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Select Board: Town-owned concrete issue resolved

BY JOEL SLUTSKY

The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Bridge Street Bridge project dominated the discussion during a March 21 Select Board meeting. Interim Municipal Manager Shaun O'Keefe distributed information on the town-owned concrete purchased for the project and reminded the board that subsequent to this purchase it was decided that the concrete could not be used.

O'Keefe commented that the initiative to skim coat with structural concrete will not help the situation, as the bridge is too far gone and will have to be replaced within ten years. O'Keefe also noted that this is a non-returnable product with an expiration date of February 2018. O'Keefe stated that it is possible to try to sell the product for full price; however, there is a concern that it can't be sold before the expiration date. O'Keefe noted that Daniels Construction, a subcontractor on the bridge project under DUR Construction, has offered to purchase the product for 50 cents on the dollar, as they can use the material for other projects and it is the recommendation of O'Keefe, staff, the project manager and the attorney to accept this offer.

After the meeting O'Keefe told The Shopper that the Bridge Street Bridge is safe with no weight limits and trucks from Cota and Cota and others go through it all the time; he reemphasized that "there is no public safety concern." According to O'Keefe, the project is waiting for



Bridge St. bridge.

PHOTO BY JOEL SLUTSKY

the installation of lights. Regarding the Depot Street Bridge, O'Keefe stated that the bridge is on the state construction list and scoping should start this summer.

Public comment on items not on the agenda: Elayne Clift submitted a proposed resolution to the board on behalf of the Saxton's River Human Rights Café and Brattleboro Indivisible, with the basic tenet of making sure it is safe to be in the Bellows Falls community. Select Board Chair Lamont Barnett stated that the resolution will be on the next agenda for further discussion and for the board to take action.

Manager's report: O'Keefe lauded the highway department for their efforts during the recent snowstorm. He reported that the financial clos-

ing for the Chroma Technology Corp. project occurred yesterday and the check from the Town's Revolving Loan Fund was issued last week. O'Keefe thanked Chroma for investing in this community. O'Keefe stated that he will be coordinating a ribbon-cutting for the Park & Ride and will request that Senator Leahy attend. The original funds that made this project possible came from an earmark several years ago due to Senator Leahy's efforts. O'Keefe added that he will attempt to hold this event during the legislative Easter break.

Finance office FY2017 YTD budget status: O'Keefe reported that they are now two-thirds of

See **BRIDGE** on Page 2A

Jump Rope & Hoops for Heart event a success!



Third grade students helped raise money for heart health.

PHOTO BY AMY BALLOU

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. - On March 16, 2017 students at Saxtons River Elementary School jumped all over heart disease by participating in Jump Rope & Hoops for Heart. Our 98 students raised \$2,918.17 for the American Heart Association, which funds research, programs and education to fight heart disease and stroke, our nation's No. 1 and No. 4 kill-

ers.

"I'm so proud of our school community," said Amy Ballou, Jump Rope & Hoops for Heart coordinator. "We all had a lot of fun, and the kids enjoyed learning about the importance of physical activity and how they can play a role in saving lives."

"It was the best day ever!" was one comment from a second grader.

"We want to keep our hearts healthy so we can live a good life." Said a fourth grader.

Jump Rope & Hoops For Heart is a program that promotes physical activity and heart health through jumping rope and shooting hoops. It is co-sponsored by the American Heart Association and SHAPE America-Society of Health and Physical Educators.

Maple Open House weekend

BY RON PATCH

The Vermont Journal / The Shopper

REGION - This past weekend, March 25 and 26 was Vermont's Maple Sugar Open House weekend. Many maple sugar producers throughout the state opened their doors to the public.

The Smith Family Maple Sugarhouse off the Cambridgeport Road in Cambridgeport was one of the sugar producers that welcomed the public. Ed Smith explained to visitors his wood fired evaporator and how it works.

His evaporator was busy boiling maple sap down to maple syrup. He explained the different chambers in his evaporator and how the sap migrates from one chamber to the next as the sap is boiled down. Smith has about 800 taps and hopes to produce 125-150 gallons of maple syrup this

year. Ed served corn fritters with maple syrup to visitors.

Recently the Vermont Country Store visited Smith's sugarhouse. Vermont Country Store took numerous photos of his operation for their upcoming catalog and for their Facebook page. It truly was an honor for this country producer.

Our next stop was Richard Lockerby's sugarhouse in Popple Dungeon. Lockerby has 300 taps this year. He started his operation in 1990. It's a smaller operation producing prize-winning maple syrup. In 1995 Lockerby won first place among Vermont producers and World's Best in the International competition. Lockerby offered samples of this year's syrup. This reporter couldn't resist and bought a half-gallon of Dark Grade-A.

The next and final stop was Chester's own, Mitch's Maples on the Green Mountain Turnpike. Mark

Mitchell along with his wife Donelyn and Mark's partner Ken Duffy run this more commercial sugarhouse.

Mark's grandfather, Donald Mitchell, started this sugarhouse in 1944. At that time during WWII there was a sugar shortage in this country. Maple sugar became the substitute for cane sugar during the war years.

Today Mitchell has 8,300 taps and producers between 3,100 and 3,500 gallons of syrup annually. It's a state of the art and efficient operation utilizing a complex reverse osmosis system.

A very simplified explanation of reverse osmosis would be: Natural, raw maple sap has a sugar content of about 2 percent, meaning 98 percent is water. In the reverse osmosis process raw sap is forced under high pressure through special tanks that have a special membrane. The membrane captures the sugary sap and discharges excess water.

With this concentrated sap is a sugar content as high as 15 percent. This higher concentration of sugar requires less boiling and fuel to make maple syrup. The yield is much higher and much more efficient.

Mitchell's first run this year was January 27 and produced 58 gallons that day. Mitchell is on schedule to produce over 3,000 gallons this year. They are open every day but Christmas.

This reporter thoroughly enjoyed meeting and talking with these maple syrup producers. They were all very friendly and all are honest hard working people.



Richard Lockerby with his many awards.

PHOTO BY RON PATCH

Data breach puts 186,000 Vermonters personal information at risk

BY BRANDY TODT

The Vermont Journal / The Shopper

REGION - On Tuesday, March 21 it was announced to Vermonters that malicious software created a data breach in America's Joblink Alliance (AJLA) - a provider of the nationwide web-based database Joblink. Joblink, also used by nine other states, is a site for job seekers looking for employment as well as helping to create and post resumes.

The Vermont Department of Labor (VDOL) has been using this vendor since 2003. VDOL requires persons filing for unemployment benefits to sign up to the Vermont Joblink unless there is a return to work date in less than 10 weeks.

According to a press release from the State department the breach was designed to extract data from Joblink, but it is still uncertain as to whether it was done intentionally or "the result of an unintentional introduction by a jobseeker with an infected computer."

Since the breach, the site has been fixed and secured; thankfully, Joblink is not linked to any other state of Vermont systems. Possible compromised accounts, containing names, birth date and social security numbers, are being analyzed. It is appalling that over 186,000 Vermont accounts may have been compromised in the breach.

Governor Phil Scott and the

Vermont Attorney General's Office has been briefed on the incident and the Vermont Department of Labor is working alongside America's Joblink Alliance to make sure individuals get notified according to State law.

As of Wednesday, March 29 AJLA will have sent an email to all Joblink account holders detailing the latest information and how individuals can register for 12 months of free credit monitoring.

What can you do?

Firstly, sign up for the free credit monitoring if you are contacted. Secondly, you are entitled to a free

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Suspicious Activity:

During your diligent monitoring, perhaps you find an account you did not open, credit inquiries you didn't initiate or inaccurate personal information, call the credit reporting agency at the number immediately. Any of those actions on your credit report are considered suspicious activity and you are to also call your local law enforcement office and file a report of identity theft. Request a few copies of the police report as they will be helpful as you may need

to give them to the creditors to help clear up your records, and also to access some services that are free to identify theft victims.

Another action to take is to place a fraud alert on your credit files. This means creditors will contact you before opening new accounts.

You may obtain information about preventing and avoiding identity theft from the Vermont Attorney General's Office at 1-802-656-3183 or (1-800-649-2424 toll free in Vermont only) or visit the website at <http://ago.vermont.gov/focus/consumer-info/privacy-and-data-security1.php> to learn more about fighting identity theft, placing a security freeze and obtaining your free yearly credit report.

Another helpful resource is the Federal Trade Commission website, <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft>.



Monitor your credit report if you feel you could be at risk. STOCK PHOTO

copy of your credit report every twelve months and the VDOL recommends monitoring your credit reports with the major credit reporting agencies listed below:

• Equifax- PO Box 740241 Atlanta, GA 30374-0241 Call 1-800-685-1111 or visit www.equifax.com
• Experian- PO Box 2104 Allen, Texas 75013 Call 1-888-397-3742 or visit www.experian.com

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BF Drama Club wows with “Beauty and the Beast”



Beauty and the Beast cast left to right: Arianna Morton, Madi Joy, Jackson Purdy, and Zoe Schemm. PHOTO BY MARY ELLEN CANNON

BY MARY ELLEN CANNON
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Elegant dancers Grace Cavanaugh and Dani Marchia opened “Beauty and the Beast.” The Disney story familiar from the cartoon world came to life on March 24-25 at Bellows Falls high school. The Bellows Falls Drama Club production sparked comments like “Wow! What a great show!”

Ellie Guyon captivated the audience as Belle, the Beauty. Swagger on high-test, Jackson Purdy leapt, polkaed, and bullied as Gaston the obnoxious cad who wants to wed Belle, with regard only for her beauty and not her mind or interests. Grace Thompson, playing Mrs. Potts, the

enchanted teapot, sang a tender, vibrant solo of the song, “Beauty and the Beast.” Thompson took nurturing to new heights in welcoming Belle to the castle and as mother of Chip (Lia Clark) an enchanted cup.

Emily Wunderle brightened the stage in a sequin pants suit, arms held high as the candelabra. She led the “Be Our Guest” dance and song number. A troupe of children - Hannah Ainsworth, Abby Broadley, Desi Broadley, Isabella Bush, Kiahna Chamberlin, Haven Harty, Tela Harty, Alexis Keefe, Alyssa Keefe, Callyn Lisai, Lily Pinette, Ava LaRoss, Anna Taylor, Cadence James, Delaney Lockerby, Maya Rentas, Mary Wallace, Saul James, Jordan Keefe, Maggie Parker, Eryn Ross, Lily Jus-

ton, Jackson Maiocco, Madi Joy, Bridgid Hodsdon, Chris Hodsdon, Lola Subikonova, Keigan Illingworth, John Broadly, Kara Lescord, Lucy Applegate, Molly Kelly, and Willa Sheehan - sang and danced. Josh Emond is listed for set construction and Leah J. Berry as stage manager. The orchestra - clarinetists Bradie Harris, Molly Hodsen, Dylan Chambers, and Ali Fox; trombonists Ian Wallace and Dora Jones; percussionist Skylar Swan; flutist Kaitlynn Jones; and euphonium player Poe Terena - directed by Nicholas Pelton, hit every musical emphasis perfectly! Richard Smith was choral director. Mathew Burke choreographed. Katy Emond directed the show.

Weathersfield to improve zoning bylaw effectiveness —

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. - The Weathersfield Planning Commission is encouraging comment and debate on significant changes and additions to the Town’s zoning bylaws. The goal is to improve the effectiveness of the bylaws, using a Municipal Grant, and working with the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission. The main changes to the bylaws are scheduled for completion by early June 2017.

Over time, different approaches and incremental adjustments in local zoning have resulted in an unintended patchwork of bylaws that in some cases have been confusing for residents to understand and for the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) to apply consistently.

For example, the Villages of Perkinsville and Ascutney have lot sizes and setbacks in their zoning which have led to a significant number of lots which are non-conforming, creating particular difficulties for village landowners.

The new approach seeks to explore:

- Lot sizes and setbacks consistent

with today’s uses and sympathetic to the Villages

- Districts which support business growth within appropriate highway corridors
- Mixed use (versus single use) per lot and lot density zoning to increase flexibility
- Flood resiliency to protect both land owners and water quality

Over the next two months, the Planning Commission wishes to receive as much feedback as possible from residents, local businesses, the Selectboard, the ZBA, and Conservation Commission.

Ultimately the zoning bylaws need to reflect the wishes of the people in Weathersfield, so this feedback is essential in helping to address inconsistencies in the current bylaws as well as establishing a framework for future revitalization and small business growth.

The Weathersfield Planning Commission meets on the second and fourth Mondays from 7 – 9 p.m. at Martin Memorial Hall in Ascutney. Additional Public Hearings may be scheduled through the discussion period.

How to have a difficult dialogue presentation —

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - On Monday, April 10 at 7 p.m., Curtiss Reed will present and facilitate a talk and workshop, “How To Have A Difficult Dialogue,” at Rockingham Library. This program is presented by the Rockingham Library, in partnership with Parks Place Community Resource Center and Greater Falls Connections.

Having a dialogue with someone you perceive as “the other” or who perceives you as “the other” is challenging at best. Reed will discuss strategies and tactics to advance difficult dialogues across racial, political, and religious divides.

In his role as executive director

of Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity, Curtiss Reed provides expert training and coaching on inclusion, bias, and equity to state agency, municipal, institutional and business clients as well as community organizations across Vermont. He serves as vice-chair of the Vermont Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights and sits on statewide commissions dealing with law enforcement, education, and minority health issues.

This program, sponsored by the Friends of Rockingham Library, is free and open to the public. For more information, call 802-463-4270, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org or go to www.rockinghamlibrary.org.

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it appears that this will come in approximately \$23,000 under budget thanks to Recreation Director Ryan Stoodley’s assembling a crew to do the painting. O’Keefe noted that the contractor had given a \$17,000 figure for painting and Stoodley had spent around \$900.

Approve annual financial plan: Regarding town highways, O’Keefe provided the numbers from the budget passed at the 2017 Town Meeting to representatives from VTrans last week. He noted that VTrans assured him that the town would be receiving the paving grant but most likely would not receive the structures grant for the Cherry Hill wall. O’Keefe emphasized that the board is dedicated to staying on top of road maintenance. A motion to approve the annual financial plan as presented passed.

Selectboard items: Authorize chair to sign support document for Our Place and Bellows Falls Warming Shelter. Barnett stated that these documents showing town support for these entities are used when applying for funding. A motion to authorize the Select Board chair to sign the support documents for Our Place and the Bellows Falls Warming Shelter passed.

The minutes of this meeting including annual appointments can be read at www.rockbf.org. Click on the Select Board tab and the meeting can be seen in its entirety at www.fact8.com.

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HCRS celebrates 50 years of serving the community

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), Vermont's second-largest community mental-health agency, is pleased to announce their 50th anniversary this year. The non-profit agency is planning a variety of fun activities and community events as part of this celebration.

As the agency designated by the State of Vermont to support individuals in Windsor and Windham counties who are experiencing challenges from mental illness, substance abuse, or developmental disabilities, HCRS provides a comprehensive array of services. The agency currently serves over 4,500 individuals every year, supporting children, youth, adults, and families in a variety of settings. Profession-

ally trained staff works out of HCRS' offices as well as within schools, police departments, on the job, and in many other community settings in order to support people where services are most needed.

The seeds for HCRS were planted in 1967 when town select boards in Windham and Windsor Counties formed a coalition to identify the needs of individuals in the two counties who were developmentally challenged. Its purpose was to raise funds and create smaller agencies to address the behavioral, medical, and rehabilitative health care needs of area residents and families who were struggling with developmental and/or long-term mental illness issues. In this capacity, HCRS was instrumental in assisting in the cre-

ation of many current community-based organizations.

The role of HCRS as a funding source became redundant in 1973 when federal legislation created the Medicaid funding mechanism for state government agencies. Recognizing the continuing need of community residents, HCRS made a successful application to the National Institute of Mental Health and became a regional mental health agency, incorporating into its charter the Brattleboro Family Center and the Windsor Community Mental Health Agency.

Since that time, HCRS has continued to develop and expand programs to meet the needs identified by community members and has evolved into a comprehensive com-

munity human service provider. The agency's mission is to provide creative, collaborative, and compassionate health care services that are responsive to the needs of the community. The agency envisions a community where people are inspired, empowered, and supported to lead healthy and meaningful lives.

As part of its anniversary celebration, HCRS will be hosting a family-friendly community event at the River Garden in Brattleboro on April 29. During July, free hot dog lunches and open houses will be held at its Hartford, Springfield, and Brattleboro offices. Other events and activities are also being planned. Anyone interested can visit www.hcrs.org for more information.



HCRS celebrates their 50th anniversary. PHOTO PROVIDED BY HCRS.ORG

Good Friday free spring concert first in series

BROWNSVILLE, Vt. - On Friday, April 14 the Brownsville Community Church will sponsor the first of a series of free concerts open to the public in 2017. The first concert will be a Good Friday concert that starts at 1:30 p.m. which will be followed by a brief service at 2:30 p.m.

The April 14 concert will feature treasured works from Bach and more including original compositions and an improvisation. These pieces will be performed by Christian Huebner on the organ, Sten Bowen on piano, Skip Downing on trumpet and Alexandra Leary on piano.

Sten Bowen, an English major at Gordon College in Wenham, MA, moved with his wife, Amy, to Los Angeles to pursue his musical career. The Bowen's now live with their two children in Reading Vermont.

Edmund "Skip" Downing, principal of Bywater Piano Tuning, studied at Gordon College, played the Trumpet in the Air Force and presently

teaches at Vermont Christian School and the Upper Valley Music Center.

Another gifted artist, Windsor's Alexandria Leary, will be on piano. Allie is a talented young musician who plays with expression and maturity uncharacteristic for her age. She is currently studying under the area's top piano performance instructor.

Christian Huebner, Pastor of Brownsville Community Church, grew up in West Windsor, Vt. After pursuing a gift for music from an early age with his first position as organist and choir director at age 11, he completed a double master in Organ Performance and Choral Conducting.

On Thursday, April 13 at 7 p.m. there will be a Maundy Thursday Service preceded by a potluck soup & bread supper at 6 p.m.

Easter Sunday celebrations on April 16 will start with an outdoor sunrise service at 7:00 a.m. on the hill above Albert Bridge School, fol-

lowed by a community breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and an Easter Sunday service at 9 a.m. at the church. After the service, children are invited to participate in a very special community Easter egg hunt outside in Tribute Park adjacent to the church.

These free-to-the public concerts are organized by the Brownsville Community Church Pastor and Music & Choir Director, Reverend Christian Huebner.

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

Springfield to hold spring farmer's markets

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Springfield Farmer's Market will be holding two spring markets at The United Methodist Church located on 10 Valley St. in Springfield. April 1, yes that is April Fool's Day, and May 13 starting at 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Vendors will be offering fresh maple syrup, honey, eggs, grass fed beef, doughnuts and baked goods including artisan breads, an assortment of pies, maple scones, cookies and more. Also available will be specialty pickles and preserves including quince jams and jelly and catered foods. There will be a large assortment of handcrafted items suitable for Easter and Mother's Day gifts.

Check the web site at springfieldfarmersmarket.com or email springfieldfarmersmarketinc@gmail.com or call 802-885-4096 for more information,

check us out on Facebook. The Springfield Farmer's Market Inc. is a vendor run non-profit organization. Vendor inquiries welcome.



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Springfield Elks initiation

L to R: The newest members to be initiated in Springfield Elks Lodge for the fiscal Lodge year 2016/2017. Michael Matulonis, Paula Gilbert, Exalted Ruler Vicki Siliski and Michael Baptie.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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Help protect older adults from financial abuse

REGION - Financial exploitation costs older Americans billions of dollars per year, according to several sources, including the National Council on Aging. If you have older parents, could they be vulnerable to financial scams and rip-off artists? And, if so, what can you do to help protect them?

Unfortunately, it is possible for anyone to become a victim. For a variety of reasons, older adults may be easier targets than younger people. And that is why, when interacting with your parents, you should look for these warning signs:

- Suspicious new relationships. If your parent mentions something about a new friend, a romantic partner or some type of caregiver who seems to have taken a great interest in your parent's financial situation,

you may have reason to be suspicious. Do not be afraid to ask some questions.

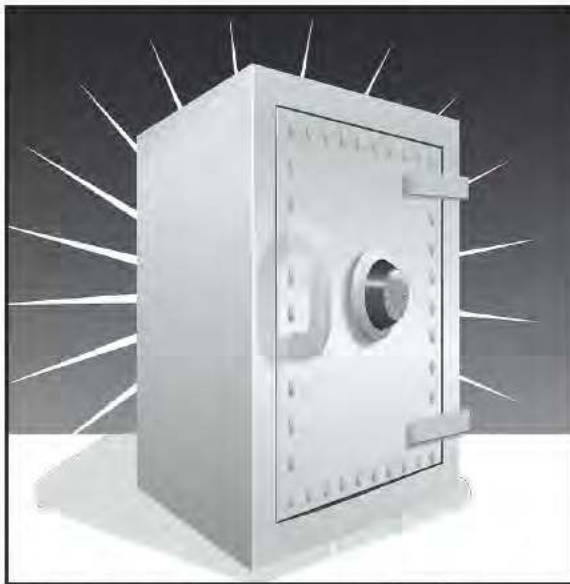
- Multiple checks written to same person or entity. If you think your parents may be making questionable financial moves, ask to see their checkbook. If you see several checks written to an unfamiliar person or business, you might be viewing evidence of a financial scam. If so, you will want to intercede before your parents get victimized again.

- Changing power of attorney or beneficiaries. If your parents suddenly decide to name someone new as their "agent" (the person responsible for carrying out a power of attorney), you may need to investigate. And the same is true if your parents change the beneficiary designation on their investment accounts or in-

surance policies.

- Unusual urgency to make an investment. If you learn that your parents want to make some type of investment "immediately," you should be concerned. No reputable financial professional would ever pressure them - or anyone else - to "act now" on an investment.

Apart from watching out for the above signs of trouble, what else can you do to help guard your parents from fraudsters? For starters, urge your parents - repeatedly, if necessary - to never give out personal information over the phone or online. Scammers have gotten quite clever at impersonating legitimate businesses or organizations - for example, unless



Older adults may be easier financial fraud targets. STOCK PHOTO

you are looking closely at the email, you might think the logo of a bank or another company is being accurately depicted. Again, though, reputable businesses typically don't send messages that are demanding, threatening or otherwise employing some type of extreme language.

Stress to your parents that they should never wire money to a random account. Remind them about the truth of "no risk" offers: any financial offer that sounds too good to be true is just that - untrue. Every legitimate investment carries both

risks and rewards.

Here's another suggestion: older adults who have debt problems may be especially vulnerable to offers that claim to "clear up" all their debts. But there's no quick fix to this problem, and any caller who claims otherwise is likely being deceitful. Encourage your parents to discuss their debt situation with an honest, professional debt counselor or a financial advisor.

Finally, if your parents don't already work with a trusted, qualified financial professional, introduce them to one. Your parents worked hard all their lives. Do what you can to help them enjoy their "golden years" in dignity.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor.

Pediatric Nurse Team is named Employee of the Month at Mt. Ascutney Hospital

WINDSOR, Vt. - For many years, Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center (MAHHC) has honored individual employees for outstanding performance with its Employee of the Month award. But guidelines for the award have always allowed for a team nomination as well.

The Hospital is pleased to announce its first team nomination of caregivers. For February 2017, MAHHC is honoring its Pediatric Nurse team, with the Hospital's Employee of Month Award.

The team, consisting of Lily Burke, RN; Chelsea Melendy, LPN; and Melissa Hall, LPN, were rec-

ognized for their commitment to young patients and their families.

"Lily, Chelsea, and Melissa are all experienced professionals with

outstanding nursing skills and caring hearts," says Anel Siriois, CMA, Nurse Manager/Clinical Leader at MAHHC.

"They are consistently warm, kind, and supportive of our young patients and their families. Lily is the kind of nurse who just keeps going, with boundless energy and dedication to getting the job done well. And Chelsea and Melissa are so deeply committed to vaccinating kids that our community now has the highest vaccination rate in the state of Vermont. That's the power of teamwork."

Chelsea is a tobacco cessation specialist and is attending college to obtain an RN credential. Lily is a certified lactation consultant and devotes time to helping with vaccinations at the annual MAHHC flu clinic program. Both Chelsea and Melissa are certified preceptors, participants in the Clinical Advancement Program, active members of the Windsor Regional Ethics Committee and help out in the MAHHC medical tents serving local athletic events. Melissa recently completed yellow belt training that will enhance her expertise in the creation and delivery of quality improvements throughout the hospital.

Lily Burke has worked at MAHHC since May 2016 and lives in Hartland Four Corners; Chelsea Melendy lives in Windsor and joined MAHHC in March 2015. Melissa Hall has worked at MAHHC since July 2015 and lives in Claremont, N.H.



Mt. Ascutney's Pediatric Nurse Team is named Employee(s) of the Month. PHOTO PROVIDED

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"Where to Invade Next"

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - Doreen Fabiano and Carlene Lundgren, local advocates for the environment and other important issues facing the world today will screen Michael Moore's award-winning film "Where to Invade Next" at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 7 at The Meeting Place at Neighborhood Connections.
This epic movie is unlike anything the political provocateur has ever done. It is an expansive, hilarious and subversive comedy/documentary in which Moore confronts the most pressing issues facing America today and finds solutions in the most unlikely places. "Where to Invade Next" is an eye-opening call to arms to recapture the American Dream and restore it to, of all places, America.
There is no charge to attend, but space is limited, so call 824-4343 to register. The Meeting Place is located in Londonderry's Mountain Marketplace, next to the post office. Check out our website at www.neighborhoodconnectionsvt.org.

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editorial

Gun confiscation will not stop domestic violence —

H.422, "An act relating to confiscation of dangerous or deadly weapons from a person arrested or cited for domestic assault," passed the House as Draft No. 6.1 March 22, by a 78-60 vote.

The bill authorizes the police to temporarily seize firearms "from persons arrested or cited for domestic violence." In it the state claims a "special need to remove firearms from a home where law enforcement has probable cause to believe domestic violence has occurred."

The law already allows police to do this in domestic violence cases if the firearm is "contraband or evidence of the offense." The original bill covered all categories of "dangerous or deadly weapons" and spelled out three conditions under which police are required to confiscate a weapon: the person being arrested or cited is displaying it; it's in plain view of the officer; or it turns up during a "consensual search."

Draft 6.1 removes those conditions and narrows the category of "dangerous or deadly weapons" to firearms. It also appears to leave the decision to confiscate up to the officer. Draft 6.1 also says "the officer may remove any firearm obtained pursuant to a search warrant or a judicially recognized exception to the warrant requirement if the removal is necessary for the protection of the officer or any other person," which appears to give the police latitude to confiscate without a warrant actually in hand.

Draft No. 6.1 is not a particularly good bill—it leaves out references to existing statutes, the protocols for police officers are murky, and it sets itself up for attack by Second Amendment advocates and pro-gun groups, who fault the bill for singling out firearms for confiscation. While the intent is to take firearms temporarily out of the equation and create a 5-day "cooling off period" to protect victims of domestic violence from retaliation, it is more of a Band-Aid that may actually put victims at greater risk, in the following ways.

Some argue that victims need a firearm available to protect themselves. Contrary to the claim that a gun has a "chilling effect," that could backfire. The likelihood of an amateur gunfighter putting the assailant out of commission is low, while the likelihood of the assailant using the same gun against the victim is high. The victim could no longer claim being shot "in cold blood" but instead could be charged with threatening the life of the assailant. Domestic violence counselors say the best way is simply to leave, as fast as possible.

In addition, will this law be a deterrent to calling the police? Victims appeal to the police to get help in defusing the situation, but the likelihood of having the gun seized could have the opposite effect.

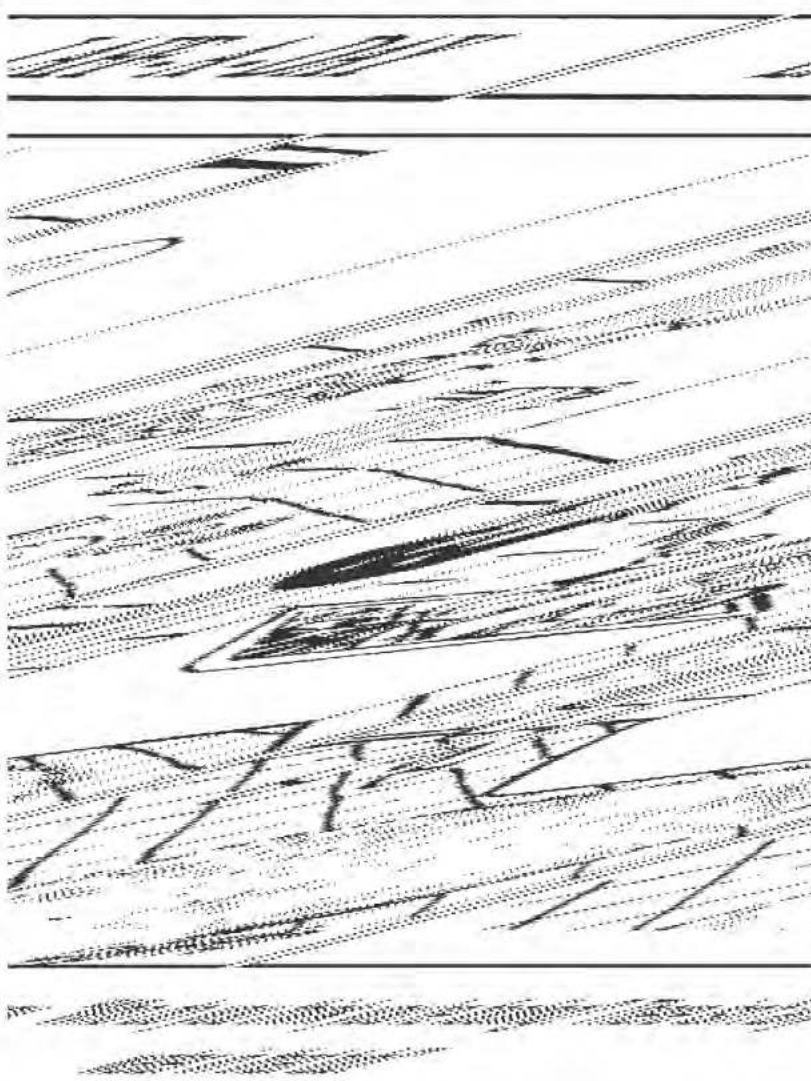
The effectiveness of the law depends entirely on whether the police involved can move fast enough, and on the discretion of the officer.

The constitutionality of the law will be hashed out in the courts. While supporters and opponents spar over the letter of the law, there is still a very simple solution. This bill specifically and solely targets domestic abusers. The best way for abusers to protect their right to keep a firearm, under this law, is to change their own behaviors that harm themselves and their families - to learn positive, constructive ways to deal with the complexities of relationships.

Given the incidence of domestic abuse in Vermont, the state needs to resolve the social and economic stressors that lead to domestic abuse and to get behind more and better counseling and treatment programs - before the abuser goes to prison.

It's interesting to note that H.422 is billed in headlines as the "gun control" or "gun confiscation" law. The law is not fundamentally "about" who gets to keep their gun. It should be about curbing if not eliminating domestic violence and protecting its victims.

Back to the drawing board.
—BM—



"The women are not speaking to the men."

Op-Ed: Senate Finance Committee approves \$2 overnight occupancy fee

REGION – The Vermont Senate Finance Committee on Thursday approved a \$2 overnight occupancy fee, defying Republican Gov. Phil Scott's request for no new taxes and fees this year.

In the final hours leading up to the Vermont House's pending vote on a contested state budget plan, the Senate Committee on Finance just upped the political ante.

Committee members, led by Chairwoman Sen. Ann Cummings, D-Washington, voted 5-1-1 to raise \$7.2 million from a \$2 per-night occupancy fee on lodging. The fee is being proposed to help narrow what began as a \$72 million dollar budget gap.

The vote came as the governor has been wrangling with House members over his repeated requests for

no new taxes and fees.

"Vermonters would share the actual burden of this tax increase as it will impact the cost of weddings, special events, overnight stays, and more," Scott said Friday in a statement.

Vermont's family-owned inns, according to Scott, are fighting to keep their doors open, especially as inexpensive Airbnb options are on the rise in resort areas such as Stowe and Killington. They also face pressure from the Green Mountain State's variable weather and a business-unfriendly permitting process.

"This tax will unnecessarily increase the cost of hotel and motel stays, straining our tourism sector, which contributes \$2.5 billion to our economy annually," Scott said.

State Rep. Heidi Scheuermann, R-

Stowe, a member of the House General Affairs Committee, predicted the fee would harm the state's tourism industry.

"I grew up in Stowe, where there are lots of hospitality businesses," Scheuermann told Watchdog recently. "It's a challenging industry, and the higher the costs to the industry, the more challenging it will get."

Stowe, a community at the heart of the state's four-season tourist industry, is famous for its year-round resorts, motels, bed and breakfast establishments, dining and gift shopping.

Rob Roper, president of the Ethan Allen Institute, a free-market think tank, blasted the Senate Finance Committee vote. "It's colossally stupid. How about a tax on maple syrup next?" he said.

Scott suggested that Senate leaders were playing politics since committee members added the \$2 fee requirement to two Senate bills (S.99 and S.100) promoting affordable housing and development projects crafted to grow the state economy.

"This legislation had bipartisan support, with broad recognition of the need to make housing more affordable across the entire housing continuum," Scott said.

Rebecca Kelley, the governor's spokeswoman, also criticized the move, reiterating that "Gov. Scott has made absolutely clear he will not support new taxes and fees that make Vermont less affordable."

Article written by Lou Varrichio the Vermont bureau chief for Watchdog.org.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

To the volunteer firemen and women of Proctorsville, Cavendish, Ludlow, Springfield, Chester, Reading, Weston, Mount Holly, Ascutney, Walpole, and Weathersfield who rallied to our house in the early hours of February 15 to fight our house fire we are eternally grateful.

Through your efforts you were

able to control an inferno and save our house. While there was much damage to our ell and barn, the interior of the house is basically intact. You were also able to rescue our cat from the burning barn where he had been sleeping while the structure was burning.

We are amazed by the care with

which you took the time to move paintings from walls, move furniture and other family items to avoid water damage. We would also like to thank the Red Cross, Black River Good Neighbors, the Cavendish Baptist Church, Gethsemane Church, and all the people from our community who have generously offered support to

us, be it meals, donations to help us rebuild our house, clothes, furniture, kitchen appliances, or a helping hand.

We are blessed to live in a community with such caring people.

Sincerely,
Bruce, PJ and Meade Pollard
Proctorsville, Vt.

Dear Editor,

Nitka's notes from the State House

Recently I had an opportunity to talk about agriculture and other Northern VT matters with Senator Bobby Starr of North Troy, (who can see Canada from his living room), and Senator Carolyn Branagan of Georgia whose town is just south of St. Albans and is bordered by Lake Champlain. With the exception of Grand Isle County, these two Senators along with two colleagues represent the entire northern border counties of our state. Both Starr and Branagan serve on the Senate Agriculture Committee and are well versed in agricultural matters. There was talk of large farm that milks 1400 cows growing to 2400 milkers and spending eight million dollars retrofitting barns and systems and

purchasing robots that will replace twelve workers. The farm will be able to operate with two workers once these innovations are in place. This same farm has a methane digester that produces enough electricity to heat 300 average size homes. The need for workers is very evident in all of these counties as it is around the state.

The talk went on to Jay Peak Resort, where they are experiencing a very successful ski season. Their extensive water park is a big draw for visitors also. The resort attracts many Canadian tourists in addition to their US customers and the biggest complaint is lack of enough parking and the need for workers. Many retirees have taken positions at the mountain or at surrounding businesses. Some restaurants have

lines, but keep seats empty as they don't have enough help to prepare the food and provide good service to all the customers that they could potentially seat. One retiree with a CDL license and a background in security thought he would work three days per week found himself working seven so his wife decided she would go to work there also. We have a similar problem around the state with regard to finding enough workers.

The Agency of Agriculture recently presented their budget, which proposes to spend \$22,355,289. The new Agriculture and Environmental Lab is in the works and will be located on the VT Technical College campus. Food Safety and Public Health as well as Weights and Measures are handled at the agency, from store scales

to the certificates on gas pumps. It is a diverse business from animal health, dairy and meat safety and promotion, to slaughterhouses to water quality to the Working Lands Program. House bill 495 speaks to miscellaneous Ag subjects and H-497 deals with animal health. The latter amends current laws regarding the transport of animals within the state and the licensing of livestock businesses. Both of these bills have passed the House and are now in the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Visit the State House, have lunch in the cafeteria and listen to testimony in the committees on many of the bills. Contact me at home at 802-228-8432 or anitka@leg.state.vt.us.

Senator Alice Nitka
Montpelier, Vt.

R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

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OBITUARIES

ALSTEAD, NH

Third Congregational Church of Alstead, River St.
Lenten Services: April 13 at 6 p.m. is Maundy Thursday service. April 14 from 12 – 4 p.m. is quiet meditation in the sanctuary; 6 p.m. is Good Friday service. April 16 at 6 a.m. Easter sunrise service at Millot Green followed by breakfast at the church. 10:30 a.m. Easter service. Call 603-835-6358.

ASCUTNEY, VT

Open Bible Baptist Church, 168 Cemetery Rd.

Obituaries

Sam Lloyd, 1925 - 2017

WESTON, Vt. - Sam Lloyd, an actor, statesman, philanthropist, and community leader, died peacefully at his home in Weston, Vermont, on Friday, March 24. He was 91. The cause of death was heart failure.

Sam Lloyd was born in New York City on September 8, 1925, son of Sam Lloyd and Ruth Lapham Lloyd. He was raised in the suburban communities of Stamford and New Canaan, Connecticut. After graduating from Lawrenceville Academy in 1942, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps, serving with distinction in the Pacific during World War II in the 21st Marines 3rd Division, including the invasion of Iwo Jima. After the war, Sam trained at the Feagin School of Drama and Radio in New York City and played summer stock in Ridgefield, Connecticut and Chataqua, New York. He then joined the acting company at the famed Cleveland Playhouse in Ohio, where - interrupted by a return to duty with the Marines during the Korean War - he spent many productive seasons.

Mr. Lloyd first came to Weston, Vermont, to appear at the Weston Playhouse in the summer of 1951, and he subsequently appeared in more than a thousand Playhouse productions, including "Sherlock Holmes" (1990) with his wife Barbara, brother Christopher, and son Sam.

During the late 1950's, he moved to New York City where he studied with Uta Hagen, understudied Walter Matthau in the Broadway production of "A Shot in the Dark" and appeared in "A Cook for Mr. General" with a young Dustin Hoffman. He has also appeared in three Vermont films, "The Spitfire Grill" (1996), "Where the Rivers Flow North" (1953), and "Bereft" (2004).

Sam and his family moved full time to Weston in 1960, where he combined acting, business, and community service into a life of extraordinary breadth. He owned and operated the Weston Bowl Mill for more than three decades while finding time to serve eight years in the Vermont State Legislature, moderate the Weston Town Meeting for almost four decades, serve repeated terms on the State Environmental Board, serve as a member of the Weston Selectboard and Planning Commission, and the Flood Brook School Board. A dedicated environmentalist, he was among the authors of Vermont's billboard law and Act 250, both of which were dedicated

Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. Morning service at 11 a.m. Bring your own meal to eat 12 p.m. Afternoon service at 1:00 p.m. Sanctuary handicap accessible. Visit: obbcvt.org.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St.
Holy Eucharist Services are offered at 8:00 (quiet service) and 10:00 am (with music) every Sunday.



Sam Lloyd, 1925 - 2017
PHOTO PROVIDED

to preserving the Vermont that he loved.

Sam served as President of the Weston Community Club, was a board member of Vermont Institute of Natural Science, and from 1996 to 2006 he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Weston Playhouse Theatre Company.

Sam's generosity to local institutions is legendary. In the early 1990s, he envisioned the importance of computers in education and donated computers to Flood Brook School and endowed a forward-looking computer program at the school. He also was generous to the Vermont Land Trust, Vermont Community Foundation, and, of course, the Weston Playhouse Theater Company. On the opening night of his performance in "An Ideal Husband" (July 13, 2001), the Theatre Company commemorated his fifty years on the Weston Playhouse stage by naming its rehearsal hall in his honor.

Sam is survived by his beloved wife Barbara of 35 years, who has also been an actor on the Weston stage. He has survived by his four children, Sam Lloyd, Jr., Laurel Lloyd, Robin Lloyd, and Sandra Yapple. A fifth child, Jackson Lloyd, predeceased him. He is also survived by three siblings, Christopher Lloyd, Ruth Lloyd, and Adele Lloyd. He has four grandchildren, four great grandchildren, three stepchildren, three step grandchildren, one step great grandchild, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The Weston Playhouse and State of Vermont are fortunate indeed that he chose to play on ours.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorial Contributions may be made to the Weston Playhouse Theatre Company.

Patricia Mae Limoges, 1950 - 2017

ALSTEAD, N.H. - Patricia Mae Limoges, 66, of Walpole Valley Road died Tuesday, March 21, 2017. Patricia was born in Troy, N.Y. on July 14, 1950, the daughter of George Borter and Catherine Polhemus.

She was a graduate of Newport, N.H. High School and worked for 30 years in medical records at Rockingham Memorial and Springfield Hospitals. She enjoyed crafts, painting, gardening, and loved her dog Emmett.

On August 31, 1968 she married Daniel Limoges who predeceased her. She is survived by her mother Catherine Hagadorn; her sons Eric of Walpo-

le, N.H. and Stephen of Langdon, N.H.; her sister Mary Edelmann of Pittstown, N.Y.; her grandchildren Erinn Limoges, Emmalee Limoges, Claudia Lavoie, Stephen Lavoie, Christopher Eisold, Nicole Limoges, and Logan Eisold; and great granddaughter Addilyn Eisold. She is predeceased by her husband and her father.

There will be calling hours 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 28 at Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home in Bellows Falls, Vt. There will be a graveside service following at 3:00 p.m. in the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, N.H.

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Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St.
Sundays at 10 a.m. More info at CavendishBaptist.com or call 802-226-7131

CHARLESTOWN, NH

North Charlestown United Methodist Church, River Rd.
Sunday worship begins at 9 a.m. Contact at 603-826-038.1

CHESTER, VT

St. Lukes Episcopal Church, 313 Main St.
Rite I, Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. and Rite II Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m. Call 802-875-6000 for more

information.

First Universalist Parish of Chester, Rte. 103. 211 North St.
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. between Sept. and June. www.chestervtuu.org or 802-875-3257.

GRAFTON, VT

The Grafton Church (UCC and ABC), 55 Main St.
Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. Reverend Dyke welcomes everyone!

LUDLOW, VT

The United Church of Ludlow (UCC and Methodist), 48 Pleasant St.
Sundays starting at 10:15 a.m. 802-228-4211, www.unitedchurch.us.

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. www.ludlowbaptist.org or 802-228-2631

Herbert O. Chase, 1931 - 2017

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - Herbert O. Chase Sr., age 85 passed away peacefully surrounded by his family at his home on March 16, 2017. He was born in Windham, Vt May 20, 1931 the son of George and Bessie (Rogers) Chase.

He is survived by his wife, Janice M. Chase, and their two children; Holly M. Chase and her son and Thomas Chase II.; His 2 sons, Herbert O. Chase Jr. Springfield, Vt., Thomas A. Chase, His two daughters, Melody Scott and her husband Robert Scott of Springfield, Cindy King and Her Husband of Pa.;

Step children, Janice F. Pello, Montpelier, Vt., Jane A. O'Connor and her husband Daniel of Mass., James M. Woodard of Greenfield, Mass. Also surviving are many grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was pre-

deceased by his parents, six brothers, and three sisters.

Herbert had lots of friends and family.

Herbert worked on the roads for the Windham Highway Dept. He also did farm work and worked as a carpenter and logger. In his later years he worked as a housekeeper at Springfield Health and Rehab until he retired.

After his retirement he worked in his shop making furniture. He did work for a lot of local people and friends. He was a very good father and friend to everyone, we will all miss him.

A graveside service will be held at a later date in the spring.

Adams Funeral Home of Chester is assisting the family with arrangements.

Lawrence C. Maly Jr., 1963 - 2017

CHESTER, Vt. - Larry Maly, 54, of Chester Vermont, passed away after a long hard battle with cancer, on Sunday evening. His visiting hours were on Thursday March 23, from 1 – 2 p.m., at the Adams Funeral home, 35 Depot St. Chester, Vermont. Services will begin there at 2 p.m., and a coffee hour will follow at the Andover community church.

Larry was born in Middletown, Connecticut. At a very young age he moved to Highgate, Vermont, where he worked hard on his parent's dairy farm. In his adolescent years he moved to Chester, Vermont, where he graduated from Green Mountain High School.

Larry spent most of his adult life working as a Printer at various companies. He ended his career on a high note, working for Sonnox Industries.

For his entire life he was a hard-working, and loving son, brother husband, father and papa. He will be dearly missed by his mother Jean,



Lawrence C. Maly Jr., 1963 - 2017
PHOTO PROVIDED

wife Tamara, brother John, son Nate, his other children: Isaiah, James, Jessica, Justin, Chaz, Emilio, Michelle, Janice, his nine grandchildren, and his best friend Milo.

He was a friend to all that met him and will forever remain in all our hearts.

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SPRINGFIELD, VT

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North Springfield Baptist Church, 69 Main St.
Worship and Praise Service on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. 802-886-8107 or www.nsbvvt.org.

Precision Valley Baptist Church, 69 Route 106
Sunday at 10 a.m. Adult Bible study Sunday from 9-9:45 a.m.

Springfield Assembly of God, 269 River St.

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Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Rd.

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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. 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. Wheelchair accessible. 603-756-4075.

Walpole Unitarian Church, Main St.

Sunday Services: 10 a.m. in the church. Check www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org

WESTMINSTER, VT

Christian Family Circle Chapel, 1512 Back Westminster Rd.

Sunday service begins at 10 a.m., Sunday school at 10:30 a.m. Visit www.christianfamilycirclechurch.com.

Tanner Gasco-Wiggin, 1990 - 2017

CHESTER, Vt. - Tanner Edward Gasco-Wiggin, 26, of Chester, Vt., left us on January 26, 2017. He was born in Randolph, Vt., on July 3, 1990 and grew up in the Springfield area, attending Springfield schools and graduating from Springfield High School in 2008. He attended the Maine College of Art in Portland, Me., and he became an accomplished artist and printmaker.

Tanner cared deeply about social and political causes and was a fierce advocate for freedom of expression. He was an avid reader, and enjoyed snowboarding, hiking, music of all kinds, and reading and writing poetry.

He is survived by his father, Ran-

dall Wiggin and partner Marybeth Maloney of Chester; his mother Valerie Gasco and his step-father Jeff Lavin of Lehigh Acres, Florida; his paternal grandmother, Ruth Wiggin, of Rutland; his brother, Ian Gasco-Wiggin and sister, Siera Lavin, both of Boston, Mass.; and many loving aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends in New England and Florida.

A memorial service will be held at the Old Stone Church (First Universalist), 103 North St, Chester, Vt., on Saturday, April 8 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Tanner's memory to: the Vermont Arts Council, Out-right Vermont, or the Vermont Suicide Prevention Center.

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Colon cancer screening saves lives

REGION - March is National Colon Cancer Awareness Month, so this is a great opportunity to talk to your physician about colon cancer screening. I would like to share some information about colon cancer and what you need to know to decrease the incidence and prevalence of this disease. Here are several important questions and answers to discuss with your physician in regard to colon cancer and your risk.

Who gets colon cancer?

Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths and the third most common cancer in men and women. Most often, colon cancer appears in people ages 50 and older, and the risk for cancer increases with age. African-Americans should consider starting colon cancer screening at the age of 45 due to their higher rates of colon cancer. Both men and women can get colon cancer. Having

a close relative with colon cancer or a diagnosis of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) may increase your risk for colon cancer. Risk is based on your personal and family history. Please discuss colon cancer screening with your personal physician.

What can you do to reduce your risk of colon cancer?

Almost all colon cancers begin as a polyp, which is precancerous growth. Polyps may be present for years before they develop into a cancer. Screening is the best way to reduce your risk for colon cancer, because the goal is to find polyps before they turn into cancer. Regular screening is important because most people will not have any symptoms for colon cancer or colon polyps at the time of screening. If there are symptoms, patients may note blood in the stool, unexplained abdominal pain, or unexplained weight loss.

Aside from regular screening for colon cancer, a diet low in animal fats and high in fruits, vegetables and whole grains may reduce the risk of chronic disease, and may also help lower the risk for colon cancer. Other healthy lifestyle choices such as increasing your physical activity, limiting alcohol intake and avoiding tobacco can also help reduce your risk for colon cancer.

When should you get screened for colon cancer?



John Ciochi, M.D. PHOTO PROVIDED

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends regular screening should begin at age 50. However, those with a family history, including a close relative with colon cancer, IBD or genetic issues may require earlier screening.

What does each screening test involve?

Colonoscopy is still the most effective screening exam. Polyps, if found, will be removed and sent to the lab for the pathologist to examine. Adenomatous polyps carry a higher risk of becoming a colon cancer if left to grow.

Once you're ready to discuss screening for colon cancer with your physician, you want to be aware of any preparation that needs to be done including changes to your diet and medication prior to the testing, as well as how you will receive your results.

The important message is that colon cancer screening is important and should not be delayed, as colon cancer is a highly preventable disease if caught early. Please talk to your physician about colon cancer screening to determine if you are a candidate for screening. If so, do not delay. Screening and removal of polyps are your best defense against the serious risk of colon cancer. Colon cancer screening should be covered by insurance but, for those without insurance or who have a limited income, a financial assistance program based on a sliding fee scale is available to help.

Article was written by John Ciochi, M.D., partner at Surgical Associates in Springfield, Vt. This press release was distributed by Anna Smith, Springfield Medical Care Systems.

State budget showdown expected next week in Vermont House

REGION - After weeks of exchanging barbs over the state budget plan, leaders in the Vermont House are moving toward a decisive vote that could bring years of legislative over-spending to a halt.

Republican Gov. Phil Scott and House Democrats have been locking horns for weeks over taxes, fees or whether to plunge into the state's \$1.6 billion education fund for savings.

House Democrats have been asking Scott for an elusive Plan B to help fix the \$18 million budget deficit (down from \$72 million earlier in the session), but the governor wants to force legislators to make Vermont more affordable by embracing his level-funded budget approach that refuses to impose new taxes and fees.

Katherine Levasseur, a spokesperson for House Speaker Mitzi Johnson, D-South Hero, told Vermont Watchdog that by state law the budget process is coming to its deadline climax, like it or not.

"The deadline is that the bill has to be introduced on Tuesday," Lavasseur said. "The House Appropriations Committee [members] will be wrapping up their work by Friday afternoon, and generally use Monday [March 27] for proofreading and a

vote."

As of last week, Scott and House leaders involved with crafting the budget plan were at loggerheads. It is difficult to see how certain House members will move to uphold Scott's directive when it comes to the \$18 million gap, especially considering the history of the Democrats' super-majority rule under Scott's predecessor, Gov. Peter Shumlin. According to Ballotpedia.com, "Between fiscal years 2014 and 2015, total government spending in Vermont increased by approximately \$0.2 billion - from \$5.1 billion in fiscal year 2014 to an estimated \$5.3 billion in 2015." The jump represents an increase of 3.3 percent.

He said, she said

At a news conference Thursday, Scott rejected a new plan and urged members of the House Appropriations Committee "to think outside the box."

During a March 15 news conference, Johnson didn't mince words about the governor's approach to the budget process.

"He tried to steal local control of budgets and local bargaining from communities. ... He proposed raising local property taxes by \$50 million," Johnson said.

In a statement released last week by House Majority Leader Jill Krowinski, D-Burlington, Appropriations Committee Chair Kitty Toll, D-Danville, and Ways and Means Committee Chair Janet Ancel, D-Calais, the lawmakers argued that Town Meeting Day voters appeared to reject Scott's priorities by approving 90 percent of budgets across Vermont, many of which contained spending increases.

Earlier in the session, Johnson said she was troubled by the governor's desire to level-fund the budget via reprioritizing the education fund.

"We need to think about how to provide the best education in a more holistic way; however, the governor's proposal has serious budget implications and liabilities for Vermont property taxpayers," Johnson said.

Last week, Scott said that he didn't understand why House leaders were pushing back on his idea to go into the state's \$1.6 billion education fund to find savings. "I haven't seen one idea that's come out of House Appropriations at this point in time that even would venture into that area," Scott said.

"Everything is going to work out"

Even as the March 27 vote nears, leaders appear guardedly hopeful of

reaching a budget agreement with the governor.

"In every budget cycle, governors stick with their original proposals for a period, but after the sound-bites fade, they get down to work with the Legislature to develop a plan that works for Vermonters. We're now at that point, and Vermonters expect all of us to come to the table and work together," Johnson said in a statement.

House Ways and Means Committee member Jim Condon, D-Colchester, says he is optimistic about resolving the budget impasse, but he is more concerned about how the federal budget will negatively impact the state. Vermont relies heavily on federal funds to supplement its budget.

"We will come up with a balanced budget," Condon told Vermont Watchdog. "On Ways and Means, we're looking for as much as \$5 million to help erase the remaining \$18 million budget gap. We're trying to do that without new taxes or fees. I also expect to see a rare revenue upgrade before adjournment, so I think everything's going to work out OK. The bigger question has to do with possible federal [Trump] budget cuts. A special session in November



State House dome, Montpelier, Vt. STOCK PHOTO

is not out of the question."

Scott on Friday extended an olive branch to House members.

"I am encouraged to see many in the Legislature who agree with the goals put forward in my budget, which reflect the calls for relief I heard from Vermonters throughout the campaign," he said in a statement. "But we cannot relent or be

resistant to change. Vermonters need us to spend these next eight weeks finalizing a budget and putting forward legislation that helps grow the economy, and allows Vermonters to keep more of what they earn."

Article written by Louis Varrichio, Vermont bureau chief at Vermont watchdog.org.

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sports

THIS & THAT

BY BILL MURPHY

Once upon a time, back in the 1970's I believe, the Vermont Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association (VSSA) were born. Over the years, they have recognized many athletes throughout the state for their achievements on the field or court or wherever they athletic endeavors are pursued.

One of the staples of the VSSA has been to recognize state athletes of the month. The southern part of the state has had a number of winners in the last forty plus years, but in general, the north, who has the majority of the schools and the majority of sports writers and sportscasters, has dominated the winners circle on a regular basis. That is why the fall of 2017 has been very special. Not only has the south held their own in the competition, this area claimed three athletes of the month, in a three-month period. Tremendous!!

The honors began in September when Green Mountain's Mack Walton was recognized as the Vermont Male Athlete of the Month. Walton's Chieftain soccer team had a strong season, but couldn't advance past the quarterfinal round of the Vermont Division III play-offs, where they bowed to top seeded Twin Valley 5-2. However, during Walton's four year tenure, Green Mountain won a post season game in three of those years, a feat never accomplished before in the legacy of Green Mountain soccer and the 32-19-5 record during Walton's four varsity years, was equal to any similar period in the school's history. Green Mountain has advanced to four semi-final games over the years, with the last coming in 2002.

Walton's skill allowed him to be chosen for this summer's Lions Cup Soccer Game to be played versus New Hampshire on July 15 and has earned him an opportunity to play Division I soccer at Clarkson University, where he plans on majoring in Physical Therapy. His soccer coach, Brian Rapanotti gave him the ultimate compliment when he said,

"He's as good as it gets. I have never seen anyone, who played as hard in any sport. He never takes a second off in practice or in games, he is a great competitor."

Honors again came to the reporting area, when Murphy Hicks, from Bellows Falls, was named the Vermont Female Athlete of the Month for October. Hicks doesn't have personal statistics, because halfbacks for the most part, don't post goals or assists, but like Walton, she manned her position at halfback for four years and the teams success during that time, bolstered by a stingy defense, culminated in two straight Vermont Division III state championships. During Hicks' time with the team, the Terriers went 49-3-3 in the four-year regular season and advanced to three title games and a semi-final. Some great numbers on their own.

Hicks is going on to play Field Hockey in college next year at the Division II level at American International College, where she plans to study Occupational Therapy. Terrier coach Bethany Coursen saluted her defense often during the season and said of Hicks,

"She is very solid on our backline. In fact, she's our wall. She stops most everything that goes back there without any problems and she provides great leadership and communicates well. I am honored that she has chosen to play field hockey in



Bellows Falls running back Jake Lober on one of his many strong carries during the 2016 Terrier football season. Lober was the Vermont State Male Athlete of the Month for November.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



Green Mountain's Mack Walton controlling play. Walton was the Vermont State Male Athlete of the Month in September.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



Murphy Hicks #8 about to battle for possession of the ball in the 2016 Vermont State Championship Field Hockey game. Hicks was the Oct. Female Vermont State Athlete of the month.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

college with her having a choice of sports to play. We have had a number of players to go on to play in college, but Murphy will be the first at the Division II level."

Bellows Falls football player Jake Lober was the Vermont Male Athlete of the Month for November. Lober, like the two previous mentioned winners, was a part of his team at the varsity level for four straight years. Terrier football coach Bob Lockerby referred to Lober during the season as "one tough kid," and said "he can pick you up yards, throw blocks when you need 'em and on defense, he is something else."

Lober filled all those shoes throughout his career. When the season ended, Lober was not sure what he felt would be best for his future, but now he has decided to go on to school and he is set to continue playing football at Castleton State University, where he will study for a degree in business. Lober played in the North-South football game and that contest concluded his high school career. Like the other two winners, the teams, which Lober played on, had team numbers to write home about during his years in uniform. The totals for Jake's four years were 32-7 in the regular season and a Vermont State Championship in his senior year.

Three athletes in three different sports and in one geographical area in a three month period were named Vermont State Athlete of the Month. Pretty special stuff. So I decided to get the three together, to see if they possibly had anything in common.

Interestingly enough, all three are three sport athletes this year. Two of them, Walton and Lober met before high school, playing a sport, baseball, they have rarely played since. Hicks and Lober have known each other since seventh grade, when they started attending school together. Hicks is the only one, who has played three varsity sports throughout the high school years. They all showed loads of respect for each other's sport. None of the three had heard about the Vermont State Athlete of the Month Award before they won their honor.

Walton told us he realizes that "soccer is different from both football and field hockey because of the fact that you play with your feet. Foot coordination is very important in order to be successful. You need footwork, speed, strength, balance and then it comes down to shooting and passing."

Hicks felt that "being able to control the ball when you pass, shoot or dribble were skills unique to field hockey" and obviously using a stick, is unlike anything you do in football and soccer. Hicks also felt if the other two were to play her sport, another big adjustment would be "getting use to all the whistles and

what they mean. There are a lot more whistles in my sport."

Lober knew one thing for sure about his sport, "it's a lot more physical. We use speed and footwork and those other things the other two use, but strength is probably the most important thing. That and you have more people who have to use teamwork all at once to be successful. It doesn't matter how good you are, you can't play for yourself. Myself, I love football because I like to hit people."

Walton was a little envious that both the others had won state titles, but he understood the landscape of their success. The

senior standout remembers when his mom Julie was head coach of the Green Mountain girls soccer team and the ride her team took in 2010.

"They went to the finals and that was exciting for everyone, but I know we are a decent size D III school, but we play in a world where there are even some D IV schools that have success regardless of the number of student athletes they have. I now know that it comes down to culture for successful schools and whether the rest of the school has a stake in it. When you have teams that win titles or come close year after year, it gets the youth of the area excited to put in more work in the sport and they want to win their own title and things keep getting better and better."

Lober agreed saying, "I've been watching since I was a little kid and was hitting people when I went to practices for my fathers teams when he was coaching. I had seen all these other teams win over the years and it was really important we won this year, because we kept working harder and harder every year and it would have been awful never to win."

Hicks feels in a sense what goes around comes around. She remembers the culture she grew up in playing youth field hockey in Bellows Falls and being coached by the high school players and having now seen her team succeed with the back to back titles and having seen the youth she coached, "look up to us and say things like, 'when I get to be like you, I'll get to play for a state title.' I have to admit, there were times I hated field hockey at first, but when I surprisingly made varsity in my freshman year, I started to realize I might have a future in this. It didn't use to be my favorite sport, but, maybe our success helped it get right up there."

Walton's school may be the only one of the three which has no state titles in his sport, but maybe that is why, he appears to best understand there is more to sports than winning the big one. "I hoped the way we played the last few years has influenced some area youth to play the game. The middle school boys have 30 players so the program is definitely growing. Players like the three of us, are important, to represent our game and serve as role models hoping to make more athletes want to do what we are doing."

In summary, these three players probably did something no other area trio has ever done, that is win a Vermont State Athlete Award for our region in consecutive months. Congratulations Mack, Murphy and Jake ! A performance by you and your teams well done.

Seventh annual Dari Joy baseball contest

BY BILL MURPHY

The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - You can earn area bragging rights by submitting one of the strongest entries in the seventh annual Dari Joy baseball contest. You have until April 12 to figure out your choices to win one of three gift certificate prizes of \$50, \$25 or \$15 or one of three autographed Red Sox baseballs.

Contestants must pick all six divisions of major league baseball from top to bottom, select each leagues two wild card teams and then pick the eventual two World Series participants and tab a winner of the World Series. Examples of the prediction format appear later in this article.

You may enter the contest by either e-mailing your picks to bmurphy@vermontjournal.com or you may mail them to The Shopper, PO Box 308, Bellows Falls, VT. 05101 noting below the address: Attention Baseball Contest.

How points are awarded in the contest:

- 7 points for choosing the World Series champion (you will be given 2 points if your champion selection is in the World Series and loses)
 - 4 points for choosing the World Series loser (you will get 2 points if your selection is in the World Series and wins)
 - 3 points for each division champion selected (you will get 1 point if a division champion choice makes the post season as a wild card)
 - 1 point for wild card choices who are in the play-offs (either as a wild card or a division winner)
- Tiebreakers- Ties will be broken

from last place up, thus every one of your choices is important. If you tie for one of the six winning spots, the tie will be decided by how many last place teams you choose correctly. If the tie still exists after last place consideration, you move on to next to last place and continue up the standings ladder as many spots as needed until the tie is broken. Tiebreakers are utilized most every year.

Only one entry is allowed per person- Multiple entries will disqualify you. Include contact information with your entry (mailing address, e-mail address, phone number).

Below are this seasons picks by Rich Demuzio (Dari Joy owner) and Bill Murphy (sports editor). Please use the same format in doing your picks. If any of the top six finishers accumulate more points than both Demuzio and Murphy, the monetary prizes will double. In the first six years of the contest, four years readers accomplished that feat.

Demuzio picks:

- AL EAST: Boston, Toronto (WILD CARD), Baltimore, New York, Tampa Bay
CENTRAL: Cleveland, Detroit (WILD CARD), Kansas City, Chicago, Minnesota
WEST: Texas, Houston, Seattle, Los Angeles, Oakland
NL EAST: Washington, New York (WILD CARD), Philadelphia, Miami, Atlanta
CENTRAL: Chicago, St. Louis (WILD CARD), Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Cincinnati
WEST: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Arizona, Colorado, San Diego

Demuzio tabs the Chicago Cubs to beat the Boston Red Sox in the World

Series

Murphy's picks:

- AL EAST: Boston, Toronto (WILD CARD), New York, Baltimore, Tampa Bay
CENTRAL: Cleveland, Detroit, Kansas City, Minnesota, Chicago
WEST: Texas, Houston (WILD CARD), Seattle, Los Angeles, Oakland
NL EAST: Washington, New York (WILD CARD), Philadelphia, Miami, Atlanta
CENTRAL: Chicago, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Cincinnati
WEST: Los Angeles, San Francisco (WILD CARD), Colorado, Arizona, San Diego

Murphy picks the Los Angeles Dodgers over the Cleveland Indians in the World Series. This would be the Dodgers first title since 1988.

You have about two weeks to pick your winners. The baseball season opens Sunday with a tripleheader beginning with the New York Yankees at Tampa Bay at 1:10 p.m. on ESPN, followed by a 4:10 p.m. contest on ESPN 2 showing the San Francisco Giants at Arizona with former Red Sox bench coach/manager Torey Lovullo making his official major league debut. The nightcap is back on ESPN at 8:35 p.m. when the long time rival Cubs and Cardinals meet in St. Louis.

For ice cream lovers, the Dari Joy opens Saturday at 11 a.m. for the season. What will you do first, have your first Dari Joy of the season or watch your first official baseball pitch? It is almost time to find out.

is Monday, April 10. If anyone has inquiries they call the pro shop 603-756-4080 and leave a message.

Anna Valentine takes silver

LUDLOW, Vt. - Okemo Mountain School (OMS) snowboarder Anna Valentine (Class of '18) capped off an incredible season with a second place victory in the FIS Junior World Snowboard Championships in Laax, Switzerland, on Monday, March 20. It was the second medal in two days for Valentine, as she also took the silver in the Swiss National Europa Cup on Sunday. Valentine has been on fire this year with two U.S. Revolution Tour podiums in slopestyle, at Waterville Valley, N.H., and in halfpipe at Mammoth Mountain, Calif. Also, she was invited to compete at Junior Worlds in both disciplines.

"Okemo Mountain School is extremely proud of Anna and her accomplishments," said Head Snowboard Coach Luke Bonang. "I couldn't be more stoked for Anna! She has been a part of this program since she was a little mini shredder at the age of eight. Now, eight years



Anna Valentine takes silver at Junior World Championships.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY OKEMO MOUNTAIN

later, Anna is starting to come into her own in snowboarding and is making her mark in the sport, which is awesome to see and so very well deserved!

Anna has a timeless style in her snowboarding and we are looking forward to seeing what the future has in store for her."

"Anna is an incredible student-athlete whose drive for success on snow, is matched by her drive for success in the classroom," said Mariel Meringolo, OMS Head of School. "She balances her intensity and focus with a fun-loving, easy-going attitude. I believe that this rare combination is the key to her success."

In two weeks, Valentine's season will culminate with the 2017 USASA Nationals event at Copper Mountain, Colo., where she will compete in halfpipe and slopestyle events.

OMS is a non-profit educational institution dedicated to the academic and athletic development of serious snow sports athletes. Student-athletes are given the opportunity to train in alpine ski racing, snowboarding and freestyle skiing while pursuing a rigorous course of academic study.

Jiu Jitsu team scores big

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Earlier this month, a jiu jitsu team from Rockingham traveled to Albany, N.Y., to compete in the North American Grappling Association's regional competition, where more than 500 competitors from around New England and beyond gathered to test their skills.

Five members of the new Flex Fit Jiu Jitsu team (training out of Bellows Falls) competed in Albany and all five medaled in their gi and no-gi divisions.

Flex Fit Jiu Jitsu formed in July 2016 and currently has about 25 members (both children and adults) and is coached by Professor Patrick Applegate, a second degree black belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. The team also works in the Bellows Falls Middle School after-school program where Megan Applegate (a Brazilian Jiu

Jitsu purple belt) teaches 15 students kickboxing and jiu jitsu twice a week.

"We came from a little town nobody's ever heard of and swept through our divisions," Patrick

said of the NAGA tournament. "I couldn't be more proud of my students and how they performed. We're really excited to see how far we can take Brazilian Jiu Jitsu in southern Vermont and beyond."



The Flex Fit Jiu Jitsu team with their medals at the NAGA Albany Tournament.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Hooper Golf Course opening day

WALPOLE, N.H. - Meeting House West LLC, and some volunteers will be running Hooper Golf Course again

this season. The rates will be the same as last year. The anticipated opening day for the Hooper Golf Course

arts & entertainment

Run in the Rockin'Ham 5K

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Central Elementary School will be hosting its third annual Rockin'Ham 5K on Saturday, April 8. In a new twist this year, the 5K will begin and end at the Central School, 50 School Street Extension, Bellows Falls. Runners may register online at <https://g2racereg.webconnex.com/rockinham5k2017>, or paper registrations may be downloaded from the CES website www.ceshome.org or picked up at Central School, 50 School Street Extension, Bellows Falls. Same-day registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. on April 8, and the race start time is 10:30 a.m. The race logo was designed by local artist Erin Shaw of Spot On Screen Printing.

Local sponsors for the race include Whitney Blake, Adams Trucking &

Excavation, Applied Bolting, UNFI, The Killarney, Walpole Orthodontics, Village Square Booksellers, Lisa's Market, Silver Forest of Vermont, Lawrence & Lober Electric, Savings Bank of Walpole, Durand Toyota, Pixie & Pirate Destinations, Cota & Cota, Abenague Car Wash, Joy Wah, Hodgkins & Sons Inc, D&R & Sons Auto Repair, American Legion Post #37, Greater Falls Insurance, Allen Brothers, B-A-R-T Energy, Edward Jones, Aumands & Sons Furniture, Dr. Timothy D Johnson, Polish American Club #1, Ted's Shoe & Sport, Roots on the River, and J&H Hardware.

A raffle drawing will also be held on the same date. Raffle tickets may be purchased from any Central School student or by contacting the

school at 802-463-4346.

"We are so excited to be hosting the third annual Rockin'Ham 5K," 5K co-coordinator Kerry Pickering said. "We hope to build on the success of our previous races which were such fun-filled days for all involved. We are especially excited to note that this year's race will feature a flatter race course beginning and ending at Central School. The race promotes health and wellness for both our school and community, and we look forward to seeing everyone there on what we hope will be a beautiful April morning!"

The school is still seeking sponsors, and raffle prize donations continue to be accepted as well. If you wish to provide a monetary sponsorship or donate a raffle prize, please contact Central School at 802-463-4346. All proceeds from the race benefit the Central School Parent Teacher Organization for programs, field trips, and residencies for Central School students.

Cellist Eugene Friesen solo concert —



Eugene Friesen.

PHOTO PROVIDED

WESTON, Vt. - Four time Grammy winner and internationally acclaimed cellist, composer, conductor and teacher, Eugene Friesen, returns to the Weston Community Church on the Hill to perform his solo cello concert. No RSVP required. Tickets will be available at the door. Concert is on Friday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. Be sure to visit our website to view all our spring and summer events at: www.vtchurchonthehill.org.

Underwater Easter egg hunt —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Edgar May Health and Recreation Center is having their annual Underwater Easter Egg Hunt. It will take place on Sunday, April 2. This fun take on the traditional Easter Egg Hunt is great fun for children ages 2 and up. There are three sessions: Session One is for children ages 2-4 in their wading pool at 4 p.m.; Session Two is at 4:30 p.m. for children ages 2-5 in their wading pool; and Session Three is for children ages 6 and up in their lap pool. Registration is required, please call 802-885-2568.



Dive in the water and collect Easter Eggs at Edgar May.

STOCK PHOTO

Starting with "Sunset Boulevard," FOLA features 1950s classic movies in April —

LUDLOW, Vt. - On Saturday, April 1 at 7 p.m., FOLA (Friends of Ludlow Auditorium) will initiate a three movie series dealing with classic films of the 1950s; the first film will be "Sunset Boulevard." On Saturday, April 8, the second film in the series will be "On the Waterfront." The series will conclude on Saturday, April 15 featuring "The Killing." All films start at 7 p.m. in the Ludlow Town Hall auditorium.

Rick Winston, well-known film historian, will briefly discuss the three films in this series. Mr. Winston, courtesy of the Vermont Humanities Council, will describe the highlights of the film series with specific emphasis on "Sunset Boulevard," "On the Waterfront" and "The Killing," the three films in the series.

"Sunset Boulevard" is a 1950 American film noir directed and co-written by Billy Wilder. It was named after the boulevard that runs through Los Angeles and Beverly Hills, California.

The film stars William Holden as Joe Gillis, an unsuccessful screenwriter, and Gloria Swanson as Norma Desmond, a faded silent film star who draws him

into her fantasy world where she dreams of making a triumphant return to the screen, with Erich von Stroheim as Max Von Mayerling, her devoted servant. Nancy Olson, Fred Clark, Lloyd Gough and Jack Webb play supporting roles. Director Cecil B. DeMille and gossip columnist Hedda Hopper play themselves, and the film includes cameo appearances by leading silent film actors Buster Keaton, H. B. Warner and Anna Q. Nilsson.

While trying to escape from his creditors, Joe Gillis has a flat tire and parks his car in the driveway of a decadent mansion on Sunset Boulevard. He meets the owner and former silent-movie star Norma Desmond, who lives alone with her butler and driver Max von Mayerling. Norma

proposes Joe to move to the mansion and help her in writing a screenplay for her comeback to the cinema, and the small-time writer becomes her lover and gigolo. When Joe falls in love for the young aspirant writer Betty Schaefer, Norma becomes jealous leading to a tragic conclusion of the film.

Praised by many critics when first released, "Sunset Boulevard" was nominated for eleven Academy Awards (including nominations in all four acting categories) and won three. Deemed "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" by the U.S. Library of Congress in 1989, "Sunset Boulevard" was included in the first group of films selected for preservation in the National Film Registry. In 1998, it was ranked number twelve on the American Film Institute's list of the 100 best American films of the 20th century.

As with all FOLA movies, the film is open to everyone and is free; donations are appreciated. Popcorn will be provided by Berkshire Bank with water offered by FOLA. For more information, call 802-228-7239 or visit the FOLA web site at www.fola.us.



"Sunset Boulevard" is the first classic movie for FOLA.

PHOTO PROVIDED

"Spring Stories on Silk Pages" —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Gallery at the VAULT is happy to welcome guest artist Teresa Hillary back with her show, "Spring Stories on Silk

Pages," a spring themed collection of stunning silk scarves from March 22 to May 4. She has outdone herself. We are lucky to have her indi-

vidually designed, drawn and painted silk adornments at the Gallery. Teresa even mixes her own paints to get just the right effect. Each scarf is a one of a kind, a delightful flow of art on silk.

For more information please call or come into Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main Street, Springfield. We are open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Contact: 802-885-7111, gallervault@vermontel.net or visit our web page www.gallervault.org.



Teresa Hillary will present her exhibit "Spring Stories on Silk Pages."

PHOTO PROVIDED

Bellows Falls Community Bike Project 2nd annual

SILENT AUCTION Fundraiser! SATURDAY, APRIL 8

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by Donovan's
Bike Raffle
50/50 cash raffle



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arts & entertainment

Painting spectacular flowers in watercolor

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Spring is coming. Robert O'Brien is offering a workshop in painting spectacular flowers in watercolor at Gallery at the VAULT from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 8. Students will learn basic floral painting techniques, with an emphasis on values and composition. You will focus on painting with a close-up reference of flowers in an artistic setting.

Robert will demonstrate the techniques, then students will paint



O'Brien will teach you how to paint flowers in watercolor. PHOTO PROVIDED

while he provides hands-on guidance. A critique and discussion will be held at the end of the session. All levels are welcome. A materials list will be provided at registration. There is a cost for members and non-members.

For more information please call or come into Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main Street, Springfield. We are open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Contact: 802-885-7111, galleryvault@vermontel.net or visit our web page www.galleryvault.org.

Champagne Marmalade class at Blake Hill Preserves

WINDSOR, Vt. - A new series of hands-on classes in the art of fine preserve making by one of the nation's leading artisans. Each class makes a special variety preserve, marmalade or chutney using the finest seasonal produce and includes preparation, cooking, "setting," and safe canning practices.

Take home a complimentary recipe sheet, a jar of the variety we make together in class, and enjoy 15 percent off all purchases on day of class in our Specialty Preserves Shop!

We will offer two classes on Saturday, April 8, starting at 9:30 a.m. In celebration of our recent wins at the World Marmalade



Take a Marmalade class at Blake Hill Preserves. PHOTO PROVIDED BY BLAKEHILLPRESERVES.COM

Awards in England, we are going to make a unique Champagne Marmalade whereby we will infuse some of the season's finest specialty citrus - perhaps some Bergamot Oranges - with a classic Champagne!

The classes will be held at Blake Hill Preserves, located at 60 Artisans Way, Windsor, Vt. 05089. Call 802-674-4529, or visit www.blakehillpreserves.com/cooking-classes.html for more information.

"The Savannah Sipping Society" needs cast

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Springfield Community Players will open their 2017 season with the new comedy, "The Savannah Sipping Society," by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten, with performances on June 2, 3, 9 and 10.

Auditions will be held at the Players' Studio at 165 South Street on Sunday, April 9 from 5 - 6:30 p.m. and Monday, April 10 from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

In this laugh-a-minute comedy, four unique Southern women, all

needing to escape the sameness of their day-to-day routines, are drawn together by fate—and an impromptu happy hour—and decide it's high time to reclaim the enthusiasm for life they've lost through the years.

The cast calls for four mature women, aged approximately late forties to early seventies.

For more information, please contact the director, Don Gray at 802-885-4048 or dgray1@vermontel.net.

Mud Fling dance hall jamboree

BELMONT, Vt. - Come down to the Odd Fellows Hall on Saturday, April 1 for the Mt. Holly Mud Fling! An old style road house dance hall jamboree to shake of those winter blues. The Mud Fling begins at 8 p.m. and will have

Tony Lee Thomas & Jenny Porter. Tickets are available either in advance at the Belmont General Store or at the door. Bring your own beer (and mud).

More info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/379344189113410/>



Walking the Camino de Santiago

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Please join the Friends of the Springfield Town Library (FOSTL), Wednesday, April 5 at the library for this wonderful program to be presented by Willis and Tina Wood of Weathersfield. In May of 2016, Willis and Tina made this 500-mile hike on the trail known as Camino de Santiago, the "Way of St. James." Traveling about 15 miles a day, it took them 35 days to complete the walk which immersed them in both the ancient and modern-day history of this pilgrimage that dates back to the ninth century. Today about 275,000 people a year embark on this trip, many for religious or spiritual reasons, others just to get away and enjoy the experience.

Their slide show presentation will

take us along to enjoy the scenery, visit the cafes, and to check out the pilgrimage hostels called "albergues" which cost about 10-15 euros a day. The trip began over the Pyrenees in St. Jean Pied de Port, France and it ended at the Cathedral Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

This is the FOSTL annual meeting. It is free and the public is invited. The brief business is at 6:30 p.m., and the program will begin at 7 p.m., followed by light refreshments. Please call the Springfield Town Library at 802-885-3108 for more information.

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outdoor news

Gardening for pollinators —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - On Thursday, April 13 at 7 p.m., join Laura Gaudette and JoAnne Russo for a presentation and discussion about attracting pollinators to your yard and gardens. They will suggest

ways to make your property more attractive while helping bees, butterflies and birds thrive! This program will be presented at the Rockingham Free Public Library. Gaudette gardens in Putney

and is an avid naturalist with a particular interest in creating backyard habitats. Russo lives in Rockingham and has participated in the Vermont bumble bee survey and is helping identify the moth species of Vermont. There will be refreshments and door prizes. In addition, on May 4 at 6:30 p.m. Henry Homeyer will be discussing "Beyond Perennials." The culmination of these events will be the Friends' May 13 Plant Sale! Both programs are open to the public. Donations to the Friends of the Rockingham library will be accepted to help cover the costs of the programs. Call 802-463-4270 for more information.



Learn how to attract pollinators to your garden.

STOCK PHOTO

Windsor Summer Camp Expo

WINDSOR, Vt. - With summer just around the corner, Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center Pediatric Clinic is teaming up with community partners to host the second annual Summer Camp Expo at the State Street School in Windsor, Vt. On Wednesday, April 5 from 5 - 7 p.m., up to 15 local camps will be on hand to offer information paired with some activities, prizes and a light dinner. Families will have an opportunity to speak with exhibitors offering day and overnight programs for children from Kindergarten to high school. Along with the Pediatric Clinic, partners include: the Windsor State Street School, Mt. Ascutney Prevention Partnership, and OneCare Vermont. The event is the brainchild of Sandy Soho, Windsor mom and Clinical Consultant at OneCare Vermont, with a goal of making it easier for young families to get the information



Summer Camps can be a great source of outdoor adventure for kids. PHOTO PROVIDED

they need to help their children remain active during the summer. "Summer camp is such a great experience for children but parents don't always know what is avail-

able," says Soho. The evening will provide the opportunity to receive information and resources from many sources at one place and time.

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Removing bird feeders by April 1

REGION - The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department says warm spring weather and melting snows will cause bears to come out of their winter dens in search of food. The department recommends taking down bird feeders on April 1 to avoid attracting them. Bears are very fond of suet and bird seed, especially black oil sunflower seed. Bringing feeders in at night doesn't work, because bears will still feed on seed that is spilled on the ground. Bird feeders are just one of the things that can attract hungry bears. Other sources of food that bears find appealing are: pet food, barbecue grills, garbage, household trash containers, open dumpsters, and campsites with accessible food and food wastes. Purposely feeding a bear is not



Vermont Fish & Wildlife recommends taking down bird feeders to avoid attracting black bears that are waking from hibernation.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY VT F&W

just bad for the bear, it's also illegal. Vermont law also states that residents must take reasonable measures to protect their property from bears before lethal force can be taken. Some of these measures include: Keep chickens and honeybees secure within an electric fence or other bear-proof enclosure. Never feed bears, deliberately or accidentally. Feed your pets indoors. Store trash in a secure place; trash cans alone are not enough! "We are asking anyone who has a problem with a bear to report the incident in a form that we have on our website www.vtfishandwildlife.com," said Forrest Hammond, Vermont's bear biologist. "There is a section in the form where you can ask us to call you to provide advice," Hammond added.

Springfield's seventh annual May Festival call to vendors

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Mark your calendars for May 20, the seventh annual May Festival at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Fairground Road in Springfield. The festival will include our popular plant sale. There will be annuals, perennials, vegetables and herbs for your garden. Our garden experts will be on hand for consultation and to answers questions. Lunch will be available at our deli-style café. In addition, there will be musical entertainment and an indoor art exhibit and sale. Vendor booths include food crafts, woodworking, jewelry, fabric crafts, flea market items and more. Space is still



There is still space for vendors at the May Festival.

STOCK PHOTO

Find out how much snow is on the slopes!

www.VermontJournal.com

available for those wishing to participate. The booths are 10ft x 10ft. The festival is a rain or shine event. Vendors must provide their own canopies and plan accordingly for the weather. Festival hours are 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Set up time on May 20 is 7:30 - 8:45 a.m. Vendors may drive up to their booth space for unloading. Please call JoAnn at 885-1699 or e-mail springfieldfair@gmail.com to reserve a space. You may also find the application on our website: <https://uuspringfieldvt.org/>.

OKEMO MOUNTAIN RESORT

APRIL ►

1 HOPS ON THE SNOW BREWFEST

This one-day beer festival takes place on snow in the Jackson Gore Courtyard. Okemo will serving beer selections from 10 breweries. Enjoy beautiful Spring conditions on the hill in the morning, then quench your thirst by sampling a few brews and bbq in the afternoon. Presented by Mary W. Davis Realtor and Associates.

8 SLUSH CUP & SPLASH FOR CASH

SLUSH CUP

Costume-clad competitors skim across an 80-foot long, man-made slush pond in the Jackson Gore Base Area, without falling in! Prizes will be awarded based on the overall impression of style, costume and craziest run, with additional prizes for best costume and best wipe out! Presented by AMP Energy.

SPLASH FOR CASH

The fun doesn't end once the pond has been skimmed! Get ready for the Splash for Cash! We're setting up a kicker at the beginning of the slush cup pond, and you've got one shot to try your luck at grabbing the cold hard cash hanging high up in the air. Presented by William Raveis Real Estate Vermont Properties.

16 GOLDEN EGG HUNT & JUNIOR EGG HUNT

Children of all ages, and the young at heart! Find the Okemo Marked Golden Egg hidden on an open trail in the Clock Tower Base Area and win a pair of skis or a snowboard. Other eggs will be hidden on the mountain, accessed by the A & B quads, that will contain wrapped candies and toys. Hunt begins at 8 a.m.

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business spotlight

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Chef Pete Dickinson trained in classical cuisine at Johnson Wales in Rhode Island. He doesn't claim a specialty but says he tries to serve "traditional food with a flair." He has been cooking for fine restaurants for 34 years.

Murdock's opened in February 2017. The restaurant offers a relaxed pub atmosphere, featuring locally sourced meats

and cheeses, local craft beers, and a selection of unique wines. An outdoor eating area will open in the spring.

Murdock's is open Wednesday-Thursday-Sunday 4-9, Friday-Saturday 4-10. Closed Monday-Tuesday. Murdock's does not take reservations.



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LUDLOW, VT - Severy Brothers Inc. is seeking people to fill positions for their lawn mow crew for the 2017 season. Lawn mowing foreman: Someone to head up all lawn mowing operations. This is not an entry-level position. We are seeking an experienced person who takes initiative and takes great care in what they do. Lawn mowing technician: Someone to work on the mow crew. Applicants need to have at least 2 years of experience, a valid drivers license and a clean record. Year-round work is a possibility for the right applicant with snow plowing and maple sugaring being done in the winter. Must be able to run commercial lawn care equipment and be fluent in backing up a trailer. These are full time positions and pay is based on experience. All applications are confidential. Call 802-345-9723 (04/18)

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Chester-Andover Elementary School
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Chester-Andover Elementary School has begun the process of registration for children who will be eligible for Kindergarten in the fall (for the 2017/2018 school year). Children must be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2017.

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solar

USA SOLAR STORE

A local provider offers technical

knowledge and services for integrating comprehensive energy strategies using conservation, efficiency and solar grid-tied and off-grid systems. \$50 off any system with this ad. 802-226-7194 dave@usasolarstore.com TFN

sheetrock/drywall

NEWHALL'S NEW WALLS

Complete Dry walling Services. 25-years experience, free estimates, fully insured, 802-376-8755 or visit me at: Virgil@newhallsnewwalls.com www.newhallsnewwalls.com TFN

small engine repair

KINNEY'S SMALL ENGINE REPAIR

15 Paradise Hill, Bellows Falls, VT. Chain saw, Trimmers, Riding and Walk-behind mower, Compact Tractors Saw chain and Mower Blade sharpening. 802-463-4715 TFN

staining

CONTEMPORARY, COLONIAL, RANCH AND LOG HOMES

40 years Demolding & Stripping, Log Replacement, Chinking and Caulking 15-year warranty! Johnathan - 802-775-6086 www.vermontstaining.com TFN

wood pellets & bio bricks

THE STOVE DEPOT, INC.

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

calendar

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29—SOUTH LONDONDERRY, Vt. - Computer whiz Marc Fontaine offers classes in Word, Excel, emails, and saving or forwarding attachments and images. Bring a list of your specific questions and your laptop, digital device, or tablet. Classes will be held at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays, March 29, April 5, and April 12. Marc has also agreed to hold a class on Saturday, April 15, at 11 a.m. Signup is encouraged. Please call the library at 824-3371, or stop by.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31—RUTLAND, Vt. - Join Rutland Area Farm and Food Link's (RAFFL) Everyday Chef program (EDC) for a four-class series on nutritious, authentic Mexican food. Located at the Trinity Episcopal Church from 12-1:30 p.m. Learn how to make regional Mexican desserts such as Oaxaca Chocolate, Cajeta—a traditional goat's milk caramel, and beloved Mexican Flan—a comforting and satisfying custard. There is a fee for the class. For more information, call 802-417-1528 x5. Register at www.rutlandfarmandfood.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1—LUDLOW, Vt. - Go with the Flow Yoga studio at 110 Main St. will host a workshop, noon-2 p.m., on reducing stress and restoring wholeness

after trauma. Somatic therapist Pamela Tinkham, MSW, LCW, RYT will lead a chakra meditation, somatic experiencing techniques and gentle yoga poses. She is author of the book "Healing Trauma from the Inside Out." RSVP to Tish, gowiththeflowvt@gmail.com. Register and pay online at www.gowiththeflowvt.com/workshops-events. All levels, ages welcome.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4—WINHALL, Vt. - Weekly Tai chi classes hosted by the Winhall Community Arts Center. Beginners' classes start the first week of April: Tuesdays 6-7 p.m. and Fridays 10-11 a.m. Come to discover, share a soft and grounding practice. The Winhall Community Arts Center is located in the former town hall building, 3 River Rd., Winhall (off Rte 30). The classes are led by Djemila Cavanaugh of Long River Tai Chi Circle, Cheng Man-ching lineage. Scholarships are available. To learn more, contact Djemila at 802-490-0225 or by email, djem.translator@gmail.com. Check for updates on facebook.com/gemstaichi/.

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

TUESDAYS—BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - River Voices Poetry meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Flat Iron Exchange Building on the Square. All poets welcome. Discussion of all aspects of the poem. 802-463-2204

CHESTER, Vt. - Invigorating and uplifting kundalini yoga series suitable for all levels, from 6 - 7:15 p.m. Located at The Fullerton Inn on the green. Part 4 series: April 11, 18, 25, May 2. Sign up by April 4. Sign up online <http://www.buddhafulyoga.com/events>. Contact Liza Eaton at 802-875-2868

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - 2 hour art classes. BYO refreshments & appetizers. 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. 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: 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.

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. - Practice ancient yoga that is designed enliven and energize your body from 9:30 - 11 a.m.. Part 4 series: April 11, 18, 25, May 2. Sign up by April 4. Suitable for all skill levels; class held at Gethsemane Church, 89 Depot Street. Sign up online <http://www.buddhafulyoga.com/events>. Contact Liza Eaton at 802-875-2868.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The free 10-week Nurturing Parenting Program from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. The sessions will take place at the Rockingham Free Public Library's Community Room on 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls. Dinner and childcare will be provided. The program is a skills-based workshop that supports parents and caregivers in raising happy and healthy tweens and teens. For families of children in grades 4 - 8. You can sign up by calling Suzan Marshall at 802-498-0606 or Deb Witkus at 802-463-9927 x212. An online sign up form is available at www.facebook.com/greaterfallsconnections. Ends May 9.

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. Call 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. - Edgar May 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.

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

of Bellows Falls/Rockingham Recreation Center. 9:30 a.m. -11:00 a.m. Come join the fun! Healthy snack served. Call Molly 802-376-6204.

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 about the classes, please 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. - Edgar May Open Play Group 10 - 11:30 a.m. at Studio Momentum, 71 Main St. An active playtime specifically designed for children aged 6 months through 5 years! Free to member families. Call 802-885-2568 or info@myreccenter.org.

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

FRIDAYS—ANDOVER, Vt. - Registered yoga teachers Lila and Ida Mae Specker will lead a Vinyasa Flow class series at the Andover Town Hall, Fridays April 7, 14, 21 and 28, 9-10 a.m. Please bring your own yoga mat or rug. All are welcome and no previous yoga experience is required. From 10-10:45 a.m., the instructors will lead a kids yoga and movement class series, with live music featuring nursery rhymes and songs. All children of all ages are welcome to join in with a caregiver. For questions, contact lila.specker@gmail.com or call 802-922-3067.

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 welcome. Contact Parks and Recreation Dept. at 802-885-2727.

SATURDAYS—SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Edgar May 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. - 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. Dress warm. There is a fee. Call 802-446-2499 to register. 4/2 Weekly updates available: www.facebook.com/thrivecenterofthegreenmountains.

WEEKLY—SPRINGFIELD, Vt. Come swim with a great group of adults in our Masters Swim Group at the Edgar May Center. The group meets on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. The group is comprised of a wide range of abilities including new swimmers. Call 802-885-2568 or visit www.myreccenter.org

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Youth swim lessons are offered on Saturday and Sunday mornings and Tuesday afternoons. Current classes available includes our Parent and Toddler class in warm water therapy pool as well as levels 1, 2, and 3. Adult swim lessons are on Thursday mornings and feature three levels: Stroke Development, Stroke Improvement, and Stroke Refinement. Swimming for the Petrified is by appointment call 802-885-2568 or visit www.myreccenter.org

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

CLUBS

APRIL 4—LUDLOW, Vt. - Ludlow Rotary will hold a membership mixer April 4 at DJ's Restaurant from 5 to 7 p.m. The mixer will introduce LRC's new business membership program that allows area businesses membership at the same cost as individual memberships. The mixer will feature snacks and a cash bar. "It will give prospective members a chance to learn about Rotary and meet Rotarians", said Jack Menzie, LRC membership committee chairman. For information, contact Jack Menzie at jjmenzie@gmail.com.



STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION
Windsor Unit Docket No. 103-3-17 Wrpt

In re ESTATE of George C. Spafford
Notice to Creditors

To the Creditors of George Spafford, late of Springfield, VT.

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. **The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.**

Dated: 03/24/17
Signed: Daniel Spafford
Mailing Address: 284 Kavadas Circle
City, State, Zip: Chester, VT 05143
Phone Number: 802-875-4660
Name of Publication: The Vermont Journal
Publication Date: March 29, 2017

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court
Address of Probate Court: Windsor Unit - Probate Division
12 The Green, Woodstock, VT 05091

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Town of Londonderry is seeking bids for the structural engineering for a Salt/Sand shed to be built on the Prouty Land located at 4287 Rt. 100 in Londonderry.

The town will require 3 sets of blueprints with sufficient detail to allow for bidding on individual phases including concrete work, framing, roofing, and siding. Drawings must include a state stamp.

Details of the RFP are available on the Town website at www.londonderryvt.org or by contacting Stephanie Thompson, Town Administrator at towndadmin@londonderryvt.org.

Sealed bids should be sent to the Town Office at the address listed above c/o Londonderry Select Board / Engineering Bid, or may be hand-delivered to the Town Clerk at that address. All bids must be received by 2:30 p.m. April 14, 2017.

There will be a pre-bid informational meeting at the Londonderry Town Office on April 7, 2017 at 10:00 AM. Questions may be directed to Board Chairman Paul Gordon at 802-824-5235 or by email at gordonpj@myfairpoint.net

TOWN OF NORTH WALPOLE

VOTING ON THE
2017 BUDGET & WARRANT ARTICLES

Residents of North Walpole Village District are hereby notified: Voting on the 2017 Budget & Warrant Articles is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at St. Peter's Church basement on Church Street, North Walpole, N.H.

Residents may pick up the Village Report at the following locations in the Village: Village Hall; NW Library; 5 Star Beverage; Food Discount after March 30, 2017.

North Walpole Village Commissioners

TAKE A BREAK!

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

Please a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row, column, and each small 3x3 box contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HARD BOSS

www.kingfeatures.com

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Strait-laced
6 Makes dirty
11 Not wobbly
12 WWII fleet
14 Chinese dumpling
15 Chocolate treat
16 As well as
17 Flood preventer
19 UN workers' org.
20 Unembellished
22 Turf
23 Took off
24 Practical joke
26 Lacking a cover
28 Energy
30 "Piggy"
31 Mercurous chloride
35 Is capable, Biblically
39 Follow orders
40 Felon's flight
42 Big truck
43 Historical period
44 Cagney's TV partner
46 Very long time
47 Castle's inner tower
49 2012 Olympics site
51 Zen enlight-

DOWN

1 Pothead
2 Caribou
3 Illustrations
4 "American —"
5 Units of force
6 Work on manuscripts in Britain
7 Reed instrument
8 Charged bit
9 Chemically unstable
10 Fur pieces
11 Morass
13 Hemingway's "The — of Kilimanjaro"
18 Abbr. on a book's spine
21 Representative
23 Dog bane?
27 A Dwarf
29 Actress Griffith
31 Dorm deni-

zens, often
32 Overseas
33 Shed
34 Varnish ingredient
36 Has no obligation to
37 Level
38 Lacking resonance
41 Dissolves
44 Actress Singer
45 Loud, long, mournful cry
48 Trot
50 Ultra-modernist

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LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A stress-filled period takes a positive turn as you deal with the underlying problem. Act now to avoid a recurrence by changing some basic rules in your relationship.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your rising energy levels make it easier for you to achieve some important objectives. This could lead to a big boost in how you're perceived, both at home and on the job.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A changing picture begins to emerge as you learn more about an offer that seemed so right but could be so wrong. Look to a trusted adviser for guidance.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Spiritual aspects are strong. Take time to reflect on the path you're on and where you hope it will lead you. It's also a good time to reach out to loved ones.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You could be assuming far too many responsibilities, whether it's at work or in personal matters. Be careful that you're not weighed down by them.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You're getting closer to your goals. And since nothing succeeds like success (or the promise thereof), don't be surprised to find new supporters swimming alongside you.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are always the first to try new ventures and confront new challenges. You inspire others with your courage to follow your bold example.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might feel confused, even hurt by a friend who suddenly puts distance between you. If she or he won't discuss it, don't push it. An explanation should come in time.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The facts about a new opportunity are still emerging. Wait until they're all out in the open, and then use your keen business sense to help make the right decision.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your willingness to be part of the team opens doors that had been shut to you. Keep them open by keeping your promises even when your commitment seems to be wavering.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Congratulations. You're really getting things done to perfection. And don't forget to take a catnap now and again to keep those energy levels up and bristling for action.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your "plain-talking" honesty is admirable. But sometimes sharp words can leave painful scars. Be careful that what you say doesn't come back to hurt you.

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AUTOMOTIVE

calendar

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

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

TUESDAYS-
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 802-457-3980.

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

RUTLAND, Vt. - Marble Valley Duplicate Bridge Club meets from 7-10:30 p.m. at the Godnick Center in Rutland, Vt. Snacks provided. Come join for a fun evening. More info call 802-228-6276.

SATURDAYS –
MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. - The Mount Holly Artists Group meets at 10:30 a.m. in the community center room (under library) and set up a still life. The sessions are open to all and free of charge. All that is needed is pen and paper.

SUNDAYS -
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The

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

COMMUNITY MEALS

SATURDAY, APRIL 1-CAVENDISH, Vt. - Maple buffet supper, 5:30-7 p.m. at the Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St. The menu includes baked beans sweetened with maple syrup, ham with raisin sauce or pineapple, squash, coleslaw, pickles, homemade breads and doughnuts, coffee, tea and punch, and last but not least, maple sundaes. Takeout is also available. For more information, call Barbara Snyder at 802-226-7724 after 9 a.m. or email Barbara at barbarasnyder@vtelwireless.com. Sponsored by the Helping Hand Class of the Cavendish Baptist Church.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. - Turkey supper, hosted by Charlestown Senior Center at 4:30 p.m. The menu will include a complete turkey supper, potatoes, carrots, green beans, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce and rolls and butter. There will also be homemade pies. Tickets go on sale at 4 p.m. until sold out. For takeouts, please call 603-826-5987 by 3:00 p.m. the day of the supper. The Senior Center is located at 223 Old Claremont Rd., Charlestown. Please come and enjoy our food and our company. We will start serving at 4:30 p.m. Call 603-826-5987 for more information.

EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 31-BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - "Farm to Fork Dinner." The Great Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce holds its 2017 annual dinner and Person of the Year award, at the Loyal Order of Moose, 59 Westminster St., Bellows Falls. Cocktails start the evening off at 5:30, followed by the guest speaker, dinner, Person of

the Year award and auction, then dancing to Travis Parker. Contact Doreen Stoodley at 802-463-4280 for more information, or email info@gfccc.org.

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. - Bowl for Kids' Sake! Join the Greater Falls Connection's team, Saturday, April 1, at the Brattleboro Bowl, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Bowl for Kids' Sake is the signature event of Big

Brothers Big Sisters programs across the country and is the primary fundraiser for BBBS of Windham County. The success of this event ensures that BBBS is able to continue providing a high-quality mentoring program. Let us know if you would like to sponsor or join our team. The event is coordinated by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Windham County. Contact Kimberley Diamond at Youth Services of

Windham County for more information, 802-257-0361.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Bring your skates and helmet and join a skate party from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Springfield Parks and Rec Center at 139 Main Street. For grades 3-6. Includes a live DJ and face painting. Also serving pizza and drinks for a small fee. All proceeds will benefit the Springfield high school girls in the DECA Business Program

to compete at Nationals in California.

QUECHEE, Vt. - Attend the crossroads stamp and postcard show at the Mid-Vermont Christian School located at 399 Gilson Ave. from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. There will be stamp dealer and exhibits. Free admission. Event is sponsored by the Upper Valley Stamp Club. Call John Lutz at 802-728-6212 or Chris Curran at 802-875-6211

Cruise into Spring with a new Vehicle!

2015 TOYOTA TACOMA

TRD SPORT PACKAGE, CREW CAB, 4X4, V6, ONE OWNER, FULLY LOADED, ONLY 18,000 MILES

STOCK #1564

JUST
ARRIVED



2014 CADILLAC ESCALADE

EVS PREMIUM PACKAGE, 6.2 LITER V8, FULLY LOADED, ONLY 39,000 MILES

STOCK #1461

SALE PRICE
\$45,995



2013 FORD F-150

STX, 4X4, AUT FULLY LOADED

SALE PRICE
\$17,995



2013 CHEVY MALIBU

LS PACKAGE, FULLY LOADED, ONLY 36,000 MILES

STOCK #1331

SALE PRICE
\$11,295



2015 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT

4X4, V6, 6 SPEED, A/C, TILT WHEEL, EXTRA EXTRA CLEAN

SALE PRICE
\$24,995



2007 HONDA ACCORD

EXL PACKAGE, FULLY LOADED

STOCK #0885A

SALE PRICE
\$7,295



2013 CHEVY SUBURBAN

LT PACKAGE, LEATHER, NAVIGATION, SUN ROOF, REAR ENTERTAINMENT, ONE OWNER

STOCK #1388

SALE PRICE
\$37,995



2013 KEYSTONE LAREDO 291T

FRONT QUEEN BED, REAR BUNK BED, ONE SLIDE OUT

STOCK #131

SALE PRICE
\$18,995



2013 CHEVY AVALANCHE

LTZ PACKAGE, 4X4, SUN ROOF, LEATHER

STOCK #1386

SALE PRICE
\$27,995



2017 VOLVO S-60 SEDAN

AWD, Fully Loaded, Only 6,000 Miles, Stock #1702

SALE PRICE \$28,995

2017 VOLVO XC-60

AWD, Fully Loaded, Sun Roof, Leather, Only 7,000 Miles

SALE PRICE \$39,995

2016 CHEVY IMPALA

LT Package, Fully Loaded, Only 10,000 Miles, Stock #1617

SALE PRICE \$17,995

2016 CHEVY MALIBU

LS Package, Fully Loaded, Only 163 Miles, Stock #1615

SALE PRICE \$16,995

2016 GMC SIERRA DBL CAB

SLE Package, One Owner, Only 4,000 Miles

SALE PRICE \$31,995

2016 CHEVY CRUZE LT

RS Package, Sun Roof, Auto, One Owner

SALE PRICE \$14,995

2016 CHEVY EQUINOX

LTZ Package, Heated Leather Seats, Only 13,000 Miles

SALE PRICE \$23,995

2015 CHEVY CRUZE

LT Package, Only 16,000 Miles, Stock #1547

SALE PRICE \$13,995

2015 FORD T-350

15 PASSENGER VAN Fully Loaded

SALE PRICE \$23,995

2015 CHEVY EQUINOX

AWD, LT Package, Fully Loaded, One Owner, Only 19,000 Miles

SALE PRICE \$20,495

2015 GMC CANYON CREW CAB

All Terrain, Navigation, Fully Loaded, Only 26,000 Miles, One Owner

SALE PRICE \$31,995

2015 FORD MUSTANG

2 Door Coupe, Leather, Navigation, One Owner, Only 8,000 Miles

SALE PRICE \$23,495

2015 CHEVY CRUZE

LT Package, One Owner, Only 16,000 Miles

SALE PRICE \$13,995

2015 CHEVY MALIBU

LT Package, Sun Roof

SALE PRICE \$15,995

2014 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT

4x4, V6, Auto, Hard Top & Soft Top, Extra Clean

SALE PRICE \$24,995

2014 NISSAN ROGUE

AWD, Fully Loaded, One Owner, Only 23,000 Miles

SALE PRICE \$16,995

2014 CHEVY 2500 HD EXT CAB

Auto, PW, PDL, Tilt Wheel, 4x4, Only 43,000 Miles, One Owner

SALE PRICE \$19,995

2014 TOYOTA CAMRY

Auto, Fully Loaded

SALE PRICE \$13,995

2014 TOYOTA RAV4

LE Package, AWD, One Owner, Only 23,000 Miles, Stock #1466

SALE PRICE \$18,995

2014 FORD F-350

4x4, 2-3 Yard Dump Body, 6.7 Liter Power Stroke Diesel, Like New

SALE PRICE \$40,995

2014 CHEVY EQUINOX

AWD, LS Package, One Owner, Only 18,000 Miles

SALE PRICE \$17,995

2014 CHEVY CAPTIVA

FWD, Auto, Fully Loaded

SALE PRICE \$11,995

2014 GMC 1500 CREW CAB

All Terrain Package, 4x4, One Owner

SALE PRICE \$28,495

2014 CHEVY 1500 CREW CAB

LT Package, Z71 Off Road, Heated Seats, Like New

SALE PRICE \$30,995

2014 CHEVY CRUZE

LT Package, Auto, Fully Loaded, Only 31,000 Miles

SALE PRICE \$10,995

2014 CHEVY SPARK

LS Package, Auto, One Owner, Only 19,000 Miles

SALE PRICE \$8,995

2013 CHEVY SPARK

LS Package, 5-Speed, Only 16,000 Miles, Stock #7031M

SALE PRICE \$7,995

2013 VOLVO XC-60 T6

Leather, Sun Roof

SALE PRICE \$25,995

2013 CHEVY MALIBU

LS Package, Only 36,000 Miles

SALE PRICE \$11,995

2012 VOLVO XC-70

STATION WAGON

Sun Roof, Leather, Fully Loaded, One Owner, Stock #1258

SALE PRICE \$19,995

2012 CHEVY SONIC

HATCHBACK

5 Door, LT Package, Only 50,000 Miles, Stock #7149A

SALE PRICE \$7,995

2011 CHEVY 1500 CREW CAB

4x4, LT Package, One Owner

SALE PRICE \$20,995

2010 CHEVY TRAVERSE

2LT Package, Leather, Sun Roof, One Owner

SALE PRICE \$12,995

2009 TOYOTA TACOMA EXT CAB

4x4, 4 Cylinder, 5-Speed, Fully Loaded

SALE PRICE \$10,995

2009 SUBARU FORESTER

Auto, Sun Roof, Leather

SALE PRICE \$6,995

2009 FORD F-350

DUMP BODY

4x4, Stainless Steel Sander, Fisher Mount Mount Pave, Only 36,000 Miles

SALE PRICE \$21,995

2009 SUBARU FORESTER

AWD, Fully Loaded

SALE PRICE \$7,995

2009 CHEVY 1500 EXT CAB

4x4, Z-71 Off Road Package, One Owner, Extra Clean

SALE PRICE \$14,995

2008 SUBARU IMPREZA

STATION WAGON

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calendar

AUTOMOTIVE

EVENTS CONT.

FRI., MARCH 31 CONT. - CHESTER, Vt. - Beginning at 6 p.m., the Fullerton Inn in Chester will be the site of the 8th annual Rotary dinner and auction. Everyone is invited to join us for a beautifully prepared buffet dinner and a glass of wine. Highlights include silent

auction items, a basket raffle, and an "Out of this World" live auction. Proceeds benefit the Andrew and Heidi Ladd Scholarship Fund. Tickets are available at the Chester Bookworm (802-875-5886) or by email: ChesterBookworm@yahoo.com. To preview some of the auction items, place a bid, or donate to the scholarship fund, please go to:

AndrewLaddScholarship@weebly.com.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2- PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. - Cavendish-Proctorsville invites everyone to a townwide "Thank You" party for Rich Svec in honor of his retirement as town manager. Come to Murdock's on the Green (Proctorsville Green

across from the gazebo), 3-5 p.m. for more information, call 802-226-7292.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7- PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. - Bingo Night at Cavendish Elementary School, 524 Main St., Proctorsville! This is a fundraiser, and this year we are playing for hams and gift certificates. There will also be food for sale during the event, including Goodman's American Pie pizza and sweet treats! 6-8 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8- WESTON, Vt. - Weston's Easter egg hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 8, and starts promptly at 10:00 a.m. at the Farrar Park in front of the Weston Playhouse. The Easter Bunny will be stopping by early to welcome everyone and kick off the Egg Hunt, so come early! Children 8 and under are invited. Activities include face painting, a jellybean jar guess and pluck a duck games. There will also be an Easter bonnet contest, where children create the most interesting bonnet or hat, and prizes will be awarded in two age groups, 0-4 and 5-8.

CHESTER, Vt. - Easter egg hunt at the Chester-Andover Elementary School, 9 a.m. sharp. Bring your children at 8:45 a.m. so they won't miss the opportunity to participate. This event is open to all Chester and Andover children from preschool to sixth grade. Sponsored by Rotary Club of Chester. For more information, contact Bill Dakin, 802-875-3456.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Bellows Falls Community Bike Project will hold its 2nd annual silent auction Saturday, April 8, 6-10 p.m. (bidding ends at 9 p.m.), at the WOOL-FM building, 33 Bridge St. Buy a chance to win a nearly new Huffy Cranbrook Beach Cruiser single-speed bike. There will be live music by local musicians, food, a cash bar by Donovan's, 50/50 raffle, a drawing for the bike raffle and lots of unique auction items - gift baskets, local artisan wares. Purchase six at the bike shop at 30 Henry St. More information is at info@bfbike.org.

FIRST AND THIRD MONDAYS- BRATTLEBORO, Vt. - Ukulele players are invited to six open jams to be held from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Latchis Theater, 4 Gallery on Main Street. The dates are April 3, 17; May 1, 15. Come to one jam or

all six. Jams are free of charge. For more information contact Gail Nunziata at gnnunziata@comcast.net

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 fun. Please join us! Questions? Contact 802-228-1406

WEDNESDAYS- WESTMINSTER, Vt. - Scottish Country Dance class, friendly, informal, and free. Meets during the school year, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Westminster Center School. Contact Jessie Haas: 802-387-2601 or email kjh@sover.net.

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

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

SATURDAYS- BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Internet and jazz jam Saturday at the Flat Iron Exchange, located in the square. No cover charge, just a tip jar to listen to some great jazz music. Enjoy a coffee and relax. 5 - 7 p.m.

LIBRARIES

THURSDAY, MARCH 30- SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Vermont Reads 2017 kickoff event includes a poetry reading and poetry mini-workshop with poet and educator Dan Heller, who will present "A Poet's Work: Can it be Defined?" at the Springfield Town Library on Thursday, March 30 at 6:30 p.m. The audience will have the opportunity to write their own lines of iambic pentameter, limerick, metaphor, and simile. Dan Heller holds a B.A. and an M.A. in English from Middlebury College. He has recently published his first book of poetry, "Between the Shadows: A Book of Poems." The program is free, open to the public, and accessible.

Call the Springfield Town Library for information, 802-885-3108.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5- BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - "The Opiate Effect," film and discussion with Skip Gates, 7 p.m. at the Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. This powerful documentary features the story of Will Gates, a University of Vermont student who overdosed on heroin. Skip Gates, Will's father, will discuss the impact that experience has had on his family to educate us all about the dangers of opiate prescription drugs and heroin. The program includes the film, discussion of the drug epidemic in Vermont, an optional Narcan training, and a candlelight vigil. The program is supported by Greater Falls Connections.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7- BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Friends of the Rockingham Free Public Library will be hosting a special book sale just for Friends members on Friday, April 7, 5 - 8 p.m. Join the Friends to get early access to the library book sale.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8- BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Rockingham Free Public Library will be hosting its annual book sale on Saturday, April 8 - Saturday, April 29. Donations are welcome now and can be made during library hours, with the exception of encyclopedias, textbooks and musty books. DVDs and audiobooks are also welcome. All proceeds from the book sale will benefit the Rockingham Free Public Library. For more information, call the library at 802-463-4270, visit rockinghamlibrary.org, or stop by the library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls. Book sale hours are as follows: Saturday April 8 9-4, M-T-W 10-7, Th-F 10-5:30, Sat. April 29 10-2.

ASCUTNEY, Vt. - The Weathersfield Proctor Library hosts its sixth annual Town Challenge on Saturday, April 8 at 7 p.m. at the Weathersfield School in Ascutney. Teams from town departments will answer trivia questions in six categories: spelling, town history, current events/sports, "Name That Tune," geography, and literature. Be ready to applaud or laugh! This event will raise funds to match a grant for up to \$15,000 from the Byrne Foundation to enlarge the children's area. Call Cookie Shand at 802-674-5021 for more information.

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