

Ads are due Tuesday, May 19 for the May 27 paper
We will be CLOSED May 25 Memorial Day

Adopt a Pet – Page 3

Spring Gardens Bloom – Page 9

Music on the Mountain – Page 11

FREE

THE VERMONT Journal SHOPPER EDITION

MAY 13, 2026 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

VOLUME 65, ISSUE 19

Kurn Hattin Home and School for children awarded state grant

BY JOE MILLIKEN

The Vermont Journal

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – As the result of a nearly year-long grant application process, Kurn Hattin Home and School for Children was recently awarded a \$24,495 Farm to School and Early Childhood grant from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. The funds will be used to create a student-led garden and community supported agricultural (CSA) program on the school's property.

Established in 1894, Kurn Hattin Home once operated as a full-time working farm, creating a longstanding relationship with Vermont's agricultural heritage dating back to its origins. This newly state-funded initiative will introduce a new, modern approach to hands-on learning and will reimagine agricultural engagement to



Kurn Hattin student-led garden. PHOTO PROVIDED

align with today's educational model.

"Agriculture has always been part of Kurn Hattin's story," Executive Director Sue Kessler said recently. "Now, our children will once again experience the pride that comes from planting a

seed, nurturing it, and sharing the harvest. It's hands-on learning that builds confidence, responsibility to the land, and connection to the community."

Later in the winter season, select student cottages will start growing seeds indoors and then transplant them into newly designed gardens the following spring. Students will take part in every aspect of the growing process, including designing the gardens and selecting the crops, and helping with the planting, harvesting, and final packaging of the produce.

As the program progresses,

more student cottages will be brought into participation. A main feature of the program will be the creation of CSA baskets filled with student-grown fruit, vegetables, herbs, and recipe suggestions. The baskets will be shared within cottages and sent home to families and throughout the community.

Additionally, students will also be traveling off campus to visit local farms, in order to see firsthand how food is properly grown, harvested, and prepared by other successful, professional farm businesses.

This garden project allows the longstanding institution to honor its heritage and past accomplishments, while also developing the modern equipment and techniques necessary to successfully carry these traditions into the future.

The priorities of the grant fall right in line with the

Springfield school budget passes

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Tuesday, May 5, the Springfield School District voted on a revised budget of \$41,666,512. This figure is an estimated \$15,008 per pupil, and is 7.96% higher than per-pupil spending the prior year. The budget passed 544 to 468.

principles fostered by Vermont Farm to School, such as promoting health and wellness, enriching educational experiences, and fortifying positive connections between schools and their communities. Currently, four local farms have chosen to participate and provide guidance, as well as to host future student visits.

"This is about more than growing vegetables," Kessler concluded. "It's about growing skills, curiosity, and opportunity. It's another way to help children see what's possible."

To learn more or to inquire about being a volunteer, please visit www.kurnhattin.org or call the development office at 802-721-6916.

USPS CUSTOMER

Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival celebrates community, nature, and regional collaboration

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – The Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival (HCWF), a beloved regional tradition celebrated each May since 2000, welcomed more than 1,500 attendees this year for a day filled with discovery, connection, and community spirit. Despite chilly, windy weather, festivalgoers remained in high spirits throughout the day, and when the sun finally emerged, it illuminated a vibrant and engaged crowd.

This year's festival offered a rich mix of hands-on learning, live demonstrations, and guided experiences. Visitors explored interactive exhibits on environmental systems like the water, nutrient, and carbon cycles; engaged with wildlife educators from the Vermont Museum of Natural History and the Grafton Na-

ture Museum; and connected with organizations like DarkSky Vermont. Guided walks and talks added depth to the experience, including the ever popular "Checking the Turtle Traps" walk with Jim Andrews, of the Vermont Herpetology Atlas, and "Fish Grow On Trees" with Courtney Buckley, of Vermont Fish & Wildlife, both of which drew curious and enthusiastic participants.

A particularly memorable highlight was the opportunity to view a nesting bald eagle through Ken Cox's telescope, set up just behind the entrance booth. Interest was especially high, as many attendees had discovered the festival through the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences' live cam, which was livestreaming as a new eaglet



Kids enjoyed environmental demonstrations at the wildlife festival. PHOTO PROVIDED

hatched last week and was recently highlighted by The New York Times as the No. 1 Way to Add Delight to Your Day.

Across the festival grounds, the energy was unmistakable. Children climbed trees, experimented with interactive play installations, and

gathered under tents for storytelling and educational programming. The kids' tent was a hub of creativity and excitement, featuring the annual crowd-favorite T-shirt painting with Jerry Schneider, sensory play and nature games from SAPCC, hands-on crafts like mask making

and owl sculpting, and a face-painting station with a line that stayed 10 deep most of the day.

Live, participatory music drew visitors toward the food court, where families gathered to enjoy offerings from local vendors while kids played tambourines and bongo drums, creating a joyful, multigenerational atmosphere. Nearby, local artisans and exhibitors showcased regional goods, conservation efforts, and creative work.

The festival is also the Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society's (AMAS) signature annual event. The festival supports AMAS' ongoing environmental education and conservation mission. Donations to support its

See **WILDLIFE** on Page 2

UVM capstone students study Bellows Falls southeast gateway

BY PAULA BENSON

The Vermont Journal

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Rockingham Select-board held its regular meeting on Monday, May 5.

As interim Town Manager Alex Torpey prepares to leave his temporary role with the town, Development Director Gary Fox has agreed to fill in until new Town Manager Aaron Patt comes aboard. In that capacity, Fox announced that the town was looking into using artificial intelligence (AI) software specifically created for municipal government meetings to record minutes.

"MuniMins," Fox explained, "focuses on motions and who made them. It has voice recognition and identifies who's speaking." Fox said they were reviewing the service that evening, with Betsy Thurston also taking minutes, then comparing transcripts to test the software's accuracy.

Torpey had mentioned to Fox that other municipalities have tested this software

out with positive results, and Rockingham was able to get into the beta testing program, which, for now, is free of charge.

A new Level 3 EV charger is scheduled for installation on June 30, at the Waypoint Center. This replaces the previous charger, which was damaged after being hit by a vehicle. The cost, not to exceed \$69,893.98, will be reimbursed by insurance. Integra Energy, based in Albany, N.Y., was contracted to install and maintain the charger and accompanying software.

HB Energy Solutions will remove the defective fire alarm control panel (FACP) and peripheral equipment at the Rockingham Town Hall, install a new FACP and the components that work within the fire response system, and review the basic operation and maintenance with town staff. HB Energy will work with Mammoth Fire Alarms to program, commission, and test the system. The cost is estimated at \$56,344.

A group of University of Vermont (UVM) civil and environmental engineering students presented the selectboard with their U.S. Route 5 and Vermont Route 121 Intersection Improvement Study, as part of UVM's capstone program. The capstone teams partner with businesses, nonprofits, and municipalities to design working prototypes to address challenges faced by local communities.

Problems that the UVM seniors had identified included pedestrian connectivity and safety, truck access, parking, shifting traffic patterns, and aesthetics. By communicating with the businesses in and adjacent to that intersection, the team heard specific concerns from business owners and researched solutions.

The students noted there are no crosswalks at the northbound and eastbound legs of the intersection, and the existing walk signals are mistimed and too short a duration for the crossing length. Additionally, since

the intersection serves as the gateway to Bellows Falls Village, preservation of the historic fountain in the center island was factored into the approach.

After presenting alternative options they had considered, the team's recommendation was to focus primarily on pedestrian improvements. This plan would feature mainly new sidewalks and crosswalks, interior island expansion, and pedestrian signals. It would not address or improve large truck accessibility.

The students felt the town could apply for transportation alternative grants from the State of Vermont to cover some of the cost and encouraged continued gathering of public feedback on any proposal.

Senior Solutions Executive Director Mark Boutwell attended Monday's meeting to speak to the board about the variety of services the organization provides to area seniors, their family members, and service providers.

Board Chair Rick Cowan

had asked the board to consider a request to move town social service funds away from Dartmouth Health Home Care (DHHC) and reallocate that money to Springfield's Senior Solutions. Although DHHC is a nonprofit, some residents have taken issue with salaries for the company's top executives in excess of \$300,000.

Funding streams supporting Medicare and Medicaid benefits for seniors have reportedly become unreliable, and programs like Meals on Wheels and veterans services are being disrupted. Organizations such as Senior Solutions face growing challenges to continue to provide these lifesaving services.

The board did not act on the fund reallocation immediately, but will consider the possibility, as well as others. Cowan said one alternative would be to funnel the money into the budget for the fire and rescue department.

The next regular meeting of the selectboard will take place Tuesday, May 19, at 6 p.m.

PRESORTED STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SPRINGFIELD, MA
PERMIT NO. 82

Postal Customer

ECHWSS

INDEX

Health & Community	4
Obituaries & Services	5
Calendar	6
Legal Notices	6-7
Classifieds	7
Real Estate/Pros to Know	8
Spring Gardens Bloom	9
Arts & Entertainment	10-11

OUR OFFICE

OFFICE ADDRESS:
8 High Street • PO Box 228 • Ludlow, VT

BILLING ADDRESS:
PO Box 116 • Rutland, VT 05702

PHONE NUMBER:
802-228-3600

WEBSITE:
www.VermontJournal.com

CONTACT US

SHAWN TAE WEBB
publisher@vermontjournal.com
ads@vermontjournal.com

NICK GIBERTI
editor@vermontjournal.com
calendar@vermontjournal.com

JOE MCCAFFREY
sales@vermontjournal.com

LISA STICKNEY
messagesales@vermontjournal.com

PAULA BENSON
billing@vermontjournal.com

DEADLINES

The deadline for all content is **Tuesday, May 19 at 4 p.m.** for the May 27 publication.

EMAIL CALENDAR EVENTS
calendar@vermontjournal.com

EMAIL ADS AND CLASSIFIEDS
ads@vermontjournal.com

EMAIL PRESS RELEASES
editor@vermontjournal.com

Bellows Falls Elks April Student of the Month

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Union High School (BFUHS), in partnership with the Bellows Falls Elks Lodge 19, is proud to recognize Abby Nystrom as the Elks Student of the Month for April. Abby is a junior and the daughter of Eric and Tammy Nystrom, of Saxtons River, Vt. This recognition, determined through nominations and voting by faculty and staff, is based on Nystrom's outstanding attitude, attendance, academic effort, and her meaningful contributions to both school and community life.



Abby Nystrom.
PHOTO PROVIDED

leader who sets a great example both in and out of the classroom and consistently offers a friendly smile to everyone she encounters.

Nystrom is a major contributor to school life, particularly through her athletic and leadership involvement. She is a dedicated multisport athlete who has made a significant impact on both the soccer and basketball programs. She was recognized as Athlete of the Month for girls varsity basketball and has earned honors from the Southern Vermont League and the Vermont Basketball Coaches Association. She has also been recognized by the Southern Vermont League for her contributions to the soccer program.

In addition to athletics, Nystrom is an active member of the student council and the athletic council. Through these roles, she participates in a wide range of school- and community-based activities, including volunteering at food drives, working with elementary students, organizing and supporting events such as Winter Carnival, contributing to bulletin boards, assisting with Terrier Day of Service, helping to build school spirit, and organizing holiday gifts for students at Kurn Hattin.

Beyond school, Nystrom is deeply involved in her community. She has volunteered her time to support summer basketball camps, the Elks Hoop Shoot, Rockingham Recreation road races, local track meets, Main Street Arts, and various activities at Bellows Falls Union High School. Nystrom truly represents the qualities this award celebrates, and BFUHS and the Bellows Falls Elks Lodge are proud to recognize her as the April Student of the Month.

Saxtons River All-Village Yard Sale

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – On Memorial Day weekend Saturday, May 23, the Saxtons River All-Village Yard Sale will be held throughout the Village of Saxtons River, Vt., from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. The rain date is Sunday, May 24, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Sales and tables will be on

Main Street and all around the village, including near Main Street Arts and the Saxtons River Inn. Antiques, clothing, furniture, household items, and more will be available.

Anyone can set up a table and participate. For more information or to register a table/sale so that you can

get additional free publicity, email serenberta@gmail.com or text Berta at 802-376-8946. You are welcome also to set up a table at the last minute on any public sidewalk in the village. Welcome to all yard sale shoppers; it will be a wonderful day and event.

Springfield on the Move to host "Adult Prom"

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join a night of nostalgia and fun at the Great Hall, 100 River Street, on Saturday, June 27, from 7-10 p.m., at Springfield on the Move's "Adult

Prom." This event is for ages 21 and older. Dress in your favorite decade's fashion and dance the night away to hits from the '60s to today. Relive your teen-

age years and create unforgettable memories with friends.

Grab your tickets and get all the details at www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/adult-prom-4.

Gallery at the Vault Open Wall submissions

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – You are invited to show your work at Gallery at the Vault in our Open Wall show.

This is a chance to display your work in a non-juried show. There is no fee. It is a great venue 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 "On the Wild Side."

You can bring in two works if they are 18 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. Our hanging system requires wire on the back of hanging work to fit over our hooks.

The time to bring your creations in is Wednesday, May 13, through Saturday,

May 16, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. The show will be on display from May 20 – July 15.

Gallery at the Vault is located at 68 Main Street, Springfield, Vt., and is open Wednesday-Saturday, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email gallervault@vermontel.net, or visit www.gallervault.org, Instagram, or Facebook. Gallery at the Vault is accessible.

Spring clothing available at Community Closet

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Spring has sprung, and at the Community Closet Thrift Store we have put the winter clothing away. Clothes and racks have been rearranged, and the shop has been revamped with a fresh, large supply of spring and summer clothing. You can find items in all sizes, from shorts, crops, pants, tops,

skirts, and dresses, to bathing suits and accessories.

Please come in to shop at the Community Closet at Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church Street in Bellows Falls, Vt. Parking is available at the church, or access additional parking via the driveway at 9 School Street. The shop is open on Wednesday and Saturday, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Donations of gently used, clean clothing are accepted when the shop is open. We are accepting adult and children's spring and summer clothing now.

Profits at the end of the year go back into the community. Gift cards to Lisi's Market are purchased and distributed to families in need by the Rockingham School District.

"From Incarceration to Reentry" at Springfield Library

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Tuesday, May 26, at 6 p.m., join Melissa "Mel" Dawson of the Greater Falls Community Justice Center for a facilitated Community Circle at the Springfield Town Library.

The program will in-

clude a brief presentation on reentry work with incarcerated men at Southern State Correctional Facility and local justice centers, followed by a community dialogue.

Participants will have the opportunity to share perspectives, ask questions,

and explore ways to support individuals returning to the community. This conversation aims to foster understanding, connection, and collaboration around reentry and community safety.

To sign up for a reminder, visit www.springfieldtown-library.org/calendar.

WILDLIFE

From Page 1

work can be made on the AMAS website, www.amasvt.org/donate.

Great Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce (GFRCC) Executive Director Aimee Parnell said of the festival, "We're fortunate to live in a region rich in natural resources; with outdoor recreation contributing \$2.1 billion annually – nearly 5% of Vermont's economy – introducing children to nature supports not just conservation, but our future workforce and economy. What makes this festival especially meaningful is its accessibility; entry by

donation ensures everyone can participate, and we're committed to expanding that access even further in the years ahead.

"This festival is truly a community effort. I'm incredibly grateful to the festival's original organizers for the solid foundation they've built, and their trust in me to help carry on their legacy. I'm also grateful to our GFRCC board of directors – nine of 12 of our new board members volunteered across everything from ticketing to parking, along with AmeriCorps, Vermont Academy, and community volunteers who made the day run so smoothly."

The chamber extends its deepest thanks to the sponsors and supporters who made the 2026 festival possible. Thanks to this collective support, many attendees discovered the magic of Herricks Cove for the first time, while longtime visitors were reminded why this event remains such a treasured regional tradition.

As festival season continues across the region, the Great Falls Regional Cham-

ber encourages residents and visitors to stay connected. Sign up for the chamber's newsletter and explore the community calendar at www.gfrcc.org to discover upcoming events and opportunities.

Attendees are also encouraged to vote for the People's Choice Awards and share feedback to help shape next year's festival at www.tinyurl.com/HCFW2026.

The 2026 Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival was a resounding success, and organizers are already looking ahead with excitement.

Mike Walsh, of the Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society, who with his wife Marianne and a handful of dedicated volunteers has led the organizing effort since the first festival in 2000, summed up our shared hope for the future: "Next year, after more than 25 years at the helm, AMAS will be turning over the HCWF lead to Aimee and the Great Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce. Let's hope for another 25 years of educational fun in southeast Vermont under her leadership."



Aqua-Aid Systems
WATER CONDITIONING & FILTRATION

Solving hard water, iron, blue staining, radon and arsenic problems in the Windham and Windsor Counties since 1984.

- Water Conditioning
- Free On-Site Water Analysis & Estimate
- Iron and Manganese Removal
- Radon & Arsenic Removal
- Systems Maintenance
- Home Supplies Delivery

Worried About Your Water?

We Service All Makes And Models Locally Owned & Operated Since 1984



Hellenbrand
What's In Your Water?™

ON SITE, NO CHARGE, TESTING AND ESTIMATES

800-252-8484

Like us on Facebook

@VermontJournal




FOOTE BILT EXCAVATION

SITE WORK
LAND CLEARING
FOUNDATIONS
TRENCHES
SEPTIC SYSTEMS
DEMOLITION
HAULING
FIREWOOD

WEATHERSFIELD, VT | CALL US TODAY!
(603) 680-1134 | FOOTEARMS626@GMAIL.COM


Edward Jones > edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



Your goals are as unique as you.

At Edward Jones, we want to know what you want out of life on a personal level. Then, we want to help you achieve it by creating a financial strategy that's unique to your specific needs.

Contact us today to start creating a financial strategy tailored to your specific needs.



Roland C Swasey, CFP®
Financial Advisor
54 Opera House Sq
Claremont, NH 03743
603-542-7667

EJB-8652F-AE-AD AECSPAD 2803249



FOOTE ARMS

YOUR LOCAL GUN SHOP!

FIREARMS & ACCESSORIES • NFA ITEMS
BUY • SELL • TRADE
(603) 680-1134 FOOTEARMS626@GMAIL.COM



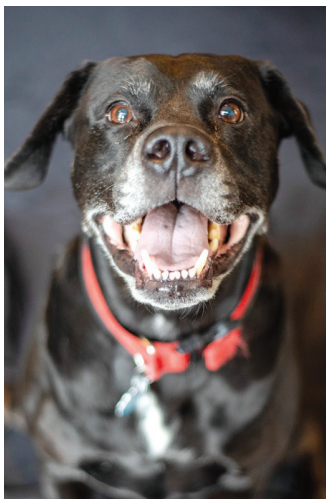
WoodWright Contracting
JOHN WRIGHT

NEW CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING

PO Box 914, Chester, VT, 05143
woodwrightvt@gmail.com
802/236.1627



EMMIE
Social butterfly, 3-4 years old. Heartworm positive so will need a VT family. Loves kids, adults, fine with cats and dogs.
Springfield Humane Society, 802-885-3997
401 Skitchewaugh Trail, Springfield, Vt.



MAX
Max is a sweet senior looking for a home as the only animal. 7 years old.
Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society, 802-484-5829
4832 VT Route 44, West Windsor Vt.



ARMADA
A sweet, shy boy. 3 years old. I don't mind other cats. I would love a quiet home. Once settled, I'm a great snuggle bug!
Sullivan County Humane Society, 603-542-3277
14 Tremont Street, Claremont, N.H.

WIGGLE BRANCH DOG TRAINING
BEHAVIOR CONSULTATIONS
GROUP CLASSES

KIM BRANCH
CPDT-KA, CCFC
CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL
DOG TRAINER

Call for appointment
603-995-6476
kbranch.dogs@gmail.com

Willow Farm Pet
Grooming • Retail Shop • Overnight Boarding • Daycare
Store Hours: Mon-Fri 8-6 and Sat 9-2

#21 Route 106 North Springfield, Vermont 05150
www.willowfarmvermont.com 802-886-5000

Westminster Animal Hospital

802-722-4196
Westminster Station, VT



PETE
A handsome 13-year-old who lost his owner. Loves to be pet and eat lots of treats. Mellow, sweet, in his golden years.
Springfield Humane Society, 802-885-3997
401 Skitchewaugh Trail, Springfield, Vt.



NORTH
North is a quiet cat that has begun to come out of his shell. 2 years old.
Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society, 802-484-5829
4832 VT Route 44, West Windsor Vt.



AYRA
I am a sweetheart and am fine with other cats who are not intimidated by me. Dogs are fine. 2 years old.
Sullivan County Humane Society, 603-542-3277
14 Tremont Street, Claremont, N.H.

ERSKINE'S GRAIN & GARDEN

54 Grain Store Road, Chester, VT
802-875-2333

Pet Food & Supplies • Animal Health Supplies
Fencing & Gates • Stable Needs • Grain & Feed
Soils & Mulches • Garden Seeds & Starting Supplies

Gussie's Place
Boarding a country K9 kennel Daycare

Gail Stewart

802-875-3535 | 248 Elm Street | Chester, VT 05143
GussiesPlace@vermontel.net | www.GussiesPlace.com | Facebook

We're Back, Bigger, Better, and Ready for You!
Significantly reduced wait times
Expanded sick-visit availability
More veterinarians

LAREMONT ANIMAL HOSPITAL

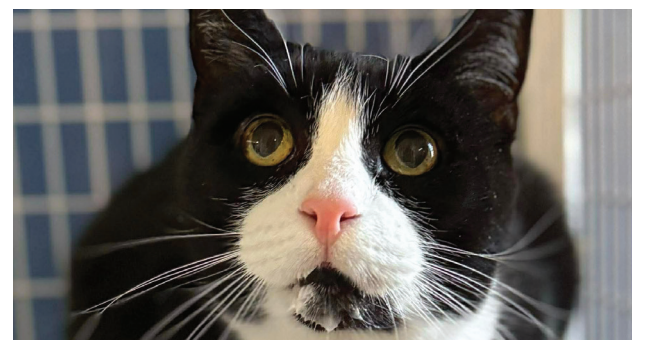
603-543-0117 - contact@claremontanimalhospitalnh.com



HAZEL
2-4 years old. Heartworm positive, needs a VT family. Takes a minute to warm up, loves kisses, good with dogs, loves to play.
Springfield Humane Society, 802-885-3997
401 Skitchewaugh Trail, Springfield, Vt.



CHARLES
Charles loves to spend his time sniffing and exploring the woods. 5 years old.
Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society, 802-484-5829
4832 VT Route 44, West Windsor Vt.



JONAS
12-year-old, very sweet, laid back girl. Looking to snuggle. I am FIV+ but I can still have a long, wonderful life!
Sullivan County Humane Society, 603-542-3277
14 Tremont Street, Claremont, N.H.

PAW LODGE

Kori Savage

46 Winery Road
Proctorsville, VT 05153
802-226-PAWS
info@pawlodgevt.com
www.pawlodgevt.com

The Love of Dogs
Doggie Day Care & Boarding
Day Care M-F 8am - 5pm

(802) 289-1646
535 Charlestown Rd, Springfield, VT 05156
4loveofdogsvt@gmail.com 4loveofdogsvt.com

LUNDGREN Subaru of Claremont
A family run business since 1964

Proud Participants of the Subaru Loves Pets Program

603-542-9966
152 Charlestown Rd, Claremont, NH 03743
www.lundgrensubaruofclaremont.com



KITTENS
Kittens come and go very quickly! If these babies are gone we are sure to have more. Please watch our Facebook page.
Springfield Humane Society, 802-885-3997
401 Skitchewaugh Trail, Springfield, Vt.



HONEYCOMB
Honeycomb enjoys lots of treats and cuddles. She is 3 years old.
Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society, 802-484-5829
4832 VT Route 44, West Windsor Vt.



KATINKA
I am 2 years old and gorgeous, but I can be sassy! I need to be the only spoiled pet, and an adult-only home.
Sullivan County Humane Society, 603-542-3277
14 Tremont Street, Claremont, N.H.

Located on The Green at 94 The Common in Historic Chester Vermont

Southern Pie Café
Coffee • Breakfast • Lunch

(802)875-PIES (7437)
TheSouthernPieCo@gmail.com
www.TheSouthernPieCompany.com

State Farm
HOME & AUTO INSURANCE

Jerry Farnum, Agent
802-885-2939
jerry.farnum.e1ar@statefarm.com
13 Clinton St. Springfield, VT

Thank you for your loyalty. We appreciate you.

Granite State Hobbies
Full Line Hobby Shop

Traxxas Dealer
R/C Cars - Boats - Trains - Planes - Rockets
Models - Art Supplies - Craft Kits & More

Open Tues-Fri 10-6, Sat 9-4, Sun 10-3

603-504-6505
20 Pleasant Street
Claremont, NH 03743

Special Orders Welcome
Like us on Facebook
granitestatohobbies@gmail.com

health, local, opinion

Chair yoga classes

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – May’s monthly chair yoga class at the Springfield Town Library, on Friday, May 15, at 10 a.m., will honor the animals all around us exploring the beauty of spring – cows, birds, fish, and more. Join in person at 43 Main Street or online to learn accessible movements you can do right from your seat.

Chair yoga meets the third Friday of every month for 60 minutes. With attention to brain boosting and nervous system nourishment, each month’s practice will leave you feeling mobile

yet grounded.

Classes are led by Jo Bregnard, a 500-hour certified yoga teacher with additional certifications in tai chi, acupressure, meditation, and more. Bregnard leads group and private sessions through her virtual studio, where she enjoys weaving lessons learned from the natural world into practice time.

Simply walk into the library and join live in person for free; there’s no need to preregister for this option.

Springfield Town Library cardholders can contact

the library at 802-885-3108 or stlib@vermontel.net to receive a coupon code for free online access. Those without a library card can visit www.studio.jobregnard.com/product/88980 for complete details on additional pricing options and to sign up for online access. Either way, you’ll get eight chair yoga videos recorded at the Springfield Town Library as soon as you register.

If you need further information, email jo@jobregnard.com.

To the Editor,

As a registered nurse (RN) and the spouse of a stroke survivor, I have seen our health care system from both sides – professionally and personally. Nothing prepared me for how difficult it can be to access coordinated care after a stroke.

When my husband survived an ischemic stroke, we were grateful for rapid emergency treatment. Like most families, we believed that discharge from the hospital meant a recovery plan was in place. We assumed neurology follow-up, rehabilitation guidance, medication oversight, and care coordination would naturally follow. That assumption was wrong.

What I have learned is that for many stroke patients, the greatest barriers

begin after they leave the hospital. Families may face unanswered calls, delayed specialist appointments, fragmented communication between providers, unclear responsibility for follow-up care, and missed opportunities during the most critical window for recovery. For stroke survivors, lost time can mean lost function, lost independence, and preventable complications.

What many Medicare beneficiaries and caregivers do not know is that they have access to an independent advocacy resource when health care systems fail to respond. Acentra Health serves as the Medicare Beneficiary and Family-Centered Care Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) in many regions. The QIO can help patients and families with quality-of-care concerns, discharge appeals, service termination appeals, and urgent advocacy when medically necessary care is not being appropriately addressed. The Acentra Health website is www.acentraqio.com.

In my husband’s case, admission to the emergency department in a regional comprehensive stroke center did not translate into effective follow-up care. The critical window for re-

covery was spent in calls and messages that were mostly left unanswered. Regrettably, I was unaware of Acentra Health and their role in advocating for safe and effective health care.

These services exist to protect patients, but too many families never hear about them until months after opportunities for recovery have been lost.

As both a nurse and a caregiver, I believe patients deserve more than emergency intervention. They deserve continuity, accountability, and a clear path forward after stroke.

If you or someone you love is struggling to access follow-up care, rehabilitation services, specialist oversight, or answers either during or after a hospitalization, know that you have rights, and you have options outside the health care system itself.

Stroke recovery should not depend on how hard a family can fight to be heard.

Sincerely,
Susan Boyer, DNP, RN, FAAN
Health care advocate and care partner
Weathersfield, Vt.

Dear Editor,

My name is Deborah Wright. I am running for Bellows Falls Village President this May 19. It is a position I have held in the past, proudly serving the community. Bellows Falls, as all of you know, is the beating heart of Rockingham, a welcoming place for all with so much to offer and so much more in its future with the right leadership. I believe that is myself.

In the last decade I have consistently done my homework and honored my oaths to my community, in every instance. My municipal experience is extensive: Bellows Falls Village Trustees Board, as both president and trustee; Rockingham Planning Commission, as both planning chair and commissioner; along with many appointments to committees and subcommittees since 2011. As a 23-plus-year business owner in Bellows Falls in the utility-construction industry, my business expertise provides background in finance, attracting candidates, negotiating, and road safety unmatched by the other candidates.

In addition, I am a Rockingham justice of the peace, a member of Rockingham’s Thermal

Energy Network (TEN), and an active voting member of both The Vermont League of Cities and Towns’ (VLCT) equity committee and the Vermont Opioid Settlement Committee. I listen to every citizen in Rockingham and its villages to understand their concerns, allowing me to formulate clearly what next steps are needed to provide a stronger, safer future for our residents. I also provide direction to citizens for next steps to address their concerns.

In addition to the points mentioned above, I possess more years of experience, honed by time, have a better understanding of the challenges we face, and the vision to find solutions to these challenges, all while reducing the burden on our taxpayers by eliminating waste and redundancies. If your home needed improvements, would you simply go to your bank and ask for more money? Or would you first determine what frugalities and course corrections could be made to achieve your goals and then create a path to accomplishing them with the least resources needed? I do feel the current board is out of touch with its voters.

Thus far, a list of accomplishments: While serving on the village board I have

moved the needle many times, from the fire department’s early transformation from a union entity (which ironically paved the way to its current municipal structure); to the conceptualization of the Firemen’s Memorial Park as a planning grant brick-and-mortar project; to the push for a mechanism to create a forward-thinking, biologically sound wastewater alternative to sludge hauling with the sludge-drying system.

If this was not limited in scope and time, I would include a few of my future improvement ideas for Bellows Falls. Above all else, I love Bellows Falls and its people.

What we need: lower property taxes and utility rates, measured housing construction, improved community safety, fair and equitable treatment of all citizens in Bellows Falls, and alternative energy plans to provide a safety net for future hazardous events.

Bellows Falls needs a strong, forward-looking president who will guide its trustees to make the best choices for all its citizens. Please provide me with the opportunity to demonstrate this for all residents at the polls on May 19.

Paid for by
Deborah Wright
Bellows Falls, Vt.

Dear Editor,

How many times are we expected to be shocked by the unlawful, despicable behavior of police in the Upper Valley? When law enforcement officers are accused of domestic violence. When leadership is tied to allegations of sexual harassment. When the very people entrusted with protecting our communities are the ones accused of causing harm.

In the Upper Valley, these are not isolated headlines – they are a pattern.

Within the last six months, Windsor County Sheriff Ryan Palmer was charged with multiple felonies and misdemeanors related to sexual misconduct and misuse of public funds; detective Tim Meenagh from the Hanover Police Department was charged with domestic violence; and Chief Alex Lee, of the Newport, N.H., Police Department, lied about an affair during an investigation and continues to operate as Newport police chief, while the other officer involved was fired.

These actions by local police should force a reckoning. Instead, we see the same tired cycle: quiet investigations, limited transparency, and a public left to wonder whether accountability will ever truly come.

Survivors of domestic and sexual violence are watching. And what they are seeing is a system that asks them to report abuse to institutions that cannot – or will not – consistently police their own. That is more than hypocrisy. It is a failure of duty.

We cannot claim to take violence seriously while tolerating it within the ranks of those sworn to prevent it.

We cannot ask survivors to come forward while sending the message that power protects its own. And we cannot continue to excuse these incidents as rare when they continue to surface again and again. Palmer’s behavior and reputation was well-known before being hired as Windsor County Sheriff, and yet, he was hired – promoted even – anyway.

Survivors in our communities deserve better. They deserve law enforcement agencies that are transparent, accountable, and willing to confront misconduct directly – not quietly manage it.

Anything less is a betrayal of public trust and misuse of public tax dollars. Our communities deserve better leaders and safety from predatory men in power. If police want the public to trust them, they must show us that they are, indeed, trustworthy. As of now, that is fully in question in the Upper Valley.

Sincerely,
Dr. Karen Harker
Sexual assault survivor and concerned citizen
Springfield, Vt.



FOOD SHELF

BLACK RIVER GOOD NEIGHBOR SERVICES

37B Main St, Ludlow, VT 05149
Hours: Monday-Friday, 10 AM-3 PM
Phone: 802-228-3663
www.brgn.org
“We are here to help”
Serving Ludlow, Mt. Holly, Belmont, Cavendish, Proctorsville & Plymouth



Julie’s Icare

Julie Richardson, Optician

11 Dunning St. Ph: 603.543.3216
Suite 4 Cell: 603.558.3048
Claremont, NH by Appointment Only



Where People Come First



- General Surgery
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Ear, Nose, and Throat
- Emergency Care
- Gynecology
- Infusion Therapy
- Orthopaedics
- Podiatry
- Urology
- Adult Day Services
- Physical Rehabilitation

At Springfield Hospital, you will receive high quality personal care. You will be treated by experienced medical professionals using state-of-the-art equipment—without feeling like a number.

Make us your first call at 802-885-2151 or visit www.springfieldhospital.org.



ARE YOU NEW TO MEDICARE? JOIN US!

“Welcome to Medicare” Workshops

- Understand Medicare Basics
- Hospital Insurance
- Medical Insurance
- Rx Drug Coverage
- Medicare Advantage
- Medicare Supplements

May 21, 2026
2 PM-4 PM
Join us in person

Meeting Room Claremont Savings Bank
145 Broad Street
Claremont, NH
Registration is required.
For Information and to Register Call:
603-542-5177
www.servicelink.nh.gov

The Monadnock ServiceLink contract is managed by the NH Care Collaborative






RIVERSIDE DENTISTRY

BELLOWS FALLS, VT

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

SAME-DAY EMERGENCY CARE AVAILABLE

192 Rockingham Street
Bellows Falls, Vermont

(802) 463-3187
www.riversidedentistrybf.com
admin@riversidedentistrybf.com

Call today
TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT!



GIGANTIC SPRING RUMMAGE SALE



**CLOTHING • BOUTIQUE • FURNITURE • HOUSEWARES
GAMES • COLLECTIBLES • BOOKS • SPORTING GOODS
SHOES • BAKE SALE • GRILL • & MUCH MORE!**

May 29 & 30
Friday & Saturday, 10 AM - 3 PM

Fletcher Farm, 611 Route 103 South in Ludlow
Proceeds provide food, rent, heat, utility and disaster assistance to our neighbors in need

THRIFT SHOP & FOOD SHELF
37B Main St, Ludlow
802-228-3663

FURNITURE STORE
105 Main St, Ludlow
802-228-7055

BLACK RIVER GOOD NEIGHBOR SERVICES, INC
We welcome donations of clothes & accessories, furniture & household items, money & time

obituaries

Harriet L. Brooks, 1931-2026

BROOKLYN, N.Y. – Harriet Lenore Brooks, 94, died at home on March 28, 2026. She was born on Oct. 5, 1931, in Brooklyn, N.Y., the only child of Wilburt and Rose Nidich Schumacher. Harriet graduated from Midwood High School. She attended Brooklyn College, studying engineering, until she met her future husband, Thomas Reed Brooks, on the way to a political convention. They moved to Massachusetts, where Thomas attended Harvard University. After he graduated, they moved to Brooklyn, N.Y., where they raised their three children, Christopher Norman Brooks, of Lancaster, Pa.; William Frederick Brooks, of White River Junction, Vt.; and Karin Louise Pugh, of Ocala, Fla. The family lived in their beautiful brownstone in Cobble Hill, Brooklyn, spending summers and holidays at their home in Andover, Vt. Harriet eventually returned to school and graduated with honors from New York University, where she majored in history. Harriet worked in various political nonprofit organizations, ending her working career as an office manager at an investment firm in Manhattan.

Harriet was a person of strong opinions and fierce loyalties. She loved read-



Harriet Brooks, 1931-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

ing, political discussions, theater, gardening, food, fine wines, and traveling. At the top of Harriet's joys in life was her family.

Harriet is preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Thomas R. Brooks; her great-grandson Oscar Reed Pugh; and her great-granddaughter Evelyn Sarah Pugh. She is survived by her children, Christopher (Lynn), William, and Karin (David); her seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 13, at 11 a.m., at Pleasant View Cemetery in Ludlow, Vt., with a light lunch following at 41 Lawrence Hill Road, Weston, Vt. All are welcome to join us to remember Harriet.

In honor of Harriet and in lieu of flowers or donations, please consider planting a tree or a garden.

Harold J. Rockhill Jr., 1931-2026

LUDLOW, Vt. – Harold Joseph Rockhill Jr., 94, passed away on Feb. 16, 2026, at Duke University Hospital. He faced his final days with quiet determination and grace. Harold spent the last years of his life in Ludlow, Vt., where he was surrounded by steady love and support.

Born on May 17, 1931, in Trenton, N.J., Harold lived a life defined by loyalty, faith, generosity, and deep devotion to family. At the center of his life was his beloved wife, Constance E. Rockhill. Their 65-year marriage was the foundation of his world. He was predeceased by his parents, Harold J. Rockhill Sr. and Frances H. Halladay; and by his wife, Constance. He is survived by his daughters, Lori and Melissa; his son-in-law, Bill; and his three grandchildren, Laura, Scott, and Jarett. Time spent with family and friends brought him great joy.

As a member of the Ludlow community, he joined the American Legion Post 36. Harold proudly served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He enlisted and entered active duty in 1951, and served in the New Jersey Air National Guard with the 108th Fighter Wing.

He built a long career with United States Steel and later Griffith Electric Supply in Trenton. A man of faith, he was a long-time member of Hamilton Square Baptist Church and later the First Presbyterian Church.

Harold was deeply committed to Freemasonry and



Harold Rockhill, 1931-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

an active member of Gothic Lodge No. 270 F&AM in Hamilton Square. He served as worshipful master in 1983, and as lodge trustee from 1981-1985, later continuing his service as chaplain. He was also a member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite and served as grand sword bearer of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey from 1992-1993.

Harold enjoyed traveling, golfing, and talking with people. He rarely met a stranger. Building and flying model airplanes brought him particular satisfaction. In later years, he followed NASCAR with enthusiasm and never lost his appreciation for life's simple pleasures.

A celebration of his life will be held on May 16, at 11 a.m., at American Legion Post 36 in Ludlow, with interment at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hightstown, N.J.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Harold's memory to American Legion Post 36, 133 Main Street, Ludlow, VT 05149; and Black River Good Neighbor Services, 37B Main Street, Ludlow, VT 05149.

Donald M. Goodrich graveside service

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – A graveside service with military honors for Donald M. Goodrich Jr., 77, who died Feb. 19, 2026, will be held Saturday, May 16, at 1:30 p.m., at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Proctorsville, Vt. The Rev. Charles Bostock will officiate.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., is assisting with arrangements.

Dean F. Goodwin celebration of life

WESTON, Vt. – A celebration of life for Dean Foster Goodwin, 74, who died on Dec. 23, 2025, will be held on Saturday, May 30, at 11 a.m., at the Old Parish Church in Weston, Vt. The Rev. Jon Bliss will officiate.

There will be refreshments and fellowship at Weston Priory Visitors Center, 58 Priory Hill Road, Weston, Vt., immediately following the service.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., is assisting with arrangements.

Norman Robertson graveside service

GRAFTON, Vt. – Norman Robertson, who passed away on Jan. 1, 2026, will have a graveside service on Saturday, May 16, at 1 p.m., at the Houghtonville Cemetery in Grafton.

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

Harry S. Jacobs, 1958-2026

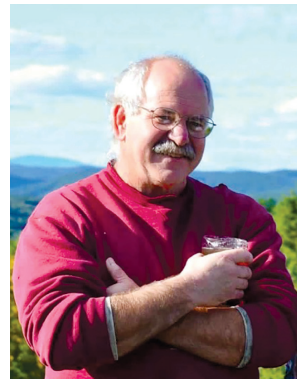
CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Harry S. Jacobs, of Charlestown, N.H., passed away on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at Springfield Hospital. Harry was born on Oct. 20, 1958, in Keene, N.H., to Frank and Dorothy (Clough) Jacobs. For many years, Harry operated his own business as a carpenter and was known by many for his skillful work.

Harry always enjoyed a bourbon with the boys. His passion and career was working with wood as a carpenter and craftsman. Harry loved to be on his grill or cooktop putting together an amazing meal. Harry was most at home with said bourbon around a campfire waiting for a chance to throw out one of his famous one-liners. Harry always had perfect timing with his quick wit.

Harry had a deep love for his cats and a true appreciation for the outdoors. He loved any chance to hunt and fish with his boys and grandchildren.

Harry also had a passion for the open road, whether it be traveling to new places, riding his dirtbikes, or admiring classic trucks he one day wanted to have.

Harry is survived by his loving wife, Darlene Jacobs; his son Ben Jacobs; his stepson, Chris Wilkinson; his stepdaughter, Becky Wilkinson; his grandchildren, Levi Jacobs, Aurora Putnam, Zach (Taylor) Phelps, Noah (Jasmine) Wilkinson, Isaac Wilkinson, and Grace Wilkinson;



Harry Jacobs, 1958-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

his loving great-grandchildren; his brothers, Rod Jacobs and Dave Jacobs; his sisters, Nancy McAdams, Carol Shaw, and Maggie Ryan; and multiple nieces and nephews.

Harry was predeceased by his parents, Frank and Dorothy Jacobs; his son Jon-David Jacobs; and his nephew Patrick Shaw.

Harry leaves behind a legacy of love, hard work, and, most of all, integrity.

Though his time here feels far too short, the impact he made on all of us will never fade. He is deeply loved and will forever be profoundly missed.

Calling hours were held Saturday, May 2, from 1-3 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, Vt.

In lieu of Jim Beam, please feel welcome to send flowers to the funeral home.

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

Diane M. Considine, 1953-2026

LUDLOW, Vt. – Diane Marie Considine, 72, passed away April 26, 2026, at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, very suddenly.

Diane was born in Springfield, Vt., on May 7, 1953, the daughter of Frank H. and Lillian V. (Place) Considine.

She attended Proctorsville Elementary School through eighth grade. She then went to Chester High School, where she graduated from Green Mountain Union High School in June of 1971. After a short time living in Oklahoma, she moved back to Vermont, living in Springfield until she bought a place and moved to Ludlow, Vt.

Diane was employed by Mack Molding Co. in Cavendish, Vt., where she worked for more than 40 years until her retirement.

She had an unending love for her family and the friends she met along the way. She had a very positive presence and never had a harsh word about anyone. She was always welcoming and kind to whomever she met. She always would lend a hand if needed and never asked for anything in return.

She enjoyed being outside, whether relaxing down back in the screen house listening to nature, camping at Hapgood Pond, or by the calming waters fishing. She had a love for birds, especially the hummingbirds; she was really looking forward to their return. Diane liked working with flowers. She would every spring be out planting them in her whiskey barrels. She also had a love of books, and always had one she was reading. She enjoyed murder mysteries. James Patterson and Harlan Colbin were just a couple of her favorite authors, of which there were many. She would take all the kids camping throughout the summer, making special memories with them. She thought of each and every one of them as if they were her own, giving them unconditional love. She always made the holidays special and really enjoyed Easter time. She would pre-



Diane Considine, 1953-2026.
PHOTO PROVIDED

pare and hide hundreds of Easter eggs filled with money and prizes for all the kids to find. She also had goody bags for all. These are just a few of her ways of showing her love.

Diane is survived by her sister and best friend, Debra Considine Bixby, of Ludlow, Vt.; her nephews, Kevin M. Bixby, of Rochester, N.H., Timothy J. Considine, of North Springfield, Vt., and his wife, Jennifer, and David R. Considine, of Ludlow, Vt.; her great-nephews, Gabe Considine, Dawson Meyette, Owen Bixby, Carter Tanner, and Grant Cooper; her great-nieces, Kimberlyn Considine, Taylor Meyette, and Harper Bixby; her special (adopted) niece, Tracy Trzeoiara and her husband, Jan; her special (adopted) great-nieces, Karissa Trzeoiara and Amanda Potter; her special (adopted) great-nephew, Devan Potter; and many cousins. She loved each and every one of them with all her heart.

Diane was predeceased by her parents; a brother, Donald R. Considine; a niece, Jennifer L. Bixby; and a dear best friend, Carol A. "Pedro" Edmands.

Per her wishes, there will be no wake or funeral service. We will be doing a casual celebration of life/cookout gathering in her memory. It will take place on June 20, at 11 a.m., at 14-15 Tuckerville Parkway, Ludlow, Vt.

In Diane's name and memory, please feel free to make any donations to the Lucy Makenzie Humane Society, 4832 Route 44, Brownsville, VT 05037, due to her love of her beloved kitties, her boys, Jazz and Storm.

Vacation BIBLE SCHOOL
IS THERE A GOD WHO CARES?

EMERALD CROSSING
An Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23

FAITH, FUN & FRIENDS @ LUDLOW BAPTIST CHURCH

JUNE 22-26 4:00 - 7:00 PM	CHILDREN 4-12 YEARS OLD	DINNER PROVIDED	REGISTER ONLINE: www.ludlowbaptist.org/vbs
------------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------	---

Like us on Facebook! @VermontJournal 

OBITUARIES: A 200-word obituary is \$100, and \$0.60 per word thereafter. A photo is an additional \$20. Email to editor@vermontjournal.com by Monday at 12 p.m.

CHURCH SERVICES: All services are posted online at www.VermontJournal.com.

PICTURE PERFECT, NOW
WAIT UNTIL YOU TASTE IT



Butcher's Classic Pack SAVE 60%

- 4 Butcher's Cut Filet Mignons (5 oz.)
- 4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (5 oz.)
- 4 PureGround® Filet Mignon Burgers (6 oz.)
- 4 Gourmet Jumbo Franks (3 oz.)
- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
- 1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)
- 8 **FREE Omaha Steaks Burgers** (4 oz.)

81081XEL separately \$229.99
SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE \$129.99

OmahaSteaks.com/ClassicPack7399 | 1.833.897.4133
Ask for your **FREE burgers** with offer 81081XEL

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Photo exemplary of product advertised. 8 free 4 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes 81081. Limit 2. Standard S&H added per address. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use. Expires 12/31/26. 25M9931 | Omaha Steaks, LLC

David Chaves EXCAVATING
Family Owned & Operated Since 1980

Complete Site Work
From Clearing to Finish
Grading, Roads, Foundations
Septics & Drainage Problems



Specializing In
Equine Land Development & Ponds

Sculpting your piece of Vermont to fit your Dreams!

802-824-3140
Londonderry, VT



DIAMOND POINT WEALTH PARTNERS
Formerly Huntley Financial Services

Derek Karner
802-228-5774

www.diamondpointwealthpartners.com
101 Main Street, Second Floor, Ludlow, VT

Securities and investment advisory services offered through Oak Wealth, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC. Oak Wealth is separately owned and other entities and/or marketing names, products or services referenced here are independent of Oak Wealth.

calendar

MAY 15 –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join online or in person at the Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street, on May 15, at 10 a.m., for a 60-minute chair-yoga practice. Learn accessible movements that you can do right from your seat, leaving you feeling mobile, grounded, and focused. This month's postures will honor the animals of spring. Walk into the library and join live in person for free; there's no need to preregister. For online access, which includes all recordings, visit studio.jobregnard.com/product/88980 to choose from among a variety of registration options.

MAY 16 –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Rotary Club will be holding a Fill the Cart From the Heart Food Drive on Saturday, May 16, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., in the Springfield Shopping Plaza, to benefit the Springfield Family Center Food Shelf. Please come grab a bag and fill it with nonperishable food items or personal care products to help those in need. The Rotary Club will be set up by Shaw's in the plaza and hopes to see you there.

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. – A spring migration bird walk cosponsored by Acutney Mountain Audubon Society,

Weathersfield Historical Society, Weathersfield Parks and Recreation, WPLA, and Weathersfield Conservation Commission will be held on May 16, at 7 a.m., beginning at the Walsh Bird Sanctuary. Please email amas@vermontel.net to get directions and to register for the event. This event is free and open to all ages. The walk will be on forest trails with some steep sections, and is about 2 miles with a shorter option available for those who desire. Bring binoculars. No dogs. Parking directions will be provided upon registration. Carpooling is advised.

ALSTEAD, N.H. – Charles Andros, former New Hampshire and Vermont apiary inspector, will hold a beekeeping workshop on Saturday, May 16, from 1-4 p.m., at 18 MacLean Road. Topics of discussion will be finding queens, requeening colonies, pollen collection, swarm control, supering, and bee-venom therapy. Bring a veil if you have one, as we shall be opening some colonies. Water and sunscreen are also a plus. We'll be inside if it is a rainy day. Registration is required. To register, email lindenamel@gmail.com or call 603-756-9056.

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS, Vt. – The Bridgewater Grange, 129 Route 100A,

will host bingo on Saturday, May 16. Doors open at 5 p.m., game time is 6:15 p.m. Concessions will be available. All are welcome.

MAY 18 –

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street, will host their May lunch on Monday, May 18, at 12 p.m. The menu will be sliced ham, scalloped potatoes, and dessert. Please make reservations by calling 802-228-7421. Free cash bingo will follow the lunch. All are welcome.

MAY 22 –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – AARP Tax Aide volunteers will be at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Friday, May 22, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., to assist qualified New Hampshire property owners in applying for the property tax relief program. No appointments will be taken – this will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Household adjusted gross income requirements are \$37,000 or less for a single taxpayer, or \$47,000 or less for those married filing jointly/head of household. Please bring a copy of form 1040 for tax year 2025 (or income documents if you did not file federal income tax forms) and your property tax bill for the last quarter of 2025.

MAY 23-24 –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join the Springfield Humane Society at their shelter, 401 Skitchewaug Trail, on May 23 and 24, from 9-3 p.m.,

for their annual Memorial Day yard sale.

MAY 23 –

BRIDGEWATER, Vt. – The Bridgewater Historical Society, located in the Old Brick Schoolhouse, 12 North Bridgewater Road, opens for the season on Saturday, May 23, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. This season's exhibit looks back at the history of Bridgewater through photographs, stories, and artifacts loaned or donated to the historical society. Admission is free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities.

NEWPORT, N.H. – Gerry Grimo & the East Bay Jazz Ensemble will be performing at the Newport Opera House, 20 Main Street, on Saturday, May 23, from 7-9:30 p.m., to celebrate 50 years of performing throughout New England. A cash bar and refreshments will be available. To purchase tickets, or for more information, visit www.newportoperahouse.com, call 603-863-2412, or email info@newportoperahouse.com.

SUNDAYS –

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Loyal Order of Moose will be hosting a community breakfast on the first and third Sunday of every month, downstairs at the Bellows Falls Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, from 8-10 a.m. All you can eat for a minimal cost.

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.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Cozy Stitches pop-in sewing class is held on Mondays, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street. Start your week with a cozy morning of sewing, chatting, and sharing ideas. Bring your own hand-sewing, knitting, crocheting, or mending projects, and enjoy the company of others who love to create.

TUESDAYS –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Sew What is held Tuesday afternoons, from 2-4 p.m., at the Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street. Spend your Tuesday afternoon working on sewing projects in a relaxed and welcoming space. Bring your own supplies and enjoy time to sew, learn, and have fun with others. Sewing machines are provided, or you can bring your own if you prefer. Both groups are free to attend and open to all skill levels. For more information, visit www.springfieldtownlibrary.org, or call the library at 802-885-3108.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Tai Chi Vermont certified teacher Jo Bregnard will teach a new tai chi form, bafa wubu, online and in person, Tuesdays, from April 7-May 26, from 10-11 a.m., at the Springfield Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Road. Sponsored by Senior Solutions. All are welcome. Head to the meetinghouse or, for access to the livestream or recording, visit studio.jobregnard.com/product/92447.

WEDNESDAYS –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds bingo every Wednesday afternoon. You must be at least 55 years old, and purchase your

cards by 12:45 p.m. Games begin at 1 p.m. Concessions are available until the game begins. We average around 30-40 seniors who love to attend, visit with their friends, and try to win a little extra money.

THURSDAYS –

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds computer clinics on the third Thursday of every month, from 1-3 p.m. Bring your computer or laptop in if you need help with it. This is for seniors only. Emily and Luke will help you troubleshoot any problems you are having, or help you to better understand your computer. You are responsible if any parts need to be purchased, but that is not usually the case. They can also help you with your cell phone, especially if it is an Android. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

FRIDAYS –

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join us online or in person at the Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street, at 10 a.m. every third Friday through September 2026, for a 60-minute chair yoga practice. You'll learn accessible movements that you can do right from your seat, leaving you feeling mobile, grounded, and focused. Walk into the library and join live in person for free; there is no need to preregister. For online access, which includes all recordings, visit studio.jobregnard.com/product/88980 to choose from among a variety of registration options.

SATURDAYS –

WESTMORELAND, N.H. – Books & More Thrift Shoppe, 9 South Village Common behind the brick church, is open every Saturday (except May 30), from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., featuring a selection of adult, young adult, and children's books; games, puzzles, household items, office supplies, pet items, crafts, fabric, yarns, sewing and knitting items, small appliances, gardening tools, and more; as well as a book nook and children's area.

NOTICE OF AN UPCOMING WESTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD HEARING

Kirk and Catherine Goodwin have submitted an application for a minor subdivision for land they own at 26 Dale Rd.

KCM Builders has submitted an application for a setback variance for an addition at a house owned by the Swift Family Irrevocable Trust at 68 Trout Club Rd.

The Weston Development Review Board will hold a hearing on these applications at the Weston Town offices and on zoom on June 3, 2026 starting at 5:00 PM.

Those interested in seeing the applications, submitting written comments, or finding out how to attend the meeting online should contact the Zoning Administrator at: Town of Weston P.O. Box 98, Weston Vt. 05161 or Zoning@westonvt.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 WESTON ROAD CREW

The Town of Weston seeks to add full-time, year-round member to our Road Crew. We take pride in maintaining the Town's equipment, roads, and facilities and creating improvements where we can, the successful applicant will be team players willing to do their best and learn along the way.

Candidates are required to hold a VT Driver's License, have a High School diploma or equivalent and a valid CDL Class B Driver's License, successfully pass a background check, and participate in drug testing.

This position has benefits, including health care, and a retirement package. The position is eligible for overtime.

Mail or return your resume to: Town of Weston PO Box 98 Weston VT 05161 or drop off at the Town Office. You can also email the application to selectboard@westonvt.org Applications will be reviewed as received with the position open until filled. The Town of Weston is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Town of Weston, Vermont Town's Board of Listers Position Opening

The Town of Weston is seeking a responsible, detail-oriented individual to serve as its Town Lister. Would you like to get to know your Town better, become a lister!

Duties include:

- Determine the fair market value of all the Town's real estate.
 - Assess changes in property value
 - Hear grievances from property owners
 - Work with the State to implement statewide programs
- The Town's Board of Listers meet once a week on Thursday.

Applicants should be:

- Must be a town resident
- Organized and professional
- Comfortable with communicating with residents

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest to: Email: selectboard@westonvt.org Or mail to: Town of Weston P.O. Box 98, Weston, VT 05161

Applications accepted until position is filled. For more information, contact the Town Office at 802-824-6645

TOWN OF CHESTER REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL INVERTER REPLACEMENT PROJECT JEFFREY WELL FIELD SOLAR PROJCT

The Town of Chester is soliciting proposals from qualified Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) firms or electrical contractors to remove, replace, and commission new, high-efficiency inverters at the existing Town of Chester Jeffrey Well Field ground-mount solar facility located in Chester, Vermont. The goal is to maximize energy output and ensure long-term reliability for the remaining life of the plant. The successful contractor will provide all labor, materials, equipment, and services required to perform a "turn-key" inverter replacement.

Please contact the Chester Town office by calling (802) 875-2173 or julie.hance@chestervt.gov for a complete copy of the Request for Proposal.

All bids should be clearly marked "RFP Town of Chester Inverter Replacement Project" and should be forwarded to the Town Manager's Office, 556 Elm Street (P.O. Box 370) Chester, VT 05143, or via email to julie.hance@chestervt.gov on or before 3:00 p.m. on May 27, 2026.

TOWN OF CHESTER, VERMONT www.chestervt.gov NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF CODE OF ETHICS INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT ORDINANCE

On May 6, 2026, the Selectboard of the Town of Chester, Vermont, reviewed for adoption a "Code of Ethics Investigation and Enforcement Ordinance". This notice is published pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1972 to inform the public of the adoption of this ordinance and of the citizens' right to petition for a vote to disapprove the adoption of this ordinance.

CONCISE SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

The purpose of the Ordinance is to enact procedures for the investigation of complaints that allege a municipal officer has violated Vermont's Municipal Code of Ethics and the enforcement in instances of substantiated complaints, including methods of enforcement and available remedies.

The full text of the ordinance may be examined at the Chester Town office at 556 Elm Street in Chester, Vermont, and may be examined during regular office hours.

CITIZENS' RIGHT TO PETITION FOR VOTE

Title 24 V.S.A. § 1973 grants citizens the right to petition for a vote at a special or annual Town Meeting to disapprove the adoption of the ordinance by the Selectboard. To exercise this right, citizens must present to the Selectboard or the Town Clerk a petition for a vote on the question of disapproving the adoption of the ordinance signed by not less than five percent (5%) of the Town's qualified voters. The petition must be presented within forty-four (44) days following the date of the adoption of the ordinance. Unless a petition requesting a vote is filed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1973, the adopted "Code of Ethics Investigation and Enforcement Ordinance" shall become effective sixty (60) days from the date of said adoption.

PERSON TO CONTACT

Additional information pertaining to this ordinance may be obtained by contacting Julie Hance, Town Manager at 556 Elm Street, P.O. Box 370, Chester, VT 05143 or by calling (802) 875-2173 during regular office hours.

LEGAL NOTICES



Whitney Blake is continually growing and looking for associates to join our team. Check us out!

We have currently have the following opportunities:

Machine Operator
Assembler
Staff Accountant

To apply, send resume to humanresources@wblake.com
9 Lovell Drive, Bellows Falls, VT 05101
<https://wblake.com/company/careers/>



SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT
301 SOUTH STREET
SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT 05156
WWW.SSDVT.ORG



NOW HIRING




ARE YOU LOOKING FOR...

- A MEANINGFUL CAREER
- FAMILY FRIENDLY HOURS
- COMPETITIVE WAGES
- EXCELLENT BENEFITS

PHYSICAL PLANT SUPERVISOR, SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS, SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS, SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST, INSTRUCTIONAL PARAEUCATORS, CUSTODIAL STAFF AND SUBSTITUTES
UPDATED SUBSTITUTE PAY STRUCTURE!!

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

Like and recommend us on  facebook @VermontJournal

ADVERTISE WITH US ONLINE!

GET OVER 10,000 AD VIEWS PER MONTH

We can build your ad and link it to your website or social media

Contact us for details at **802-228-3600**
sales@vermontjournal.com

THE VERMONT JOURNAL
THE VERMONT JOURNAL SHOPPER EDITION
THE MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

BUYING/SELLING

BUYING-SELLING Coins, Paper

\$\$, Vintage Sports Postcards, Comics. See our displays at antique centers in Chester and Quechee. Open 7 Days. 802-379-2353. House calls available.

CLEAN OUTS + MORE

EZ-Dump Enterprises has a 15-yard dump trailer available. We're also here for heating equipment, appliance removal, home/storage unit clean outs, stump grinding, and refinishing/

repairing gravel driveways. Serving Springfield, Vt. area. Call/text 802-376-1168 or email ezdump.bl@gmail.com.

East Hill Rd. Furniture, household items, tools, some antiques and collectibles. Anything not sold will be free on Monday, May 25.

ESTATE SALE

ANDOVER, Vt. - Estate sale Saturday and Sunday, May 23 and 24, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 770

HAIRCUT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Disabled man seeking someone to give in-home haircut, preferably on a recurring basis. Will pay market rate. Please call 802-885-6796.

Job Opening - Londonderry Transfer Station

The Town of Londonderry, Vermont is accepting applications for part-time (5 hours per week) Transfer Station Attendant to work on weekends. Backhoe experience preferred.

Applicants are asked to submit a required Employment Application, which can be found in the Employment section of the Town web site: <https://www.londonderryvt.gov/> employment.

Submit via email to townadmin@londonderryvt.org or mail to: Town of Londonderry, 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT 05155.

Position opened until filled. The Town of Londonderry is an equal opportunity employer.

NOTICE OF HYDRANT FLUSHING Cavendish Municipal Water System Monday, May 18th, through Wednesday, May 20th, 2026 During the hours of 8 am to 5 pm

System users are reminded that: Flushing hydrants may cause temporary discoloration and turbidity of the water. We apologize for any inconvenience to our users, however this very important system maintenance procedure must be conducted each spring and fall. The flushing program allows the pipes to be purged and the hydrants checked for proper operation. Users are advised to avoid drinking the water or washing clothes (especially whites) while discoloration is in evidence. Following hydrant flushing in your area, users should run cold water until it clears before resuming normal use. It is also a good idea to flush residential water heaters after the water clears following a hydrant flush in your area. Thank you for your cooperation,

Cavendish Municipal Water System
For additional information call 802-226-7291

Town of Plymouth, Vermont Highway Department Position Available

The Town of Plymouth has an opening in its Highway Department effective July 1, 2026. This is a full-time, year-round position. Duties will include snow plowing, sanding and salting roads, road construction, maintenance and other related duties. Applicant must hold a valid VT CDL and have experience operating a dump truck with a plow and sander.

Competitive salary as well as a great municipal benefits package to include health & dental insurance, retirement plan, paid holidays, and paid vacation. Overtime is required in the winter for storm events and compensation is 1.5 times the hourly rate.

Please submit 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.

CLASSIFIEDS
Start at \$20 per week for 4 lines of text. Buy 3 get 1 Free!

DIRECTORY LISTINGS
Start at \$150 for 13 weeks, for approximately a 20-word listing. Starting at \$250 for 26 weeks or \$400 for 52 weeks.

Email ads@vermontjournal.com with your listing today

TOWN OF CHESTER - NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lienholders and mortgagees of the real estate in the Town of Chester, in the County of Windsor, and State of Vermont are hereby notified that real estate taxes for the 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 tax years assessed by the Town of Chester remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid upon the following described real estate in the Town of Chester as indicated below, to wit:

Rodney Batchelder (deceased) and Scott Murphy: Delinquent 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 Property Taxes

Being 1.10 acres of land, more or less, with multi-family dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 1807 Mattson Road, Chester, Vermont, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Rodney G. Batchelder (now deceased) and Lynn Batchelder by Warranty Deed of Warren Pease and Nancy Pease dated July 1, 1977, and recorded in the Chester Land Records in Book 54 at Page 394. Reference is made to the following: (a) Quit Claim Deed from Lynn Batchelder to Rodney G. Batchelder dated July 20, 1999, and recorded in the Chester Land Records in Book 84 at Page 229; and (b) Warranty Deed from Rodney G. Batchelder to Rodney G. Batchelder and Scott N. Murphy, as joint tenants with rights of survivorship, dated December 20, 1999, and recorded in the Chester Land Records in Book 84 at Page 514. (Parcel I.D. #272017).

And so much of said real estate will be sold at public auction at the Chester Town Clerk's office, a public place in said Town on the 16th day of July, 2026 at 11:00 o'clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs and fees, unless previously paid. Be advised that the owner or mortgagee, or the owner's or mortgagee's representatives or assigns, of lands sold for taxes shall have a right to redemption for a period of one year from the date of sale pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5260.

Any questions or inquiries regarding the above-referenced sale should be directed to the following address:

Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C.
ATTN: James F. Carroll, Esq. or Wanda M. Murray, Paralegal
64 Court Street
Middlebury, Vermont 05753 Telephone: (802) 388-6711

Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C. and the Town of Chester do not give any opinion or certification as to the marketability of the title to the above-referenced property as held by the current owners/taxpayers.

The only acceptable forms of bid payment at the day of tax sale are bank check payable to Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C., Real Estate Trust Account. **No personal checks will be accepted.**

Dated at Chester, Vermont this 20th day of April, 2026.

Julie Hance, Town of Chester Delinquent Tax Collector

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT Windsor Unit PROBATE DIVISION Docket No.: 26-PR-01932

In re ESTATE of: Richard Jacobs

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Richard Jacobs Decedent
late of Springfield Decedent's Town of Residence

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: May 5, 2026 Signature of Fiduciary

Executor/Administrator	Mailing Address
David Jacobs	c/o Parker & Ankuda, PC, PO Box 519
Phone Number	City, State, Zip
802-885-2582	Springfield, VT 05156
Email	
parkerankuda@vermontel.net	

Name of Publication: The Vermont Journal
Publication Date: May 13, 2026

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Windsor Unit
Address of Probate Court: 12 The Green Woodstock, VT 05091

Art Crafts Gifts

CREATE TOGETHER AT FLETCHER FARM

Community Art Center offering Workshops, Equipped Studios, Camps, and More

611 Rt.103S, Ludlow, VT 802-228-8770
www.CreateTogetherVT.org
(12/9/26 - 52)

GALLERY AT THE VAULT

Art, Crafts, Gifts, Exhibits & Workshops
68 Main St., Springfield VT 802-885-7111 galleryvault.org
OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5
Workshops galleryvault.org/workshops

Outside Inside, Nature & the Imaginal paintings by Gil Perry
Open Wall Exhibit: *A Burst of Color, A World of Wonder*
Hand-painted Silk Scarves Boho Bunnies by Terri Flowers
May 23 11-12:30 Artist Demo - **Handmade Books** with Debora Stuart
Artful Flea May 23 10-3
VR Open Studio Weekend - May 23&24 vermontcrafts.com
(07/15/26 - TFN - 13)

Builders/Contractors

A & J'S TREE SERVICE

No job too big or too small. Also offering general contracting. Free Estimates & Fully Insured. "Dangerous Trees are our Specialty." 802-376-7000.
(07/22/26 - 13)

HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC

Navy Seabee Veteran owned. We pride ourselves on customer service, and getting the job done right the first time. We are looking to book up our season. Decks, custom tile shower, siding, doors, windows, drywall, foundation repair, you name we do it. Check us out on Instagram @nedthehammer. Ned Mortensen, cell 802-376-3275, edwin.mortensen@gmail.com.
(03/17/27 - 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.
(05/13/26 - 13)

ROSE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT

Booking for spring and summer 2026 projects. Offer carpentry, remodeling, interior & exterior painting, window & door replacements, vinyl siding washing, pressure washing, drywall repairs, and odd jobs. Call 802-591-0019 or email billr2808@gmail.com. Cavendish, VT.
(11/04/26 - 26)

THE SEMI RETIRED PAINTER

Painting Interior and Exterior
All work done by the person you are paying
Small Honey Do List Projects as well
802-263-9693 rogcaw@msn.com
Roger, Perkinsville, VT
(05/13/26 - 13)

Campground

CATON PLACE CAMPGROUND

2419 EAST ROAD, CAVENDISH VERMONT
SEASONAL SITES AVAILABLE FOR 2026! REASONABLE RATES!
802-226-7767, Catonplacecamp@gmail.com.

Full hook up sites, pull thru, and tent sites. Views of Okemo! Large Private Sites!
(05/27/26 - 13)

Chiropractor

FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC

Dr. Denise Natale 58 Parker Avenue, Proctorsville, VT 05153, 802-226-7977 Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(08/12/26 - TFN - 52)

Masonry

DRC STONE DESIGN

Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 37 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or stoneart49@gmail.com or visit drcstonedesign.com.
(05/20/26 - 13)

MOORE MASONRY

Fireplaces, chimneys and liners, chimney sweeps, patios, walls, steps, restoration and repairs. Fully insured, free estimates. Contact Gary Moore at 802-824-5710 mooremasonry802@gmail.com.
(10/07/26 - 26)

Organic Lawn & Land Care

GREEN BEE LAWN & GARDEN

We're Different - Our organic lawn and garden care brings peace of mind for the family, friends and critters using your yard. Our Commercial Electric equipment is clean and quiet, so you can relax while we do the hard work.

Fence Installations - Expert, best-quality fence installations with references available. Call Today!

Driveway Repairs & Drainage Work - Does your driveway need some TLC? Call Green Bee!

We're **fully insured, reliable and priced right**. Reach Out Today to secure your spot in our 2026 schedule! Phone, text or email: 802-289-1968, greenbeelawns@gmail.com
(09/16/26 - 26)

Tools

\$\$ CASH PAID FOR OLD TOOLS \$\$

PLANES, AXES, STANLEY ITEMS, ETC.
802-579-5891 or 802-732-8071
(06/17/26 - 13)

real estate

PROS TO KNOW

Stay in the home you love with a reverse mortgage

REGION – Home is more than where you live. It's where life happens, routines feel familiar, and comfort is already built in.

That's a big reason so many older adults choose to stay where they are. According to Pew Research, 93% of U.S. adults aged 65 and older live in their own home or apartment, and 60% of those who live at home want to remain there as they age. The question becomes how to make that work financially over time.

A reverse mortgage is one option that may help homeowners 62 and older use

their home equity to create more flexibility while continuing to live in the home they love.

What is a reverse mortgage?

A reverse mortgage is a loan for homeowners 62 and older that allows them to borrow against a portion of their home equity. Instead of making a monthly mortgage payment, the loan is repaid later, typically when the home is sold or is no longer their primary residence. That may allow them to eliminate an existing monthly mortgage payment, access part of their

home equity for available funds, and/or stay in their home while creating more room in their monthly budget.

How it can support aging in place

Aging in place often means more than simply staying put. It also means making sure your home continues to fit your needs over time. Some homeowners use a reverse mortgage to consolidate their current mortgage and reduce monthly expenses, cover day-to-day costs in retirement, and/or fund updates that make the home safer or easier to live in.

For homeowners who have built significant equity, this can be one way to use that value without taking on a new monthly mortgage payment.

What to know before moving forward

A reverse mortgage

works differently than other home loans, so it's important to understand what comes with it. The home must remain your primary residence; you must continue to pay property taxes, homeowners insurance, and maintenance costs; and the loan balance increases over time as interest ac-

crues.

This type of loan is not about selling your home. It's about using a portion of the equity you've built in a way that may better support this stage of life.

If staying in your home is the goal, your equity may be more than something you've built – it may

be something you can use. And, for homeowners 62 and older, a reverse mortgage can offer a way to stay where you are, with more flexibility for the years ahead.

Submitted by Victoria Blodgett, PrimeLending, Ludlow, Vt.

Wardsboro Public Library's annual plant sale

WARDSBORO, Vt. – It has been a longstanding annual tradition that the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend is the day of the plant sale at the Wardsboro Public Library. This year, the sale will be held on Saturday, May 23, at 9 a.m., rain or shine, and will run un-

til 1 p.m. There is always a bake sale tent, and the library's used book barn will be open as well.

The event "From Our Gardens to Yours" is an array of hardy perennials and small shrubs that residents have taken from their own gardens and donated to the library for the sale. Additionally, flats of colorful annuals, such as petunias, marigolds, and geraniums, fill the old market cart and trailers out on the library lawn. Veteran shoppers at the sale know that the usual sellouts every year are the coveted and hard-to-find Gilfeather turnip seeds and seedlings, as well as the locally sourced tomato and herb seedlings.

This year, the library's trustees have enthusiastic volunteer support for the plant sale from the Grow Garden Club in Wardsboro. Local master gardeners from the club are at the sale all day to answer every buyer's questions: Sun or shade? Wetland or dry? Tall or low-growing?

All the proceeds from the plant sale, bake sale, and book sale fund programming, books, events, and supplies at the Wardsboro Public Library. The library serves year-round and seasonal residents in Wardsboro, Stratton, Jamaica, and other nearby towns. For more information, visit www.wardsboropubliclibrary.org.



Purchase | Refinance | Renovation

VICTORIA BLODGETT
PRODUCTION MANAGER | NMLS: 179656
vbprimelending.com | vblodgett@primelending.com
802-683-8697

126 Main St #1C | Ludlow, VT 05149 Home Loans Made Simple
©2025 PrimeLending a PlainsCapital Company (PrimeLending). NMLS: 15649 Equal Housing Lender. PrimeLending, a PlainsCapital Company, PrimeLending VT lender lic no. 6127 and broker lic no. 0964 MB, V062323



HOUSE OF THE WEEK



BARRETT & VALLEY
REAL ESTATE SERVICES

NEWFANE, VT - \$369,000

10 ACRES & 2 CAR GARAGE W/2 ADDITIONAL ROOMS!
www.barrettandvalley.com 802-843-2390

READY TO SELL?
Work with an experienced team who can get you the best offers for your property

SOLD




SOLD



call or visit us online today!
802-228-5333
www.KelleyRealEstate.com

Ty Murray 802-777-8047
Lorien Kelly 732-670-8001
Gabrielle Turco 802-353-0106
Alex Eatmon 802-345-7886

Julie Buffum
Broker/Owner
802-885-3000 Office
802-376-4339 Cell
BuffumRealtyVT.com



Palmer H. Goodrich II - Chester, VT 05143 • 802-875-2819

Complete Site Work • Foundations • Septic Systems • Drainage
Driveway Construction & Maintenance • Asphalt Milling
Gravel • Sand • Topsoil • Field Mowing • Brush Mulching

R.E. HINKLEY CO., INC.
8 Lane Ridge Rd. • P.O. Box 832
Claremont, NH 03743



Heating Oil • Kerosene • Diesel Fuel
Propane • Air Conditioning • Plumbing
Systems Design • Installation & Service
~ Fully Insured ~

24/7 Emergency Service www.rehinkey.com
(603) 543-3571



JT PAINTING LLC
NO JOB IS TOO BIG FOR US

We specialize in interior painting, exterior painting as well in drywall, taping, flooring, electrical and more!
FREE ESTIMATE @ 203-361-8593

Harvey Replacement Windows, Raynor Garage Door Sales & Installation, Garage Door Repair & Vinyl Siding

BILL STANKEVICH
Building & Remodeling
Full Service Care Taking

173 Baltimore Road 802-263-9374
Perkinsville, VT 05151 Fax 802-263-5129



WATER WELLS & PUMPS
FAST SERVICE
#1 CHOICE FOR WINDHAM & WINDSOR COUNTIES
FREE ESTIMATES

800-831-8883
www.CushingandSons.com

Our 54th Year
Locally Owned & Operated

SITE LOCATION • HYDROFRACKING
PUMP INSTALLATION • GEOTHERMAL
WE DO THE ENTIRE JOB

FIBER INSULATION • ELECTRIC SUPPLIES

LAMBERT SUPPLY CO. INC.

YOUR ONE STOP BUILDING & MODERNIZING CENTER

409 Main Street • 603-542-5111
CLAREMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03743
LOU@LAMBERTSUPPLY.COM

ONE STOP FOR ALL YOUR BUILDING NEEDS



DEPOT HOME CENTER

HELP WANTED
Part-Time & Full-Time, Inside and Out
GARDEN SUPPLIES, INSULATION, METAL ROOFING, DOORS & WINDOWS, TREX DECKING IN STOCK

Reg & Jan Bailey, Owners
Box 390, 56 Depot St. • Charlestown, NH 03603
Tel: 603-826-3251 • Fax: 603-826-5336
Open 7 Days a Week

THM PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES
129 Lincoln Avenue, Suite A • Manchester Center, VT 05255
(802) 362-4663 • Fax (802) 362-6330 • TDD 1-800-545-1833 EXT. 326 OR 175

ADAIR HEIGHTS APARTMENTS
BRATTLEBORO, VT

CONTINUES TO ACCEP APPLICATIONS FOR 1- & 2-BEDROOM UNITS

Utilities, Snow & Trash Removal Included
Laundry Facility on Premises for Tenants Only
USDA Guidelines Do Apply

Call or Write to:
THM Property Management
129 Lincoln Ave.
Manchester Center, VT 05255
802-367-5252
802-362-4663
Hearing Impaired 1-800-545-1833 ext. 326

We do not discriminate against tenant applications on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, age, creed, gender identity, gender related characteristic or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling unit with one or more minor children or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, sexual orientation, marital status or disability.
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
THM is an equal opportunity provider and employer

THM PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES
129 Lincoln Avenue, Suite A • Manchester Center, VT 05255
(802) 362-4663 • Fax (802) 362-6330 • TDD 1-800-545-1833 EXT. 326 OR 175

BROOKVIEW APARTMENTS
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VT

CONTINUES TO ACCEP APPLICATIONS FOR 1-BEDROOM HCP APARTMENT & 2-BEDROOM APARTMENTS

Utilities, Snow & Trash Removal Included
Laundry Facility on Premises for Tenants Only
USDA Guidelines Do Apply

Call or Write to:
THM Property Management
129 Lincoln Ave.
Manchester Center, VT 05255
802-367-5251
802-362-4663
Hearing Impaired 1-800-545-1833 ext. 326

We do not discriminate against tenant applications on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, age, creed, gender identity, gender related characteristic or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling unit with one or more minor children or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, sexual orientation, marital status or disability.
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
THM is an equal opportunity provider and employer

CHAVES EXCAVATING

ALL MATERIALS FOR COMPLETE SITE WORK
Sand • Gravel • Stone
Shurpac • Topsoil • Fill



5,000 lb. Hydraulic Hammer for Ledge & Rock Splitting
Portable On-Site Crushing & Screening Equipment

802-824-3140
Londonderry, VT

spring gardens bloom

In the Garden offers wide variety

CLAREMONT, N.H. – In the Garden Greenhouses opened for the season on April 17, with a huge inventory and selection of plants, flowers, shrubs, and accessories. Colorful varieties include perennials, annuals, hanging baskets, and succulents, as well as fruits, vegetables, and herbs. They also carry potting soils, fertilizer, mulch, pots, window boxes, and other planting needs.



In The Garden Greenhouses.

PHOTO PROVIDED

One review states, “In the Garden Greenhouses is a gem that stands out as a charming destination for garden enthusiasts...highlighted by a welcoming, helpful staff. Each

visit offers pleasant, budget-friendly discoveries.”

Known for their friendly staff and wide variety of healthy plants, In the Garden is open seven days per

week, from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., and is located at 16 Old High Bridge Road in Claremont, N.H. Stop in today and “love your garden.”

Backyard composting at Springfield Library

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Saturday, May 16, at 11 a.m., join the Springfield Town Library for a composting program led by Andy from Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management.

This program provides an

overview of composting, including different composting systems and how the composting process works. Participants will learn what materials to add and what to avoid, along with common troubleshooting tips. The talk also includes practical

guidance on timing, helping attendees understand when to take specific actions for successful composting.

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

Dig and Donate to the Wardsboro Public Library

WARDSBORO, Vt. – The Wardsboro Public Library’s annual plant sale is taking place on May 23. The event planners are asking for advance donations of perennial plants and flowers, and small shrubs from residents who are thinning their garden beds or have a surplus. The types of plants that sell well at the plant sale are the hardy flowering varieties of iris and hybrid day lilies, as well as pots of violets, bee balm, and Shasta daisies.

The emphasis in gardening is always on native varieties, but every gardener enjoys seeing some interesting, noninvasive plants in their flower beds as well. Small shrubs such as hydrangea, dogwood,

evergreens, and easy-maintenance ornamental grasses are also welcome for the sale.

On the library’s entrance porch, there are many sizes of empty flower pots to take for transplanting. Plants should be dug and potted, and kept watered at least two weeks prior to the day of the sale, or during the first two weeks of May, ideally.

The potted plants should be clearly identified with a tag naming the type of

plant and color of bloom, and can be dropped off at any time on the following days at the machine shed at the front of the library’s red barn; look for the “drop-off” signs. The drop-off days are Tuesday, May 19 – Friday, May 22, at 170 Main Street in Wardsboro.

The plant sale is sponsored by the trustees of Wardsboro Public Library and Grow Garden Club as a fundraiser for the library.

Starting a garden

REGION – Spring has finally arrived, and with it comes a renewed sense of excitement to try something new. If you have been thinking about starting a garden, this is a great time to give it a try.

Whether you want to transform a corner of your backyard, build a raised bed, or grow food in pots on the porch, turn that interest into your first harvest.

Start by observing your space. The success of your garden depends on the sun, as most vegetables need at least six to eight hours of direct sunlight to thrive. Once you identify your sunniest spot, assess your soil; it is your garden’s best asset. There is still time before the season begins to submit a soil test (visit go.uvm.edu/soiltest for details) and adjust soil pH and fertility if needed. If you start your new garden in raised beds or containers, look for a high-quality raised bed or potting soil mix.

You do not need expensive tools to get started. A few basics will get you through your first season. A sturdy hand trowel is essential for digging and transplanting. Gardening gloves protect your hands from the soil and come in a wide variety of styles. To take care of weeds in your garden, a hand cultivator is useful, but may not be necessary if you’re working in containers. Finally, a watering can or hose nozzle will keep your garden hydrated.

When selecting vegetable plants for your garden, focus on high-yielding and fast-growing options. This will maximize your harvest with fewer plants and give quick results.

Radishes are a fun choice for new gardeners. They go from seed to harvest in less than a month. Another rewarding choice that continues to grow all season is cut-and-come-again lettuce. Snip the outer leaves for dinner and the plant will keep growing.

What would summer be without fresh tomatoes? With hundreds of varieties available, there is a tomato plant for every garden. Look for a determinate variety to keep the size manageable. These tomato plants will generally reach 3 to 4 feet in height and require a cage or support structure. If space is a limitation, look for varieties bred specifically for growing in pots. The plant tag will provide the specific information needed to make an informed choice.

Basil, oregano, thyme, and chives all grow well in containers and grow quickly, making them a valuable ad-

dition to your garden. These hardy herbs are convenient, taking up very little space and providing an accessible harvest easily within reach.

Whatever you decide to include in your garden, consistent care ensures the best results. Check your plants daily for pests and disease. Water them at their base at the soil line to keep the moisture where it’s needed most.

Remember, gardening is a learning process. Keeping some basic notes will help you notice patterns and remember what worked over the season. These notes will be your best resource when planning for next year’s garden.

Start with a few of your summertime favorites, keep it simple, and enjoy the satisfaction of a harvest you grew yourself.

Written by Andrea Knepfer, University of Vermont Extension master gardener.

arts & entertainment

Pinske's Rising Tide presents comedy showcase at BFOH

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Pinske's Rising Tide is bringing the laughs to the Bellows Falls Opera House on Thursday, May 21, with a high-energy regional comedy showcase featuring 15 comics, two featured performers, and a headliner, all in one night.

The show is built around a rapid-fire format: Each open-mic comic gets three minutes to deliver their best material, keeping the energy up and the audience locked in from start to finish. Hosting commentary for the first half will be provided by a three-

person panel of Barre Pinske, Aaron Richter, and Mindy Bean, keeping the night loose and conversational between sets. Featured comics Bitsy Biron, of Springfield, Vt., and Nathaniel Allen, of Lacomia, N.H., will round out the lineup before Boston's Sarah May closes the show as headliner.

Dummerston-based musician Josh Allen will warm up the crowd before the laughs begin.

The showcase grew out of two years of relationship-building across the regional comedy scene by Ches-

ter artist and comedian Barre Pinske. "I've been pleasantly surprised by how funny, nice, and supportive of each other the comics really are — wherever I go," Pinske said. Last December, Pinske opened Rising Tide, a performance space inside his Chester gallery. Comics have been traveling more than an hour to attend the open mics. "I thought it would be cool to bring my new friends to the big stage," he said.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to support the Chester Food Shelf. Tickets are available at the door.

New Bernadine Custer Sharp paintings at LAHS

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Londonderry Arts and Historical Society (LAHS) is pleased to announce the acquisition of seven previously unseen paintings by noted 20th-century artist Bernadine Custer Sharp. These works will be featured alongside selections from the society's permanent collection in LAHS's first exhibition of the season.

Custer Sharp was an accomplished painter, illustrator, and Works Progress Administration muralist who made her home in Londonderry. Upon her death in 1991, she bequeathed her residence and an extensive collection of her artwork to



Bernadine Custer Sharp painting. PHOTO PROVIDED

ings come from the estate of David Parsons Jr., of East Dorset. Parsons' parents were close friends of Custer Sharp and collaborated with her during the founding of the Southern Vermont Arts Center. Among the new additions is a portrait of composer and artist Carl Ruggles seated at the piano.

The exhibition will run from May 23 – June 7 and will be open Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., or by appointment.

For more information about upcoming exhibitions, classes, and events, please visit www.lahsvt.org.

LAHS. Much of her work reflects the people, landscapes, and character of the Londonderry community. The newly acquired paint-

New work by Joey Morgan at NXT Gallery

PUTNEY, Vt. – NXT Gallery at Next Stage Arts presents "Forgotten Not Gone," a powerful new exhibition by Brattleboro-based artist Joey Morgan. An opening reception will be held on Sunday, May 24, from 5-7 p.m. The public is invited to experience this deeply personal and visually arresting body of work and to meet the artist.

"Forgotten Not Gone" features a suite of 12 mixed-media collage works born from the remnants of "Have You Ever Loved Me?," a previous project that was largely destroyed in a flood. From this loss, Morgan constructs a new narrative shaped by fragmentation, memory, and transformation. The resulting works carry visible traces of their past – where absence becomes as mean-

ingful as presence.

While "Have You Ever Loved Me?" explored a highly public unraveling – centering on a politician's on-camera suicide and media betrayal – "Forgotten Not Gone" shifts inward. Reassembled from salvaged drawings, the collages reflect more intimate ruptures and the complexities of personal connection. The works invite viewers into a space where meaning is fluid, and interpretation becomes part of the artistic process.

Morgan's multidisciplinary practice is grounded in drawing, with a strong emphasis on materiality. Her work navigates the intersections of image, object, and projection, creating dynamic "gaps" that function like synapses, animating the space between elements. Drawing from fleeting or overlooked moments, her imagery hovers



A piece by Joey Morgan. PHOTO PROVIDED

between clarity and ambiguity, offering an experience that is both immediate and evolving.

Since relocating to Brattleboro in 1998, Morgan has incorporated the textures and sensory details of the region into her work. Though rooted in a singular voice, her pieces ultimately take shape through viewer engagement, shifting with perception and presence.

Morgan's work has been exhibited extensively across the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia. She has represented Canada at major international exhibitions, including the Sydney Biennial and 96 Containers in Copenhagen, and has shown at prominent institutions such as the National Gallery of Canada, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, and the Vancouver Art Gallery.

"Forgotten Not Gone" will be on view May 8 – Aug. 9. The Next Stage Gallery is open during events, by appointment with the artist, or by contacting Next Stage Arts at info@nextstagearts.org or 802-387-0102.

Celebrate the opening of this compelling new exhibition and experience the resilience of art transformed through loss.

Tim Weed launches novel "The Gatepost" at Next Stage Arts

PUTNEY, Vt. – Tim Weed will celebrate the publication of his highly anticipated new novel "The Gatepost" with a launch party and reading on Tuesday, May 26, at 6 p.m., at Next Stage Arts, located at 15 Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt. The event is free and open to the public; advance RSVP is encouraged at www.nextstagearts.org.

"The Gatepost" is a gripping work of literary fic-

tion that blends elements of mystery, science fiction, and the supernatural. The novel follows Esme Weatherhead, who returns to her rural Vermont home 20 years after her father's unexplained disappearance. As she begins writing his story, Esme uncovers a hidden world of cryptic journals, psychedelic experiments, and a long-lost cave buried deep in the forest. With the help of a local geologist, she embarks on

a search that challenges the boundaries of reality and leads to profound revelations about love, loss, and the resilience of life itself.

The evening will feature a reading from "The Gatepost," a conversation with the author, and an audience Q&A. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing.

Weed – whose previous novel, "The Afterlife Project," received widespread acclaim, including a starred review from Library Journal – is known for his imaginative storytelling and exploration of the natural and metaphysical worlds. In "The Gatepost," he expands this vision into a thought-provoking narrative that merges time travel, ancient cosmology, and psychological suspense.

A frequent speaker at literary conferences and festivals nationwide, Weed has published work in Literary Hub, The Millions, and The Writer's Chronicle. He serves on the core faculty of the Newport Master of Fine Arts in creative writing, and is cofounder of the Cuba Writers Program. He lives in Putney, Vt.

This special launch event offers readers a unique opportunity to engage with an acclaimed author and celebrate the arrival of a bold new work of fiction.

GENERAL

 AUTO SALVAGE CO. INC.
New Hampshire and Vermont's Largest Auto Recycler!!!
WE BUY USED CARS & TRUCKS!
 Complete – Delivered. Will pay \$300 and up for 2014 or newer
 800-562-3845 – 603-542-9595 – sales@generalautosalvage.com
 239 Old Newport Road, Claremont, NH 03743

Happy Spring!

MORNINGSIDE
Service Station
 • Custom Exhaust with Warranty
 • Full Service Repair Facility

Veteran Owned & Operated
(603) 543-3166
16 Morningside Lane, Charlestown, NH

WE BUY GUNS
CASH PAID!!
LARGEST SELECTION OF FIRE ARMS
LARGEST SELECTION OF AMMO
WE SPECIALIZE IN
ESTATES & LARGE COLLECTIONS
Call us today! We make house calls!

NEED CASH???
WE BUY GOLD AND SILVER, COINS, JEWELRY, STERLING
Precious Metals Dealer #66
233 SOUTH MAIN ST • RUTLAND, VT
802-342-0187 blackdogshootingsupplies.com

FREE DINNER
 Bellows Falls American Legion, Post #37
Golden Ages Dinner
65 YEARS & OLDER
Sunday, May 17
 Open to the Public
 Noon to 2 pm
Meatloaf
 Mashed Potatoes, Veggie, Roll and Butter, and Dessert
Reservations Encouraged
802-463-9700
 Chairman: Doug Roberts
 Pub. Relations: Smokey Aumand

GET GREATER PEACE OF MIND ON FLUCTUATING FUEL PRICES WITH HB ENERGY
PRE-BUY PLAN

- Lock in your price now for the entire winter!
- Avoid unpredictable spikes!
- Available for Oil & Propane

HB Energy
 One Company. One Call.
SECURE YOUR FUEL PRICING FOR OIL AND PROPANE TODAY
 Call us for a free quote! **802.885.2300** or visit us at www.hbenergy.com

music on the mountain

FUN(D) RUN, BIG WEEKEND – MAY 15-17

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Phoenix presents the third annual Music on the Mountain (MOTM), a weekend of world-class music, immersive programming, and community experiences. In partnership with Divided Sky Foundation, presenting their fifth annual Fun(d) Run, a spirited 5K, with all proceeds benefiting Vermont addiction recovery programs. Join us for a family-friendly, substance-free weekend, May 15-17, at the base of Okemo Mountain in Ludlow, Vt.



Join the Fun(d) Run.

PHOTO BY JAY BELSKY

The three-day weekend will provide a family-friendly destination mountain experience uniting live music, movement, recovery, and community. Creating environments where artists and fans can gather without alcohol or drugs fosters deeper connection, sustainability, and access, particularly for those in recovery, those choosing sobriety, and families often excluded from traditional music settings.

The weekend is family-friendly and open to all, offering wellness activities, a kids' fun zone, recovery meetings, local arts vendors, food trucks, and community moments.

The festivities all take place at Okemo Mountain Resort's Jackson Gore, just 1 mile from Divided Sky's 46-bed residential recovery program, where individuals struggling with addiction receive compassionate care through a unique, affordable, and multifaceted approach including the 12 steps, mindfulness, embodied activities, and more.

FUN(D) RUN
Saturday, May 16, at 9 a.m.

The fifth annual Divided Sky Fun(d) Run will be prefaced by a pre-5K stretch, from 8:30-9 a.m., at the Jackson Gore Ice House. Launched before the Divided Sky Residential Recovery Program opened its doors, the race is produced in partnership with Antelope Running Club as a means to raise funds for the Divided Sky Foundation while encouraging individuals in early sobriety to incorporate physical activity into their recovery. Virtual registration is also available.

MUSIC ON THE MOUNTAIN
Saturday, May 16, from

12-8 p.m.

The genre-blending four-piece rock band Eggy and groove-driven, organ-forward trio LaMP, featuring Scott Metzger (JRAD), join returning artists Ray Paczkowski and Russ Lawton (Trey Anastasio Band, Soule Monde).

Electric bassist and songwriter Karina Rykman returns with her vibrant stage presence and infectious sound. MOTM veteran Anders Osborne joins Jackie Greene for a special duo set, and Daniel Donato and Natalie Cressman are back as artists-at-large, joined by Jennifer Hartswick, appearing for the first time.

New this year is 2ŁØT, blending electronic production, jazz fusion, and high-energy improvisation, plus a special appearance by The Trombone Shorty Foundation Band, which brings a dynamic ensemble of emerging New Orleans musicians, showcasing bold brass, funk, and soul

while representing the next generation of the city's rich musical tradition. Saturday's music will be emceed by Dave Manheim, of the Dopey Podcast.

As the sun sets, the celebration continues with the Big Weekend All-Stars After Party, bringing together a rotating cast of weekend artists for an evening of improvisation-driven collaboration. Participating musicians include Karina Rykman, Brian Murray, Jimmy Law, Daniel Donato, Scott Metzger, Ray Paczkowski, Dezron Douglas, Joe Dyson, Jennifer Hartswick, and Natalie Cressman, forming a one-of-a-kind all-stars ensemble.

A FULL-MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCE

Friday, May 15 – Sunday, May 17

The Big Weekend kicks off on Friday evening with Divided Sky Foundation hosting "Minstrels and Mocktails," an intimate dinner concert gathering



Enjoy Music on the Mountain.

PHOTO BY JAY BELSKY

of friends and supporters, featuring special alumni musical guests Sean Leahy and Kate Gaffney. Tickets for this event are very limited.

Immediately following the dinner, The Phoenix will welcome guests with the "Campfire Jam," an acoustic, in-the-round concert, where Anders Osborne and Daniel Donato will be joined by Jackie Greene.

On Sunday, the weekend concludes with a relaxed acoustic brunch, featuring Murray's Law (Brian Murray and Jimmy Law) and Vermont guitarist Evan Jennison, offering a reflective and communal close to three days of music and mountain connection.

Beyond the stage, the Big Weekend offers immersive, all-ages programming throughout the resort. The Phoenix will host daily hikes; yoga sessions; gratitude meetups; a screening of "Sober," The Phoenix documentary; and a large-

throughout the weekend, with a dedicated family area, scenic chairlift rides to the summit, the Okemo Mountain coaster, and mini golf, transforming the festival into a true mountain adventure. All events are family-friendly, and guests are encouraged to bring chairs, picnic blankets, and refillable water bottles, and to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Big Weekend.

INFORMATION

More information and a full lineup of events can be found at www.musiconthemtn.com/weekend.

Tickets for the full weekend are available at www.bigweekend.org or www.musiconthemtn.com.

Blue Sky
Jewelry • Pottery • Candles • Gifts
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS 1995-2025
228-2280
160 Main Street, Ludlow
www.BlueSkyVT.com

Ludlow Insurance Agency, Inc.
Serving Your Insurance Needs Since 1879
(802) 228-8823
150 Main St, Ludlow, VT

TPW Real Estate
SALES & RENTALS
We Know Just the Place
Karen Wilson, Broker
ksw@tpw.com
203.550.7430
John Napier, Licensed Sales Associate
jmn@tpw.com
860.559.9334
TPWrealestate.com | 207 Main Street, Ludlow, VT 05149

StoneHouse Technology
Local solution provider for Audio, Video, Networking, and WiFi Challenges!
Mike Bloechle
Mike@stonehousetech.net
802.770.9248

THE PHOENIX PRESENTS
MUSIC ON THE MOUNTAIN
A BENEFIT FOR DIVIDED SKY FOUNDATION
MAY 16 | LUDLOW, VT
EGGY • LaMP
METZGER, LAWTON + PACZKOWSKI
KARINA RYKMAN
ANDERS OSBORNE & JACKIE GREENE
2ŁØT
TROMBONE SHORTY FOUNDATION BAND
ARTISTS AT LARGE
DANIEL DONATO • JENNIFER HARTSWICK • NATALIE CRESSMAN
EMCEE
DAVE MANHEIM (DOPEY PODCAST)
+ Activities All Weekend
CAMPFIRE JAM • FAMILY & KID ZONE • SOUND BATHING & MINDFUL EXPERIENCES
ACOUSTIC BRUNCH • HIKES • MOVEMENT SESSIONS • MORE TO COME
TICKETS & MORE ► MUSICONTHEMTN.COM
DIVIDED SKY'S **BIG WEEKEND** IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PHOENIX

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Bandwagon Summer Series returns with new format

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts is excited to announce the return of the Bandwagon Summer Series for its 2026 season, reimagined to deliver an even more vibrant, immersive, and community-driven experience across eastern Windham County from June through September.

Now in its seventh year, the Bandwagon Summer Series continues its tradition of transforming local fields, farms, and parks into joyful hubs of music, culture, and connection. In response to community feedback and the success of past seasons, this year's series has been thoughtfully redesigned to feature nine dynamic events,

including four minifestival-style gatherings that bring multiple artists together for lively afternoons and evenings of music, puppetry, circus arts, food, and shared experience.

"What I love about Bandwagon is the joy of it – the dancing, the kids, the feeling that the whole community showed up. My vision for this year is to deepen that: fewer events, but richer ones, with more artists, more organizations, and more ways to connect. This is community-building through the arts, and I can't wait to see it unfold," said Natalie Dreyer, executive director of Next Stage Arts.

Bandwagon holds a spe-

cial place in this community; for many, it's how they first walked through Next Stage's doors. We heard you: You want to dance, you want the energy of a live band under an open sky, you want something that feels like a real celebration. That's exactly what this season delivers, with a musical range that spans continents and genres, from local favorites to artists who will stop you in your tracks.

Concertgoers can find the full lineup and ticketing options at www.nextstagearts.org. In keeping with Next Stage's mission to build community through the arts, kids under 12 attend free, and each event includes

a kids' play zone. Next Stage also distributes complimentary series passes to all public libraries in Windham County. Local food and drink vendors will be on site at every performance. Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket or fold-up chair to enjoy the outdoor events. All venues strive to be accessible, and we encourage anyone with specific access needs to contact Next Stage in advance so we can help ensure a comfortable experience.

In addition to Bandwagon, Next Stage Arts is proud to now present Twilight on the Tavern Lawn under its organizational umbrella. Celebrating its 23rd sea-

son, this beloved free concert series kicks off May 31 and continues every other Sunday through Aug. 23. Featuring folk, world, jazz, zydeco, bluegrass, pop, and Americana, Twilight concerts begin at 6 p.m., on the Putney Tavern lawn, or indoors at Next Stage in the event of rain. The series is presented in partnership with the Town of Putney and local sponsors, with donations welcomed.

Next Stage will also continue its indoor programming throughout the summer in its air-conditioned theater on Kimball Hill, offering audiences additional opportunities to engage with the arts.

Series passes for the 2026 Bandwagon Summer Series are available now at www.nextstagearts.org. Tickets for individual events go on sale May 1. Early booking is encouraged.

The 2026 Bandwagon Summer Series is made possible by generous support from The Brattleboro Reformer, Lawson's Finest Liquids, Landmark College, Oak Meadow, The Commons, Putney Diner, Barr Hill, Southern Vermont Solar, The Greenwood School, Vermont Plank Flooring, Putney Inn, Putney General Store, 802 Credit Union, Against the Grain, The Richards Group, and the Putney Food Co-op.

VPCA Dedication Award

REGION - Chief Deputy Claude Weyant would like to announce that Deputy Jackson Howe and K9 Kye were awarded and presented with the 2025 Vermont Police Canine Association (VPCA) Dedication Award at the K9 Ball in Burlington, on May 2.

The Dedication Award is given to the VPCA K9 team that engages with their community and surrounding communities through their canine work. Howe has been attending public demonstrations and visiting more than a dozen schools and



Deputy Jackson Howe and K9 Kye receive Dedication Award.

PHOTO PROVIDED

preschools with K9 Kye, building positive relation-

ships between law enforcement and the public of all ages. The canine team engages with up-to-date canine training standards throughout the year, which results in illicit narcotics being taken off the streets and a promoting a positive public of image law-enforcement canine units. The VPCA consists of roughly 46 canine teams in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Local residents form Indivisible Two Rivers Area

REGION - Residents from Andover, Cavendish, Chester, Ludlow, and Springfield have come together to form Indivisible Two Rivers Area, a local chapter of the National Indivisible Movement. Indivisible Two Rivers Area supports civil rights; the right of workers to organize, join labor unions, and engage in collective bargaining; universal health care; immigrant rights; voting rights; and the election of progres-

sive candidates. The group pursues its goals through outreach, education, rallies, demonstrations, and other nonviolent actions.

Indivisible Two Rivers Area works collaboratively with other Vermont chapters and organizations across the country to fight attacks on human rights and against initiatives such as Project 2025 and other attempts to weaken or destroy democracy.

Two Rivers Area Indivisible members meet monthly, at rotating locations in the

participating communities, to collectively establish goals, priorities, and action items. Our process values the participants' diversity of experience, backgrounds, and opinions to reach consensus through lively but civil dialogue.

Folks who share these values are invited to join. For additional information, email indivisible.tworiversarea@gmail.com, and/or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/2031169307467399.

AUMAND'S FURNITURE MEMORIAL DAY SAVINGS!

Memorial Day Hours!
8:30 AM - 5 PM

Sale Ends
MAY 31ST!



LOREO	ALTARI	CHASEMORE	STONEMEADE	JAYNE PARK	BOLSENA LEATHER
SOFA LOVESEAT \$479 \$439	SOFA LOVESEAT \$499 \$449	SOFA LOVESEAT \$699 \$649	SOFA CHAISE SOFA LOVESEAT \$699 \$579 \$539	SOFA LOVESEAT \$799 \$749	SOFA LOVESEAT \$849 \$799

SECTIONALS BY ASHLEY

AVIEMORE	OLTEN	MAHONEY
\$899	\$999	\$1,049

POWER LIFT RECLINERS OVER 75 IN STOCK!

CRESTMEDIA	AURORA	42 PEACEFUL PAUSE
\$749	\$799	\$1,499

RECLINERS L A Z B O Y RECLINING SOFAS & LOVESEATS

COLLAGE	MORRISON	TROUPER	CADE	JAY	TROUPER
\$499	\$599	\$799	SOFA LOVESEAT \$1299 \$1199	SOFA LOVESEAT \$1399 \$1299	SOFA LOVESEAT \$1799 \$1699

BEST Home Furnishings

RAIDER	CANNES	MCGINNIS	CONEN	BROSMER	SEGER
WALL HUGGER OR ROCKER \$589 POWER RECLINER \$689	WALL HUGGER OR ROCKER \$599 POWER RECLINER \$699	WALL HUGGER OR ROCKER \$599 POWER RECLINER \$699	WALL HUGGER OR ROCKER \$649 POWER RECLINER \$749	WALL HUGGER OR ROCKER \$669 POWER RECLINER \$769	WALL HUGGER OR ROCKER \$719 POWER RECLINER \$819

DOUBLE-SIDED BEDDING BY GOLD BOND

Made the Old Fashioned Way!

YOU CAN FLIP IT!

Chatham	Kensington 3.0	Buckingham	Private Reserve
630 Pocketed Coils Firm or Plush Top	800 Pocketed Coils Firm, Plush, Pillow Top	1057 Pocketed Coils Firm, Plush or Pillow Top	1950 Pocketed Coils Firm Top
TWIN \$449 FULL \$599 QUEEN \$649 KING \$849	TWIN \$569 FULL \$749 QUEEN \$829 KING \$1037	TWIN \$799 FULL \$979 QUEEN \$1149 KING \$1459	TWIN \$1039 FULL \$1249 QUEEN \$1549 KING \$1869
10 YEAR WARRANTY	10 YEAR WARRANTY	15 YEAR WARRANTY	15 YEAR WARRANTY

Eclipse

FEDERAL HILL	PEARL	MOONLIGHT	ASTERIA	CHILL
YOUR CHOICE FIRM OR PLUSH	YOUR CHOICE FIRM OR PLUSH	YOUR CHOICE: X-FIRM, FIRM, CUSHION FIRM, PLUSH OR LUX PLUSH	COIL ON COIL YOUR CHOICE: X-SOFT, MED, OR X-FIRM	YOUR CHOICE FIRM OR PLUSH
TWIN \$289 FULL \$379 QUEEN \$449	TWIN \$329 FULL \$429 QUEEN \$499	TWIN \$439 FULL \$579 QUEEN \$659 KING \$879	TWIN \$599 FULL \$799 QUEEN \$899 KING \$1099	TWIN \$689 FULL \$849 QUEEN \$899 KING \$1129

AUMAND'S FURNITURE

Family Owned and Operated for 106 Years

FREE 60-DAY LAYAWAY | 12 MONTH INTEREST-FREE FINANCING

North Walpole, NH • Mon-Sat 8:30-5 • Sun 12-4 • 603-445-5321 • DELIVERY UP TO 50 MILES!