, but we understand there are considerable attacks on our traditional government roles, and how they are going to affect us is going to be, I think, very significant.” The board unanimously approved the proclamation, although Martin admitted, “I don’t know if it will do any good. [But] the citizens of Springfield should understand that actions like this could have an impact on their lives.”

The board signed off on the parade permit for the annual Springfield Alumni Association Parade; this year’s event to be held on Saturday, June 14. They also voted to move forward with several projects entering engineering phase. These included the Sewer Main project, the FEMA Weathersfield Dam project, and the FEMA Lincoln Street Erosion project. Green Up Day will be Saturday, May 3, coordinated by the Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Mobus asked that anyone interested in volunteering contact the chamber for bags, and mentioned that there will be food provided for all volunteers in Comtu Cascade Park after the cleanup effort is completed.



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“36 Miles of Trouble”



Brattleboro and Whitehall RR after the 1904 wreck.
PHOTO FROM THE DANNY CLEMONS COLLECTION

BY RON PATCH
802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

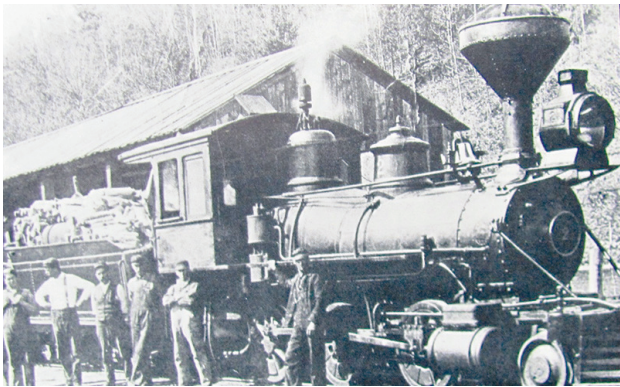
“36 Miles of Trouble,” was published in 1959 by Victor Morse. It has been reprinted several times. It is the history of the West River RR. This line began as “The Brattleboro and Whitehall RR.”

This was a narrow-gauge railroad that ran from Brattleboro, through Jamaica, to South Londonderry. Wrecks, derailments, wash outs, and trains stuck in deep snow were all too common.

Oct. 18, 1923 Bellows Falls Times

Wonder Railroad

“Vermont may truly claim to have the ‘Wonder Railroad’ of New England. The West River branch of the Central Vermont Railroad, running for 36 miles through the valley termed the Switzerland of America, boasts of one train a day, which makes the trip from South Londonderry to Brattleboro in four hours and one minute. No railroad in the country approaches the West River branch for convenience. Nine stations are distributed in the valley between the start and the finish of the trip. Everyone in the section knows the train sched-



No. 2 Brattleboro, a narrow gauge wood burner.
PHOTO FROM THE DANNY CLEMONS COLLECTION

ule by heart, and if they find they have insufficient time to make one of the stations they simply repose on the bank by the track, and when the West River comes pounding along they haul themselves to their feet and flag the train by raising their hands, and Engineer Pearson never fails to stop, for he knows everyone in the valley.

“Old West River always stops for at least five or six minutes at each station for often it is inconvenient for the traveler to be at the station when the train is due. It is said that a youngster once ran up to the waiting train at one of the stations

requesting that the engineer ‘wait a few minutes’ as Pa was shaving and would be along in a few minutes.

“Another time it is said a farmer’s wife in West Townshend came down from the farm and asked the engineer to please hold the train for a few minutes as she had promised to send a dozen eggs to Williamsville and had but 11, but she knew she would have the 12th very soon as the hen had just climbed onto the nest.

“A Mrs. Kidder was on her way to Brattleboro via the West River one day and became car sick along the way. Leaning her head out of the window to get a



WRRR No. 33 leaving South Londonderry. Notice the water tower at the right.
PHOTO FROM THE DANNY CLEMONS COLLECTION



WRRR Station in Williamsville, Vt.
PHOTO FROM THE DANNY CLEMONS COLLECTION

breath of fresh air, the jerking qualities of the train caused her to lose her false teeth. Before word could be relayed to the engineer the train had traveled a mile and a half. The engineer obligingly threw the old engine in reverse and backed up the mile and a half with Mrs. Kidder and the conductor standing on the platform. Mrs. Kidder spied the teeth and was soon reun-

ed with them, and the train continued on its way.

“In deer hunting season, it is customary to stop the train to allow passengers to shoot deer that can be seen along the track.”

This week’s old saying is used when someone tries to make you see things their way about an issue you don’t care about. “It’s not my pig. It’s not my farm.”

“An Evening with Walt Whitman” OLLI program —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – “Unlaunched Voices, an Evening with Walt Whitman” is the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) program to be presented, on Tuesday, May 6, at 2 p.m., at the Nolin Murray Center, next to St. Mary’s Church on Pleasant Street in Springfield.

Stephen Collins, actor and educator, will present the program as Walt Whitman on the evening of his 70th birthday as he reminisces and questions his success as a man and a poet. As Whitman transforms into his young vibrant self, we be-

gin to trace back along with him the experiences that led to the creation of “Leaves of Grass,” his lifetime work.

We’ll learn that his life was forever changed by the occurrence of the Civil War when he finds the most important work of his life – nursing the wounded soldiers in the hospitals. Through readings of his actual letters and poetry, we will experience his movement from selfishness to selflessness as he develops into a mature artist who is at peace about himself, God, and death.

OLLI is a senior educa-

tional program, through the University of Vermont, run by local volunteer members. Nonmembers are welcome and encouraged to attend individual programs for a single program fee. Preregistration can be done online at www.learn.uvm.edu/olli/springfield, or by phone at 802-656-8407 during regular office hours, Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

This is the final program of the spring semester. The fall semester series of exciting programs will be announced on the above website in August.



Stephen Collins as Walt Whitman.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Springfield Rotary hears about Meals on Wheels

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Chip Longo, a volunteer and board member, talked about Springfield’s Meals on Wheels (MOW) organization at the Springfield Rotary Club meeting, held at the Springfield Area Parent Child Training Center.

MOW delivers nutritional meals to the homes of eligible seniors and disabled adults in Springfield and the surrounding communities. MOW collaborates with Senior Solutions, and is currently serving 112 residents.

MOW needs more drivers to help deliver meals. Not only do the drivers deliver the meals, but they also offer a smile and a safety check.

While most of the funding comes from the towns, MOW conducts fundraisers. The next one is a chicken barbecue on May 3, from 1-4 p.m., at the Springfield Moose Lodge. To learn more, visit

its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MOW-springfield0518.



Chip Longo speaks to the Springfield Rotary Club.
PHOTO PROVIDED

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opinion

Dear residents of Andover, Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester, Grafton, Londonderry, Ludlow, Plymouth, Rockingham, Springfield, Townshend, Weathersfield, Westminster, and Weston,

Thank you. Yet again, you have shown your support for Senior Solutions, the local agency on aging, by approving our request for town funding. As the executive director, it is heartwarming to see your com-

mitment to our aging neighbors and family members. For over 50 years, Senior Solutions has been a trusted partner in providing services, support, and advocacy for older adults and their caregivers in southeastern Vermont. The approval of this funding highlights your dedication to building communities where people of all ages can thrive. Senior Solutions looks forward

to continuing our work in your communities and ensuring that all older adults have the support they need to lead fulfilling lives. For more information, please visit our website at www.seniorsolutionsvt.org. Warm regards, Mark Boutwell Executive Director Senior Solutions

Dear Editor,

When I was in school in the 1960s and '70s, our education wasn't individualized until ninth grade. At that point I got into a program in a small class where the teachers worked with us on a one-to-one basis. But by that time, I was already behind. By the time my son was in school, they recognized that he was having trouble early on and got him on to an individualized plan by second grade. This meant that he was able to learn at his own pace in a small-group set-

ting. The teachers were able to tailor their teaching to his own style of learning. Once he got into high school he was able to take a program in culinary arts, cooking for a small cafe, which exposed him to different aspects of the food business. Today he works as a prep cook. Currently, there are programs that train kids for work as plumbers, electricians, and carpenters, with apprenticeships, so they can get jobs in these needed fields after they graduate. In other cases – such as the medical fields – they

are introduced to different jobs in the area and can go on for further training after high school. In both cases, students are exposed to a field they are interested in and graduate with some training under their belts. I urge policy makers and school boards to keep these programs going so students can graduate with the training they need to get work in a field of interest to them. Sincerely, Rhonda Holland Bellows Falls, Vt.

Dear Editor,

Recent cuts by the USDA to local agriculture, including cuts to farm-to-school and early childhood education (ECE) programs, have caused a great deal of concern. Funding already approved to go to local farms has been stopped, while billions of subsidies for large industrial farms are honored. Farm-to-school programs enable more schools and ECE programs to serve local food, which is fresher, and thus tastier and more nutritious. Other funding cuts have affected our small organic farms. This funding would have contributed to the viability and profitability of local farms, which returns far more money to the local economy than large commodity farms and agribusi-

nesses do. The timing of the cuts is especially bad for farmers, as seeds have already been purchased, in some cases planted, for the crops for these now unfunded programs. What can we do? In addition to contacting our Congressional representatives (personal stories are often most effective), we can act by purchasing as much food locally as possible. We can contact our Vermont State representatives in support of including in the budget two programs – CropCashPlus and Farm Share – that ensure that Vermonters with low incomes can purchase fresh local food from Vermont farms. We also can buy directly from farmers at their farm stands or at stores,

such as co-ops, which carry locally grown and raised food. A particularly impactful way to purchase from local farms is by signing up for a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm share. Different farms have various models and sizes of shares, including prepaid farmstand options where one can choose exactly which foods one prefers. Farms in this area offering CSAs can be found on the online guide, www.vitalcommunities.org/directory/guide-tag/csa-farmshare. To learn more about local agriculture as well as the farm-to-school and early childhood education program, check out these organizations: Vermont Farm to School, New Hampshire Farm to School, VermontFEED, Vital Communities' Food and Farm Program, and Salvation Farms. Look for updates on the current situation and possible further action steps. Together we can support local farmers in feeding the community, thus contributing to the local economy and keeping our lands open and productive.

Dear Editor,

If you live in the Chester area and want to have a country where families matter more than fortunes, and where public schools are valued over private profits, health care over hedge funds, housing over homelessness, meet by the gazebo on the Chester Green, on Main Street, on Thursday, May 1, at 4:30 p.m., and join the more than 200 nationwide May Day Strong rallies taking place that day.

The billionaires who bought our federal government and are trying to create a race to the bottom – on wages, on benefits, on dignity itself – want to erase labor rights, break our unions, and silence immigrant voices. This May Day, we will turn the page. This is the beginning of a new era – one where working families lead, labor rights are protected, immigrants feel safe, and no one is left behind. Stop the billionaire takeover.

We are the many. They are the few. Join us on May Day, when we will show them that we stand united and we will not stand down. For more information and/or to register for this event, visit www.mobilize.us/may-day/event/777243, or contact Steve Dock at styeve35@gmail.com. Sincerely, Steve Dock Chester, Vt.

Dear Editor,

In response to the letter published April 9, on tariffs. You, like the president, have sprinkled in enough facts to cover up the fallacies of your argument. So, you want to bring back manufacturing to the U.S.A.? Not a bad idea, but there is a right way and a wrong way to do this. We cannot just fire up decades-old power plants and start making obsolete products. Retrofitting for modern goods will take years. I remember the 1970s smog alerts in Los Angeles – peo-

ple were warned to stay inside until the air quality became safe again. These rolls of smog washed over the city and other areas of the state almost on a daily basis. This president is now calling for bringing back coal mining – a backwards-thinking approach that could cost more to clean up than any profit made. Democrats have been pushing for green energy development for decades, only to have Republicans dismiss it and vote against it. Now China is the number one leader in renewable energy. In 2022, China installed as much solar capac-

ity as the rest of the world combined, then doubled additional solar in 2023. If we wanted to “beat” China, this was the area to do it. This is what I see from this current administration: A felon becoming our president when a regular citizen with felony status is not legally allowed to vote. Our government leaders using an unsecured app to discuss combat maneuvers, not accidentally, but to use the erasure feature and avoid entering the conversation into government records as required by law. The president hiring an unelected billionaire to scour through our U.S. Treasury containing sensitive material from all citizens in this country with not a single approval from any of us. The president flying over ongoing disaster areas to “win” a golf tournament while four U.S. soldiers are buried quietly in his absence. People being pulled from streets and sent to detention centers and prisons in foreign countries with no due process or humanity for their wellbeing. Tariffs being announced, un-

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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, political letters are charged at the rate of \$75 for 200 words, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. Political letters include endorsing, electioneering, or campaigning for, or against, a specific candidate or party.

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Sincerely,
Elizabeth McNally
Ludlow, Vt.

LEGAL NOTICES

obituaries

Mary Lou Hurd, 1942-2025

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Mary Lou (Smolnik) Hurd, of Springfield, Vt., passed away April 26, 2025. Mary Lou was born on Jan. 17, 1942 in Springfield, Vt., to Wasil Smolnik and Carolyn (Moulton) Smolnik. She was a graduate of Springfield High School, Class of 1959. She married Richard L. Hurd on June 18, 1961.

She worked for Fellows Gear Shaper and was secretary at Calvary Baptist Church. Her hobbies included her horse, and her and her husband's antique cars and motorcycle. She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church.

She was predeceased by her brothers Fred and George Smolnik, her parents, and her husband in 2023.

Survivors include her daughters Martha Hurd, of Albuquerque, N.M., Bernice Clark (Bill), of Springfield, Vt.; her son Thomas Hurd, of East Hartland, Conn.; as well as five grandchildren Samuel, Joshua, Carole, Katharine, and Benjamin; two great-grandchildren Gloria and Allister; and many nieces and nephews. Her siblings are Sandra Hurd (Jan-son), of Ridgefield, Conn., Polly Bushway, of Springfield, Vt., Carol Caouette (Ed), of Corinth, Vt., Martha Tlaker

Robert H. Paul, 1943-2025

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Robert H. Paul passed away on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 3:15 p.m., at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, after extensive assistance to remain alive. He fought hard to live, but now is in a more peaceful place. He was born as an identical twin to Henry and Mary (Giacomini) Paul on Aug. 10, 1943, in Barre, Vt., his mother's birthday. He stated that his twin brother Remo was his hero.

He attended Springfield High School, graduating in 1961, and studied at Plymouth State College where he received his Bachelor of Education degree.

He soon found himself teaching history and social studies at Springfield High School. He loved teaching for 45 years. He missed his former students every day.

In 1973, he enrolled in Dartmouth College Master of Arts Teaching program. He loved that three-year experience, but always wanted to return to Springfield High School, and he did after each exhausting summer. He made it work. It was at Dartmouth College he learned what defines a good teacher, and he modeled those teaching styles and practices for many successful years.

It was also in 1973 he and his great friend Mike Janiszyn became team teachers in American Studies, the first in the state. What a wonderful journey through time by looking at America through the prisms of American history, American literature, art, and music. The students loved it, as did the school. As students said: It was the best course at Springfield High School because it em-



Mary Lou Hurd, 1942-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

(Norman), of West Jefferson, N.C., Richard Smolnik, of Barre, Vt., Bernard Smolnik, of Asheville, N.C., and sister-in-law Ruth Sargent (Tony), of Springfield, Vt.

Donations may be made to Calvary Baptist Church, Springfield, Vt., the Springfield Humane Society, or a charity of your choice.

A Celebration of her Life will be held on Saturday, May 10, at 11 a.m., at the Calvary Baptist Church, 165 Main Street, Springfield, Vt. Reception to follow the service at the church. Burial will be private for immediate family only, at their convenience. The service will also be streamed on the church's Facebook page for those who are not able to attend in person.



Robert Paul, 1943-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

phasized reading and weekly writing.

Since retirement in 2010, he has enjoyed gardening and going to the Edgar May gym. Additionally, he walked two miles a day with his best friend Seth Austin and his two gentle and wonderful golden retrievers.

His great friend Donna Grant would also accompany Rob on the trips to the dam. Those were exciting days. I owe so much to Donna.

Now that Rob's life has ended, his strong love for his family continues to grow, he is so very proud of his nephew Steve and his wife Stephanie, his niece Jen, and his grandniece Eliza Carton. He is particularly happy with what they are accomplishing in life. He has been devoted to his twin Remo Paul and his very compassionate and thoughtful wife. We would not have been a family without her.

Friends may call at the Davis Memorial Chapel on Monday, May 5, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Springfield, Vt., with burial following at the St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ray C. Lamothe, 1941-2025

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Ray Clarence Lamothe passed away on April 16, 2025, at Valley Regional Hospital in Claremont, N.H., with family by his side.

Ray was born in Springfield, Vt. on Dec. 31, 1941, the son of Clarence and Evelyn (Grover) Lamotte. He was raised in Chester, Vt., graduating in 1960 from Chester High School. Following his graduation he served in the Army Reserves.

He worked on the dock for St. Johnsbury Trucking Company for nearly 27 years. He later worked as a yardman at Hancor in North Springfield.

Ray married Linda Anne Danico, whom he met while working at the trucking company, on April 30, 1976. Ray was a devoted husband to Linda, so evident in his care for her throughout her lengthy struggle with illnesses during the later years of their marriage. She died in 2011.

He was a member of the American Legion Post 37, the Polish American Club, and the Moose Lodge in Bellows Falls, along with the Springfield Humane Society.

Ray enjoyed being outdoors. A hunter in his earlier years, he became more involved with kayaking and golf as he grew

older. He enjoyed gardening and caring for his yard. He also enjoyed reading and was an avid card player, particularly Cribbage and Bridge.

He is survived by his sister, Leona (Wendell) Brown, of Bellows Falls; four nephews David Brown, of Roswell, Ga., Christopher (Jennifer) Lamotte, of Milton, Vt., Jason Lamotte, of Colchester, Vt., Steven Lamotte and his fiancé Amy Briere, of Rutland, Vt.; and one niece Elizabeth (Jon) Morris, of Epping, N.H. He is also survived by four great nephews Jordan and Jeremy Lamotte, Evan Brown, and Kenneth Lamotte; one great-niece Caitlyn Lamotte; and his dear friend Donna Marzouk of Bradenton, Fla. Ray was predeceased by his parents, wife Linda, and brother Kenneth.

At Ray's request, there will be no calling hours. A private service will take place on Saturday, May 3.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ray's memory to the Springfield Humane Society.

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

Loreene A. Wilson-Gorey, 1943-2025

GRAFTON, Vt. – Loreene Ann Wilson-Gorey passed away at her home unexpectedly on Thursday, April 24, 2025. She was born on Feb. 5, 1943, in Newark, N.J., to George and Marian (Grassi) Smith.

Loreene attended and graduated high school in Brattleboro, Vt. After raising her two sons Chris and Randy, she worked at G.S. Precision for over 20 years.

Loreene married James Gorey on May 18, 2018. She was known as a lover of animals and people. She was known to be generous and lent a helping hand wherever and whenever she could. Loreene enjoyed driving fast cars like Corvettes, Mustangs, Chevelles, and T-birds. She also loved to travel the world; some of her adventures included trips to Africa, Portugal, France, Australia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Egypt, Spain, Canada, and many parts of the U.S.

She is survived by her husband Jim; two sons Chris (Sharon) Stone and Randy Stone; granddaughter Amanda Lynn (Derrick) Jenkins; great-grandson Dylan Jenkins; sister-in-law Judy Smith and her



Loreene Wilson-Gorey, 1943-2025. PHOTO PROVIDED

children Angela, Tammy, and George; and her loving dog Max.

She is predeceased by Larry and Mike, her parents, and brother George Smith.

Services will be held at the Davis Memorial Chapel on Tuesday, May 6, at 1 p.m., with burial to follow at the Meeting House Hill Cemetery in Brattleboro.

Donations can be made in Loreene's name to the Springfield Humane Society or St. Jude's Children's Hospital.



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Bellows Falls, VT 05101 **Fax: 802-460-3480**

Robert F. Brandmeyer Mass

LUDLOW, Vt. – A Christian Mass for Robert F. Brandmeyer will be celebrated Saturday, May 10, at 4:30 p.m., at the Church of Annunciation, 7 Depot Street, Ludlow, Vt.

Jean Handly memorial service

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Memorial visiting hours for Jean Handly, who passed away Oct. 8, 2024, will be held on May 17, from 1-3 p.m., at the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt.

Reine Laplante graveside service

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – A graveside service for Reine Laplante, who passed away Jan. 22, 2025, will be held on May 17, at 11 a.m., at the St. Mary's Cemetery in Springfield, Vt.

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.

TOWN OF PERU
PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZBA HEARING

Alan P Benoit has submitted an application for a porch, new siding and windows in the Peru Village Historic District at 344 Main St. The Town Peru Planning Commission will hold a hearing on this application at 5:30 on May 14, 2025, at the Peru Town Offices.

Those interested in seeing the applications, submitting written comments, or attending the hearings remotely should contact the town's Zoning Administrator at: Peru Zoning, P.O Box127, Peru Vt. 05152, or emailing tosZoning@peruvt.org

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY

At their duly warned 04/21/2025 meeting, the Londonderry VT Selectboard adopted the Amended Short-Term Rental Ordinance. The new ordinance contains these changes:

- Rental Arbitrage is defined and aligned with Vermont STR policy. Only owners can hold a STR license, not renters.
- Knox Boxes will be required when the property is vacant or unattended.
- There will be a limit on the number of STRs that each owner can register, but owners that already have in excess of this number will be grandfathered in as long as they hold deed.
- A newly purchased property cannot be registered as an un-hosted rental in first year of ownership.
- There is a cap of 50 rental nights for future un-hosted rentals.
- A quiet hour was added.
- Specifications to meet Vermont fire code (current alarms, window size) were added.
- Owners will provide disposal containers and arrange for timely removal of all trash, compost, and recyclables.
- Any fees associated with serving STR operator a violation ticket will be added to the ticket.

Unless a petition is filed in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 1973, the Ordinance shall become effective sixty (60) days after its adoption. However, the Short-Term Rental registration requirements under Article 4 shall not take effect until July 1, 2025, though registration applications may be accepted by the STR Administrator beginning May1, 2025.

To read the full ordinance, please visit the Londonderry Town Website at londonderryvt.org. Copies have also been placed at the Town Offices at 100 School Street, the Town Hall at 139 Middletown Road, the Londonderry Post Office, and the South Londonderry Post Office.

Questions or comments may be directed to Andy Dahlstrom, Short Term Rental Coordinator via phone 802-824-3356 ext. 9, email stradmin@londonderryvt.org or by mail 100 School Street, Londonderry, VT 05155.

calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

MAY 2 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The First Friday Fundraiser Supper at the First Baptist Church in Bellows Falls, 9 Church Street, will be on Friday, May 2, serving from 5-6:30 p.m. The menu includes a hamburger and hot dog barbecue, with potato salad, green salad, beverages, and dessert. This will benefit the Bellows Falls Police Department Bicycle Helmet Project. There is a suggested donation.

MAY 3 – BELMONT, Vt. – The mud has dried and spring is finally here. Come celebrate in Mount Holly with the Better Blues Band on Saturday, May 3, at the Odd Fellows Hall in Belmont. Doors open at 7 p.m., the band starts at 8 p.m. BYOB and bring a

friend too! See poster or visit www.mhcavt.org for more information, and advance ticket purchase.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield United Methodist Church is having its Spring Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at 10 Valley Street, Springfield, VT 05156. Everyone is welcome.

chili tasters. Call Bruce at 802-672-3068 to enter or for more information.

MAY 5 – S. ACWORTH, N.H. – The Acworth Village Store invites the community to join us for a festive and affordable Cinco de Mayo dinner, on Monday, May 5, from 5-6 p.m., at 1068 New Hampshire Route 123A, South Acworth, N.H. Enjoy a menu featuring fajitas with chicken, peppers, onions, and cheese; yellow rice and refried beans; and a sweet finish with Mexican chocolate cake and sopapilla cheesecake. This event is a fundraiser to support the Acworth Community Project, the local nonprofit that manages the Village Store. To preorder a takeout dinner, call 603-835-6547.

MONDAYS – PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – On Mondays at 6:15 p.m., join Mikayla for a yoga class. Email mikayla@mikaylasmantra.net to register. Visit www.dgbodyworks.com for more information. Private classes are available.

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 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Senior Solutions, in collaboration with Tai Chi Vermont, continues its Tai Chi for Fall Prevention beginner/intermediate class in the Great Hall, 100 River Street (parking at Pearl Street entrance), on Tuesdays, from 10:40-11:40 a.m. Tai chi not only helps to lower the risk of falling, but also improves concentration, leg strength, balance, and coordination, and reduces joint pain and stress. Come join us – it’s fun, and it’s free. For more information, contact suerubl@aol.com.

WEDNESDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Knitting with Friends at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common, Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to noon.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Knitting Together, every Wednesday, 1-3 p.m., at Village Square Booksellers, knitting hats and mittens for our school kids. We provide yarn, some direction, and an enjoyable visit. Acrylic yarn donations are always welcome. For more information, contact Caroline at 802-463-4653.

THURSDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – The Black River Memory Cafe is held on the first Thursday of each month, at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 313 Main Street, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The memory cafe is free to attend, snacks included, and offers a safe and comfortable space where caregivers and their loved ones living with dementia or Alzheimer’s can socialize, listen to music, play games, and enjoy other appropriate activities.

TOWN OF WINDHAM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Windham Selectboard will hold a public hearing at the Meeting House (26 Harrington Road) on Monday, May 19, 2025 at 4:45 PM to discuss the following changes to the town’s zoning regulations:

- 1) Changes mandated by state law
- 2) Changes for clearer language about density standards
- 3) Minor changes to permitted and conditional uses in some districts
- 4) Changes for clearer definitions of principal and accessory structures
- 5) New regulations about recreational vehicles

For more information, contact Bill Dunkel, Planning Commission Chair, at b.dunkel1455@gmail.com.

Members of the public may attend in person or via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81873266642?pwd=Godoa5Cy0dNSBE7gighFnu9FRXn0fe.1>
Meeting ID: 818 7326 6642
Passcode: 639261

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

TO BROWNFIELDS REUSE AND ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY LIMITATION ACT PROGRAM

Please take notice that the Town of Windham, whose mailing address is 5976 Windham Hill Road, Windham VT 05359, is applying to the Vermont Brownfields Reuse and Environmental Liability Limitation Program (10 V.S.A. §6641 et seq.) in connection with the redevelopment of property known as Former Imerys Talc Mine, 1376 White Road Windham, Vermont, in the town of Windham. A copy of the application, which contains a preliminary environmental assessment and a description of the proposed redevelopment project is available for public review at the Windham Clerk’s Office and at the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation offices in Montpelier. Comments concerning the application and/or the above referenced documents may be directed to Windham at the town of Windham. Comments may also be submitted by mail to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Waste Management Division, 1 National Life Drive – Davis 1, Montpelier, VT 05620; attention: Windham.

NOTICE TO SPRINGFIELD VOTERS

Absentee Ballots for the Springfield Town School District Meeting being held Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 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 you return 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, May 5, 2025 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 May 5, 2025, 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, May 6, 2025. The polls are located at Riverside Middle School in the gymnasium and will open on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Town Clerk’s Office will not be open on May 6, 2025.

Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk, CVC - 96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont 05156 (802) 885-2104 tosclerk@vermontel.net

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, May 6, 2025, 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 FORTY MILLION, SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-ONE and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$ 40,733,271.00), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$13,901 per pupil. This projected spending per pupil is 3.86% higher than spending for the current year.

Two (2) public informational hearings will be held in-person, and will be accessible remotely by electronic means, at the Springfield High School on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. and on Monday, May 5, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the proposed school budget as presented in Article 1.

IN-PERSON PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARINGS

WILL BE ACCESSIBLE REMOTELY BY ELECTRONIC MEANS:

For April 26, 2025:

- GOOGLE MEET ID LINK: meet.google.com/epi-qpxz-htu
- By telephone: Dial +1 678-227-7121 and when prompted enter the PIN 311 143 562#
- Meeting link can also be accessed on the home page of the School District Website: ssdvt.org
- Watch live on SAPA TV or stream it from Sapatv.org

For May 5, 2025:

- GOOGLE MEET ID LINK: meet.google.com/tbx-jwds-qfv
- By telephone: Dial +1 678-653-4951 and when prompted enter the PIN 239 550 233#
- Meeting link can also be accessed on the home page of the School District Website: ssdvt.org
- Watch live on SAPA TV or stream it from Sapatv.org

Dated this 8th day of April, 2025 at Springfield, County of Windsor and State of Vermont.

Troy Palmer

Stephon Kaffia

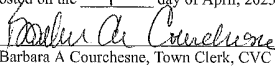
Denise Hunter

Jessica Burlew

Jessica Austin

Board of School Directors - Springfield Town School District

M&T Bank Mail
North Springfield Post Office
Springfield Municipal Office
Springfield Town Library
Springfield Town Website: <http://springfieldvt.gov/>
Springfield School District Website: <https://www.ssdvt.org/>

Notice posted on the 9 day of April, 2025
Attest: 
Barbara A Courchesne, Town Clerk, CVC

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

CLEANING & CLEAN OUTS

EZ-Dump Enterprises is available for old boiler removal, and home/apartment/storage clean outs and disposal, and trash and junk removal. Serving Springfield and all surrounding areas in VT & NH. Call 802-376-1168 or email

CALENDAR CONT.

For questions, please call 802-885-2669 or 866-673-8376, or email memorycafe@seniorsolutionsvt.org.

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.

FRIDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Alcoholics

ezdump.bl@gmail.com.

FOR SALE

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – 1980 225 Cat excavator good condition, 8,134 hours, \$20,000 or best offer. Call 802-226-7381 from 5-9 p.m.

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – 2009

Anonymous meetings held every Friday at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph’s Church, located at 96 South Main Street in Chester. If you have a problem with alcohol, this is an understanding place.

SATURDAYS – W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Taco night is held every Saturday, from 5-7 p.m., at the West Townshend Country Store, 6573 Vermont Route 30, West Townshend, Vt. There will be live music provided by a different local artist each week. For more information, visit www.westtownshend.org, call 802-874-4800, or message the store on Facebook.

F350 super cab white, mechanics body, a lot of new parts. 237,385 miles. Best offer. Call 802-226-7381 from 5-9 p.m.

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – Mack 1978 R400 dump, hydraulic cover, 90% tires, \$8,000 or best offer. Call 802-226-7381 from 5-9 p.m.

WINDHAM, Vt. – 3PH 6’ York rake \$300; 3PH 6’ back blade \$250; 5’ brush hog \$400; 3PH 30 ton American log splitter with pump \$500; 5” disk & Harrow \$150; 3PH utility box \$100; Troy Built Roto Tiller \$300; Delta 10”

lathe & tools \$700; 24” 18HP Arians snow blower & 30” mower deck; PTO post hole augers 8” & 12”; bandsaw, worm-drive ratter saw, 12” planer, biscuit jointer, misc. hand tools. Call 860-823-9959.

YARD SALE

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Yard sale Friday-Sunday, May 2-4, 9-5, located at 100 and 1600 Massey Road. 802-885-3050. Facebook marketplace photos.

Chester-Andover Elementary School KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Chester-Andover Elementary School has begun the process of registration for children who will be eligible for Kindergarten for the 2025/2026 school year. Children must be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2025. Please contact the school office at 802-875-6832 or email kim.leonard@trs.u.org to let us know your child will be attending.

SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT WATER MAIN FLUSHING NOTICE MONDAY, May 5th – FRIDAY, May 16th, 2025

Periodically, in Springfield, Vermont, we clean water mains of harmless corrosion and accumulated foreign matter by opening hydrants and allowing the water to escape under high pressure. The flushing action is an important part of our program to maintain high quality water.

Although such flushing may produce temporary discoloration, the safety of the water is not affected in any way. HOWEVER, we advise you to schedule clothes washing and cleaning projects at other times.

All mains will be flushed between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. During the time this work is performed, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE ENTIRE SYSTEM WILL BE AFFECTED. It is suggested that restaurants, laundromats, etc. keep their use to a minimum until water clears. The water system will be riled and cloudy, but this condition will clear up upon completion of the work.

SPRINGFIELD WATER DEPT.

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD

The Town of Springfield Development Review Board will hold public hearings starting at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, May 13, 2025, to review the following zoning applications. The first application is for a two-lot subdivision located at 425 Greeley Road. The second application is for a two-lot subdivision located at 152 Fairground Road. The third application is for a cottage industry to be located on VT Route 106 just south of the Clark Road intersection. The fourth application is a forestry product processing application for a property (no address) located on Pleasant Valley Road just south of the Lovell Road intersection. Individuals wishing to participate in the public hearings may do so in person or Zoom video conferencing. Participation in these hearings is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. Please contact the Town Planner (802-376-6102 /planning@springfieldvt.gov) for the agenda and zoning applications.

Town of Springfield Request for Proposals – May 15, 2025 Field and Brush Maintenance

The Town of Springfield is requesting proposals for field mowing and brush cutting to be done throughout the summer of 2025.

- SCOPE OF WORK:
1. Bi-seasonal mowing and trimming of the town’s four (4) water tanks. This work also includes the cutting of any brush or saplings growing in the mowed area and or along the fence and tank.
 2. Bi-seasonal mowing and trimming of the well field. This work also includes cutting any brush or saplings growing in the mowed area.
 3. Bi-seasonal mowing and trimming of the reservoir located in Weathersfield VT. This work includes all mowing, trimming and brush/sapling removal on the dam.

All proposals should be submitted to the Town Manager’s Office by close of business, 4:30 pm, on May 15, 2025. Proposals may be either mailed or dropped off at 96 Main Street, Springfield VT. 05156 in sealed envelopes marked “Water Tower Mowing.”

Site visits can be arranged by contacting the Water Dept. at 886-2208

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

W	U	R	S	T	S	T	E	P	H
T	I	N	I	E	R		P	A	N
I	N	S	A	N	E	I	N	T	I
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O	N	I	T		T	A	G		T
N	A	D	A	L		G	E	L	A
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B	R	U	E	G	E	L	E	G	R
L	E	N	D		L	O	G		S
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S	A	N	T	E	E		T	A	R
S	P	O	K	E	N		U	H	A
	S	T	O	P	S		P	R	E

Art Crafts Gifts

GALLERY AT THE VAULT

Art, Crafts, Gifts, Exhibits & Workshops 68 Main St., Springfield 802-885-7111 OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5 Register for Workshops & Shop online galleryvault.org

Paint the Spring Landscape in watercolor with Rob O’Brien 5/3 \$85

Raku Pottery with Andrew Berends Two days: 5/3 & 5/10 12-4 \$275, Includes clay and firing Kites by Jim Thompson Each handmade and handpainted Handpainted Scarf Show by Terri Flowers

Open Wal Show Nostalgia (07/16/25 - TFN - 13)

Builders/Contractors

DCI CONCEPTS DESIGN – BUILD – REMODEL

A family business first. Our projects are held to a higher standard starting from the very first phone call to the final walk-through. Our team will impress you with professionalism, quality, and integrity. 6 Andover St. Ludlow, VT 802-461-3573 dci@dciconcepts.com (11/05/25 - 52)

HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC “Not just for bangin’ nails.”

We handle a variety of projects, from home repairs, restorations on up to full renovations, and new construction too. Our clients can expect professionalism, proficiency, customer care, and quality. Call or email today at 802-376-3275 edwin.mortensen@gmail.com. Follow us on Instagram @nedthehammer (11/19/25 - 52)

PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION

Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville. 802-558-5267. (05/14/25 - 13)

ROSE’S HOME IMPROVEMENT

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LEGAL NOTICES

“Matter of Mind: My Alzheimer’s” in Chester

CHESTER, Vt. – Indie Lens Pop-Up, presented by ITVS, Independent Lens, and Whiting Library in Chester, Vt., will host a free screening of “Matter of Mind: My Alzheimer’s,” on Thursday, May 1, at 6 p.m., at the Whiting Library. After the screening, Joanne Erenhouse, of Senior Solutions, will host an engaging and informational discussion about Alzheimer’s and resources for people impacted by the disease, how becoming a caregiver for a parent or partner transforms relationships, the

impact of community support, and more.

“Matter of Mind: My Alzheimer’s” explores how family dynamics change when a loved one is diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. The film follows three families and the unique challenges of their loved ones’ diagnoses, delving into their lived experiences. Going beyond the statistics, the film explores how this disease impacts identities and roles in relationships.

Whiting Library will also display a new memory col-

lection of games and aids for patients and caregivers. The collection is the result of a recent Libraries Transforming Communities Accessible Small and Rural Communities grant awarded to Whiting Library.

Whiting Library is located at 117 Main Street in Chester, Vt. Please RSVP at 802-875-2277 or director@whitinglibrary.org.

“Matter of Mind: My Alzheimer’s” will debut on May 5, at 10 p.m., on PBS and the PBS app.

Robert F. Brandmeyer Memorial Scholarship

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Route 106 North Market & Deli enjoyed 12 years in North Springfield. Our customers and their families grew up with up with us – the children came for ice cream and snacks, and to play with Johnny and Louie. In later years, we would cater their graduations, weddings, and baby showers. It was not just a business to us, they were our family for all those years. We made lifelong friends and memories that we will have with us forever. Bob’s passing and the closing of our store left a void that will be felt for a long time.

Bob loved to cook and socialize in our store. He also had a deep devotion to supporting law enforcement and first responders. This inspired me to offer a college

scholarship in his memory for the children of first responders.

Applicants of the Robert F. Brandmeyer Memorial Scholarship can include students who are entering their first, second, third, or fourth year of college in 2025, and who are children of police officers, firemen, or EMS who are employed or volunteer in the towns of Springfield, Chester, Ascutney, Weathersfield, Ludlow, or Proctorsville, Vt.

Applicants must submit a 500-word essay responding to the following prompt: “Depict the impact your parent’s service has had on your life, and what positive influence it will have on your future.”

Essays must be submitted by June 13. Include your name and home address, the college you are or will be attending in the fall, the grade you are en-

tering, your parent’s name, the town they serve in, and their position in the department.

Participants can email their essay as a PDF attachment to RFBscholarship@gmail.com. Please use the following naming format for your essay: YourLastName.RFB25.pdf. For example, “Smith.RFB25.pdf.”

The winner will be determined by a committee of five people, and applicants will be notified in writing by July 11. The scholarship will be awarded at the sole discretion of the scholarship committee based on evaluation of responses to the essay prompt. The committee reserves the right not to make an award if essays are deemed nonresponsive or insufficient to the prompt. The award determination by the committee is final, and may not be appealed or challenged.

“Ethics In Action” presentation

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Wednesday, May 7, at 1 p.m., join Mary Kohn from the Better Business Bureau (BBB) at the Springfield Town Library, for her presentation “Ethics in Action: Making Smart Choices Every Day.”

In this engaging program, we’ll explore the importance of ethics and how

it impacts our daily lives. Through interactive discussions and real-world examples, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the impact of their choices, and develop practical skills to make informed decisions. By applying ethical principles to everyday challenges, individuals will learn to navigate complex

situations with confidence and integrity.

Our expert facilitator Mary Kohn, from the Better Business Bureau, will share insights on how to make smarter decisions and create a positive impact in the marketplace.

To sign up for a reminder, visit www.springfieldtownlibrary.org/calendar.

Chester Vermont Police Department Employment Opportunity

Job Title: Part-Time Police Officer
Department: Chester Police Department
Job Type: Part-Time

Job Summary:

The Chester Police Department is seeking dedicated and community-oriented individual to join our team as a part-time police officer. Those who are seeking a flexible work schedule of up to 30 hours a week should apply.

Qualifications:

- Must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver’s license.
- Certified as a Level II or Level III officer by the Vermont Criminal Justice Council (VCJC) or the ability to obtain a waiver from another state certification.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work varied hours, including nights, weekends, and holidays.
- Strong decision-making and problem-solving abilities.
- Must successfully pass/recently passed a background investigation, physical examination, psychological evaluation, written exam or polygraph

Compensation & Benefits:

- Competitive hourly wage based on experience and qualifications.
- Opportunities for professional development and training in all public safety aspects including EMT and Firefighter1.
- A supportive and community-focused work environment.
- Benefits and option to join the NEPBA.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates should submit a completed application, resume, and cover letter to the Chester Police Department, police@chestervt.gov, or mail to CPD, PO Box 370, Chester, VT 05143. Applications can be obtained at the Chester Police Department or on the town’s official website: <https://www.chestervt.gov/employment-opportunities.html>

Chester Vermont Police Department Employment Opportunity

Job Title: Full-Time Police Officer
Department: Chester Police Department
Job Summary:

The Chester Police Department is seeking dedicated and community-oriented individuals to join our team as a full-time police officer. This position is an excellent opportunity for individuals looking to serve and protect the community and maintaining quality work-life balance.

Compensation & Benefits:

- Competitive hourly wage based on experience and qualifications.
- Opportunities for professional development and training in all public safety aspects including EMT and Firefighter1.
- A supportive and community-focused work environment.
- 4-day work week.
- Benefits include additional holiday pay and shift differentials, VMRS retirement, paid vacation and sick leave, town supplied life insurance, 95% employer paid healthcare, FSA, 457B plan option.

Qualifications:

- Must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver’s license.
- Certified as a Level II or Level III officer by the Vermont Criminal Justice Council (VCJC) or the ability to obtain a waiver from another state certification.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work varied hours, including nights, weekends, and holidays.
- Strong decision-making and problem-solving abilities.
- Must successfully pass/recently passed a background investigation, physical examination, psychological evaluation, written exam or polygraph

Key Responsibilities:

- Enforce local and state laws to ensure public safety.
- Conduct routine patrols to prevent and detect criminal activity.
- Respond to emergency and non-emergency calls for service.
- Investigate crimes, accidents, and other incidents.
- Engage with the community to foster positive relationships and trust.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates should submit a completed application, resume, and cover letter to the Chester Police Department, police@chestervt.gov, or mail to CPD, PO Box 370, Chester, VT 05143. Applications can be obtained at the Chester Police Department or on the town’s official website: <https://www.chestervt.gov/employment-opportunities.html>

Town of Plymouth, Vermont Part-Time Assessor Assistant

An Assessor Assistant generally provides administrative, technical, and field support to the Assessor’s office, primarily focused on real property appraisal and assessment. This includes tasks like data collection, preparing assessment records, assisting with tax map updates, and providing public assistance

Key Responsibilities:

Data Collection and Record Keeping: Gathering, organizing, and maintaining information related to property valuations, including deeds, surveys, and property transfers.

Appraisal Support: Assisting with field inspections, preparing appraisal reports, and updating assessment records, both manual and computerized.

Tax Map Maintenance: Assisting with the upkeep of tax maps, including identifying new properties, updating them with new subdivisions, and incorporating data from building permits.

Public Assistance: Providing information to taxpayers and the public regarding assessments and related matters.

Exemption Processing: Assisting with the processing and maintenance of exclusion and exemption claims.

General Office Support: Providing administrative support to the Assessor, participating in staff meetings, and coordinating activities.

Skills and Qualifications:

Proficiency in Computer Software: Demonstrates strong computer skills, including proficiency in using Microsoft Office programs, NEMRC, Proval, and CAMA.

Familiarity with Tax Laws and Regulations: Understands local and state tax laws and regulations relevant to property assessment.

Strong Communication Skills: Can effectively communicate with taxpayers and other members of the public.

Detail-Oriented: Can accurately maintain records and process information efficiently.

Ability to Work Independently: Can perform tasks with minimal supervision.

Experience in Real Property Valuation: Prior experience in related fields like appraiser, valuation data manager, or real property appraisal aid is often preferred.

Please submit your resume and/or a completed application to the Plymouth Town Clerk’s Office at 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, Vermont 05056 or email clerk@plymouthvt.org. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Plymouth is an **Equal Opportunity Employer**.

arts & entertainment

Vermont photographer's guided photo walk

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Photographer Casey G., newly relocated to southern Vermont, is launching a new series of community photo walks this spring – and the first one has been a long time coming.

“I’ve been dreaming about this for a while now – and it’s finally happening,” says Casey.

The first guided photo walk will take place on Saturday, May 10, at 5 p.m., in downtown Bellows Falls. These 90-minute walks are designed to help everyday people take better, more meaningful photos – with-

out the need for fancy gear or prior experience. Each walk includes light instruction, real-time practice, and space to slow down and notice everyday beauty using any camera or smartphone.

“These walks aren’t about being a perfect photographer,” says Casey. “They’re about noticing what’s already around you – and learning how to capture it in a way that feels honest.”

The walks are limited to eight participants. Registration is now open, and tickets can be purchased at www.tinyurl.com/pho-towalkswithcasey. Use code **EARLYBIRD** at checkout for a discount, through May 3.

Casey G. is a documentary-style photographer and new Vermont resident based in Westminster. Her work focuses on unscripted moments, natural light, and helping people feel more confident capturing their everyday life. She is also the creator of “Photo School (For the Rest of Us),” a seasonal newsletter with photo tips and creative prompts for beginners.

Paper flower workshop rescheduled for May 10 –

CAVENDISH, Vt. – After a snowstorm caused the Cavendish Historical Society to cancel its April Paper Flower workshop, the event has been rescheduled for May 10, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the Cavendish Community Library in Proctorsville.

Participants can make a variety of flowers from various types of paper. Since the celebrations are underway celebrating the 250th anniversary (semiquincentennial) of the start of the Revolutionary War – Cavendish



The paper flower workshop has been rescheduled. PHOTO PROVIDED

Neighborhood Connections to sponsor screening of “Just Getting By”

WESTON, Vt. – “Just Getting By,” a documentary film by Bess O’Brien, is a sweeping and yet intimate look at the lives of Vermonters who are struggling with food and housing insecurity. The screening will take place on Thursday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m., at Walker Farm in Weston.

Vermont has the second highest rate of homeless people in the United States,

right after California. One third of Vermonters struggle to put food on the table. These are big issues for a small state. “Just Getting By” focuses on these issues in the lives of everyday people.

The 90-minute film tells the stories of working families, folks who are homeless and are accessing food shelves and soup kitchens, people who are living in

the temporary hotel/motel program, new Americans grappling with the cost of living in America, and folks on the front lines of providing services to their fellow Vermonters in need.

“Just Getting By” explores the day-to-day challenges and incredible resiliency that low-income Vermonters bear witness to every day.

Thanks in advance to the Walker Farm and the Weston Theater Company for graciously providing technical assistance for this special event.

has many patriots buried here – it’s a good time to learn how to make an array of red, white, and blue paper flowers.

The workshop is free and open to the public. There are projects for all ages and abilities. The workshop is possible due to support from the Cavendish Community Fund.

For more information, email margocaulfield@icloud.com or call 802-226-7807.

Calling all local artists

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – You are invited to show your work at Gallery at the VAULT in its Open Wall Show. This is a chance to display your work in a non-juried show. There is no fee. It is great opportunity for artists who would like to get their work out there for the first time, as well as for seasoned artists.

The next show’s theme is “Treasures of the Earth,” which will be on display from May 21 – July 16. You can bring in two works if they are 18 inches by 20 inches or smaller; or one if it is larger. Sculpture, pottery, etc. are appreciated just as much as wall art. The work needs to be suitable for viewing by all ages. Wire on the back of wall art is needed for our hanging system. The time to bring in your creation is Wednesday-Saturday, May 14-17, between 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For more information, call 802-885-7111, come into Gallery at the VAULT at 68 Main Street, Springfield, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit Facebook, Instagram, or www.galleryvault.org. The VAULT is open Wednesday-Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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Meet the Contestants



Amelia Maibell Murchie and Trevor Austin Carl.
PHOTO PROVIDED



Hollee Jan Martinez and Ryleigh Ann Thayer.
PHOTO PROVIDED



Isabella Paige Harbeson and Nathan Charles Anthony Leonard.
PHOTO PROVIDED

The 67th annual Apple Blossom

May 2 and 3, starting at 7 p.m. each evening

Held at the Springfield High School

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Hospital presents the 67th annual Apple Blossom performances, “That was Then, This is Now,” showcasing music and dance through the decades. Opening night will be on Friday, May 2, at 7 p.m., with the grand performance on Saturday, May 3, at 7 p.m. New this year, the performances will be held at the Springfield High School.

The Apple Blossom is directed by Ashlee White, and choreographed by Suzanne Stern and Summers Williams. Proceeds from the event benefit the Dr. E. Sherburne Lovell Health Career award and Springfield Hospital.



Ashlee White, director.
PHOTO PROVIDED



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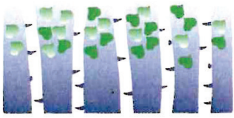
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Meet the Contestants

apple blossom



Kayla Lyn English and Reece Timothy Cassin.
PHOTO PROVIDED



Kylie Alexis Nadeau and Paige Rachel Beebe.
PHOTO PROVIDED



Sabyn Annabella Tennis and McKenzie Grace Bachinski.
PHOTO PROVIDED



Junior Apple Blossom participants: Parker Wade Olney, Dylan Chase, Izabella Fraser, Rachel Stern-Conley, Juliette Nelson, and Alexander Riley.
PHOTO PROVIDED

The 67th annual Apple Blossom
“That was Then, This is Now”

May 2 and 3, at 7 p.m. each evening
Held at the Springfield High School

Good Luck Contestants! Enjoy the Show!



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Good Luck Contestants!

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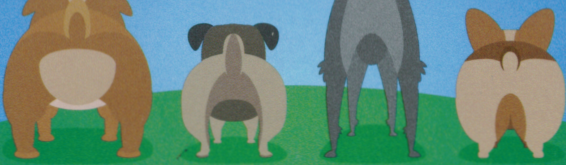
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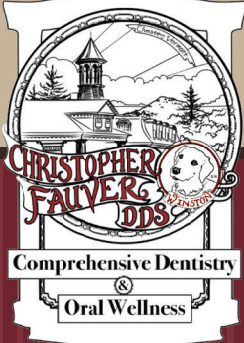
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Congratulations Contestants!

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real estate

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What does assessed value mean? –

REGION – Assessed value is the dollar amount a local government assigns to a property for tax purposes. It's also known as a property's tax value, or tax assessed value.

Local governments use assessed values to determine how much a homeowner has to pay in property taxes in any given year. The higher the property's assessed value, the more you may pay in property taxes. Local tax assessors are responsible for determining assessed values on properties in their jurisdiction. They are usually updated once a year.

How to find the assessed value of a property

You can look up your home's current assessed value by using the property search feature on your local property tax assessor's website. Those sites differ on how they allow you to search, but you can often search by name, address, parcel number, or property name.

What impacts assessed value?

Various things are taken into account when an assessment is made, including market conditions, comparable sales, and local property values. Property features and characteristics, including the home's condition, could also impact a tax assessor's evaluation. Some assessors will use the market value as the assessed value, or combine the market value with an assessment rate to



Understanding your home's assessed value. PHOTO PROVIDED

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calculate your property's assessed value.

Major renovations, such as kitchen upgrades, bathroom additions, or significant structural changes, can improve a home's market value. Exterior improvements that enhance curb appeal, such as landscaping or pool installations, could also impact assessed value, but it ultimately depends on the tax assessor.

Assessed value vs. appraised value

You might confuse your home's assessed value with its appraised value, but they are different. A home's assessed value is determined by your local tax authority and is used to calculate property taxes owed to the local government. A home's appraised value is determined by a licensed appraiser, usually for the purposes of getting a mortgage or refinancing one. Home insurance providers may also use appraised value when determining replacement value.

Assessed value vs. market value

Assessed value is also not the same thing as fair market value. Fair market value is the price the property could sell for under current market conditions. Sometimes a property's market value and assessed value will align, but that's not always the case. Certain market activity, such as bidding wars or recessions, can impact a home's market value. Bidding wars often drive up market values, while recessions typically reduce demand and lower property values.

Why is assessed value important?

Assessed value is important, because it determines how much you owe in property taxes. It also plays a major role in determining the amount of property insurance coverage you need. Although market and appraised values are important for determining how much a home is worth, they're not as stable or updated as frequently as assessed values.

A home's market value can change quickly due to bidding wars, economic downturns, or other market activity. A home's appraised value is more comprehensive, but homes are only appraised when the owner needs to sell or refinance. Assessed values are less volatile and more frequently assigned, making them a more reliable value for calculating property taxes and property insurance.

Understanding your home's assessed value can help you budget and plan for future expenses, because property taxes are paid every year. Also, assessed values give homeowners a rough estimate of what their home could be worth. This can be helpful when trying to determine property values without an appraisal, or when trying to sell in a buyer's market.

Article provided by Zillow Group.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 German sausage
6 Hoops great Curry
11 More minuscule
12 Succeed
14 Ridiculous
15 Eventually
16 Bygone bird
17 Valleys
19 Pensioned (Abbr.)
20 Taking action
22 Label
23 Corrida bull
24 Tennis star
26 Dessert that jiggles
28 Violin tuner
30 Novelist
31 "The Peasant Dance" painter
35 Everglades wader
39 Give temporarily
40 Lumber unit
42 Wrestling style
43 "Nasty!"
44 Thread holder
46 Damage
47 South Carolina river

DOWN

1 Actress Ryder
2 Tacit
3 Estuary
4 Dispatch
5 Pick up the tab
6 Classic catalog giant
7 Catches some rays
8 Tolkien creature
9 Christie sleuth
10 Arm bones
11 Shakespeare's "— of Athens"
13 Rockies range
18 Trail the pack
21 Recorded
23 Zesty flavors
25 Pants part
27 Director Spike
29 Smooth writing implementations
31 Ecstasy
32 Summaries
33 Detangle
34 Brit's restroom
36 Ado
37 Inbox fillers
38 Civil wrongs
41 Arose
44 Ooze
45 Cowardly Lion portrayer
48 Ring decision
50 Arctic explorer John

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outdoor news

Chester fishing derby—

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Rod & Gun Club will sponsor the annual children’s fishing derby on Saturday, May 10, from 9-11 a.m., at the Chester Reservoir. Children up to the age of 12 years may participate in the event, and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The children’s fishing derby is hosted each year with cooperation and assistance from the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. The reservoir will be stocked with trout shortly before the event. Prizes



Anglers along the road and dam at a past fishing derby in Chester.

PHOTO BY RON PATCH

will be awarded to the lucky anglers that catch the first fish, longest fish, last fish, and the first to catch their

limit of five fish.

For more information, please contact George Wilson at 802-236-1746.

A look at the common loon—

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Join Ian Clark as he describes the natural history of the common loon, and follows a loon family through the breeding season in the North Country, on Saturday, May 3, at 1 p.m., at the Rockingham Library. With their haunting cries and beautiful plumage, common loons are an iconic symbol of the northern wilderness.

Photographer Clark spent over 2,520 hours

kayaking with loons over the last two years, and taken over 350,000 photos of loons and their behaviors. Clark worked for many years operating commercial photo labs and tackling technical photographic problems, including a stint as the manager of the photographic section at NASA’s Langley Research Center. He is a juried member of the New Hampshire Craftsmen, the New Hampshire Art Association, and 802 Arts House. More information on



Baby loons and mother. PHOTO PROVIDED

Clark is available on his website, www.ianclark.com. For more information on the program, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.com, call 802-463-4270, or stop by the Rockingham Library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.

Wild & Scenic Film Festival

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) is excited to host their inaugural Wild & Scenic Film Festival at the Bellows Falls Opera House, on Thursday, May 8. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and films begin at 7 p.m.

The tour event will feature a range of river-focused environmental films from across the globe. Two films were made in our watershed. “Rivers Cannot Defend Themselves” details past river

advocacy in the Connecticut River watershed, as told by David Sinish, one of the principal activists involved in procuring the Farmington River’s Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation. “Reconnected: Restoring the Rivers of Long Island Sound” illustrates present-day restoration and advocacy in a short-form documentary featuring CRC’s River Restoration Network partners. Many other films highlight inspiring stories of resilience,

research, and community. In addition to the films, the event will include speakers and raffle prizes.

“We are thrilled to bring the Wild & Scenic Film Festival to our watershed,” says Kathy Urffer, director of policy and advocacy and Vermont River Steward, “It’s a great opportunity to bring our community together, and feel inspired by our natural world and the work being done for cleaner, healthier rivers in and beyond our

watershed.”

The festival is a natural extension of CRC’s work to restore and advocate for clean water, healthy habitats, and resilient communities, to support a diverse and thriving watershed. CRC is hosting the Wild & Scenic Film Festival event in hopes that attendees will leave with a renewed interest in the natural world just as spring begins to bloom.

Local area sponsors for the event include the Savings

Bank of Walpole, 802 Credit Union, Chroma, Lawson’s Finest Liquids, and many others listed on the event page.

The Connecticut River Conservancy is looking forward to seeing you at the Wild & Scenic Film Festival.

Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. For more information, visit www.criver.org/wild-scenic-films.

Earlier on the same day and in Bellows Falls, CRC will host a tree-planting ceremony

in celebration of their 100,000th tree planted in the Connecticut River watershed. This planting will take place next to the Saxtons River, where the organization implemented a river restoration project in partnership with the Vermont River Conservancy last year. Guests are welcome to attend both events, with more information about the tree planting event at www.criver.org/event-details/100k-tree-planting.

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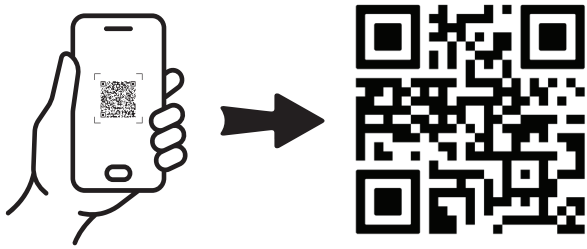
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spring home & garden

Cavendish Green Up Day —

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Everyone is invited to help clean roadsides during the Green Up Day event on Saturday, May 3.

Trash bags, maps, and sign-up sheets will be available on the Proctorsville Green, beginning at 9 a.m. Volunteers can sign up ahead of time at the Cavendish Town Hall through April 30.

Report back to the green at 11 a.m. to drop off collected trash.

For more information, call Stephanie at 802-384-0205.

HB Energy giving back

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – HB Energy is committed to giving back to the communities we serve and it is important that our clients know how much we value them.

In addition to sponsoring and participating in local events, we recently started a new initiative.

Throughout the year, we will randomly pick a current HB Energy client who then gets to designate \$250 to one of several local charities that align with our mission.

We would like to thank Sue Chadwick for choosing Black River Good Neighbor Services as our inaugural recipient.



HB Energy's Brian Hernon with BRGNS's executive director Krey Kellington.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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DIY summer projects

REGION – One of the benefits of owning a home is having outdoor space in which to enjoy nice weather. Here are some ideas for projects to take on that will make spending time outside even more fun.

Clean and Organize – Wipe down and disinfect your outdoor furniture, toss your throw pillows in the laundry, and scrub your grill. The first step to maximizing your time outside includes relaxing in a clean space. Look for opportunities to mount shelves and hooks to keep yard tools or summer toys out of the way.

Add Some Lights – Stringing lights on a pergola or a deck railing can give your backyard a glow that will make it extra cozy. Adding lights along a walkway can also make your backyard safer and easier to navigate. If you don't have convenient access to an outlet, battery or solar-powered lanterns and torches can keep your space illuminated.

Build a Fire Pit – Start by determining whether or not you have the space. A safe



Outdoor projects to tackle this season.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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fire pit should be at least 15-25 feet away from any structures or surfaces, like your house, garage, trees, or deck. Make sure to check with your local government and/or homeowners association about any restrictions or requirements.

Plant a Backyard Garden – Consider how much sunlight different parts of your backyard get. Less sunlight is better suited to herbs, and a lot of sunlight is best for veggies, like lettuce, carrots, and tomatoes. If you already have a backyard garden, use stones or bricks to line the edges or make a garden path around the space.

Construct a Fence – A fence is a great way to give kids and pets a safe space to

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See **DIY** on Page 15

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spring home & garden

Rotary donates Trex bench to Springfield Community Players Studio

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Rotary Club has once again made a positive impact on the community by donating a Trex outdoor bench to Springfield Community Players Studio, following a successful effort by residents to collect 1,000 pounds of thin-film plastics for the Trex Thin-Film Plastics Challenge.

As part of the Trex recycling program, Trex awarded this 11th bench to the Springfield Rotary after Springfield residents contributed to the collection. The plastics for this donation came from several local contributors: 55% was gathered at the Springfield Town Library, 16% from

Magee Office Products, 12% from Springfield Food Co-op, and the remaining amount was collected from Bibens Ace Hardware, Casey CDJR of Springfield, Springfield GMC, and Springfield Hospital. Since February 2023, the Springfield Rotary Club has collected over 9,144 pounds (more than 4.5 tons) of thin-film plastic.

The Trex Thin-Film Plastics Challenge is designed to encourage recycling of items such as grocery bags, bread bags, produce bags, cereal bags, ice bags, bubble wrap, Ziploc bags, and other similar plastic films. When participants collect 1,000 pounds of these materials, Trex rewards

the group with a 48-inch Yacht Club Bench, which is part of the Trex Outdoor Furniture line through Polywood. These benches are made using recycled plastic, including milk jugs and water bottles, while the collected plastic is up-cycled into Trex decking.

Plastic pollution is a significant environmental issue, as plastic materials don't fully decompose, breaking down into microplastics that pose risks to wildlife and are difficult to clean up. The Trex challenge offers a creative solution to reduce plastic waste, which can damage mechanical equipment in curbside recycling programs. By participating

in the challenge, Springfield residents are helping to reduce harmful plastic pollution, while making a lasting contribution to the community.

Previous benches can be found at locations such as The Common, the Park Street School, the North Springfield Bog trailhead, Main Street, the Springfield Town Library, and Elm Street School.

Volunteers from the Springfield Rotary Club and from the Springfield Town Library collect and weigh the bags, report the bags' weight to Trex, and deliver the bags to Trex's closest participating dropoff retailer location, Shaw's Supermarket in Springfield. The Trex Bin will remain in place at the Springfield Town Library.

Looking ahead, the Rotary Club has already begun collecting plastic film for another bench as part of their ongoing efforts to support the community. The benches are dedicated to celebrating the 95th

anniversary of the Springfield Rotary.

Founded in 1927, the Rotary Club of Springfield is a vibrant community service organization with more than 40 members dedicated to both local and international service projects. For more information, visit www.springfieldvtrotary.org.



Springfield Community Players board members Tom Fields and Bernice Clark on the new Trex bench.

PHOTO PROVIDED

DIY

From Page 14

play or even for a little more privacy. It can also help keep critters out of a backyard garden. Check your property line when you plan your layout to ensure that you're installing the fence on your own property. Already have a fence? Consider painting it or decorating it with planter boxes.

Add a Screen – Adding a screen to your porch or deck is a great way to enjoy your space without bugs, but still enjoy a nice view and cool breeze. Use magnets or double-sided adhesives to keep the entryway accessible and keep the bugs out.

Paint Your Front Door –

Repainting your front door is an easy afternoon project that will freshen up your outdoor space. Wipe your door down with some soapy water before you paint, and you'll be ready to get

started. A freshly painted front door is a great way to increase curb appeal, too.

Article provided by Freedom Mortgage.

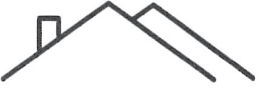
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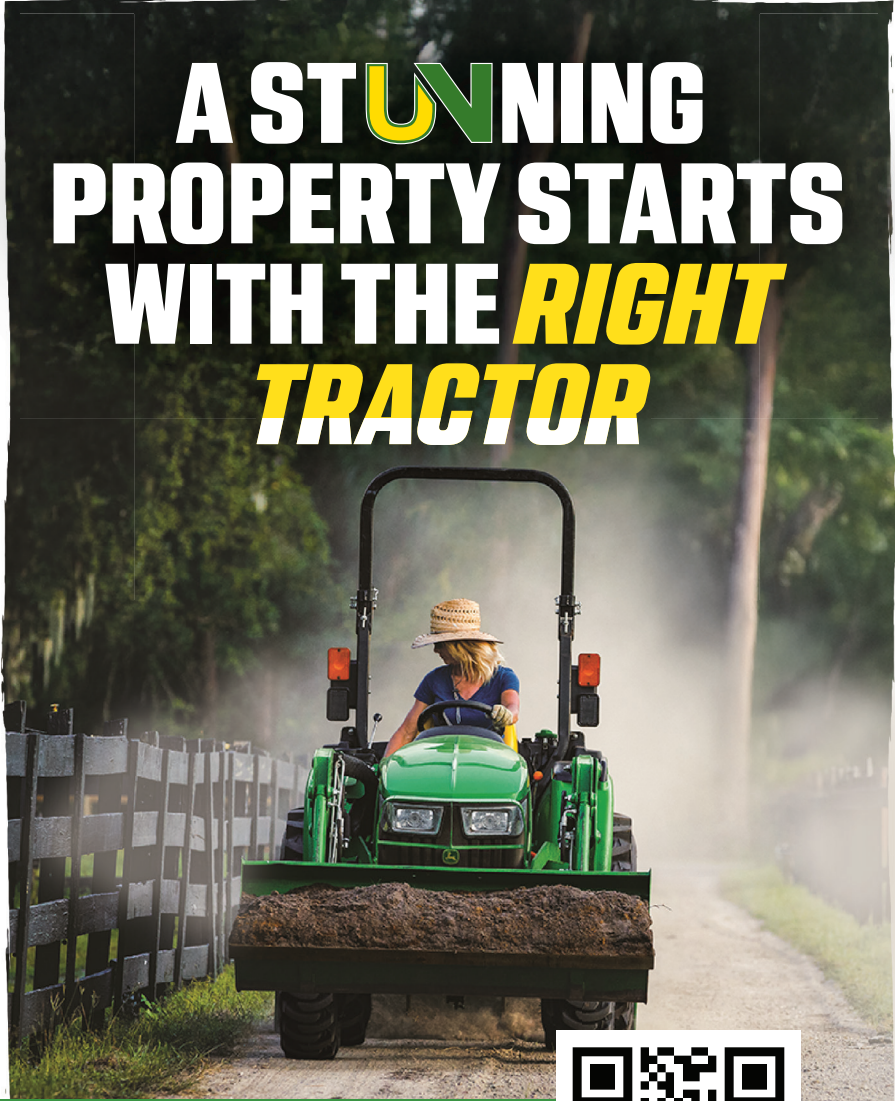
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