



CROSSWORD COUPON CONTEST

See Page 3 for a chance to win!



THE MESSAGE

OF THE WEEK

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Morningside Flight Park to honor hang-gliding pilot William Blood Jr. —

BY LISA STICKNEY
The Message

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – William N. Blood Jr., born on Jan. 22, 1921, in Pepperell, Mass., served in the U.S. Army, earned a degree in mechanical engineering, and taught at UMass Lowell. He held a master’s rating in hang gliding granted by the United States Hang Gliding

Association and famously introduced hang gliding as a college-credited course. Blood is a founder of the UMass Lowell Hang Gliding Club. This program offered an adventurous and unique hang-gliding course to students. The club was active from 1974-1996. It provided an accredited course option that met its physical education program requirements.

Club activities were geared towards gaining practical skills and the development of experimental gliders. Intercollegiate meets were held across the U.S. and Canada. Morningside Flight Park in Charlestown, N.H., was a destination hosting annual hang-gliding meets over the years. This program was responsible for increasing interest in the sport and brought hundreds of pilots to the area. On Father’s Day of this year, Gigi Dierks, manager of Morningside Flight Park, led a group of pilots in honoring Blood, who died on

Aug. 13, 2024, by releasing his ashes mid-flight, at the request of his daughter, Mary Blood. Morningside Flight Park invites advanced pilots and new students who would like to work towards a flight in his honor to schedule an appointment with the goal of spreading his remaining ashes. “We are flexible to people’s schedules who would like to take part in honoring Bill...we have pre-sorted bags, [to be] opened prior to launch, and released into the wind during a fly-over for anyone who may wish to take part in honoring Blood in this

way.” If you’re curious about the sport and would like to learn more, please join Morningside Flight Park’s instructors at Mount Ascutney State Park on July 18, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., for Introduction to Paragliding. It’s a great opportunity to learn about paragliding history and gear. You will be able to see and feel the wing spread out and watch permitted pilots take off and fly. For more information about the course, visit www.vtstateparks.com/content/introduction-paragliding-mt-ascutney-state-park. Tentatively, a similar hang-gliding demonstration will take place at Mount Ascutney in September or October. For more in-



In loving memory of William N. Blood Jr., Jan. 22, 1929 – Aug. 13, 2024.

PHOTO PROVIDED



William Blood with a hang glider.

PHOTO PROVIDED



Hang glider William Blood Jr. in flight.

PHOTO PROVIDED

formation on hang gliding and paragliding offerings at Morningside Flight Park, call 603-542-4416 or visit www.flymorningside.kittyhawk.com.

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DEADLINES

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

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Claremont City Council discusses budget —

BY ANNE DEMPSEY
The Message

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The bulk of the Claremont City Council meeting of June 24 was dedicated to the city’s budget. However, a few matters of note opened up the meeting: City Manager Nancy Bates announced that James Allen was hired as the new library director of the Fiske Free Library. The Claremont Savings Bank Community Center’s pool work is almost complete, and the pool will open soon. The

city’s line striping is almost done. And finally, the grant application for the replacement of a twin culvert has been submitted. During citizens’ forum, representatives of Fiske Free Library’s board of trustees and Friends of the Library spoke out against proposed cuts to the library’s budget. One member of the Friends who spoke was John Cloutier, New Hampshire state representative. After council discussion, the library book budget was increased from \$20,000 to \$25,000. Representatives from the

Claremont Soup Kitchen, Southwestern Community Services, Meals on Wheels, and Sullivan County Humane Society requested funds during Citizens Forum. The council voted to approve the following amounts for each agency: Sullivan County Humane Society, \$10,000; Claremont Soup Kitchen, \$20,000; Southwestern Community Services, \$15,000; Meals on Wheels, \$10,000; and Arrowhead (for insurance), \$9,000. These amounts total \$64,000. The remainder of this

meeting was comprised of reviewing and voting for the proposed budget. Any budget discussions preceded this final vote, in previous council meetings. On June 25, Councilor-At-Large William Limoges posted on the What’sUpClaremont Facebook page a concise summary of how the budget would impact the taxpayers of Claremont. His brief introduction on this post stated, “Here are the current numbers for the municipal side of the Claremont budget which was sent to the

councilors today. It may change a bit when everything is calculated, but it’s what we voted for.” The total general fund amount to be raised by taxes, according to Limoges’ post, would be \$13,754,428, with an estimated tax rate of \$0.42 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This represents an estimated increase of 3.95% over 2025. The Claremont City Council meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, at 6:30 p.m., in the Claremont City Hall Council Chambers.

Small habits help shape a stronger financial future —

REGION – Financial security doesn’t have to come from a big salary, a lucky investment, or some dramatic turning point. For most people, wealth is built more simply, through small habits repeated many times over. If you’re like many young people, you may feel you don’t have enough money to start investing. The reality is that you’re in a great position to build the small habits that will help you create lasting wealth. Here are five tips to help you get started. Automate savings before you spend One of the most powerful financial habits you can build is among the easiest. Set up an automatic trans-

fer, such as by contributing to an employer retirement plan or exploring if you can direct part of your paycheck to a savings or investment account. This helps remove the temptation to spend that money instead of saving it. Even setting aside 1-5% of your income can help build momentum over time. Watch the small stuff It’s easy to dismiss a \$15-a-month streaming service or a \$6 coffee twice a week. But those small purchases add up. Forgotten subscriptions, food delivery fees, and impulse buys can quietly drain your bank account. Just \$25 a week, if invested well, can grow into the thousands in a few short

years. Scan your recurring charges regularly, cancel what you don’t use, and put that money to work instead. Don’t let your lifestyle outpace your income When you get a raise or bonus, it’s tempting to upgrade your apartment, car, or everyday spending. This “lifestyle creep” can be a significant hindrance to building wealth. Here’s an alternate approach: Every time your income goes up, increase your savings rate before anything else. Even saving half of a raise while spending the rest puts you ahead. Start now, even imperfectly Don’t wait to start investing. Even if you can only set aside a small amount each

month, do it. Starting just five to 10 years earlier can result in significantly more wealth down the line, even if the early contributions are small, thanks to compounding. Compounding means your contributions earn interest, and even that interest earns interest. Over decades, that snowball effect can make a world of difference. Stay aware, not obsessed You don’t necessarily need to track every dollar you spend. But you do need to be aware of your money habits. A quick weekly or monthly check-in on your accounts, spending patterns, and progress toward savings goals can help you catch problems early.

Financial awareness also means protecting what you build. An emergency fund covering three to six months of total expenses keeps one bad month from becoming a financial crisis. Avoiding high-interest debt does the same. These defensive habits make everything else possible. Your financial future likely won’t be shaped by one big decision. Instead, it will probably be built by small choices you make every day. And the best time to start making good choices is now. This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, member SIPC.

Springfield Family Center announces leadership transition

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Family Center Board of Directors announces a leadership transition and the beginning of a search process for the organization’s next executive director.

The board would like to extend its sincere appreciation to Trisha Paradis for her service, dedication, and leadership. Throughout her tenure, Paradis has helped advance the Springfield Family Center’s mission and strengthen its impact on children, families, and community members throughout the region. The board thanks her for her many contributions and wishes her continued success in the future.

The Springfield Family Center remains fully committed to its mission and to providing uninterrupted

services to the community during this transition period.

To ensure continuity of operations, Steffanie Baker will continue managing the day-to-day operations of the Springfield Family Center. Administrative and governance-related responsibilities will be overseen by Board Treasurer Paul Cioffi, who will work closely with staff and the board to support the organization throughout the transition.

The board of directors is forming a search committee to begin recruiting the family center’s next executive director. The committee will develop the position announcement, review applications, conduct interviews, and recommend candidates for consideration.

“We are grateful for Trish’s leadership and are

confident in the strength of our staff, board, and community partnerships as we move forward,” said Tara Chase, board chair. “The Springfield Family Center remains focused on serving families and meeting community needs while we undertake a thoughtful search for our next executive director.”

The Springfield Family Center values the support of its clients, partners, funders, volunteers, and community members, and looks forward to sharing updates as the search process progresses.

For more information, please contact Paul Cioffi, board treasurer, Springfield Family Center, at 802-885-3646 or pcfioffi3@gmail.com.

American Legion Post 18 recognizes Trisha Paradis

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The American Legion Post 18 Cmdr. James Harris proudly recognizes Trisha Paradis, of the Springfield Family Center, for her outstanding dedication and leadership in serving our community. Through her work as executive director, Paradis has made a lasting impact by fostering programs that support families and veterans, strengthen community bonds, and promote positive change. Her unwavering commitment to service exemplifies the spirit of community and compassion for those in need. Thank you, Trisha, for your dedication, leadership, and ongoing efforts



Post 18 Cmdr. James Harris presents Trisha Paradis, Springfield Family Center executive director, with a Certificate of Recognition.

PHOTO PROVIDED

to make Springfield a better place for all.

All about homesharing at Springfield Library

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Wednesday, July 15, at 5:30 p.m., join HomeShare Vermont at the Springfield Town Library for a presentation all about homesharing.

Homesharing is an innovative and practical housing model that brings people together for mutual benefit. At its core, homesharing in-

volves two or more individuals sharing a home in a way that supports both parties’ needs and enhances quality of life.

In a typical homesharing arrangement, one person provides a private bedroom and access to shared living spaces. In return, the home seeker may offer rent, assistance with household tasks, or a combination of both. Unlike traditional roommate situations, homesharing emphasizes collaboration, companionship, and personalized support between participants.

Each homesharing match is unique. Arrangements are thoughtfully tailored to reflect the individual preferences, lifestyles, and needs of those involved, ensuring a mutually beneficial living experience.

HomeShare Vermont

facilitates these connections across a broad service area, including the counties of Addison, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Washington, Windham, and Windsor. Services also extend to the towns of Brandon, Killington, and Pittsfield in Rutland County.

This program is presented by Kayla Bernier-Wright, of Windham & Windsor Housing Trust and HomeShare Vermont; and Shari Borzekowski, of Thompson Senior Center and HomeShare Vermont.

For more information about homesharing opportunities or to learn how to participate, community members are encouraged to reach out to HomeShare Vermont.

To sign up for a reminder, visit www.springfield-townlibrary.org/calendar.

Bellows Falls Third Fridays return

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Spend your Friday evening in downtown Bellows Falls during Bellows Falls Third Fridays (BF3F), beginning on Friday, July 17.

The evening begins alongside the Bellows Falls Farmers Market, from 4-7 p.m., with BF3F continuing from 7-9 p.m., as downtown businesses stay open late and visitors are invited to explore Canal Street and the surrounding downtown district.

This month’s event features live music on Canal Street, a local food vendor, and a community raffle with prizes donated by participating businesses.

Visitors can enter the community raffle at participating businesses throughout the evening for a chance to win this month’s prizes while also being entered into the season-ending grand prize basket drawing.

Bellows Falls Third Fridays is a monthly downtown event that celebrates

local businesses, encourages community connection, and creates a vibrant evening experience in the heart of Bellows Falls. Whether you’re shopping, grabbing dinner, enjoying live music, or simply taking a stroll, there’s something for everyone to enjoy. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome.

For updates, participating businesses, and event information, follow “Bellows Falls, VT” on Facebook and @BellowsFallsDowntown on Instagram.

Community forum with Springfield Town Manager Scott Pickup

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Tuesday, July 21, at 6 p.m., meet Springfield

Town Manager Scott Pickup at the Springfield Town Library, 43 Main Street. Everyone in the community is invited to this friendly forum with Pickup.

Come spend some time together, share your ideas, ask questions, and talk about what matters most in our town. This is an open and welcoming space

where everyone can listen, learn, and be heard. Whether you have a concern, a suggestion, or just want to stay informed, your voice is important. The Springfield Town Library hopes to see you there.

To sign up for a reminder, visit www.springfield-townlibrary.org/calendar.





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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, July 17, 2026. Limit one submission per person.

One participant will be selected by random drawing, and can choose 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 August 31, 2026, and will be mailed to the winner.

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

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ TOWN: _____

COUPON OF CHOICE: _____

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 "Chocolat" actor
5 Audio giant
9 Prune
12 Antioxidant berry
13 Egg
14 — budget
15 Plumbing problem
16 Firsties
17 TiVo precursor
18 Foolproof
19 Sch. URL ender
20 Borscht base
21 Sailing hazard
23 — Victor
25 Daughter of Muhammad
28 Lynx
32 "West Side Story" role
33 Prefix meaning "water"
34 Ocean bottoms
36 Grapevine talk
37 Chow down
38 "— was saying ..."
39 Scoff
42 Half of bi-
44 Sod
48 Napoleon's title (Abbr.)
49 Mideast gulf
50 Verifiable
51 Brit. record label

7 Outlying area
8 Ambulance letters
9 Zero, in tennis
10 Formerly
11 Section
20 Date night hire
22 D-Day beach
24 Some Pacific salmon
25 Passing craze
26 Chemical suffix
27 Gratuity
29 LP successors
30 NPR's Shapiro

31 Pinnacle
35 Recording site
36 Olympic swimmer
39 "M*A*S*H" vehicle
40 Tennis star
41 Grand tale
43 Legendary loch
45 Language of Pakistan
46 Carpets
47 Shoe fillers
49 Illustrations

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health & home

Springfield Hospital health care education scholarship

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Hospital is pleased to announce Maggie Knox, of Stockbridge, Vt., has been selected to receive the 2026 Springfield Hospital Health Education Scholarship. The scholarship, established by Springfield Hospital and its medical staff, supports local students pursuing careers in health care and recognizes academic achievement, community involvement, and a commitment to serving others.

Knox is a graduate of Woodstock Union High School. She has committed to Salve Regina University in Rhode Island, where she will further her education in the field of nursing. Throughout high school, Knox demon-

strated a strong commitment to health care, leadership, and service. Her experiences included participation in the Mount Ascutney Hospital nursing internship program, volunteering with the Vermont Center on Aging, and serving as a member of the University of Vermont's inaugural Youth Leaders in Aging cohort. These opportunities strengthened her passion for geriatric nursing and deepened her understanding of the importance of compassionate care for older adults. "I am thrilled to start my nursing journey at Salve Regina and grateful that this scholarship helps make that possible. It will be an adventure to spread my wings in Rhode Island,

but I look forward to returning and serving Vermont's rural health care needs in the future," said Knox.

In addition to her health care experiences, Knox was a member of the National Honor Society, competed in varsity field hockey and lacrosse, and served as a teaching assistant. Her dedication to academics, service, and patient care made her a notable contender for this year's scholarship award.

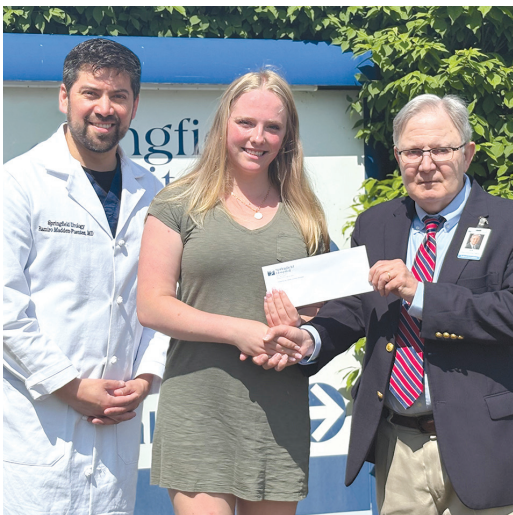
This new scholarship program is offered by Springfield Hospital and its medical staff. Each year in March, the hospital recognizes its medical staff during National Doctors' Day, an annual observance dedicated to honoring physicians for

their dedication and contributions to health care. This year, the medical staff suggested collaborating with the hospital to establish a \$3,000 annual health care education scholarship in honor of the medical staff.

The scholarship program, open to all area high school seniors who were accepted into a postsecondary program, was announced to area high schools in early April, with applications due by May 15. Applicants were asked to submit letters of recommendation along with an essay outlining why they chose to pursue a health care

career and how the scholarship would help them achieve their goals.

"We are pleased and excited to launch this new scholarship program in honor of our medical staff and in recognition of the important role they play in serving the health care needs of our communities," said Robert Adcock, Springfield Hospital CEO. "I am inspired by the many applications we received and the strong commitment the students demonstrated to continuing their education and serving their communities. On behalf of the staff at Springfield Hospital, I want to congratulate Maggie Knox on being selected to receive this year's scholarship award, and also send our best wishes to all who applied as they enter the next phase of their health care studies."



Left to right: Ramiro J. Madden-Fuentes, MD; Maggie Knox, scholarship recipient; and Robert Adcock, Springfield Hospital CEO.

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LEBANON, N.H. – Dartmouth Health has named Jonathan Welch, MD, MSc, as chief operating officer (COO). He will join the health system later this sum-

mer.

As system COO, Welch will work closely with leaders from across Dartmouth Health to strengthen integration, support the work-

force, and continue improving care delivery across the organization's hospitals, clinics, and services. He will oversee efforts to improve operational alignment across the system and support shared services including information technology, pharmacy, facilities, and supply chain operations.

"Dr. Welch's experience in academic and rural health settings positions him well to contribute to Dartmouth Health's mission to enhance operational priorities and enable support to meet clinical priorities," said Dartmouth Health CEO and

President Joanne M. Conroy, MD.

Welch joins Dartmouth Health from Geisinger Health System in Danville, Pa., where he served as chief population health officer and chief innovation officer.

Throughout his career, Welch has led large multidisciplinary teams and managed extensive operational portfolios. His work has focused on improving access to care, advancing value-based care models, and implementing system-wide initiatives designed to enhance patient outcomes and support care teams.

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COMMUNITY & SERVICES

obituaries

ASCUTNEY, VT.

Open Bible Baptist Church, 168 Cemetery Rd.
Sunday services are being held in the church. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m., Sunday morning service is 11 a.m., and the afternoon service is 1:30 p.m. Wednesday evening service is at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call the church at 802-674-2266 or visit www.obbcvt.org.

ATHENS, VT.

Community Christian Church of Athens, 126 Brookline Road
Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., and prayer meetings are held Wednesdays, at 7 p.m. If you have questions, call 802-869-2513. The 9:30 a.m. Sunday service is also streamed on Facebook Live at the Church’s Facebook page.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church St.
Traditional Baptist Services held Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Handicap accessible. 802-463-3220.

St. Charles Church, 31 Cherry Hill St.
Masses are held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, at 7 a.m.; Wednesday, at 7 p.m.; Saturday Vigil Mass, at 4 p.m.; and Sunday, at 9 a.m. For more information, call 802-732-8721.

CAVENDISH, VT.

St. James United Methodist Church, 570 Main St.
Please join us Sundays, at 8:45 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, go to www.facebook.com/stjamesumcproctorsville.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

Charlestown Congregational Church, 71 Main St.
Sunday service starts at 10 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, call 603-826-3335.

Charlestown Bible Church, 37 Hammond Rd.
Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7 p.m. To hear a sermon or learn more go to www.charlestownbiblechurch.org. Call 603-826-5121 for more info or to request a personal Bible study.

CHESTER, VT.

Chester Baptist Church, 162 Main St.
Worship is Sundays at 10:30 a.m. For more information, including online streaming, go to www.chesterbaptist.org.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

First Baptist Church, 62 Crescent St., S. Londonderry
Worship service is Sunday at 10 a.m. at the church. Services will still be live streamed at www.firstbaptistslondonderryvt.org/streaming-worship.html. For more information, visit www.firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org or call 802-856-7266.

MOUNT HOLLY, VT.

Village Baptist Church, 32 Church St.
We welcome all to come and worship with us Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call 802-259-2440.

PERKINSVILLE, VT.

Bow Baptist Church, 1102 Route 5, Weathersfield Bow
Sunday services are 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m., and Wednesday Bible Study and prayer at 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-546-4902.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

First Congregational Church, UCC, 77 Main St.
Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in person. Singing is encouraged! For more information, call 802-885-5728, email fccucc@vermontel.net, or go to www.firstchurchspringfield.org.

North Springfield Baptist Church, 581 Giddings Street, North Springfield.
All are welcome and invited to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. For more information, please email the church office at office@nsbcvt.org, or call 802-886-8107. We are handicap accessible.

WALPOLE, N.H.

First Congregational Church of Walpole UCC, 15 Washington Sq.
Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, or via Zoom. For Zoom links, please call 603-756-4075. For more information, go to www.walpolenhucc.org or www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalWalpoleNH.

WESTON, VT.

The Old Parish Church, 644 Main St.
A diverse, informal, and welcoming congregation. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. For more information, contact Jon Bliss, minister, at 802-824-4452 or email easthillfarm@vermontel.net.

Edward L. Foster, 1954-2026

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – Edward Lee “Ed” Foster, 71, of Rockingham, Vt., passed away at his home on May 27, 2026.

Edward was born on Aug. 14, 1954, in Springfield, Vt., to Ellen Sylvia and Raymond Earl Foster.

He married the love of his life, Ruth Foster, on June 21, 1975.

He was a wonderful son, husband, father, brother, and friend. Ed was sure to make everyone smile and laugh. He enjoyed metal detecting, hunting, fishing (especially ice fishing), riding his motorcycle, and spending time with family and friends.

He was a jack-of-all-trades and did many different jobs throughout his life: driving dump trucks, mechanic work, towing and recovery, and carpentry.

Edward was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Foster; his mother, Ellen Wade; his stepfather, Allen Wade; his father, Raymond Foster; his brothers Albert (Foster) Wade and Andrew (Foster) Wade; and his uncle Jerry Foster.



Edward Foster, 1954-2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

He is survived by his son, David Foster; his daughter, Beth Muzzey; his son-in-law, Travis Muzzey; his stepmother, Beverly Foster; his brother Mike Foster; his brother-in-law Marty Weinstein; his sister Judy Cenate; his brother-in-law Don Cenate; his sister Sher-yl Stowell; his sister Donna Foster; his uncle Harold Foster; his uncle Jim Foster; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

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

Online workshop helps prevent Type 2 diabetes

REGION – More than one in three American adults has prediabetes, a condition that often has no symptoms but can lead to Type 2 diabetes and other serious health problems. The good news is that it can often be prevented.

My Healthy Vermont is offering a free online diabetes prevention program developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Research shows the program can reduce the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes by 58%.

The year-long program includes 26 sessions led

by a trained lifestyle coach who provides guidance, support, and practical strategies for making healthy lifestyle changes. Sessions begin weekly, then meet every other week, and finally once a month. All meetings are held on Zoom. The next program begins Monday, July 13, from 12-1 p.m.

To learn more or register, visit the My Healthy Vermont website, www.myhealthyvt.org, or call 802-859-5913. My Healthy Vermont also offers free workshops on chronic disease management, chronic pain management, and smoking cessation.

Londonderry Arts and Historical Society Champagne Birthday

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Celebrate the birthdays of both our nation and the Town of Londonderry at the Londonderry Arts and Historical Society’s annual fundraising event, a champagne birthday celebration, on Thursday, July 23, at 5:30 p.m., at the historic Custer Sharp House, 2461 Middletown Road in Londonderry.

The evening begins with champagne and hors d’oeuvres, followed by a lively and entertaining presentation by local history buffs Bob Wells and Bev Foster. Discover the fascinating story of Londonderry’s founding through colorful characters and little-known tales, and even learn where the town’s founders are buried today.

The celebration concludes with another toast of champagne and a taste

of traditional election cake, the rich, spiced cake once served by early Americans on election day.

Guests will also have an opportunity to support the society’s “History Runs on More Than Memories” campaign, which helps build the reserves needed to preserve and maintain the Custer Sharp House, and continue the society’s educational programs and community events.

Reservations are requested by Friday, July 17. Tickets may be purchased at www.lahsvt.org.

For more information about the Londonderry Arts and Historical Society, and its events and exhibits, visit the website above. The society is open Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., through Columbus Day, or by appointment.

John N. Swanson, 2026

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – John Nels Swanson passed away on July 1, 2026, at The Meadows in Rutland, Vt., at age 64. John was born in Rutland, Vt., but spent most of his life in Springfield, Vt. He was the son of Robert and Mary (Parker) Swanson.

John graduated from Springfield High School in 1980, received his Bachelor of Arts degree in secondary education from the University of Vermont in 1984, and, in 1991, received his Master of Arts degree in history from the University of Vermont. During his career as a history and social studies teacher, he taught at Fall Mountain Regional High School, Bellows Falls Middle School, Springfield High School, and Riverside Middle School for the last 22 years of his career.

His accomplishments include being a track and cross-country coach for several schools, a member of the Springfield Select-board, a cemetery commissioner for the Town of Springfield, and a Vermont VFW Middle School Social Studies Teacher of the Year; attending 15 years of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College; completing the Vermont 251 Club; and serving many roles as a member of the Springfield Calvary Baptist Church. He was also a member of the Springfield Historical Society, cofounded its high school history intern program, and served as archivist and officer. He was a member of the Vermont



John N. Swanson, 2026. PHOTO PROVIDED

Civil War Hemlocks, Civil War reenactors.

One of his proudest achievements was publishing his book “War Tears” in 2024 and signing it for his readers. He was an avid reader and loved going to bookstores and book talks. He was known for his extensive history book collection.

John was predeceased by his parents. He is survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Diane and Ken Nelson; his nephew and nieces, Joel (Christy) Nelson, Emily Nelson, and Dana (Kyla) Nelson; and two great-nephews, Julian and Luca.

A service for John will be held on Saturday, July 25, at 11 a.m., at the Calvary Baptist Church in Springfield, Vt. Memorial contributions can be sent to the Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main Street, Springfield, VT 05156; or The Springfield Art and Historical Society, 65 Route 106, North Springfield, VT 05150.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with the arrangements.

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.

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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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UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 9 –
CHESTER, Vt. – Dave Keller Band will play the Chester Summer Music Series on Thursday, July 9, from 6:30-8 p.m., on the Chester Academy Lawn, or in the Chester Town Hall auditorium in case of rain. One of the premier torchbearers of deep soul and roots music, Keller’s dynamic, high energy performances have earned him a legion of fans throughout the U.S. and Europe. Special guest Johnny Rawls is a soul blues legend. In fact, the term “soul blues” was invented to describe his music.

JULY 10 –
ALSTEAD, N.H. – Chase’s Mill, 801 Forest Road (Route 123), will screen the documentary film “La Frontiere,” featuring stories from Wabanaki and Acadian communities along northern Maine’s borderlands, presented by filmmaker Katy Haas, on Friday, July 10. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the program begins at 7 p.m. You can reserve your space at www.chasesmill.org; walk-ins are welcome.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The Charlestown Senior Center’s next summer series concert will be on Friday, July 10, from 6:30-8 p.m., at 5 Acer Heights. The band will be JJ’s Music, sponsored by the senior center. Please come and bring your family and/or friends, along with a lawn chair. There will be a 50-50 raffle and refreshments for purchase.

JULY 11 AND 12 –
WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Garden enthusiasts and nature lovers are invited to explore some of Westminster’s most beautiful gardens during the 2026 Westminster Garden Tour, taking place Saturday, July 11, and Sunday, July 12, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. This year’s tour will feature the gardens of Gordon and Mary Hayward, the Westminster Center School, Hawksong East, and Signal Pine Gardens. Guests will also enjoy a sapling demonstration by Mark Ragonese and a performance of Flea Circus by Sandglass Theater, all included with admission. Tickets can be purchased at go.evnt.com/3682961-0?pid=10935. Children ages 16 and under are admitted free. Tickets are valid for both days of the tour, rain or shine. This is a wonderful event that also supports the mission of Westminster Cares.

JULY 11 –
JAMAICA, Vt. – TommyFest will be held on Saturday, July 11, at 2 p.m., on Pikes Falls Road in Jamaica, Vt. TommyFest is a nonprofit organization devoted to providing free musical instruments to anyone ready to start, continue, or improve their musical journey. Learn more at www.tommyfest.fun.

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The North School Preservation Society will hold a yard sale fundraiser on Saturday, July 11, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at 5 School Street, rain or shine. The sale includes vintage items, pottery, household goods, cookware, small appliances, tools, books, and a bag sale.

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – The First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 U.S. Route 5, will host the annual Strawberry Supper on Saturday, July 11, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. This will be a ham supper with various sides, and strawberry shortcake for dessert.

JULY 13 –
LUDLOW, Vt. – As part of the Fletcher Memorial Library’s 125th anniversary, the Friends of Fletcher Memorial Library are developing a 2027 calendar which will feature photos of Ludlow and be sold in the fall of 2026. All proceeds will be used to support the library. We are looking for photos that showcase aspects of Ludlow: mountains, lakes, flowers, wildlife, and quaint village. Stop by the library at 88 Main Street in Ludlow for more information and an entry form. The deadline to submit photos is July 13.

JULY 17 –
ALSTEAD, N.H. – Chase’s Mill, 801 Forest Road (Route 123), will host “Story Slam: Connecting Through Craft” on Friday, July 17. This is an open-mic night, where attendees can tell five-minute personal stories about connecting through craft. Participate, or listen and vote for best story. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the program begins at 7 p.m. You can reserve your space at www.chasesmill.org; walk-ins are welcome.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – Second Wind will play a free outdoor concert,

weather permitting, at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, on Friday, July 17, from 6-8:30 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs. Snacks and drinks will be served, BYOB if you wish. This concert is open to the public.

RECURRING EVENTS

SUNDAYS –
CHESTER, Vt. – Six Loose Ladies hosts Odd Bobbins Spinners the second Sunday of each month from 1-4 p.m. at their location on the Common in Chester.

MONDAYS –
CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds line dancing every Monday night, at 7 p.m., with Dorianne Lescord. Free for members, small entry fee for nonmembers. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds chair yoga every Monday morning, at 9:30 a.m., with Brianna Renner. Free for members, small entry fee for nonmembers. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Fletcher 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 Good Neighbor Services. For more information, call 802-228-3663.

TUESDAYS –
CHESTER, Vt. – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Tuesday, from 10-11 a.m. Classes will be held in the First Universalist Parish of Chester community room. Classes are free and open to all. Drop-in class, no registration needed. For details, contact Barbara at bwquilter1778@gmail.com.

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

THURSDAYS –
WALPOLE, N.H. – Alcoholics Anonymous women’s meeting, a 12-step recovery program for women who have a desire to stop drinking, is happening every Thursday at 6 p.m. at the St. John’s Episcopal Church at the corner of Westminster and Elm streets in Walpole, N.H. For more information, call Viva at 802-732-8330.

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, holds computer clinics on the third Thursday of every month, from 1-3 p.m. Bring your computer or laptop in if you need help with it. This is for seniors only. Emily and Luke will help you troubleshoot any problems you are having, or help you to better understand your computer. They can also help you with your cell phone, especially

if it is an Android. For more information, call 603-543-5998.

CHESTER, Vt. – Community croquet games are held on the lawn behind St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 313 Main Street, every Thursday in July, from 6-8 p.m. Participation is free, and light refreshments are served.

FRIDAYS –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Fridays from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., John Bohannon will teach tai chi and qi gong at the Rockingham Library in Bellows Falls, Vt. No special equipment or clothing is required.

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

W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – The Townshend Farmers Market, located at the West Townshend Country Store, 6573 Vermont Route 30, is held on Fridays, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., with vendors, both returning and new. Pizza and tacos will be available starting at 5 p.m.

SATURDAYS –
BRIDGEWATER, Vt. – The Bridgewater Historical Society, located in the Old Brick Schoolhouse at 12 North Bridgewater Road, is open the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from May 23 – Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RESTAURANT OPPORTUNITY

The **Bellows Falls Country Club (BFCC)** is inviting interested parties to submit a proposal to operate a restaurant at BFCC located in Rockingham, VT.

FOR RFP DETAILS VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.bellowsfallscountryclub.com

CLICK ON BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

EMAIL: bfcctherock@gmail.com

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY

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

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

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

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

WARNING FOR THE LONDONDERRY TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Londonderry, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town Hall, 139 Middletown Road, South Londonderry in Londonderry, on Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 6:00pm to act on the following Articles, namely:

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED FROM THE FLOOR:
Beginning at 6:00 p.m., the following business will be transacted from the floor:

ARTICLE 1 Shall the Town raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$81,000 for the purpose of funding, in part, the salary and benefits of the General Office Manager, a portion of which salary and benefits will be shared by all Departments within the town?

ARTICLE 2 To transact any other business that may legally come before the Meeting.

Dated at Londonderry this 15th day of June 2026.

Selectboard of the Town of Londonderry

Thomas Cavanagh, Chair

James Ameden, Jr., Vice Chair

Taylor Prouty

James Fleming

Leanne Alexander

Received for the record this 15th day of June 2026

Allison Marino, Town Clerk

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – This year, the Stellafane Convention, to be held Aug. 13-16, will have several convention centennial special events. Please join for this celebration.

As always, the convention offers three nights of dark-sky observing with your own scope and four operating observatories. Many tall trees have been removed from the edge of the main observing field to widen access to the sky. Attendees can also participate in the Observing Olympics, discover interesting objects, and win a beautiful enameled pin.

A very special event, the premiere of the feature-length documentary “Stellafane and Beyond,” will be held early Friday evening, Aug. 14, in the Great Hall at 100 River Street. You can purchase tickets or a film sponsorship to support its creation and the club.

The Hartness House

workshop is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 13. The program for the day will be a heterogeneous collection of high-quality presentations on a variety of astronomical subjects, with the usual opportunity to mingle with the speakers and other attendees at the historic Hartness House Inn. There is a separate admission fee for these events.

Do you have a short presentation you would like share with other conventioners? Sign up for the Friday informal talks at www.stellafanevt.org/community.

Program highlights include keynote speaker Ruskin Hartley, CEO of Darksky International; the opportunity to build a cube-sat and “fly” it on a zip line; an amateur telescope competition, both optical and mechanical; an amateur telescope-making demonstration; swap tables on Saturday morning, Aug. 15; and a full program of day-time speakers presenting topics of interest to amateur astronomers and telescope

makers at the beginner, intermediate, or advanced levels. A complete program schedule can be viewed at www.stellafanevt.org/2026/scheduleofevents.

The Town of Springfield is celebrating with us: We will have a new museum space open during the convention in conjunction with the Springfield Art & Historical Society. There will also be exhibits of Stellafane founder Russell Porter’s artwork at Gallery at the Vault, the Springfield Library, the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, VRmont Studios, and our new museum. See www.stellafanevt.org/otheractivitiesforhoursandlocations.

Camp on site or stay in local lodging. Saturday dinner packages are available to order with your tickets. Food services will be operating Thursday at noon through Sunday morning.

Ticket prices will increase on July 13, so buy your tickets now for lowest price. Visit the convention website, www.stellafanevt.org, to

purchase tickets or for more information.

Additionally, club member Glenn Jackson is creating a time capsule to be opened at the 2126 Stellafane Convention. Each and every member of the Stellafane community is invited to participate. Write a biography of your journey through your telescope. Include a picture of you and your telescope, and answer questions such as “what brought you to Stellafane?,” “what are your most memorable experiences?,” and “is your career related to space and astronomy?” News articles, club fliers, and anything that will be celebrated in 100 years are welcome. The time capsule will be sealed at the club’s December 2026 meeting. Drop your contribution off in the collection box in the Flanders Pavilion. You may also send a PDF to Gsjackson4955@gmail.com and Glenn will print it on archival paper, or mail it to Springfield Telescope Makers, P.O. Box 601, Springfield, VT 05156.

Town of Westminster

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DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (DRB)

WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL

Westminster, Vermont

Legal Notice

The Westminster Development Review Board will meet at 6:00 pm on **Monday, August 3, 2026** to consider the following:

Application # 26-30

Luis Gaullpa (Owner) & Eli Reed (Applicant) property located at 3366 US Route 5. The Owner & Applicant are requesting a Change of Use – Single Family Home to a Bed & Breakfast in Westminster, Vermont. This Application will be reviewed under **Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 445 Village District Zone; & Article IX Historical Preservation Overlay** of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

Participation in the proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeals.

The application is available for review in the Westminster Town Hall, 3651 US Route 5 Westminster, Vermont 05158, Monday – Thursday from 7:30 am - 4:30 pm.

PROS TO KNOW

classifieds

Economic development project solicitation

REGION – Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC), Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC), and Windham Regional Commission (WRC) have opened the annual project submission process for southern Vermont’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and Regional Priority Project (RPP) programs.

Organizations throughout Bennington County and the Windham region, which includes all Windham County towns and the Town of Weston, are invited to submit projects that are in alignment with regional economic and community development goals.

An informational webinar will be held on Wednesday, July 22, to explain both programs (CEDS and RPP), review submission requirements, and answer questions from prospective and returning applicants. To learn more, register for the webinar, or submit a project, visit www.sovermontzone.com/ceds-rpp-project-submission. Project submissions will be accepted through Sept. 18.

“The projects submitted through this process tell the story of where southern Vermont is headed,” said Adam Grinold, executive director of the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation. “Every year

we see communities, businesses, nonprofits, and institutions bringing forward ideas that address housing, workforce, infrastructure, child care, health care, and economic opportunity. Our job is to help connect those projects to partners, funding opportunities, and the broader regional strategy that can help move them forward.”

The submission process serves two related but distinct purposes. The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is southern Vermont’s federally recognized economic development strategy and serves as the region’s implementation framework for economic development. The annual update tracks projects across Bennington and Windham counties, measures progress toward regional goals, and helps align local initiatives with state and federal funding opportunities.

Projects at all stages of development are encouraged for submission. Whether a project is in the concept phase, actively seeking funding, under construction, or recently completed, inclusion in the CEDS update helps create a more complete picture of economic development activity across southern Vermont.

Projects that are implementation-ready and seeking additional visibility

may also be considered for the Regional Priority Project (RPP) process by completing supplemental questions within the same submission form.

Regional Priority Projects are part of a state-wide initiative coordinated through Vermont’s Regional Development Corporations in partnership with the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the Northern Border Regional Commission. The RPP process highlights the top economic and community development projects in our region that are best positioned to attract state and federal funding.

In southern Vermont, all Regional Priority Projects are first submitted through the CEDS process, allowing applicants to complete a single form for both opportunities.

Organizations that submitted projects in previous years do not need to start from scratch. Previously submitted information can be updated and reused as part of the 2026 submission cycle.

Technical assistance, office hours, and proposer support will be available throughout the submission period.

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OTHER

LUDLOW, Vt. – Please contact me if you witnessed a skier-to-skier collision on the Lower Arrow Trail, near the Village Run crossover at Okemo, on January 25, 2025 at 11 a.m. If you are the good Samaritan who first helped the woman with the broken leg, or know who that is, we thank you

and ask that you please contact me at jlevins@tdlevins.com or 802-775-4361.

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CAVENDISH, Vt. – Horse literate person wanted to assist lady carriage driver several times a week in Cavendish. 802-226-7364.

MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. – WANTED TO BUY – Looking for some stone fence post to replace broken ones in my fenceline. Call Kris at 802-259-2529.

YARD SALE

LUDLOW, Vt. – Multi-family yard sale on Saturday, July 11, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., at 59-61 Andover Street in Ludlow.

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the board of directors and staff at Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), we extend our sincere thanks to the residents of Windsor and Windham counties for supporting our town funding requests during this year’s Town Meetings.

Your continued investment in HCRS helps sustain our access navigator program, connecting individuals and families with the mental health and substance use services they need. This local support makes a meaningful difference, helping ensure that people can access

care, resources, and guidance when they need it most.

We are deeply grateful to the voters of the following Vermont towns for their partnership and commitment to the health and well-being of our communities: Andover, Athens, Bethel, Cavendish, Chester, Dover, Dummerston, Grafton, Guilford, Halifax, Hartford, Hartland, Jamaica, Landgrove, Ludlow, Marlboro, Newfane, Plymouth, Pomfret, Putney, Reading, Rockingham, Royalton, Sharon, Springfield, Stratton, Townshend, Vernon, Wardsboro, Weathersfield,

Westminster, West Windsor, Weston, Whitingham, Wilmington, Windham, Windsor, and Woodstock.

We are honored by the confidence you continue to place in HCRS. Together, we are strengthening access to care and helping build healthier, more resilient communities throughout southeastern Vermont. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Anne Bilodeau, Chief Executive Officer
Health Care and Rehabilitation Services

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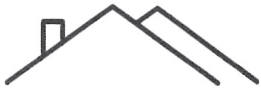
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arts & entertainment

Springfield Community Band upcoming concerts

REGION – On Sunday, July 12, the Springfield Community Band will present a concert in Walpole, N.H., under the direction of Nick Pelton. The evening will feature familiar, exciting, and well-loved music from Broadway musicals, including “Phantom of the Opera,” “The Greatest Showman,” “Wicked,” and “Chicago.”

The featured performance of the evening will be by vocalist Grace Thompson, who will sing a medley of familiar selections from “The Sound of Music.”

The concert will take

place at the gazebo at 34 Elm Street in Walpole, N.H., at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a chair.

On Tuesday, July 14, at 6:15 p.m., the band will present its annual children’s concert at The Common, a park on Cherry Hill in Springfield, opposite the Summer Hill Cemetery.

Pelton will conduct. Children are invited to come in costume.

The concert will feature dancers from The Dance Company enacting the story of “Peter and the Wolf,” with choreography by Ashley Hensel-Browning. Children

who would like to conduct the band will have the chance to do so. There will also be a free frozen treat for all the kids.

Another treat will be Pelton on saxophone, playing “Lightning Fingers.” The title speaks for itself.

Please bring a chair. Note that the above programs could change due to unforeseen circumstances. If rain threatens to cancel either concert, information will be available on the band’s Facebook page.

Peter Tavalin accompanies “Safety Last!” at Next Stage —

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts presents an evening of classic silent film and live music on Friday, July 17, at 7 p.m., when pianist and composer Peter Tavalin performs a live improvised score to Harold Lloyd’s beloved 1923 comedy “Safety Last!” at Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill in Putney. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Tickets are available at www.nextstagearts.org.

A graduate of Berklee College of Music and a lifelong jazz improviser, Tavalin has been accompanying silent films since 1979, creating expressive, in-the-moment soundtracks that bring classic cinema vividly to life. Drawing on his skills as both composer and improviser, he crafts a unique musical experience for each performance, responding in real time to the action, emotion, and humor unfolding on screen. No two presentations are ever exactly alike.

For this performance, Tavalin selected “Safety Last!,” widely regarded as one of the greatest silent comedies ever made. The film follows an ambitious young man navigating big-city life in pursuit of success, culminating in one of cinema’s most iconic and suspenseful sequences.

“These days we can all use a good laugh,” says Tavalin.



Peter Tavalin at his keyboard, composing music for “Safety Last.”

PHOTO PROVIDED

“Harold Lloyd definitely rates as one of the great silent film comics, in the same class as Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton.”

Rather than recreating the sound of early-20th-century movie palaces, Tavalin uses a synthesizer and contemporary musical vocabulary to create a modern accompaniment that blends seamlessly with the action on screen. His repertoire includes more than 25 silent films, and he continues to expand it through performances at

universities, museums, film series, festivals, and other venues.

Audiences can expect an engaging evening of laughter, cinematic history, and live musical artistry as one of silent film’s most enduring classics springs to life through a freshly created score.

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

The Suitcase Junket and Rachel Kilgour at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present swamp-Yankee music one-man-band The Suitcase Junket and Canadian-American singer-songwriter Rachael Kilgour at Next Stage, on Saturday, July 11, at 7:30 p.m.

The Suitcase Junket, the internationally touring project of artist Matt Lorenz, developed in the tension between the grand and the solitary—grand in imagery, sound, and staging, solitary in thrift and self-reliance. NPR calls Lorenz a “master of musical imagination.” What instruments he requires Lorenz builds from scratch and salvage. What parts five players would perform, he performs alone. The spectacle of the one-man show bears comparison

to legends of showmanship, brilliance, madness, and invention.

While audiences are captivated by that solitary form and the show itself, Lorenz, who homesteads in Western Massachusetts, is most serious about the songs. The world he writes into existence is crowded with characters, narratives, voices, imagery, and sounds as wide and varied as mountain throat singers and roadhouse juke boxes, plus newsreels of the planet’s destruction and salvage. Lorenz’s most recent album, “The End is New,” was released at Renew Records/BMG. He has been in the studio in recent months recording toward a new release.

Singer-songwriter Rachael Kilgour writes in hopes of finding a truth she can live with. Her intimate live performances radiate with

sincerity and humor, as she expertly balances her poignant, literate songs with her quick wit. She was awarded a prestigious McKnight Music Fellowship in 2025, was an official showcasing artist at the Folk Alliance International Conference (2025), and was a winner of both the Kerrville New Folk Contest (2017) and the Newsong Songwriting and Performance Competition (2015). Kilgour’s oft-noted “unapologetic lyrics” (Rolling Stone) and “master crafted indie folk” sensibilities (Billboard) are on full display in each of her delicately woven songs.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Advance tickets are available discounted at www.nextstagearts.org. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar. For more information, call 802-387-0102 or visit the website above.

Vermont playwrights at Springfield Community Players

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – From July through September, theatergoers in Springfield will experience two full productions and one staged reading, all by local playwrights.

Springfield Community Players’ (SCP) Local Summer Spotlight opens in July with Larry Kraft’s “Waiting for a Eulogy.” In the spirit of Beckett’s “Waiting for Godot,” two travelers on the road of life banter and bicker about things they may or may not have done. Only this time, they’re in a bar – and one of them is dead. Kraft, a published playwright and North Springfield resident, allows his characters to “take [him] where they want to go.” Influenced by his 20 years at Springfield Hospital and his board service at Senior Solutions, “Waiting” explores mortality and the enduring power of

friendship.

Directed by Patty Greene-Pawelczyk, “Waiting for a Eulogy” runs July 18, 19, 24, and 25. Tickets will be available soon through SCP’s website.

In August, audiences can enjoy a staged reading of “Kentucky Fried Zombies” by Sebastian Taylor. When folks in town start getting sick, all eyes turn to the manager of a local fast-food chain who has a unique way of dealing with “problem customers.” Taylor, of Springfield, holds a Master of Fine Arts from New England College in writing for stage and screen, and is excited to introduce “Kentucky,” his first full-length play, in the staged reading format. His previous work was featured in a 10-minute play festival in New York. Catch Kentucky Fried Zombies on Aug. 7.

And, because one can never get enough of the undead, wrap up your summer

fun in September with “Zip Zap Zombies,” written and directed by Springfield resident Josie Munroe. Inconvenient truths and fragile egos take center stage in this dark comedy, when an adult acting class is interrupted by a zombie apocalypse unfolding just beyond the theater’s walls. Munroe is a psychotherapist with a lifelong love of theater. Inspired by the dynamics of a real acting class, her idea for “Zombies” arrived “in a flash and took on a life of its own.”

Auditions for “Zip Zap Zombies” are open to the community and will be held July 8 and 11, with performances running Sept. 19, 20, 26, and 27.

Springfield Community Players is Vermont’s oldest continuously operating community theater group. For tickets, audition information, and more, visit www.springfieldplayers.org.

Bandwagon Series presents The Mammals, Michael Veitch Band, and Doozy Jane

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Next Stage Arts continues its Bandwagon Summer Series with a folk, roots, and Americana music festival on Saturday, July 18, at Robertson Paper Company Field, 21 Island Street in Bellows Falls. The festival begins at 4 p.m., with gates

opening at 3 p.m.

Featuring acclaimed Americana favorites The Mammals, veteran singer-songwriter Michael Veitch Band, and rising folk quartet Doozy Jane, the festival celebrates the enduring power of song, storytelling, and community.

Headlining the event, The Mammals bring their signature blend of high-energy Americana, string-band virtuosity, and socially conscious songwriting. Led by Mike Merenda and Ruth Ungar, the group is renowned for performances that balance rafter-raising enthusiasm with intimate, reflective moments. Their latest release, “Touch Grass Vol. 1 & 2,” explores themes of freedom, kinship, and ecological renewal while continuing the band’s tradition of connecting audiences through music and shared purpose.

Also taking the stage is the Michael Veitch Band. Veitch’s soaring tenor voice, expressive guitar work, and deeply personal songwriting have earned him national recognition throughout a long and distinguished career. His songs

explore themes of love, activism, memory, and hope, delivered with warmth, sincerity, and masterful musicianship.

Opening the festival is Doozy Jane, a dynamic quartet known for lush four-part treble harmonies and inventive arrangements. Combining fiddle, clarinet, guitar, and bass, the group reimagines folk traditions through a contemporary feminist lens, drawing inspiration from both historic and modern voices in American roots music.

Together, these artists create a rich tapestry of folk traditions, modern roots music, and Americana spirit. Whether drawn by the harmonies, the storytelling, or the sense of community, audiences will find an afternoon and evening of music that celebrates connection and shared experience.

Food vendors for the festival include Smokin’ Bowls, Taza Afghan Foods and Catering, and The Blue Pig. A cash bar will also be available onsite.

The event is sponsored by Vermont Plank Flooring. Advance tickets are available at www.nextstagearts.org.

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