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Springfield Community Chorus performs "A Golden Christmas"

BY KAREN ENGDAHL

The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Community Chorus ushered in its 50th season with a pair of Golden Christmas Concerts.

The first was at the First Baptist Church in Chester the evening of Dec. 3, and the next at the First Congregational Church of Springfield the afternoon of Dec. 4.

More than 40 local singers joined Director Kenneth Olsson, Guest

Conductor Deirdre Hiltsey, and accompanist Ashley Paine for a program of Christmas music ranging from secular favorites such as "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" to such sacred masterpieces as Bach's "Break Forth, O' Beauteous, Heavenly Light."

The concert included "Glory and Honor to the Newborn King," a gospel tune arranged by Robert DeCormier, conductor emeritus of the Vermont Symphony Chorus and founder of the popular Vermont en-

semble Counterpoint.

"This Little Babe," one of the 11 carols of Benjamin Britten's 1942 masterpiece, "A Ceremony of Carols," was written while Britten was at sea between the U.S. and England during World War II. The text, part of "The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems" compiled by Gerald Bullett, is in Middle English and sung in a haunting, echoing style.

Chorus members, alumni, and the rest of the audience enthusiastically welcomed Dee Hiltsey, former director of the chorus from 1987-2006, to the podium for part of the program, where her great affection for the singers and the music was obvious.

"It is truly a joy to be back," she said.

Hiltsey and her husband, Thomas, lived in Springfield where he was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, and she served as organist and choir director until 2006. Since then they have made their home in St. Augustine, Fla.

Tenor Dick Hurd, who by casual census was declared the current member with the longest tenure, stated he has enjoyed every season since 1979.

See **CHORUS** on Page 2A



The Springfield Community Chorus.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Town seeks financial assistance

BY JOEL SLUTSKY

The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – He recently left by mutual agreement, but Willard "Chip" Stearns became the interim municipal manager for Rockingham town and Bellows Falls village at an April 17, 2013 joint board meeting.

At the time, he was also the Town of Rockingham finance director, and a decision was made to have him hold both positions.

With the recent agreement of separation with Stearns, new Interim Municipal Manager Shane O'Keefe stated that it would be smart for the short term to bring in the New England Municipal Resource Center a couple of days a week.

"This action is to make sure that we are hitting all the bases and there aren't items falling between the cracks, and there is adequate coverage for financial administration," O'Keefe said.

O'Keefe continued that he felt two days a week at that position would be sufficient. He further noted that the New England Municipal Resource

Center rates are normally \$125 per hour and that they are offering services to the town and village at a reduced rate of \$98 per hour with a minimum of 96 hours.

O'Keefe also stated that the boards should discuss the long-term goal of whether to hire a manager/finance director or to split these two positions.

Selectboard member Ann DiBernardo noted that in hiring a manager the boards always seem to desire someone with a strong financial background, but she felt it is too much of a workload for one person.

According to the Town of Rockingham website, "The finance director supervises all property and business affairs of the municipality and oversees expenditure of all funds appropriated for municipal purposes."

O'Keefe said he just wants to make sure, with all the projects going on, that nothing is missed.

"We (should be) getting all the revenue that we are supposed to be getting and paying bills as we should," O'Keefe said.

Barnett stated that he felt it would

be helpful to give O'Keefe some indication of what direction the board would likely take on this issue, and all agreed that two positions were desirable.

Village Trustee Evelyn Weeks stated that it would depend on whether two positions were affordable.

Village President Myles Mickel stated that he felt two positions would create a better balance and oversight.

Selectboard and Village Trustees member Peter Golec noted that the board is looking at upwards of \$100,000 for salary and benefits for the manager, but doesn't have a problem with two positions.

A motion was passed by the Bellows Falls Trustees to authorize the interim municipal manager to enter into and sign an agreement with New England Municipal Resource Center for the temporary services of financial assistance at a cost of \$98 per hour for a minimum of 96 hours.

The Village Trustees and Selectboard also passed a motion to enter executive session, where it was decided that the Timothy Cullinan mediation be held in the Town of Rockingham, and they requested the services of attorney Potter Stewart Jr. as mediator. Cullinan is the former municipal manager who alleges his 2013 firing was wrongful discrimination.

It was decided that Mickel and Barnett would represent the boards. The boards discussed its fixed asset disposition policy.

The topic had its genesis in the disposition of the Burtonsville Bridge debris after Tropical Storm Irene caused the covered bridge to collapse. Stearns was accused of not checking with elected officials

See **FINANCE** on Page 2A



Highway Superintendent Mike Hindes with Villager Doug MacPhee in the background.

PHOTO BY JOEL SLUTSKY

Author reads "Did Tiger Take the Rain?" to kids

BY MARY ELLEN CANNON

The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Author and illustrator Charles Norris-Brown, a recent arrival to the area, read to children through the afternoon at Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls recently.

Mrs. Santa Claus visited, too, to help children with stickers and games for "Take a Child to a Bookstore" day.

Norris-Brown based his book, "Did Tiger Take the Rain?" on real people he met in the western Terai flat region of Nepal.

He shows children how the flat Terai, a wet swampy area with small farming villages, is across the river from tiger reserves in the jungle. An anthropologist, he took his watercolors and pens with him to India in 1999.

He asked folks then what he might do to help the tigers. Now only 3,000 tigers remain in the wild. More tigers live in zoos than in the jungle.

The answer – he should write a children's book.

Years later, his gorgeous watercolors illustrate a text that draws on tiger lore, the old stories that always have a tiger and jackal or tiger and monkey, as well as current climate-change concerns.

Norris-Brown says this is his story, not a myth retold. Still, his characters are real people he's met who agreed to model for his paintings and to share their tiger stories



Author Charles Norris Brown reads to local children.

PHOTO BY MARY ELLEN CANNON

with him.

In the story, the river is low from lack of rain. Tiger crosses the river and the people of the Terai take this as a bad omen that Tiger is angry.

The fantasy begins. Anjali and her best friend, Usha, cross the river to ask Tiger the cause of his anger. Jackal and monkey tell the girls about the time before so much forest was cut, when many tigers lived.

Monkey explains the rain cycle and importance of trees to keeping clouds in the sky to bring rain. Monkey gives the girls seeds to plant back home. Rains come again with the tree restoration.

Norris-Brown tells children Tiger hides on three different pages watching the girls.

The book has a teacher's section and a reader's guide. The book is available at the bookstore.



Kiarah Saunders with Charles Norris-Brown and Mrs. Claus at the Village Square Booksellers.

PHOTO PROVIDED

St. Nicholas Bazaar draws crowd

BY KAREN ENGDAHL

The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – By the time the doors of the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church opened for its annual St. Nicholas Bazaar, a small crowd had gathered to enter the popular event.

The bazaar, a community favorite during the holiday season, has been held the first Saturday in December every year since 1979.

"You have to get here early before the food is all gone; it's usually sold out by 10 o'clock," said Cynthia Zimmick, a parishioner working at the food table.

The table, loaded with homemade breads, cookies, baked beans, and traditional Russian and Polish fare such as pierogies, kapusta (sauerkraut) and galumpkies, was emptying quickly as shoppers swept up the delicacies.

"We work together as a congregation at the end of November to make the pierogies," said Katie Donovan, a young parishioner who was completing a blog post about the bazaar for her Upper Valley Fun blog at uppervalleyfun.com. "I helped with the cooking and my son, Braden, who's 8 months, helped with the entertainment!"

Other parishioners busily assisted shoppers with the handmade crafts and wreaths. Many of those purchasing food and crafts have made the St. Nicholas Bazaar a regular part of their holiday shopping.

"You can find traditional foods here you just can't get anywhere else," said a woman whose arms were full of breads, baked beans, cabbage rolls, and a handmade

wreath.

Janet Klimenok, a long-time parishioner, refinished and hand-caned several antique chairs to be included in the fundraiser.

"These won't last long!" exclaimed a shopper, looking at the price tags of \$15 to \$25 per chair.

"Money raised at the bazaar helps fund Holy Trinity's ongoing support of local charities such as the Family Center and the homeless shelter," explained Father Peter Carmichael, pastor of the church. "We've also committed funds in the past to an orphanage in Mexico and other

church missions."

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church was founded in 1905 by Alexander Hotovitsky, a missionary priest who helped start many Orthodox congregations in America. The church moved to its current location on Park Street in 1909; its earliest parishioners were Russian immigrants to Springfield.

The church is a member of the Orthodox Church, which has more than 200 million members worldwide, from Jerusalem to Greece to Russia, Japan, and through Africa and the Americas.



Janet Klimenok stand ready to help customers with Christmas crafts.

PHOTO BY KAREN ENGDAHL

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Meeting focuses on infrastructure

BY JOEL SLUTSKY
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – There are major infrastructure problems in the Town of Rockingham and the Village of Bellows Falls.

Recently the Depot Bridge has had its weight limit reduced, asbestos mediation plagues several buildings, and cracked sidewalks create unsafe conditions.

The infrastructure concerns recently came under close scrutiny

during a sidewalk maintenance discussion.

Selectboard Chair Lamont Barnett stated that at its budget meeting on Nov.19 the Selectboard increased the sidewalk budget line item from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

“This is not nearly enough,” he said.

Trustee member Colin James asked

about the possibility of a combined policy, and wanted to know if the Village of Bellows Falls can assist with expenses.

Selectboard and Village Trustees member Stefan Golec cautioned board members on any kind of financial assistance from the village that in reality will result in village taxpayers paying twice for the same

services.

Village resident Andrew Smith noted that there are a significant number of sidewalks that are now considered hazardous. He added that this issue has been “kicked down the road for years” and it costs more each year.

Bellows Falls Downtown Alliance Executive Director Helen Haw-

thorne informed the board that there are enhancement grants that give preference to communities with a downtown designation for sidewalks and the sidewalks do not need to be located in the downtown.

Villager Deborah Wright stated that an agreement between the town

See INFRASTRUCTURE on Page 3A

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Yoga helps one and all

BY MARY ELLEN CANNON
The Shopper

LANGDON, N.H. – In the season of giving, there's a yoga class that helps local families.

Karen LaChapelle, owner of Round Yoga, asks students to contribute three non-perishable goods in lieu of a fee for the holiday season. She donates all the goods to a teacher in Alstead, NH. The teacher in turn gets the goods to a family in need.

LaChapelle said she believes in

sharing, community spirit, and reaching out to help people. She recalls help she's gotten in years past that made a difference.

She likes to say she teaches yoga for everybody. She wants yoga to feel accessible and not beyond anyone.

She asks students at the start of each class to set an intention, breathe deeply, relax, and then



Karen doing some yoga on the beach.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY KAREN'S FACEBOOK PAGE

the stretching and movement begins.

Classes are Mondays from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Langdon (NH) Town Offices. The Langdon space easily holds many people.

She also has a Thursday class from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Walpole that is more limited on space, so pre-registration is needed by emailing: roundyoga@yahoo.com.

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CHORUS

From Page 1A

“It’s a lot of fun,” he said.

Soprano Jessica Thayer is a more recent addition to the group.

“I’ve been here long enough that my first child, who was a baby when I started, is now getting a driver’s license,” she said.

One of the group’s youngest members, Caitness Cammarata, was 15 when she went with the chorus to Carnegie Hall in February 2016. That concert, a performance of the Mozart Requiem, was presented by Distinguished Concerts International, a for-profit group that invites

choruses to pay a fee to rehearse and perform great choral works in top concert halls.

“It was awesome to sing in Carnegie Hall,” Cait recalled. “I’ll never forget it.”

Unable to attend the 50th anniversary concert, but eager to recall her singing days, was Marianne “Max” Buckingham, age 93, who was a soprano in the chorus from 1969-1990.

Buckingham fondly remembered Victoria LeMay, the original director of the group from 1967-1987.

“She worked us very hard, but she was wonderful,” Buckingham said.

Recalling past concerts, Buckingham decided her favorite was the 1980 production of Beethoven’s

Ninth Symphony with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra.

“That was back when the symphony players stayed in people’s houses when they came to town,” she said. “It was a lovely party.”

History will repeat itself, it seems, when the Springfield Community Chorus continues its 50th Anniversary Season by teaming with the Bennington Chorus this spring for a concert to include the fourth movement of the Beethoven Ninth Symphony, the famous choral movement based on Schiller’s text “Ode to Joy.”

The chorus, which is under the direction of Kenneth Olsson, will resume rehearsals on Jan. 9, 2017, at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist

Meetinghouse in Springfield.

Olsson, in his sixth season with the Springfield Community Chorus, also directs the West River Valley Chorus and Nordic Harmoni, which is a member of the American Union of Swedish Singers.

He has been a musical director and performer for theater and opera in the area; he also recently served in Walpole, NH, as a church choir director. He has appeared as a performer with Southern Vermont Lyric Theatre, of which he is a co-founder, and Main Street Arts in Saxtons River.

Olsson lives in Jamaica, Vt., with his wife, Julie, and their three children.

FINANCE

From Page 1A

before disposing of the debris, which did not belong to either municipality.

Selectboard and Village Trustees member Stefan Golec stated that he

felt the current policy was not transparent enough.

Weeks noted that there is nothing in the policy that provides a requirement to inform the boards of dispositions by the manager.

Stefan Golec encouraged the boards to consider using an auction forum such as Auctions International to dispose of surplus items.

O’Keefe suggested the use of Craigslist to advertise sealed bids. O’Keefe will look into a process for this and for revising the current policy to ad-

dress the board members’ concerns.

Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance Executive Director Mary Helen Hawthorne thanked the joint board for its continued support.

Among the updates Hawthorne disclosed were that Newton Business and Valley Café have closed. Additionally, the Home Christmas pop-up store between the Rock and Hammer and Village Square Book-sellers will be open for the month of December.

Greater Falls Regional Chamber

of Commerce Executive Director Deb Carbin reported that there were 1,500 visitors who stopped in at the chamber from May to October.

For the Tree Committee Project, Polly Thompson stated that the committee is working on a plan to plant seven trees on Henry Street where no parking is allowed. A motion was passed by the Bellows Falls Village Trustees and Rockingham Select-board to approve the Tree Committee’s plan for planting seven trees on Henry Street.

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Linda Thomson, PhD, APRN, ABMH, specializes in clinical hypnosis for both children and adults. Dr. Thomson especially enjoys working with children “giving them skills instead of pills. I enjoy empowering kids, increasing their self-esteem and self-mastery over anxiety, fears and phobias, and giving children and teens skills, strategies and techniques to manage pain and change habits

such as tic disorders, thumb sucking and bedwetting.”

Dr. Thomson is passionate about teaching healthcare professionals across the country and around the world how to incorporate hypnosis into their clinical practice. She has trained several licensed clinicians at Springfield Medical Care Systems, making this service available at Rockingham Medical Group in Bellows Falls, VT, Ludlow Health Center in Ludlow, VT and Springfield Health Center, Springfield, VT.

To learn more about clinical hypnosis and its benefits for health and healing, to request a free brochure, or to schedule an appointment, please contact Rockingham Medical Group at 802-463-9000, Ludlow Health Center at 802-228-8867, or Springfield Health Center at 802-



Linda Thompson teaches kids hypnosis skills instead of giving them pills. PHOTO PROVIDED

886-8900. Additional information is also available at www.springfieldmed.org.

Library cider, treats and music

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Come to the Springfield Town Library on December 9, between 6:00 and 7:30 p.m. to enjoy the annual Open House. There will be festive music provided by the Comtu Chamber Players, mulled or chilled cider, baked treats and savory snacks. Children will enjoy playing with the puppets, train, and dollhouse or reading in the bathtub while parents graze, chat, and enjoy the music. There will also be a free children's raffle—tickets are available now or can be filled out the night of the event.

The event will be further enlivened by the annual benefit raffle—all funds going to support the library-- this year with over twenty prizes donated by generous businesses and individuals.

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Gallery at the Vault celebrates 15th birthday

BY KAREN ENGDAHL
The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Gallery at the VAULT was aglow with sparkling holiday decorations, paintings, pottery, and jewelry on a mild night recently, but brightest by far were the smiles of the dedicated staff and volunteers who gathered to celebrate the 15th birthday of the organization.

VAULT stands for Visual Art Using Local Talent, and is located on Main Street in Springfield.

"I'm proud of our greatest accomplishment — staying here for 15 years," said Nina Jamison, one of the original founders of VAULT. "We owe it all to a wonderful community of artists and volunteers. Now we're able to serve as a resource to other arts organizations and share our expertise."

Gallery Manager Marilyn Miller agreed.

"We've become a true arts destina-

tion—and that is good for Springfield," she said. "Eighty-five percent of the artists we represent are from Vermont and the other 15 percent are regional. We're a designated Vermont state craft center, which brings in people from all over the state and beyond. And we've added three paid positions, so we're also a local employer."

Marketing Manager Diane Kemble, a longtime VAULT volunteer, said they've come a long way and developed many programs since their founding.

"We're unique in offering an open-wall gallery where members of the community can display their work in a non-juried setting," she said. "We're also pleased to provide exhibits at the Vermont Welcome Centers in Guilford and Hartland."

"This year we're especially thrilled to become fully accessible," Kemble said as she proceeded down a ramp to the brightly painted, handicap-ac-

cessible door in the rear of the gallery. "Local artist Jamie Townsend painted the door because we believe it is more than just a regular door — it's special."

Other highlights of 2016 at VAULT include Art Camps for kids and workshops for adults, a high school scholarship, serving as a marketplace for 160 Vermont and regional artists, serving as fiscal agent for the Steampunk Festival, and hosting the 6th Annual Chocolate Tasting.

Additionally, VAULT hosted a student art show, another steampunk show, four open-wall shows, and collaborated with community organizations such as the Great Hall art space, the Springfield Garden Club, Springfield Library, Chamber of Commerce, and Springfield on the Move group.

The gallery, once the home of a local bank, is now a setting for the work of local artists. Central to the room is the huge bank vault, now full of textile art.



Gallery manager Marilyn Miller left and VAULT co-founder Nina Jamison on right. PHOTO BY KAREN ENGDAHL

"The acronym VAULT—Visual Art Using Local Talent—was a 2 a.m. brainstorm," said Jamison. "We're so glad we've become the gathering place for such a vibrant arts community."

Donating to the BFPD



The Bellows Falls Police Department recently received monetary support from the BF Woman's Club. Shown is Club President, Dianne Potter, handing two checks to Officer Joshua Paulette: one check in support of the upkeep of Caesar, drug detecting dog, and one in support of the annual Angel Project, ensuring area children receive clothing and gifts during the holidays. L-R: Barbara Comtois, Judy Boynton, Betty Haggerty, Officer Paulette, Dianne Potter, Evelyn Weeks, and Ruth Keefe. PHOTO PROVIDED

School holiday concerts

REGION - Winter school concerts are all over and tis the season to enjoy young musicians in song and on instruments.

Upcoming Concerts:
Wednesday, Dec. 7, 5th to 8th grade, Walpole Elementary School, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 8, Alstead Primary School, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 10, Fall Mountain Regional High School, 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 13, Vilas School, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 14, Bellows Falls Middle School, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 15, Bellows Falls High School, 7 p.m.

INFRASTRUCTURE
From Page 2A

and village specified the town's responsibility to maintain the sidewalks in exchange for materials being removed from the village's gravel pit, noting that a significant amount of material was used following Tropical Storm Irene, which shows that the village does contribute to this agreement.

Trustees President Myles Mickel stated that the Selectboard needs to

make a strong case at the town meeting in March regarding the maintenance of the infrastructure.

Barnett agreed, stating that "infrastructure is always the item that is cut."

Smith asked if it would be appropriate to use the town's fund balance for this type of expense.

Barnett replied that it would be appropriate, but the town and village are required to maintain a 16 to 20 percent fund balance, and if any of this is used, it has to be replaced.

Villager Doug MacPhee noted

that \$100,000 is budgeted each year for various good organizations, but the board is not responsible for these, while it is responsible for the infrastructure. MacPhee stated that it is time for the town and village to take care of what is required by law.

After further discussion, Barnett said that the board should look at a policy of where to repair and what materials to use for sidewalks, taking into consideration the historic district, and that the board may want to increase the sidewalk line item further.



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Did you take the Inn-dulgence tour?

BY SHAWNTAE STILLWELL
AND BRANDY TODT
The Vermont Journal and The Shopper

REGION - Ten inns and hotels throughout the region participated in an Inn-dulgence tour this past weekend to sample foods and ambiance. Visitors traveled around to each location so they could take a self-guided tour through each inn, and indulge in something special from each kitchen, before packing up and heading off to the next location on the list.

Julie-Lynn and Michael Wood, owners of the Golden Stage Inn,

came up with the idea of this tour back in September. Julie-Lynn wanted to market all of the inns throughout the region so that locals and second homeowners could learn about their histories, as well as what makes each inn unique. Or maybe to find out about an inn that they didn't previously know about.

"It's an off season right now," explained Julie-Lynn, which she said is the perfect time to get people out there, while the snow is building up on the mountain, and people need other activities and entertainment.

"I'd love to see this grow into a regional event," Julie-Lynn said, to ex-

pand on the list of inns, or maybe to develop into more than just inns.

Julie-Lynn said she was "psyched about the turnout." About 70 people purchased a passport for the tour. "The biggest downfall is, I'm not on it!" she said, bummed that she couldn't take the tour herself.

The Woods at the Golden Stage Inn have owned the inn for about six years. They have eight bedrooms; six of which are standard size, and two family suites. Each room has its own unique style of wallpaper and bedding. But every room in the inn has a cozy, homey feel.

The Golden Stage Inn welcomed their "tourists" to hot coffee and other beverages, bottomless cookie jars, some of which were gluten-free, and Michael's Saturday Night chocolate cake special. Later in the afternoon, they held a raffle and made beeswax candles.

The Golden Stage Inn is located at 399 Depot St. in Proctorsville, Vt. You can contact the Woods at 802-226-7744.

Ken Alberti and Lisa Scotte have owned the Blue Gentian Lodge, located in Londonderry, since 1994. Magic Mountain can be seen from the back of the 13-room lodge. Lisa said occasionally a moose meanders down to the pond. The cozy Alpine lodge is available for retreats, events and family reunions. Visit www.bluegentian.com or call 802-824-5908.

The Echo Lake Inn at 2 Dublin Road in Ludlow, Vt. was number 1 on the list. They can be contacted at 802-228-8602.

Tom Gianola has owned the inn for the past two years. His predecessor, Lawrence Jeffery, owned the inn for the previous 15 years.

The inn was originally built in 1792, but a small portion of it burned down and was rebuilt in 1840. It sleeps about 100 guests in its rooms, and condos, which are independently owned.

Echo Lake Inn has been preserved to house an abundance of old character and charm, and many antiques from its original days. Calvin Coolidge was one of the famous guests, and there are plenty of pictures to show for it.

The two chefs at the Echo Lake Inn take pride in their work in their

four-star restaurant. It is open to the public and to their guests for breakfast and dinner.

For the tour, they served a choice of two soups; a maple butternut squash bisque, or a Stonewood Farms turkey and wild rice. Guests on the tour sat down for a fine-dining experience.

The 206-year-old, Federal-style Stone Hearth Inn and Tavern located on Route 11 west in Chester, served a sweet and tangy baked brie with cranberry chutney. The innkeepers, Franci and Sheldon, welcome you to enjoy a glass of mulled wine by the fire in the tavern or read a book by the light of a beautifully decorated Christmas tree in the sitting room. Visit www.stonehearthinnvermont.com or call 802-875-2525 to book one of the eight rooms.

Owners Irene and Michael Maston, who are going into their 18th year of ownership, greeted inn-dulgence tourists who visited the Andrie Rose Inn. The inn consists of two buildings: the main building that was built in 1829, and the secondary building with large suites, which was built in 1830.

The Mastons provide a friendly, cozy, very relaxed and laid back environment for their guests.

Their dining room is open to the public on Fridays and Saturdays by reservation only. This is important to them, especially during the holiday season when guests want to relax and dine.

"The holidays are times spent with your own families," explained Michael, not a time for them to be working.

Since they are a smaller inn, they can make their own schedules, and they "only prepare enough food for the numbers of guests they are expecting." That way everything is fresh, and there is little left to go to waste.

Not to mention, Irene is the only certified executive chef in the Ludlow area. She specializes in wedding cakes with her company Irene's Cake by Design. This year alone she made over 120 wedding cakes. She has won many awards for her amazing designs and flavors, such as the 2016 Pick The Knot Best of Weddings award. She's been featured in Martha Stewart Magazine, as well as appearing on the list of 50 Wedding Cakes for each state.

For the Inn-dulgence tour, the Mastons served up a braised pork butt over polenta, and allowed guests



Beautifully decorated fireplace at the Grafton Inn.

PHOTO BY BRANDY TODT

to tour all the rooms with open doors.

The Andrie Rose Inn is located at 13 Pleasant St. in Ludlow, Vt. and they can be contacted at 802-228-4846.

Nestled within the quintessential Vermont village is 1801 The Grafton Inn. The hallmark of The Grafton Inn is more than the 45 elegant rooms; it is the warm hospitality given upon entering. Dining is open to the public and is available in the Old Tavern Restaurant or the Phelps Barn Pub. Visit www.graftoninnvermont.com or call 802-843-2248.

Arriving at the Castle Hill Resort and Spa, the Inn-dulgence tourists were served wine and other drinks while they conversed with one another until the guided tour began.

The stone building was built in 1901, and was completed in 1905 by Allen Fletcher. Fletcher also built the Fletcher Memorial Library in Ludlow, and he donated the Fletcher Fields that are used for soccer and other sports today.

The Castle was the first building in Vermont that was wired for electricity. It has beautiful character and detail in the woodwork on the walls, and all of the built-in hutches, buffets and mantles.

What was once Allen's office is now a private dining room with a beautiful chandelier, long decorative dining table, and original decadent windows.

The old billiard room has been transformed into a dining room, but still contains small doorways that housed billiard cues and balls. The oval room is connected, and contin-

ues into more dining space. There are 10 guest rooms upstairs, which were sold out for a wedding party during the inn-dulgence tour.

Across the parking lot is another building that used to be the carriage house, but today hosts a full Aveda Spa, just walking distance from the Castle Resort building.

After the tour, guests were served mini beef wellingtons, a signature entrée, and a mini crème brûlée.

The Castle is located at 171 Castle Hill Drive, right above the Pointe Hotel in Cavendish, Vt., and they can be reached at 802-226-7361.

The Inn at Weathersfield, in Perkinsville, was established in 1792 as a stagecoach inn. All the 13 rustic and luxurious rooms are named after Vermont covered bridges. Climb a spiral staircase to The Martins Mill room on the third floor and discover the roof top deck, perfect for stargazing.

Also available are cooking demonstrations at The Hidden Kitchen in a converted barn on the premises. Visit www.weathersfieldinn.com or call 802-263-9217.

Inn Victoria, located on the green in Chester, served visitors a lovely assortment of delicacies including savory scones, sweets, chocolates and more than 50 different teas. Visit www.innvictoria.com or call 802-875-4288 to book one of the romantic rooms.

Inn at Weston, located in Weston, served mini crab cakes with roasted red pepper coulis and wild mushroom and ricotta on crostini. During the Christmas in Weston event on Saturday the inn offered craft beer tasting. Visit www.innweston.com or call 802-824-6789.

The Inn-dulgence tour was more than just exploring buildings and tasting samples of delicious treats, it was about creating new relationships and connecting to the history of each location.

View videos and photos of the inns on our Facebook page: [@vermont-journal](https://www.facebook.com/vermont-journal)



Hand cut paper ornaments hang from the tree at the Blue Gentian Lodge.

PHOTO BY BRANDY TODT



The Castle creates a fine-dining experience.

PHOTO BY SHAWNTAE STILLWELL



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LOCAL HISTORY

BY RON PATCH

Ron Patch is a Chester native, Chester Historical Society president, Historian at Olive Branch Lodge #64 and a lifelong antiques dealer. He can be reached at 802-374-0119 or email knotz69@gmail.com

Gordon's Road Trip Part 2

Part two of Gordon Gates trip across the country; the trip took place in the summer of 1939 and cost \$55. With Gordon and his teacher, Lloyd Earle, were Vinnie Crocker, George Holden, and Jake and Paul Howe. Lloyd bought a brand new Studebaker Champion for the trip.

"When we got to California we were some north of Sanfransico. We went across the Golden Gate Bridge and then headed to the Sanfransico Exposition.

The one thing that hapened to me, when we were in the Bell Telephone building I won a chance to call any where in the U.S. for free and it was for 5 min. Every one in the room could lisen tho because there was one way phones all over the place they culd rubber on but they could only listen. I gave them the number + I called home.

It was evening there so it was after bed time back home. I got Dad up + was he some surprised he first wanted to know if we were all right + where we were. And I talked to Mom + I let Loyde talk to them + then I talked some more. I tried to tell them all the things wed seen but time was running out. A voice broke in and told us due to this being the longest call they had, had all week to just hang on + they were going to switch us over on a private line + we could talk all we wanted. Dad even woke Gramp up and I talked to him. They just kept switching back + forth + I let the boys talk to Pop to.

We looked the city over some the next day and Loyde had to stop at an office + pick up some money he'd wired ahead to get home on. I couldent find a place to park so I let him out and told him Id keep driving around the park till I could find a parking place. After Id gone around 3 or 4 times a big colored cop stoped me and wanted to know if I was lost. I told him no I just wanted a parking place. He looked at the plate on the front of the car + said "Verd Mont where all is that Ar don't know that Verd Mont" He said follow me. He went around till he saw a man



Gordon and Patty.

PHOTO PROVIDED

setting in a car and had him back out and gave us the parking place. We talked a while and I told him where Vermont was and that was where they made the maple syroupe. He's hurd of that but never had any. That gave me an idea. Wed had pancakes + syroupe most every morning since wed left home so I gave him the can with the rest of the syroupe in it we had in the food box. If we had pancakes on the way home wed have something else on them.

From S. F. we headed down the cost south. We saw a lot of new things one was a big navy yard + a lot of battel ships. We finelly got to Los Angerlease. Saw the big airport + all kinds of plains. We went to Holly-wood but I didnt see any movey stars. From there down to San Diago. We went out on the horsehoe wharfe and watched a lot of people fishing.

From thear we turned east, Threw a lot of deseart contry and into Arizoner. Boy it was hot in that desert country, worse than Death Valley had been. We saw the Painted Desart + the Peterfied Forest. And then the Grand Canyon. That was some big ditch in the ground but it was wonderfull. Then on into Oklahomer. There we saw something that surprised me. They had an oil well right on the lawn of the capital house. Well I guess you find oil where oil is....

....From the time we left there we drove strait thrue. On the last streach we figured out after I drove about 1000 miles with only 2 hrs. sleep....

....In just two days school started that's why Lyod was in a big yank to get home.....

....Mr. Earl had really taken us boys on a wonderfull trip + I give him a lot of credit for that. He gave us an experiance we would always remember."

This week's old saying. "It is cheaper to keep a customer than to find a new one."

Elf on the Shelf



Jack, our Elf on the Shelf decided to go sledding after a our recent snowfall.


Stay tuned!
We will publish a picture of Jack EVERY WEEK through December!

Visit us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @VermontJournal for our DAILY posts of Jack bringing Christmas sprit, and mischief, to our of-fice throughout December!

PHOTO BY BRANDY TODT

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Saxtons River Bell Choir

BY KAREN ENGDAHL
The Shopper

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Imagine a Christmas-card setting: a quiet village blanketed in snow as evening falls, golden light streaming from the windows of the big white church, and the sound of bright, beautiful bells chiming a Christmas carol.

On this Monday night in December you have not walked into a dream, but rather the rehearsal of the Saxtons River Bell Choir as they prepare for another of their holiday concerts.

"We've had several concerts already, here at Christ Church, at the Dummerston Congregational Church, and for the Santa's Express train in Chester," said Mary Jane Bosworth, the director of the bell choir. "Our next concerts are at the Springfield Congregational Church on Dec. 11 at 4 p.m. and on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 6:30 here at Christ Church before the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service."

Bosworth, a retired music teacher who has directed the bell choir since its beginning in 1989, says she loves to work with the group.

"They are all so dedicated and enthusiastic," she said. "They come here every Monday night for a two-hour rehearsal and they really work together beautifully. You can hear it in the music."

The Saxtons River Bell Choir began in the late 1980s when the church received memorial gifts in memory of longtime Saxtons River resident, Donald Musgrove. Additional fundraising enabled them to buy two octaves of Schulmerich handbells and rehearsals began in Fall 1989. Since then, the bell choir has added another octave of bells. The choir has regularly appeared at numerous area festivals, worship services, and Christmas events.

Beth Smallheer has been a member of the ensemble since the very beginning.

"I've stayed with the group this long because I just love the sound—the fullness of eleven bells ringing all around me," she said. "It's amazing."

As she described her experience, other members of the choir echoed her sentiments.

"There's really nothing else like it," said Eric Robinson. "I'm a conservatory-trained musician and this is a truly unique way to make music. Each ringer plays specific notes rather than a separate instrumental part. We have to really listen to each other carefully."

Bell choirs developed as an offshoot of the tower bell-ringing tradition in England. Each bell ringer is responsible for several bells, ranging from high treble sounds (the smallest bells) to deep bass tones (the large bells).

"We have to wear gloves to handle the bells," explained Bosworth, "because the oils from your hands tar-

nish the bells and change the sound."

To experience the lovely sound of Christmas bells for yourself, listen to the Saxtons River Bell Choir on Dec. 11, 4 p.m., at the Springfield Congregational Church or at Christ Church in Saxtons River on Christmas Eve at 6:30 p.m.



The Bell Choir practices for performance. PHOTO PROVIDED

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editorial

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Report: the more trails the better

A recent report tells us something we already knew – that people who come to hike local trails spend money in local communities.

An economic impact report released by the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council said that four trail networks alone generate \$29.6 million annually in local expenditures throughout Vermont.

The report comes after the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill that requires the outdoor recreation industry to be included in the federal government's annual calculation of national economic productivity. The bill was authored by Vermont Representative Peter Welch in an effort to get recognition for the economic benefits of pursuits like skiing, hiking, canoeing and biking.

The document shows 325 jobs directly supported by trail networks, and \$5.6 million spent on food and beverages annually in local towns along the trail systems.

That's good news for many communities in the Green Mountain State, especially those that depend on tourism, because it shows that adding trail infrastructure also add dollars to local economies.

The Trails and Greenways Council is a non-profit organization established by the Vermont Legislature in 1995, whose mission is to see that people will always have access to adequate land- and water-based trails and greenways in Vermont.

The report looked at direct consumer spending associated with using trails (trail tickets, rentals, gear purchases), and the activities sporty people love doing before and after hitting the trails, such as visiting a nearby pub or having a sandwich.

The study is the first to look at the direct economic impact from a sample of Vermont's regional trail networks, which combine multiple forms of motorized and non-motorized recreation managed by non-profit statewide and regional organizations.

The four organizations evaluated in the study are the Catamount Trail Association, Green Mountain Club, Kingdom Trails Association, and Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association.

Now that there's accurate data on the impact Vermont's trail network has on the local financial picture, we'd urge communities to take a look at their own trail systems.

A few well-placed forest pathways could translate to dollars in the pockets of local businesses.

~BM~

R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

Op-Ed: Rutland refugee education funding fears voiced

Local educators and child service providers raised funding fears at a public meeting between the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program and area stakeholder groups. The meeting, held at the Rutland Free Library, was intended to provide updates on refugee resettlement, but offered few details.

When Sarah Crossman, a representative for Rutland Public Schools, asked what funding was available to provide translators for refugee children, educators in the room did not like the response they heard.

"You have to take that into account in your own budget," state refugee coordinator Denise Lamoureux said.

Area schools, informed of the 100 incoming Syrian arrivals in late September, haven't had time to budget for additional language services.

"We're already in our fiscal year contract and that's not the way out budgets work. We don't always get

the funding we ask for," one audience member replied.

Representatives from the Department for Children and Families expressed a concern that they would not be able to communicate with students and parents or conduct federally mandated screenings without translators.

Asked whether federal funds would be made available, Ashraf Alamatouri, VRRP's English Language Learning coordinator, replied, "Refugee children are eligible for the same benefits available to (American students)."

Crossman responded, "We don't have those resources."

While the demographics of Rutland's incoming group is not yet confirmed, Lamoureux said that 40 percent of refugees settled in the United States in 2015 were under the age of 14. If that holds true for Rutland, approximately 40 children will be entering the school system and need interpretive services.

Refugees are expected to arrive in January, Lamoureux said. Details about specific individuals will be confirmed in the next few weeks.

Lamoureux, VRRP Director Amila Merdzanovic and other speakers spent most of the meeting explaining why hiring refugees was beneficial for the community, as well as what volunteer coordination was happening.

While representatives from Rutland Regional Medical Center attended the meeting, few business owners or local residents were present.

Don Chioffi, a leader of Rutland First, a group calling for transparency from VRRP and Rutland Mayor Christopher Louras, told Watchdog that organizers failed to advertise the meeting properly.

"That's part of the problem — they don't want public involvement," Chioffi said, adding that pro-resettlement leaders care more about communicating with stakeholders than

with voters.

"We don't want to do business with just stakeholders. We want to do business with voters. Voters are the real stakeholders."

The program has been mired in controversy since April, when Louras announced that he applied to make make Rutland a refugee resettlement hub. The mayor spent at least six months planning the move in secret meetings with VRRP.

Since then, members of the Board of Aldermen have tried to gain control over decisions about resettlement but have been unsuccessful. The board sent a letter to VRRP in September asking various questions about the refugees, but the questions have not been answered.

"Any information, if it comes at all, has been very slow in coming," Alderman Don Allaire told Watchdog. "We have not received any response to our letter."

Written by Emma Lamberton from Watchdog.org

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



Op-Ed: New opiate prescription limits will be strictest in America

Gov. Peter Shumlin applauded approval of Vermont's new rules placing the strictest limits in America on the number of powerful, addictive painkillers that can be dispensed by medical professionals.

"In 2015, enough painkillers were handed out in Vermont to give every man, woman, and child a bottle of 100 pills," Gov. Shumlin said. "That needs to change, and I

am proud that medical professionals and others are working to make progress here in Vermont. These new rules will solidify that progress, helping to ensure that fewer Vermonters are sent home with enough painkillers to set off a lifetime of horrible addiction. I want to thank Health Commissioner Harry Chen for his great work on this issue."

The new limits give guidance to prescribers and set legal limits on the dosage and number of opioid painkillers that may be prescribed. For some minor procedures, the proposal calls for a limit of between nine and 12 pills.

The Governor called for the limits in his 2016 State of the State Address, and the Legislature passed a bill giving the Health Commis-

sioner the discretion to set the limits. In October, the Vermont Health Department proposed the new limits. The Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules approved them unanimously with bipartisan support.

The limits go into effect July 1, 2017. They were supported by the Vermont Medical Society and others.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Investing in education is investing in the economy

As our governor-elect prepares his agenda, we hear that it is "all about the economy" now. That's fine, so long as we remember investing in education is investing in the economy. And right now, we absolutely need investment in afterschool and summer programs—especially targeting rural communities where working parents often travel over some distance to their jobs or piece together multiple jobs and gone for longer hours. Afterschool and summer camp programs allow parents to work a full day while their children are safe and learning. I know this because I am the director of L'AFTER and HEY! afterschool and summer programs that cover the small, rural communities of Windham County.

1. Afterschool is essential if we want Vermonters to get and keep well-paying jobs.

The caregiver for my bedridden mother shared her story with me. She and her husband tried to send their five children to a local afterschool program, but the cost was so high they would not have been able to buy groceries. After only two weeks the bill was \$390.00. "I almost died," she said. So she pulled her kids and found a job as a caregiver so that she could work nights and pick up her kids at the end of the school day. Her husband could not leave his work at 2:30 to do that. Now the children do not have access to the tutoring programs, healthy snacks and meals, and enrichment opportunities from the afterschool program. They could not go to any summer camp either. According to their mom, they were home fighting with each other all day while she tried to recover from working the night shift. The job is not high wages and any advancement depends on

taking expensive courses. But the hours fit so it is what the family needs while the kids are school age.

This is a simple example of how the achievement gap just widens and widens in Vermont. Families cannot break out of the cycle of low-wage dead-end jobs. Parents have to take what jobs they can get with the right schedule to match the school day. They can't afford the education which might help them get more professional jobs with flexible hours. And their children cannot participate in extra reading practice or the next cool technology pilot program because they happen in be cost-prohibitive afterschool programs. They fall behind because they have no access to summer camp where they can refresh their school skills and strengthen their social-emotional skills by interacting with their peers. What happens to Vermont children who fall behind? Do they strengthen our economy? I think we know the answer.

2: Kids in rural areas can't just walk home after school.

One young man at our middle and high school afterschool program was showing great promise with some engineering projects in our "Maker Space" where we have 3D Printers and equipment for science, math and technology projects. This student was building and filming contraptions in motion—and then he just stopped coming. It turns out that his dad got a promotion and his mom took on seasonal work and now they can't pick him up. We provide a late bus but it makes limited stops, not door-to-door. It's too far for him to walk, it's dark, and the roads are windy.

At \$700 a day for the late bus, we can't afford to run it every week either. We share bus service with the

elementary schools and take breaks when they take breaks. Last week it was the end of the quarter for the middle school and we had no late bus. The outcry about no bus was tremendous. One teacher told me there were students who would likely fail her class because they could not stay for extra help. They had no way to get home. Another teacher lamented "Why is it always about the money? Why can't we just do what the kids need?"

3. Afterschool programs employ youth in rural areas.

In many parts of Windham County, the school system is the biggest employer, with a scattering of small family businesses. This means there are not many options for teenagers to earn money and gain work experience. Our afterschool program at the high school has created a win-win situation by employing responsible students as peer tutors in the middle/high school homework help program and as assistants to the elementary afterschool program leaders. We gain a whole crew of young staff and these students gain maturity and real-world skills from their

jobs. At age 15 and up they are able to contribute to their family's income and make it a bit easier to buy groceries.

4. Vermont's economy needs investment in expanded learning

State investment in afterschool and summer programs, even if it were only to offset transportation costs, would be a powerful lever to lift our economy. It would immediately increase opportunity for every working parent to look for jobs based on rate of pay and chances for advancement rather than the timing of the workday. It would immediately increase opportunities for children to get the extra support they need to succeed in school and go on to create the Next Big Thing that we can't even imagine yet. Education and the economy are not separate. We can bring in all the companies we want to Vermont, but who will work in them if they have to leave at 2:30?

Submitted by
Thara Fuller
Director of Expanded Learning for the WCSU
Townshend

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY Letters may be edited for clarity, grammatical errors & libelous statements. Must be kept under 400 words. We reserve the right to publish at our discretion. Deadline Friday at 12 p.m. Email to editor@vermontjournal.com. Mail to Vermont Journal PO Box 228 Ludlow, VT 05149.

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THE Vermont Journal



Robert Miller, Publisher / Advertising Director
publisher@vermontjournal.com

Vince West, Ad Consultant / Website Ad Manager
vwest@vermontjournal.com

Shawntae Stillwell, Graphic Director
ads@vermontjournal.com

Brandy Todt, Editor / Graphic Designer
editor@vermontjournal.com
btodt@vermontjournal.com

Don Weiss, Advertising Consultant
dweiss@vermontjournal.com

Corporate & Production Office:
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OBITUARIES

Raymond Butterfield “RB” Hitchcock, 1942 – 2016

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Born January 12, 1942 to Lucy and Raymond Hitchcock in Springfield, V. Married to Adrienne Christakos on January 23, 1965 in Orono, Maine. After a seven-year journey with ALS, died at home in Cambridgeport, Vt. on November 20, 2016.

Survived by his beloved bride of 51 years, Adrienne; his daughter, Stacy with David; his son, Thomas with Julie; his sister, Sharon; and grandchildren Matthew, Justin, Nathan, Max and Grace. Also survived by his uncle Richard and aunt Nancy Hitchcock of Springfield, VT. Predeceased by parents Raymond and Lucy Hitchcock.

Ray was an Eagle Scout and he was always fixing problems, supporting good ideas, and working collaboratively to get things done. After, graduating from Springfield in 1960, he attended UVM, and then later completed a Bachelor of Science in Forestry at University of Maine in 1964 where, on a blind date he met his future wife. In 1964, he accepted a forestry position in Minnesota and served 35 years starting out as a district forester, then area forester, fire chief, state forester, assistant commissioner of operations and retired after a serving as interim commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.

Early in his career, Ray developed a canoe trail with campsites along the headwaters of Mississippi that canoeists still enjoy today. Later he worked across the nation to establish unified communication and equipment standards, including retrofitting aircraft for use as air tankers to fight fires. These new protocols laid a new foundation for coordinated state and federal forest firefighting that still exists today. He served as president of the National Association of State Foresters, where he worked on the “Smokey the Bear” campaign. As assistant commissioner of operations in Minnesota’s

DNR, he was responsible for oversight of seven operating divisions including: Forestry, Enforcement, Minerals, Waters, Parks, and Trails & Waterways.

An active outdoorsman, he enjoyed hunting and fishing, often with one of his beloved German Short-hair dogs at this side. As a private pilot, he cherished his time in the air.

In 2003, he retired to return to Vermont to support his sister Sharon in providing care for this aging parent while enjoying the exploration of all of the Vermont covered bridges on his Harley alongside his “bride” on hers.

Diagnosed with ALS in 2010, he met the challenge as he had lived—head on with humor and integrity. Continuing to find ways to contribute to his community, he dedicated time to working with his Vermont neighbors to provide access to forests and connect trails as part of the Windmill Pinnacle Hill Association, and published the monthly newsletter for the Vermont Covered Bridge Association.

He adapted to his changing circumstance with grace and laughter with caregivers, Rachel and Melanie, and the wider network of supportive doctors and nurses in Springfield, Vt. and at DHMC.

Ray was a genuine, loving man who believed that integrity, hard work and having wonderful relationships made life worthwhile. He will be greatly missed. Consistent with Ray’s wishes, in lieu of flowers, contributions suggested by the family include supporting one of the following organizations: Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association, The ALS Association Northern New England Chapter, A Living Tribute.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday January 14, 2017 at West Westminster Congregational Church at 44 Church Street, Westminster, VT 05346 beginning at 10:30 a.m.. Burial will be private.

Caroline “Snowy” Commerfield, 1925 – 2016

ATHENS, Vt. - Carolina “Snowy” Commerford, 91, of Miller Road died Tuesday, November 29, 2016 at Pine Heights in Brattleboro, Vt. Snowy was born in Brooklyn, NY on April 11, 1925, the daughter of Edward and Julia (Matern) Mang. She attended schools in New York and served as a Pioneer Girl Leader, she was very active in the Hendrickson Avenue Bible Church in Lynbrook, NY, and was a member of the Lynbrook Fire Department Auxiliary. After moving to Vermont to live with her daughter, Snowy became active in the Community Christian Church in Athens and was part of the Missions Committee.

In November of 1946 she married Thomas F. Commerford who predeceased her. Surviving are her sons Thomas Commerford of Kannapolis, NC and Robert Commerford of Trevertine, PA; her daughter Patricia Noyes of Athens, Vt.; 11 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.

Calling hours were 1 - 2 p.m. Friday, December 2 with the funeral service beginning at 2:00 p.m., at the Community Christian Church in Athens, VT. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Community Christian Church Missions, 1 Miller Road, Athens, Vt. 05143.



Tyson Congregational Church
PHOTO BY RUSS HURLBERT PHOTOGRAPHY

Dolores P. Brough, 1943 – 2016

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Dolores P. Brough, 73, of Riverview Apartments died Friday, December 2, 2016. Dolores was born in New London, CT on January 11, 1943, the daughter of Raymond and Doris Smith. She attended schools in Connecticut and worked at Simmonds Precision, Whitney Blake, and also as a sous-chef at the Saxtons River Inn.

Dolores was married to George Brough who passed away in 1988. Surviving are her sons Maurice Brough & wife Gwen of North Walpole, N.H., Christopher Brough & wife Diana of Rockingham, Vt.; her

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Eugene Jakominich, 1939 – 2016

LUDLOW, Vt. - Eugene Jakominich, 77, died peacefully at his home on Nov. 17, 2016 after a long battle with Parkinsons Disease.

He was born in Philadelphia, PA July 15, 1939, son of John and Agnes (Hvorecny) Jakominich. Eugene was a graduate of Father Judge High School and LaSalle University both in Philadelphia, PA.

He was a US Navy Veteran from 1957-1960. Eugene was a self employed businessman.

First and foremost, Gene was a good family man, loving husband and father. He was caring, giving and willing to help anyone he could.

An avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed fishing, hunting, skiing and gardening.

Surviving are his wife, Norma (Borgogno) Jakominich of Ludlow; a son Eugene Jakominich of Ludlow; and a sister, Judith Ann Freeman of California.

He adored all his dogs, currently Fuzzy and Tiger. He was attentive to wildlife, filling the birdfeeders daily. He will be missed by all.

There are no services planned at this time. Memorial contributions may be made to Springfield Humane Society, 401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, Vt. 05156-8820 or Vermont Fish and Wildlife Hatchery Fund, Bennington Hatchery, Attn: donations, 1 National Life Drive, Montpelier, Vt. 05620.

Funeral arrangements are under the Clifford Funeral Home.

Paul W. Evans, 1962 – 2016

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Paul W. Evans, beloved son, life partner, brother, uncle and friend passed away at the Springfield Hospital surrounded by his family on Monday December 5, 2016 after a courageous battle with COPD. He was only 54 years old and left us way too soon.

Born October 12, 1962 in Hawaii, he was the much-loved son of Peter and Ina (Wortman) Evans.

Paul graduated from Springfield High School in 1981. He was employed with Mack Molding in Cavendish, Vt. for 25 years.

Paul was a kind and generous soul always ready to help a friend. He touched so many lives; all who knew him will sorely miss him.

Paul loved life, the outdoors, and snowmobiling and was always on the go.

Survivors include his life partner of 23 years Juanita Aldrich, his sister Joann (Joy) Evans Janssen and his niece Elise Janssen both of Pittsford, Vt. He is also survived by his best friends Randy & Sandi Thompson and Warren & Shelia White and family, Tim Aldrich and family, Cliff & Karen Aldrich & family, and Maxine Aldrich. Also by numerous cousins and friends.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday December 10, 2016 at the Davis Memorial Chapel, Reverend Gerry Piper Pastor of the United Methodist Church will officiate.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in his memory to the Springfield Humane Society, 401 Skitchewaug Trail Springfield, Vermont 05156.

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4	6	2	1	9	7	5	3	8
5	9	8	4	3	6	2	1	7
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THIS AND THAT

BY BILL MURPHY

The Fall Mountain Girls Soccer team enjoyed a fantastic season in 2016. This relatively young bunch of athletes brought their game most all season long. Any teams goal is a state championship but this team was particularly driven. The coach, Bruce Ferland, pushed many a right button and in the end, his team, guided by two possessed captains, would not be denied and proof hangs in the Wildcat Den, as their championship banner was unveiled Tuesday night.

The journey began last fall. The Cats were coming off two losing seasons in 2015 and were an inconsistent bunch looking to get better. The development of several underclassmen, made the team much better at the end of 2015, than in the beginning. In fact, the team was able to win a play-off game over Kearsarge and then give the number one undefeated Hillsboro-Deering team the scare of their life. The upstarts from Langdon, gave it everything they had (and then some), eventually bowed in the Penalty Kick portion of the game This had to be one of those moral victories.

Then came August 2016 and the bulk of the upstarts returned for practice in August. Ferland had spent all off-season planning and he orchestrated the symphony that would hit all the notes, during what would be one heck of a campaign. Anyone who knows Ferland also knows, he will be sure to let his orchestra know, when notes are in any way out of tune.

In August, Ferland reminded his athletes that, “we played fabulous soccer against Hillsboro in the tournament game last fall. It was okay to lose that shootout. We still have great potential based on what we showed in that game. BUT... that was yesterday and you can’t rely on what you did yesterday, although you were incredible. All you really did was to show people what you were capable of being now, we have to work hard every single game in order to accomplish that task.”

Having been a coach at the varsity level for 22 years, I know those in charge, need all the help they can get. Ferland had that help in the form of co-captains Dana Dearborn and Joslin Gilbo. Ferland started out by telling me they were his best captains ever, AND, after having met them, you would swear, they were cloned to be an extension of the coach. They had coach speak from the time they opened their mouth. They showed independence, but when it was time to think and speak like a coach, they delivered. The coaches’ tribute to his co-captains was clear and concise. “They were reliable to a T. They kept track of things that I didn’t have time to keep track of. They stuffed problems out, right off the bat. There were times the team grumbled about the captains, but I would set them straight by telling them, that is exactly what they are suppose to do. They are not here to be your best friend.”

We sat down with Dearborn and Gilbo and they were impressive leaders. We can understand possibly how sometimes the players might have felt overwhelmed with a coach or at least coach speak lurking everywhere. However, in the end, a state championship banner is cause to forget all the little reminders whispered in every ear, about this is how things have to be

done.

Going back to the preseason, Dearborn told us, “I figured we would be strong this year. I looked at the seniors we would miss and I knew we had to replace a strong attacking midfielder and a goalie to start with, I knew we had people coming in in those positions, that I thought could fill them and help us. I thought we were going to be good. I didn’t know we were going to be this good. I do know as a team our goal was to make Fall Mountain soccer scary again.”

Gilbo proved more than once she was a coach on the field and tried her hardest to push every button correctly. “At the beginning of the season, I was kind of scared. I knew many of us were thinking about how good we could be. I didn’t want it to get inside of our heads. When the season went along, I never talked at all about being” (undefeated). To this day she refuses to use that word. In that regard, both captains cringe when the tie on the teams record is brought up. All Dearborn could manage was a fairly loud groan, while Gilbo responded, “that was our loss. It was a wake-up call.”

The season opened with Hillsboro; their 2015 play-off opponent. What an appropriate reminder of the differences between winning and losing. A PK loss last fall and now a determined 3-2 victory in the opener; Ferland was not pleased.

“We didn’t play well. Some people were probably saying at that time, isn’t he ever satisfied, but, ya we won, but we kind of lucked out there. We fell asleep at times. We were still cheering about a goal and didn’t realize what might happen next. We were all right, I told them they scored two goals on us. I told them giving up around 10 goals all season is what the top teams do. I asked them, IF, they wanted to be a top team?”

This Fall Mountain team in no way backed into any title championship. They were 15-0-1 on the regular season and then defeated three excellent

See **THIS & THAT** on Page 3B



Fall Mountain starter Ellen Beck (3) is in focused as she plays on the ball in regular season action this fall Beck was one of the strong defensive players on the team.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



Grace Bushway (2) one of only three senior starters on this falls' Fall Mountain title team, hopes to put the ball into transition for a score. “One of the keys to our success is for the backs to put the ball in motion and move it ahead,” according to Wildcat co-captain Joslin Gilbo. Bushway was looking to be the middle man in this action photo.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



Fall Mountain midfielder Ali Monty (14) closely marked in this game action photo, played well enough to be tabbed to the All-state second team and was a solid contributor all season for the championship Cats. Monty was Fall Mountain’s second leading scorer with 17 goals and 9 assists.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



We are not completely sure who controlled the ball in this action photo against Newport, BUT, we do know that co-captain Joslin Gilbo (13) and Ella Stewart (9) were regularly in the middle of the action for the Fall Mountain title winners throughout the season. Gilbo tallied 8 goals and added 4 assists this fall, while Stewart led the team in overall scoring with 17 goals and 11 assists.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



Two of Fall Mountain’s state champion starters, Dana Dearborn (15) and Maddie Dibanardo (11) in action during the regular season. Dearborn was a co-captain and first team all-state defense for the title winning Cats.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

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Overture to Christmas

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Afterwards Santa and Mrs. Claus retired to the lobby of the Fullerton Inn to hold court for the children who wished to visit with Santa. Cookies, cocoa, books and candy canes were provided for all the children on Santa's "Nice" list.



Stringing the lights on the tree before the official tree lighting.
PHOTO BY DONALD DILL



Local children sat with Santa, telling him what they wanted for Christmas.
PHOTO BY DONALD DILL



Santa and Mrs. Claus visited with lots of local kids.
PHOTO BY DONALD DILL



The Chester Fire truck drove down Main Street in the parade.

PHOTO BY DONALD DILL



Santa and Mrs. Claus made their way to town!

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Santa and Mrs. Claus are ready to visit.

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Photos by Donald Dill
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THIS & THAT

From Page 1B

teams in the post season on the way to the title. Gilbo again coach spoke through their regular season accomplishments. “Our schedule was really tough. We played five of the top teams twice and also played Campbell and Hopkinton once and coach told us again and again, it’s always harder to beat them the second time. The odds are not in your favor. So going into those second games, you always have to be more determined. We couldn’t sigh and say we beat them once, we can beat them again. We had to go into it like, we never beat them at all.”

An absolutely perfect slate came down to the final game of the season and a single game at home versus Prospect Mountain. On Senior Day no less and, it finished in a 1-1 tie. “I think that came at the right time,” Dearborn would say, referring to proof on the field, that they were not invincible, entering the play-offs. Then it forced a rematch with Prospect in the quarterfinal round after Prospect eliminated Stevens 2-1 in a first round quarterfinal PK exclusive.

“I know the next day in practice we came hard,” Dearborn said to the day after Senior Day and Gilbo added, “we wanted to play them again, because we didn’t want them to say that they were the only team we couldn’t have beaten.”

This is a very young championship team. It was surprising that they were so mature along the way. The only three senior starters were the two captains Dearborn, a center back, and Gilbo a midfielder, along with Grace Bushway a forward midfielder. Seniors Alexis Parker and Krysta Gay saw time off the bench.

Ten juniors dominated the roster. Ali Monty was a scoring threat as a midfielder. Maddie Parrott was a center back, who scored 8 goals and had 7 assists and was a force to be reckoned with and was selected a first team All-Stater. Scoring totals of some of the players and any All-State recognition are included with their pictures attached to this article. Another junior Zoey Luopa, a midfielder, tallied 9 goals with 4 assists. Other junior starters

were Izzy Lord, a midfielder and back, Maddie Dibanardo and Ellen Beck, backs and goalie Allie Stoddard, who had seven shutouts. Juniors Montana Robar, Summer Bell and Amber Beliveau played whenever time warranted. Sophomore Ella Stewart was a key contributor, as she scored 17 goals and had 11 assists. Monty tied her with 17 goals of her own. Two other sophomores Mary Beth Groton and Louise Groton rounded out the sophomore class. Sydney Rogers was the only freshman on the roster and was a regular spark off from the bench.

What did it take to capture a championship? Coach and captains agree, it took a team effort and contributions came from up and down the roster. The captains were determined their job was to push everyone to stay in a positive direction throughout the season. Somehow, they knew, the ship could sail IF everyone stayed on the same page. Dearborn told us, “from Day 1, as captains, we wanted to do everything that we can. We said we didn’t want the death of us to come from within. We didn’t want that to happen. We wanted to play our best and keep things going in a positive way. We didn’t want to say, it wasn’t another team that beat us, we beat ourselves and we didn’t.”

She was right. Nobody beat them. They are New Hampshire Division III champions.

Stay Tuned!

In next week’s edition, on December 14, we will have the Bellows Falls Football article; the final championship story.

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PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. - This Holiday Program is for everyone. Come join us on Sunday, December 11th at 4:00 P.M. at the Gethsemane Church (next to Crows Bakery) on Depot Street, Proctorsville, Vermont. FREE ADMISSION. All donations received will be given to the church. FMI call 226-7398.

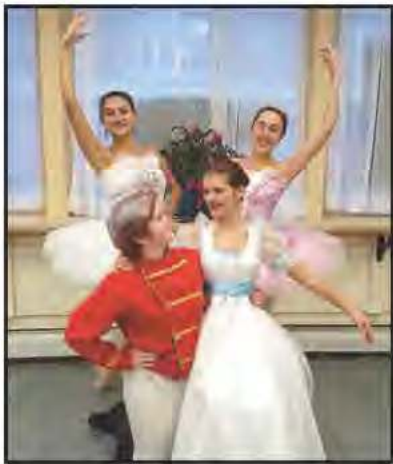
The Nutcracker by The Dance Factory

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Dance Factory presents a fully costumed production of Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker on Saturday December 10 at 7p.m. and Sunday December 11 at 2 p.m. Tickets for adults and children and can be purchased at the door. Both performances are at Springfield High School and will benefit the Springfield High School Drama Club.

Please join us for this beautiful classical ballet featuring young dancers from all over southern Vermont and New Hampshire. The Nutcracker tells the story of young Clara Staulbaum and the magical Nutcracker she is given from her Uncle Drosselmeyer. The Dance Factory's production features dancing dolls, a fierce

Mouse King, a glorious scene of dancing snowflakes led by the Snow Queen, and a visit to the Kingdom of sweets ruled by the Sugar Plum Fairy and featuring dances from around the world.

Students dance all the roles in The Dance Factory's production of The Nutcracker, including the principal roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Snow Queen. Many dancers begin in Mother Goose and continue performing in various roles throughout their childhood. This will be the 25th year The Dance Factory has presented The Nutcracker. Originally choreographed by Susan Hagan, this year's production will be directed by Ashley Hensel-Browning and will feature new and old choreography



Bonnie Blake of Weathersfield as Clara, Taylor Drinker of Springfield as the Nutcracker, Danielle Marasa of Springfield as the Sugar Plum Fairy, and Lydia Churchill of Cavendish as the Snow Queen.

PHOTO PROVIDED

from productions past.

Walpole Players to present Christmas on the Air

WALPOLE, N.H. - The Walpole players will present Christmas on the Air - a step back in time featuring highlights from the golden age of radio, radio plays, skits, carols, and gags - at the Walpole Town Hall, Helen Miller Theater Friday December 16 at 7:00 p.m.

In the old time golden radio skits the Bickersons will be back celebrating Christmas Eve, Art Linkletter may be making an appearance with his kids, and Fibber McGee

will bring home his Christmas tree. Songs of the season and other merriment will also be included.

The holiday entertainment will be presented in similar format to the players popular "Cabin Fever Radio Follies" that they have preformed the Saturday after Town Meeting for the last four years. The performers will be the "Radio Follies" crew and others. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., and the audience is seated at round tables of eight. You may bring your din-

ner, snacks, beverages of choice, and friends and take a break from the stress of the holidays. You may make it a party and linger after the show.

Tickets proceeds go to Our place Drop in Center and the Fall Mountain Food Shelf. They are available at Galloway Real Estate and Joanie Joan's Bakery. Table Reservations may be made at Joanie Joan's Bakery on Westminster Street in Walpole. For additional information call Ray Boas at (603) 756-4545.

Celebration of Christmas

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Two Springfield congregations invite one and all to a presentation of the relatively new, yet rare, celebration of the "Stations of the Nativity." St. Mary's Catholic Church with the help of the Catholic Daughters Court St. Anne #1069 and St. Mark's Episco-

pal Church will present this unique event at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 11. The program will be held at St. Mark's, 33 Fairground Road in Springfield.

The stations consist of short readings, prayers, and eye opening reflections around the birth of Jesus com-

bined with the singing of familiar Christmas carols.

There is no admission charge but a free will offering to benefit the Springfield Warming Shelter will be gratefully accepted. A festive reception of cookies and other goodies will follow.

Advent & Christmas concert and carol sing

BROWNSVILLE, Vt. - On Sunday, December 18, Brownsville Community Church will sponsor the third of a series of free concerts this year open to the public. Talent from the Church

community and the wider community will come together to offer a seasonal concert and concert goers can participate in a festive carol sing all starting at 5:00 p.m. Refreshments will follow the concert.

Concert will feature treasured works from Bach, Brahms, Handel, Schumann and others. The carol sing will include favorite songs of the Christmas season.

This season of celebration can also present challenges for our some of neighbors. Concertgoers are invited to bring a canned good, which will be donated, to the local food shelf.

These free-to-the public concerts are

organized by the Brownsville Community Church Pastor and Choir Director, Reverend Christian Huebner. The Brownsville Community Church is located on the Brownsville-Hartland Road, between Albert Bridge School and the Brownsville Town Hall. The Church phone number is 802-484-5944, the email address is bcchurch@myfairpoint.net and you can visit the Brownsville Community Church at www.brownsvilleumc-vt.org. A free-will offering will be received at the concert to help offset costs.

Please come and bring your friends, neighbors and family to enjoy this free concert & carol sing!

Simple gifts workshop for kids

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - The South Londonderry Free Library is celebrating the holidays with a special workshop for children on Saturday, December 10 at 10:30 a.m. In this workshop children are invited to celebrate the season by making special

presents for family and friends with artist Casey Junker Bailey. A visit from Santa and his gift bag of books is also planned. The workshop is free of charge and appropriate for children of all ages. For more information, contact the Library at 824-3371.



DECEMBER ►

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19 VISIT WITH SANTA
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26 WARREN MILLER'S HERE THERE & EVERYWHERE
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calendar

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CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

MONDAY, DEC. 12- SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – HUBzone Program free workshop at the Howard Dean Center 10 – 11:30 a.m. to register for the event, please visit <http://vtptac.eccenterdirect.com> or contact Craig Baden by email craig.baden@vermont.gov or at (802) 828-5237.

THURSDAY, DEC. 15 – LUDLOW, Vt. - The Books & Cooks Cooking Club will be learning how to bake wholesome and delicious

treats for the canine residents of the Lucy McKenzie shelter. This program is open to grades 2 and up and is limited to 10 participants. Reservations call Youth Services Librarian at Fletcher Memorial Library Sacha Krawczyk at 228-3517.

MONDAYS SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – 9 – 10:30 a.m. play group at the Springfield Area Parent Child Center. Come to play and meet new friends. All parents with young children are welcomed. Contact Celeste at 886-5242 or email at celestem@vermontel.net.

TUESDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - River Voices Poetry meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Flat Iron Exchange Building on the Square. All poets welcome. Discussion of all aspects of the poem. 802-463-22074

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. - 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Play Group at Saxtons River Elementary School. Come on over for crafts, activities and to play! Call Molly 802-376-6204

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - Crafts, Stories and Play Time toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy stories, songs, crafts, and activities.

Rockingham Free Public Library 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Contact 463-4270

WEDNESDAYS- BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Play Group at First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls/Rockingham Recreation Center. 9:30 a.m. -11:00 a.m. Come join the fun! Healthy snack served. Call Molly 802-376-6204.

THURSDAYS- SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - EdgarMay Open Play Group 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. at Studio Momentum. 71 Main Street. An active playtime specifically designed for children aged 6 months through 5 years! Free to member families. Call (802) 885-2568 or info@myreccenter.org

WINDSOR, Vt. - Play Group 9:30 - 11 a.m. Come and enjoy an open gym, ball games and sometimes even a bounce house! Call Windsor Recreation Center (802) 674-6783.

FRIDAYS- SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – 9 – 11 a.m. creative movement activities and playgroup held in the gym of the Community Center. All parents with young children are welcomed. Contact Parks and Recreation Dept. at (802) 885-2727

WEEKLY – REGION -“Bone Builder” to combat osteoporosis. Free and open to 55+. Call 802-674-4547. Monday and Wednesday: Brownsville Town Hall 9 -10 a.m.; Martin Memorial Hall in Ascutney 10 -11 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday: Cavendish Baptist Church 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday: Andover Community Church 3 – 4 p.m.

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt.- 9:30-11am Kundalini Yoga series by Liza Eaton. Part 2: 13, 20, 27. Sign up www.buddhafulyoga.com/events. 73 Depot Street. Above Crow's Corner Cafe and Bakery, second floor. Contact Liza Eaton at (802) 875 2868, eaton.liza@gmail.com, www.

buddhafulyoga.com. This is a gentle, beginners course. No experience necessary.

CLUBS

SUNDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Catamount Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol at 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. at Squadron Headquarters, 13 Airport Rd., North Springfield. Membership open at age 12. Call Commander, Maj. Fellows at 802-263-5544.

MONDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Springfield Community Chorus rehearsals are on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church on 21 Fairground Rd. Contact Terri at springfieldcommunitychorus@gmail.com or call Barbara at 802-886-1777. www.springfieldcommunitychorus.org.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Ludlow Rotary club meets every Tuesday and is hosted by DJ's Restaurant, 146 Main Street from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Enter via side door opposite bank drive through. Visit www.ludlowrotary.com or contact club President, Tesha Buss at teshabuss@gmail.com

THURSDAYS – CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The Charlestown Rotary Club meets at The Charlestown Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Summer Street. For more information email rayandrosie@concast.net

RUTLAND, Vt. – Marble Valley Duplicate Bridge Club meets from 7-10:30 p.m. at The Godnick Center in Rutland, Vt. Snacks provided. Come join for a fun evening. Norma Jakomin, manager. 802-228-6276.

SATURDAYS – MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. – The Mount Holly Artists Group meets at 10:30 a.m. in the community center room (under library) and set up a still life. The sessions are

open to all and completely FREE of charge. All that is needed is pen and paper.

COMMUNITY MEALS

SATURDAY, DEC. 10- Chester, Vt. – The Senior Christmas Dinner will be at the Chester Andover Elementary School. Everyone is welcome and the event is free. Enjoy great food and fellowship. Serving begins at 12 p.m. sharp. Take out is available, please call beforehand to place order. Contact Pat from Motel in the Meadow at 875-2626 or Georgia Ether at 578-6242

EVERY THIRD SATURDAY – NORTH SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Ham Suppers the North Springfield Baptist Church, 69 Main Street from 4 to 7 p.m. Handicapped accessible. There is a fee for the meal. Children five and under free. Call 802-886-8107

EVENTS

SATURDAY, DEC. 10- LUDLOW, Vt. - Holiday on Main Street starting at 4:30 p.m. Businesses will be competing for best decorated business in town! Need a last minute gift? Many businesses will be open late including a gift-wrapping station for charity. A Magic Show, music, hot chocolate and cookies courtesy of local businesses. Santa Claus and his Elves will be visiting at Veteran's Park. Children will receive a small gift from Santa. A photographer will be available. Please visit our Facebook page [@holidayonmainstreet](https://www.facebook.com/holidayonmainstreet).

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Bus Bloch will be performing at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 21 Fairground Road. coffee house. Folk, Old Time, Country, Children's and Jazz music starts at 7 p.m. Snack and beverages will be available for purchase.

SUNDAY, DEC. 11- PERKINSVILLE, Vt. - Candlelight Christmas in the village, at 5 p.m. An evening of holiday music at the Community Church on Route 106 in the Village. The program will include readings, music, choirs, and plenty of congregation participation.

MONDAY, DEC. 12- BRATTLEBORO, Vt. - From 7:30 - 8:45 a.m. at the Winston Prouty Campus, Brattleboro, 130 Austine Drive, Holton Hall (4th Floor). A Legislative Breakfast to discuss the results of the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, with a focus on Alcohol, Prescription Drugs and Marijuana use by teens. The Windham County Prevention Coalitions is hosting the event. Confirmed attendees: Sen. Becca Balint (D-Windham), Sen. Jeanette White (D-Putney), Rep. Emily J. Long (D-Windham), and Rep. Valerie Stuart (D-Windham). Please RSVP by Friday, December 9 to Robin Rieske, robin.rieske@vermont.gov, 802-257-2885.

SUNDAY, DEC. 18- ALSTEAD, N.H.- Christmas Caroling gathering at 4:00 p.m. at Third Congregational Church UCC, River Street, Alstead, followed by refreshments.

PUTNEY, Vt. – Laura Strickling and Liza Stepanova will be

performing Spanish love songs at the Yellow Barn.

EVERY FOURTH SUNDAY – PUTNEY, Vt. – Dinner and A Movie. At each event, at 5:30 p.m., the chefs at the Gleanery will serve a special menu in time for diners to make it to the hosted 7 p.m. film screening around the corner at the newly-renovated Next Stage. For pricing or reservations call 802-387-3052. Limited seating available. 15 Kimball Hill Rd.

THURSDAYS – LUDLOW, Vt. – Gypsy Reel plays regularly at The Killarney, in Ludlow. Music always begins at 6:30 p.m. and continues until 8:30 p.m. or later (depending upon football schedule). Fine Ale, good pub food, and great music in the traditional Irish style.

GASSETTS, Vt. - Bingo will be held every Thursday night at the Gassetts Grange. Starts at 6:30 p.m., doors open at 5 p.m. Supper, Raffle and 50/50 tickets are on sale. Come and join in. Any info. needed call Donna at 802-591-4290 or you can call the hall at 802-875-1051.

LIBRARIES

TUESDAY, DEC. 13 – LUDLOW, Vt. – Fletcher Memorial library will allow participants hands on opportunities to contribute to Lucy McKenzie Humane Society. From 3 – 4 p.m. children in grades K and up are invited to the library to make one of a kind dog and cat toys that will be donated to the shelter animals. Youth Services Librarian Sacha Krawczyk at 228-3517.

TUESDAYS – LUDLOW, Vt. – Fletcher Memorial Library off Main St. for “Crafty Tuesdays,” from 3 to 4 p.m. for kindergarten through grade six age children.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt.– 10 a.m Story Time. Stories, songs, and activities for the youngest readers. Springfield Library.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.- Story time for Toddlers and PreK , at the Silsby Free Library, from 10:30 a.m. Children and parents are invited for stories, songs and finger plays. Session includes play time, an activity and a story time. Free and open to all.

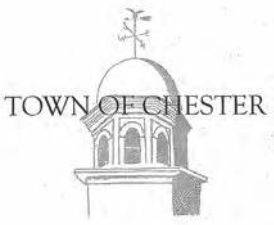
WEDNESDAYS – ASCUTNEY, Vt. - Preschoolers join Jordan for stories, fun and a simple craft. Contact wplyouthservices@gmail.com or 802-674-2863. Weathersfield Proctor Library 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. and Saturdays: 10 – 11 a.m.

LUDLOW, Vt. - Preschool and Toddler Story Time, at 10:30-11:30 a.m. Fletcher Memorial Library. Each week features a theme, music stories and a craft. Please call Sacha, at 802-228-3517 to register for a program or for more information. Fall session runs through Dec. 15

LUDLOW, Vt. - DCF Book Club meets Wednesday from 4 - 4:30 p.m. at the Fletcher Memorial Library. For grades four through eight. Join us each week as the librarian reads aloud from this months' book club selection

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Discovery Time for kids ages 5 and up on

556 Elm Street
P.O. Box 370
Chester, VT 05143




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Fax (802) 875 2237


TOWN OF CHESTER

TOWN OF CHESTER PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4384, a Public Hearing will be held before the Planning Commission for the Town of Chester, at **6:00 PM on Monday, December 19, 2016** at the Chester Town Office to consider the adoption of changes to Unified Bylaws. Please note that this is a change to the date for the hearing discussed at the Planning Commission meeting of October 10, 2016.

Copies of the proposed Unified Bylaws are available at the Chester Town Office during normal office hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM.





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Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday

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FY ‘17 EPA CLEANUP APPLICATION
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

DECEMBER 14TH at 5:00 PM

ROCKINGHAM TOWN HALL,
3rd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
7 Square, Bellows Falls, VT 05101

The Bellows Falls Area Development Corporation (BFADC) will hold an informational meeting about the EPA Brownfields Grant cleanup funding to remediate the Robertson Paper Mill property located at 21 Island Street, Bellows Falls, Vermont. All are welcome to attend the meeting. A draft copy of the EPA grant application will be available at the Rockingham Development Office beginning December 7th. The Rockingham Town Hall is wheelchair accessible by using the elevator entrance on the south side of the building.

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Principal
Green Mountain Union High School
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E.O.E

TOWN OF LUDLOW, VERMONT
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The Town of Ludlow Highway Department invites applications for the position of Truck Driver/Laborer. This is an entry level full-time, year-round position. Principal duties will include plowing snow from roads and sidewalks, sanding and salting roads, road construction and maintenance and other related duties. Other responsibilities include mowing and trimming of all grounds, preparing lots for burials, equipment maintenance and other related duties at the Cemetery. Most possess a valid Vermont Commercial Driver's License and have experience operating a dump truck with plow, dump body and sander, loader, backhoe, mower, trimmer. General knowledge of vehicle maintenance, fundamental construction and maintenance procedures, equipment operation and mechanics is a plus. Municipal Benefit Package supplied.

Send resume, call or visit the Municipal Office for an application: Ludlow Municipal Office, PO Box 359, Ludlow, VT 05149, (802) 228-2841. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Ludlow is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Christmas is Coming!

Need some extra cash?





The Vermont Journal & The Shopper is looking for writers to cover local events, news, arts & entertainment, restaraunt reviews, and more!

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If you’re interested, contact us at 802-228-3600 or email publisher@vermontjournal.com

arts & entertainment

Saxtons River Bell Ringers concert

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Springfield Town Library is pleased to present the Saxtons River Bell Ringers on Sunday, December 11 at 4 p.m.

The Bell Ringers will play beautiful holiday music on English hand bells.

The event will be held at the First Congregational Church, located at 77 Main Street in Springfield. This event is free, accessible to people with



Saxtons River Bell Ringers.

PHOTO PROVIDED

disabilities, and open to the public.

Please call the Springfield Town Library at 885-3108 for more information.

SNOW DATE: Monday, December 12 at 7 p.m.

Peter Yarrow to perform at the Bellows Falls Opera House

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Peter Yarrow has many stories to tell and songs to sing. His talents as a creative artist - both with the legendary trio Peter, Paul & Mary and as a solo performer - are frequently directed at using

music to convey a message of humanity and caring.

Got your tickets yet? This is a good weekend to select your reserved seats to see Yarrow in performance at the Bellows Falls Opera House on Thursday, Dec. 8.

Personable, accessible to audiences, he is a joy to work with and present, you won't be disappointed.

There are still a few tickets left for a private reception with Peter before the concert. Enjoy your favorite beverage

and some light fare while you visit with Peter and absorb the warmth of this folk icon.

Concert is at 7:30 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. To book your seat, please go to www.vermontfestivalsllc.com and click on the Peter Yarrow link.

BF merchants celebrate Ladies Night

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - On Friday December 9 merchants will have a night of bargains, product demos, and fun for all. Merchants include: 802-Ecig Supply - 15 percent off, Anastasia's Closet at Boccelli's Annex - Fashion Show, Donovan's - Half Price

Appetizers, Flat Iron Exchange - Raspberry Hot Chocolate 1/2 price, Halladays Flowers & Harvest Barn - Wine Tasting, Holiday Appetizers, Chair massages, KIXX Live Radio, Jewelry Trunk Show + 20 percent to Dance Away Cancer, J & H Hardware and J&H Sporting

Goods - 40 percent off Storewide Sale (some exclusions) + 5 percent of Sales to Dance away Cancer, Sherwin Art Glass - Glass demonstrations and refreshments, 20 percent sales to Relay for Life, Shona Grill - Come in for tasty samples and dinner specials, The Rock and

Hammer - Local Benefit, Refreshments, Gift Registry, Village Square Booksellers - Buy 2 scarves, get a free Scarf Tree, Windham Antiques - Gift Bags & Refreshments, 15 percent off Jewelry, Gems & Minerals, 10 percent off Storewide, LaLa Skin Care demo and samples.

Moose lodge hosts karaoke event

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - For three years, the International Moose Convention has hosted a karaoke contest featuring the top 12 finalists nationwide who

have competed at local lodges across the country. In order to have the opportunity to be one of those finalists in 2017 and perhaps win the top prize

of \$5000, contestants must begin by competing at a Moose Lodge.

The Moose Lodge of Bellows Falls, Vermont will hold the

second of three practice rounds on December 17 at 7pm. The third and final practice round will be held on January 14.

Audience members will have the chance to offer written feedback after each of the practice rounds. All events, including the March regional final, will occur at the Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster Street. Contestant pre-registration is not required for preliminary rounds and the event is free and open to the public. Food and beverages will be available to the public.

For more information, contact Susan MacNeil at 603.313.0052.

Pet of the Week

Hi! My name is Zack. I'm a 2-year-old neutered male cat that came to Lucy Mackenzie as a stray. A really nice lady had been feeding me, knew she couldn't keep me, so she made sure I made it here safe and sound. I love it here - there's lots of people, cats & dogs, and lots of food! And, I get to play and sleep and I'm safe. When I was living on my own, I really wasn't all that healthy when I was eating whatever I could find. Come to find out it's because I have a very sensitive stomach. The veterinarians that take care of me put me on a special diet and I feel so much better! Don't let that keep you from meeting me or adopting me, though. The staff would be more than willing to talk to you about my dietary needs. As a matter of fact, Lucy Mackenzie is running an adoption special now through December 31st. The adoption fee is waived on all animals that eat a special diet! All you need to do is make a donation in your new adoptee's honor. So, if you've been looking for a new best friend, stop in and meet me today! Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society is located at 4832 Route 44, West Windsor, VT. We're open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 12 - 4 p.m. Reach us daily at 802-484-LUCY. Visit us at www.lucymac.org, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter. We hope to see you soon!



PHOTO PROVIDED

business spotlight

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NOW IS THE TIME TO BOOK THAT NEW WELL!

Beekkeeping for home-owners

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - Beekeeping is an increasingly popular and rewarding hobby. Not only do honeybees increase the yield from your fruit trees and vegetable garden but keeping honeybees helps combat the disappearance of these valuable pollinators by colony collapse disorder.

If you are interested in keeping bees in your backyard, The Meeting Place at Neighborhood Connections will host a lecture on Monday, December 12 from 10 -11 a.m. by Steve and Carol MacLaury, proprietors of Peabody Mountain Apiaries. Since January is the ideal time to order honeybees, Steve will discuss what you need to get started and Carol will talk about manufacturing end-products from bee production.

There is no charge to attend, but registration is necessary, so call 824-4343 to reserve a seat. The Meeting Place is located in Londonderry's Mountain Marketplace, next to the Post Office.

Santa tracker

REGION - The North American Aerospace Defense Command is celebrating the 61st Anniversary of tracking Santa's yuletide journey! The NORAD Tracks Santa website is www.noradsanta.org.

Starting at 2:01 a.m. EST on Dec. 24, website visitors can watch Santa make preparations for his flight. NORAD's "Santa Cams" will stream videos on the website as Santa makes his way over various locations. At 6 a.m. EST, trackers worldwide can speak with a live phone operator to inquire as to Santa's whereabouts by dialing the toll-free number 1-877-Hi-NORAD (1-877-446-6723) or by sending an email to noradtrackssanta@outlook.com.

NORAD Tracks Santa is truly a global experience, delighting generations of families everywhere.

AUTOMOTIVE

outdoor news

Improvements update from Magic Mountain

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The new owners of Magic Mountain are making improvements all over the mountain for this years ski season!

Lifts: Repair of Black Triple Summit lift is continuing with plan for state inspection and approval by the New Year. This will be the 1st time in 2-years that

the Black lift will be in operation which will help keeps lift lines to a minimum here--the way we like it. Maintenance of the main Red Chair Double summit lift is also continuing with lift inspection scheduled for week of 12/12.

Snowmaking: SKI MAGIC LLC is initiating a revamping

of Magic's snowmaking system with the goal of covering half of its terrain over the next couple of years. Already, we have obtained new higher horsepower pump motors for the pump house along with new energy efficient variable frequency drives (VFDs) for each pump. Magic also recently received its 1st shipment of new low-energy, high efficiency snow machines

from HKD to help make more snow with less energy usage. The VFDs, pump motors and snow guns are being installed for system testing and start-up during the week of 12/5.

Lodge: Renovations are taking place in the lodge to create a safer, tastier and fun atmosphere to enjoy the ski community spirit Magic is known for. The lodge has a recently completed new

roof to keep the outside weather where it belongs--outside! And, SKI MAGIC has made new investments in a fire suppression system, kitchen equipment, rental ski equipment, new carpeting, and a new bar and restaurant area for the Black Line Tavern.

This is only the start to SKI MAGIC's 5-year plan which will include expanding the capability to use low-e snow machines to the upper mountain; working with the state of Vermont on creating a better snowmaking pond within the current Vermont regulatory environment; and creating new lifts for beginner/learn-to-ski and intermediate areas.



Talisman from top to bottom with new HKD tower guns.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Sugarbush Ski and Board Hall of Fame

WARREN, Vt. – Sugarbush Resort's Chief Recreation Officer and legendary skier, John Egan, is being inducted into the 2016 Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. A national voting panel selects the incoming class in the fall of each year. Egan joins nine others including his brother Dan Egan, whom he skied with for many years in a number of Warren Miller films. The class of 2016 will be inducted on April 8th, 2017 in Stowe, VT, and enshrined in September at the Hall of Fame Museum in Ishpeming, Michigan. Egan adds this honor to quite the resume: rated one of the top 48 greatest skiers of our time and the most influential people in the last 35 years by Powder Magazine in 2006, ranked a top 50 skier on the continent by Powder in 1999, and ranked top 7 in the world by Powder in 1995. He's also starred in over a dozen Warren Miller films, as well as other ski movies and promotions.

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2012 CHEVY VOLT PREMIUM MODEL, ONE OWNER, ONLY 34,000 MILES SALE PRICE \$11,995	2005 FORD E-450 14 PASSENGER BUS, WHEEL CHAIR RAMP, POWER STROKE DIESEL, ONLY 65,000 MILES SALE PRICE \$14,995	2008 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER 4X4, LT PACKAGE, LEATHER INTERIOR, SUN ROOF, EXTRA CLEAN SALE PRICE \$7,995

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2015 FORD T-250 CARGO VAN Fully Loaded, Only 8,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$22,995	2014 CHEVY 1500 DBL CAB LT Package, Fully Loaded, Only 12,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$27,995	2013 CHEVY 1500 CREW CAB 4x4, Z71 Off Road Package, Loaded, Like New Condition SALE PRICE \$29,995 \$27,995	2009 SUBARU LEGACY 4 Door Sedan, AWD, 5-Speed, Only 93,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$7,995 \$6,995
2015 GMC 1500 DBL CAB Only 500 Miles, 4x4 SALE PRICE \$29,995 \$28,995	2014 CHEVY CRUISE LT Package, Auto, Fully Loaded, Only 31,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$10,995	2012 CHEVY 1500 EXT CAB 4x4, 6.2 Liter V8, Fully Loaded, One Owner SALE PRICE \$22,995	2009 CHEVY 2500 HD 4 DOOR CREW CAB 4x4, Duramax Diesel, One Owner SALE PRICE \$16,995 \$15,995
2015 FORD MUSTANG 2 Door Coupe, Leather, Navigation, One Owner, Only 8,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$22,995 \$23,495	2014 CHEVY SPARK LS Package, Auto, One Owner, Only 19,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$10,995 \$9,995	2012 CHEVY TRAVERSE LS Package, All Wheel Drive, One Owner, Extra Clean SALE PRICE \$11,995	2008 FORD FUSION SEL Package, Auto, Power Seats SALE PRICE \$4,995
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2015 FORD TRANSIT CONNECT XLT Package, 7 Passenger Seating, Fully Loaded SALE PRICE \$17,995 \$16,995	2014 CHEVY MALIBU LT Package, Fully Loaded, Only 23,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$14,995 \$12,995	2012 CHEVY 1500 EXT CAB LT Package, 4x4, Like New, Only 13,000 Miles JUST ARRIVED	2007 HONDA ACCORD EXL Package, Fully Loaded SALE PRICE \$8,995
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2015 CHEVY MALIBU LT Package, Sun Roof SALE PRICE \$16,995 \$15,995	2014 CHEVY EQUINOX AWD LT Package, Sunroof, Only 34,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$19,995 \$18,995	2011 CHEVY 1500 REG CAB 4x4, 5.3 Liter V8, One Owner SALE PRICE \$14,995	2004 HONDA PILOT LX Package, AWD, Extra Clean SALE PRICE \$7,995 \$6,995
2014 CHEVY CAPTIVA Auto, Fully Loaded, Only 46,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$11,995	2013 CHEVY 1500 EXT CAB LT Package, Z71 Off Road, One Owner SALE PRICE \$24,995	2011 HYUNDAI ACCENT GLS 4 Door, 5 Speed, Only 63,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$5,995 \$4,995	2004 FORD F-150 SUPER CAB 4x4, SXT Package SALE PRICE \$2,995
2014 TOYOTA CAMRY LE Model, Fully Loaded SALE PRICE \$15,995	2013 CHEVY AVALANCHE Black Diamond Edition, V8, 4x4, Sun Roof, Navigation, Leather, Fully Loaded, Only 35,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$36,995	2010 FORD F-350 2-3 Yard Dump Body, 4x4, Clean, Power Stroke Diesel SALE PRICE \$20,995	HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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If you click on a mountain, a more detailed report will open in a new tab, providing ticket prices, trail details & maps, temperatures, web cams, and more!

Here is our report from Monday, December 5, 2016:

	Lifts	Snow Depth	Snowfall
Killington Resort	7 / 25	16"	4" (12/5)
Okemo Mountain Resort	4 / 20	14"	2" (12/5)
Sugarbush	3 / 16	36"	1" (12/4)
Stratton Mountain	4 / 11	14"	5" (12/5)

Weather & Snow information is provided to OnTheSnow directly from the resorts. We cannot be held liable for incorrect or missing information.

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* Study conducted at the University of Northern Colorado, 2015, examined the effectiveness of the new features of primax by collecting and analyzing ongoing EEG data while subjects performed speech testing. For both primax features SpeechMaster and EchoShield, the objective brain behavior measures revealed a significant reduction in listening effort when the feature was activated.
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