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VOLUME 55, ISSUE 38

Springfield Winter Carnival

BY KAREN ENGDAHL

The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Winter revelers with sleds, saucers, snowshoes, and skates dotted the snowy landscape of the Crown Point Country Club at the Springfield Winter Carnival recently.

In its third year, the Springfield Winter Carnival was sponsored by Springfield Recreation Department, Edgar May Recreation Center and Crown Point Golf Course. The weekend-long event included free sledding and skating, two bonfires, fireworks sponsored by Kelley Chrysler, a broom hockey tournament, a snowman-building contest, sledding races, and indoor activities for kids.

Waiting their turn at the top of the sledding hill, Sara and Zach Prescott of Rutland said they were visiting their grandparents in Weathersfield when they read about the carnival in the newspaper. The whole family made the trip to the Crown Point Golf Course and was taking part in the activities.

"It's really fun!" yelled five-yearold Zach, as he hopped on his sled. "The snow is really cold, but I don't

Shrieks of joy, combined with just the right amount of terror, could be heard as each sled rider picked up speed on the steep, slippery hill.

Below the sledding hill, teams gathered for a broom hockey tournament on the skating rink. Cold outdoor temperatures didn't seem to dampen any spirits, and free hot chocolate served at the Red Cross station provided a warm-up for tired sledders and skaters.

Inside the Crown Point clubhouse, the Crown Point Pub sold burgers, hotdogs, chili, fries and drinks all weekend. Also on hand with a tableful of treats was the National Honor Society of Springfield High School, holding a bake sale to raise money for Hunger Free Ver-



Kids and adults wait at the top of the hill for their turn to sled. PHOTO BY KAREN ENGDAHL

New at the carnival this year were the indoor kids' activities. Troy Wunderle's Big Top Adventures was there, along with face-painting with Mona Frye and paper crafts with the Springfield Art Gym.

Springfield High School students hosted a variety of games including bowling, bean bag toss, snowball toss, Plinko and spin-a-prize. Kids could also help build luminaria to line the driveway and convert card-



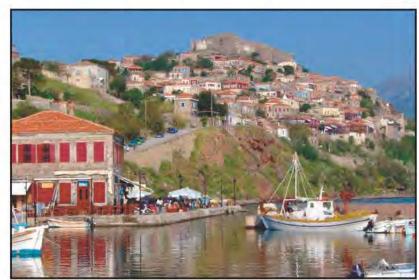
Oliver Lord, Greta Searless, and Autumn Lord model their face paintings.
PHOTO BY KAREN ENGDAHL

board to snow crafts for Sunday's cardboard sled race.

The carnival festivities on Friday

and Saturday ended with bonfires and, on Saturday, fireworks, perennial favorites on dark winter nights.

Alstead resident to speak about assisting refugees



Lesbos (also called Lesvos or Mitilini) is a Greek island.

BY MARY ELLEN CANNON

The Shopper

ALSTEAD, N.H. - On Thursday Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Shedd Memorial Library in Alstead, Alstead resident Val Moore will speak on her experiences as a volunteer, assisting refugees on the island of Lesbos in Greece.

Moore said of her upcoming program: "I'll show how the island of Lesbos is beautiful and old fashioned still in a way I love. Donkeys bring vegetables to the market. Beaches are lovely. I want to show people that refugees are not to be feared."

Moore volunteers to help refugees in Lesbos. The UNHCR, the United Nations refugee agency, reports that the vast majority of people who risk their lives to cross the sea are fleeing violence and persecution.

On Aug. 29, 2015, while on a cruise in Canada with her parents, she heard on BBC news of a huge influx of refugees to the island of Lesbos. The next day at Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Portland, Maine, she heard of church members volunteering on Lesbos. In November 2015, she went to

Moore was raised in Massachusetts by her father, a Greek Orthodox priest, and her mother, who spoke only Greek in the home to give her the language. She speaks of the kindness of the Greeks and the strain, the sweetness of refugees and their pain. A fisherman who saved people and an 85-year-old grandmother who fed children on the beach were nominated for the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize as representative of the island's collective response.

The Guardian reports that 60 per-

cent of the 90,000 residents on the island descend from Greek Orthodox refugees kicked out of Turkey in the 1920s. Thirty thousand refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan arrived in February 2016 alone. Without papers, new arrivals are arrested and bused to a camp. Locals voice concern about the destruction of the environment. Tourism tanked. Loss of tourist income scares the is-

But Moore said, "You can be on the island and never see a refugee."

What volunteers are allowed to do shifted. In 2015 she could enter a camp. From April to November 2016 she volunteered again in Lesbos. Most civilians are excluded from camps now. She was part of a volunteer organization. Some volunteer groups were targeted by stressed-out islanders. She now volunteers independently.

"No day is the same. Sometimes I translate Greek and English to negotiate between people and the hospital." She helped with first aid triage and handed out sandwiches and blankets in the chaotic aftermath of a fire at camp. Her husband and family support her efforts.

Dessert and dancing with Miss Vermont USA

BY MARY ELLEN CANNON

The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Come join the Cota family for "Dessert and Dancing with Miss Vermont USA," Saturday, Feb. 18, 7-10 p.m. at the American Legion Post 37 in Bellows

"This will be my first opportunity to celebrate with my hometown, with people I grew up with. I'm very excited," Madison Cota, Miss Vermont USA explained.

Cota won the Miss Vermont Teen USA pageant in 2014 and the Miss Vermont USA competition in Stowe in November, 2016.

Now she is heading to the Miss USA pageant. The Cotas are waiting to hear the location and date.

Her mom, Jen Cota, planned "Dessert and Dancing" both to celebrate and to raise funds towards expenses of travel to the competition, wardrobe, and food. Jen Cota writes: "Please come join us for dessert, dancing and raffles in support of our local girl as she prepares to travel and River on basketball courts. She says compete at Miss USA! Open to the public, all ages welcome."

Madison and her mom recently returned from Austin, Texas, where she volunteered with designer Sherri Hill on Operation That's My Dress, when 500 military families picked out designer dresses for proms. Cota enjoyed investing time with the girls. The USO (United Services Organization) event was the biggest and most fun event Cota had taken part in.

Her special cause as Miss Vermont USA is Donate Life - organ donation. She hopes to spread awareness of the huge impact organ donation makes and to break down the stigma attached to donating.

Twenty-year-old Cota captains the basketball team and studies fashion design and marketing at Lasell College in Newton, Mass.

Cota never expected to compete in a pageant. She spent much of her time from sixth grade at Bellows Falls Middle School into high school at Vermont Academy in Saxton's

it's a funny story. A Miss Teen USA flyer came in the mail. She threw it out. Her mom picked it up and said it sounded fun - why not try it?

Cota credits the competitions with giving her a range of invaluable opportunities. Through the competitions she's made friends and improved interview skills. Friends and family asked her questions to help her hone interview skills. As Miss Vermont Teen USA she volunteered with VT Special Olympics and the USO. The title of Miss Vermont USA conveys a scholarship to Lindenwood University in Missouri.

If Cota wins the Miss USA competition she will move into a paid for furnished apartment, food included, in New York City, live with Miss Universe and earn a salary for the year she reigns. She explained that the Miss USA and Miss Universe pageants are now owned by WMEIMG, a huge entertainment conglomerate. Chris Cobb will deejay for the celebration.

Jen Cota said there will be something for everyone, with a mix of tempo and a full range of music to dance to. "We got Bruin tickets for the raffle!" she exclaimed.

Madison Cota said that Bellows for Falls kids, "I hope to serve as a role model to show there are bigger things to aspire to." She is excited to come home to Bellows Falls to dance with her commu-

This event is open to the public, and ages are welcome. A suggested donation helps Cota compete.



Madison Cota is the captain of the basketball team at Lasell College.
PHOTO PROVIDED



PHOTO PROVIDED

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2A | February 15, 2017

Student Art Month at VAULT's Open Wall Gallery-

BY KAREN ENGDAHL

The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Colorful "selfies," radial name designs, and block prints created by Springfield public school students fill the Open Wall Gallery through the month of February, designated Student Art Month at the VAULT Gallery on Main Street.

"These 'selfies' are truly amazing," said Cynthia Martin, VAULT volunteer. "I come back and look at them

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often and I always see something new. I'm impressed by what these kids can do!"

The "selfies," or self-portraits done in the style of a smartphone photo of oneself, are a project of Springfield third-graders. The objectives of the project were for students to listen to and follow directions to create an art project, to create a self-portrait using contour lines, and to paint a background that presented a place where they would like to be.

The results were a range of expres-

sions and moods from festive and lighthearted to introspective and subdued. "The combination of drawing and painting is impressive," said

Other student work in the gallery includes a collection of radial name designs by students from Riverside Middle School. These large tessellations, grouped together in a stunning vertical display, pack a visual punch.

Completing the display is a charming set of block prints made by second-graders.

The Open Wall Gallery at the VAULT is open to local artists to display their work in a non-juried show. All ages and all levels are accepted. "The Open Wall is a great place for local artists to get their work out in

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Block prints made by Springfield second graders.
PHOTO BY KAREN ENGDAHL

Selfies made by Springfield third graders. IOTO BY KAREN ENGDAHL

the public and get some feedback," said Martin. "We've even had an artist who started in the Open Wall gallery end up being juried—now we

Martin proudly pointed out two

sell his work in the main gallery."

why we're so glad to have the students' art here. This might be the start of an artistic career!"

This year the VAULT is offering four shows from Feb. 22 through Dec. 28, each with a suggested theme - "A Pigment of Your Imagination," 2/22-4/27: "Country Rhythms," 5/3-

"You never know," she said. "That's 7/27; "Shifting Shapes," 8/2-10/26; and "Magical Light," 11/1-12/28.

> The VAULT Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and there is no admission charge for the Open Wall shows.

For more information, call 802-885-7111 or go to www.galleryvault.

WE CAN HELP! large landscapes painted by Richard Emery, an artist who first brought his work to hang in an Open Wall show. SMCS goes solar

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Thanks to contributions from donors, including a grant from the Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation, Springfield Medical Care Systems (SMCS) has installed a solar hot water system at its Springfield Health Center.

The original intent of the project was a rooftop installation, but it was decided that the 100 River Street building, where the Springfield Health Center is located, was not suitable for the panels. However, a portion of the building near the river is sheltered and receives excellent sunlight so it was determined to be

programma distribution

Springfield Medical Care Systems (SMCS) has installed a solar hot water system at its Springfield Health Center loca-

PHOTO PROVIDED



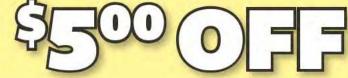
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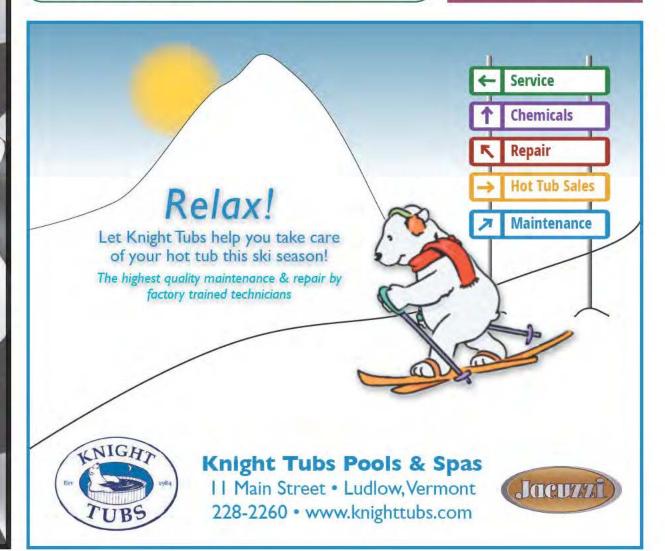
the best location for the panels. Four panels were installed before winter and have already started offsetting the Center's use of fossil fuels. Over the next 10 years, it should offset 2,500 gallons of propane as it heats the 600,000 gallons of hot water used annually by staff, patients

and visitors to the health center. The total cost was approximately \$30,000, and the panels were installed by Vermont Heating and Ventilating Company.

The project was undertaken in conjunction with the installation of a solar panel field on unbuildable land at Springfield Hospital, which will be completed this summer. This project will generate energy for hot water needs and also provide for other electrical needs of the Hospital.

Both projects are being funded by donations to the 2015-16 Annual Giving Campaign of the SMCS Development Office.

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The Shopper

Barb Parker celebrates 25 years of service —

SPRINGFELD, Vt. - Springfield Li- pin, and a letter ons recently joined Lion Barb Parker to celebrate her 25 years of service in Springfield. Barb was presented with a 25-year milestone commemorative Chancellor

of congratulations from Lions International President



Club President Julie Beauchain right, and Vermont District Governor Joe Wilson left, join Springfield Lions to celebrate Lion Barb Parker's 25 years of Lions service. PHOTO BY DICK FELLENZ

Barb was the first woman to join the Spring-Lions Lions Fellowship Award, and held a per-

attendance record. In addition to her many service years, Barb has been recognized in the Springfield community as an RSVP volunteer, driver for the Council on Aging, Meals on Wheels, and Vermont Association for the Blind. She is the recipient of Vermont Governor's Outstanding Community Service Award, presented by Governor Jim Douglas, and the Vermont National Bank Community Volunteer Award.

PHOTO PROVIDED

For information about Springfield Lions visit them on Facebook or contact Membership Chair Dick Fellenz at 885-8130.



Barb's congratulations cake.

Club, and the first woman to be elected club president. As a loyal member, Barb was awarded the Melvin

HCRS staff peer support trainings

meeting

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), Vermont's second-largest non-profit community mental health agency, is training its Adult Mental Health and Addiction Services staff in Intentional Peer Support. This highly desired and well-respected training was developed by psychiatric survivor and activist, Shery Mead, and helps staff to develop relational skills for supporting others in mutual, respectful, and

HCRS hosted one-day overviews of Intentional Peer Support training for staff, clients, and community members. Thanks in part to a grant from the Department of Mental Health for a peer support internship project in collaboration with Vermont Psychiatric Survivors and Pathways Vermont, 20 people received the full 5-day training in Intentional Peer Support. Malaika Puffer, from HCRS, and Cal-

vin Moen, from Vermont Psychiatric Survivors, co-facilitated this training. Participants learned to practice new ways of relating based on learning rather than helping, focusing on the relationship rather than the individual, and responding out of hope rather than fear or control. Intentional Peer Support encourages practitioners to step out of their expert to client dynamics and connect in an honest, curious, human-to-human way.

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Starting Your Own Business —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Vermont Small Business Development Center, VtSBDC, will be having a workshop for those thinking about starting their own business. This workshop, titled Starting Your Own Business, is aimed at helping future entrepreneurs turn their passions into a full-fledged business venture. The workshop will be held Thursday March 3 at Springfield Regional Development Corporation on Clinton Street in Springfield from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Starting a business can be challenging. The workshop, conducted by an experienced business advisor, is designed as a guide for the firsttime business owner. Participants

receive a comprehensive start-up workbook, handouts and resources in marketing, financing, management and operations. By the end the workshop they will be well informed about the tools and resources available to them and the next steps involved in launching a successful business. There is a cost for the workshop and you can register online at www.vtsbdc.org under the training tab.

A few workshop highlights include

- · Use the Business Model Canvas to evaluate whether there is a viable business in their good idea
- · Identify target customers and unique selling propositions
- · Register their business and apply

for tax numbers

· Consider start-up costs, sales, expenses and financing options · Pitch their idea and develop a busi-

Vermont Small Business Development Center is a non-profit partnership of government, education and business, organized to help Vermont small businesses succeed. No-cost, confidential advice is provided to existing business owners and new entrepreneurs throughout the state. The local VTSBDC office is located at Springfield Regional Development Corporation. For more information visit www.vtsbdc.org or contact Debra Boudrieau at 802-885-2071 or dboudrieau@vtsbdc.org.



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Scholarships target financially struggling women in need of training or education

REGION - The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Vermont announces the availability of scholarships for Vermont women who have lost their main source of income due to separation, divorce, death, or long-term unemployment or disability of their partner. Eligible women are in need of training or education to enter or to continue in the work force.

plan for their education or training. Scholarships range from \$500 to \$1500. This is the 23rd year of awarding this financial aid, which is funded through contributions from the state federated clubs and from individuals. Women receiving the awards over the years have come from a wide range of towns in the state.

Applications for the scholarship

Taylor St. Bellows Falls, VT 05101, hubett@hotmail.com, 802-463-4159; from Joyce Lindamood, P.O. Box 92, Springfield, VT 05156, jmood@vermontel.net, 802-885-4690; or from Darlene Remy, 20 South Hill, Ludlow, VT 05149, remyslp@comcast.net, 802-345-1476.

Applications are also available in the financial aid offices of CCV in

Applicants must submit a specific are available from Betty Haggerty, 16 Springfield and Brattleboro, the River Valley Community College in Claremont, N.H., as well as the office of SEVCA, Parks Place in Bellows Falls, and the Rockingham Free Public Li-

> Completed applications are due to Betty Haggerty by March 15, 2017. Interviews will be conducted. Awards will be made at the federation's annual meeting on May 6.

I-91 bridges update —

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - The following is the anticipated schedule of the construction to take place on the I-91 Rockingham bridges #24S & 24N over the Williams River.

Periodic, daytime closure in the northbound high-speed lane (left

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lane) to allow crews and equipment access to the median. Potentially, hoping to have this on Friday, February 17 however this may change due to weather condi-

Motorists use extreme caution as the safety of the workers along with themselves is of the utmost importance.

The Public Relations telephone number to call with any questions or concerns regarding this project is 802-862-6085.

Find updates/changes at: http:// countonitinc.com/rockinghamvt-bridges-91/ Follow us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ Rockingham-Bridges-

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Ludlow American Legion

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Friday, February 17th

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Seatings will be from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Call 802-228-9807 for reservations.

Also they will have a children's

herbal workshop on Saturday, Feb. 25 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Please call them at 259-3762 or email at northerngardensvt@

gmail.com for details. The shop is located at 899 Frost Hill Road in Belmont, Vt.



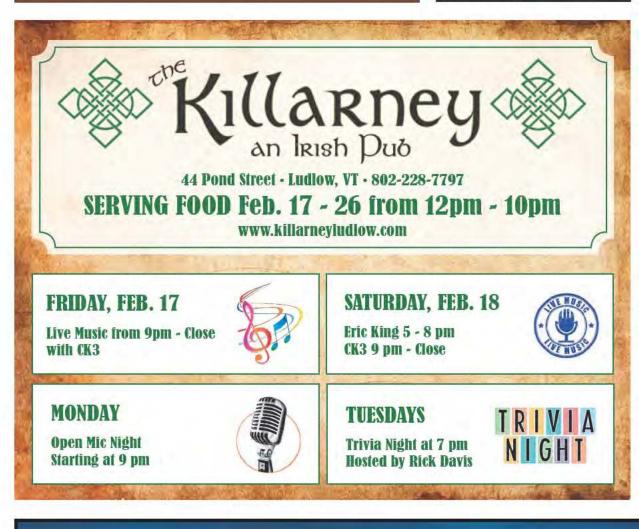
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BY RON PATCH

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

Gordon Gates & Sons, Part 3

went down to Westminester to work on a Music Auditorium at the Kurn Hatten Home. That was an all sumer job. Loneys next job was a bank in Bratelbero and that was going to be a long drive all winter so I got thrue.

I think I was unemployed about ½ a day, then I went up + worked for Larey Warden who was building a house for an Archital teacher from Yale Collage. That was just ½ mile from home.

Just before I went to work for Loney Construction we moved from Londonderry to Simons-

ville. I bought the Parmelly Guest Farm formaly nown as the Plat Marsh place. One of the early places to be settled in Andover. We'd other place in Londonderry.

I told Patty about the Parmely place + just wasent interested at all. She wasent even going to look at it with the kids + me. Gordon & Patty in 1939-1940. Finely we got her ride down

with us but she said she wasent going in. So the kids and I went in and gave it a going over. The kids were all taken up with the have there own room. It also had place. Sylvia finelly went out and got her mother. She said she'd look but she wasent going to change her mind.

painted white. Sylvia and her mother started going from room to room and Sylvia started telling mom how they could change things + do some decorating + she got her mom interested.

p.m., upstairs at Chester Town

Hall. We have tables and exhibitor space available. Just show up

Don't forget the Antiques Roundtable Sunday, Feb. 19 at 2 and bring anything you want.

This week's old saying is from Mark Twain. "Don't let schooling interfere with your education."

sanding floors and redecorating +

the works. It had a lot of rooms + 4

or 5 bathrooms so all the kids could

two fire places. There also were two

We lived in it about 3 years and

then Sylvia got married and then

Chs. I gave Syl + Bob one of the

cottages and fixed it up. When Chs.

+ Cindy maried they lived in a cot-

tage for a while then moved into a

"After the Benenonton job I Before we left Patty said I think I mobiel home down tords Cheswould like to live here, but how could we ever bye it? I told her I'd also talked to Mr. C. Merett and found out it could be bought for just what we got for our other place.

> We had quite a waite before we got into it. They had to settle two estates befor we could get a deed to it. We had to live one sumer in the house below Rowells Inn. We had all of our stuff stored in a barn at the Marie Hill Farm so we actually had to move twice.

We got in our new place in the early fall and we all went right to work some high so finely I fixed up the

Pattys farther had past away some years before. Her mother was living in Chester and working out house keeping and it got to much for her, so we had her come up and live with us.

The taxes on the place were

One day

I figured her sister had come up

NOTE "If every one was as luckey enough to have a mother in law as good as mine, there wouldent be any mother in law jokes going around. She was a wonderful person."

changing it over. Papering, painting guest house + we lived in it win-

ters + rented the big house to 3 famileys of skiers in the winter. That worked out well + it more took than care of the tax problem. We lived there untill my mother in law passed away and kids were all gone.

when I got home from work I holored for Patty, and no ansure. I looked around some but she wasent there.

+ theyd gone somewhere. About + hour later I was out in the back room + hurd a noise up in one of the back bedroom; that we never guest hoses + two cotages that went used. I finely went up to check with it, a big old barn two monster + Patty was up there cleaning. I hen houses and a tombled down told her Id been looking for an Every thing in the house was green house. Also 100 acres of land. hour. I said I think when you'v got a house so big it takes you an hour to find your wife when you get home from work, the house is just to big.".....

To be continued.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Can you help find this car and its current owner?

REGION - As we are all hooked into our laptops and tablets at night searching old friends, classmates, Googling, mapping, etc. I decided to look for my old car, or one like it that got me through my second stage of college in Colorado and then my following life

If affordable, I would love to own it ture. Any leads would be greatly apagain to restore it. Can any one recognize the house, street, car, and tags and maybe provide a lead? I am not 508-274-5707 with any information stalking. I only want to know if the current owner is interested in selling at this point

or in the fu-

preciated!

Please contact Madeline Way at about the gold 1974 Plymouth Val-



This is the car that took me across country twice!



Can anyone help me locate my old car?

PHOTO PROVIDED

teaching in Vt. I found the car, not a car like it but the car! MY CAR!

The one that took me across country 2 times, that stole me away from my crazy life in upstate NY, the 80's, dance clubs, and cocaine. It brought me to both the beautiful country of Colorado and then beautiful Chester, Vt. for a few years. I gave this car away when I left the state to a woman who was nearly homeless, who lived, all I knew, east and south of Rutland.

My gold 1974 Plymouth Valiant was a barn find in Bellows Falls, and I stumbled upon the webpage that auctioned it 2 years ago. Since then there has been no other leads. I would love to find the person who found the car in the barn and find out if they have any leads to the whereabouts of the car now. I am hoping it is not being used for parts.





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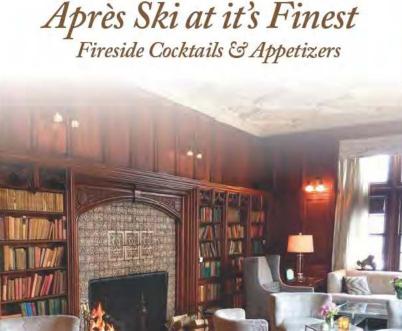
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6A | February 15, 2017 editoria

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vermont will need more skilled workers

In the next 10 years, the J. Warren and Lois McClure Foundation and the Vermont Department of Labor believe Vermont employers will need an additional 2,000 nurses, 500 software programmers and 400 electrical workers.

That's from a study done by the McClure Foundation that says there are 54 promising high-paying jobs that will require training or education beyond

The latest Department of Labor data was by the foundation to highlight 54 jobs along with their median wages, number of projected job openings, and minimum education requirements.

Each should pay at least \$20/hour and have at least 100 openings over the next decade. The website resource, www.mcclurevt.org/pathways, lists the Vermont-based training and education programs that points students and

The McClure Foundation is offering grants to organizations and others that are working to connect Vermonters with these training and education pathways.

The McClure Foundation and the Vermont Department of Labor believe the data will also help colleges, legislators, employers, and career counseling organizations with programming and strategy.

'There are tremendous employment opportunities right here in Vermont for people of all interests and backgrounds," said Mathew Barewicz, Economic and Labor Market Information chief at the Vermont Department of Labor.

The foundation says 55,000 brochures featuring the high-pay, high-demand jobs are being distributed to high schools, colleges, state agencies, counseling organizations, and nonprofits across the state. They're being distributed as part of a new goal that 70 percent of Vermont's working-age adults possess a postsecondary degree or credential of value by 2025.

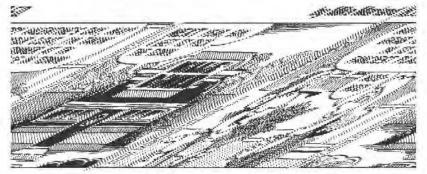
The jobs list, called Pathways to Promising Careers, includes national research that promising job opportunities grow with postsecondary education

Thus, only two of the 54 jobs identified by Pathways can be filled with a high-school degree and no additional training or education. The majority require at least a two-year college associate's degree.

Then problem is that statistics show only 60 percent of Vermont's high school graduates enroll in college within 16 months of graduation.

The foundation wants to make that change. "We envision a Vermont in which no promising job goes unfilled for lack of a qualified applicant," said McClure Foundation Philanthropic Adviser Carolyn Weir.

We're with them. Let's make it happen. ~BM~





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

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

> Shawntae Stillwell, Graphic Director ads@vermontjournal.com

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

> Julia Purdy, Editor jpurdy@vermontjournal.com

Corporate & Production Office: 8 High Street . Ludlow, VT 05149 Office: 802-228-3600 • Fax: 802-228-3464

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Raising the minimum wage is not a new idea. But we need to get serious now. There is a bill before the legislature that would gradually raise the minimum wage to \$15 hr. There are many benefits to this.

It would help Vermont workers. It would help families. It would help the Vermont economy. And, yes, it would help businesses in Vermont.

Many people of all ages work for \$12.50 hr. The numbers are sobering. 65 percent over 30. Nearly 45 percent of all Vermont women earn less than

Dear Editor,

To the voters of Ludlow

At the annual meeting of the Town of Ludlow, Article 4 will be presented for your consideration. The article deals with the renewal of tax-exempt status of the property located at 22 Buttermilk Falls Road owned by the Ludlow Masonic Building Association A/K/A Black River - Lafayette Lodge #85 F & AM. The Brethren of the Lodge wish to thank all voters for approving the tax-exempt status ten years ago and ask you once again to grant the exempt status of the prop-

Lafayette Lodge #53 consolidated with Black River in June of 1965. The \$12.50 per hr. And 10 percent of Vermonters live in poverty. A rise in the minimum wage helps to give everyone a fair chance.

It helps children living in homes where the primary provider earns less than \$15 per hr. 43,000 Vermont children live in such a home. Children in households with higher incomes are healthier, do better in school, and earn more as adults and have happier, more successful households themselves. Children deserve the best chance we can give them.

original Lodge in Ludlow was Green Mountain, which held their meetings in the Jesse Fletcher Farm house that is part of the Fletcher Farmstead just east of the Village of Ludlow.

Masonry nationwide contributes over 2 million dollars a day in their philanthropic endeavors. Not the least of which are the Shriners Hospitals for Children. To be a Shriner, you must first be a Mason. Statewide the Masons of Vermont finance The Vermont Freemason's C.A.R.E program a student assistance program training for Vermont school teacher which gives them the tools to identify behavioral changes in children "at risk" for not only alcohol and drug

abuse but from physical, mental and sexual abuses, depression and suicide tendencies to bullying in our K

When people make more money

they spend more and money cir-

culates throughout the economy.

Employees that make more money

change jobs less frequently. Less

turnover means less recruitment and

So what's the downside? Whenever

raising the minimum wage is pro-

posed the reflexive response is it will

cost jobs. Employers will cut their

workforce. Rather than a raise, work-

ers will lose their jobs. These dire

predictions never materialize. There

training costs.

- 12 schools.

This training takes place once a year and will be run this year in S. Burlington, Vt. for 2 days at the end of March. Since 1990 the Masons of Vermont have spent close to \$800,000 in this effort. Black River - Lafayette Lodge is very proud to be one of the leaders in this most worthwhile program. And locally we have supported the efforts of the Black River Academy Museum and our annual scholarship program to mention a few.

We are proud to be Masons and

pearance of a town is the primary

may be a few jobs lost but they are quickly regained. The benefits far outweigh the negatives. After all ... the minimum wage has been gradually raised over many, many decades. Has the sky fallen? No. But the benefits are real and measurable.

There are bills before the legislature. I urge every Vermonter to contact his legislator to express support for raising the minimum wage.

Bill Kuch Springfield, Vt.

a valuable member of the Ludlow community for over 147 years. Other than the churches of Ludlow, Masonry has had a huge contribution to Ludlow's development over those years. In closing we again wish to thank the voters of Ludlow for recognizing our value in the past and ask for your continued support by approving Article 4 on Town Meeting Day. Above all, participate in our freedom and liberties by voting.

Earl J. Washburn Past Master Black River - Lafayette Lodge #85

Past Grand Master Grand Lodge of Vermont

Dear Editor,

My name is Kelly Arrison. I'm running for a seat on the Chester Select Board.

I've lived in Chester for 45 years. brought my auto racing business to Chester 26 years ago where it has thrived. Chester is a great place to live and work. Because it has given me so much I feel it's time for me to give back to the community.

My goal in running for Select Board is to help bring lasting economic improvement to Chester. When a town is healthy its problems

Dear Editor,

Springfield is at a crossroads. We are accustomed to having police, fire, ambulance, public works, library, recreation, and other services efficiently provided. Unfortunately, the grand list has been shrinking, and revenues are declining.

We can accept this state or we can take bold steps to become a desirable place for new investors, businesses and residents. We have made a good start. We have new

shows that it cares about itself it will attract people who want to live here, raise their kids here, grow a business We can make Chester a better

are easier to solve. When a town

place to live and work by using the successful Heart and Soul Economic Development method of town planning. Developed by a Vermonter, the Heart and Soul team approach has helped revitalize towns all across America.

The quality of life and the ap-

downtown master and streetscape plans for a facelift and improved facilities. We are enforcing ordinances on nuisance abatement, unsafe buildings, and blighted properties. We have acquired buildings that

But we must do more, so the lectboard has placed Articles 8 and to go after grants that require local 9 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Article 8 establishes the Springfield Revitalization Fund, and Article 9

was not the expense side that needed

to be addressed, but rather the rev-

enue side. We need to grow our tax

strides to address this issue. The

town is enforcing ordinances to im-

prove the appearance of our neigh-

borhoods. The town has acquired

buildings that need to be rehabili-

tated or removed. The town has new

downtown master and streetscape

plans. In short, Springfield is poised

Our selectboard has taken great

need rehabilitation or removal.

driver of economic prosperity today. It relies on a town-wide commitment and partnership between local government, local businesses, property owners, renters, schools and civic groups to come together to make steady, step-by-step improvements throughout the community. Improvements to our streetscapes, houses, businesses, green spaces and

This thoughtful approach asks each of us to take pride in our town and ourselves; to work together, to incorporate Chester's historic heritage and contribute to the community thus improving our quality of life. We've already begun to get people talking, listening and working together. There's a new sense of possibility in Chester. If elected I intend to move this forward. Let's work together to

make it a reality. Thanks for listening, Kelly Arrison

Chester, Vt.

appropriates \$100,000 for the fund, which is 15 cents for each \$1,000 of assessed value.

We cannot move forward without money. The funds that Articles 8 and 9 requests are just a small fraction of what we will eventually need. However, this seed money will enable us matching funds, to get professional help attracting investors and developers, to stimulate the creation

to take the steps it needs to take to

The selectboard cannot do this

move forward, attract new business

alone. It needs our help. The select-

board has placed Articles 8 and 9 on

the Town Meeting Warrant. Article

8 sets up a Springfield Revitaliza-

tion Fund, and Article 9 appropri-

ates \$100, 000 for the fund. This

seed money will provide us with the

professional assistance we need to

attract investors, create partnerships,

and build our tax base.

of public and private partnerships, and to tap substantial new funding sources. This is how towns like Barre, St. Albans and Vergennes have reinvigorated themselves.

Please vote yes on Articles 8 and 9. They are essential to make Springfield a place where people want to live, work, play or start a business.

Walter Martone Springfield Selectboard Member

Dear Editor,

I had the privilege of serving on Springfield's Budget Advisory Committee for the coming year's budget (2018). Committee members visited each town department to talk about the budget and to get a better grasp of the services that are provided; attended selectboard budget sessions; and discussed our findings. The committee agreed that our town does a great job on a shoestring budget. There was no fat that could be trimmed. We also concurred that it

Dear Editor,

Dear Editor,

reach of all."

under Act 46.

I'm writing to urge Springfield voters to approve Article 8 and Article 9 on the ballot at town meeting. These two articles must pass for town officials to take the next steps to revitalize the town and stop the decline of property values.

If passed, Article 8 will establish a fund to support redevelopment projects, to apply for grants or other funding, to do marketing, and to

Nitka's notes from the State House

In 1828, Governor Samuel Crafts

said: "Our youth can be considered

in no other light, than as children

of the state, having a common in-

terest in the perseveration of, and

in the benefits to be derived from,

our free institutions. It is, therefore,

our paramount duty to place the

means for obtaining instruction and

information, equally within the

spoke, Governor Scott is trying to

do the best for our students, while

keeping education affordable. School

boards, educators, parents and oth-

out what is best for their students

Almost 200 years after Crafts

take other steps to start rebuilding our town. Article 9 would appropriate \$100,000 for the fund. The cost of starting the fund is 15 cents per \$1,000 of property value.

In the last year or two the Springfield Selectboard has stepped up enforcement of ordinances addressing hazardous buildings, public nuisances, and blighted properties near schools and day care centers. These

initiatives are already making our town more attractive to people who might move here or start new busi-But we need to do more, like

other towns in Vermont that have reinvigorated themselves, including Barre, St. Albans and Vergennes. If you visit these towns, you will see they have made and attracted major investments in public and private

process to turn their respective town around. The Springfield Budget Advisory Committee stood behind these articles. Springfield voters can do the same. A yes vote for Articles 8 and 9 means we choose to move forward.

and market our town. Vergennes,

Barre and St. Albans have used this

Char Osterlund Secretary, Springfield Budget Advisory Committee

property. Property values have risen, and they are attracting new residents and economic activity. We can do the same. But it takes

some money to get started. There is no free lunch. Please vote Yes on Articles 8 and 9

Thank you, Richard Andrews Springfield, Vt.

on these justices as well as ten other

in the cafeteria and listen the committees on many of the bills. Contact me at 802-228-8432 or at anitka@leg.state.vt.us.

Thank you,

Senator Alice Nitka

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

Include town & daytime phone (not for publication)

The viewpoints expressed in the editorial section do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

Farm to School awards were given

out to winning participating schools and many children with beaming faces were present with displays of their projects and some samples of their food.

This is part of the process that judges, assistant judges and probate judges are exempt, must undergo every six years should they wish to continue in their jobs for the next six-year term. All the Supreme Court Justices, Harold Eaton, Beth Robinson, Marilyn Skoglund and Chief Justice Paul Reiber, appeared before the committee, answered questions and discussed issues from anonymous

ers are working relentlessly to figure questionnaires. Justice John Dooley, the fifth mem-

plans to retire at the end of his term. A public hearing will be held at the State House on Thursday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. for the public to weigh in Judicial retention hearings started. Visit the State House, have lunch

ber of the court, did not appear and

OBITUARIES

church services

ALSTEAD, NH

THIRD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALSTEAD, RIVER ST. Sundays at 10:30 a.m. with Pastor Maureen Lasell. Find us on Facebook (Third Congregational Church) or

ASCUTNEY, VT

call 603-835-6358.

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. Sanctuary handicap accessible. Visit: obbcvt.org.

Obituaries

BELLOWS FALLS,

CURRIER HALL, 12 CHURCH ST.

Celtic worship service at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays. The service may include: song, chant, instrumental music; verbal and silent prayer; readings from the Old and New Testament; stories of Celtic saints; a brief meditation; social time follows the service.

CAVENDISH, VT

CAVENDISH BAPTIST CHURCH,

2258 MAIN ST. People from all sorts of spiritual journeys come together as a branch of God's family on Sundays at 10am with activities for children, followed by a coffee and snack time. More info and links to Facebook and YouTube at CavendishBaptist.com or call (802) 226-7131

CHESTER, VT

ST. LUKES EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 313 MAIN ST.

Rite 1, Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. and Rite II Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m.

FIRST UNIVERSALIST PARISH OF CHESTER, RTE. 103. 211 NORTH

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. between Sept. and June. Fellowship with refreshments follows the service. www.chestervtuu.org or 802-875-

GRAFTON, VT

THE GRAFTON CHURCH (UCC AND ABC), 55 MAIN ST.

Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. Reverend Christine Dyke welcomes everyone!

CLAREMONT, NH

HOLY RESURRECTION ORTHODOX CHURCH, 99 SULLIVAN ST.

Services: Saturdays at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Please stay for coffee & refreshments after Sunday service. 603-542-6273; frandrew@ tregubovstudios.com; hroc.org

LUDLOW, VT

THE UNITED CHURCH OF LUDLOW (UCC AND METHODIST), 48 PLEASANT ST.

Sundays starting at 10:15 a.m. followed by a time of fellowship. 802-228-4211 (Sandra Russo), Email: unitedchurch@tds.net. www. unitedchurch.us. Services by The Reverend Dr. Donald E. Harpster.

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

PROCTORSVILLE,

GETHSEMANE EPISCOPAL **CHURCH, 89 DEPOT STREET**

Ash Wednesday Liturgy will be held on Wednesday, March 1 at 5 p.m. All are welcome. Email rabyt@tds. net for more information.

SPRINGFIELD,

CHURCH OF CHRIST, ROUTE 11, CHESTER RD.

11 a.m. Worship Service; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Devotional. Enter through the back downstairs door. FB ~ Springfield Church of Christ.

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH, 90 PARK STREET. Services: Vespers on Saturdays at 5 p.m. and Liturgy on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Coffee hour following Liturgy.

htocvt.org. NORTH SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH, 69 MAIN ST.

More info: 802-885-2615, www.

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.

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.

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-

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, 21 FAIRGROUND RD.

Sunday, Feb. 19, The Zen of Gardening with Sharon Mueller and Lynne Wolf, 10 a.m. They will reflect on some of the things that they've learned along the way, not only about how (or how not!) to grow vegetables, but also about themselves. It is good to get your hands in the dirt and work hard. Being in the garden is good therapy for troubled times.

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.

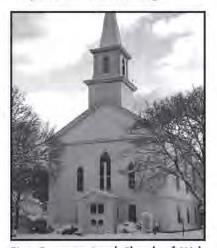
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WALPOLE /

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. e-mail: walpolechurch@yahoo.com.

WALPOLE UNITARIAN CHURCH, MAIN ST.

Sunday Services: 10 a.m. in the church. Rev. Kitsy Winthrop & Rev. Elain Bomford. Check website: www. walpoleunitarianchurch.org



First Congregational Church of Walpole, N.H. PHOTO PROVIDED

WEST WINDSOR, VT

BROWNSVILLE COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, **66 BROWNSVILLE HARTLAND**

Sunday Worship 9 a.m. followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments. Childcare during church service. Men's and women's fellowship breakfasts, Bible studies, youth programs. ADA accessible. 802-484-5944 / www. brownsvilleumc-vt.org



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He had a gentleman's farm on his property in Springfield with a

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - George Spafford, 81, passed away on Wednesday evening Feb. 8, 2017, at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H., from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident in Springfield, Vt. on Tuesday, Feb. 7. He was born January 1, 1936, in Springfield, Vt., the son of Oscar and Ellen (Bose) Spafford. He attended Springfield schools.

On July 16, 1955, he married Pearl M. LaCoursere. She predeceased him on Feb. 21, 2015,

George was employed as a general manager with Readex/News Bank in Chester, Vt. for 35 years. After his retirement he was a school bus driver for the town of Cavendish, Vt. for 15 years.

large vegetable garden and several animals, a pastime he enjoyed very much. He was a handyman and built many new things from recycled materials. He built a large barn on his property for his animals from recycled pallets.

George Spafford, 1936 - 2017

He was a caregiver to his wife Pearl for many years and had a real faith in God, reading his bible everyday.

He is survived by: two sons, Daniel Spafford of Chester, Vt. and David Spafford of Stephensville, Montana; one daughter, Shirley Hills of Charlestown, N.H.; two brothers, Roger Spafford of Georgia, and Francis Spafford of Chester; four sisters, Patricia Spafford, Dorothy Spafford,

Sharon Anoe, and Ann Amsden, all of Chester; nine grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his par-

ents, his wife Pearl and one sister, Mariorie.

A memorial service will be held at the First Baptist Church of Chester at a later date and will be announced at that time. Burial will be at a later date in the Oakland Cemetery in Springfield.

Contributions may be made in his memory to the First Baptist Church of Chester, Vermont, at P.O. Box 187, Chester, VT 05143.

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

Robert A. "Butch" Pixley, 1947 - 2017

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Robert A. "Butch" Pixley, 69, passed away on Friday evening Feb. 10, 2017, at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H. He was born on June 20, 1947, in Springfield, Vt., the fourth child of Albert M. and Charlotte F. (Thaxter) Pixley. He attended Springfield public schools and graduated from Springfield High School, Class of 1965.

In June 1966 he enlisted in the Inited States Navy. He was assigned to the USS York County and stationed in Little Creek, Va. He sailed to islands in the Caribbean and did two tours in the Mediterranean area.

In June 1972 he married Judy Stoodley, sister of his brother Howard's wife, Jane Stoodley. Robert and Judy had two children, Rebecca Lynn and Matthew Mark, and resided at their 10-acre home on Whitesville Road in Cavendish, Vt., until their divorce in May of 1995.

Robert's working career consisted of Book Press in Brattleboro, Vt., Bryant Grinder in Springfield, Vt., Door Crafters in Ludlow, Vt., Jones & Lamson Machine Tool in Springfield, Vt., and Feriux Machine Shop in North Springfield, Vt.

In 1977 Robert joined the 131st Vermont Army National Guard which was activated for the Gulf War in November 1990. In May 1991 the 131st was sent to Saudi Arabia for one year. He achieved the rank of staff sargeant. In the summer of 2001 while on maneuvers in New York State, he contracted car-

Elizabeth M. Clark 1934 - 2017

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. - Elizabeth M. Clark, 82, of Hartley Hill Road died Wednesday, February 8, 2017. Mrs. Clark was born in Bellows Falls, Vt. on April 20, 1934, the daughter of Norman and Dorothy (Kinney) Benware and she attended schools in Saxtons River and Bellows Falls, and Concord N.H.

In 1950 she married Burton "Pete" Clark. She is survived by her son Burton "Peter" Clark, Jr., her daughter Barbara Stanek, her sister Gwendolyn Hood, and several grand- and great-grandchildren. Besides her husband, she is predeceased by her parents, her son Milton Clark, Sr., her daughter Karan Clark, four brothers and two sisters.

Per Mrs. Clark's wishes, there will be no services.

ditis, which required him to resign from the guards after 24 years.

Robert joined the Cavendish Fire Department in 1974 and had attained the rank of assistant chief. He served twice as the commander of the Robert L. Johnson V.F.W. Post 771 in Springfield, Vt. (2009-2010), and as state commander of the Disabled American Veterans. He was also an active volunteer and driver for the D.A.V.

He is survived by his father Albert M. Pixley of Springfield; one daughter, Rebecca L. Nareau of Cavendish; one son, Matthew M. Pixley of Fairbanks, Alaska; one brother, Howard Pixley of Cavendish; two sisters, Betty Wall of Springfield and Flora Bush of Ogunquit, Maine; his former wife Judy; his companion, Leslie Bensley, of North Springfield; and several nieces, nephews and

He was predeceased by his mother, Charlotte.

A memorial service will be held at 11a. m. on Friday, Feb. 17, 2017, at the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt. Reverend Abraham Gross, will officiate. Burial with military honors will be in the Vermont Veterans Cemetery in Randolph Center, Vt., at a later date.

Contributions may be made in his memory to the Robert L. Johnson V.F.W. Post 771, P.O. Box 568

Springfield, VT 05156 or the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) at dav.org or mail to: Disabled American Veterans, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-

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

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arts & entertainment

St. Luke's announces 2017 LEGO Contest



Take the LEGO challenge!

"Vermont and Beyond"

Exhibit of paintings by local Vermont artists

PHOTO PROVIDED

Diane Bell, Tony Conner, Don Dalton, Doris Ingram, Robert O'Brien, Lynn Van Natta and Marijke Westberg

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sculpture, jewelry and artful objects.

2017 LEGO Contest will take place on Saturday, March 18, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the NewsBank Conference Center, 352 Main Street, Chester. This event is open to LEGOmaniacs Pre-K through grade 8 and their families. Students are encouraged to use vacations or snow days to create something unique and have their entries finetuned by contest time.

Participants should construct their original creations (no kits

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Weston Playhouse On the Green Rt. 100

CHESTER, Vt. - The allowed), with a maximum size of 24" x 36", and bring them on March 18 between 9 and 10 a.m. to the conference center, generously donated by NewsBank for the event. Entries will be judged in different grade categories from 10 to noon for their originality, imagination, and presentation. If a structure is a team entry, the age of the oldest member will determine the grade category. There is also a separate family team class for collaborating children and parents. Unique motorized LEGOs will be considered

in a separate section.

awarded to winners and runnersup in the different classes, with special awards for the Judges' Choice for Best in Show and Most Vermont creations. The Creators' Choice award will be given to the entry that the contestants themselves vote as the most outstanding creation.

Refreshments will be on sale to encourage everyone to stay and view the different entries, as well as to share ideas and techniques dur-

At 12:30, LEGO prizes will be may create an additional construction at a special LEGO station. They will not be able to remove their creation from the special area and won't be able to enter them in the contest, but this is a good opportunity for students to construct something different, perhaps with a friend, for some additional fun.

The registration form may be downloaded from Special Events at www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org, www. ourchester.org, or www.chestertelegraph.org. Printed forms are

Again this year, young people available at the Whiting Library on Main Street in Chester, at Chester-Andover Elementary School, and at the library and the elementary school in Grafton.

> Early registration by Friday, March 10, allows a discount on the entry fee. For information on registration, please contact Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or lbwillisct@ comcast.net.

> Sponsored for the sixth year by St. Luke's, the event will benefit both the church and the children's section of Chester's Whiting Library.

Weston Playhouse New Musical Award



Zack Zadek is the 2017 New Musical Award Winner.

(-RAYS & EXAMS

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WESTON, Vt. - Writer and composer Zack "Deathless" Zadeks has been chosen for the Weston Playhouse Theatre Company's 11 annual New Musical Award. Nominated by Iennifer Ashley Tepper of Feinstein's/54 Below, "Deathless" follows the road trip of a grieving family who are asking questions about life and death in the modern age in the face of the development of a pill that can prevent natural death.

Tepper describes "Deathless" as "an intimate, meaningful new musical driven by its original voice, moving score, and knowledge of the human heart."

Developed in part at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Goodspeed Musicals, Signature Theatre, and Merry Go Round Playhouse, "Deathless" is slated for a developmental production at Goodspeed's Norma Terris Theatre in

The only award of its kind in the country, the Weston New Musical Award brings the creator or creators of a promising new musical together

with a small ensemble of actors to rehearse and record selections from the winning score.

A free public concert of "Deathless" will be held at the Weston Playhouse on Saturday, March 4 at 8 p.m.. Weston Associate Artistic Director Michael Berresse will direct the concert reading, and Kurt Deutsch of Sh-K-Boom and Ghostlight Records will produce the free demo recording.

To acquire free tickets to the performance visit westonplayhouse.org.

A Cure for Cabin Fever

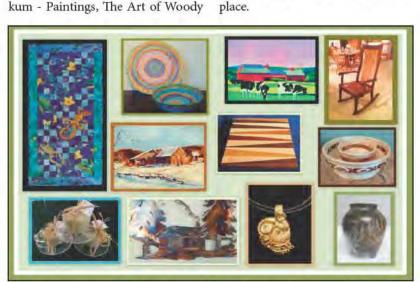
CHESTER, Vt. - Elise and Payne Jackson, Payne Junker Studios - Met-Junker would like to invite you to A Cure for Cabin Fever- a month long gathering of fine artists and craftsmen under one roof. Exhibit is open until Sunday, March 19.

Enjoy fine arts and craft works by a variety of artisans: Kathy Stone Sawdust Fired Pottery, Laurie Marechaux - Jewelry, Joe Langton -Turned Bowls, ClearLake Furniture -Hand Crafted Rocking Chairs, Susan Damone Balch - Quilting Arts, Beth Ezold - Fabric Bowls, Marcia Doc-

al Art, Mark Yuengling - Cutting Boards and Mary Ann Kearns - Lavender Beeswax Candles

Elise and Payne Junker are "Proud to invite this group of very talented folks to the Marketplace."

The 103 Artisans Marketplace is open Thursday - Monday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and located at 7 Pineview Rd & RT 103 South - Chester, VT 05143. Visit www.103artisansmarketplace. com, call 802-875-7400 or like them on Facebook at 103 Artisans Market-



11 artisans exhibit in the month long A Cure for Cabin Fever at 103 Artistans Marketplace through March 19.

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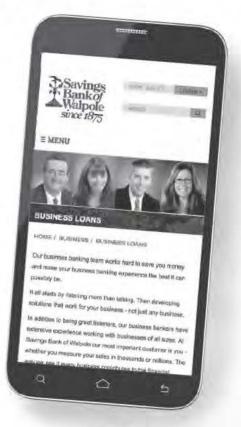
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Pushing the Limits of Survival discussion —

discussion on Pushing the Limits of Survival on Monday, February 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the Rockingham Library's top floor meeting room. Pushing the Limits of Survival is a four part reading, viewing and discussion program funded by the National Science Foundation. This program brings together books and video featuring authors, scientists and everyday people who thrive on exploring the natural world.

February's topic of discussion will be Pushing the Limits of Survival as developed in Paolo Bacigalupi's novel "The Water Knife" and explored in video clips with the author and every-

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Join the day people. Community discussion around science themes is the goal of this program. Retired marine biologist Peter Bergstrom will facilitate the discussion. A light meal will be provided by Jamaican Jewelz. Space is limited and registration is encouraged. Pick up a copy of "The Water Knife" by Paolo Bacigalupi at the library's front desk today!

> These events are free and open to the public. To register or more information, please go to rockinghamlibrary.org, call 802-463-4270, email programming@rockinghamlibrary. org or stop by the library at 65 Westminster St., Bellows Falls Vt.



The Vermont Journal/The Shopper

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Laila Hamdan, human rights accompanier in Guatemala —

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. - The state of human rights in Guatemala will be "on the menu" at the Human Rights Cafe on Saturday, Feb. 18, 9-11 a.m. in the Saxtons River Community Building. The cafe is a project of Christ's Church, 24 Main St., Saxtons River, welcoming all ages every Saturday morning with coffee and snacks.

Hamdan has recently returned from Guatemala, where she spent six months as a human rights accompanier with NISGUA's Guatemala Accompaniment Project. The Guatemala Accompaniment Project works to prevent repression of environmental and human rights activists. She was sponsored by a local committee, the NH-VT Guatemala Accompaniment Project (NH-VT G.A.P), and by a church in Needham, Mass.

During her six months in Guatemala, Hamdan and other accompaniers were requested to be present with communities who were seeking to regain their rights to the lands they and their families had fled during the conflicts of the 1980s. In addition,



A Guatemala landscape.

she supported the ongoing work of the survivors and witnesses to the genocidal violence, who are bringing its perpetrators to trial for their

She also accompanied communities resisting development projects, like the hydroelectric dams that members of rural communities in Huehuetenango were protesting. Serity forces and Guatemala's national civil police opened fire on the peaceful protesters and he was denied medical aid. His organization had requested accompani-

ment, but gov-

ernment forces

bastian Alonso

Juan was killed

on Jan. 17, when

secu-

private

and a roadblock kept away the network that coordinates accompaniers.

For the past 20 years, accompaniers sponsored by NH-VT G.A.P. have supported returned communities, court witnesses in the genocide cases, environmental activists, and others at risk, upon their request. NH-VT G.A.P., with members and supporters in southeastern Vermont and

southwestern New Hampshire, is one of several groups throughout the U.S. supporting such work in Guatemala, among similar supports from several other countries. The Guatemala Accompaniment Project is a program of NISGUA (Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala, nisgua.org).

Hamdan will be in our area from Feb. 13 through Feb. 23, speaking at various schools, colleges, churches, and organizations. She has a bachelor's degree (with honors) in women's and gender studies from Eastern Michigan University. As a Palestinian-American she has been active in women's rights, Palestinian rights, and solidarity with El Salvador.

Please contact Chris Hansen, marcuschristian@hotmail.com, 603-835-6190, if you want to schedule a presentation by Hamdan during the weeks of February 13-23, or if you want more information.

For information about the Human Rights Café, go to srcommunity.org or contact susan@srcommunity.org.



"North Shore" takes first place

Andover, Vermont artist Don Dalton's painting, "North Shore," has won first place in the upcoming "Shaken and Stirred" exhibition at the Copley Society of Art in Boston. The Copley Society is the oldest non-profit art association in the United States, with a history dating back to 1879. The Copley Society exhibition runs from February 23 - April 6. Mr. Dalton is a designated "Copley Artist" and has won numerous national and local awards for his watercolors. Don will also be part of a group show of artists at the Weston Playhouse in Weston on February 18 and 19 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. each day.

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EARING.

THAN THE GIFT OF

Enjoy dramatic comedy, "Broth"

PUTNEY, Vt. - At 7:30 p.m. on Friday, February 17, and Saturday, February 18, Landmark College will present a performance of "Broth," a dramatic comedy set in the late 1960s in a northeastern coastal town.

Full of feisty New England humor, the play follows the denizens of Nell's boarding house as they face a problem that could alter their lives, and their unlikely connection to one another. Set against the backdrop of pop culture, women's lib and the Vietnam War, "Broth" offers a lighthearted, homespun look at this time in American history.

Landmark College Assistant Pro- mately 90 minutes.

fessor Nevada Bromley, who initially developed a first draft for a workshop production with Landmark College students in 2011, wrote the play. The play was finished and presented as a staged reading by The Apron Theater Company in 2015. The upcoming performance will be the first fully staged performance of the completed

"Broth" will be performed at the Greenhoe Theater, located in the Fine Arts Building on the Landmark College campus at 19 River Road South, Putney, Vt. Free and open to the public, the play runs approxi-

ment with watercolor and

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by Diane Kemble with assis-

tance from other art enthusi-

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Sign up for the art camps



Nevada Bromley left and Stage Manager Dorothea Gelb during the 2011 production of Broth.

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School vacation art camps at the VAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Two spaces Kemble and precision guilter, Bobbi urday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by are still available for Sewing Creations art camp to be held on Feb. 20, 21, and 23 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. They will be tie-dyeing fabric, cutting it into squares and using it to make beautiful quilted pillows. After the colorful fun of tie-dyeing, students will make a unique design from various tie-dyed squares and learn to sew their pillows on a sewing machine. They will also make other small projects by hand as time allows. This class is taught by Diane

Artist's reception at the library —

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - There will be a reception for Maya Drummond, on Saturday, February 18, at 11 a.m. at the South Londonderry Free Li-

Maya has reinvented herself many times over. She is a mother, innkeeper, artist and musician. Maya has worked in a variety of mediums over the years including watercolor, oil, acrylic and silk painting, tile art and ceramic glazing, hand-hooked rugs and beaded batik lamp shades.

Maya enjoys playing the violin and composing original music for it. She teaches violin at The Londonderry Inn and performs with other musicians around town, always looking to jam with others.

On display at the library are some of her colorful acrylic paintings and hand decorated lampshades. At the reception Maya will play her violin and perform some of her original compositions. It is hoped that other musicians will be on hand - Judy Cyr playing the library's organ, Sean Dunn on banjo and possibly a trumpet player. Others are welcome to just show up!

Enjoy the cozy surroundings, meet the artist, view her art and listen to toe-tapping music. Refreshments will be served. Call 802-824-3371 for more information.

calling 885-7111. Looking to birds for our Inspiration For further information contact of Birds art camp to be held on April Diane at dkemble@vermontel.net.

17, 18, and 20 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Both art camps are open to children Campers will look at the glorious age 7 and up. Cost includes all matepatterns and colors of feathers under rials. Scholarships are available. a microscope. What we see will inspire us as we experi-



PHOTO BY RICHARD COFRANCESCO



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ence in your ability to achieve your important financial goals. Under what circumstances might vou receive some "found" money? You could get a year-end bonus from your employer, or a sizable tax refund, or even an inheritance. However the money comes to you, don't let it slip through your fingers. Instead, consider these two moves: investing the money or using it to pay off debts. Which of these choices should you

pick? There's no one right answer, as everyone's situation is different. But here are a few general consider-

· Distinguish between "good" and "bad" debt. Not all types of debt are created equal. Your mortgage, for example, is probably a "good" form of debt. You're using the loan for a valid purpose - i.e., living in your house and you likely get a hefty tax deduction for the interest you pay. On the other hand, nondeductible consumer debt that carries a high interest rate might be considered "bad" debt - and this is the debt you might want to reduce or eliminate when you receive some extra money. By doing so, you can free up money to save and invest for retirement or other goals.

· Compare making extra mortgage payments vs. investing. Many of us get some psychological benefits by making extra house payments. Yet, when you do have some extra money, putting it toward your house may not be the best move. For one thing, as mentioned above, your mortgage can be considered a "good" type of debt, so you may not need to rush to pay it off. And from an investment standpoint, your home is somewhat "illiquid" - it's not always easy to get money out of it. If you put your extra money into traditional investments, such as stocks and bonds, you may increase your growth potential, and you may gain an income stream through interest payments and dividends.

· Consider tax advantages of investing. Apart from your mortgage, your other debts likely won't provide you with any tax benefits. But you can get tax advantages by putting money into certain types of investment vehicles, such as a traditional or Roth IRA. When you invest in a traditional IRA, your contributions may be deductible, depending on your income, and your money grows on a tax-deferred basis. Keep in mind that taxes will be due upon

withdrawals, and any withdrawals you make before you reach 59 and a half may be subject to a 10 percent IRS penalty. Roth IRA contributions are not deductible, but your earnings are distributed tax-free, provided you don't take withdrawals until you reach 59 and a half and you've had your account at least five years.

Clearly, you've got some things to ponder when choosing whether to use extra money to pay off debts or invest. Of course, it's not always an either-or-situation; you may be able to tackle some debts and still invest for the future. In any case, use this money wisely - you weren't necessarily counting on it, but you can make it count for you.

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

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sports



BY BILL MURPHY

The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

School winter vacation is quickly approaching. If you have any connection with public schools, you know that it seems like the schools have already had their winter vacation. The constant snow days and delayed openings make it almost appear like kids are never in school. Which isn't anything like the old days.

When I was a kid, I didn't know what a snow day was. Honest. I believe, by the time I graduated from high school, school had been closed for weather circumstances, four or less times in my twelve years. I am telling the truth, that I didn't know what a snow day was. The term snow day, as far as I know, hadn't been invented yet.

Those three or four days, in which school was closed in those twelve years, the storms were so bad, that the storm was the focus, not the closing of school. Digging out was the only concern.

This "look the other way" approach with storms back then carried over to the sports world. There were postponements in those days, but I believe the only basketball postponements were when school was closed; therefore they were few and far between. It was not one bit unusual for a team to head out in a snowstorm to play a game and the good news is, those bus drivers did a good job. I don't remember any accidents. Good or bad, that was certainly a different time.

This year's bad weather started quite a trend a few weeks ago. Tuesdays are usually a very busy basketball night on the calendar and lately, every Tuesday a storm would knock out a slate of games. The postponements have reached such a level (this week it was Monday that was wiped clean by a storm), that the backlog of games on some dates has created discussions of some daytime games being played during vacation. This is almost unprecedented.

While sitting here writing this column, my thoughts drifted to how many changes there have been in basketball scheduling over the years. In my good old days, there were bigger crowds all the time. The biggest reason was it was the only game in town.

Way back then 95 percent of all games were played on Tuesday and Friday nights. People might have done their shopping or played Bingo, Crippage, cards or whatever on another night, but those two nights were reserved for basketball and the whole town turned out. However, only the boys played at night.

Unfortunately, the girls were given second-class status and went relatively unnoticed. In Bellows Falls, where I grew up, they packed the gym for the prime time boys' games. The girls, who were slotted into a 4 p.m. afternoon game time, when the community was still at work, would be very lucky to attract 50 fans. Even more unfortunate is the fact, few people complained about this injustice. It was accepted as the way things were.

In addition, the girls' game was not played the same way as the boys. There were more restrictions and was a half court game. More girls were allowed to play though; there were six. Pay close attention as I explain the game.

Only four of the girls were allowed to score. The other two were not allowed to pass the midcourt line. Honestly. It was basically a four on four game at both ends of the floor. Two players could only play offense and must stay at the offensive end all the time and two of the players could only play defense and must play at the defensive end of the court at all times. Your two most versatile athletes would be allowed to cross the midcourt line and would compete on both offense and defense.

If you are a thinker and are used to thinking outside of the box, you are already saying, 'I know players today, female and male, who fit those rolls perfectly. The player who can score, but cannot or chooses not to defend, or the player, who is a great defender/rebounder and has trouble scoring. Back then, in the girls' game, only two of the six players, needed to play at both ends of the floor. Back then, people knew and accepted their rolls much faster.

Looking to spring- The Connecticut River Valley Baseball League is meeting this week and the adult league is likely to have a perfect eight teams this summer. There are likely to be some changes though. Whispers tell us that Newport and Sunapee are unlikely to return, but, the Connecticut Valley Ironmen are coming onboard from the Green Mountain League with hopes the Saxtons River Pirates will join them, if they field a team at all. Here's hoping they will.

Walpole will still have two teams in the league and they return with the old staples from Putney, Brattleboro, Claremont and Keene. This is the closest thing we all have left to the great days of the old Connecticut Valley League in high school sports and the natural alignment will hopefully be preserved.

Springfield field hockey champs get their title jackets

BY BILL MURPHY

The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Springfield field hockey team received their state championship jackets during a ceremony on Monday night, February 6 at halftime of the Springfield-Windsor Boys basketball game. The tremendous fall season ended in high-level excitement as the Cosmos shutout Woodstock 1-0 in the title contest.

We owe a big apology to one of those Cosmo players, freshman Miranda Todt, who we inadvertently left out of our salute story on the team. Coach Lyndsie Perkins says the freshman back-up defender, "grew as a player as the season went along."

Sorry Miranda. Wear that jacket proudly.

Springfield Girls Basketball team is progressing

BY BILL MURPHY

The Shopper

SPRINGFEILD, Vt. - The Springfield Girls Basketball team sits in the sixteenth position in this morning's Vermont Division II State Basketball standings. This means, if the play-offs began this morning, the Lady Cosmos would be on the road to face top seeded Lyndon Institute in the first round of the play-offs. So what?

More than ever before, schedules in some sports, especially basketball, are really difficult to put together. The fact is the Lady Cosmos face one of the most difficult schedules of any teams in the state for a school their size. This is one factor that puts the Green and White at 3-9 at the moment. There are plenty of good things going on with Lady Cosmos basketball when the schedule doesn't get in the way.

When we last did a story on this team, they were 1-3. They have gone 2-6 since then. They have at the very least been symmetrically

consistent. The focal point of their season has been their two games with archrival Bellows Falls. They lost both games in overtime. The bottom line is both teams were almost created equal and a lesser schedule has BF with a much better record. Unfortunately this time, that's the luck of a divisional choice, which will be corrected in the future. One always asks about that team that faces tough opposition every time out: does it make you better? No one knows the answer for sure.

The 2-6 stretch of games began with a win over Randolph. Hannah Crosby, who has emerged an a certified go to player, had a season high 23 in that game with Hailey Perham's 9 helping a great deal. Then a couple of one-sided losses to power teams, Mount Anthony 72-28 and Windsor 49-31 found their way on the slate. Cassidy Otis' 9 paced the Cosmos in the MAU loss, while Perham had 16 and Otis 6 versus Windsor. The first of the two BF games followed, a 45-38 overtime match-up. Otis was once again high scorer with 14 and Crosby had 10.

The Cosmos then split a pair of



Madee Stagner does a little of this and a little of that to help the cause of the Springfield Girls Basketball team this winter. She played a strong game versus

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



Springfield's Hannah Crosby off on the go to create Lady Cosmos offense. As a sophomore, she is the teams leading scorer.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

games in which they played well, bowing to Otter Valley 51-42 before defeating Burr + Burton 45-42 in a strange game in which they rebounded from a 19-2 deficit. The Cosmos had a 36-35 lead with 4:45 in to play in the loss, a game in which Crosby's 19 led the way, while Crosby had 22 and Madee Stagner added 9 and played an all around stellar game in the Burr + Burton victory. Stagner got in foul trouble early, but after she sat for a while, Coach Joe Costello decided to roll the dice and play her. Her added contributions on the boards and with defense sparked the win, which took an 18-4 run to spark the triumph.

In the final two games in the stretch, first came the second overtime loss to BF, this one in double overtime 48-46 and then a hard fought 42-28 defeat at Mill River. Crosby continued to lead scorers in the most recent contests tallying 20 and 14 respectively. Freshman Hailey Perham scored 12 versus

BF and Costello sees her "gaining in responsibility," as the season goes along. Otis added 6 points in the Mill River game when Costello mentioned "we came out strong and took a 14-6

The reality is, the team lacks the confidence and the experience to hold on to such an advantage at this

There are eight games remaining on Springfield's schedule however most of the opponents are of the bigger variety. The good news "is that they are growing," Costello assures us, but one may wonder if this group has the stamina to hold on to pull a major upset on another night when they run out to a Mill River type lead.

Next year the schedule will be more realistic which is something for these Cosmos to look forward to. A big upset down the stretch is needed to allow the seniors to really see that

Green Mountain girls hoops fighting for homecourt

BY BILL MURPHY

The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt - What awaits the Green Mountain Union High School Girls Basketball team? Coach Terry Farrell has a relatively young squad, which has three contributing seniors, but what formula will be necessary for the Lady Chieftains to finish strong and put themselves in a position to win a game or more in the post season?

The season started out well. Farrell's team was at once 5-1 and then later, a very respectable 6-3. Soon things turned sour. Long before the losses began on the court, GM suffered a setback they still have not recovered from - the loss of multi-dimensional sophomore Rachel Guerra. The workmanlike Guerra, who can score points, is much more important as a jackknife type player. The one who plays defense, rebounds and does other intangibles, that many players don't see worth doing.

The rest of the roster is a neat one to have, however without Guerra, or any one of the other

main contributors, the remaining pieces are not strong enough together, to play game after game, without having lapses. The overall lack of depth will eventually rear its head and in this case it has. Seniors Kassidy Cummings, Hanna Veysey and Sarah Rogers and sophomores Paige Karl, Anne Lamson and Maya Lewis along with freshman Madison Wilson are all vital pieces, yet each intangible piece makes this team so much better.

When we last visited Farrell's team, they were standing 3-1. Since then, they started out with back-toback victories over Long Trail 61-16 and Sharon 49-44 and then stubbed their toe against a Woodstock team 47-40, which they expected to defeat. Lamson tallied 15, 14 and 14 in those three games and was in quite an offensive groove. Cummings was able to come up with 13 in the two triumphs, while Karle helped with 9 in the Long Trail victory and Veysey added 10 in the Sharon success. Lewis tallied 8 in the Woodstock

Green Mountain split their next two games, bowing to Hartford 47-35 and then defeating Bellows Falls



Green Mountain #10 Anne Lamson driving towards the hoop.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

53-40 at home. Cummings with 11 and 10 respectively led the point parade versus the Hurricanes, while Cummings 21, with an additional 9 points from both Lamson and Veysey pushed them over the top in the meeting with the Terriers. Since that time, it has been five up and five down for the team.

The streak began against a powerhouse Mount Saint Joseph team that is basically rolling through their schedule 62-35. Lewis' 9 and Veysey's 8 was the highest point total Farrell's team could muster in that one. The ladies from the Chester school played well against a very good and consistent Leland + Gray team next,

but lost to the present seventh seed. Two losses to Bellows Falls followed, with a defeat at the hands of the top seed in Division III Windsor in between. The Terrier defeats were by the scores of 39-30 and 60-51 and in both games there were moments where it looked as though the Chieftains would come out on top. The Yellow Jackets were in control all the way in their 59-29 victory.

"You want to win some of those

games," Farrell noted of his teams closer losses, going on to say, "Even with our record where it is, we are better than we were last year. We are headed in the right direction."

Lewis' 15-point total in the second BF contest was the only double figure performance in the teams' last three outings. Lamson with 7 and Lewis with 6 were the top point producers in the first game with Bellows Falls and then Rogers had 8 to lead the way versus Windsor.

Now the team sits at 6-8. They are 12 in the Vermont Division III ranks. Their eyes are on the eighth spot, which would bring a home play-off, game, but that is a big task to climb that far in the last third of the season. Both Leland + Gray and West Rutland are big hills to climb in remaining games. The remaining encounters with Woodstock, Twin Valley and a pair with Poultney, leave hope that a strong finish would land this team a home game.

Farrell is correct that improvement can be measured. A completely healthy team might allow them to take an even bigger step.



#4 Kassidy Cummings of Green Mountain with the ball had a team high 21 in a victory over Bellows Falls.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

Black Cyan Magenta Vollow

chester

CHESTER WINTER CARNIVAL: FRIDAY, FEB. 17 - SUNDAY, FEB. 19

FRIDAY, FEB. 17:

5 - 8 P.M

The family-friendly activities start with dinner and a movie for kids at Chester-Andover Elementary School and Paint Night for adults at Endless Creations Pottery Studio, with light snacks provided.



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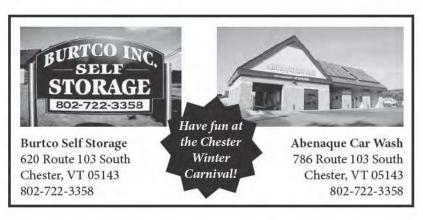
11 A.M.

Disc golf, cross-country skiing and sledding will begin at the Pinnacle



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STAFF PHOTO



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SATURDAY, FEB. 18:

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Broom hockey tournament

5-8 P.M.

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SUNDAY, FEB. 19:

The Chester and Proctorsville fire departments will face off in a hockey game at Pinnacle.

TBA:

Another game in the afternoon at Grevens, weather and rink condition permitting.

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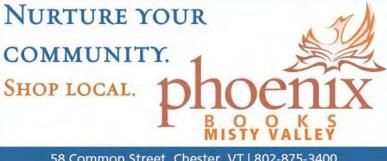


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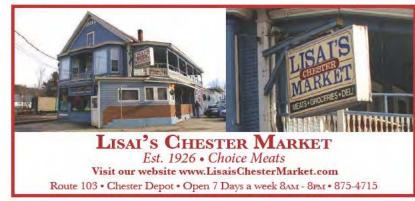
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outdoor news

Nature Museum at Grafton announces winter speakers —

seum today announced the first of its year-round public program speaker series for adults featuring preeminent speakers who will address issues related to biology, earth science and natural history. The winter lineup will feature nationally known naturalist and distinguished wildlife tracker, Sue Morse; biologist, field naturalist and writer, Bryan Pfeiffer; award winning author and organic orchardist, Michael

Celebrating its third season this year, the year-long speaker series

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WELLS & PUMPS

GRAFTON, Vt. - The Nature Mu- is aimed at heightening awareness and understanding of the planet's most valuable natural resources and threats posed due to climate

First up is Sue Morse, nationally known naturalist, wildlife biologist and photographer, and executive director of Keeping Track, who will present a program entitled, Animals of the North, What Will Global Climate Change Mean for Them? This program will be presented on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. at the Cavendish Elementary School, 573 Main Street, Proctorsville. The

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presentation includes remarkable images of animals in both the arctic and northern habitats.

The second speaker in the series is Bryan Pfeiffer, biologist, field naturalist and writer, who will present Birds, Butterflies, Backyards and Beyond, a fresh view of the wild right outside your backdoor. The program is slated for Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 7 p.m. at Newsbank Conference Center, 352 Main Street, Chester, Vt. With vivid images from nature and tales from the frontiers of wildlife science, Pfeiffer will offer practical advice for creating wildlife habitat in our own backyards and developing a wildlife ethic on a warming planet.

On Friday, March 10, organic orchardist Michael Phillips, winner of the American Horticultural Society Book Award, will present, Growing Healthy Fruit Trees and Berries the Biological Way. This program will take place at 7:00 p.m. at News-

Center, 352 Main Street, Chester, Vt. The following morning Phillips will offer a workshop entitled, Creating a Fruitful Landscape: A Field Intensive, for a maximum of ten people. The field workshop will take place at Soul Song Farm on Saturday, March 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Chester, Vt.

The Nature Museum is co-sponsoring these two events with Michael Phillips' Soul Song Farm of Chester, owned by Jeff Hanavan and Kate Lun-

series is geared for adults and children over 10. Light refreshments

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call 802-843-2111.

The Nature Museum is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. every Thursday, year-round. The Nature Museum at Grafton focuses on the region's plants, animals, and geology. Hands-on exhibits, dioramas, and mounted specimens engage learners of all ages and connect visitors to the natural world in New England. Visitors can crawl through an underground bear den; dig for fossils; find out about bats, bees, and catamounts; and learn about animal adaptations by dressing up

de. The Nature Museum's speaker will be served. For more informa- as their favorite creature. Gift store tion and to purchase tickets, please offers engaging books, and other go to www.nature-museum.org or nature-inspired wonders.

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departments will be battling on the ice —

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> The leader can refuse anyone who doesn't show up with appropriate clothing or gear.



Okemo's got snow

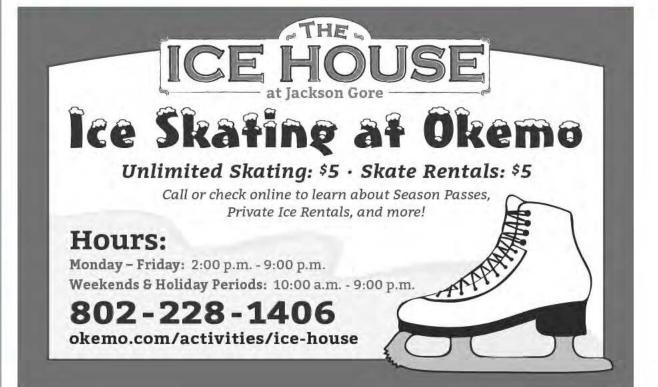
Okemo has recieved plenty of snow recently; over a foot of snow! So get out there and hit the slopes!

PHOTO BY SHAWNTAE STILLWELL

Check the Snow Report at www.VermontJournal.com

ORT	MONDAY, JAN. 13, 2017			
Lifts	Snow Depth	Snowfall		
12 / 20	34"	12" (2/13)		
13 / 16	50"	12" (2/13)		
15 / 21	36"	8" (2/13)		
12 / 12	35"	8" (2/13)		
2/4	36"	0" (2/13)		
	12 / 20 13 / 16 15 / 21 12 / 12	Lifts Snow Depth 12 / 20 34" 13 / 16 50" 15 / 21 36" 12 / 12 35"		

Click on a mountain to open a more detailed report in a new tab, providing ticket prices, trail details & maps, and more!



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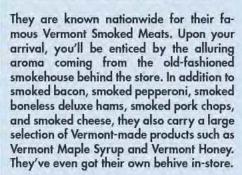
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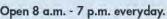
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747-9950 North Clarendon or (802) 824-3677 Londonderry or thestovedepot@comcast.net to reserve yours now! TFN

Black Cyan Magenta

TOWN OF CHESTER WARNING NOTICE OF TOWN MEETING

The Legal Voters of the TOWN OF CHESTER are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Chester Town Hall, Second Floor in said Town of Chester on Monday, March 6, 2017, at 6:00 pm., to act on the following Articles. Voting on Article 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be by Australian ballot on March 7, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall Second Floor.

ARTICLE 1: To elect Town Officials for the ensuing year as provided by the Public Laws of Vermont and citizens to serve on the Budget Committee (Australian Ballot).

ARTICLE 2: Shall general obligation bonds of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$235,000.00), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-sid, be issued for the purpose of purchasing the following capital items: \$135,000.00 to repair the large culvert on Popple Dungeon Road; \$100,000.00 to make improvements to Route 35. (Australian Ballot)

ARTICLE 3: Shall general obligation bonds of the Town of Chester in an amount not to

exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dellars (\$500,000,00), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of purchasing a new Pumper Truck for the Fire Department.

(Australian Ballot)

ARTICLE 4: Shall general oblig:

ARTICLE 4: Shall general obligation bonds of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Dollars (\$185,000.00), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of purchasing the following capital items: \$25,000.00 to replace the pumps at the town pool for the recreation department; \$110,000.00 to purchase a tractor with a roadside mower and leaf blower for the highway department; \$50,000.00 to repair the handicap access ramp at town hall. (Australian Ballot)

ARTICLE 5 To see if the Town will yote to eliminate the office of town auditor. The town is audited annually by a certified public accountant. (Australian Ballot)

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to eliminate the office of Lister, effective January 1, 2018. This position would be replaced by a professionally qualified assessor. (Australian Ballot)

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to accept gifts and trust funds for perpetual care of cemetery lots in accordance with conditions of said gifts and trusts as follows:

Nelson and Sherry Smith, \$1,000.00; Georgeann and Donald Turner, \$500.00;
Frederick Salo, \$500.00.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise \$2,876,502.11 to be paid to the Chester
Town Treasurer on September 15, 2017, to pay current expenses and any part of

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to expend from the Capital Budget Reserve Fund, \$333,100.00 to be allocated as follows: \$125,000.00 for the purchase of a new dump truck for the highway department; \$49,600.00 for the Loader lease for the highway department; \$20,600.00 for the purchase of a new pickup truck for the highway department; \$55,000.00 for the excavator loan for the highway department; \$18,500.00 for the purchase of airpaks for the fire department; \$45,000.00 for the purchase of a cruiser for the police department; \$20,000.00 for the library repairs; all as indicated on the Capital Budget Program schedule

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of five years, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of five years, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$ 8,649.00 to the Springfield Regional Development Convention.

occupied by the Green Mountain Softball League.

ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to Pennies for the Playground (501(c)(3) nonprofit) organization for the renewal of the Chester Community Playground at Chester Andover Elementary School in accordance with 24 V.S.A. \$2691.

ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$2500 (two thousand five hundred dollars) to support the Chester Fireworks for Labor Day weekend, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 269L

ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THIRTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVEN DOLLARS (\$13,807) to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH. This article is by petition.

ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND AND FORTY FOUR DOLLARS (\$3,044) to help support outpatient, mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc. This article is by petition.

ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND FORTY
DOLLARS (\$3,040) to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)
to assist Chester in responding to the emergency needs of the community and
providing all available and applicable services to families and individuals in
need. This article is by petition.

ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$900) to the Women's Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to women and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the Town. This article is by petition,

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,200.00) for the support of Senior Solutions (formerly Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont) for help to support seniors and their families who are trying to remain at home and not be placed in a nursing home. This article is by petition.

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$2,700 (two thousand seven hundred dollars) to assist with the cost of operating the Meals on Wheels Program of Greater Springfield that provides daily hot and cold congregate and home delivered meals and other nutritional needs to the qualified residents of Chester. This article is by petition.

ARTICLE 21: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$2,250 (two thousand two hundred fifty dollars) for the support of the Current operated by Connecticut River Transit, Inc., to provide transit services to the residents of the Town of Chester. This article is by petition.

ARTICLE 22: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$800 (eight hundred dolfars) to support Windsor County Partners, for youth mentoring services provided to children in Windsor County. This article is by petition.

ARTICLE 23: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$400 (four hundred dollars) to Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community of Chester through volunteer service. This article is by

ARTICLE 24: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,800.00) toward the support of the Community Cares Network of Chester and Andover, Inc., a non-profit organization which provides services to senior citizens, helping them to stay in their homes longer safely. This article is

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town of Chester will appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000) to assist in the services of the Chester-Andover Family Center for individuals and families in need. This article is by petition.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of taxes to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's indebtedness.

ARTICLE 27: To act on the reports of the Town Officers for the year ending December 31, 2016.

ARTICLE 28: To transact any other business deemed proper when met, not including the expenditures of Town Funds or other business acted upon in the preceding Articles.

Dated at Chester, Vermont on this 1974 day of January, 2017.

by petition.

/s/ John DeBenedetti, Chairman

s/Ben Whalen

S. Cole /s/ Dan Cote

/s/ Heather Chase

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

FRIDAY, FEB. 17-

WINHALL, Vt. - Special intro to Tai Chi class: to discover, share a soft practice and relax. Class taught by Djemila Cavanaugh. For more info or to learn about the upcoming weekly class, call Djemila at (802) 490-0225, email: djem.translator@gmail.com or check updates on FaceBook: Djem's Tai Chi classes

SATURDAY, FEB. 18-BRATTLEBORO, Vt. - Past Lives, Dreams and Soul Travel from 2 - 3 p.m. Discover your true purpose, and learn how to find greater love and spiritual freedom through an understanding of the unique opportunities available to each of us today. Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St. More info: www.eckankar-vt.org, 800-772-9390.

CHESTER, Vt. - Have you ever wanted to learn the art of Bookmaking? Intro to Codex Binding on Saturday, February 18th. Both classes run from 12 – 3 p.m. All materials are included in the cost. These workshops are best suited for ages 8+. For more information, contact Emily Burkland at Community Art Garden theartgardenvt@gmail.com or (802) 289-3071 or check their website to enroll in one of the classes or get more information about Chester, VT's own little community ART studio! www.communityartgarden.com

TUESDAY, FEB. 21 -WEDNESDAY, FEB. 23-SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - SAPA TV and Springfield Town Library are teaming up to offer a fun, three-day video production class series for kids 10 and up. We will learn how to navigate a camera, how to set up video equipment and learn about the basics of audio recording. If you are interested, please e-mail asah@sapatv. org or call (802) 885-3108 for more information or to sign up. This class is free will be held at Springfield Town Library located at 43 Main Street, Springfield Vt. Class time is

TOWN OF CHESTER INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Chester has been awarded a Hazard Mitigation Grant from FEMA for the purpose of two home/property buyouts due to damage caused by Tropical Storm Irene and the storms of July, 2014. The Town of Chester is seeking qualified bidders to perform an Asbestos Inspection of two separate properties located in Chester, Vermont. Both properties are single family residences located across the street from each other.

Please contact Julie Hance at the Chester Town Office for further information regarding the individual properties at (802) 875-2173 or jhchester@vermontel.net.

All bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope labeled "Asbestos Inspection" with the property address. Each property should be bid separately. The bids should reflect the amount of time anticipated to issue a complete report.

Bids should be forwarded to the Town Manager's Office, 556 Elm Street (P.O. Box 370) Chester, VT 05143, on or before 12:00 noon on February 22, 2017.

TOWN OF WESTON NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of property in the Town of Weston, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont, are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town for municipal property taxes for the 2015 and 2016 calendar years and for school district property taxes for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 tax years remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described property located in Weston, to wit:

It being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Dorcas Anne Clemney Sharp by Quitclaim Deed of Highfield Venturers, LLC, dated September 11, 2009 and recorded on September 16, 2009 in Book 78 at Page 36 of the Weston Land Records. [Parcel #205108-00; E-911 address: 5452 Landgrove Road]

And pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5254, so much of said property will be sold at public auction at the Weston Town Office, a public place located on Lawrence Hill Road in the Town of Weston, on the 1st day of March, 2017, at 10:00 o'clock in the morning, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs, unless previously paid.

Dated at Weston, Vermont this 27th day of January, 2017. Sandra M. Goodwin, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

TOWN OF WESTON ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT NOTICE OF HEARING - APPLICATION FOR CONDITIONAL USE

Owner: Alexander J & Kimberly J Price Applicant: Matt Belden, Daniels Construction Property Address: 950 RT 100, Weston VT Parcel ID#: 090152.00 Application #: ZP-CU-2-17

Matt Belden, VP Structures, Daniels Construction has submitted an Application for Conditional Use on behalf of Alexander J & Kimberly J Price, owners of 950 RT 100, Weston, VT, to construct a bridge to cross the West River in a Special Flood Hazard Area.

The Town of Weston Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a hearing on this application on Monday, March 6, 2017 at 7:30, to be followed by a Site Visit at 950 RT 100, Weston VT if determined to be appropriate at the time.

By February 19, 2017, a copy of the Application for Conditional Use for a bridge to cross the West River in a Special Flood Hazard Area and additional information may be obtained at the Weston Town Office.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Dated at Weston, Vermont this 9th day of February, 2017.

Charles Goodwin Acting Zoning Administrator Town of Weston 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. each day – with breaks for snacks!

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.

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY-WALPOLE, N.H. - Pam
Bernard announces the beginning 8-week sessions of writing and reading memoir workshops at her home in Walpole, NH. Please email pam@pambernard.com, or visit www.pambernard.com or call for more information. 603.756.4177. February 27, 12 - 3 p.m. Wednesdays: January 11 - March 1, 1 - 4

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

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 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

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - EdgarMay Open Play Group 10 - 11:30 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

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - 2 hour art classes. BYO refreshments & appetizers. 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Art & Paint Parties with Kim Ray: 2/21- Clay Whistles, 3/7- Paint Your Favorite Animal, 3/21-Graphite drawing, 4/4 - Still Life Painting, 4/18- Feng Shui painting. Contact Jane Mackugler for her Art Adventures classes 802-824-5974 / jmackugler@gmail. com. Art Adventures with Jane Mackugler: 3/14- Needle felting, 4/11- Alcohol Inks. Contact Kim Ray for her Art & Paint Parties at 802-824-6555 / Kim@kimraymurals.com Classes will take place at the Mountain Painters & Artisans Gallery at the Mountain Marketplace, 5700 Route 100.

WEDNESDAYS -BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Play Group at First Baptist Church

TOWN OF GRAFTON INVITE TO BID

The Town of Grafton, Vermont is seeking sealed bids for furnishing the Town with the following piece of equipment for the Highway Department.

One (1) Tractor and Over the Rail Mower Bid Sealed competitive bids will be received at the Grafton Selectmen's Office, PO Box 180, Grafton, Vermont 05146 on or before March 3, 2017 by 4:00 pm. Bids will be opened at our regularly scheduled Selectman's Meeting at 6:00 pm, March 6, 2017. Faxed bids will not be accepted. Bids received after that time will not be opened and will be returned to bidder.

Further information and complete specifications may be obtained from Danny Taylor, Road Foreman at the Highway Garage, 220 Bell Road, Grafton, Vermont (802) 843-2456.

Conditional Use Permit/Site Plan Review Hearing Notice

TOWN OF WESTON NOTICE OF JOINT HEARING FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT/SITE PLAN REVIEW

Robert Jordan, applicant for Kinhaven Music School, of 354 Lawrence Hill Road, Weston, has submitted an application for a Conditional Use Permit and Site Plan Review for property located at 354 Lawrence Hill Road in the Town of Weston. The proposed project is described as follows: "Addition to Dining Hall."

The Town of Weston Zoning Board of Adjustment & Planning Commission will hold a joint hearing on this application on March 6, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Weston Town Offices. By February 19, 2017 a copy of the application and additional information may be obtained at: the Weston Town Offices, 98 Lawrence Hill Road Weston,

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Dated at Weston, Vermont this 9th day of February, 2017. Charles Goodwin

Acting Zoning Administrator Town of Weston, Vermont



TOWN OF WESTMINSTER P.O. BOX 147 WESTMINSTER, VT 05158 Tel. 802-722-4255 Fax 802-722-9816

SELECTBOARD WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL 3651 US Rt. 5, Westminster, Vermont Notice of Public Hearing

Supplement to the Town Plan Version 6.2

The Selectboard will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at the Town Hall, 3651 US Route 5, Westminster, VT, to take comments on the supplement to the Westminster "Town Plan Version 6.2." for approval.

With assistance from the Windham Regional Commission and general public participation, the Planning commission have determined the Westminster Town Plan Supplement, as proposed, is consistent with the goals established in Section 4385 of title 24 V.S.A.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comments on the supplement and to discuss any comments provided by the public.

The full text of the Supplement to the Town Plan Version 6.2 may be examined and/or obtained at the Town Office during regular business hours or viewed on the Town's website, www.westminstervt.org.

Dated at Westminster, Vermont, this 1st of February, 2017. Westminster Planning Commission

LEGAL NOTICES

calendar

CLASSES CONT.

WEDNESDAYS CONT. 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.

BELLOWS, FALLS, Vt. -Wednesdays beginning Feb. 15 - March 15 is the Celtic Knotwork Course. There is a class fee. Held at Currier Hall, 12 Church St., Bellows Falls. Call for more information 802-460-0110 or visit http://www. stonechurcharts.org

CAVENDISH, Vt. -From 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., there will be a Tai Chi beginners' class at DG Bodyworks, 7 Depot St. in Cavendish/Proctorsville, Vt., next to the Post Office at the corner of Rte 131 and Depot St. There is a monthly tuition cost. To learn more, contact Djemila at (802) 490-0225, by email: djem.translator@ gmail.com or check for updates on FaceBook: https://www. facebook.com/gemstaichi/

CHESTER, Vt. - Liza Eaton, founder of Buddhaful Yoga, will be offering A Gentle Flow Kundalini Yoga class for beginners every Wednesday 9:30 – 11 a.m. You will be encouraged to go at your own pace and listen to your body. Both classes are held at the Fullerton Inn, on the Chester Green, For more information visit www.buddhafulyoga.com or call (802)875-2868.

THURSDAYS -

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - EdgarMay Open Play Group 10 - 11:30 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

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - Active Parenting is a great workshop for parents of kids of any age, especially tweens and teens. The workshop runs on Thursdays, February 16 - March 9 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. (except February 23) at The Collaborative, 91 VT Route 11, Londonderry, behind Flood Brook School. Participants will learn skills to help with clear communication, new ways to handle online safety and set screen times, conflict management and mindfulness techniques. This six-week workshop is free and each participant receives a workbook. Dinner

and childcare provided with preregistration by calling The Collaborative at 824-4200.

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-

FRIDAYS -

CHESTER, Vt. - Liza Eaton, founder of Buddhaful Yoga, will be offering Kundalini Yoga Dance every Friday 9:30 – 11 a.m. Held at the Fullerton Inn, on the Chester Green. For more information visit www. buddhafulyoga.com or call (802)875-2868.

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

SATURDAYS -

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - EdgarMay Open Play Group 10 - 11:30 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

SUNDAYS -

WALLINGFORD, Vt. -Experience the joy of restoring movement to all areas of your body at the Wallingford Elementary School from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Classes & Workshops will include experiential anatomy and a variety of yoga practices, courtesy of 5 instructors! Beginners and experienced welcome. Dress warmly. There is a fee for participation. A portion of the proceeds will directly benefit: WES General Scholarship Fund; Green Hill Cemetery; Wallingford Bike Safety Day. Call 802-446-2499 to register. 3/5, 3/19, 4/2 Weekly updates available: www.facebook.com/ thrivecenterofthegreen mountains

CLUBS

TUESDAY, FEB. 21 WOODSTOCK, Vt. - The Freelance Family Singers Community Chorus will begin practicing for the chorus's May 6 and 7 concerts. The weekly Tuesday rehearsals are held at the First Congregational Church, 36 Elm St., from 7 - 9 p.m. All ages may participate and there are no auditions. There is a small participation fee with scholarships available. For more information, call Ellen Satterthwaite at 802-457-

COMMUNITY MEALS

EVERY THIRD SATURDAY -NO. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Ham Suppers the North Springfield Baptist Church, 69 Main Street from 4 to 7 p.m. Handicapped accessible. There is a fee for the meal. Children five and under free. Call 802-886-8107

EVENTS

FRIDAY, FEB. 17-LUDLOW, Vt. - Come to The Killarney located at 44 Pond St. and support two amazing causes! Lisa Marks runs for

The Dana Farber Marathon Challenge, Lora Miele for Tedy Bruschi's Marathon Team raising funds for the American Stroke Association. A portion of food sales, along with a 50/50 raffle running throughout the evening will benefit these two causes. Mark your calendar now! 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 18 -SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Springfield Art & Historical Society will present a program based on the book, Death by Petticoat, Historical Myths Debunked, by Mary Miley

10 p.m.

Theobald on at 2 p.m. at the Society's facility at 65 Route 106 in North Springfield. Notions such as, skirts catching fire was the major cause of women's death in colonial days or, when being painted, gentlemen tucked their hand into their jacket to save money. The 25 or so myths to be presented will include personal, culinary, household, and the arts. Come and find out which ones aren't true or aren't quite true. This program is free and open to the public. For more

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The EdgarMay is hosting a Dive-In. Children, ages 6 and up, are invited to attend an evening of swimming, pizza for dinner, water games, and an actionpacked comedy adventure movie playing poolside. Call for movie title and rating. Parents may register their children for three hours of supervised fun 5 - 8 p.m.. Pizza from The Subway restaurant, popcorn and beverages are also provided. Cost is per child. Members attend at half-price. Space

information, call 886-8430.

for 25 youth. Children under 6 are welcome to attend with an adult present. Register by calling 802-885-2568.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Join in on the coffee house hootenanny with an open mic. Doors open at 6:30, music starts at 7. This

is a family-friendly evening of music and fun. There is no cost to enjoy the music. Snacks and beverages available for purchase. Bring your instrument(s) and your voice and be part of the fun. Held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Road.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION BROWNFIELDS REUSE & ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY LIMITATION PROGRAM

Please take notice that Main Street Arts and Jim and Jane Macri whose address is PO Box 100, Saxtons River, VT is applying to the Vermont Brownfields Reuse and Environmental Liability Limitation Program (10 V.S.A. §6641 et seq.) in connection with the redevelopment of property known as 37 Main Street in the Town of Rockingham and Village of Saxtons River. A copy of the application, which contains a preliminary environmental assessment and a description of the proposed redevelopment project is available for public review at the Town of Rockingham Clerk's Office and at the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation offices in Montpelier. Comments concerning the above referenced documents, and the application generally, may be submitted to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Waste Management Division, 1 National Life Drive - Davis, Montpelier, VT 05620; attention: Trish Coppolino. Telephone inquiries may be directed to Vermont DEC at 802-828-1131.

TOWN OF CAVENDISH

WARNING OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING

February 28th, 2017

The legal voters of the Town of Cavendish, in the County of Windsor, are hereby notified and warned that an informational meeting will be held at the Cavendish Town Office, 37 High Street, Cavendish, Vermont at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, February 28th,

This meeting will afford voters the opportunity to get additional information on Article 2 of the Annual Town Meeting Warning. Article 2 reads as follows:

Shall the legal voters of the Town of Cavendish approve the issuance of a municipal bond in the amount not to exceed \$790,000 for the purpose of complete replacement of the Town Wastewater Treatment Plant Aeration

Article 2 is included on the Warning for the Town of Cavendish 2017 Annual Town Meeting which will be voted on by Australian Ballot on March 7th, 2017 between the hours of 10:00 am and 7:00 pm at the Cavendish Town Elementary School.

Dated at Cavendish, Vermont this 3Rb day of February, 2017.

Robert W. Glidden, Chairman

Received for record. February 3rd, 2017th at 3:45 PM Attest: Mare M. Mc Namara

ADVERTISEMENTS

PLEASE NOTE!

ALL ADVERTISEMENTS: **BOX/DISPLAY ADS, CLASSIFIEDS,** REAL ESTATE, AUTOMOTIVE, DINING, HOSPITALITY, ETCETERA **SHOULD BE SENT TO**

ADS@VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

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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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36 Lower in rank

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) The adventurous Aries won't be disappointed with taking on a new challenge, despite some initial misgivings. Look for this move to open other opportunities down the line. TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Let

that beautiful Bovine smile not only put you at ease, but also show that you're ready, willing and more than able to confound the naysayers around you. A new admirer has important news. GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Be

careful how you handle a relationship that you're hoping to save. You already have the facts on your side. Avoid weakening your position by embellishing it with unnecessary dramatics. CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Tak-

ing definitive stands isn't easy for the often-wavering Moon Child. But you not only need to stay with your decision, but also reassure others it was the right thing to do.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) As a proud Lion, you're right to be upset about those who might be lying about you to others. But the best revenge is proving them wrong by succeeding at what you set out to do.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Caution is still advised before making a financial commitment to a "promising" project. Look for the facts behind the fluff. Devote the weekend to loved ones

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A Taurus offers comfort and advice as you deal with an upsetting event. Use this as a learning experience that will help you avoid similar problems in the future. SCORPIO (October 23 to Novem-

ber 21) A romantic situation creates some chaos for single Scorpions, But it's well worth the effort to work things out. A trusted friend can offer some helpful advice. SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Expect to make new

friends as your social circle expands. Also, remember to tell that family member how proud you are of his or her achievements. CAPRICORN (December 22 to

January 19) New ventures continue to be favored. And with your self-confidence rising all the time, you'll want to see how well you can do with a new challenge. So, go to it.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) This is a good time for the usually "serious-minded" Aquarian to let loose and enjoy some fun times. Expect to get good news about a workplace issue.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Changed plans might upset some people, but your needs should be respected. Offer explanations when necessary. But don't let yourself be talked into changing your decisions.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a gift for bringing people together. You would make a fine judge or counselor.

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8B | February 15, 2017 calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

EVENTS CONT.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22-CAVENDISH, Vt. - Sue Morse of Keeping Track is giving a presentation at 7 - 9 p.m. at the Cavendish Elementary School. Talk entitled, "Animals of The North - What Will Global Climate Change Mean for Them?" Her program will enlighten the audience about the ways in which northern wildlife species are already being affected by climate change. Showcasing these animals' incredible beauty and strength with her cache of stunning photography. The program will be appealing for all ages, children and adults. Suggested donation.

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. - Sue Morse, nationally known naturalist, wildlife biologist and photographer will present a program entitled, Animals of the North, What Will Global Climate Change Mean for Them? This program will be presented at 7 p.m. at the Cavendish Elementary School, 573 Main Street. The presentation includes remarkable images of animals in both the arctic and northern habitats. For more information call 802-843-2111

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS-LUDLOW, Vt. - Pickup ice hockey is running every Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Ice House at Jackson Gore, It's just pickup, no stress, and no worry about skill level - just have

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.

fun. Please join us! Questions?

WESTMINSTER, Vt. - Scottish

Country Dance class, friendly,

during the school year, 7:30-

School. Contact Jessie Haas:

9:00 p.m., Westminster Center

(802)387-2601 or email kjh@

informal, and free. Meets

Contact 802-228-1406

WEDNESDAYS-

sover.net.

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.

WEEKLY-CHESTER, Vt. - Whiting Library, will host a new pop-up exhibition from the National

Archives, The Bill of Rights and You, commemorating the 225th anniversary of the ratification of this landmark document. This exhibit runs through March 2017. Please call the Library for more information at 802-875-2277, whitinglibrary@ yahoo and visit us Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10 a.m. -6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

CHESTER, Vt. - Come to Expo + Artisans + Craftsmen = A cure for cabin fever exhibit at 103 Artisans Marketplace. 7 Pineview Rd & RT 103 South 05143. Visit www.103artisansmarketplace. com or call 802-875-7400. Exhbit ends Sunday, March 19.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Rockingham Free Public Library will host a new pop-up exhibition from the National Archives, The Bill of Rights and You, commemorating the 225th anniversary of the ratification of this landmark document. This exhibit runs through February 28, 2017.

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TUESDAY FEB. 21 -LUDLOW, Vt. - Crafternoon at the Fletcher Memorial Library from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. will

be Mardi Gras themed. We'll explore the history of Mardi Gras, listen to Cajun and Zydeco music and make some jazzy Mardi Gras inspired

SATURDAY, FEB. 25-ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - Vermont folklorist Jane Beck shares the story of the Turner family: a multi-generational saga spanning two centuries, played out across three continents. Her captivating narrative covers the early 19 century British-African trade, shipwreck, birth of a biracial child, slave trading, enslavement, plantation life, escape, Civil War, moving north, battling racism, and more. This event is free and begins at 1 p.m. To register or for more information, call 802-463-4270, visit www. rockinghamlibrary.org or stop by the Library at 65

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

Westminster St. in Bellows Falls.

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.

LONDONDERRY, Vt. -Computer whiz, Marc Fontaine, will be on hand to help you solve your computer mysteries on Wednesdays, Feb.

22, Mar. 1, and Mar. 8 at 7

p.m. at the South Londonderry Free Library, Instruction on writing with Word, making a spreadsheet with Excel, emails and saving or forwarding attachments and images. Please list what specifically that is and bring your laptop, digital device, or tablet with you. Signup is required. Please call the 824-3371 or email southlondonderryfreelibrary@ yahoo.com.

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

THURSDAYS-ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - Join genealogy enthusiast Wayne Blanchard on a quest to discover your family roots on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. at the Rockingham Library. If you own a laptop, please bring it along. With the many free databases available at the library, it's hard to tell what you might find. Both beginners and seasoned genealogists are welcome. This program is free. For more information, call 802-463-4270, email programming@ rockinghamlibrary.org or go to

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.

www.rockinghamlibrary.org.

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.

MEETINGS

TUESDAY, FEB. 21-GRAFTON, Vt. - Select board meeting at 6 p.m. held at the Grafton Elementary School located at 58 School Street.

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

WEDNESDAYS -LONDONDERRY, Vt. - Weekly dean 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.

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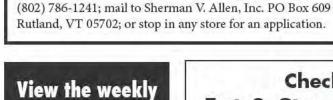
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Todd Parah Green Mountain Union High School 716 VT Route 103 South Chester, VT 05143

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pet of the week



Beagles lovers we have the best news in the world for you!

On Valentines Day Springfield Humane Society took in 3 beagles and 2 beagle mixes from Virginia. Handsome Bernie is one of them and he is very excited to be in Vermont, play in the snow and find his forever home, which he may have never found in Virginia.

The kennels will be closed on

the Wednesday, Feb.15, but will reopen on the Thursday, Feb. 16 at 12 p.m. So come on in and claim your very own Valentine beagle!

For more information contact the Springfield Humane Society at 802-885-3997. They are located on 401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, Vt. Remember to shop Wag Sale every Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Vermont Journal/The Shopper

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AUTOMOTIVE

alt. minimum tax

You may be subject to the Alternative Minimum Tax -

federal income tax, there are few subjects capable of causing as much confusion as the Alternative Minimum Tax, AMT. While the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, passed in the first days of 2013, made permanent a number of temporary AMT provisions, it also changed some rules. Here's a quick guide to understanding the AMT.

What is the AMT?

The AMT is essentially a separate federal income tax system with its own tax rates, and its own set of rules governing the recognition and timing of income and expenses. If you're subject to the AMT, you have to calculate your taxes twice once under the regular tax system and again under the AMT system. If your income tax liability under the AMT is greater than your liability under the regular tax system, the difference is reported as an additional tax on your federal income tax return. If you're subject to the AMT in one year, you may be entitled to a credit that can be applied against regular tax liability in future years.

How do you know if you're subject to the AMT?

Part of the problem with the AMT is that, without doing some calculations, there's no easy way to determine whether or not you're subject to the tax. Key AMT "triggers" include the number of personal exemptions you claim, your miscellaneous itemized deductions, and your state and local tax deductions. So, for example, if you have a large family and live in a high-tax state, there's a good possibility you might have to contend with the AMT. IRS Form 1040 instructions include a worksheet that may help you determine whether you're subject to the AMT. An electronic version of this worksheet is also available on the IRS website, but you might need to complete IRS Form 6251 to know for sure.

Common AMT adjustments

It's no easy task to calculate the AMT, in part because of the number and seemingly disparate nature of the adjustments

REGION - When it comes to that need to be made. Here are some of the more common AMT adjustments:

> ·Standard deduction and personal exemptions: The federal standard deduction, generally available under the regular tax system if you don't itemize deductions, is not allowed for purposes of calculating the AMT. Nor can you take a deduction for personal exemp-

·Itemized deductions: Under the AMT calculation, no deduction is allowed for state and local taxes paid, or for certain miscellaneous itemized deductions. Your deduction for medical expenses is no longer reduced in 2017 (from 2013 to 2016, the AMT adjustment for medical expenses applied to those who had reached age 65). You can only deduct qualifying residence interest (e.g., mortgage or home equity loan interest) to the extent the loan proceeds are used to purchase, construct, or improve a principal residence.

·Exercise of incentive stock options (ISOs): Under the regular tax system, tax is generally deferred until you sell the acquired stock. But for AMT purposes, when you exercise an ISO, income is generally



You may be subject to AMT.







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recognized to the extent that the fair market value of the acquired shares exceeds the option price. This means that a significant ISO exercise in a year can trigger AMT liability. If ISOs are exercised and sold in the same year, however, no AMT adjustment is needed, since any income would be recognized for regular tax pur-

poses as well.

·Depreciation: If you're depreciating assets (for example, if you're a sole proprietor and own an asset for business use), you'll have to calculate depreciation twice--once under regular income tax rules and once under AMT rules.

AMT exemption amounts While the AMT takes away

personal exemptions and a number of deductions, it provides specific AMT exemptions. The amount of AMT exemption that you're entitled to depends on your filing status.

Your exemption amount, however, begins to phase out once your taxable income exceeds a certain threshold. (Specifically, your exemption every \$1.00 you have in taxable income over the threshold amount).

Owing AMT isn't the end of the world, but it can be a very unpleasant surprise. It also turns a number of traditional tax planning strategies (e.g., accelerating deductions) on their heads, so it's a good idea

amount is reduced by \$0.25 for to factor in the AMT before the end of the year, while there's still time to plan.

If you think you might be subject to the AMT, it may be worth sitting down to discuss your situation with a tax professional.

This article was written by Mark Huntley of Huntley Financial Services.

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vermont farmers

REAL ESTATE

Ten reasons to love Vermont farmers

REGION - This month the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets is taking a moment to proclaim its love for Vermont's

'The Vermont we know and love simply would not exist without the hardworking women and men who dedicate their lives to agriculture. Farmers provide food, create jobs, keep our landscape open, and support our local communities. Farmers deserve our adoration!" says Vermont's Ag Secretary, Anson Tebis the perfect occasion for Vermonters to profess their fond feelings for

"There are so many reasons to love Vermont agriculture, it's nearly impossible to count the ways," Tebbetts

Ten reasons to love Vermont

1. There are over 7,300 farms in Vermont, and each is unique.

2. Vermont is known for its dairy and maple industries, but our agriculture runs the gambit. Vermont

Tebbetts thinks Valentine's Day farmers are raising and growing all state in the region. Our Ag the things you might expect on a farm, like chickens, hogs, pumpkins, and corn, and some unique things you might not - like saffron, emu, rabbits, and crickets.

> 3. Maple syrup is our signature product, and we make more of it than any other state in the country - a whopping 47 percent of the country's syrup is made right here in Vermont.

> 4. Vermont is the leading agricultural state in New England, with more agricultural sales than any

economy is greater than Rhode Island's, New Hampshire's, and Massachusetts, combined.

5. We have more farmers' markets per capita than any

6. 94 percent of our schools serve local foods, grown close to home by Vermont farmers. That's 80,000 students who "eat local" in their cafeterias.

7. For a chilly state, we have a robust and growing wine industry. Marquette, Frontenac, and La Crescent grapes grow well in Vermont, and we have some very talented vintners making outstanding local

8. Vermont dairy farmers produce enough milk annually to fill 16,000 swimming pools - 321 million gallons. More than 67 percent of New England's milk is made right here in Vermont.

9. Vermont's Agriculture economy is growing - in the past ten years, sales of agricultural products in Ver-

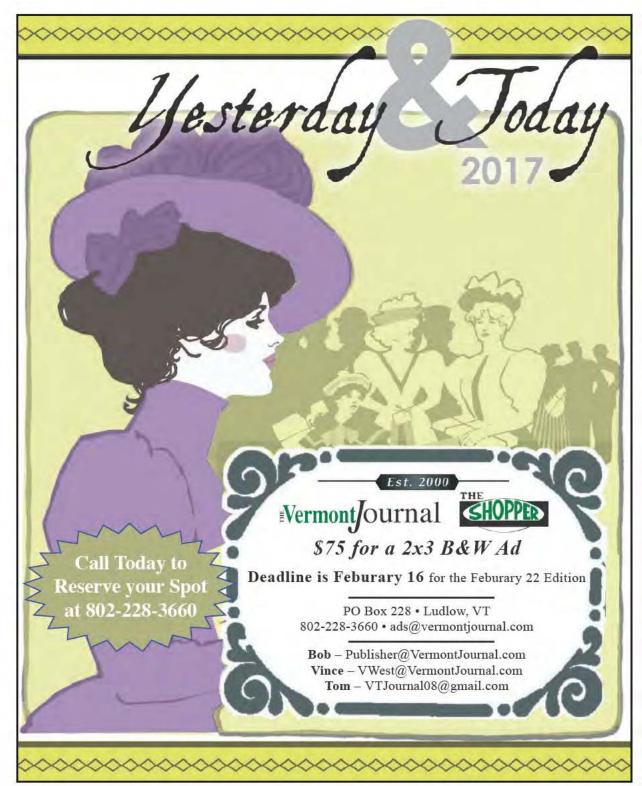
Vermont dairy farmers produce enough milk annually to fill 16,000 swimming pools!

mont have increased by 64 percent. 10. Collectively, Vermont farms encompass more than 1.25 million acres. Our farmers care for the land

by implementing conservation prac-

tices, and keep our landscape open, green, and beautiful. Without farms. Vermont would look very different!

"Thank you, Vermont farmers, for all you do!" Tebbetts adds.



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Ludlow, VT



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