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Springfield Town Library holds Holiday Open House

BY KAREN ENGDAHL

The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Ornaments, poinsettias, platters of cookies and snacks, brimming punchbowls, Christmas carols, and plenty of holiday books set the stage for the Springfield Town Library's annual Holiday Open House recently.

The event, sponsored by the Friends of the Springfield Town Library, provides a festive opportunity for patrons and staff to celebrate the library's accomplishments throughout the year. In addition, the Open House is the scene of the annual fundraising raffle, a community favorite.

Library Trustee Warren Cross asked Richard Cofrancesco to draw the ticket for the biggest gift basket, and the lucky winner was Chuck Gregory.

This year more than 20 prizes were donated by businesses and individuals, including Apple iTunes gift cards, a gift certificate from VonBargen's Jewelry, high tea for two at the Inn Victoria, a three-month adult membership to the Edgar May Health Center, four gift baskets, and gift certificates from Biben's Ace Hardware, Boccaccio's Hair Salon, Bond Auto, Buick GMC, Free Range Restaurant, the Heritage Deli, Joe's Discount Beverages, Shaw's Supermarket, Sheri's Heads Up Salon, The Pizza Stone, and Village Pizza.

Assisting with raffle ticket sales was just one of the many tasks of the evening for new Library Director Amy Howlett.

Amy Howlett, Library Director at the open house.

PHOTO BY KAREN ENGDAHL

Howlett, who replaced Russell Moore in April 2016, was a library development consultant for the Vermont State Library before taking the Springfield job. She received her bachelor's degree in medieval history from Middlebury College and her Masters of Library Science degree from University of California, Berkeley.

As a consultant, her focus was on board development, collection development, strategic planning and adult programming.

Since coming to Springfield she has continued to focus on collection development, continuing in Moore's footsteps.

"Russ was in charge of the adult non-fiction and I'll be doing that as well," she said.

Howlett was also eager to promote the library's current project on Steampunk, urging people to examine and vote on their favorite Steampunk spine label.

The contest, presented at the library as well as on the library's website and Facebook pages, showcases the work of eight River Valley Tech Center Information Technology students.

"Each design is wonderful," said Howlett, "but only one can win. Vote for your favorite — starting here tonight."

The spine labels, small postage-stamp-size labels placed on the spine of the book to identify it as part of a specific genre or collection, are detailed and colorful, each with a real flavor of Steampunk.

The Springfield Town Library is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m, Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and is closed on Sunday.

Labyrinth of Lights coming to Walpole

BY MARY ELLEN CANNON

The Shopper

WALPOLE, N.H. – A labyrinth will float in the air outside a rose-stained glass window.

The floating labyrinth reflects the balsam fir and white light-lit labyrinth on the second floor of Hastings Hall, the church house in back of the Walpole Unitarian Church.

The Rev. Emerita Sandra Whippie leads volunteers who will fashion the labyrinth on Saturday, Dec. 17.

Volunteer Antonia Andreoli expects that with a half dozen others to help, in six to eight hours the circuitous path of greens and lights will be set up.

The church website at walpoleuuchurch.wixsite.com/walpoleunitarian/labyinth tells people to walk the path that winds into a center and back out the same path, giving a person time for reflection. Gentle, joyful music adds to the ambiance.

The labyrinth will be open for walking from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18, Monday, Dec. 19, Tuesday, Dec. 20, Monday, Dec. 26, Tuesday, Dec. 27, and Wednesday, Dec. 28.

All donations benefit the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.

At the labyrinth in Hastings Hall, one person walks in with a candle that she or he leaves in the center in a sand-filled dish. The next person walks only after the first is out. There is no passing of other people as sometimes happens at other labyrinths.

Labyrinth of Lights for the holidays.

PHOTO PROVIDED

A group may ask to walk together as women from Acworth did after Josephine Russell's yoga class a few years ago. Each walked individually then waited at the center for all to join and hug, then walked out individually.

Labyrinths have a long history with the patterns found all around the world. A maze that one might get lost in is one kind of a labyrinth and a meandering labyrinth like the one at Hastings Hall is the other type.

A meandering labyrinth to walk for contemplation with one entrance/exit allows no chance to be lost.

The Theosphical Society in America website says that in Hindu tradition walking a labyrinth is following in the steps of Shiva Nataranja, the Divine Transformer who is Lord of the Dance.

In the Middle Ages in Europe, walking a labyrinth could substitute for pilgrimages for those who couldn't travel on pilgrimage. In the Middle Ages, labyrinths were often formed with colored paving stones on the floors of Christian cathedrals in Europe.

The Native American Medicine Wheel has a similar intent.

A volunteer sits in the hall as people walk in, or for more information contact swhippie@ne.rr.com or azandreoli@gmail.com or call Antonia at 603-756-9036.

Many individuals and families walk the evergreens and lights labyrinth at Hastings Hall behind the Walpole Unitarian church as a solstice or holiday tradition.

To see the labyrinth float outside the rose stained glass adds to the magic of the moment.

Susan Hammond sworn in to Rockingham Selectboard

BY JOEL SLUTSKY

The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Susan Hammond was sworn in to fill a vacancy on the Rockingham Town Selectboard during a recent meeting.

The position was opened when Josh Hearne resigned due to a change of residence.

Hammond served on the Rockingham Selectboard for three one-year terms, until March 2016.

Selectboard member Stefan Golec nominated Hammond to fill the vacant seat until the March 17, 2017 elections.

Selectboard member Peter Golec nominated Gaetano Putignano to fill the vacant seat and Selectboard Chair Lamont Barnett called for a vote.

When the Selectboard voted, Hammond received 3 votes, and Putignano, 1, from Peter Golec.

Hammond was sworn in by Notary Public Kerry Bennett. Hammond's appointment will be effective from Dec. 6 until the regular election takes place at the annual town meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 7. Four Selectboard seats will be available at that time.

Hammond was one of five applications received to fill the position that were sent to Interim Municipal Manager Shane O'Keefe. The other candidates were Jim "Jiggs" McAuliffe, Putignano, Cass Wright, and Deborah Wright, who withdrew her application prior to the meeting.

Hammond addressed the board after her election.

"I realize that this opening is for a short duration, but I feel it's imperative to have someone with recent experience on the board," she said. "I have an open mind, no agenda and no axe to grind; it is important at this time to get the budget in order, and I have experience with the developing the budget."

Sue Hammond.

PHOTO PROVIDED

McAuliffe told the board that the reason he submitted a letter of interest was mainly because he was alarmed at the management style of the board's chair, noting that there have been seven special meetings and numerous hours of executive session since the March election.

McAuliffe said that he does not approve of this style and that more should be done in open session, and the board should be more transparent. McAuliffe also stated that he feels he is qualified for this position.

Putignano noted that he was approached by several people who encouraged him to put his name in. Putignano stated that he has a very strong work ethic and good vision for change and cited the success of start-up businesses in the area. He also said he lives in the village and feels it is time for some young blood on the board.

After the meeting, Hammond talked to the press.

"Basically, I put my hat into the ring for this interim position because I feel it is important to serve my community, and I have had three years' experience on the board, can jump right in and get the work done that the Selectboard needs to do in the next few months to finalize the budget, begin the search for a new town manager, and prepare for town meeting," Hammond said. "I do not have a personal agenda other than to make the best decisions I can that will help the town move forward.

"However, this is just a short-term position and there will be four seats up for election in March," she continued. "I do hope that the interest that was shown to fill this interim position means we will also have a very good slate of candidates for the March elections."

Barnett said anyone interested in running should take out a petition for one of the four seats up for election.

Musician on African instrument wows crowd

BY MARY ELLEN CANNON

The Shopper

ALSTEAD, N.H. – Brendan Taaffe plays Appalachian-inspired music on an instrument called the mbira, from Zimbabwe.

Taaffe recently filled Orchard Hill Community Center in Alstead, NH with toe-tapping music, poetry, stories, and elegant cut-out art scrolls to match.

His rich tenor voice and easy storytelling style caught the crowd. Listeners can catch a bit on www.brendantaaffe.bandcamp.com.

Mbira is a hand-held wooden box with metal strips the player strikes. The sweet sound caught Taaffe while he was at a music festival in Massachusetts. He helped the mbira player learn some guitar in exchange for lessons on the mbira.

Later, the revelation to play old-time music he loves on mbira struck him.

Taaffe queried his audience on who had seen a "crankie" before.

A half dozen out of the 40 or so there had. New to the rest, a "crankie" is an old-time, 1850s era precursor to movies. Crankies are scrolling illustrations, hand-turned, hence the crank name, in a wooden frame. Illustrations move across the viewing screen.

Taaffe cuts out of paper images then glues them to Tyvek, a flexible plastic insulating material. A lamp behind illuminates the scroll in a darkened room.

Taaffe credits Peter Schumann of Bread and Puppet Theatre in northern Vermont with reviving the art form in the 1970s. Taaffe spoke of the increased popularity of crankies in the last five years.

He attributes the surge to the search for more analog entertainment, people who want hands on in the digital age.

To see some of Taaffe's elegant crankie art, check out www.brendanfaaffe.com.

Taaffe explains any paper can be used to make the scrolls. His heart broke on tearing scrolls so now he uses Tyvek, which he promises can be bought without the DuPont Chemical brand logo. He warns that making scrolls for crankies gets addictive. Length varies according to interest.

He showed a six foot scroll for a poem he spoke, and a 20 foot scroll for a story he sang. Taaffe engaged the audience to be the drone sound for one story — coaching the audience to the pitch of hum he wanted.

Taaffe told the audience to try to make it to the Harry E. Smith Frolic in Greenfield, Mass. next summer for great old-time music fun. At midnight, a reenactment of old time songs collected by Harry E. Smith into books of music starts.

Taaffe recalled that during the recent drought, on possibly the only summer night with drizzle, hundreds of people sang in the rain until 3 a.m.

He will be at a gig on the Isle of Skye this coming summer, he said, so he will miss the Frolic in 2017.

Showing the children how they can play Appalachain inspired music.

PHOTO BY MARY ELLEN CANNON

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Dance Factory's 25th production of "The Nutcracker"

BY KAREN ENGDAHL
The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The auditorium of Springfield High School tingled with an air of anticipation as parents, grandparents and friends filed to their seats for the Dance Factory's annual production of "The Nutcracker" on Sunday, Dec. 11.

Meanwhile, behind the curtain a group of young dancers sat quietly on the stage floor, listening to Director Ashley Hensel-Browning's last minute announcements.

"Yesterday, you had such positive energy and such joy, " Hensel-Browning told them. "Can you do that again today?"

The colorfully-costumed mice, party guests, dolls, fairies, and Mother Goose children all quietly nodded their heads. A few moments later the music started, the curtain rose, and they started to dance. All the weeks of practice culminated in a final performance full of energy and joy.

Dancers backstage before the performance.
PHOTO BY KAREN ENGDAHL

The young corps de ballet beautifully supported dancers Bonnie Blake (Clara), Jayden Hinkle (Fritz), Eliza Rounds (Mouse King), and the Nutcracker Prince (Taylor Drinker) in Act 1; other dancers in Act 1 included Emery Benoit, Gillian Guy, Chelsea Rose, Ben Haseltine, Shiloh Yake, Magali Stowell-Aleman, and Ange Wunderle. In Act 2, ensemble dancers included Talari Anderson, Bridgid Karl, Shiloh Yake, Lydia Churchill, Jessica Ambrose, Eliza Rounds, Gillian Guy, Alex Hutchins, Pearl Myers, Aliza Allen, Olivia Bernier, Chelsea Rose, Grace Guy, Gwen Kekic, Ava Hill Chole Jenkins, Madailein Wolf, and Emilia Battista.

Students danced all the roles in The Dance Factory's production of "The Nutcracker" including the principal roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy (Danielle Marasa) and the Snow Queen (Lydia Churchill).

Many Dance Factory students, who come from throughout southern Vermont and New Hampshire, began as young children in the Mother Goose scene and continued performing in various roles throughout their childhood.

Originally choreographed by Susan Hagan, this year's production was directed by Hensel-Browning and featured new and old choreography from productions past.

The Dance Factory's production featured 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, as well as dances from around the world.

This year's performance again benefits the Springfield High School Drama Club, which will present "Elf Jr., The Musical" directed by Rebecca Skrypeck in the spring. Past performances of "The Nutcracker" have benefited the Springfield Schools Art Project and the Park Street School curtain fund, in addition to the Drama Club, now in its 17th year as beneficiary.

Hensel-Browning shared her gratitude with students, parents, and supporters in the program.

"Dancers, this production exists because of all your hard work and dedication," she said. "I am in awe of all of you.Thank you for giving me so much of your time and enthusiasm.

"I am forever grateful to The Dance Factory's founder and original director of our Nutcracker, Susan Hagan. Thank you for helping me to see the magic, supporting the magic in others, and leaving such a glorious legacy."

A call from Afghanistan

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - A few weeks ago the Commander of the Catamount Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol based at Springfield's Hartness State Airport, received a call from a former Rutland Squadron Cadet, Corey Lobdell. MSgt. Lobdell is now with the USAF's 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron station at Bagram Air Force Base, Afghanistan.

MSgt. Lobell was a good friend with the Catamount Composite Squadron's current Administrative Officer, Lt. Edith R. Fellows, who is also in the Middle East in Baghdad.

Senior and Cadet members of the Catamount Composite Squadron with their Christmas gifts.
PHOTOGRAPH BY LT. JOHN NOLL

It seems that MSgt. Lobdell was hoping that the Catamount Composite Squadron could "adopt" the 455th and was asking for a few wireless speakers so his Squadron could enjoy some music. The Commander put this to the Squadron Officers who quickly agreed that we should purchase some small, portable speakers for the 455th. The Cadets were each given a five dollar bill and asked to purchase a small gift and a card in which they were to write their own greetings.

On December 4, all the gifts, cards and speakers were gathered together, packed into three boxes and sent off to Bagram Air Force Base to cheer up some of our military with a special connection to Civil Air Patrol.

The Civil Air Patrol is the volunteer auxiliary of the United States Air Force. The Cadet program is open to youth at the age of 12 years, for more information please call the Commander, Maj. Kathleen. R. Fellows at 802 263-5544 or Email at kfellows@vtcap.org

Bellows Falls Rotary

The Bellows Falls Rotary Club is pleased to announce the addition of three new members. Kim Bovill, Richard Doyle and Marty Gallagher were inducted on November 10, 2016. If you live in the Bellows Falls area and are interested in becoming a member, please reach out to any Rotary member. Please go to our website: http://bfrotary.club/ for local Rotarian's email.

PHOTO PROVIDED

5k to support YMCA

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Cody Tallent, a senior at Bellows Falls Union High School, is an accomplished distance runner and a staff member at Meeting Waters YMCA's Y Day Camp and Y-ASPIRE afterschool program. He's bringing all of these characteristics together to organize a 5K run and walk to benefit the regional Y's Reach Out to Youth Scholarship Fund. The Bellows Falls 5K Winter Classic will be held at 10AM on Saturday, December 17. It starts and finishes at the Rockingham Recreation Center on Playground Road.

"I'm doing this to finish my Senior Project. I wanted to do a road race because I love running," Tallent states. "I wanted Meeting Waters YMCA to be the beneficiary of the event because I have seen first-hand how the Y has benefited kids and I know the money will help kids and families in our community."

According to the race organizer, the 5K route will consist of two laps of a 2.5 kilometer circuit (about a mile-and-a-half). "Hopefully, this will encourage families to come and do the event together. Children could stop after one lap while the parents continue on," Tallent adds. "Like the Y does every day, I'm

*See **YMCA** on Page 3A*

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Grace Cottage begins new volunteer driver program

WINDHAM COUNTY, Vt. - Lack of transportation is a barrier to necessary healthcare for many in Windham County. Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital has partnered with Green Mountain RSVP to recruit new volunteer drivers in the West River Valley and surrounding towns so that seniors can have improved access to medical appointments and wellness services in the area.

This is a neighbor to neighbor assistance program for people living without good transportation or that are too far from transit services. Green Mountain RSVP is the volunteer recruiting center for people aged 55 and over who are looking to share their time and skills to better the community. Transportation for medical rides is a top priority now as seniors attempt to live at home longer in life.

Grace Cottage will schedule volunteer drivers in advance as the need arises. No regular scheduled commitment is necessary, just register with RSVP as a volunteer and a Grace Cottage Community Health Team (CHT) member will call when someone needs a ride. Volunteer drivers are needed along Routes 30 & 35 to serve patients in Grafton, Athens, Brookline, Townshend, Newfane, Winhall, Jamaica and surrounding towns. RSVP provides supplemental auto liability and excess medical liability coverage while in service and Grace Cottage will provide a voucher for a wholesome lunch in their dining hall as a thank you for your service! For more information or to sign up, call CHT Outreach Coordinator Bill Monahan at 365-3762.

Contact RSVP today and register as a volunteer. WWW.RSVPVT.ORG or phone 844-258-RSVP.

Monthly lunches —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - On November 30, a check for $500 was given to the Springfield Family Center for their holiday food baskets. The funds came from the monthly Free Community Lunch sponsored by the First Congregational Church UCC. The free lunch has been a mission project of the church members for over two years. Donations from our lunch guests and church members have sustained the cost of the lunch since the beginning in February of 2014. It seemed the right thing to do, to cycle the funds back to our neighbors for the holidays to help feed their families in a time of limited resources and uncertainty for the coming months. Our December lunch is Wednesday the 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

2nd karaoke practice —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Moose Lodge will hold the second of three practice rounds on December 17 at 7 p.m. 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, which will be useful information to contestants as they prepare for the February 11 elimination round.

All events, including the March regional final, will occur at the Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls. The event is free and open to the public. Food and beverages will be available to the public.

YMCA

From Page 2A

hoping this event promotes healthy lifestyles and there's no better way to do that than to get a whole family involved."

More information about the BF 5K Winter Classic—as well as a Registration Form—are available at Meeting Waters YMCA's website (www.meetingwatersymca.org). Registration is now open. One may register the morning of the event, as well. Questions can be directed to Meeting Waters YMCA's administrative office at 802-463-4769 or by writing info@meetingwatersymca.org.

BF students launch student news site —

Co editors Lia Clark and Sophie Hislop lauched The Howler in November.

PHOTO PROVIDED

WESTMINSTER, Vt. - Bellows Falls Union High School sophomores Lia Clark and Sophie Hislop, had an idea. They wanted to start a student newspaper for the school to showcase stories about the high school. The two were motivated to gather stories about students, written by students. They organized a student news club, and The Howler was born. The group decided on an online medium featuring stories about not only the school, but the community and beyond. Clark and Hislop were named co-editors of the news site. Their regular meetings are on Wednesdays has attracted several students interested in writing about sports, the arts, political, national news and more.

The Howler, which launched on November 22 with it's inaugural edition, is a work in progress. They hope to add an original logo and other artwork to the site. Students are now working on the holiday edition which will be released right before the holiday break. Under the guidance and direction of Title 1 Reading teacher, Tim Clark and Public Relations Coordinator, Suzanne Groenewold, the students are well on their way. They are writing news stories as well as creating polls, artwork, and mixed media for the site. This month a contest was announced for the student body to submit works related to the holidays with prizes being awarded for first and second place in three categories. You may visit The Howler at http://howler.bfuhs.org.

Dee Smith joins RVCU

River Valley Credit Union is pleased to announce the recent addition of Dee Smith to our Mortgage Lending team. Dee is an experienced Mortgage Originator based in our Springfield, Vermont offices. A Springfield native, Dee is a graduate of Springfield High School and has enjoyed a varied career in Ohio, Washington State, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Dee has a daughter currently attending college, and in her spare time Dee is actively involved in Boot Camp, spinning, weight lifting, and she enjoys riding her Harley Davidson motorcycle as much as possible.

You can contact Dee for a Mortgage, Home Equity loan or Construction loan at our Springfield office at 34 Clinton Street, 802-885-2212, or email Dee at dsmith@rivercu.com.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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RVTC students design book spines for Steampunk

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Information Technology students of the River Valley Technical Center have designed spine labels for the collection of Steampunk books at Springfield Town Library. The library reached out to the River Valley Tech Center Information Technology teacher, Kristen Wilson, who thought this would be a super design project for her students.

"This has been a wonderful collaboration and a great experience for everyone involved," commented Springfield Town Librarian Jo Coleman.

Each student has created a design and the library needs the community to vote for the design that best represents Springfield Steampunk. The student designs are on display at Springfield Town Library and on the library website, www.springfieldtownlibrary.org.

You may vote in person at the library or through the link on the website. Voting takes place from December 9 to December 17. Springfield Town Library hours are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Stop by the library or website and vote for your favorite Steampunk spine label.

Grant received to launch The Landmark Writing Project

PUTNEY, Vt. - Landmark College has been awarded a grant of $131,220 from the Davis Educational Foundation to launch The Landmark Writing Project. This three-year project will build on Landmark College's 31 years of experience working with writers with learning differences. The grant was received from the Davis Educational Foundation established by Stanton and Elisabeth Davis after Mr. Davis's retirement as chairman of Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc.

With a student population entirely composed of students with diagnosed learning disabilities, attention deficit disorders and autism spectrum disorder, Landmark College's faculty and staff are experts in understanding these students' needs as learners and applying research-based best practices for teaching. The Landmark Writing Project seeks to integrate, articulate and apply an approach to teaching and supporting writing across the curriculum that is unprecedented in higher education and holds potential for broad dissemination.

The Landmark Writing Project will be led by the current English Department chair, Associate Professor John Kipp, who will work with and chair a steering committee comprised of members of the English Department and teaching faculty from across academic departments.

"This is an exciting opportunity for Landmark College, and especially for our students," Kipp said. "We are grateful that the David Educational Foundation recognizes Landmark College's ongoing commitment to understanding how college students with learning disabilities develop as writers. We look forward to sharing our progress and results within the college and with the broader academic community."

Sara Glennon, Associate Professor and former English Department chair, will co-chair the project steering committee and assist in the planning and direction of the project.

Snowfall over a fireplace

Ron Patch went hiking behind his house; it was cold and blustery but invigorating. This photo shows the stone fireplace and other remains of an old cabin.

PHOTO BY RON PATCH

GIV program encourages students to "Feed Their Brains"

REGION – Vermont high school students can apply for upcoming Governor's Institutes of Vermont (GIV) winter programs starting December 10! These weekend intensives offer accelerated learning opportunities in ten different topics to interested Vermont 9th – 12th graders.

The two-day residential programs will take place February 10 - 12 and February 24 - 26, 2017 at Goddard College in Plainfield, Vt. Teenagers choose one topic to study in depth over the weekend from among the ten offered. 2017 offerings range from arts-focused courses like Advanced Painting and Drawing, Actor's Audition Workshop, and Vocal Performers' Workshop, to STEM offerings like Astronomy, Bioinformatics, and Intermediate Robotics. Rounding out the possibilities are four interdisciplinary courses in Youth Leadership, Social Entrepreneurship, Animals and Law, and Architecture Invention.

Governor's Institute opportunities are guaranteed to be affordable for all Vermont families based on a sliding scale tuition. Applications will be accepted at www.giv.org/apply beginning December 10. Although the application period ends January 16, applications are considered on a rolling basis. Students gain an advantage by applying early since both Institutes are expected to fill quickly.

The Governor's Institutes will also provide eleven residential summer Institutes for 9 - 11 graders in varying lengths and a variety of topics at seven college campuses next summer. More information on GIV summer offerings and the summer application process is at www.giv.org.

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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

A 1957 Christmas Story

Christmas in Chester in 1957 was an exciting time. In downtown Chester all of the stores were busy. The 'Shop on the Green' was decorated with lights and wreaths. The Chester Inn displayed its Christmas spirit with lights and Santa Claus displays. All of the other shops and stores were equally decorated.

On December 20th there was three feet of snow on the ground and more on the way. School kids were all outdoors sliding, skating or skiing. At night there were skating parties down on the millpond near the gristmill in the Depot.

The big kids kept the pond shoveled off. At night there were several small bon fires on the shore for skaters to keep warm and to provide light. Entire families would be skating together. It was fun to watch the little kids learning to skate; they would fall down and start to cry when an adult would skate to them and say, "That's ok Cathy, you'll be alright." Soon Cathy would be skating again with a big smile as her skating improved.

Downtown Chester on Christmas Eve and the roads were covered with snow. Last minute shoppers were walking the streets and carolers were going door to door. It was lightly snowing and the Christmas lights seemed to glow through the falling snow. By 9 p.m. everyone was home. Some were doing last minute wrapping of presents while others watched Lawrence Welk on TV.

Ezra Parkhurst lived on High Street with his wife Susan and their two children, Mike age 10 and Molly age 8. Ezra had a good job at Central Vermont Power Company on the Green. While he didn't spoil his family he made sure each member of the family got at least one present they really wanted.

Their Christmas tree was a real beauty, about seven feet tall, covered with lights, decorations and tinsel. Many of the decorations were 100 years old and had been in the Parkhurst family for generations. These prized decorations were carefully packed away each year. Many of these decorations had been made in Germany in the 1800s.

Christmas morning Mike and Molly were up early. The excitement in the house was building. Mom and Dad stayed in bed a while listening to the excitement of the kids. Mike was whispering as he held his gift and shook it "I think it's a Lionel train. It's heavy and a large box!" Molly's excitement grew as she picked up her package. "I think it's the cupboard I wanted!"

Soon the kids ran into their parents bedroom begging them to get up. "Ok, Mom and Dad said, but no opening presents till we have breakfast." Mom made coffee first and then made pancakes with maple syrup and bacon. The excitement at the breakfast table was beyond description. Finally it was time to "Have the tree" as Dad called it.

They all went in the living room where the tree was. The lights were on and Mom put Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" on the record player. Dad handed out the presents. First he handed Mom her gift that was marked "From Santa." It was a beautiful new winter coat that he had bought at Furman's in Springfield. Next was Molly's turn. Dad always preached ladies first. Ezra was a very skilled woodworker and made the china cupboard Molly always wanted. It was a step-back cupboard about three feet tall, open shelves surrounded by a scalloped border on top and two doors with shelves below. There were cup hooks for Molly's play cups and dishes, and it came with dishes. Molly was overjoyed!

Finally it was Mike's turn. He carefully opened the package to find his Lionel train. He jumped up with excitement and said, "Can we set it up and try it now?!!"

Dad said, "After all the presents are opened and the wrapping paper put away."

Both Mike and Molly got new wool ski sweaters and a pair of leggings with stirrups. After the presents were opened Mom carefully removed the bows from the wrapping paper and saved them. The Christmas paper was neatly folded and put away to reuse next year. Such was Christmas for the Parkhurst family in 1957 Chester.

I am currently writing a book of short stories that depicts 1957 Chester. Some of stories are based on real people or events, others are pure fiction but appropriate for that time. The Parkhurst Christmas story is one of those short stories. The book will be published next spring.

I need someone to do a few illustrations. It won't pay much if anything but it will give the artist some exposure. Contact me if interested.

This week's old saying. "Santa has it right. Visit once a year."

1957 Lionel train advertisement.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Phoenix Books helps Vermont Foodbank for the holidays

REGION - Phoenix Books is taking a stand against hunger this holiday season by matching customer donations, up to $5,000, to the Vermont Foodbank until December 24. The company - which has locations in Essex, Burlington, Rutland and Chester - has embarked on a year-long partnership with the Vermont Foodbank to raise at least $25,000 through a series of fundraisers. This matching program for December is the first of multiple events planned in partnership with Phoenix Books and Vermont Foodbank.

The match is dollar for dollar so the more the community donates through Phoenix Books the more money raised for the Vermont Foodbank.

"Food is personal for me," says Phoenix Books co-owner Mike DeSanto. As a small boy my family watched what we ate, and it wasn't about calories and fats but whether there was enough to go around. Counting out portions has always remained with me. A couple of years ago, I saw something that spoke about how hard it is for a child who is 'food insecure' to learn. And I recalled in that moment feeling hungry as a child."

After meeting with Nicole Whalen and Cassie Lindsay of the Vermont Foodbank, DeSanto says, "I realized that I could commit my business and the stores in four communities to doing something significant to help with feeding our neighbors in Vermont."

"We are thrilled to partner with Phoenix Books and their customers this holiday season," said John Sayles, Vermont Foodbank CEO. "Too many kids and families in our communities are struggling with hunger—we owe them better. We want everyone in our communities to reach their full potential, and that starts with a healthy meal."

Customers at all four locations are invited to donate to the Vermont Foodbank by purchasing ornamental coupons off of a giving tree located near or at the cash registers of the stores. The coupons are simply added to the purchase or can be handled as a separate sale and contribution. The coupons come in denominations $1, $3, $5, $10 or $25, but any amount can be donated thru the registers. "Giving is simple and easy. All you need to say is I'd like to donate to the Foodbank and our staff will take care of everything from there." said DeSanto.

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editorial

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let's all recycle —

And it looks like people are doing just that.

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation just released the first Universal Recycling Status Report, summarizing recycling, composting, and food bank donations across the state. The report shows recycling and composting increased by 11,793 tons from 2014 to 2015, about 2 percent; and trash disposal decreased 5 percent statewide; while the Vermont Foodbank grew by 40 percent.

Figures for 2016 won't be available until next year, but the hope is they'll show ever better numbers. Vermont's Universal Recycling law, Act 148, passed the legislature unanimously in 2012.

Three years later, this is where we're at. The law mandates recycling of paper, cardboard, steel and aluminum containers, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles and containers.

In addition, recyclables, leaves and yard debris, and food scraps can be deposted at trash transfer stations around the state, and are accepted by many waste haulers. Organic materials like food scraps, leaves and brush, wood, and paper make up almost a third of the waste-stream in Vermont.

Recycling does several good things: it reduces the need for landfills, reduces greenhouse-gas emissions from solid waste, supports green jobs, and creates new markets for sale of materials for composting.

Food waste is now being composted or used to create renewable energy in anaerobic digesters.

Vermont already has 10 certified food-scrap composting or anaerobic digestion facilities, 13 food-scrap haulers, and 17 farm digesters taking food-processing residuals, with more on the way.

The state's waste haulers deserve praise for getting behind Act 148 and pushing and promoting recycling. Many have gone to single-stream recycling for blue bin items like cardboard and bottles, which can be placed in one container by the homeowner instead of painstaking separated.

Vermont has a strong history of recycling, and we think that's one of the benefits of living here. We urge everyone who reads this to continue recycling and composting, and if you're not doing it, start.

The benefits are fabulous.

~BM~

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

LAFF - A - DAY

"According to this, we're over there!"

Op-Ed: *Time for a Year-end investment review*

With the holiday season upon us, you may well be busier than usual. However, by spending a few minutes reviewing your investment scenario of this past year, you can see where you've been, where you might be going, and what you need to do to keep moving forward toward your long-term financial goals.

So, as you look back at 2016, pay close attention to these elements of your investment picture:

• **Performance** – Reviewing your investment performance over time is important in helping you determine if you're on track to achieve your financial goals. So, in evaluating how your investments did in 2016, ask yourself some key questions: How did your investments do relative to their performance in past years? If there was a big difference, what might have accounted for it? Were your returns relevant to your long-term goals? In other words, if you have already established a return rate you'll need to reach your goals – and you should indeed set such a rate – were your actual returns "on track" to help you make progress toward your objectives? And, just as importantly, were your return expectations realistic, based on your investment mix and the market environment?

• **Investment mix** – If you are a diligent investor following a well-designed strategy, you probably started out in 2016 with an investment mix that reflects your risk tolerance, time horizon, and short- and long-term goals. But over time, your investment mix can change, even without your having done so on purpose. If you owned a certain percentage of an asset, such as growth stocks, and those stocks appreciated in price substantially, they could take up a larger percentage of your portfolio than you had intended, thereby exposing you to a higher risk level than that with which you are comfortable. So now that the year is coming to a close, examine your investment mix to see if it needs "rebalancing."

• **Contribution levels** – Are you taking full advantage of your 401(k) or other employer- sponsored retirement plan? Specifically, if you got a raise this past year, did you boost your contributions to your plan? The more you invest now, and throughout your working life, the less likely it will be that you have to play "catch up" in the years immediately preceding your retirement.

• **Mistakes** – We all make mistakes in every walk of life – including the way we invest. In looking back over 2016, can you spot some investment mistakes you might have made? Did you temporarily "bail out" on investing immediately after the "Brexit" vote, only to find, a few weeks later, that the markets had soared to record highs? Did you act on impulse and buy a so-called "hot" stock that turned out to be inappropriate for your needs and risk level? While mistakes like these might be costly in the short term, they can ultimately prove invaluable – if you learn from them.

We're just about ready to turn the page on the 2016 calendar. So, as you review your investment decisions for the past year, try to determine what worked, what didn't – and what you can do to improve your results in 2017.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Op-Ed: *Gov. Shumlin pardons convicted Vermonters*

Gov. Peter Shumlin, citing 2013 legislative action to decriminalize possession of up to one ounce of marijuana, announced his intention to allow Vermonters convicted of that offense prior to the law change to apply for a pardon, essentially wiping the offense off their criminal record. Applications will be accepted beginning today and taken through Dec. 25.

"Today I am announcing an effort using the Governor's pardoning power to expedite our move to a saner drug policy and criminal justice system," the Governor said. "Decriminalization was a good first step in updating our outmoded drug laws. It makes no sense that minor marijuana convictions should tarnish the lives of Vermonters indefinitely."

Gov. Shumlin said he will consider pardoning convictions of marijuana possession up to one ounce for people that do not have violent criminal Vermont convictions or felonies on their records.

To seek a pardon, applicants should visit the website governor.vermont.gov. By clicking on the box titled "PARDON APPLICATION FOR MARIJUANA POSSESSION" on the right side of the page, applicants will be directed to a simple, secure web page application.

Each application will be considered individually, and there is no guarantee of a pardon.

"However, I will try to get through as many as possible before the end of my administration on January 5th," Gov. Shumlin said. "This is the right thing to do."

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Something to Write Home About: The Upcoming Session—Some of the Issues

The coming session, which begins January 4th, will present challenging questions. The easy questions answer themselves. These, following, are some of the big ones.

Implementation of Act 46 has proven difficult for folks at the local level. How to consolidate choice and nonchoice towns? What to do about overly long school bus rides? Whether, and how, to preserve small schools? And, of course, the original question that motivated Act 46 in the first place remains, how to coax school taxes down. Having opposed Act 46, I have no schadenfreude about its difficulty. The task now is to make the needed changes to make things work.

Universal access to affordable, quality health care remains elusive. Since this has proven doable in other countries, I can't believe it's actually as difficult as it seems. I think the problem is mostly a lack of political will to go all the way and establish a real Single Payer system. I remain skeptical of the All Payer approach.

The drug epidemic continues to destroy some people's lives and to diminish everyone's. Our best efforts notwithstanding, addiction is rooted in the mysteries of the human psyche, and once established makes its own rules. So, simple solutions don't work. As the "War on Drugs" has sadly proven, we can't arrest our way out of the problem. Neither can we rehab our way out. But, that said, I think we're basically right to treat addiction as a sickness and drug selling as a crime. Limiting access to prescription pain killers is important, but I remain committed as well to ensuring that such limits don't interfere with legitimate pain relief. Feeding an addiction is compulsive behavior over which an addict has no control, or very little control. But starting down the road to addiction is a series of free will acts. We need to head off the first use of addictive drugs. Easier said than done.

Our revenues are chronically inadequate to meet the real needs of the people. I often hear and read complaints about "out of control spending" but in fact we work hard to keep spending down, and we underfund many important government functions. This gap is likely to become more of a problem as things develop at the national level.

In the coming weeks I will keep you abreast of how these and other issues unfold. In the meantime, I invite your thoughts on these and other issues important to you.

Please call, write or come to the State House in Montpelier to let me know what's on your mind.

My number is 802-793-6417. My email is dmccormack127@gmail.com.

You can also follow along by going to my Facebook Page: VT State Senator Dick McCormack.

Thank you,
Senator Dick McCormack

Dear Editor,

The Bellows Falls Rotary Club hosted the annual Bellows Falls Community Christmas on December 3 at the Bellows Falls Opera House with a free movie, Kung Fu Panda 3, and a meet and greet with Santa Clause afterwards in the lower theater. Santa arrived on a Bellows Falls fire truck, sirens and all. Punch and cookies were served and each child received a chocolate marshmallow Santa after telling Santa what they wanted for Christmas. Over 300 joined in the celebration and all had fun. Fact8 was present to video the event and there are several pictures of the children on Fact8's Face Book page.

Thank you to those Rotarians and ladies from the Woman's Club who were able to help set up, serve and clean at the end. Admission was sponsored by the club, refreshments by the Woman's Club and the Emblem Club, candy by Mr. G's, the posters designed by Jenn & Kate Aldrich and printed courtesy of The Village Printers.

Rotarian, Doreen Aldrich, chaired the event with the guidance of President, Rita Hinds who has chaired the event for 18 years.

Thank you for everyone's hard work and dedication,
Bellows Falls Rotary Club

Dear Editor,

Library Thanks the Thrifty Attic

The South Londonderry Free Library would like to thank the awesome Board of Directors and all the volunteers of The Thrifty Attic for all their hard work that enabled them to give to us a very generous donation for library improvements.

Gratitude goes out to Directors Sally Waite, Marion Laselle, Andrea Ogden, Wendy Arace, Betty Forbes, Pat Slade, Edith Hussey and all of the dedicated others who work behind the scenes!

Thank you,
South Londonderry Free Library

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Residents of the Gill Odd Fellows Home, Ludlow, Vermont, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Thrifty Attic of Londonderry, for their most gracious gift of funds so that we can fulfill some wishes we have – a sewing machine, a three gallon Hot Beverage Container and a Balance Board for our Therapy Department.

We appreciate their gift and wanted to take this opportunity to let the everyone know that the Thrifty Attic does such wonderful things for their community.

Theresa Southworth, Administrator
Ludlow

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OBITUARIES

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Francis John Romeo, 1924 - 2016

LUDLOW, Vt. Francis John Romeo, 92, of Homosassa, FL, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016 at Lakeland Regional Health Medical Center, Lakeland, FL. A 62 year Long Island resident, he was born Sept. 22, 1924 to Giovanni and Mary (Houghton) Romeo, of Great Neck, NY, one of two children. John, as he was known to everyone, moved to Homosassa in 1987 from Commack, NY.

As a licensed insurance agent and holder of a Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) designation most of his working life, he was the former owner of Davis and Romeo, Inc. of Great Neck, NY. John honorably and proudly defended his country serving in the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant during WWII. After the war, he returned to Fordham University to finish his undergraduate work, achieving his BA degree. Years later he would complete a Master's in Education from Hofstra University, as well as numerous post graduate courses in underwriting and financial planning.

John's lifelong passion for hiking and the outdoors led him to membership in the New York Chapter of the Green Mountain Club of Vermont. He was very proud of the fact that he had achieved the status of "End to End" by hiking, over a number of years, the entire length of Vermont's Long Trail. Vermont was always a special place for him and he eventually bought a small cabin on Lake Rescue in Ludlow, Vermont where the entire extended family would spend part of their summers. John was an avid golfer and played at courses in Europe (including St. Andrews), Canada and Bermuda and was a member of many golf clubs during his lifetime, including Indian Hills in Northport, New York, Nassau Country Club, Sugarmill Woods Golf and Country Club in Homosassa, Florida, and the Woodstock Country Club in Woodstock, Vermont.

Francis John Romeo, 1924 - 2016
PHOTO PROVIDED

John was also a wonderful singer and guitar player and, in addition to singing in bands as a young man, he was always a member of the church choir. He was a Rotarian for more than 60 years and held a membership in the Homosassa Springs Rotary Club and the West Citrus Elks Lodge. He also loved to cook and created many handmade wooden birdhouses in his workshop. John was a parishioner of St. Thomas The Apostle Catholic Church in Homosassa, Florida.

John is survived by his wife of 61 years, Moira C. Romeo, Homosassa, FL and their five children: son John Romeo (Noeline), Garden City, NY; son Peter Romeo (Peggy), Stonington, CT; daughter Elisabeth Romeo Tracy (J. Michael), Lakeland, FL; son Thomas Romeo, New York, NY; daughter Kathryn Romeo Bochman (Michael), Plymouth, MA; niece Mary Ann Campbell, Berkeley, CA; nephew John Campbell, Winnetka, IL; his seven grandchildren: Sarah Romeo (fiancé Nathaniel Matthews), Long Branch, NJ; William Hamel Romeo, Burlington, VT; F. Joseph Tracy, Lakeland, FL; Jane Catherine Tracy, New York, NY; John Michael Bochman, Redwood City, CA; Andrew James Bochman, New York, NY and Mary Kathryn Bochman, Plymouth, MA. In addition to his parents, Mr. Romeo was preceded in death by his sister, Mary Elizabeth Campbell.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, Dec. 19, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. from St. Thomas The Apostle Catholic Church, Homosassa, FL with Fr. Ronald Marecki, Celebrant. Military honors will be rendered in front of the church following the mass. Interment will be private at a later date. In lieu of flowers, John's family requests that memorial contributions be made to Smile Train, 41 Madison Avenue, 28th Floor, New York, NY 10010. Wilder Funeral Home, Homosassa, FL www.wilderfuneral.com

Wayne C. Ranney, 1928 - 2016

CAVENDISH, Vt.- Wayne C. Ranney 88, passed away on December 5, 2016 at the Springfield Health & Rehab. Center in Springfield, Vt. He was born September 2, 1928 in Mt. Holly, Vt. the son of Nathan W. and Lucy (Hinkley) Ranney. He lived and attended school in Fair Haven.

He served in the United States Army in Korea and received the Purple Heart. On June 21, 2007 He married Joanne Pelkey in Cavendish, Vermont.

He was employed with General Electric in Rutland, Vt. for 25 years, and Honeywell in Phoenix, Arizona for several years.

Wayne enjoyed fishing and gardening both vegetables and flowers and caring for his property, and was a Red Sox fan.

His wife Joanne of Cavendish, two sons – John Ranney of Chester, Vt. and Mark Ranney of Oregon, survives him as well ass six grandchildren, four great grandchildren, one brother Irving Ranney of Rutland, Vt. and nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by one daughter Jeanne Ranney.

A graveside service will be held at the Cavendish Village Cemetery in the Spring 2017; Reverend Abraham Gross Pastor of the Cavendish Baptist Church will officiate.

Contributions may be made in his memory to the American Cancer Society 55 Day Lane, Williston, Vt. 05495

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield is assisting the family with arrangements.

Nancy Horton, 1942 - 2016

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Nancy Horton 74, passed away on Monday December 5, 2016 at the Springfield Hospital. She was born September 7, 1942 in Springfield, Vt. the daughter of Earl A. Sr. and Irene (Hutchinson) Lovell.

She attended Springfield Schools, and graduated from Springfield High School.

She was married to Wilbur H. Horton Sr. on March 6, 1965, He predeceased her on November 27, 1996.

She was employed as a cook with the Jones & Lamson Machine Tool Co. in Springfield for several years; later she was a devoted wife, mother and homemaker.

Nancy enjoyed crafts, cooking and gardening. She was a lifelong active member of the Calvary Baptist Church in Springfield and had served as Deaconess for a number of years, she was also a member of the Church Choir and the Church Women's Group.

She is survived by one son Wilbur H. Horton Jr., two daughters – Sherry L. Horton, and Debbie A. Burr all of Springfield, Vt. One granddaughter, Three brothers – Earl Jr., David, and Norman, Three sisters Caroline, Cathy and Mary Jane, also by many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was predeceased by her parents, Earl and Irene, her husband Wilbur, and one brother Ernest.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday December 11, 2016 at the Calvary Baptist Church in Springfield, Vt. Reverend Malcolm Fowler Pastor will officiate.

Burial will be in the Plain Cemetery in Perkinsville, Vt. in the spring.

Contributions may be made in her memory to the Calvary Baptist Church 156 Main St. Springfield, Vt. 05156.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt.

Russell Fitzgibbons, Dec. 8, 1921 - Oct. 23, 2014

In loving memory,

Happy Birthday and Merry Christmas up in heaven. You are in our thoughts every day, and wishing you could still be beside us. Some day we will walk together again. Until then, we will love and miss you.

Your loving wife

Paul J. Aumand, 1928 - 2016

ORANGE, MA - Paul J. Aumand formerly of North Walpole, NH passed peacefully at his home Friday December 9, 2016. Paul was born in Bellows Falls, Vt. on June 17, 1928, the son of Ernest and Mary (Ratchford) Aumand. He attended schools in North Walpole, was a 1946 graduate of Bellows Falls High School, and graduated from Dean Academy and Saint Michael's College. He received his Masters degree in Engineering. Paul was an all American football and basketball player. He was self-employed as a builder as Paul J. Aumand Construction and also worked for Aubuchon Hardware and kept busy for many years after retiring. Paul was a member of American Pierce-Lawton Post 37, B.P.O.E. 1619, and the Polish American Club all in Bellows Falls. During the entire time of his accomplishments, his sense of humor seemed to not only sustain him but also encourage him. He became the master of the elaborate practical joker in town. r the kids of North Walpole than anyone ever did. He gave the community his time, talent and treasure as if it were perfectly natural to do so. A great athlete himself, he endeavored to give everyone the best facilities, opportunities and encouragement to enjoy all forms of outdoor activities. To mention a few, the skating rink behind the fire station, making sure the school field was mowed at the far end of Nim's field all summer, later building dugouts and installing real bases to the crowning accomplishment of designing and constructing a full outdoor basketball court, eventually with lights right next to his home. His insistence that children of all ages play and have fun was probably the most inspiring thing he did. Paul continued later on with his monetary support and herculean effort to make the American Pierce-Lawton Post 37 baseball program what it is today.

In 1949 he married Eleanor L. Mackee who predeceased him in 1996. Surviving are his children, Paul Jr. (Hooker) and wife Debi of Bellows Falls VT Michael and wife Ann of Massena NY, Linda Lake and Dave Hallock of Bellows Falls VT, Susan Aumand of North Walpole NH, Patrick Sr. and wife Mary of North Walpole NH, William (Bill) and wife Lori of Westmoreland NH, Jon (Boomer) and wife Tracy of Walpole NH, Kim Aumand and Todd Novak of Westminster VT; his brothers, Ernest Jr. (Turk) and wife Sophie of North Walpole NH, Raymond and wife Ellen of Florida; 17 grandchildren (predeceased by Patrick Jr.), 22 great grand children, and one great great grandchild; his close friend Howard Dodge and many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his parents and his companion Donna Kilian.

There will be a funeral mass at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday December 20 at St. Peter's Church in North Walpole NH, with burial to follow at St. Peter's Cemetery. There are no calling hours. Arrangements are in the care of Fenton and Hennessy Funeral Home.

In Lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.

Jacqueline (Jacque) Bowen, 2016

WALPOLE, N.H. - Jacqueline (Jacque) Bowen, age 93, passed away in St Augustine FL, December 3, surrounded by her three daughters. A long time resident of North Walpole N.H. Jacque graduated from Bellows Falls High School (1941). She attended Pratt Institute in New York City receiving a degree as a Registered Dietician. Jacque was a U.S. Naval Veteran being stationed at Quantico VA during World War II as head dietician in charge at the Naval Hospital.

Following the war Jacque married Patrick (Patsy) Bowen living in North Walpole where they owned and operated Bowen Ins. Agency from their home for many years.

Jacqueline Bowen will be buried beside her husband of 45 years in St Peter's Cemetery Drewsville, N.H.

Those desiring to can make a donation to their local animal shelter.

Jacqueline (Jacque) Bowen, 2016
PHOTO PROVIDED

ASCUTNEY, VT

OPEN BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH, 168 CEMETERY RD.
Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. Morning service at 11 a.m. Fellowship meal at 12 p.m. Afternoon service at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at 7 p.m. Handicap accessible. Visit: obbcvt.org.

BROWNSVILLE, VT

66 BROWNSVILLE-HARTLAND RD.
Sunday, December 18, Brownsville Community Church free Advent & Christmas Concert & Carol Sing. A seasonal concert. A festive carol sing all starting at 5:00 p.m. Followed by Christmas cookies, hot chocolate and warm spiced apple cider. Concert goers are invited and encouraged to bring a canned good which will be donated to the local food shelf. A free-will offering will be received at the concert to help offset costs.

CHESTER, VT

ST. LUKES EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 313 MAIN ST.
Come and join us as we, through song and scripture, await Christ's coming at Christmas on Sunday, December 18 at 4 p.m. A potluck supper follows in Willard Hall. The event is free. Donations accepted. See details at www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org.

LONDONDERRY, VT

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 139 MIDDLETOWN ROAD
A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24 at 6 p.m. The church currently meets at the Londonderry Town Hall, which is located at in South Londonderry. This family friendly service will include singing Christmas carols, reading about Jesus' birth, and listening to a meditation. At the end of the service, they have the tradition of sharing the light of Christ by giving candles out and sharing the flame with one another. All are welcome to join in on this most special service. Call 802-856-7266 or visit firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org for more information.

LUDLOW, VT

LUDLOW BAPTIST CHURCH, ON THE GREEN, 99 MAIN ST.
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Fellowship at 10:30 a.m., Singing at 10:45 a.m. Morning service at 11 a.m. Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Prayer meeting on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. www.ludlowbaptist.org or Pastor Tom Deibler at 802-228-2631

NORTH SPRINGFIELD, VT

NORTH SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH, 69 MAIN ST.
Worship and Praise Service on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. followed by a fellowship time and classes. 802-886-8107 or www.nsbcvt.org. Call Pastor George Keeler at 802-886-2672. Candlelight Christmas Eve Services on Saturday, December 24 at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. The 7 p.m. service will have a play followed by the sharing of the light as we light our candles. 11 p.m. service will have scripture readings as we sing carols and light the candles of the advent wreath.

PRECISION VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, 69 RTE. 106
Sunday at 10 a.m. Adult Bible study Sunday from 9-9:45 a.m. We are located right next to Cota & Cota.

SPRINGFIELD, VT

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, 10 PLEASANT ST.
Mass on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Contact the rectory at 802-885-3400.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, ROUTE 11, CHESTER RD.
10 a.m. Sunday School for all ages, 11 a.m. Worship Service; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Devotional. Enter through the back downstairs door. FB ~ Springfield Church of Christ.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, 21 FAIRGROUND RD.
Join us for our Candlelight Solstice Service with Rev. M'ellen Kennedy, the Choir and the Children's RE Program at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18. This is our annual holiday celebration with music, stories, traditional carols, children's involvement, and good cheer. The service is followed by a High Tea. Note that there will be no service on December 25.

TYSON, VT

TYSON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
You are invited to the annual Candlelight Service on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. Enjoy carols, special music, children's story and refreshments.

WALPOLE, NH

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH. CORNER OF WESTMINSTER AND ELM ST.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.; services begin at 10 a.m., followed by coffee hour. More information about Art After School program, our outreach efforts, call at 603-756-4533.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WALPOLE / UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, 15 WASHINGTON SQ.
Sunday School at 10 a.m. with coffee hour at 11 a.m. Located on east side of the Walpole Common. Wheelchair accessible with ramps and elevator. 603-756-4075. Church e-mail: walpolechurch@yahoo.com.

WALPOLE UNITARIAN CHURCH, MAIN ST.
Walk the traditional "Labyrinth of Lights" located in the Ballroom on the upper level of the Hastings Memorial Parish House at 14 Union Street in Walpole. The Labyrinth will be open Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, Dec 18, 19, and 20, and the following week Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 26 and 27. All evenings the labyrinth hours are 5 to 7 p.m. The labyrinth is free and open to the public.

ANSWERS TO TAKE A BREAK!

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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

King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

		M	A	S			W	A	G					
	M	I	C	H		B	A	B	E	S				
C	O	A	T	I		A	T	O	N	E	D			
A	D	M	I	N	I	S	T	R	A	T	O	R		
L	E	I		G	R	I	S	T		T	W	O		
			I	L	K	S			B	L	E	W		
	P	I	N	E	S		M	O	R	E	L			
P	E	C	K			L	A	V	A					
A	R	E		S	I	E	G	E		S	H	Y		
C	O	C	O	N	S	P	I	R	A	T	O	R		
	T	A	M	A	L	E		A	R	E	A	S		
		P	A	R	E	R		L	I	A	R			
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BlackCyanMagentaYellow

arts & ent.

Garden Club applauds 'Festival of Trees' sponsors

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Springfield Garden Club would like to thank the civic minded sponsors and guests who made this year's 24th Annual Festival of Trees a huge success. If you missed the event on the Friday before Thanksgiving, you can still view the trees and trimmings thru January 7 at the Great Hall, 100 River Street in Springfield. The sponsor names are there on the columns near the stage.

The Club appreciates the following local businesses who each decorated a tree: Fiber Therapy, Kelley Auto Sales, The VAULT, Precision Valley Auto, Von Bargen's Jewelry, Tina's Hallmark, Claremont Savings Bank, HB Energy, Springfield Hospital, Town of Springfield, Vermont Adult Learning and All-4-One. This year's tree winner was Precision Valley Auto Sales. The Garden Club is grateful to the members and spouses who made the event possible as well as Ted Foster, 100 River Street Building Manager who always provides enthusiastic assistance. Artist, Dan O'Donnell deserves a warm 'thank you' for designing the invitation again this year. The Club would also like to thank Jerry and crew from 56 Main for the delicious appetizers and cheerful service. One hundred percent of all proceeds, go back to serve the community in the form of civic beautification, scholarships and other programs.

Santa landing on a rooftop.
PHOTO PROVIDED

What a beautiful tree!
PHOTO PROVIDED

The Club would like to acknowledge the following list of sponsors who gave a corporate donation, raffle item or silent auction gift: 106 Deli, 56 Main Street, Advance Auto Parts, Advanced Skin Care, Anita and Chris Allen, MD, Artisan Surfaces, Baba-A-Louis Bakery, Ballard Precision Valley Auto Sales, Barbara Sanderson, Bibens Home Center, Black River Produce, Black River Quick Stop, Black Rock Steakhouse, Boccaccios, Bond Auto, Bradley Jackson, Byam Control & Measurement, Cabot Creamery Co., Caitlin Christiana, Canvas Works, Carolyn & Rich Lane, Carpet King and Tile, Chester Flowers, Chester Hardware, CHS Wealth Management and CPs LLC, Circle K IRVING, Claremont Cycle Shop, Clever Cow, Country on the Common, Crown Point Country Club, Crow's Bakery, Dan O'Donnell, Darn Tough Socks, David, Courtney, & Sophia Lihatsh, Davis Memorial Chapel, Denver Bryan Images on the Wildside, Depot Street Gallery, Drew's All Natural, Dunkin' Donuts, Edgar May Recreation Center, Edward Jones, Emily Samuel, Erskines, Exit 7 SUBWAY, Family 371 Restaurant, Fat Toad Farm, Fauver Dental, Free Range Restaurant, Fullerton Inn, Green Leaf Café, Gurney Brothers, Hartness House, HB Energy Solutions, Hubert's, I PG Suzanne Swanson, Images Hairstyling Salon, Inn at Weathersfield, Inn Victoria, IVEK Corporation, Jake's Irving, 'Jill's Place' General Store, Joe's Spirits, John Duff, O.D.,Kurgo Dog Products, Lambert Auto, Lawrence & Wheeler, Mac Laomainns Scottish Pub, McDonalds, Misty Valley/Phoenix Books, Mitch's Maples, Nortrax, Okemo Mountain Resort, Parker & Ankuda, Pear Tree, Penguin Gas, Perkins Deli, Randy Adams, Robert O'Brien, Sage Jewelry, Salon 2000, Shaws, Simply Country, Singleton's Market, Six Loose Ladies, SNAP Fitness, Southern Pie Company, Springfield Auto Mart, Springfield Cinemas 3, Springfield Food Co-op, Springfield Housing Authority, Springfield Orthodontics, Springfield Paving, Springfield Pharmacy, Springfield Royal Diner, Springfield Sub-Way, Sunshine Acres, Table 19 Restaurant, The Framery of Vermont, The Vault, Tina's Hallmark, Trout River Brewery, Tsuga Studio, VT Country Store, Willow Farms, Woodbury's Florist, Woods Cider Mill, Young's Furniture & Appliance.

Merry Christmas and a Happy Holidays to all.

Beating the cabin fever days

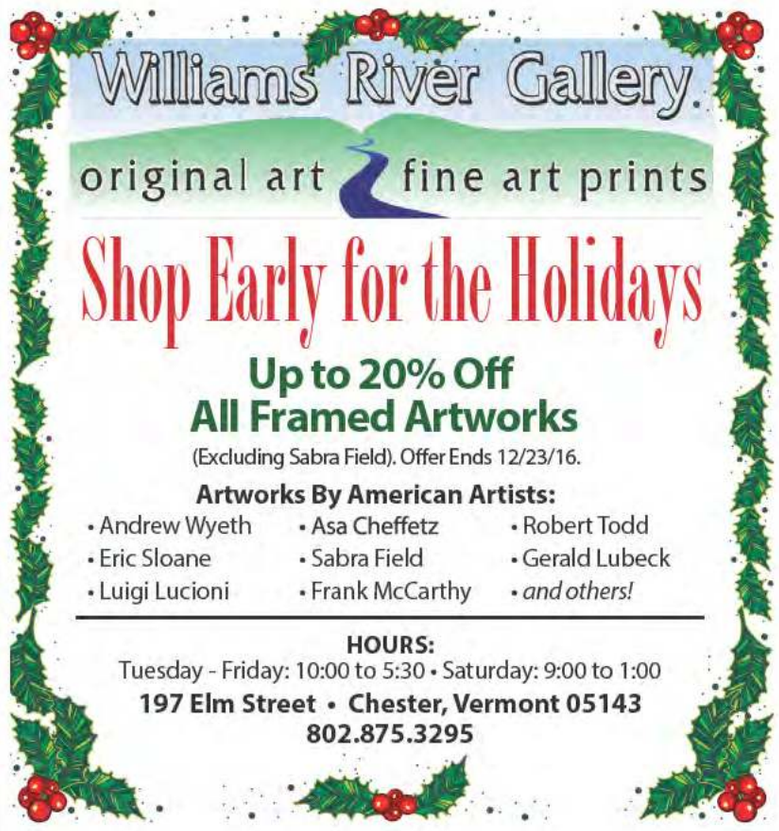
LUDLOW, Vt. - During the months of January, February and March we will be reading an interesting book and then watching the accompanying movie.

Our first choice is the movie Woman in Gold made from Anne Marie O'connor's novel The Lady in Gold, the extraordinary tale of Gustav Klimt's masterpiece, which was published in 2012. The painting completed in 1904 is made of oil and gold on canvas. Nazi soldiers confiscated it as part of the massive theft of art in Europe during World War II. The story of Maria Altmann is then told in the movie starring Helen Mirren and Ryan Reynolds.

Brooklyn, a novel by Irish author, Colm Toibin is set in Brooklyn and Ireland in the early 1950's when a young woman crossed the ocean to make a new life for herself. Ellis Lacey leaves Ireland in the hard years following WWII to live and work in Brooklyn. She gets a job in a department store on Fulton and begins to fall in love with Tony and his large Italian family. Just then devastating news from Ireland threatens the promise of her new future. Savirse Ronan and a great supporting cast wonderfully act in the movie.

Far from the Madding Crowd by Thomas Hardy was a novel of major literary success when published in 1874. It is set in rural England and deals with love, honor and betrayal against a background of ideal but harsh realities of Victorian England. In 2015, the film was remade where independent headstrong Bathsheba Everdine attracts different suitors--a reckless sergeant, a sheep farmer and mature prosperous bachelor. It is a story of choices and passions and the ability to overcome hardships through perseverance and resilience.

The books will be discussed on January10, February 14 and March 14 at 12 p.m. The movie will be shown on January 24, February 28 and March 28. The books will be available at the library in Ludlow. Please bring a sandwich and we will provide drinks and desserts.



Holidays at Skygate Financial

LUDLOW, Vt. - Celebrate the holidays with Skygate Financial Group at their open house on Thursday, December 29 from 12 - 8 p.m.

Stop in for refreshments, good company, and holiday cheer. Haven't had the chance to check out our new space? Now is a great time to do so. Entire community welcome! Looking forward to celebrating with you. Tell us you're coming on Facebook!

BlackCyanMagentaYellow

sports

THIS AND THAT

BY BILL MURPHY

Bob Lockerby had a very special group of football players to coach the past three seasons. They really left a legacy. The legacy will be defined by the State Title they captured in Rutland on November 12th, when they defeated Burr + Burton 20 - 14 for the Vermont Division II title. The Falls won a hard fought tremendous showdown with Burr + Burton. The Terriers returned the opening kick-off for a touchdown; still trailed 7-6 at the half. The two teams were tied 14-14 after three quarters. Then when the Purple and White took the lead with 2:26 to play, 20-14, everything was still up for grabs.

"When (Griffin) Stalcup has the ball and the clock says there are over two minutes left in the game," Lockerby told us, "you know it isn't over. Then they are methodically moving the ball down the field and your heart is working its way into your throat and it's tightening up. That last two minutes seemed more like ten hours," he concluded.

That's when the BF defense did their tightening, putting the pressure on Stalcup, forcing him to throw on the move and senior find, Brendan Kendall, intercepted the last toss the Bulldog legend would throw. Kendall gets the headline, but the Terrier defense in their last stand of the season, forced the veteran into a mistake for the Purple season to finish on the highest note possible.

Lockerby was ecstatic for the victory and the prize that goes with it. However, this group of Terriers and those before them had accomplished loads even prior to this day. "It would have been a horrible ending if we had not won. For these players to have spent four seasons at BFUHS, to have not won anything, in my mind, even those three previous years, they had done so much better, than most football players achieve in a whole career. We had been there four straight years and were beaten by two very good (Rice and Burr + Burton) football teams. We are graduating fifteen seniors. I am glad they had this day."

For the neutral fan, it was a quick fast paced competitive football game with twists and turns. Both teams had leads and there was a period the game was tied. The two were never more than one score apart. It was a title game, the way they are suppose to be played.

Burr + Burton had defeated the Falls three times in the past two seasons. Although most neutral observers felt the title clash would be more of the same, there was a different sense inside BF's locker room. "The practice we had before that game is probably the best practice we ever had. There was no confusion at the end of that week. Everyone knew what they had to do," were the words of Bellows Falls Terrier tri-captain Brady Illingworth.

Fellow tri-captain Jake Lober is full of bravado, but he mixes his posture with common sense. He says, "We talked about being first from the start of practice," he tempers those words when he sprinkles in, "it was important to take it one game at a time."

The teams third captain, DJ Snide felt it began in the summer time, when a larger than usual group attended summer workouts. Snide said, "I feel that we all wanted it more so more guys showed up."

For the second season in a row, both BF and Burr + Burton met in week eight with a 7-0 mark. The stakes and the overall state interest were high. Burr + Burton grabbed onto that game to earn the divisions' number one seed. Snide let on, "I think it was kind of expected we would both be 7-0, but there was always that chance that either or both teams would suffer a loss."

Lober knew both Burlington and Fair Haven were looking to spoil the fun. He knew each team had good teams. He said, "They were both kind of young teams. Good but young teams. I really don't concern myself much about them, I just play the game."

Offensively, BF has moved the ball well almost all season. They have rushed for 3,151 yards and thrown for an additional 800 plus yards, pushing the 4,000 yard mark or close to 400 yards each time out. Senior Caleb Lisai was the primary quarterback, although junior Logan Cota shared time on a regular basis. They were both very effective. Then, there was the stable of running backs.

A stable according to Webster is "a group of athletes under one management." Their manager Lockerby said, "I was about the luckiest coach in the state to have this stable of backs." Whether one handed the ball off to senior Jahyde Bullard, junior Shane Clark, Lober or Cota, a big play could be steps away. Depth came in the trusting legs of sophomore Julian Christiansen. The receivers on this year's team included tight end senior Liam Hackett and his classmate Jacob Streeter, as well as reserve threats, Noah Wilkinson and Keenan Lowe. The back-up tight end was senior Devon Hardy.

The offensive line performed well throughout the season and Lockerby found Burr + Burton to be a real challenge in this department. Tri-captain senior Brady Illingworth was at center; backed by sophomore Gunnar Sawyer, with stellar sophomore Reno Tuttle and Snide at the guards and junior Jared Zobkiw and senior Brian Green at the tackles. Senior Nick Tuttle, found his way to add depth across that line and (Lockerby said, "threw one of the biggest blocks of the season to send Cota to a 95 yard touchdown run against Burlington.) Other line depth included juniors Ben Asack and Spencer Clark and sophomores Troy Mounsey and Braden Maxfield.

Lockerby's observation about the Burr + Burton line was that "I didn't realize how dominate they were last year until I watched the state game over again. They were so big and strong and fast and it was like David against Goliath. Looking at it, our guys never wavered and fought hard. They were just outmatched. Several coaches, including myself, underestimated, what they would be like this year. I didn't think they would be able to fill that line with as quality a lineman as they had this year, which made things tough."

On defense, seniors again dominated play. Depending upon the scheme, some Terriers played both line and linebacker. Seniors instrumental in that unit included Snide, Illingworth, Hackett, Green and junior Asack with the line backing posts manned by seniors Sawyer Reis and Devon Hardy, along with Lober, Bullard, Cota, Clark, and Christiansen with the defensive backfield utilizing some of the lighter linebackers, along with Brody Burke, Bryce Smith, Streeter, Kendall and Lisai. During parts of the season, sophomore Aiden Smith and freshman Hunter Smith were part of the kicking game with both Cota and Kendall being part of that mix.

In looking back at the tremendous season, Lockerby said, "I knew when this group were actually freshmen, that if they stuck it out, and put in the time we all knew they would get bigger, better and hopefully faster. You also knew with the talent we have in our program, that at a young age, they were going to get a chance to gain experience; that a lot of guys in other programs don't get to gain. They had themselves ready, they were unselfish, they weren't looking for individual glory, they were looking to win games and we know that turned out pretty good."

Tri-captain DJ Snide and the Bellows Falls Terriers chased the Burr + Burton Bulldogs for the past two seasons and finally passed them with a 20-14 victory in the Vermont Division II State Championship game last month. Snide had been a mainstay for the Terriers in the trenches both ways during that time. In this photo, Snide sacked quarterback Griffin Stalcup on the way to the title.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

BF tri-captain Brady Illingworth (58) blocking an opponent. The senior leader said of his team, "I thought from the first day of practice, if we were willing to work and people would put in the time, we would have a chance. In the end, we were just sick of being second to them,"meaning Burr + Burton.The title win erased that feeling of being sick I would say.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

BF tri-captain Jake Lober has known for the past few years that winning the championship in Vermont Division II Football mean to go through Burr+ Burton. Here he carries the ball and eyes the defender and is looking forward to going through him. Old time football fans would love Lober's mentality about the game. He could have played in any age. He told us, "I hated every team before I played them. I didn't know them and I didn't want to. I had zero respect for Burr + Burton before and after we beat them. Then I met some of them at the North-South practices and we talked a little bit. They were good people."

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

The Bellows Falls Terriers broke a 14-14 fourth quarter tie to defeat the Burr + Burton Bulldogs 20-14 in the Vermont Division II State Championship Football Game. The two sequence photos shown here, were of possibly the biggest play of the game. Jacob Streeter returned the opening kick-off 88 yards for a touchdown. The first photo shows Streeter shortly after he caught the ball and the second one shows him approaching traffic and Logan Cota starting to throw one of the important blocks leading to the score. Coach Bob Lockerby said of the play, "That was huge. We had the lead against them and we hadn't seen that before." Tri-captain DJ Snide said of the play, "That took a big weight off from my shoulders."

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

BF running back Shane Clark has his arms ready for a hand off to pick up yardage in the Terriers 20-14 title game triumph over Burr + Burton 20-14. The Terrier running backs amassed 3,151 rushing yards on the season and combined for 7.4 yards a carry. Jahyde Bullard was the leading rusher with 1,109 yards, while totaling 18 touchdowns. Three other Purple and White runners broke the 600-yard mark. Clark ran for 685 yards and scored 5 TD's, Logan Cota amassed 646 yards with 7 TD's and Jake Lober contributed 618 yards and 9 scores, when he wasn't blocking. What kind of a stable is that? I guess one would have to say a full stable.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

BF #21 Jake Streeter just after taking the opening kick off returning it for an 88 yard touch down.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

Senior Brendan Kendall joined the BF Terrier football roster this fall. He had not played the game since his freshmen year. He was a strong addition, as he became the Terriers number one punter, as he shown about to kick in this photo. Kendall was the final line of defense in the last Purple defensive stand of the season, as he intercepted the final pass of the storied career of Burr+Burton's Griffin Stalcup.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

This moment is the beginning of the jaunt for BF's second touchdown in their 20-14 title victory over defending champion Burr + Burton. Jahyde Bullard just took the hand off from Logan Cota and is on his way to a 67 yard paydirt excursion and a 14-7 lead Cota would later score the winning touchdown on a 1 yard carry off from a broken play, with a little over two minutes remaining in the contest Bullard, the intended rusher on the final score, would throw a block instead.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

BlackCyanMagentaYellow

Get in the Spirit

Have yourself a merry little holiday performance

CHESTER, Vt. - Celebrate the holiday season with a musical performance at Green Mountain Union High School on Thursday, December 15 in the auditorium.

The evening will begin with the Middle School band and chorus at 6:30 p.m., followed by the High School band, small ensemble, and chorus at 7:00 p.m.

Silent Night, Jingle Bells Remixed, and Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, among other Christmas and holiday pieces, will be played at the Winter Concert.

For more information contact Anne Morton at 802-875-2146.

Middle and High School bands will be performing at the Winter Concert in Chester.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Christmas caroling

WESTON, Vt. - The Weston Community Church on the Hill is planning Christmas Caroling on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. at the Church on the Hill.

The program will be led by Patricia Connelly, Program Director.

Patricia is a long time Music Minister and will play guitar and lead the singing!

All are welcome to join in this time to come together and lift our voices in the Christmas Spirit! No registration is needed. Bring your desire to sing!

Light Refreshments served afterward.

Weston Community Church on the Hill.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Mix and match cookies for the perfect assortment

LUDLOW, Vt. - Once a year, the artisans from Fletcher Farm School for the Arts & Crafts bake Christmas cookies and offer them for sale to the public. You will find family favorites such as: rum balls, decorated butter cookies, chocolate biscotti, candy, gingerbread, peanut butter and more!

You can mix and match different cookies to make the perfect assortments for your own entertaining this season or to give as gifts to those you love. Fletcher Farm School provides beautifully decorated Christmas tins in which to present your cookie assortments. Don't miss this annual sale, Saturday Dec 17, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Fletcher Farm School for the Arts & Crafts, 611 Route 103 South. Drive down the long driveway to the 2-story Meadowview building in the back of the farm.

The spirit of giving for Kurn Hattin school children

VCS Employees provided the generous gifts to the Kurn Hattin children.

PHOTO PROVIDED

WESTMINISTER, Vt. - Imagine the delight on the face of every child at the Kurn Hattin School on December 15 when Santa, Mrs. Claus and the Grinch arrive at the school with red and white bags filled with gifts. Each child receives a beautifully wrapped gift delivered personally by Santa and Mrs. Claus with a gift from his/her individual wish list. After the opening of gifts, provided by Rotarians, Interact Students and Community Elves, the Grinch makes his appearance. Children hold tight to their gifts, making sure the Grinch will not steal them away as he tends to do. As the Grinch's heart grows and he learns about the spirit of giving, he turns into a most generous Grinch. Out of his Christmas bag come unwrapped gifts for each and every child. These gifts for 100 children have been provided by eight generous employees who work at the Rockingham Vermont Country Store, Janelle Lewis, Tammy Spicer, Marie Hayward, Wanda Lawrence, Eileen Fullman, Gretchen McCabe, Carrie Atwood, Rosemarri Roth.

Few people are aware of this contribution that happens quietly behind the scenes and we hope that the next time you are in the Vermont Country Store and you see one of these generous employees, you will thank them. The Rotary Club of Chester thanks all who participate in this very special event and demonstrate the spirit of giving during this holiday season.

Christmas farmers market

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Springfield Farmers Market will be holding a Christmas Holiday Market at the United Methodist Church, 10 Valley

See **MARKET** on Page 3B

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# of Christmas!

Christmas music performed by Spark

CHESTER, Vt. - Come enjoy a special set of Christmas music performed by Spark, the Chester area youth group on Friday, Dec. 16. The evening will be full of traditional and meaningful Christmas music, as well as short performance and slideshow.

As always at the Grounded4Life coffeehouse, delicious food and hot beverages are complementary - so come on in to get into the spirit of the holiday and be warmed inside and out! Coffeehouse is in the lower level of the Chester Baptist Church at 162 Main St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with food, coffee, fellowship and conversation. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. with free admission.

Spark the group will perform Christmas music in Chester.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Santa Claus Conquers the Martians

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - SAPA TV, Springfield's public access TV station, will once again be showing 24 hours of "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians" for Christmas. Airing on channel 8 (Comcast) and channel 1160 (VTel), "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians" will begin at 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve and run until 8 p.m. Christmas day.

"Santa Claus Conquers the Martians" is the story of how Santa Claus brings the spirit of giving and togetherness to the people of Mars after they kidnap him. The color movie is suitable for children of all ages. This year SAPA TV has acquired a slightly better copy of the film than the one that ran in 2015.

The regular Sunday church services will run at the usual times on Comcast channel 10 (VTel channel 1161).

Buy holiday gifts from local artists

WESTON, Vt. - Here is a gift giving opportunity for you to purchase original watercolor paintings, matted pieces, framed work as well as note cards.

"Watercolors about Town" featuring Doris Ingram and Diane Bell from Weston will host an OPEN GALLERY sale on Saturday, December 17, from 1 to 5 p.m. at 83 Trout Club Road. Drive up Lawrence Hill Road from the Green and take a left onto Trout Club.

Enjoy some mulled cider and a holiday cookie while you browse some beautiful, reasonably priced watercolors for family and friends.

Barn and silo painted by Doris Ingram.

PHOTO PROVIDED

It's a wrap!

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - December swim event invites area youth, ages 6+ to spend the afternoon on Friday, December 23 from 12 - 4pm for lunch, swimming, games and a gift-wrapping station.

Children can bring along gifts that they have made or purchased and use our wrapping station and all the supplies to get all their gifts wrapped up and ready for the tree.

Space is limited to 25. We provide up to four hours of supervised fun, pizza from The Subway restaurant for lunch, healthy beverages and snacks are also included. Registration and advance payment required. Easy online registration or call member services at 802-885-2568.

For more info about youth-oriented activities, or to register for our monthly youth event, email stilden@myreccenter.org

Swim, games, gift-wrapping, and more.

PHOTO PROVIDED

"It's a Wrap!"

PHOTO PROVIDED

Elf on the Shelf

Jack, our Elf on the Shelf was left alone too long. He strung toilet paper across our office doorways so we couldn't get in!

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

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

PHOTO BY BRANDY TODT

MARKET

From Page 2B

St. in Springfield, December 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Vendors will have a wide variety of products to offer and there will be a variety of homemade pies, doughnuts, maple scones and a large assortment of other baked goodies.

Crafters will have a wide assortment of handmade crafts including bees wax candles, wooden bowls, jewelry for children and adults, knit and crocheted items, a selection of hand painted collectable canvas Old World Santa's, wooden snowmen, ornaments and much more.

There will also be an author with her juvenile fiction books. This is a great opportunity to find unique gifts for those on your Christmas list or for yourself and to support your local Farmers' Market.

Check the web site at springfieldvtfarmersmarket.com or email springfieldfarmersmarketinc@gmail.com or call 802-885-4096 for more information, check us out on Facebook.

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outdoor news

Okemo snowmakers opening as much terrain as possible

LUDLOW, Vt. - While the weather has been up and down the Okemo Mountain Operations staff have been able to open up almost 70 acres of terrain. They have made snow 18 days since early November. While the crew worked hard to get top to bottom trails they also have been working to head into the Solitude area and now Jackson Gore.

Presently operations staff is working with the patrollers and other departments who are on the slopes to decide if there is a need to make on existing terrain.

Snowmaking on the slopeside lodging trails plan will be before Christmas or soon after.

There has been discussion on where the first terrain parks will be worked on and most likely that will be either the Crazy Train Terrain Park or the Lower Tomahawk Terrain park. Both require lots of snow so snowmaking would be only if and when colder temperatures visit Vermont. Okemo is working hard to create some terrain features and rails to balance out the skiing & riding and have options for everyone.

As there are snowmaking temperatures in the base area more of the base area, mountain road and open slope will be widened. Focus on the F-10 learning area is first and then the Mountain road from the top of the Base quads.

Okemo is grooming the slopes and trails every night. When it was colder Okemo ran some Mountain tillers to help the surface. We will do this again as the temperature drops to keep the surface softer. Okemo grooming and snowmaking are making for a great skiing experience.

Okemo will work hard to get as much terrain open as possible in time for the Christmas holiday. Be assured that Okemo snowmakers will be making as much snow as possible whenever possible!

The entire Okemo team will do their best to give you the best Skiing and Riding experience.

Snowmobilers should exercise caution

REGION - With additional snow expected in the coming weeks, the U.S. Forest Service is looking forward to a successful snowmobile season and wants to encourage all riders to put safety first. Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) officials are recommending that snowmobilers exercise caution when operating on the National Forest, and all lands, in Vermont this winter. GMNF officials remind snowmobile enthusiasts to heed to all gates and signs and to stay off roads and trails that are closed.

Weather permitting, snowmobile use is allowed on designated trails within the GMNF for four months beginning on Friday, December 16 and ending on April 15, 2017. "We are concerned about user safety. Patrols which are aimed at enforcing rules and regulations, monitoring trail conditions and providing visitor information will occur throughout the Forest," said John Sinclair, Forest Supervisor for the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests. The GMNF will continue to work closely with state and local law enforcement agencies, as well as the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) to make sure that users of the trail system are respectful, responsible, law abiding, and safe.

The GMNF and VAST cooperate to maintain more than 470 miles of National Forest System trails that are part of the larger statewide snowmobile network. VAST is one of a few snowmobile associations in the United States that has a cooperative partnership agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. "All of these trails allow mixed uses, so people are snowshoeing, hiking, and cross-country skiing, as well as using snowmobiles. Snowmobilers should travel responsibly and yield to other users," said Sinclair. The maximum speed is 35 miles per hour on state and federal land and Vermont has a tough Snowmobiling While Intoxicated Law that covers alcohol, as well as drugs.

The U.S. Forest Service is also warning the public of the dangers associated with riding, hiking and skiing on frozen water bodies. Trail users are encouraged to be mindful of fallen trees and other hazards they may encounter. Operators must maintain control of their snowmobile while riding; keep to the right at all times, wear helmets, and stay on designated trails only. All snowmobiles must be legally registered, have liability insurance, and operators must purchase a VAST Trails Maintenance Assessment decal. Officials also encourage winter trail users to pack a flashlight, cell phone, food, and extra warm clothing in case of an emergency.

Snowmobilers should travel responsibly and yield to other trail users.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Due to recent evaluation by Forest Service engineering staff, several trails and bridges on the Manchester Ranger District have been determined to be structurally unsound and unsafe for use by the snowmobiling public this season. The trails and bridges at the following link have been temporarily closed by a Forest Supervisor closure order and will undergo further analysis to determine if they will be replaced, repaired or removed: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd485639.pdf

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19 VISIT WITH SANTA
Santa Claus makes a Jackson Gore grand entrance at 4 p.m. for a pre-Christmas visit with children before the jolly old elf makes his way to the North Pole for final holiday preparations.
21 OKEMO'S SANTA BALLOON PARADE
Santa and his elves will be out on the slopes spreading holiday cheer and handing out free balloons.
26 WARREN MILLER'S HERE THERE & EVERYWHERE
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Prebuy on Pellets/Biobricks (802) 747-9950 North Clarendon or (802) 824-3677 Londonderry or thestovedepot@comcast.net to reserve yours now! TFN

BlackCyanMagentaYellow

calendar

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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.

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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

MONDAY, DEC. 19-
CHESTER, Vt. -Please join the Chester Senior Citizens Club for their monthly luncheon meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Chester Congregational Church on Main Street. Come and enjoy the fun of a Yankee Swap (bring a wrapped gift item from your home or a $5 or less new item). Please bring your place setting, if possible a dish to share, and a friend. If you need a ride, just call Georgia (875-6242). Hope to see you there.

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. 17-
LUDLOW, Vt. - At 5:30 p.m. the Ludlow Baptist Church will host a free meal for all members of the community. During the busy, holiday season, it's a great time to sit down, relax and enjoy a delicious, home-cooked meal. The event is a new outreach program of Black River Good Neighbor Services entitled "Our Community Cares", established for individuals and families to receive a nutritious meal within a warm, welcoming community setting. The Baptist Church is located at 99 Main Street in Ludlow.

MONDAY, DEC. 19-
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - A community dinner at The Stone Church (Immanuel Episcopal) on School St. at 5:00 p.m. Greater Falls Connections and Friends For Change present this event in association with the Greater Falls United Network. Come celebrate the season with a lovely dinner. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, contact Scott Sharland at 802-463-9927 x213 or scott@greaterfallsconnections.org.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21-
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Free Community Lunch at the First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, 77 Main Street from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Menu: Baked ham, mashed potatoes, cole slaw, peas & carrots, holiday gingerbread. No take out.

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

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EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14 & FRIDAY, DEC. 16 & SATURDAY, DEC. 17-
SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. - The Worn Again Thrift Shop at St. Edmunds Catholic Church on Main Street in Saxtons River is having a Bag Sales on Wednesday December 14, Friday December 16 and Saturday December 17, during regular business hours. Jewelry not included in bag sale. The shop has a variety of women's, men's and children's clothing, and footwear. In addition there are sheets and pillow cases, blankets, bed spreads, pillows, and fabrics, many books, coffee mugs.

FRIDAY, DEC. 16-
CLAREMONT, N.H - Everybody wants to know how an airplane flies at Claremont Opera House certified science teacher and former Ringling Bros. performer, Ted Lawrence will demonstrate how it happens. Begins at 10 a.m. 603-542-0064

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.

FRIDAY, DEC. 23-
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Send the kids ages 6+ for up to four hours of supervised fun! Limited to 25 youth. Pizza, healthy beverages an and afternoon snack, gift wrapping supplies are provided. Bring: towel, swim gear, gifts that need wrapping. 12 – 4 p.m. at EdgarMay Health and Recreation Center. Limited to 25 youth. Pre-registration and advance payment required by calling 885-2658 or online at www.myreccenter.org

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

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

LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF ANDOVER
HELP WANTED

The Town of Andover is seeking applicants for a full-time position with benefits in their Highway Department. Applicants must have a clean driving record and hold a current Class B CDL. Road maintenance and Grader operation experience helpful. Call Kevin at the Town Garage (875-3247) with questions or pick up an application at the Andover Town Office.

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TOWN OF CHESTER
OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE
TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

The Town of Chester would like to extend an invitation to get involved in your community. There are volunteer positions that are open for reappointment. These are great opportunities to serve your community and get involved.

Planning Commission – Unexpired 1 year term
Development Review Board – Unexpired 1 year term

All interested parties should send their letter of interest to the Town Manager's Office at the Chester Town Office, P.O. Box 370, Chester, Vermont, 05143, or contact the Chester Town Office at 875-2173.

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY
PART-TIME ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The Town of Londonderry, Vermont is seeking applicants for the part-time position of Zoning Administrator (Administrative Officer). The ZA administers the Londonderry Zoning Bylaws, works with the Development Review Board, acts as Floodplain Administrator and reports to the Select Board. The opening is immediate and entails approximately 8-10 hours per week.

Please contact Town Administrator Stephanie Thompson at 802-824-3356 or townadmin@londonderryvt.org. for the job description and more information.

The deadline for applications is Friday December 23rd. Please note, Nearby towns are also searching for a ZA. It is possible that an applicant could be a candidate for multiple positions.

Do you Love to Write?

We're looking for Reporters in the Ludlow Area!

This may include Ludlow, Cavendish, Proctorsville, and Mount Holly, to cover meetings and events.

Applicants must have writing and/or editing experience, work well on a deadline, be able to take pictures, and have an eye for detail.

If you're interested in this position, please contact Brandy at 802-228-3600 or email Editor@VermontJournal.com

THE SHOPPER The Vermont Journal

TOWN OF LUDLOW, VERMONT
TRUCK DRIVER/LABORER
CEMETERY LABORER

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.

LEGAL NOTICES

calendar

LIBRARIES CONT.

TUESDAYS CONT. -
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. - 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

WESTON, Vt. - Come and enjoy a story hour with friends at the Wilder Memorial Library! 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Call (802) 824-4307

WINDSOR, Vt. - Preschool and Toddler Story Time every Wednesday from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Windsor Public Library, 43 State Street. Each week features a theme, music stories and a craft. 802-674-2556. www.windsorlibrary.org (802) 674-2556

EVERY OTHER THURSDAY –
CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The Silsby Library, 226 Main St. will host the Roaming Readers at 9 a.m. In an effort to be active before the winter months, the library is starting a book club that meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Join us in front of the library as we walk our beautiful stretch of town and discuss the latest books we have been reading. Make sure to wear comfortable sneakers!

FRIDAYS-
CHESTER, Vt. - Story Time at Whiting Library from 10: 30 - 11 a.m. Come and listen to a story every Friday with your children. Call 802-875-2277.

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - Minecraft Club at the Rockingham Library every Friday from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. A limited number of Library computers are available. Registration is recommended if you will need to use a Library computer. If you are joining the club with your own laptop and Minecraft account, you do not need to sign up.

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY –
WINDSOR, Vt. - The Yo-Yo Club meets at 2:45 p.m. at Windsor Public Library, 43 State Street. All ages are welcome. Bring your own yo-yo, or let us help you purchase a yo-yo, also available to borrow for classes and to check out through the library. Call 802-674-2556, www.windsorlibrary.org.

MEETINGS

MONDAY. DEC. 19-
GRAFTON, Vt. Selectboard meeting at 6 p.m., Grafton Elementary School

MONDAYS –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Overeaters Anonymous Meeting from 7 - 8 p.m., 44 School Street, Bellows Falls 05101 Please call 802-376-3507.

FIRST TUESDAY-
ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - The Abenaqui Snowmobile Club is holding our regular business meetings on the first Tuesday of each month (September through May) at 7 p.m. at the Bellows Falls Fire Department. For more information, you can contact George Berube, Trails Master at 802-869-2593.

TUESDAYS –
LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Smoking Cessation class to be held at Neighborhood Connections, 5700 Route 100, from 6– 7 p.m.

THURSDAYS-
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) at Huber Building, 80 Main St. Weigh-in starts at 8 a.m. and the meeting begins at 9 a.m.

SUPPORT GROUPS

MONDAYS –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - NAMI Vermont Connection Recovery Support Group is an mental illness support group. It provides a forum to share experiences and learn about opportunities and challenges regardless of diagnostics. HCRS, CRT Room, 390 River St. Meets every Monday from 1 – 2 p.m. Info: call 800-639-6480 or visit www.namivt.org.

TUESDAYS-
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Breast Feeding Support Group 2nd and 4th Tuesday at the Springfield Hospital Library Level D. 12 – 2 p.m. It is free and no registration is required. For more information call Erin at 885-7511.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Just Us Moms Program (JUMP). Come with your children. Have dinner with other moms in the area, learn about resources, and have fun while your children play, and eat dinner. 5 – 7 p.m. at Cherry Hill School Contact Michelle 275-7871

FIRST TUESDAY -
WINDSOR, Vt. – Cedar Hill is Proud to Announce our New Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group. Meet fellow caregivers who really understand because they've been there, too, when things are difficult or isolating. From 3:30–5 p.m. at 92 Cedar Hill Dr. (off Rte. 5).

SECOND TUESDAY –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Wellness/ Lifestyle Change Support Group, meets the second Tuesday of each month from 5:45-7 p.m. at the Springfield Health Center, 100 River St. FREE. Register by calling 802-886-8946 or email cht@springfieldmed.org

SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAY –
LUDLOW, Vt. –Wit's End Support Group for family members of a person struggling with addiction. Fletcher Memorial Library at 6 p.m. For more info call BRACC 802-228-7878.

WEDNESDAYS –
LONDONDERRY, Vt. - Weekly clean and sober 12-Step Meeting. Support Group meets at Neighborhood Connections next to the Londonderry Post Office at 5:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

THURSDAYS –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Mental health peer support group from 2 – 3:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 77 Main St. The group's goal will be to provide a safe and healthy environment for people to give and receive support around mental health issues. The group is free and open to the public. Call Diana Slade at: 802-289-1982.

ADVERTISEMENTS

PLEASE NOTE!

ALL ADVERTISEMENTS:
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The Deadline for ALL Advertisement Reservations is Friday by 12 noon, Approvals by 5 pm for the following Wednesday Publication

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Space reservations by 12 noon Friday
Camera Ready ads due: Monday at 12 noon

PRESS RELEASE/ ARTICLE DEADLINES:
All articles are due by Friday at 12 noon
All editorial is due by Friday at 12 noon

TAKE A BREAK!

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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King Crossword

ACROSS
1 More, to Manuel
4 Humorous one
7 St. consisting of two peninsulas
8 Infants
10 Raccoon relative
11 Expiated
13 Executive, often
16 Island garland
17 Mill input
18 Pair
19 Sorts
20 Huffed and puffed
21 Many Christmas trees
23 Portobello alternative
25 Actor Gregory
26 Volcanic outflow
27 Exist
28 Persistent attack
30 Bashful
33 Cabal member
36 Mexican entree
37 Neighborhoods
38 Rind-removing tool
39 Taleteller
40 Trawler need
41 Young fellow

DOWN
1 Florida city
2 Start of a play
3 Roof component
4 Bulb measures
5 End abruptly, NASA-style
6 Actress Rowlands
7 Fashion
8 Foundation
9 Put down roots
10 Western st.
12 Wooden peg
14 Annoys
15 Ply oars
19 Squid squirt
20 Underwear with underwire
21 1990s presidential candidate
22 Polar feature
23 Creche trio
24 Generally
25 Campaign fundraising grp.
26 Shunned one
28 Trap
29 Archipelago component
30 Lieu
31 Frost
32 Decade parts (Abbr.)
34 Muscat's land
35 Met melody

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) With the new year's opportunities almost within reach, the Arian's courageous aspects are raring to go. And don't be surprised if a lot of people follow the zodiac's most trusted leader.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Change lies ahead for the brave Bovine who is ready to shuck off the tried and true to try something new. But appearances can be deceptive. Check it all out before you charge into anything.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) This week promises a peek into what the new year holds for the Gemini Twins, both in love and careers. Family matters continue to be a factor in decisions you're going to be facing.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) As you move into the new year, your travel aspects grow stronger, and you might find yourself making decisions about a destination and a traveling companion sooner than you'd expected.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The new year holds both glitter and gold. This means Leos and Leonas should begin getting the facts they'll need to separate the real thing from the sham in order to make important decisions next year.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A good way to start the new year might be to arrange for a visit to someone you haven't seen in a long time. You also might want to pick up that project you put off a while back.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) As you contemplate the new year's potential, you might want to talk things over with people who are or have been where you want to go. Their experience and advice can be helpful.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Someone close to you might feel like you have no more room for him or her in your life. This calls for immediate reassurance of your love so you can start the new year on a high note.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) The coming year will bring more people into your life. Some situations might not work out as well as others. But overall, everyone earns something, and that's always a good thing.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The new year could find you indulging in one or more of the hobbies you've always wanted to take up. And don't be surprised if they ultimately direct you toward a new career.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The artistic Aquarian should find more opportunities in the new year. You might even make some potentially helpful contacts as you gather to ring in the year 2012.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) The new year offers challenges for Pisceans who want to make better use of the skills they now have and learn new ones. Personal relationships show stronger positive aspects.

BORN THIS WEEK: Although at times you tend to be a bit judgmental, you are generous and caring and very much beloved.

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BlackCyanMagentaYellow

arts & entertainment

Weston Playhouse opening a new Second Stage

WESTON, Vt. - Vermont's award-winning Weston Playhouse Theatre Company announces a blockbuster line-up for its 81st summer season, continuing its tradition of "celebrating the classics and nurturing the new." Highlights include a 4-play MainStage season of Tony Award winners, 3 prestigious Vermont Premieres, and the long-awaited opening of its new second stage.

"We have pulled out all the stops to continue to celebrate our eight decades of professional theatre," notes Producing Artistic Director Steve Stettler. The season will be capped by the opening of Weston's new second stage, an intimate and flexible space that will enable the company to expand its future seasons and offer year-round programs.

Opening the company's MainStage season at the Weston Playhouse is the Tony Award-winning musical, ONCE. Set in Dublin and chronicling the chance meeting of an Irish street musician and a young Czech woman. Performances run June 27 to July 15.

Neil Simon's Pulitzer Prize-winning play Lost in Yonkers. After the death of his wife, ne'er-do-well Eddie deposits his two young sons on his mother's doorstep to contend with their stern Grandma, flighty aunt Bella and her secret romance, and their uncle Louie, a small-time hooligan. Performances run July 20 to July 29.

For three packed weeks, The Music Man returns to the Weston MainStage. The beloved musical follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the townspeople of River City, Iowa into paying for a boys' band that he has no idea or intention how to organize. Performances run August 3 to 19.

Long Day's Journey into Night closes out the season. The story of the Tyrone family and their battle to uncover—and bury—a lifetime of secrets continues. Performances run August 24 to September 3, followed by a week of special school matinees.

OtherStages series included Really Rosie plays from June 22 to July 9. Tenderly performances run July 13 to August 5. Buyer and Cellar performances run August 10 to September 3.

The season will conclude with the opening of the company's new second stage on the Walker Farm property in Weston, a project ten years in the making. "We're planning a series of events in late September and October to celebrate this exciting achievement," promises Stettler. "Watch our web site for details of a ribbon-cutting, tours of the facility, and a special inaugural performance."

Gift certificates for the Weston 2017 season can be purchased online at westonplayhouse.org. Subscription sales will be available online starting spring 2017, and subscription and single ticket sales will be available by calling the Weston box office at 802-824-5288 beginning May 1.

FOLA introducing "Streaming" in 2017

A scene from the 50's Movie series, "On the Waterfront," starring Marlon Brando and Rod Steiger. This will be part of a series of films that highlight the "golden age" of 1950 movies sponsored by FOLA.

PHOTO PROVIDED

LUDLOW, Vt. - As it plans its programming schedule for 2017, FOLA (Friends of Ludlow Auditorium) has decided it will introduce the ability to "stream" live programming for the benefit of its audiences.

"Streaming" is essentially the process of presenting live events, such as Broadway musicals, sporting events, and national public interest events, as they actually are occurring. FOLA plans to acquire the various equipment needed to present selected events that are carried over the Internet. This will give it the advantage of having many entertainment and public interest venues available to it at a reduced cost.

According to Ralph Pace, FOLA Chairman, the first year's activity will concentrate on Broadway musicals and selected plays and events that will benefit the local education system.

In order to enable this feature, FOLA will seek to raise funds for the quality equipment necessary to provide a streaming capability.

Plans are also afoot for a musical revue that will be called "Your Hit Parade of 1927," a musical presented in the format of an old radio show featuring the songs from 1927. The show will be produced in conjunction with the Ludlow Rotary Club, which was founded in 1927 and will mark its 90th anniversary in 2017.

FOLA movie plans will also call for a continuation of its month-long programming covering specific motion picture topics. In 2017, the programming will feature a series of classic films from the 1950.

More information about the 2017 will be appearing in FOLA's web site, www.fola.us.

Reading, viewing and discussion

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Rockingham Library will host a free four-part reading, viewing and discussion series for adults called Pushing the Limits. The library received a grant to host the series. Pushing the Limits brings together books and video featuring authors, scientists and everyday people who thrive on exploring the natural world. All programs will be held at the Rockingham Library.

The program will explore humans achieving ways to push the boundaries of the physical world in discussions that will include feature film quality videos and recommended popular books. The overarching theme is one of real people, real stories and real science.

Group discussion events will be held once per month on the following topics and books:

- NATURE: T.C. Boyle, When the Killing's Done on Monday, January 23
- SURVIVAL: Paolo Bacigalupi, The Water Knife on Monday, February 27
- CONNECTION: Erik Larson, Thunderstruck on Monday, March 20
- KNOWLEDGE: Dimitra Papagianni, The Neanderthals Redicovered date t.b.a.

A light meal, free of charge, will be offered at each group discussion event. This event is free. To obtain copies of program materials, please go to rockinghamlibrary.org, stop by the library at 65 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls or call 802-463-4270.

Celebrate Mens Night with local merchants

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Bellows Falls Area merchants celebrate Mens Night on Friday December 16, - a night of bargains & fun. For a map to the businesses participating in Men's Night, check out our Facebook Page -https://www.facebook.com/events/805880002885497/

802-Ecig Supply- 15% off for Mens Night, Anastasia's Closet at Boccelli's Annex – Refreshments, Donovan's - Half Price Appetizers, Flat Iron Exchange - Dirty Hot Chocolate 1/2 price, Halladays Flowers & Harvest Barn- Beer, Cider & Cheese Tastings, Gift Wrapping - Open until 7p.m., J & H Hardware and J&H Sporting Goods

30% off total purchase (some exclusions), Sherwin Art Glass - Glass demonstrations and refreshments and a free beverage with purchase! Shona Grill- Come in for tasty samples and dinner specials, The Rock and Hammer-Refreshments, Free Gift Wrapping, Gift Registry, Village Square Booksellers- 15% Off Sale, refreshments, personal shopping assistance and free gift wrapping, Windham Antiques- 15 percent off jewelry, gems & minerals, 10 percent off storewide and free gift wrapping.

Stratton Mountain tasting event: Spirits of the Season

STRATTON, Vt. - Taste the spirit of the holiday season with craft beer, bourbon and rye samplings and cocktails from Vermont's top breweries and distilleries at Stratton's all new event, Spirits of the Season.

The December 17 event will feature live music by Soul Session in Grizzly's Bar and Restaurant. Vermont's elite breweries such as Harpoon, Stowe Cider, Magic Hat, Zero Gravity and more will serve up their most popular seasonal ales and stouts.

Among the Vermont-made spirits to sample is Mad River's maple bourbon, distilled, aged and infused with Vermont-made maple syrup. "Our flavor profile is robust, ranging from the strong oakiness of our bourbon to the fantastic, chocolaty tone to our rye, which is the only rye made right here in Vermont," said Mad River Brand Steward Max Overstrom-Coleman. A 10 tasting-ticket pack is available in advance, with additional tickets available at the event. Visit stratton.com for event details.

puppy christmas cookies

Here is a fun recipe that will have you and your four-legged friends enjoy the holiday!

INGREDIENTS:

- **2 1/2 cups coconut flour (can use whole wheat flour if your dog is not allergic)**
- **1 teaspoon baking powder**
- **1 cup natural peanut butter (xylitol free peanut butter only, consider purchasing peanut butter made especially for dogs)**
- **1 cup water**
- **2 tablespoons honey**
- **1 egg**

DIRECTIONS:

1. **Preheat oven to 350F.**
2. **In a large bowl combine flour, baking powder, and the egg. Add peanut butter, water, honey and stir until you have stiff, firm dough.**
3. **On a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough about 1/2 inch thick and use a cookie cutter to make fun shapes.**
4. **Bake for 20 minutes, until golden.**

Happy baking. If you try out the recipe, be sure to send us a note or a picture of your happy pup. Recipe credit Tru-Dog.com

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AUTOMOTIVE arts & entertainment

Amahl and the Night Visitor film showing—

WALPOLE, N.H. - This classic 1951 television opera was written to delight children and adults as well. Hastings Parish House of the Walpole Unitarian Church on Union Street on Friday, Dec. 16, beginning at 7 p.m. The movie is just under and hour long, and discussion follows, led by Rev. Kitsy Winthrop. Free, and refreshments will be served.

The movie, "Amahl and the Night Visitor," was an opera written in 1951 as a television production by Gian Carlo Menotti. It was the first opera specifically composed for television in America.

The movie centers on Amahl, a disabled boy who can walk only with a crutch. He has a problem with telling tall tales. Sitting outside his home, playing his shepherd's pipe, his mother calls for him to come home. His mother does not believe him when he tells her there is an amazing star "as big as a window" outside. The mother prays that Amahl not become a beggar, and there is a knock at the door.

Amahl answers and discovers three splendidly dressed kings. At first the mother does not believe Amahl, but when she goes to the door to see for herself, she is stunned. The Three Kings tell the mother and Amahl they are on a long journey to give gifts to a wondrous Child and they would like to rest at their house, to which the mother agrees, though she has little to offer.

Thus begins an evening of wonder and excitement.

"Amahl and the Night Visitor."
PHOTO PROVIDED

Learn how to speak to horses

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls will feature local authors Sharon Wilsie and Gretchen Vogel to discuss their new book, "Horse Speak: The Equine-Human Translation Guide, Conversations with Horses in Their Language."

The event is Sunday, Dec. 18 at 5 p.m. at the bookstore.

Horse Speak is not a training method or a technique to make someone ride better, the authors said. It is a practical system for "listening" and "talking" to horses in their language instead of expecting them to comprehend English. Horse Speak can be used by any individual who works with horses, whether riding instructor, colt starter, recreational rider, or avid competitor.

It promises improved understanding of what a horse is telling someone, as well as providing simple replies people can use to tell the equine that they "hear" him, they "get it," and they have ideas they want to share with him or her, too.

Wilsie and Vogel will tell people how they can learn Horse Speak in 12 steps. They explain their understanding of equine communication via breath and body language before progressing to the "Four Gs of Horse Speak: Greeting, Going Somewhere, Grooming, and Gone."

A number of exercises provide practice for regulating intensity, helping people begin to manage what's going on inside their body, as well as outside.

Call 802-463-9404 to reserve a place for the event, or order online at www.villagesquarebooks.com/event/horse-speak-equine-human-translation-guide-5pm.

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Beat winter blues!

RUTLAND, Vt. - Join the women of the The Rutland Cutting Edge ice hockey team. Whether you have never played before or have been looking for a chance to get back on the ice, we can provide the opportunity for you to get involved in this amazing sport. We are a Recreational team that practices Sunday nights and plays House league games on Thursdays. Our second session will start with a House game on Thursday January 5 at 8 p.m. and practice on Sunday January 8, at 7 p.m. We also provide a Learn to Play program on Sundays at 6 p.m. and have equipment available to help get you started. Please come see what it's all about - great exercise, camaraderie and fun! Questions? Email us at rutlandcuttingedges@gmail.com

Bird feeding basics

REGION – With winter weather now taking hold, Vermonters are readying their bird feeders. But before residents put up their avian offerings, Vermont Fish & Wildlife recommends a review of the bird feeding basics.

"Birds of all species have very interesting behaviors, shapes, and plumage, and being close to them to be able to observe this is a great source of enjoyment throughout the winter months," said John Buck, Vermont Fish & Wildlife's migratory bird biologist.

Many local hardware stores sell bird feeders and a variety of seed mixes that will appeal to different types of birds. For an all-purpose food, black oil sunflower seeds will attract many native bird species.

While the Fish & Wildlife Department generally recommends that people only put bird feeders out from Dec. 1 through March 31, variable winter weather can sometimes dictate that birdfeeders should be removed even during this period if the ground becomes uncovered during a thaw.

Only feed birds during the winter months to avoid attracting bears. Bears that are lured by birdfeeders can become unafraid of people, which can result in the bear needing to be put down.

"A good rule of thumb is that if it's generally 'wintery' out for an extended period of time, with consistent snow covering the ground and temperatures at or below freezing, you can put your birdfeeder out," said Buck.

Buck also urges people to clean birdfeeders at least once a month to prevent a buildup of harmful pathogens that can make birds ill.

Buck recommends using a solution of one part bleach to nine parts hot water to kill bacteria. Hot water with unscented dish detergent also does an excellent job. He recommends thorough rinsing and drying before refilling feeders, and cleaning up seeds and droppings below the feeder. Also, check feed after rain or wet snow to look for clumping or rotting seeds. Feeders are best placed away from larger windows that birds can sometimes crash into.

Daily snow reports from On the Snow online!

Visit us online at www.VermontJournal.com to get daily snow reports for all the local mountains and resorts!

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 12, 2016:

ON THE SNOW SNOW REPORT

	Lifts	Snow Depth	Snowfall
Stratton Mountain	5 / 11	20"	8" (12/12)
Okemo Mountain Resort	8 / 20	20"	6" (12/12)
Killington Resort	9 / 21	18"	5" (12/12)
Sugarbush	2 / 16	36"	5" (12/12)

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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