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Rockingham may reallocate funds for elderly care

BY JOE MILLIKEN

The Vermont Journal

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – After a recent Rockingham Selectboard meeting, the board announced it had launched an investigating to determine whether to reallocate some \$26,000 given to the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA), after it was reported that the VNA was no longer serving the town.

While originally an independent organization, VNA is now a part of the larger Dartmouth Health Home Care (DHHC), and its overall coverage is now different.

The main service area of VNA is now the Upper Valley, leaving Rockingham on the outskirts of the coverage area.

Research conducted by Rockingham Board Chair Rick Cowan revealed that, despite the organization allocating fewer resources to the town, Rockingham still paid Dartmouth Health executives in excess of \$300,000 last year.

According to the organization's website, DHHC currently services some 88 towns throughout eastern Vermont and another 20 towns in western New

Hampshire, with the Rockingham/Springfield areas appearing on the southern-most section of the service area map. Their services include home health, personal, and hospice care, maternal/child health, and support groups.

The issue of elderly care fund allocation had initially been raised several months ago by a Rockingham resident, who voiced concern about DHHC's coverage adjustment and suggested that the Senior Solutions, formerly The Council on Aging, would be a better fit to receive the town's

funds. Based in Springfield and serving some 46 towns throughout the area, Senior Solutions provides a variety of services for the elderly, including Meals on Wheels and dietary counseling, case management on various relevant elderly issues, caregiver support, health and benefits counseling, veterans care, volunteer programs, and a "central point" hotline.

Currently, Senior Solutions receives less than \$5,000 of funding from Rockingham, and according to Executive Director Mark Boutwell, the organization is

interested in receiving more of the allotted funds to better assist Rockingham-area residents. He also reported that there are roughly 1,500 residents in Rockingham over the age of 65.

Senior Solutions' mission is simple: "To promote the wellbeing and dignity of older adults."

Additionally, Rockingham Fire & Rescue has also thrown its hat in the ring to receive additional funding, so as to keep the funding within the town. The department is also working toward applying for state and federal funding to bet-

ter serve the "homeless and elderly" of Rockingham. No final decisions have been made as the selectboard continues to gather information and to determine the appropriate allocation of the funds.

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New owners of Vermont Packinghouse plan for local growth

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – For years, limited meat processing capacity in Vermont has forced many farmers to sell their livestock out of state. A recent ownership transition at a meat processing plant in North Springfield aims to change that by helping ensure locally raised meats can continue to be processed, packaged, and sold in Vermont.

The Vermont Packinghouse (VPH), located at 25 Fairbanks Road in North Springfield, was recently sold in two subsequent transactions to a new ownership group led by longtime food service and distribution leader Louis Helbling.

The 50,000-square-foot United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) facility processes and packages beef and pork from small- and medium-sized farms across New England. The sale of both the business and the building marks a new phase of growth and stability for a key regional meat processing operation that has been managed by multiple entities in recent years.

Longtime Springfield businessman Mark Curran, of Curran-Birge, purchased the former Ben & Jerry's manufacturing



Members of the Vermont Packing & Trading team stand with the owners of Vermont Family Farms.

PHOTO PROVIDED

plant in 2013 with the goal of easing a major bottleneck for Vermont meat producers by expanding much-needed processing capacity. Curran and his former business partner Steve Birge worked with Temple Grandin, a renowned designer of humane livestock facilities, to develop a slaughter facility that minimizes stress on the animals.

The facility was operated by Minnesota-based Lorentz Meats from 2014 to 2020, and later by Walden Local Meat Co. from 2023 to 2026. Throughout that time, Curran maintained ownership of the building, carefully stewarding an asset he believed held long-term potential for the

region.

On May 29, Curran sold the property to a new ownership group led by Helbling, a veteran of food service sales, operations, and senior management. Under the newly formed Vermont Packing & Trading, Helbling is focused on expanding market opportunities for locally grown meats while creating jobs and supporting local farms. With a passion for the food industry, Helbling was drawn to Vermont's specialty food culture and deep agricultural heritage.

"With Louis' decades of work in the New England food industry, there is real opportunity to open more markets for local beef and pork producers outside

of Vermont," Curran said. "Another initiative will be to retain more of Vermont's dairy culls from leaving the state and keep more value-added processing here."

Helbling and his team will continue to work closely with Curran, Black River Produce – a distributor with deep ties to the operation – and the owners of Walden Local Meat Co. to ensure a smooth transition of both building ownership and day-to-day operations.

"We have all worked very hard over the past six months to keep VPH open and in a position to rehire a very talented and dedicated workforce as quickly as possible," Helbling said.

With a new management team in place, the facility is entering its next phase of operations focused on future growth.

Upgrades to the USDA facility are already underway, alongside efforts to expand cold storage ca-

capacity to meet growing regional demand. "Adding to the existing footprint with additional freezer and cold storage will give us the capacity we need to grow as a business and add to the local workforce over the next five years," Helbling said.

He added that he and his team will continue working with Curran to revitalize the landmark facility and restore it as a source of pride for families, employees, and local farms.

"All of us involved in this journey are excited to be working and relocating to the great State of Vermont," Helbling said. "We are operating and moving quickly to bring business from all over the Northeast to Springfield."

Vermont Packing & Trading was formed after the April 2026 sale of the Vermont Packinghouse business and is seeking new partners and producers across the Northeast.

Puzzle page winner

Congratulations to Sharon Wood, of Claremont, for winning our puzzle page contest drawing! Sharon has selected the \$75 gift certificate to Maebelline's. Look out for our next puzzle page contest in our July 8 paper for your next chance to win.

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Bellows Falls Elks June Student of the Month

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Union High School (BFUHS), along with the Bellows Falls Elks Lodge 19, is proud to announce that Jasmine Perry-Ives has been selected as the June Elks Student of the Month, an honor recognizing students who demonstrate excellence in academics, attitude, school involvement, attendance, and service to others.

Perry-Ives, a senior at Bellows Falls Union High School and the daughter of Bethany Perry and Leslie Ives, of Rockingham, Vt., has distinguished herself through her strong work ethic, dedication to learning, and commitment to helping others.

A student in the manufacturing program at the Windham Regional Career Center, Perry-Ives has consistently demonstrated responsibility, perseverance, and determination. As the only female student in her advanced manufacturing class, she has embraced opportunities to develop skills in coding, design, fabrication, and welding while taking on challenging projects with confidence and enthusiasm. Her willingness to step outside her comfort zone and pursue new learning opportunities has earned her respect of both her instructors and peers.



Jasmine Perry-Ives.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Teachers describe Perry-Ives as kind, respectful, thoughtful, and sup-

portive. She is known for helping classmates, encouraging others, and creating a positive environment wherever she goes. Her genuine concern for the wellbeing of others and her positive attitude have made her a valued member of the school community.

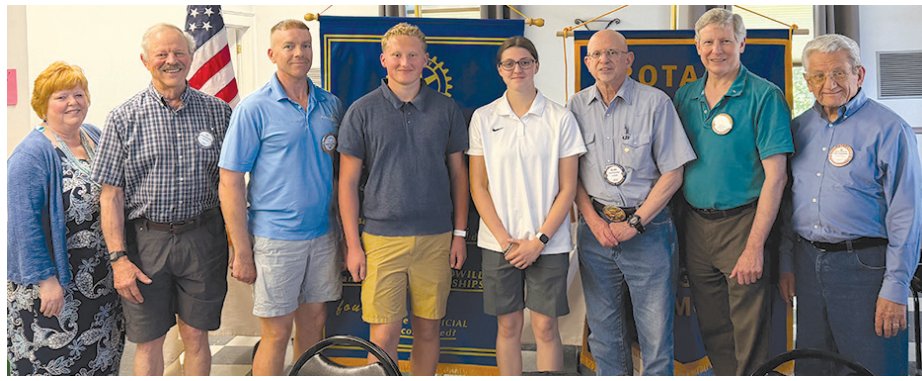
Perry-Ives' commitment to service extends well beyond the classroom. She has completed more than 200 hours of community service, much of it through the Meeting Waters YMCA, where she has worked with area youth and made a meaningful impact on the community. Her dedication to serving

others serves as an example for her peers and reflects the values celebrated by the Elks Student of the Month program.

Those who know Perry-Ives recognize her as someone who works hard, leads by example, and quietly makes a difference in the lives of others. Her generosity, perseverance, and commitment to both her education and community make her highly deserving of this recognition.

Bellows Falls Union High School and the Bellows Falls Elks Lodge congratulate Perry-Ives on this well-deserved honor and wish her continued success in all of her future endeavors.

Springfield Rotary Club scholarships



Left to right: Springfield Rotary Club President Sue Phelps, Ed Grossman, Jim Fog, Cooper Palmer, Lacey Perry, Alan Englander, Bob Flint and Ed McQuaide.

PHOTO PROVIDED

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Rotary Club President Sue Phelps and scholarship committee members Jim Fog, Bob Flint, Ed McQuaide, Alan Englander, and Ed Grossman selected Cooper Palmer and Lacey Perry as

winners of this year's local scholarships. Each student will receive a \$3,000 scholarship.

Palmer is planning to attend Union College to study mechanical engineering. Perry is planning to attend Norwich University to

study criminal justice, to pursue a career in forensic investigation.

Funds for the scholarship awards came from the annual Springfield Rotary Penny Sale, which will return this October.

BRIC receives Couch Family Foundation grant

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Black River Innovation Campus (BRIC) today announced a \$31,300 grant from the Couch Family Foundation to expand early childhood and elementary science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) education across rural communities in the Upper Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire. The one-year project will scale in-class Lego-based learning, add immersive field experiences at VRmont Studios, and embed professional development for educators serving young children in Windsor, Orange, Sullivan, and Grafton counties.

"The Couch Family Foundation is proud to

support BRIC as it expands equitable access to high-quality STEAM learning for young children through its Lego-based programming," said Sara Vecchiotti, executive director of the Couch Family Foundation. "The early results of this work have proved deeply beneficial by embedding inclusive STEAM enrichment into early learning environments and building educator capacity. We are excited to help advance opportunities such as this that inspire curiosity and open pathways for future success."

"This investment lets us meet children where they are, in their classrooms and early learning centers, with hands-on STEAM experiences that build curiosity and confidence from the start," said Chris Mag-

giolo, deputy director of BRIC. "Just as important, it strengthens the capacity of educators who make that learning possible. We are grateful for the Couch Family Foundation's continued partnership."

Building on prior Couch Family Foundation support, the project will expand BRIC's train-the-trainer and codelivery model into 40 or more classrooms across 20 or more schools and early learning providers. It will deploy more than 60 Lego-based STEAM kits, support eight Lego-based clubs and teams, host 20 to 25 immersive field experiences at VRmont Studios in downtown Springfield, and engage approximately 60 educators in classroom-connected professional development.

Health and climate change talk at Springfield Library

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join Dr. Mark Levine for a talk

on the personal-health and public-health impacts of

climate change, on Tuesday, June 23, at 6 p.m., at the

Springfield Town Library.

This talk will introduce key public health principles to illustrate how public health work is carried out in practice. It will explore climate change as the greatest public health threat of the 21st century, highlighting seven major ways it impacts human health. The presentation will also examine the urgent need for adaptive strategies that allow communities to live with the climate conditions we now face, emphasizing that prevention alone is no longer a sufficient ap-

proach.

Levine served as Vermont's commissioner of health from March 2017 – April 2025, appointed by Gov. Phil Scott. Before that, Levine was a professor of medicine at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine and held leadership roles in medical education at UVM Medical Center. Levine earned his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Connecticut, and his medical degree from the University of Rochester, completing his residency at UVM and a

fellowship at the University of North Carolina.

An award-winning educator, Levine continues to teach while maintaining his faculty appointment. Prior to his commissioner role, he practiced general internal medicine with a focus on complex diagnostics, prevention, and nutrition. His career has centered on improving population health through policy and fostering a culture of health for all Vermonters.

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

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Be a part of Grafton's America 250th celebration

GRAFTON, Vt. – The Town of Grafton, Vt., in-

ites you to join us as we celebrate our United States

semiquincentennial, 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

On Saturday, June 27, Grafton will host a Happy Birthday Parade. Parade lineup will begin at 10 a.m., and the parade will begin at 11 a.m. Line up at 225 Townshend Road, behind the Windham Foundation. The parade route is Townshend Road to Main Street, to Pleasant Street, and back to start.

You are welcome to participate by marching, riding a decorated bike, providing music, or entering a float or antique vehicle in the parade. Let us know if you would like to join us using the registration form at www.tinyurl.com/Grafton-250th-Parade.

If you have questions, email graftontvcelebrates@gmail.com and Sue Hernandez, the parade chairperson, will get back to you.

Following the parade, Grafton is hosting a birthday bash at the ballfield, from 12-3 p.m., with food and entertainment, including live music, horse-pulled wagon rides, and children's games.

Would you or your family, business, or organization like to be in the parade on June 27? Visit www.graftontvcelebrates.org for more information.

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Windsor County Sheriff's Department resource deputy position

REGION – Chief Deputy Claude Weyant, of the Windsor County Sheriff's Department, recently announced the department's new position of countywide resource deputy. Deputy Jackson Howe, along with K-9 Kye, will serve in this important position. Howe is a dedicated family man and a dedicated law enforcement officer. Howe started his law enforcement career in Orange County. He began his time in Windsor County in early 2023. Earlier this month, Howe and Kye attended the annual statewide K-9 association ball. They received an award for their work and dedication to the communities they serve.



Chief Deputy Claude Weyant (left), Countywide Resource Deputy Jackson Howe, and K-9 Kye.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Howe will work closely with area schools, and will do his best to be a role model mentoring the youth. He will be available to help educate students on the legal system, crime and drug prevention, conflict resolution, safety, and other relevant topics.

Howe will also work with communities on crime prevention, and will work with

citizens and businesses to help them know the best ways to secure their properties. He will also work with the senior citizens in the county in different ways to make sure they are safe, in addition to producing a program where seniors living alone can be checked on each day. Howe will help seniors learn how to be safe and avoid being victims of crime.

Howe will foster trust between communities and the

sheriff's department. He will focus in the 14 towns with which the department contracts. He will also be available to help in larger towns throughout the county that have their own police departments, if asked by their respective police departments.

Weyant stated that this position is something he has always wanted to see at the sheriff's department.

Weston Theater Company opens 90th season

WESTON, Vt. – Weston Theater Company (WTC) launches its 90th anniversary season with the return of a Weston favorite, "Ring of Fire," playing now through July 11, at Walker Farm. Recently extended by popular demand, this electrifying musical celebration of Johnny Cash brings together more than 30 of the legendary artist's most iconic songs in a powerful evening of storytelling, rebellion, and live music performed by a company of actor-musicians.

Forged from the passions and poetry of Cash's rebellious spirit, "Ring of Fire" journeys through the life, love, and legacy of one of America's most enduring voices. Featuring unforgettable songs including "Folsom Prison Blues," "I Walk the Line," "Jackson," and "A Boy Named Sue," the musical captures the grit, humor, heartbreak, and humanity behind the Man in Black while celebrating the enduring power of gathering together through music.

Directed by Weston Executive Artistic Director Susanna Gellert, the production revisits a title deeply connected to the theater's recent history. Weston first produced "Ring of Fire" in

2021 as an outdoor production under a tent during the company's return from the pandemic, when a limited audience gathered under extraordinary circumstances to reconnect through live performance. This new staging returns to the material with renewed scale, intimacy, and celebration as Weston begins its milestone 90th season.

Says Gellert, "There's something deeply communal about Johnny Cash's story and his music. These songs hold memories of struggle, resilience, love, defiance, humor, and hope – all wrapped inside music that invites people to lean in and sing along together. Returning to "Ring of Fire" during Weston's 90th season feels especially meaningful because this musical reminds us exactly why live theater matters: gathering together, sharing stories, and feeling connected to one another through music. The show is raw, joyful, rebellious, and alive with extraordinary actor-musicians who bring their whole selves to the stage every night."

The cast features Larry Tobias reprising the role he previously performed in Weston's 2021 production

before going on to play Cash at both Florida Rep and Mountain Playhouse; Seth Eliser, also reprising the role he previously performed at Weston in 2021; Angel Lin; Emily Mikesell; Tarif Pappu; and Allie Seibold.

The creative team includes choreographer Tuan Malinowski, costume designer Jessica Crawford, and the Tony-nominated Scott Zielinski, serving as both scenic and lighting designer. The production team also includes Music Director Seth Eliser, sound designer Stephen Jensen, Production Stage Manager Kelsy Durkin, and Assistant Stage Manager Ty Danhaus.

Tickets and season subscriptions are on sale now at www.westontheater.org, or by calling the Weston Box Office at 802-824-5288.

Springfield Area Parent Child Center Duck Run

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Area Parent Child Center (SAPCC) invites community members of all ages to attend the 2026 Running of the Rubber Ducks on Saturday, June 27, from 4-7 p.m.

Join us for our largest annual fundraiser. Free admission includes a bounce house, foam cannon, water slide, community resources, and activities for the whole family. Food and ice cream will be available for purchase from JC's Market & Deli.

At 6 p.m., yellow and purple rubber ducks will race down the Black

River, giving their sponsors a chance to win cash prizes.

Prizes for the Yellow Duck Race are as follows: first place, \$200; second place, \$100; third place, \$50; last place, swim lessons at the Edgar May Health & Recreation Center for a child or adult.

This year, SAPCC is excited to introduce the Purple Duck Race, a special partnership with Lace Up for Laura. Purple ducks are available for double the price of yellow ducks, with proceeds shared equally between SAPCC, Lace Up for Laura, and the Purple Duck Race winner.

Community members are encouraged to gather

their families and friends and join SAPCC for an evening of fun, community spirit, and plenty of ducks. To sponsor ducks, visit www.sapcc-vt.org.

The Springfield Area Parent Child Center provides programs and services that support children and families throughout 25 communities in southern Windsor and northern Windham counties, helping build strong families and healthy communities through education, advocacy, and support services.

For more information, contact the Springfield Area Parent Child Center at 802-886-5242 or visit www.sapcc-vt.org.

Cavendish Village Ghost Walk

CAVENDISH, Vt. – No, Mr. Higginell isn't buried in the basement, but what's up with all the strange things that happen at this sneaker ashlar house on Main Street? And is the old Duttonville School really haunted? According to those who live there, it is, and those who haunt it

include a former student who likes to visit. Strange and haunted stories abound in Cavendish Village.

On Saturday, June 20, the Cavendish Historical Society will once again lead a ghost walk in Cavendish Village. Meet at the Cavendish Historical Society Museum, 1958 Main Street, at 8 p.m., wearing comfortable walking shoes, and bring a flashlight. The tour includes

many stops, including the stone church and the Cavendish Village Cemetery.

This event is free and open to the public. In the event of bad weather, please check the Cavendish, Vt., Facebook page, www.facebook.com/cavendishvt, for changes. For more information, email margocaulfield@icloud.com or call 802-226-7807.

Presenting tips for being news savvy online

LUDLOW, Vt. – Are you sharing the news? Learn to read and check sources before sharing. Join us on Friday, June 26, from 1-2 p.m., at Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main Street, Ludlow.

In the digital age, anyone can publish anything on the internet, even if it's completely false. This lecture will explain the way technology has made it easier to create

and spread misinformation. We'll discuss tools to evaluate news sources and review helpful fact-checking sites. You'll learn why it's important to read and check your sources before sharing.

Senior Planet, a program of Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) from AARP, empowers older adults to use technology so they can learn, work, create, and thrive in the digital age. Its mission is built on the philosophy of "aging with

attitude."

This lecture is brought to you by the Black River Good Neighbor Services and Fletcher Memorial Library, with support from the Godnick Adult Center and the Vermont Community Foundation. This program is free and accessible. For additional information about this and other Senior Planet workshops, call the library at 802-228-8921 or Black River Good Neighbor Services at 802-228-3663.

Join us on Sundays!

Meet on Depot Street in downtown Ludlow every Sunday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. to shop at our vibrant farmers market! Find a variety of local produce each week along with fresh baked goods, handmade crafts and gifts, cold beverages, live music, and more. We can't wait to see you for fresh food, community, and fun!

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Lace Up for Laura returns June 27

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – The sixth annual Lace Up for Laura Memorial 5K and Fun Run will take place on Saturday, June 27, bringing together runners, walkers, families, businesses, and community supporters for a day of movement, connection, and giving back.

Established in celebration and memory of Laura Cody McNaughton, a public health leader, community advocate, school board member, runner, and devoted mother, the event honors McNaughton's belief that healthy communities are built through service, compassion, education, and opportunity. A 2000 valedictorian of Springfield High School, McNaughton graduated summa cum laude from Bates College and earned a master's degree in public health from Boston University. She dedicated her life to improving the wellbeing of others through public health leadership, substance abuse prevention, community advocacy, and service on numerous nonprofit and educational boards. Proceeds from the Lace Up for Laura event support the Laura Cody McNaughton Memorial Fund, which provides scholarships to local students whose lives and aspirations reflect the values McNaughton embodied.

"Lace Up for Laura was created not only to remember Laura, but to invest in

the next generation of young people who are making a difference," said race coordinator Ethan McNaughton, who worked with friends and family to establish the event following the loss of his wife, Laura, in 2018.

Since its founding, the Laura Cody McNaughton Memorial Fund has awarded \$70,000 in scholarships to local students. This year, the fund will award a record \$20,000 through two scholarships recognizing students who embody Laura's commitment to leadership, service, resilience, and improving the lives of others.

The recipient of the 2026 Laura Cody McNaughton Legacy Scholarship of \$15,000 is Tatum Flanagan, of Windsor High School.

Flanagan plans to attend Rivier University this fall to pursue a degree in nursing. Throughout high school, she has demonstrated exceptional commitment to community service and leadership through Girl Scouts, Student Council, Athletic Leadership Council, National Honor Society, athletics, and health care training at the Hartford Area Career and Technology Center. Her service projects have included building community resources, supporting veterans organizations, organizing school and community initiatives, and developing grief support resources for

children and families.

Flanagan's passion for health care was inspired by witnessing the compassionate care nurses provided to her grandfather during a prolonged illness. Through hands-on experience in medical assisting and phlebotomy, she discovered a calling to become a nurse and provide that same care and comfort to others.

"Community service has been a part of who I am," said Flanagan. "These values were instilled in me when I was very young about how important it is to give back. Nursing has all that I believe in: working directly with individuals, solving problems in high-pressure situations, and offering care, comfort, and support in times of need."

The recipient of the 2026 Laura Cody McNaughton Achievement Award of \$5,000 is Evangeline "EV" Nicholes-Fox, of Green Mountain Union High School.

A valedictorian and early college student through CCV, Nicholes-Fox will attend the University of Vermont this fall to study medical radiation sciences. During high school, she served as editor of the school newspaper, helped publish a mental wellness and awareness issue, led the school's GSA as president, and completed more than 80 hours of community service through food drives, blood drives, nursing home volunteering, and community fundraising

efforts.

Like McNaughton, Nicholes-Fox has demonstrated a commitment to promoting health, inclusion, and community wellbeing while pursuing academic excellence.

"I am so honored to be awarded this scholarship," said Nicholes-Fox. "It has not only given me some financial relief, but also confidence in myself and my future. I'm grateful that I can pursue a future doing what I love, helping others, as Laura did."

The day begins with a free children's Fun Run, followed immediately by the Lace Up for Laura 5K, which welcomes runners and walkers of all ages and abilities. The family-friendly event features optional nontoxic color tunnels, bubbles, free sunglasses for Fun Run participants, a photo booth, race shirts, raffles, live music, water stations, post-race snacks, and awards recognizing participants for achievements ranging from speed to team spirit.

Children participating in the Fun Run will receive

a commemorative purple duck that may be entered later that day in the Springfield Area Parent Child Center's Purple Duck Run. The purple duck partnership supports both organizations and highlights the shared commitment of Lace Up for Laura and SAPCC to strengthening local families and communities. Purple ducks are also available for purchase, with proceeds benefiting both the Laura Cody McNaughton Memorial Fund and the Springfield Area Parent Child Center.

The scholarships awarded each year are made possible entirely through race registrations, sponsorships, donations, and volunteer support.

"We're deeply grateful for support from participants, volunteers, and our generous sponsors," said race coordinator Lisa Gleason. "This year's scholarship recipients reflect so many of the qualities Laura embodied: compassion, leadership, service, and a commitment to helping others."

The following organiza-

tions and individuals have provided significant financial and in-kind support at the Race Sponsor (\$1,000) level: Alva Waste, Crew Tracks, John W. Hughan Foundation, Lamb & McNaughton P.C., Magris Talc, New Leaf Creative, Richman-Raphael Family, River Valley Property Management, Ruth and Ted Cody, Springfield Hospital, and Tenured Advisors.

Mile Sponsors (\$500-\$999) are Edgar May Health and Recreation Center, HB Energy Solutions, McNaudio Media Solutions, North Star Health, PWC, River Valley Tech Center, Savings Bank of Walpole, and Snyder Donegan Real Estate Group.

Registration for both the 5K and free Fun Run is now open at www.laceupforlaura.com. Community members are encouraged to register, form teams, volunteer, sponsor, or simply come out to cheer on participants and celebrate the remarkable young people whose futures are being supported through the Laura Cody McNaughton Memorial Fund.

Senior Solutions announces Paradis as executive director

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Senior Solutions is pleased to announce the appointment of Trisha Paradis as its next executive director. A lifelong Vermonter with more than 17 years of leadership experience across the medical, human services, and nonprofit sectors, Paradis will succeed Executive Director Mark Boutwell upon his retirement.

Having begun her career working with older adults, Paradis is excited to return to work that has always been close to her heart. Throughout her career, she has focused on strengthening communities, supporting individuals and families, and building meaningful partnerships. Having worked throughout Springfield and the surrounding region for many years, she brings both professional expertise and a deep understanding of the unique needs and opportunities facing the communities Senior Solutions serves.

Following a thoughtful and comprehensive search process, the board of directors unanimously selected

Paradis to lead the organization into its next chapter of service to older adults, caregivers, and families throughout southeastern Vermont.

As a community-focused leader, Paradis looks forward to strengthening existing relationships, building new partnerships, and serving as a strong advocate for older adults throughout the region. She is committed to helping Senior Solutions continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of the communities it serves.

"I am honored to join Senior Solutions and to have the opportunity to serve an organization with such a strong reputation and important mission," said Paradis. "I look forward to listening, learning, and working alongside staff, volunteers, community partners, and the people we serve to ensure Senior Solutions continues to provide exceptional support and services throughout our region."

The board of directors also wishes to express its deep appreciation to out-

going Executive Director Mark Boutwell for his 12 years of dedicated service and leadership at Senior Solutions.

"Mark's contributions to Senior Solutions over the past 12 years have been significant and lasting," said Blanchard. "His leadership, commitment to our mission, and dedication to older adults throughout our region have strengthened the organization and expanded its impact across southeastern Vermont. We are deeply grateful for his service and look forward to celebrating his many accomplishments as he prepares for retirement."

The board will work closely with both Boutwell and Paradis to ensure a smooth leadership transition in the months ahead.

Paradis resides in Chester, Vt., with her husband and teenage son. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family, cheering on her son at hockey games, and enjoying Vermont's outdoors through camping and fishing.



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Salute the sun at chair yoga—

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – June's monthly chair yoga class at the Springfield Town Library, to be held on Friday, June 19, at 10 a.m., will honor the official start of summer. Join in person at 43 Main Street or online to learn ac-

cessible 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, acupuncture, meditation, and more. She 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 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 studio.jobregnard.com/product/88980 for complete details on additional pricing options and to sign up for online access. Either way, you'll get nine chair-yoga videos recorded at the Springfield Town Library as soon as you register.

For more information, email jo@jobregnard.com.



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SERVICES

obituaries

Marian Koledo, 1931-2026

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Marian Agnes Novakoski Koledo passed over to eternal life on June 12, 2026.

She was born Jan. 25, 1931, in Springfield, Vt., to devoted parents Veronica May (Dashner) and Edward Francis Novakoski. She is preceded in death by her sisters Dorothy Whittemore and Irene Fullam. “Mary Sunshine” grew up in a loving home. As a youth in the Depression, Uncle Johnny’s farm kept the family well fed. Post World War II, she filled her dance card literally and figuratively. She was active in high school band (clarinet) and cheerleading, and went to Camp Sargent girls’ summer camp on Lake Naticook in Merrimack, N.H. She enjoyed horses, canoeing, and paddle-in camping on the island. She rose to camp counselor and taught archery and riflery. Her children grew up singing the Camp Sargent fireside songs. Into her 80’s she was still a crack shot.

Marian studied nursing at Bishop DeGoesbriand Hospital in Burlington, Vt. Upon graduation, she moved with friends across the country to an apartment in Los Angeles, where they worked, dated, and attended the Rose Bowl. Upon moving back to Springfield, she met her future husband, James Louis Koledo, in the hardware store. They married in 1955. Marian was a devoted wife and homemaker for 25 years, raising seven healthy children while transferring six times throughout northern New England. In 1974, they settled in Royal Oak, Mich., where they lived in the close-knit VYC neighborhood that held Fourth of July block parties and went camping together.

In 1977, Marian returned to surgical nursing. A highlight of her career was travelling to Egypt with Dr. Gazayerli to demonstrate/teach laparoscopic knee surgery. She retired at age 60 and moved to the Irish Hills, bought a pontoon, nurtured flower gardens, and joined the Red Hat Society. For the last 25 years she has enjoyed her community in Tecumseh, Mich., school “reading buddy,” cards with neighbors, Altar Society, Prayer Warriors, bible studies, church events, and grandchildren’s activities. She is known as “Grammy” to many young people in Tecumseh.

The Koledo house had an open-door policy and there was always room for one more in the living room or at the dinner table. Looking



Marian Koledo, 1931-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

back, this was an organic example of Christian fellowship – welcome people, feed people, listen, acknowledge, accept.

From a young age, Marian had a relationship with God which deepened with the inevitable struggles of life. She relied on personal relationships with her local priests, especially Father Mulligan from college, Father Ed Prus at Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak, and Father Dan Wheeler at St. Elizabeth in Tecumseh, Mich.

Marian is survived by her children, Lisa (Dean) Mack, of Fort Myers, Fla./Portage, Ind.; Cindy (Bill Caballero) DeAlmeida, of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Julie Koledo, of Marshall, Mich.; Mary McCloud, of Tecumseh, Mich.; Martha (Brian) Morgan, of Rochester, Mich.; Edward (Bridget) Koledo, of Linden, Mich.; and Elizabeth (Dan) McCourt, of Royal Oak, Mich.

Her 18 grandchildren know her as a card-playing Grammy who loved to laugh, and gave good advice: Michael (Katie) VerLee, Heather (Bobby) Booras, David (Lydia) VerLee, and Kevin (Emily) VerLee; Danny (Molly) and Veronica DeAlmeida; John Marc and Helen Belanger; Morgan, Mallory, and Molly McCloud; Bryan and Katy Culver; Emily and Bobby Morgan; MacKenzie McElroy; and Jimmy and Tony Koledo.

She is “GiGi” to her 16 great-grandchildren, Adelyn, Weston, Gideon, Nathan, Justin, Marian, Asher, Aila, Noah, Ethan, Gus, Chloe, Jovie, Myla, Mason, Lucy.

Marian’s funeral Mass is Thursday, June 18, at 12 p.m., at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Tecumseh, Mich. Visitation is Wednesday, June 17, from 2-8 p.m., at Handler Funeral Home in Tecumseh, Mich., with Rosary at 7 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, Little Mews Rescue in Tecumseh, and Masses said on her behalf.

Bradley S. Derosier, 1970-2026

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Bradley S. Derosier, 55, died at his home in Springfield, on June 4, 2026. He was born on Sept. 16, 1970, in Springfield, Vt., the son of Clarence A. Jr. and Edith L. (Sampson) Derosier. He attended Springfield schools and graduated from Springfield High School.

Brad was a supervisor with ADS for 15 years, and worked as a machinist at Lovejoy Tool Co. and later at IVEK.

Brad was very interested in preserving our forests and wildlife for future generations. He was an avid hunter and enjoyed many years at hunting camp with his father, Butch, and friend Richard “Jake” Jacobs. He also enjoyed fishing. He was always willing to help family and friends, he was well loved, and he will be missed by all of us.

Brad is survived by his mother, Edith L. “Edie” (Sampson) Derosier; her partner, Richard Frye; and one son, Justin, and his



Bradley Derosier, 1970-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

wife, Lillian.

He was predeceased by his father, Clarence A. “Butch” Derosier Jr., and by his brother, Mark A. Derosier.

There will be a burial service at Oakland Cemetery in Springfield, Vt., on Friday, July 17, at 1:30 p.m. Food will be served at the Springfield Moose Lodge following the graveside service for anyone who would like to attend.

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

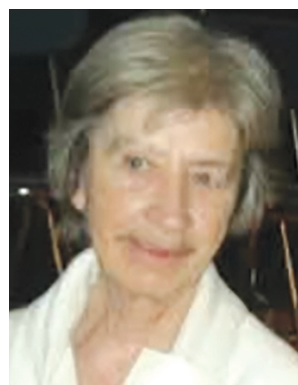
Janice J. Webster, 1939-2026

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – Janice Jean Webster, of Proctorsville, Vt., born Nov. 7, 1939, passed away peacefully in her home, after a long illness.

Janice was the first-born of Pauline E. Smith (Bourne) and Richard E. Smith. She was predeceased by her parents; her husband, Donald Webster; her brother Nelson Smith; and her son Nathan Webster.

She leaves behind brother Richard Smith (Sheryl) and sister-in-law Sherry Smith; along with children Donald Webster Jr., Neil Webster (Kim), Alan Webster (Tre), Jennifer Paquette (Terry), and Veronica Webster (Karen); adopted son Dean Whitcomb; and grandchildren Ariana, Emma, Max, Sadie, Gavin, Ted, Vanessa, and Becky.

Janice was always volunteering her time, whether as a chaperone for school field trips, as a den mother for Boy Scouts, or as a helper in the kitchen at the Congregational Church. She was a life member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Mizpah Chapter, and she started the Chester Assembly of The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. She was masterful



Janice Webster, 1939-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

at all kinds of sewing, knitting, and crocheting. Janice was such a good seamstress that she made the first uniforms for the Chester-Andover Elementary School Marching Band and the banner at GMUHS.

A graveside service and celebration of life announcement will be made at a later date.

Rita R. Hinds, 1928-2026

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Rita Roberta Hinds, of Bellows Falls, Vt., passed away peacefully on June 7, 2026. She was 97 years old.

She was born Rita Roberta Reed, on Aug. 13, 1928, in Rutland, Vt., to Alvin John Reed and Lillian Viola Peterson. During high school, Rita lived with the Wisell family, caring for their three children in exchange for room and board. The experience reflected the strong work ethic and sense of responsibility that would define her life.

After graduating from Bellows Falls High School, Rita met the love of her life, Albert John Hinds Jr., at a dance at the Blue and Gold Ballroom in Bellows Falls. They married on April 17, 1948. After briefly living in White Plains, N.Y., they settled in Bellows Falls, where they raised their family and built a life together.

Rita worked part time for the Boy Scouts of America and Bragg Lumber, performing office work. Beginning as a bookkeeper at Bellows Falls Trust, Rita steadily advanced through the organization, serving as a teller, then head teller, and ultimately a loan officer. Her dedication, intelligence, and strong work ethic earned the respect of colleagues and customers alike.

Rita and Al were champion candlepin bowlers and loved to dance. She was active in the local Rotary club and proudly served as president for one term. Rita believed in service before self, and was passionate about her family, her friends, and her church. Even in her later years, Rita remained remarkably independent, continuing to manage her



Rita Hinds, 1928-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

home, finances, and daily affairs. She was a beloved member of the community, a formidable card player, and was known for her infectious laugh. She will be missed by all.

Rita is survived by her daughters, Kathye Jo Tous-saint (Nelson) and Pamela Sue Hinds (Steve); her grandchildren, Lisa, Jeffrey, Benjamin, and Adam; and her great-grandchildren, Vincent, Leonardo, Stella, and Jasper. She is predeceased by her husband, Albert; brother, William; and sister, Beatrice.

A memorial service will be held at the First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 U.S. Route 5 in Westminster, Vt., on Saturday, June 27, at 2 p.m., immediately followed by a reception.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the First Congregational Church of Westminster, P.O. Box 122, Westminster, VT 05158; or to the Bellows Falls Senior Center, 18 Tuttle Street, Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

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

Eric Taylor celebration of life

WEATHERSFIELD CENTER, Vt. – Friends of Eric Taylor, who died on Dec. 28, 2025, are invited to a celebration of his life on Saturday, June 20, from 4-7 p.m., at the Weathersfield Center Church & Meeting House, 2798 Weathersfield Center Road.

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Celebration of Life

John Edward Cole
 IN LOVING MEMORY
 Passed on May 14, 2025

Please join us as we celebrate the life of John Edward Cole

DATE: July 1, 2026
 TIME: 3 PM
 LOCATION: 584 Cole Road Mt. Holly

calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 20 – CHESTER, Vt. – Matilda and Three Bears, 26 The Common, is celebrating summer on June 20, from 3-7 p.m. We will be having Betsy Johnson, of Weston, Vt., as our guest artist. She will have a number of her pieces to view and purchase. We hope you will come and meet her. Summer refreshments will be served.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Okemo Mountain Resort opens for the summer on Saturday, June 20. Check out the Adventure Zone at Jackson Gore or take a scenic chair lift to the summit on the clock tower side.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Humane Society, 401 Skitchewaig Trail, will hold a nail trim clinic for cats on Saturday, June 20, from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield United Methodist Church, 10 Valley Street, is having a chicken barbecue

on Saturday, June 20, from 11 a.m. until sold out. The menu is a half chicken (original recipe), pasta salad, coleslaw, and alumni cake. We look forward to seeing you.

JUNE 24 – CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center's next car show meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 24, at 6 p.m., at the senior center, 5 Acer Heights. Please try to attend if you are helping with the car show or would like to volunteer.

JUNE 25 – PUTNEY, Vt. – Peter Gould and friends will celebrate the release of "Part for the Hole" with a launch party and reading on Thursday, June 25, at 6 p.m., at the Putney Public Library, 55 Main Street in Putney. In addition to reading from the novel, Gould will perform his original song "Song for Artists," accompanied by longtime musical collaborator John Ungerleider. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing. The event offers a chance to

experience both the literary and musical dimensions of Gould's advocacy for the arts, a theme that runs throughout "Part for the Hole." On every page, the novel explores the value of creative work – for the artist, the supporter, the audience, and the society at large.

JUNE 26 – CHESTER, Vt. – There will be a Caribbean Night fundraiser for Neighborhood Connections on Friday, June 26, from 5-7 p.m., at Sugar Bob's Finest Kind, 92 Vermont Route 11, with island-themed cocktails and music by the Blue Flames Steel Band. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Neighborhood Connections at info@nvermont.org or 802-824-4343.

JUNE 27 – N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Area Parent Child Center Duck Run will be held on Saturday, June 27, from 4-7 p.m., at 80 Jack and Jill Lane.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – "Intro to Mixed Media Collage" will be held on Saturday, June 27, from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., at Claremont MakerSpace, 46 Main Street. A mixed-media collage is a visual art form that combines various materials – such as paper, fabric, photographs, stamps, cardboard, and found objects – onto a single surface to create a layered, textured composition. Students will leave class with at least one completed collage and an understanding of the process. There will probably be time to complete more

than one collage. Please note that all our classes have a minimum number of registrants required, so don't wait to sign up at www.claremontmakerspace.org/events/#!event/2026/6/27/an-introduction-to-mixed-media-collage.

WESTMORELAND, N.H. – Celebrate summer at the Blooms, Books, and Crafts event at the Westmoreland United Church, 9 South Village Common, on Saturday, June 27, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Browse the Common, where 22 vendors will be offering a wonderful variety of items, including artwork, knitted goods, plants, soaps, antiques, toys, jewelry, baked treats, crystals, and much more. While you're here, be sure to visit the silent auction in the Fellowship Hall; The Thrift Shoppe, open downstairs; and bake sale hosted by Ladies Aid, featuring homemade pies, breads, and other baked goods. Delicious food will be available throughout the event, including breakfast sandwiches, hamburgers, and hot dogs. All proceeds benefit Westmoreland United Church and the Westmoreland Ladies Aid Society.

JUNE 30 – LUDLOW, Vt. – Paul Anderson will speak about the Revolutionary War at the Black River Academy Museum, 14 High Street, on Tuesday, June 30, at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Garden Club will host a Liberty Tree dedication ceremony on

Tuesday, June 30, at 5 p.m., at the Crown Point Country Club. There will be a reception inside the clubhouse afterward. The Liberty Tree was a famous elm tree that stood near Boston Common and was a rallying point for the growing resistance to British rule. In 1775, the British cut it down to quell resistance, and Liberty Hall was subsequently erected on that spot. Liberty Trees are now being planted to honor that legacy through the 250th Sons of the American Revolution Liberty Tree Project, with the goal of planting 250 elm trees across the country by July 4. So far, there have been 266 trees planted, including three in Vermont.

RECURRING EVENTS

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 – 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. 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.

WEDNESDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Every Wednesday morning, from 8-11 a.m., at the Springfield VFW Post 771, 191 River Street, we get together with fellow veterans for coffee and donuts, and socialize for a few hours. Call 802-885-6008 for more information.

THURSDAYS – CLAREMONT, N.H. – A fly-tying class will be held at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Thursday evenings, from 6-8 p.m. Tools and instruction are available for free, with a small charge to cover materials. The class is limited to five students. If interested, contact Lloyd Mann at lrman126@gmail.com.

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 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield VFW Post 771, 191 River Street, will host burger nights on the first and third Saturdays of every month, from 5-7 p.m., downstairs in the canteen. These events are open to the public.

Town of Weston Selectboard Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Weston Selectboard will hold a public hearing at the Town Office, 12 Lawrence Hill Road, Weston, VT on July 14, 2026 at 7:30 pm. This hearing will be held for public review of and comment on proposed amendments to the Weston Zoning Bylaw, pursuant to Title 23, Chapter 117, Section 4441.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to make several revisions to the zoning bylaw to address procedural provisions, revise definitions, and update site development requirements related to loading, screening, and landscaping. Specifically, the amendments would add provisions to allow for the approval of unlisted land uses; update off street loading space requirements; update landscaping and screening requirements; revise minor subdivision application requirements; add provisions to allow amendments to zoning permits or site plans; add provisions to allow the Development Review Board to grant waivers; and update the definition for building height. The proposed amendments would apply to the entire Town of Weston. The proposed amendments do not include any changes to the district boundaries on the Weston Zoning Map.

The affected Zoning Bylaw sections are as follows: Section 200 (Prohibited Uses), Section 225 (Village District), Section 540 (Off-Street Parking Spaces Requirements), Section 541 (Off-Street Loading Space Requirements), Section 570 (Landscaping Requirements), Section 571 (Section 571 (Screened Service Area Requirements), Section 590 (Subdivision of Land), Section 702.3 (Amendments to Zoning Permits or Site Plans), Section 705.1 (Authority of Appropriate Municipal Panels), Section 705.2 (Hearing and Notice Requirements for Appropriate Municipal Panel Proceedings), Section 708 (Waivers), Article VIII (Definitions).

A full copy of the proposed amendments to the Weston Zoning Bylaw and the Report of the Planning Commission are available for public review and can be found at the Weston Town Office, 12 Lawrence Hill Road, Weston, VT and on the Town's website at: www.westonvt.org.

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NOTICE OF SALE Amy Pratt and Jonathon Pratt Jon K. Spaulding Parcel # 232017.200

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of lands in the Town of Chester, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by the Town for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described land in Town to wit:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Amy Elinor Pratt, Jonathon R. Pratt, and Jon K. Spaulding by Warranty Deed of Arthur F. Fournier, Trustee of the Restatement of Trust of the Arthur F. Fournier, Sr. Revocable Trust Agreement Dated January 10, 2011, dated July 19, 2013, and Recorded in Book 147, Page 118 of the Town of Chester Land Records.

and so much of said lands will be sold at public auction at the Town Office in Chester, Vermont, a public place in said Town, on the 30th day of June 2026, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

Dated at Chester, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, this 26th day of May 2026.

Attest:
Julie Hance
Collector of Town and
Town School District Taxes



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STATE OF VERMONT
WINDSOR COUNTY, SS.

NOTICE OF SALE 467 Depot Street, LLC Parcel # 585056

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of lands in the Town of Chester, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by the Town for the years 2024 and 2025 remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described land in Town to wit:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to 467 Depot Street, LLC by Trustees Deed of Ronald P. Farrar Successor Trustee of the Arthur P. Farrar and Aili R. Farrar Revocable Trust Dated July 20, 2001, dated March 4, 2022, and Recorded in Book 228, Page 8 of the Town of Chester Land Records.

and so much of said lands will be sold at public auction at the Town Office in Chester, Vermont, a public place in said Town, on the 30th day of June 2026, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

Dated at Chester, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, this 26th day of May 2026.

Attest:
Julie Hance
Collector of Town and
Town School District Taxes

Town of Springfield- Selectboard Notice of Public Hearing and Selectboard Meeting June 22, 2026

The Town of Springfield will hold a Public Hearing at 6:00PM on Monday, June 22, 2026 for the purpose of receiving public input concerning the Land Use Development Ordinance. This will be a hybrid meeting. The Public Hearing will be held at 96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont. It will also be possible to attend via Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85066802913>
Meeting ID: 850 6680 2913

Kristi C. Morris, Chair Springfield Selectboard

STATE OF VERMONT
WINDSOR COUNTY, SS.

NOTICE OF SALE FDW Enterprises, LLC Parcel # 312021

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of lands in the Town of Chester, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by the Town for the years 2024 and 2025 remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described land in Town to wit:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to FDW Enterprises, LLC by Warranty Deed of Michael J. Wood, dated April 6, 2023, and Recorded in Book 238, Page 203 of the Town of Chester Land Records.

and so much of said lands will be sold at public auction at the Town Office in Chester, Vermont, a public place in said Town, on the 30th day of June 2026, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

Dated at Chester, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, this 26th day of May 2026.

Attest:
Julie Hance
Collector of Town and
Town School District Taxes

LEGALS

opinion/classified

Dear Town Manager Penny Wu, Ludlow Cemetery Commissioners, and the cemetery foreman and sexton,

I am writing to share our sincere appreciation for the exceptional maintenance and care of the Pleasant View Cemetery. My husband and I live nearby in Bridgewater, and during a recent visit with family from Connecticut, we were once again struck by the beauty of the scenery.

The well-kept rock walls and the overall atmosphere make it a truly memorable final resting place for our

dear friend Mary. We are particularly impressed by the recent installation of the new QR code signs; a member of your crew previously took the time to explain how this system simplifies locating loved ones, which is a wonderful and thoughtful resource.

We also want to commend the hard work of your staff. During a visit last year, our husbands had the opportunity to

personally thank three employees who were working diligently on the grounds. While we did not see the crew during our most recent visit, we would like to extend an offer to donate a variety of perennials from our own gardens to be added to the cemetery grounds if they would be of use. If the groundskeepers are interested, they are more than welcome to contact us.

Please share our gratitude and these sentiments with the entire work crew and relevant town officials. Thank you for your dedication to maintaining such a respectful and beautiful space for the community and our loved ones.

Sincerely,
Greg and Sue Skaskiw,
and Jeff and Maggie Toning

Dear Editor,

Despite how it is often presented, and unlike parts of California, Texas, and Pakistan, Vermont cannot rely exclusively on solar and wind for its electricity due to seasonal limitations and the fact that long-duration storage is not yet up to the task. Solar production drops 85-90% in a Vermont winter, and wind isn't dependable enough to provide reliable baseload power. This means that other baseload sources need to work in conjunction with solar and wind, or the lights go out.

Under the 100% Renewable Energy Standard (RES) of 2024, Vermont utilities must replace existing nuclear power (about 25% of Vermont's current total power) by 2030. With limited new in-state hydroelectric options, this

will require more electricity from burning biomass (\$0.10-\$0.11/kWh), which is renewable and local but not clean or inexpensive.

That said, with legislative action, other options could be made available. The options include more out-of-state hydropower (clean, but limited, \$0.03-\$0.08/kWh); nuclear power (clean, a close second to solar for safety, but some waste, \$0.03-\$0.08/kWh); and darkness (cheap and clean, but dark and cold, \$0.00/kWh).

Prior to the RES updates from 70% to 100% in 2024, only 3% of Vermont's pollution came from electricity generation, while 71% comes from our cars and home heating. The 100% Renewable Energy Standard is raising electricity rates, reducing reliability,

and further hindering the adoption of cleaner transportation and home-heating options. This raises the question of why so much energy was devoted to changing the Renewable Energy Standard to 100% and why it stipulates renewable, but not necessarily clean, electricity generation.

There are about 7 mil-

lion deaths a year from air pollution, and Vermonters already have high energy bills. Do you feel the 100% RES makes sense and addresses Vermont's needs as currently written? If not, please contact your representatives.

Thank you,
Ian Buchanan
East Montpelier, Vt.

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WESTON, Vt. - Attractive one bedroom. Landgrove Road. Walk to center. \$1,200 monthly plus security. References requested. Call Chris 302-762-4626 daily, but no later than 3 p.m.

FOR SALE

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Selling 1972 Moto Guzzi Eldorado 850 motorcycle. \$9,000 or best offer. Please call 781-956-9562.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

TWO RIVERS SUPERVISORY UNION 2026-2027 Child Find Notice

The Two Rivers Supervisory Union (TRSU) is required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to locate, evaluate, and identify persons with disabilities from birth through age 21, who may be in need of special education, related services or accommodations in order to access a free appropriate public education and provide such needed services for those ages 3 through 21.

Services for eligible children ages' birth through 3 years are provided through the Children's Integrated Services-Early Intervention program. Services for eligible children ages 3 to 21 are provided by your local supervisory union.

Two Rivers Supervisory Union serves the towns of Mount Holly, Ludlow, Cavendish, Baltimore, Andover and Chester.

If you know a child residing in the towns within the TRSU that you believe may have such needs and are not currently receiving services, please contact the Director of Student Support Services at Two Rivers Supervisory Union, 609 VT Route 103 South, Ludlow, VT 05149 or call the Special Education Office at 802-875-3365.

The Two Rivers Supervisory Union does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, and national origin, place of birth, disability, age, creed, gender identity and marital status. Information obtained during Child Find remains confidential as required by Vermont Special Education Regulations and the Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act.

Students with a disability who live in one of the towns listed above and who attend an approved private school, contact Mary Barton, Director of Student Support Services for TRSU at 802-875-3365 for more information.

PUBLIC NOTICE Two Rivers Supervisory Union Ludlow, VT Destruction of Information Process

The Two Rivers Supervisory Union (formerly Windsor Southwest Supervisory Union and Rutland Windsor Supervisory Union), encompassing the Vermont towns of: Andover, Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester, Ludlow, Mt. Holly and Plymouth, will be conducting a Destruction of Information process commencing on July 20, 2026. Special Educational Records and personally identifiable information used under the Individual with Disabilities Educational Act, but no longer needed to provide educational services to students will be destroyed. Only records for students with a Date of Birth year of 1998 will be destroyed. All records before that date have been destroyed in previous years. Any person desiring their Special Education records must put that request in writing so that the Director of Student Services receives your letter no later than June 26, 2026. Please send your request to:

Mary Barton
Director of Student Services
TRSU
609 VT Route 103
Ludlow, VT 05149

Please include the following information in that request:
Student Name (if there has been a change of name, include all names)
Student Date of Birth
Town of Residency when enrolled in school

This process does not apply to records of currently enrolled students. Please feel free to call this office with any questions at 802-875-6425.

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(12/9/26 - 52)

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(07/15/26 - TFN - 13)

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(03/17/27 - 52)

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(08/12/26 - 13)

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(08/26/26 - 13)

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(08/12/26 - TFN - 52)

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(10/07/26 - 26)

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(09/16/26 - 26)

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(06/17/26 - 13)

home & outdoor PROS TO KNOW

Nine tips for keeping cool without AC

REGION – With hot and humid temperatures in the forecast, Efficiency Vermont is sharing some tips to keep a home or apartment cool without air conditioning. We also have rebates offering up to \$150 off a window AC unit that can help make air conditioning more affordable, and our rebates for heat pumps, which both heat and cool a home, range from \$375 to \$2,200.

You can read these tips on Efficiency Vermont's website, www.efficiencyvermont.com, or read them below.

Open your windows at night – In Vermont, temperatures drop during the night. Take advantage of cooler summer evenings and open your windows to promote a cross breeze. Bonus: This can also help

you sleep better. The cooler air will circulate all night, allowing you to start fresh with a cool home in the morning. In building science, this is referred to as night-flush ventilation. Don't forget to close the windows and blinds before things get too hot in the morning.

Close your window coverings – Summer sun delivers heat right through your windows. Block the heat with shades or blinds during the sunniest hours to keep your home cool without AC. This is a passive, or "natural" cooling method that is one of the cheapest and simplest ways to keep your home cool in summer.

Insulate and air seal your home – Many of the things that help keep your home warmer in the winter also

help keep your home cooler in the summer. If you feel the temperature extremes in both seasons, consider a weatherization project. A professional weatherization project can fix the areas that make the home too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter.

Bake and wash at night – Large appliances give off significant amounts of heat. Wait to turn on your oven, range, dishwasher, and clothes washer until evening hours when temperatures are cooler. Also, consider hanging laundry outside to dry. You'll save the cost of running the clothes dryer

while reducing heat and moisture in the house.

If you can, take your cooking outside – If hot food is in order, fire up the grill instead of turning on the oven. Summer is not the time to roast chicken or make lasagna. Instead, plan for grilled dishes and salads to avoid generating more heat in the house.

Install an exterior window shade – Installing an awning, pergola, porch, or shade trees by your west windows will shield your home from hot afternoon rays. Direct sunlight is like a heater in the cooling season.

Use your fans in the right places – Fans keep air moving around, rather than cooling the air. Blow air directly on people to get a cooling effect or set up your fans to draw in cooler air from the outside or a cooler part of the house to the warm areas.

Use your exhaust fans – Exhaust fans in your kitchens and bathrooms capture hot air before it mingles with your house air and contributes to overheating. Operate your exhaust fans during showers or when ever cooking indoors.

Set your ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise – In

the summer, the fan blades should rotate counterclockwise as you look up at them to push the air straight down. Increase the fan speed on the hottest days.

Looking to add air conditioning? Consider a whole-home heat pump or an Energy Star-certified window AC unit. A heat pump can both heat and cool your home (it's like an air conditioner that can also run in reverse), and is more efficient than window AC units. If a window AC unit is your preference, an Energy Star-certified unit can maximize your energy efficiency and keep costs low.

Athens Brick Meetinghouse Nature Fest

ATHENS, Vt. – Join the first-ever Nature Fest on the 1817 Athens Brick Meetinghouse lawn, on Saturday, June 20, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., hosted by the meetinghouse committee in conjunction with the Athens Historic Preservation Society.

The event will feature The Caterpillar Lab from Dublin, N.H. This group of naturalists offers an amazing opportunity to observe many live native caterpillars and

learn about their extraordinary life cycles, habits, and metamorphoses. You'll also find our event cohorts, The Nature Museum, of Grafton, and Athens' own Bull Creek Common Lands. This will be a great day for kids and adults alike to learn something new about our lands and the many creatures with which we share it.

The Athens Brick Meetinghouse is historically significant to the Windham County region of Vermont,

and particularly the 12 surrounding towns which comprised the Old Athens Circuit: Grafton, Rockingham, Townshend, Londonderry, Weston, Chester, Acton, Springfield, Landgrove, Windham, Putney, and Mount Holly. Circuit preachers from Athens traveled out to these towns to perform religious services. Quarterly camp meetings with the Methodist congregants from these towns often lasted two days at the Athens Meeting-

house, which was known as the "Mother Church." This national historic landmark, located at 2 Meetinghouse Road, just off Route 35, will be open to visitors during this free event. Tax-deductible donations can be made to the Athens Historic Preservation Society to support the preservation of the meetinghouse.

For more information, contact Sherry Maher at 802-869-2141, or follow Athens Meetinghouse on Facebook.



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Sugar makers share secrets at LAHS meeting

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Londonderry Arts and Historical Society (LAHS) will hold its Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 25, at 5:30 p.m., at the Custer Sharp House, 2461 Middletown Road, Londonderry. As in past years, the meeting will feature local residents sharing stories, skills, and traditions that help de-

fine our community.

This year's program, open to the public, will explore the art and tradition of maple sugaring. Join four local sugar makers for a lively and informative discussion as they share their experiences, techniques, challenges, and favorite stories from the sugarhouse.

The evening will also

mark the opening of LAHS's new exhibit, "The Art and Artifacts of Sugaring," featuring tools, photographs, and objects that celebrate one of Vermont's most enduring traditions.

The exhibit will be open to the public beginning July 4, and will continue throughout the season on Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Whether you have always dreamed of making your own maple syrup as winter gives way to spring, or you are simply curious about the passion that draws people to this special Vermont

pursuit, this program and exhibit offer a fascinating glimpse into the world of sugaring.

For more information about LAHS, its programs, and its exhibits, visit www.lahsvt.org or email LAHS1780@gmail.com.



Archival photo of a woman sampling maple sap.

PHOTO PROVIDED



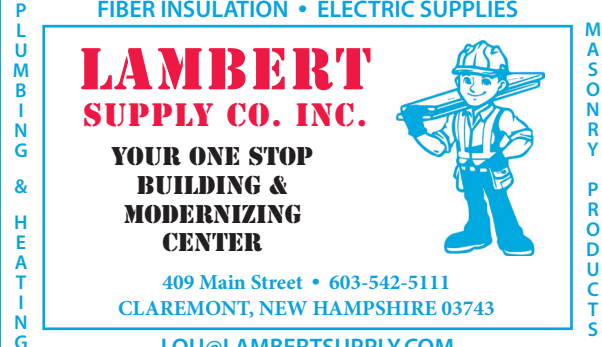
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arts & entertainment

Springfield Community Band Disney concert

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Community Band, under the direction of Nick Pelton, will present a concert at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23, at the Hartness House, 109 Front Street, Springfield, Vt.

The concert's focus will be the wide range of familiar music first introduced in Disney productions. There

will be music from "Mary Poppins," "The Lion King," "Aladdin," and several other Disney movies.

Sharing the evening with Disney will be music by George Gershwin and John Philip Sousa. The featured performance of the evening will be Band Director Nick Pelton demonstrating his very considerable saxo-

phone prowess in "Rondo," by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

The band hopes you will come out to the Hartness House to enjoy this very varied program. Food and drink will be available for purchase. Please note that unforeseen circumstances could result in program changes.

Vermont Suitcase Films debuts feature "New Clothes"

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts presents a special screening of "New Clothes," the feature film debut from Vermont Suitcase Films, on Friday, June 19, at 7 p.m., at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Tickets are available at www.nextstagearts.org.

Based on the classic Hans Christian Andersen tale "The Emperor's New Clothes," "New Clothes" reimagines the beloved fable through the inventive lens of Vermont Suitcase Company, a troupe known for creating fast, funny, and accessible theater throughout Vermont.

Shot in just seven days on the fourth floor of an apartment building in downtown Brattleboro, the film unfolds in a whimsical, timeless kingdom where painted canvas backdrops and cardboard scenery co-exist with refrigerators and

radiators. The story follows two impoverished swindlers who scheme their way into the royal palace, hoping to enrich themselves by convincing the emperor and his court to surrender the very clothes on their backs.

Founded in 2018 by Vermont theater professionals and educators, Vermont Suitcase Company has built a devoted following by bringing theatrical performances directly to communities across the state. Traveling with four poles, a large curtain, and a dozen suitcases filled with costumes and props, the company performs in venues ranging from libraries and community centers to pizza parlors and bars.

"New Clothes" is our feature-film debut, and we're thrilled to bring our passion for theatrical storytelling and scrappy, imaginative aesthetics to a broader audience," say members of the

creative team. "The film captures the spirit of our live performances while embracing the possibilities of cinema."

Following the screening, audience members are invited to stay for a discussion with members of the film's creative team.

Vermont Suitcase Company's mission has remained consistent since its founding: to make theater accessible, affordable, and welcoming to everyone. The company tours Vermont twice annually and creates productions designed to entertain audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

Before every performance, the company shares a simple belief with audiences: "Theater should be a party – and everyone's invited."

For more information and tickets, visit www.nextstagearts.org.

Tone Forest contemporary jazz

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts presents Tone Forest, an inventive contemporary jazz trio featuring pianist Miro Sprague, guitarist Jason Ennis, and bassist Marty Jaffe, on Saturday, June 20, at 7:30 p.m., at Next Stage Arts, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney. Doors open at 6:45 p.m.

Comprised of three acclaimed musicians with deep roots in Western Massachusetts, Tone Forest creates music that transcends genre boundaries, blending jazz, world music traditions, and spontaneous improvisation into a sound that is at once sophisticated, accessible, and deeply expressive.

Longtime friends and collaborators, Sprague, Ennis, and Jaffe approach the trio as a true collective, embracing an improvisational spirit that ensures no two performances are ever the

same. Their music draws inspiration from the natural world, unfolding like a cinematic journey through shifting landscapes of melody, rhythm, texture, and emotion.

From intimate, lyrical passages to infectious grooves, Tone Forest incorporates influences from across the globe, weaving together elements of swing, samba, baião, New Orleans street rhythms, and other folk traditions. The result is a rich musical tapestry that balances adventurous exploration with warmth, beauty, and an irresistible sense of movement.

Each member of the trio brings a wealth of experience as a performer, composer, and educator, creating a dynamic musical conversation rooted in trust, curiosity, and shared artistic vision.

Tickets are discounted in advance. Advance tickets and additional information are available at www.nextstagearts.org.

Bookmaking classes in South Londonderry

S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The South Londonderry Free Library is delighted to announce that art teacher Casey Junker Bailey will be offering two free art workshops for adults in June.

Thanks to a Creative Aging grant from the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities, Bailey will share the joy of creative bookmaking on Mon-

day, June 22, and on the following Monday, June 29, at 2 p.m. Participants will work with beautiful papers to make a collection of small interactive books in unusual formats. Accordion books, star books, zip-zap books, and matchbox books are a few of the creative book forms we will be exploring.

All materials are provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own snippets of writing,

photographs, or memorabilia to add to the fun. On June 22, we will be meeting at the South Londonderry Free Library. On the following Monday, the class will meet in the common room at Smith Haven in South Londonderry. The workshops are appropriate for all ability levels. No experience is required. Participants may attend one or both sessions. Contact the library at 802-824-3371 for more information.

Free performance of "Schoolhouse Rock Live!"

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts and Weston Theater Company present "Schoolhouse Rock Live!" on Wednesday, June 24, at 11 a.m., on the field at Putney Central School, 182 Westminster West Road in Putney. Admission is free, but advance reservations are required and may be made at www.nextstagearts.org.

Smart, silly, and endlessly fun, "Schoolhouse Rock Live!" brings the beloved songs of the classic educational television series to life in a high-energy theatrical production. Featuring unforgettable favorites such as "Conjunction Junction," "I'm Just a Bill," and many more, the musical transforms grammar, math, history, and science lessons into joyful entertainment for audiences of all ages.

Packed with humor, heart, and catchy tunes, the show invites children, parents, grandparents,

and educators to laugh, sing along, and rediscover the magic of learning through music. Generations of fans who grew up with "Schoolhouse Rock!" will delight in hearing familiar songs, while young audiences will experience these timeless lessons in a fresh and engaging way.

This free touring production is performed by artists from Weston Theater Company's acclaimed Young Company and will be presented at community partner venues throughout southern Vermont.

Founded in 2000, the Weston Young Company is a summerlong residency program for non-Equity, college-aged performers who are attending – or are no more than one year beyond graduation from – a conservatory or undergraduate training program. The program provides professional performance opportunities, training, and mentorship through workshops, discussions, and interactive exercises led by theater pro-

fessionals associated with Weston Theater Company.

Directed by Susan Haefner, "Schoolhouse Rock Live!" was originally adapted and produced for the stage by Theatre BAM from the television series created by George Newall and Tom Yohe. Based on an idea by David McCall, the musical features a book by Scott Ferguson, George Keating, and Kyle Hall, with music and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, Bob Dorough, Dave Frishberg, Kathy Mandry, George Newall, and Tom Yohe.

Founded in 1935, Weston Theater Company is Vermont's oldest professional theater and is nationally recognized for producing innovative productions and arts education programs throughout the state.

Reservations are required for this free event. To reserve tickets, visit www.nextstagearts.org.




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*Subject to availability and eligibility.