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THE Vermont Journal

JUNE 03, 2026 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 22

CRDMP grants elevate two local family homes

BY SHAWNTAE WEBB & PAULA BENSON

The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. – When the flood of 2023 devastated much of the region and Town of Ludlow, we built back our communities from the ground up and went above and beyond to help one another in such difficult times. In the aftermath, two local families received Community Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (CRDMP) grants, which were administered by Vermont Emergency Management, in order to floodproof and elevate their homes.

Cherry Nicoll, Ludlow grants coordinator and assistant municipal clerk, explained that the CRDMP is “a State of Vermont initiative established to help municipalities and residential property owners fund disaster mitigation, climate adaptation, and structure elevation projects.” The Town of Ludlow served as the grant recipient and administrator for the project. Town staff assisted the homeowners throughout the application process, coordinated required documentation and project information, managed grant compliance requirements, processed payments, and submitted reimbursement requests to the state.

The Couch and West families shared their stories, saying that they were fortunate and grateful to receive these CRDMP grants.

The Couches

On July 7, 2025, former Ludlow Town Manager

Brendan McNamara presented the Ludlow Selectboard with a request to approve, via the Vermont Emergency Management Elevation Project, a disbursement of funds to Kathe and Alan Couch. The Couches are the property owners of 21 Meadow Street in Ludlow, a homestead devastated by the 2023 Vermont flood, and one they had first purchased in December 2001.

The board’s approval meant the family could finally move forward with basically their only option, financially and practically speaking, to elevate their home above the flood plain.

The Couches attended that meeting, where Alan addressed the board and stated that, as part of the State Community Resilience program, they were able to hire a structural engineer, who determined the house was sound enough to be elevated. It was decided that the best course of action would be to “cave in” the existing foundation and basement and rebuild a new foundation and crawlspace. Utilizing steel beams placed under the house to lift it up, this plan elevated the house 4 to 5 feet.

In the July 2023 flood, the waters rose to 10 inches in Alan and Kathe’s living room and completely filled their basement, taking out the furnace and the heater. Using insurance money for repairs, they tore sheetrock off walls and replaced insulation, doing much of the reconstruction themselves and taking particular care to leave historical details intact.

Immediately after the

flood, unable to return home, Alan and Kathe stayed with friends on High Street for the next four months.

The process was not quick, and initially, as progress stalled again and again, they heard reports that, “there wasn’t enough money and [the program] had too many [applicants].”

Although the back and forth with the state was at times frustrating, both Kathe and Alan are grateful to McNamara and the town, and relayed that the “outpouring from folks was always incredible.”

“Brendan was great,” they concurred.

Kathe recalled, “Michelle [Suker] from The Eatery was taking donations and giving away food and delivering sandwiches to displaced people. People from out of state, second-home owners, would show up [to help] us clean.”

Additionally, Kathe said, “Kelly Stettner [founder of the Black River Action Team] organized volunteers who came and asked, ‘What do you need?’ Then they would organize different people to deal with whatever situation was [most urgent].”

Alan remembered, “There was a father/daughter duo who helped...[and] high school kids from New Jersey.” The Ludlow Fire Department received a sizable donation from an anonymous donor to assist victims of the flood.

“Alan and I kept reminding each other, if someone offers help, accept it,” Kathe remarked.

Ultimately, after everything, Alan and Kathe are

relieved to be back in their home and are looking forward to when the ordeal feels like a distant memory.

A landscaper friend of theirs has helped them restore their torn-up yard, and the normal routine of life is finally returning.

Sounding reluctantly hopeful, Alan offered, “Next year at this time we should be back to normal.”

The Wests

Vince and Cindy West, of Red Bridge Road, stood in 38 inches of water on July 10, 2023, and were quickly displaced from their home of 15 years. Sadly, this wasn’t the first flood Vince had encountered; he had to clean up his family home after the flood of 1973 and after hurricane Irene.

Vince’s parents purchased the home brand new in 1968, and the house was deeded to him in 1977. The Wests always used the property as a vacation home, and later decided to permanently make the move.

After the flood of 2023, the Wests relocated from motel, to condo, to a semipermanent housing arrangement while they dealt with the aftermath of the devastating floods. Though they had flood insurance on their property, the payout for the damages would barely touch the costs to raise and reconstruct their home. Vince recalled immediately reaching out to the town and the state, looking for answers and solutions.

After many phone calls and working with Nicoll, the Wests were able to secure a significant CRDMP grant. Vince related, “That is the

only way we were able to afford getting back in [to our home].”

Vince had researched Bean Group manufactured homes, and exhausted many options. However, the CRDMP grant mandated elevation and floodproofing of the existing structure, and would not cover the cost of a new home. While it is still currently under construction, Vince said his house has been raised 8 feet, and has all new siding and windows, and a new roof. “It’s basically a brand-new house.”

Vince emphasized the deep gratitude he and his wife have for the town and municipal staff. McNamara “was amazing.” Rosemary Goings, former Ludlow zoning administrator, Jarrod Jowdy, and the entire team in the planning and zoning department “were all great.” Angela Kissell from the Ludlow Fire Department was “phenomenal at making sure everything was done right.” Nicoll was immensely helpful in obtaining the grant.

“The community support to get us back in was monumental to say the least,” Vince continued. Black River Good Neighbor Services helped the Wests afford two months’ rent with money that was donated to their organization for the purpose of flood relief. Those funds also helped the Wests purchase all new appliances. There were local fundraising events, and an anonymous donor presented a contribution through the Ludlow Fire Department. Two apartment and condo owners charged the Wests reduced rent, and local restaurant owners of-

fered free meals. The library lent their scanner. Cross Construction and their contractors were amazing, communicative, and “so easy to work with” during the entire construction process of rebuilding. “And [there were] many more super people” who stepped up and continued to “go the extra mile,” Vince stated.

Cindy relayed her biggest takeaway from the whole experience has been “the outpouring of support from the community... people we don’t even know.”

“Ludlow is our home, it’s where we want to be,” Cindy stated, “because of the community, because of the people that live here...it blows my mind and warms my heart.”

Cross Construction estimated that Vince and Cindy will be able to move back into their home by mid-June, possibly on Vince’s birthday, and just in time for summer on Lake Pauline.

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DEADLINES

The deadline for all content is Thursday at 4 p.m. for the following week’s publication.

EMAIL CALENDAR EVENTS
calendar@vermontjournal.com

EMAIL ADS AND CLASSIFIEDS
ads@vermontjournal.com

EMAIL PRESS RELEASES
editor@vermontjournal.com

Cota & Cota celebrates 85 years of local service

BY JOE MILLIKEN

The Vermont Journal

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – There is an old saying from back in the day, and it was called doing business “the old Yankee way,” meaning that you respect everyone, respect their property and opinions, and show courtesy, concern, and compassion for your neighbors and community.

These words, which can actually be found right on their website, remain the foundation of Cota & Cota Inc., a local business based in

Bellows Falls and with other convenient offices in Brattleboro, Jamaica, Springfield, Ludlow, Manchester, and White River Junction. It has been a pillar in the community since 1941.

Ken and Helen Cota had previously owned a 24-hour gas station in Bellows Falls before purchasing a kerosene fuel business after Ken went on a service call with the previous owner. Being a strong, take-charge kind of lady, Helen insisted her name also appear on the business name, and Cota & Cota was born.

In the early ‘60s Hugh Cota purchased the business from his parents after Ken had a serious back injury and could no longer physically operate the business. During the early years under Hugh, along with his three sons, the business grew exponentially after Hugh had purchased his brother’s plumbing service in 1979 and merged that business with his burner service, allowing Cota & Cota to now offer plumbing, septic, and bathroom work as well as fuel service.

The expansions would

continue over the decades, with new offices opening in Ludlow in 1982, Springfield in 1990, White River Junction in 2004, Brattleboro in 2009, and Jamaica in 2012. In 1995, Hugh Cota officially turned the business over to his sons, Casey and Sean, and in 2011, Casey purchased the business from his brother. In 2016, Casey and Sean’s sister, Kelly Cota Tully, rejoined the family business.

Three generations of the Cota family have dedicated their lives to not only serving, but understanding

their communities around them, which is one of the big reasons for not only their longevity, but their reputation as well. Additionally, Cota ownership has always strongly believed in treating both their customers and employees like family.

In celebration of 85 years in business, Cota & Cota is offering three 850-gallon fuel giveaways, with the drawings set for early July. The deadline to enter the free fuel contest is June 26, and you can enter by visiting the Cota & Cota website, www.cotaoil.com.

Hance asks Chester residents for patience with paving

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Selectboard met for the second time in May on Wednesday, May 20, for a brief one-hour meeting.

Town Manager Julie Hance informed the board that the replacement of sewer lines on Depot Street and First Avenue would begin in June, with replacement of a gravity line on Depot Street to begin on June 1. Replacement of the pump station on Flamstead Road is set to begin on June 8. During the discussion, it was noted that a segment of sewer pipe along First Avenue is made of asbestos concrete, which is far more costly to remove than other kinds of pipe due to the mitigation efforts re-

quired to ensure the asbestos does not become airborne. While the state has mandated removal of all asbestos pipes used for drinking water, the pipes on First Avenue contain only wastewater. For these reasons, the decision was made to leave these pipes in place and instead line the interior of the pipes with a material intended to keep the water out of direct contact with the concrete, thereby extending the pipes’ lifespan, preventing decay, and lowering the overall cost of the project.

Hance also addressed some recent inductive directed towards town office and highway department personnel regarding the paving

of Depot Street and North Street, asking community members to “extend a little grace, to not yell at my highway guys when they are walking by on the sidewalk, and to not criticize and attack the front office staff.” Hance explained that paving can only be done under certain weather conditions – essentially on hot, dry days – and asked that all further conversations about paving be directed to her.

During a review of the town’s quarter 1 finances, Hance also told the board that, after completing the

See **CHESTER** on Page 2

79th annual Chester Alumni Parade

CHESTER, Vt. – Excitement is building as Chester gears up for the 79th annual alumni parade, stepping off on June 6, at 11 a.m. This year’s parade brings a cinematic twist, with floats inspired by movie themes spanning from the 1970s to today, offering a fun blend of nostalgia, adventure, and creativity for all ages.

This year’s parade is dedicated to longtime alumni association member Laurie Jackson, honoring her years of commitment, spirit, and love for the Chester community. Adding to the meaning of this tribute, her father, Frank Balch, will serve

as parade marshal. Balch spent many years as a valued member of the alumni association and is fondly known throughout town for his dedication as a Chester bus driver. His leadership in this year’s parade reflects both family legacy and deep community roots.

Festivities begin the night before, at the American Legion, where alumni and residents gather to kick off Alumni Weekend. This pre-parade event sets the tone for a weekend filled with camaraderie and celebration.

On parade day, members of the alumni association will be collecting donations

See **PARADE** on Page 2

Three students awarded Andover Scholarships —



Adelaide Brown.
PHOTO PROVIDED



Ian Bernier.
PHOTO PROVIDED



Violet Haight.
PHOTO PROVIDED

ANDOVER, Vt. – The Andover Scholarship Committee is pleased to award scholarships to three graduating high school seniors in 2026. Each of these impressive students has demonstrated both a love of and service to the Andover community in addition to being on track to graduate from Green Mountain Union High School in June.

Ian Bernier grew up in Andover with a love of the outdoors and wildlife. He will attend the University of Vermont's wildlife and fisheries program in the fall, with the goal of a career as a game warden.

Adelaide Brown plans to combine her interests in skin health and makeup artistry by becoming an esthetician. To pursue that goal, she will attend the Institute of Skin Science in Stratham,

N.H.

Violet Haight grew up in Andover and comes from a family with a long history in the town. In addition to Green Mountain, she also attended the River Valley Technical Center in Springfield. She will continue her education at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., with the goal of becoming a mechanical engineer.

The Andover Scholarship Committee has been offering scholarships since the mid-1990s to outstanding Andover high school seniors who are continuing their education in colleges, universities, and trade schools. The committee raises money for scholarships primarily through a fundraising letter. To date, this community support has helped 74 of our young high

school graduates take the next step in their education.

The Andover Scholarship Fund is funded entirely by local contributions. It is a recognized public charity under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. If you wish to donate to the scholarship fund, please send your contribution to the Andover Scholarship Committee, 953 Weston-Andover Road, Andover, VT 05143 or visit www.givebutter.com/AndoverScholarship26.

The scholarship committee, whose members are Charlene Huyler, Maddy Bodin, and Carmen Macchia, wishes the three scholarship recipients, and all of Andover's high school graduates, success.

SAPCC seeks sponsors for annual Duck Run fundraiser —

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Area Parent Child Center (SAPCC) is inviting businesses, organizations, and community members to become sponsors of the 2026 SAPCC Duck Run, taking place on Saturday, June 27, from 4-7 p.m.

The Duck Run is SAPCC's largest annual fundraiser and a beloved community event that brings families together for an afternoon of fun, connection, and entertainment. Admission to the event is completely free, thanks to the generosity of sponsors and

supporters.

Funds raised through sponsorships help provide free food, family activities, live entertainment, community resources, and other attractions while ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent families from participating.

Sponsoring the Duck Run is more than supporting a community event. It's an investment in local children, families, and the overall wellbeing of our community. Every sponsorship helps create an inclusive, welcoming experience for everyone. Contributions of any amount are welcomed and

appreciated. Local businesses, organizations, and individuals are encouraged to participate and help make this annual tradition possible.

Community members interested in becoming a sponsor can donate online at www.sapcc-vt.org/call-for-duck-run-sponsors. Alternatively, checks may be sent to SAPCC, 80 Jack and Jill Lane, North Springfield, VT 05150.

For additional information about sponsorship opportunities, contact the Springfield Area Parent Child Center at 802-886-5242 or sapcc@sapcc-vt.org.

Okemo Valley TV calls for board of directors nominations

LUDLOW, Vt. – Okemo Valley TV is seeking nominations for its board of directors. The nonprofit organization is celebrating its 25th year of providing locally based media services to the Black River valley and Okemo region. This includes the long-running community access TV station and soon WLUD, the new community radio station, which will begin broadcasting at 93.3 FM in March 2027.

There are three seats up for election, which will be held during the Annual Meeting

on Tuesday, June 30. The deadline for getting a candidate's name on the ballot is June 19, to accommodate early voting. The electronic ballot will be made available on Okemo Valley TV's website, www.okemovalley.tv, one week prior to the Annual Meeting.

Any resident of Andover, Ludlow, Mount Holly, Plymouth, Reading, or Cavendish who is at least 18 years of age is eligible to serve on the board. Those interested in becoming a candidate or nominating someone they know should email Patrick Cody at pcody@okemovalley.tv, or call the station at 802-

228-8808. Anyone meeting those criteria and with an interest in helping lead the organization into its next chapter is encouraged to run.

The Annual Meeting on June 30 will begin with an open house at 5:30 p.m., during which time attendees will be given the opportunity to tour the recently-renovated facility, which has undergone numerous upgrades. The event is open to the public, but RSVPs are requested. More information about the event and the board of directors election is available at www.okemovalley.tv.

Black River Academy Museum opening day

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Academy Museum, 14 High Street in Ludlow, Vt., will hold its opening day on Saturday, June 6, from 12-4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.



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CHESTER

From Page 1

2025 audit and the restated 2024 audit, RHR Smith, the town's auditing firm, has confirmed that Chester is not in a deficit, with a positive fund balance of

\$19,000. While Hance emphasized that the fact the town is not in a deficit is good news, she added, "We don't have much of a fund balance, so we need to be careful and we need to start thinking and planning for that."

The board also adopted a

new cemetery fee schedule, which can be found at www.chestervt.gov/ordinances-and-regulations.html, under "Fee Schedule."

The Chester Selectboard meets on the first and third Wednesdays of every month, at 6:30 p.m., at the Chester Town Hall.

PARADE

From Page 1

to support the parade and

help fund senior scholarships, encouraging attendees to contribute to the next generation of Chester graduates.

The parade will feature fire trucks, police vehicles, the elementary band, and floats decorated to reflect memorable cinematic eras and storytelling styles from across the decades. Spectators can also look forward to a few special surprises that promise to entertain and delight.

After the parade, the celebration continues with a barbecue at the American Legion, offering alumni and community members a chance to come together, share stories, and enjoy a great meal.

Mark your calendars for June 6, at 11 a.m., and join the fun as Chester celebrates community, tradition, and decades of movie-inspired creativity at the 79th annual Chester Alumni Parade.

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CROSSWORD

COUPON CONTEST

The Rules

Participants must complete the Crossword or the Sudoku puzzle and mail this page to The Vermont Journal, PO Box 228, Ludlow, VT 05149. Must be received by Friday, June 12, 2026. Limit one submission per person.

One participant will be selected by random drawing, and can select one coupon from participating businesses on this puzzle page. Coupons are not valid until one is chosen by drawing winner. Coupon of choice will expire on July 31, 2026, and will be mailed to the winner.

The answers to the puzzles and winner will be published the following week.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

COUPON OF CHOICE: _____

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- Idle of Monty Python
- Homer's lament
- Grate
- Sprint
- Geological period
- Intro studio class
- Met melody
- Knee cartilage
- Cough drop flavor
- Valerie Harper sitcom
- Light brown
- Fluffy neck-piece
- Streep of "The Post"
- Patching up
- Lab eggs
- Witty one
- Wrigley product
- Proteges
- Accra's country
- Stein filler
- Zadora of "Hairspray"
- Huge success
- H.L. — (The Sage of Baltimore)
- Cites
- Comic actor Danny
- Oklahoma tribe
- Nonsense
- French 101 verb
- Military VIPs
- GI's address
- Marsh plant
- Dutch cheese
- Exceptional
- "The doctor —"
- Talkative
- Fiend
- Pitcher
- Hershiser
- Solo in space
- Actress Phylicia
- With the bow, musically
- Poker type
- Galileo's birthplace
- Pressing need
- Actor Linden
- Plead
- Soccer —
- Prior night
- Campaigned
- More, to Manuel
- Polish tennis star Swiatek
- Convent head
- "Today" rival, briefly
- Pint-sized
- Flavors
- K thru 12
- Tom Collins liquor
- Website invader
- Green sauce
- Urban haze
- Apportion
- Shortly
- L-Q bridge
- Designer Spade
- Literary Jane
- Must have
- British singer Rita

DOWN

- Dutch cheese
- Exceptional
- "The doctor —"
- Talkative
- Fiend
- Pitcher
- Hershiser
- Solo in space
- Actress Phylicia
- With the bow, musically
- Poker type
- Galileo's birthplace
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- Designer Spade
- Literary Jane
- Must have
- British singer Rita

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

MEMBER APPRECIATION DAYS



Free Snacks | Free Swag | Prize Drawings
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June 1: Randolph
June 3: Rochester
June 4: Windsor
June 5: South Burlington

June 11: Bellows Falls
June 12: White River Jct.
June 15: Putney
June 18: Bethel

June 22: Barre
June 25: Townshend
June 26: Brattleboro
June 29: Springfield

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health & community

Tai Chi Vermont workshop series

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Find tai chi at the intersection of structure and energy with “Moving from the Inside Out,” a series of in-person and online workshops offered quarterly throughout 2026.

Tai Chi Vermont instructors Jo Bregnard and Zhen Wolffe are hosting the workshops from the Springfield Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Road, from 1:30-3 p.m., on four Fridays this year. Each 90-minute session includes a recording of the class.

Play with what animates the movements of fall-

prevention tai chi – the Sun-style short form – and discover how enhancing your awareness can enrich practice time. During the second session, on June 5, the focus will be on the Level 1 movements: Commencement, Breathing In and Out, Single Whip, and Wave Hands in Clouds. Attendees need not have come to the first session in order to register for this one; each workshop stands alone, so come to one, two, or more. All are welcome, no prior tai chi experience is necessary.

Expect juicy conversation on meridians, anatomy, and more during these work-

shops. Recordings of each session will be available for those who can't attend live, as well as those who want to review the material covered.

Register at www.taichivermont.org/register/p/enrichment-level-1. Please wear comfortable clothing and flat, closed-heel and -toe shoes, and bring a full water bottle. Contact Bregnard if you have additional questions by emailing jo@jobregnard.com.

Tai Chi Vermont is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to providing safe and effective tai chi instructor training throughout the state. Learn more about Tai Chi Vermont by visiting www.taichivermont.org.

White River Junction VA receives top marks

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, Vt. – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system in White River Junction, Vt., announced recently that it received a five-star rating in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' annual Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating report.

CMS' Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings are based on five categories: mortality, safety of care, readmission, patient experience, and timely and effective care. A higher

star rating, out of five, indicates better performance along these quality measures.

“Receiving a five-star rating from CMS is a reflection of the dedication our entire team brings to caring for veterans every day,” said Dr. Brett Rusch, executive director of White River Junction VA. “This rating underscores our commitment to delivering safe, timely, and high-quality care, and we are proud to contribute to VA's continued nationwide excellence.”

Nationwide, 78% of VA

hospitals that received a rating received an Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating of four or five stars in 2026.

This is the fourth consecutive year that VA has outperformed non-VA care, and the second year in a row that no VA hospital received a one-star rating. The percentage of VA hospitals receiving four or five stars has grown dramatically in the last two years: 67% in 2023, 58% in 2024, 77% in 2025, and 78% in 2026.

For more information, please contact Katherine Tang at vhawrjpao@va.gov.

Practice tai chi without leaving your chair

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Learn the most popular style of tai chi right from your seat. Following the principles of safe and effective practice, explore the upper body movements of the Yang 24 sequence in an acces-

sible, simplified way with Tai Chi Vermont teacher and Springfield resident Jo Bregnard.

Whether you're looking for a wellness routine that fits your physical needs or an easier way to learn the world's most-practiced tai chi form, seated yang will engage your brain, awaken your core, and release tension. Each class will include qigong warmups and cooldowns, with the option to explore the movements standing. Even while seated, participants will work on deliberate weight transference, healthy posture,

relaxed breathing, body awareness, and movements to improve balance and agility.

Class meets for 12 Tuesdays, June 9 through Aug. 25, at 10 a.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse in Springfield, Vt., 21 Fairground Road, and via Zoom livestream online. Classes are 60 minutes, and timestamped recordings will be posted afterwards so you can access them on your schedule, whether you're able to attend the live session or not.

Visit studio.jobregnard.com/product/94189 for complete details and to learn more about the various pricing options, including a monthly payment plan and pay-what-you-wish. A portion of your payment supports the Unitarian Universalist meetinghouse location during the cooling season.

No prior tai chi experience is required, all are welcome. For answers to specific questions, email Bregnard at jo@jobregnard.com.



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June 12, 2026

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- Free fruit/vegetables from Black River Produce

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Area Agency on Aging in Southeastern Vermont



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CALENDAR

obituaries

JUNE 5-6 – CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, will hold its annual indoor/outdoor yard sale on Friday, June 5, and Saturday, June 6, from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. both days.

JUNE 5 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church Street, will hold their First Friday Fundraiser on Friday, June 5, from 5-6:30 p.m., to benefit the Bellows Falls Bike Project. The menu will include barbecued chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, green salad, chips, a beverage, and dessert. There is a small suggested donation.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield GMC's classic car show will be held on Friday, June 5, from 5-8 p.m., at 429 River Street.

JUNE 6 – BRIDGEWATER CORNERS, Vt. – The Bridgewater Grange, 129 Route 100A, will host bingo on Saturday, June 6. Doors open at 5 p.m., game time is 6:15 p.m. Concessions will be available. All are welcome.

CHESTER, Vt. – Route 103 Auto's community car show will be held on Saturday, June 6, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at 3441 Vermont Route 10. There will also be a live band playing.

JUNE 7 – BRIDGEWATER CORNERS, Vt. – On Sunday, June 7 at 2 p.m., Howard Coffin, Civil War historian and author, will present a program entitled "The Other Grant." Coffin will explore the life of Brig. Gen. Lewis Addison Grant, the longest-serving commander of the 1st Vermont Brigade. The program is presented by the Bridgewater Historical Society and will be held at the Bridgewater Grange, 129 Route 100A in Bridgewater Corners, Vt. The program is free and open to the public.

JUNE 9 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Tai Chi Vermont-certified teacher Jo Bregnard will lead a weekly seated yang tai chi practice online and in person from the Springfield Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Road, on Tuesdays, June 9 through Aug. 25, from 10-11 a.m. All are welcome, and all classes will be recorded.

Visit studio.jobregnard.com/product/94189 for pricing details and to sign up.

JUNE 13 – LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Academy Museum (BRAM) Alumni Day will be held on Saturday, June 13, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs, cake, and ice cream will be served. There will also be live music. This event is held in coordination with the Alumni Association.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Humane Society, 401 Skitchewaung Trail, will hold a nail trim clinic for dogs on Saturday, June 13, from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

JUNE 15 – LUDLOW, Vt. – Lunch will be served at the Black River Senior Center, 10 High Street, on Monday, June 15, at 12 p.m. Chef Fonz, of Castle Hill Resort, will be making chicken marsala, with chocolate cream mini-pies for dessert. Please make reservations by calling 802-228-7421. Free cash bingo will follow. All ages are welcome.

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.

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – The Perkinsville Community Church, 35 Church Street in Perkinsville, Vt., will be hosting live music every first Sunday, from 4-5:30 p.m. This is a free event, but donations will be accepted each month to go towards local charities. Please keep an eye out for upcoming shows, they will be posted each month on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PerkinsvilleChurch. Any questions, or to be added to our mailing list, please send an email to churchperkinsville@gmail.com.

MONDAYS – WESTON, Vt. – Bingo is Monday nights at 7 p.m. at the Weston Rod & Gun Club, 982 Route 100, 1.5 miles north of Weston Village. All are welcome.

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Fletcher

Wanda Lee Potwin Murphy, 2026

LUDLOW, Vt. – Wanda Lee Potwin Murphy, 77, of Ludlow, Vt., died on May 26, 2026, at The Meadows in Rutland, Vt., surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Lebanon, N.H., the daughter of Harold Potwin and Irene Dube Potwin. Wanda grew up on a dairy farm in Hartland, Vt., along with her three siblings. She attended Hartland Elementary School and graduated from Hartford High School in White River Junction, Vt. Wanda was blessed with two children: John Jennings, of Apple Valley, Minn., and Angela Murphy, of Proctorsville, Vt.

Over the years, Wanda was employed by Bausch & Lomb Optical, Ludlow Insurance Agency, and McCullough Insurance Agency. She enjoyed her conversations with local people and visitors to Ludlow when she worked at several area restaurants – The Hatchery, Trappers, and DJ's.

Wanda married John F. Murphy Jr., her husband of almost 37 years, on Sept. 30, 1989. In her early years, she liked traveling to Myrtle Beach, Minneapolis, and several locations in Maine. She loved spending time with her daughter Angela and especially with her grandsons, Mathew and Ethan. Wanda was a generous and caring person. She was a strong woman and faced many challenges after a brain injury in 2012.

Wanda is survived by her husband, John; her daughter,

Angela Murphy; her son, John Jennings; her brother Greg Potwin and his wife, Linda; and her six grandchildren, Mathew Finn Murphy and Ethan Alosi Murphy, and Geena, Haley, Felicia, and Michaela Jennings. Wanda is also survived by several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents; her sister, Lorraine Lindsey, and her husband, Ned; and her brother Ron Potwin and his wife, Janet.

We would like to thank everyone in the special care unit at The Meadows for their passionate care of Wanda. Thank you also to Bayada Homecare and Bayada Hospice for their heartfelt care over the last few months. Prior to her stay at The Meadows, Wanda had several wonderful in-home caregivers who assisted with her care and became great friends.

A funeral mass will be held at the Church of the Annunciation, 7 North Depot Street, Ludlow, Vt., on Friday, June 5, at 11 a.m. Burial will immediately follow at Pleasant View Cemetery, 43 High Street.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Rutland Regional Ambulance, 275 Stratton Road, Rutland, VT 05701; or Fletcher Farm – Create Together Program, 611 Route 103 South, Ludlow, VT 05149.

Arrangements are being handled by Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home, Brandon, Vt.

Helena R. Massey, 1955-2026

LUDLOW, Vt. – Helena Rose Massey, 70, died May 17, 2026, at her home in Ludlow, Vt. She was born Oct. 15, 1955, in Pittsfield, Mass., the daughter of Thomas C. "Neil" and Margaret (Murray) McGarry. She lived in and attended schools in Pittsfield, Stockbridge, North Adams, and Hyannis, Mass., graduating from Barnstable High School, Class of 1973, North Adams State College with a Bachelor of Arts, and Western New England College School of Law with Juris Doctor in 1984.

Helena passed the bar exam in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Vermont, all on the first try, and held law licenses in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Helena was an administrative assistant with the Law Firm of Melvin Fink P.C. in Ludlow, Vt., for several years.

She is survived by her loving husband Roger James "Jim" Massey; her nine siblings, Frances McGarry (Dimitrios Erotokri-



Helena Massey, 1955-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

takis), Margaret McGarry, J. Allen McGarry (Diane), Mary McGarry-Newman (Doug), Katherine McGarry (Keith Ganz), Neil J. McGarry, Elizabeth (McGarry) Sheehan (Jay), Patricia (McGarry) Lawyer (Aresh), and Edward J. McGarry; nine nieces; eight nephews; 21 cousins; her lifelong friend Peggy (Hall) Laurie (Steve); and many dear friends.

Services will be held at the convenience of the family. Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., is assisting with arrangements.

Tia Rosengarten, 1939-2026

WESTON, Vt. – Tia Rosengarten, a devoted wife, mother, and philanthropist, passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 24, 2026, at the age of 86. Tia was born on a snowy day in December 1939, in Bryn Mawr, Pa. – a beginning that seemed to reflect both the quiet beauty and inner strength she carried throughout her life.

Guided by her Christian faith, she touched countless lives with her generosity and genuine care. Tia was a devoted mother and philanthropist. Her passion for animals, education, and human rights reflected her deep compassion and commitment to making the world a better place. She found great meaning in supporting causes she believed in and extended her kindness not only to those close to her, but to the broader community as well. Her presence brought comfort, her laughter brought light, and her values will continue to inspire those who knew and loved her.

Tia enjoyed knitting, weaving, and quilting, finding joy in creating with her hands and expressing care through the things she made. These quiet, creative pursuits reflected her patience, thoughtfulness, and love of craftsmanship, and many will cherish the pieces she created for years to come.

Tia is survived by her daughter, Christine Darcas; her sons, Peter Rosengarten Jr. and Mitchell Rosengarten; and her grandchildren, Nathalie, Katherine, Etienne, and Gray. She is reunited with her beloved



Tia Rosengarten, 1939-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

husband of 57 years, Peter. A service to celebrate Tia's life will be held on Saturday, July 11, at 10 a.m., at the Old Parish Church in Weston, Vt., with reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made in her memory to the Dorset Equine Rescue, the Springfield Humane Society, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, or the American Indian College Fund. Tia Rosengarten will be deeply missed, but her love and legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew her. May she rest in peace.

Lynne Beverly celebration of life

JAMAICA, Vt. – A celebration of life for Lynne Beverly, who passed on April 4, 2026, will take place at River and Rye Restaurant, 3894 Vermont Route 30 in Jamaica Village, on Sunday, June 14, at 11 a.m.

Memorial Library, 88 Main Street, hosts the Black River Grief Support Group on the second Monday of every month, from 1-2 p.m. This is a safe space for individuals

to share their experiences, find comfort, and learn coping strategies after a loss. Offered by Black River

See **CALENDAR** on Page 6

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:

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

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MY HEALTHY VERMONT

HYPERTENSION WORKSHOP

Registration is now available: This small-group workshop led by a trained health coach is designed to provide support and skills to help people take control of their blood pressure. Participants learn the basics of managing high blood pressure, including help with medications, quitting tobacco, healthy eating, physical activity and stress management. Free of charge.

Meeting weekly, starting June. 3 – July. 22, 2026, 9:00 am - 10:30 am. Ludlow Community Center.

TO REGISTER: Contact: Caitlin Moroney, at 802-859-5913 or Krey Kellington at 802-228-3663.

Provided by:
Black River Good Neighbor Services

calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

Good Neighbor Services.
For more information, call
802-228-3663.

TUESDAYS –
CLAREMONT, N.H. –
Cribbage is played at the

Claremont Senior Center, 5
Acer Heights, on Tuesdays,
at 1 p.m. For more
information, call 603-543-
5998.

CLAREMONT, N.H. –

Men's pool games are
played every Tuesday
and Thursday, from 9
a.m. – 12 p.m., at the
Claremont Senior Center,
5 Acer Heights. All men
are welcome. For more

information, call 603-543-
5998.

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

THURSDAYS –
LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black
River Memory Cafe is held
on the second Thursday of
each month, at the United
Church of Ludlow, 48
Pleasant Street, from 11
a.m. – 1 p.m. The memory
cafe is free to attend, snacks
included, and offers a safe
and comfortable space
where caregivers and
their loved ones living with
dementia or Alzheimer's
can socialize, listen to
music, play games, and
enjoy other appropriate
activities. This is a program

of Black River Good
Neighbor Services. For
more information, contact
Vicki at 802-376-3388, or
Krey at 802-228-3663.

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

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.

HELP WANTED TOWN OF READING, VT – HIGHWAY DEPT

The Town of Reading VT is seeking an Equipment Operator/Truck Driver/Laborer for the Town Highway Department. The position is for an energetic individual that is seeking full-time secure long-term employment. The position is 40 hours per week. (4) 10-hour days, May to October and (5) 8-hour days November to April. However, a flexible schedule during the November to April period is a must and may include nights, weekends and holidays, as well as overtime. The applicant must be able to pass a random pre-employment drug test and understand that the position also includes random drug and alcohol testing by the State of Vermont. Applicants must possess a current valid CDL license, have a clean driving record, and be dependable and willing to be on call during winter hours. Experience with the operation of heavy equipment such as a bucket loader and road grader as well as equipment such as chain saws, and welders etc. a plus. Manual labor and some heavy lifting is required. The knowledge and ability to do some mechanical repairs is also a plus. This job includes an excellent starting salary negotiable based on experience and qualifications, and a benefit package including vacation, fully paid insurance and retirement contribution.

Questions should be referred to Bob Allen, Chair of Selectboard at (802) 296-1124 or rkallen@myfairpoint.net

Send your resume and references to: Town of Reading, PO Box 72, Reading, VT 05062 Attn: Selectboard, OR e-mail to Selectboard@readingvt.net

Okemo Mountain Road Closed

The upper portion of the Okemo Mountain Road from the Base Lodge area to the summit will be closed to public access between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 6, 2026 and Sunday, June 7, 2026 for the Killington Sports Car Club Time Trials.

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Town is seeking proposals for three construction jobs at the Town Office and Town Garage located at 100 Old School Street. To see the proposal please see our RFP page on our Town Website: <https://www.londonderryvt.gov/rfps> Proposals are due by 2:00pm on July 2, 2026.

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY VERMONT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Londonderry Development Review Board will meet at 100 Old School St at 5:30 PM on Wednesday June 17, 2026, to hold a public hearing for :

- An application from Jeff and Lisa Yrsha for a two-lot subdivision of land they own at 6930 Vt Rt 100
- An application from Mt Rose Property Mgt for a deck in the conservation district on land owned by Bankman & Olszewski it 219 Pierce Ridge Rd

Those interested in seeing the applications, submitting written comments, or attending the hearings remotely should contact the town's Zoning Administrator at zoningadmin@londonderryvt.gov

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Sections 4464(a)(1)(c) and 4471(a), participation in the local proceedings is a prerequisite to take any subsequent appeal.

Landgrove PC/ZBA Hearing

The Landgrove Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet at the Landgrove Town Hall, 88 Landgrove Rd at 5:30 PM on June 18 to hear an application for a front setback variance at 66 Nichols Rd in the RR District. Those interested in seeing the application, submitting written comments, or attending the hearing remotely should contact Landgrove's Zoning Administrator at: zoning@landgrove.vermont.gov.

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.



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Village of Ludlow Water/Wastewater Assistant Operator

The Village of Ludlow Water and Sewer Department is seeking a professional, highly motivated and responsible person to join our team. He/She/They must be reliable, eager to learn, have a professional attitude and possess a strong work ethic.

This individual will be required to:

- Have a High School Diploma or GED
- Have & maintain a valid driver's license and reliable transportation
- Live within a 30-minute radius of Ludlow, VT
- Have the ability to work with our industry's tools to perform routine maintenance in all types of weather conditions
- Have basic math and computer skills to handle lab work / input computer data - knowledge of Microsoft Word/Excel along is a plus but not required
- Possess strong communication & customer service skills
- Must follow established procedures and routines to assure that the water and wastewater treatment plants continue to run at high standards while following all Town/Village safety policies.
- Have the ability to listen, understand and carry out written and oral instructions.
- Provide on-call coverage as assigned, including rotating weekends and possible nights and holidays during emergencies.

Water and Wastewater treatment experience, along with Vermont Water and Wastewater Certifications is preferred, but is not required. However if successful candidate has no certifications, then this individual will be required to obtain Vermont Class 3 Water, Class D Water and Grade 3 Wastewater Certifications WITHIN TWO YEARS of employment.

Room for advancement is available and is based on work performance and professionalism.

Benefits/Compensation: Dental/Disability/Health/and Life Insurance coverage, and a VMERS- administered pension plan. In addition, the successful candidate will receive paid sick, personal, holidays and annual vacation leave. Pay range is \$28.00 - \$32.00/hour, commensurate with experience and certifications.

To Apply:

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, and three professional references to:

Penny Wu, Municipal Manager
Town of Ludlow
PO Box 359
Ludlow, VT 05149

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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

STATE OF VERMONT
WINDSOR COUNTY, SS.

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

STATE OF VERMONT
WINDSOR COUNTY, SS.

NOTICE OF SALE Jo Ann Richardson Larry Dan Emerson Parcel # 412003

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 2019, 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 Jo Ann Richardson, Executor and Larry Dan Emerson by Decree of Distribution of Marion L. Emerson, Estate. Dated September 4, 1996, and Recorded in Book 81, Page 429 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

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

LEGALS/PROS

opinion/classified

Dear Gov. Scott, Lt. Gov. Rogers, Sen. Major, and Rep. Kimbell,

My name is Rick Martin. I am the owner of Chloe's Market, aka Plymouth Country Store, in Plymouth, Vt.

The market has become the centerpiece of the village center in Plymouth, as the primary business on Route 100 between Killing and Okemo that provides fuel, groceries, a deli, and beer/wine. We serve hundreds of customers each day and are a major stopping point for tourists, adding much-needed revenue to the local economy.

In fall 2024, I attended a selectboard meeting at the Town of Plymouth's offices where representatives from the Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) presented a plan to repair bridges in the area. One of the major concerns raised was that there were no plans to have a one-lane access put in place during construction. Not one of the representatives even considered this matter. We were told AOT would come back with a more comprehensive plan to address our concerns.

This closure will cause severe damage to workers at the store, who cannot drive and depend on local rides to get to their workplace. We all understand the need to repair our bridges and roads, but there must be contingency plans in place to mitigate safety concerns, economic losses, and the impact on residents.

None of this has been done. In fact, several residents were told not to worry about the construction, as it would not affect them. Well, that turned out to be a whopper of lie now. This is a poor reflection on elected officials who approve such projects without considering the devastating impact on the local economy and the people who voted them into office.

We were hoping to come to a resolution that will ensure that the much-needed bridge repairs are completed without sacrificing the livelihood of residents and businesses. These closures on Route 100, especially the one planned to close over the Labor Day weekend, will be a death knell for many businesses. This is our busiest time of the year, and my employees may be out work if I have to close the business due to poor sales, as I will not be able to afford to pay them.

Gas prices are through the roof, and people are now being expected to shoulder another financial burden forced upon

us by the State of Vermont. Shame on all the elected officials who have done nothing to stop this madness and get VTrans under control.

There is an election coming up, and this will be high on the agenda for those of us who will not forget that Plymouth residents were thrown to the wayside just to use FEMA money to fix bridges and cause such economic devastation to the local business community.

Sincerely,
Rick Martin, President
Chloe's Market
Plymouth, Vt.

Dear Editor,

On behalf of everyone involved in the Bellows Falls Rotary Club's second annual Adult Spelling Bee, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the many sponsors, donors, volunteers, participants, and community members who made this year's event such a tremendous success.

What began as a fun and friendly competition is becoming a meaningful community tradition – one filled with laughter, camaraderie, and an incredible spirit of generosity. The enthusiasm shown by local businesses, organizations, teams, and audience members reminds us just how strong and connected our community truly is.

Most importantly, support for the spelling bee is also support for the

work Rotary does throughout our community. All funds raised through Rotary events help support local service projects, student scholarships, youth and literacy initiatives, community programs, and so much more. Rotary's mission is rooted in "service above self," and every sponsorship, donation, bribe purchased, and team registration helps us continue to give back.

We are especially grateful to our sponsors, whose generosity helped make the event possible. Their support reflects the generosity and community spirit that helps our community thrive. We are also incredibly grateful to the Bellows Falls Moose for the generous use of their facility and for helping provide such a welcoming space for this community event. Major sponsors for the event included Riverside Dentistry, Allen Brothers, Edward Jones, J&H Hardware, and 802 Credit Union. Additional sponsors include Eva

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CHESTER, Vt. – Share home with LGBTQ-friendly couple offering lovely furnished space on rural property with saltwater fish, two dogs, chickens. \$650/month. Compatible dog considered. No smoking. COVID vaccine required. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references,

LOST & FOUND

LUDLOW, Vt. – Chafing dish pan: I'm hoping to reach the nice couple who bought a chafing dish at my recent yard sale in Ludlow. One part (the lower pan) was left on the table. You'll need it! Stop by to pick it up, and leave a note if I'm not home. Thank you!

YARD SALE

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Yard sale June 5,6,7, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., rain or shine. Eclectic mix, too many items to mention. 864 High Street, Cavendish, Vt.

Dear Editor,

The Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) wishes to thank the many community members who supported our recent drive to collect back-to-school items for the Pine Ridge Reservation, home to the Oglala Lakota Nation in southwest South Dakota. The reservation spans 1.7 million acres. The nation faces severe challenges – constantly ranking as one of the poorest areas in America. The school districts simply do not have money for any school supplies for the children.

The donation of crayons, glue sticks, and erasers will be combined with other items and placed in backpacks to be delivered to the reservation. Rotary Clubs in the entire District 7870 are contributing to this community service project

for our country, so it will certainly have a significant impact. The children will certainly be better equipped to attend school and learn at the start of the school year. We also greatly appreciate the businesses that were our drop-off points: Belmont Country Store, Benson's Chevrolet, Chloe's Market, Ludlow Insurance, Fletcher Memorial Library, M&T Bank, and Singleton's Store. You are all greatly appreciated for your part in this project.

Contact any Rotarian if you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Ludlow Rotary Club and all we do, or stop in for a visit as our guest on Tuesdays, at noon, at DJ's Restaurant.

Sincerely,
Ludlow Rotary Club

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

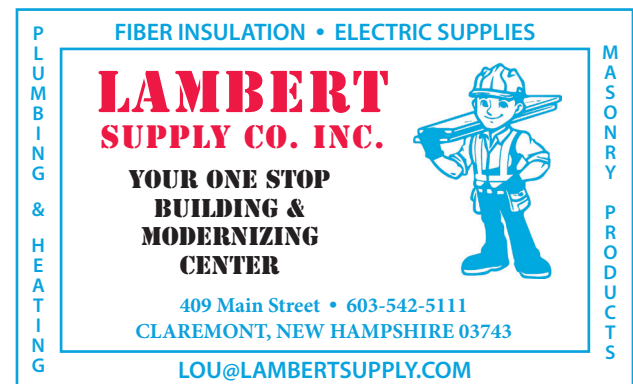
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(07/15/26 - TFN - 13)

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home & outdoor

REAL ESTATE

Tips to win a bidding war

REGION – I’ve seen it happen to homebuyers before: They fall in love with a house, only to lose the bidding war and have to start the process over. But the right strategy could make all the difference in getting your offer accepted. Read on for my top tips to help you win at the negotiating table.

Know your budget

It can feel awkward to talk about money, especially if you’re not confident in your budget. But, when it comes to knowing what you can afford to spend on a home, a guesstimate isn’t good enough. A mortgage calculator can help you understand what your monthly payment could look like and what could fit comfortably into your spending

plan.

If you want to know exactly what you could afford, I can help you get preapproved for a mortgage. This could give you a fuller picture of your budget and help your offer look better to sellers when they know you have the funds to back it up.

What you need to get pre-approved

Having your key financial documents ready to go when you apply can help speed up the preapproval process. The basic documents you’ll need include two years of W-2s or 1099s; your two most recent paystubs from the past 30 days; additional income records (social security, disability, child support, alimony, etc.); two months of bank statements for all financial

accounts; and a copy of your driver’s license.

Create a buying plan

It’s not uncommon for homebuyers to become emotionally attached to a home after the first showing. That’s why it’s important to have a buying plan in place so that when you find the right home, you are prepared to make an offer. A smart buying plan includes (1) defined boundaries and priorities – list your non-negotiables and decide what you are willing to compromise on; and (2) preparing a strategy – understand

how competitive your target neighborhood is by asking questions like “how often do homes get multiple offers?” and “what is actually getting accepted right now in my price range?”

Make your offer an easy “yes”

When housing markets get competitive, things can start to move fast. And sellers aren’t just choosing the highest offer; they’re looking at offers that feel certain and easy to close. The best way to win a bidding war is to remove friction and make your offer easy to ac-

cept.

Start by meeting the seller on their timeline. This can look like asking if they have a preferred closing date or being flexible if they need extra time to move after closing. When your timeline fits their plans, your offer could become easier to accept with fewer hesitations.

Avoid adding anything to your offer that could give a seller a reason to hesitate. Extra requests (like including appliances), added conditions (like early move-in/possession), or asking for

seller-paid concessions (like paying for repairs) could make your offer feel more complicated compared to others. Instead, focus on keeping your terms straightforward, with clear and realistic timelines for inspections and closings.

The next time you go house hunting, don’t just go with the flow. Have a plan in place so that you can make a confident offer when opportunity comes.

Submitted by Victoria Blodgett, PrimeLending, Ludlow, Vt.

SoVerA Isaac Newton talk

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – Join the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group (SoVerA) for its June meeting on Tuesday, June 9, at 7 p.m. The lecture will be available as a Zoom meeting, but will also be held in person at the 1879 Schoolhouse, 1862 Vermont Route 106 in Perkinsville, Vt. The Zoom link is www.zoom.us/j/94691230307.

This link can also be found on the SoVerA website, www.sovera.org.

The presentation is entitled “My Favorite Brainiac, Sir Isaac Newton.” The presenter will be Cale Shipman, who says that the presentation “is targeted towards a nontechnical audience. It attempts to hu-

manize the man, the myth: Isaac Newton.”

Shipman describes himself as a member of any amateur astronomy group that will have him as a member. He is currently the outreach chair for the Lowcountry Stargazers of Charleston, S.C. He is a former National Park Service employee, and states that

his intent is to present as though he were giving the sort of campfire lecture he gave back in his Park Service days.

If the weather cooperates and people are interested, there may be an opportunity for some star gazing at Hoisington Field, which shares a parking lot with the 1879 Schoolhouse.

“Tracking and The Art of Seeing” hike

CAVENDISH, Vt. – The Cavendish Community and Conservation Association (CCCA) brings you another exploration in the Walk and Talk series, “Tracking and The Art of Seeing,” on June 13, at 10 a.m., beginning at the Hardy Hill Trail trail-

head, on Susannah Johnson Road in Cavendish. To register or make inquiries, email cavendishcommunityconservation@gmail.com. Be sure to bring tick repellent and wear good walking shoes. This is a moderate trail for hiking, but as with

most trails there are ups and downs.

Join naturalist and wildlife tracker Rose Richter for a walk into the landscape of the tracker. Begin to look with a tracker’s eyes, tuning into the subtle signs of nature that surround us. Seeing in this way opens a doorway into knowing more about who is in the neighborhood, their behavior, and the greater story of life that unfolds on the landscape every

day. We will look for rubs, scrapes, scent markings, tracks, and more. We will follow a simple process that begins with observation and ends with creating a master list of who left these signs that you can take with you out on your next adventure.

In the event of heavy rain, contact the CCCA at the email address above to find out if the event has been postponed.

arts & entertainment

River Theater Co. presents “Charlotte’s Web” at Fort at No. 4

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – River Theater Co. will present a benefit theater production of E.B. White’s classic family favorite “Charlotte’s Web,” adapted for the stage by Joseph Robinette, on location at The Fort at No. 4 in Charlestown, N.H., on June 13, June 14, and June 20, at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. each day; and on June 21, at 2 p.m.

This is the fourth production River Theater will have produced at The Fort, following sold-out shows of “A Christmas Carol,” “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow,” and “The Crucible.”

“Each production is unique and offers an immersive experience for the audience. We’re excited to bring a family production in the warmer months this time around,” says director Heidi Fagan. “We’ll start outside the Arable’s house using one of the buildings in The Fort as the background, and then the whole audience will move to Zucker-

man’s barn, where a whole cast of animals – and one spider – will welcome Wilbur to the farm. Then we’re off to the county fair, and we hope to create a nostalgic feel as the audience moves to that location. Finally, we come back to the outside of the Zuckermans’ barn for the wonderful ending.”

The cast of 28 local actors have started rehearsing at the town hall theater. Rebecca Stewart, who owns Pins and Needles Garment Co. in Charlestown, will be designing the costumes for the production. “I’m excited to work with Rebecca as we come up with a design that suggests the personification of each animal as well as the 1940s vintage look that we hope to bring to the production,” Says Fagan. The cast includes Kimberly Rohberon as Charlotte; Alexis Johnson as Wilbur; Arley Kaehler as Fern; Jeff Sempreon as Mr. Arable; Cyndi Stevens as Mrs. Arable; Keira Landers as Avery; Susan

Burnett as Edith Zuckerman; Mike Cirre as Homer Zuckerman; Robert Veale as Lurvy; Kayleigh Stevens as Goose; Madeleine Regan as Gander; Jade Mitchell as Templeton; Lily Bishop as Sheep; Rebecca Meeks as Lamb; Janet “Jet” Gage as the announcer; Finley Schofield, Lorelai Putnam, and Ryleigh Smolnik as baby spiders/ensemble; and Elizabeth Blackwell, Luna LeBlanc, Sophia Mann, Olivia Lemieux, Ella Regan, Willa Durrett, Natalie Johnson, and Hannah Landers as ensemble.

The production is a benefit for both nonprofits, The Fort at No. 4 and River Theater Co. Discounted tickets are available for families. Tickets and information can be found on the Fort at No. 4 website, www.fortat4.org. Information can also be found at www.rivertheatercompany.com.

Stage 33 Local Curator Series

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Stage 33 Live is running a Local Curator Series of shows this summer, turning over the room to local heroes and letting them call the shots. The first one is Ezra Holloway, born and bred just around the corner from Stage 33 Live in Saxtons River, Vt. He’s assembled a rousing selection of three young, rising bands – A Few Fine Gents, Technicolor

LTD, and Man Made Tragedies – who will bring heat and energy on Sunday, June 7, starting at 7 p.m.

A Few Fine Gents is a fusion jam band based in Westchester, N.Y., known for improvisational jams and blending genres.

Technicolor LTD is a crunchy Brattleboro band influenced by ‘90s alt post-rock, post-hardcore, and post-punk.

Man Made Tragedies is a

well-established and ambitious power trio known for their live shows of original music that blend punk energy with raw emotion.

Tickets are discounted in advance through www.stage33live.com, or can be purchased at the door as available. Advance tickets guarantee entry. Only 40 tickets will be sold. Advance sales will close at midnight the day before the show, or when 40 tickets are sold.

FOLA announces summer and fall events

LUDLOW, Vt. – Friends of Ludlow Auditorium (FOLA) has put together a schedule of events for some major programs this summer and fall.

The offerings will begin with the annual and popular Silent Movies Festival on Saturday, Aug. 22. This season, the main feature will be a hilarious movie, “Safety Last,” starring that silent movie comedian Harold Lloyd, who may be seen hanging from a flagpole far above the street. The festival will begin with a funny short called “Liberty” featuring the silent version of Laurel and Hardy. Jeff Rapsis will return to play the background music to both films with his marvelous music to support the movies.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, Ludlow will see the return of the Enerjazz orchestra that promises to provide music to get those dancing feet moving, along with some real old-timers’ music that get feet stomping and smiles on your face. The orchestra, featuring 17 great musicians, will also feature melodies that will remind the audience

of the great jazz age.

With an election coming up in November, FOLA will continue its forum for the general election with Vermont Senate candidates for Windsor County, plus the candidates seeking the Ludlow, Mount Holly, and Shrewsbury house seat. This event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 15, and the moderator will be Jim Alic. Questions will be asked concerning property taxes, school reorganizations, and numerous events currently demanding attention.

While these events are definitely planned, FOLA program director Scott Stearns indicated that additional events may be scheduled during this period. Additionally, a Christmas program is being considered.

Stearns also indicated that FOLA hopes to show the opening game of the World Cup on June 12, as well as the final championship game, scheduled for July 19. This is all subject to the consent of the cup’s leadership to permit

such coverage. If approved, times will be announced in the future.

All events will be held in the Heald Auditorium at the Ludlow Town Hall. They will begin at 7 p.m., with doors opening at 6:30 p.m., unless otherwise specified. As usual, these events are free, but donations are appreciated to help underwrite the cost of the events. For more information, call 802-855-8896.



Members of the Enerjazz orchestra. PHOTO PROVIDED

Community croquet on St. Luke’s back lawn

CHESTER, Vt. – Once again, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church – the gray church at 313 Main Street in Chester, Vt. – will be holding free community croquet on its back lawn every Thursday evening from June 4 through July 30, from 6-7:30 p.m. Cornhole and badminton will also be available to the public. All outdoor activities are offered to adults and children 10 and older who are accompanied by a parent. Children under 10 who can comply with the rules may play if supervised by a parent. While the nine-week session starts on June 4, people are encouraged to attend as many games as

possible. Teams will be organized on site. No special skill or experience is required for this program, but players are asked to wear all white or a white shirt.

The community croquet program is part of St. Luke’s healthy living initiative. There is no charge for the program, which will include nonalcoholic drinks and light refreshments. Spectators are welcome, and attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, bug repellent, and croquet sets and mallets, if available.

Upon registration, participants will receive the game rules, diagrams for the three backyard croquet fields, and

other helpful hints. St. Luke’s volunteers will lay out the fields, coach, teach, referee, explain scoring, and keep statistics. St. Luke’s has modified the Palm Beach U.S. Croquet Association Rules over the years to make community games easier, clearer, and more social. At the end of the season, a potluck awards banquet traditionally takes place.

Come celebrate summer with community croquet at St. Luke’s. For more information, please contact Joann Erenhouse at 802-289-4230 or at joannenhouse@gmail.com.

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Sunday June 14, 2026

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- Jack Rose
- Circus Nefarious
- Derrick Miller-Handley
- PRIDE**

Local communities throughout VT & NH gather at Amtrak train stations to celebrate Pride month & the LGBTQ+ community.

In Brattleboro, we gather to show solidarity and support. Bring your community spirit & join us!

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This is an all ages, substance free event.

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Chester, VT



Ryan Birmingham
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Rebekah Bowen
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Jake Buswell
Criminal Justice I
FMRHS
Walpole, NH



Tatiana Charon
Health Science II
BFUHS
Rockingham, VT



Ryan Gould
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SHS
Springfield, VT



Khloe Hale
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GMUHS
Londonderry, VT



Madison Hamlin
Culinary Arts I
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North Springfield, VT



Quinn Jasinski
Adv. Manufacturing & Engineering I
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North Springfield, VT



Mary Margaret Jones
Carpentry I
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Kaylee Kelley
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Oliver Losee
Industrial Trades I
SHS
North Springfield, VT



Lola McGinnis
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Christopher Pratt
Business Man. & Entrepreneurship II
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SHS
North Springfield, VT



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