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THE SHOPPER

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Women's World Cup at Killington - Page 4B

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VOLUME 56, ISSUE 27

The Select Board moves forward on bidding property

BY KRISTINE M. BURPEE

The Shopper

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - The Select Board meeting, held in the Lower Theater of the Bellows Falls Opera House, met on Nov. 21, 2017 at 6 p.m. Manager Shane O'Keefe began his report informing the Board members that he will be giving up his assigned parking spot, at the Town Office in order to allow the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance and the Great Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce a home for this year's Christmas tree, since it's usual spot at 3 Rockingham Street is undergoing renovations.

Board member Ann DiBernardo commented, "Although I do not object, that spot is subject to snow damage during the winter season."

Because the object occupying the space is simply just a tree, O'Keefe verified that a little snow would not cause an issue.

Moving onto other news, the auction of municipal surplus vehicles has been posted on Auctions International and a link to the site is posted on the Rockingham Municipal website www.rockbf.org, under Public Notices. Bidding ends Dec. 1, 2017.

A notice was received Nov. 21, 2017 that the town has been awarded a \$12,453 Municipal Planning Grant from the Vermont Department of



Rockingham discusses Rockingham Meeting House occupancy waiver.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Housing and Community Development to assist in developing new policies and strategies in its Town Plan to support economic development. The grant requires a town contribution of \$2,227.

First item on the agenda was a request for the Rockingham Meeting House occupancy waiver. Ray Massucco was present to request an increase on the capacity for the concert at the Meeting House during the Roots on the River Festival for June 2018. Massucco explained, "The floor is empty with a capacity of 300 people and I'm only asking for 250. If I could get a capacity of 300 people, that would be great. In the

past, we have not had any problems with vacating."

Massucco confirmed that the doors are propped open by hook and eyes, and they remain open during the entire time of the event. O'Keefe stated that the ultimate decision will be up to the Fire Marshall after his inspection.

Gaetan and Brady Putignano addressed the Select Board to request that Keefe road be discontinued and made into a private road. Putignano recused himself from the vote on this topic in order to make this request. Putignano stated that he does the maintenance for his portion of the road. Keefe is a Class 4 road meaning

that it is not the town's responsibility to maintain it. Further discussion concluded that it would be a matter of addressing the issue with all property owners on the road in question. If approved the town would request a right-of-way to address storm water issues. Chuck Wise, Zoning and Planning, insisted he will begin the necessary process within the next week and insisted an informal meeting with the abutters in the next two weeks to relay the information.

After Putignano returned to the Select Board, O'Keefe mentioned that there had not been any bids received for the property on 42 Hyde Street or 34 Old Terrace Road. It will be up to the Select Board to decide how they move forward. O'Keefe said the next step will be to demolish the buildings and try to put the land up for bidding. DiBernardo asked about the property on 38 Green Street. O'Keefe replied that he is waiting to hear from the auctioneer.

As for the property at 10 Church Place, O'Keefe stated that he is waiting on a grant and loan application from the Windham Regional Commission to help with this expense.

Cass Wright reminded the Select Board that it would be in the best interest of the elementary school students to wait to move forward with any plans of demolition until the Central Elementary School is not in session.



Women's World Cup

KILLINGTON, Vt. - Many attended the Audi Women's Skiing World Cup at Killington Resort this past weekend.

See more photos on page 4B.

TOP PHOTO BY NEAL MAGNUS
BOTTOM PHOTO BY JERRY LEBLOND

Springfield Select Board addresses culvert construction

BY TRINA MENARD

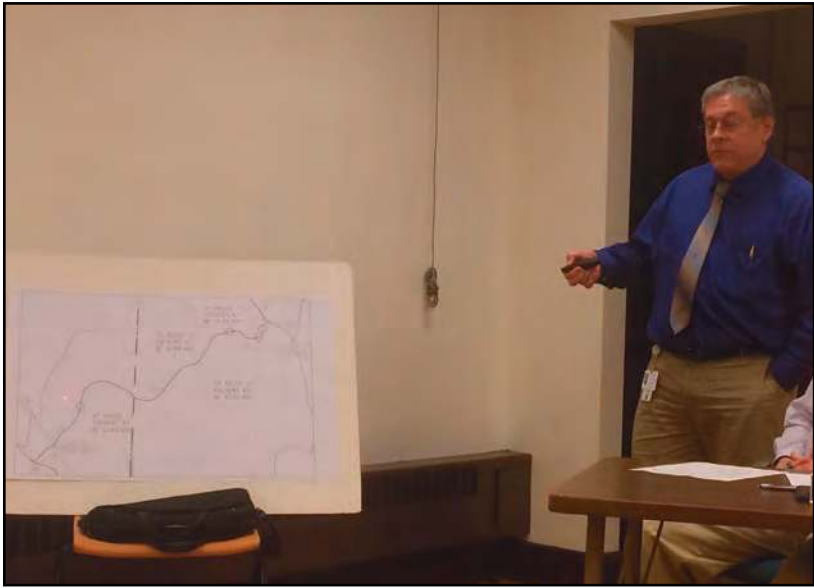
The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Gary Sweeney, scoping engineer for Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), presented an hour-long presentation outlining the severity and sincere need to address four culverts in the Springfield area. The direst culvert situation resides beneath temporary bridge 13 on Vermont Route 11. Residents of the road complained of the noise and danger of speeding tractor-trailer trucks, one of which recently

hit the orange barrels resulting in the truck careering to the opposite side of the road.

Two years ago, the same residents had windows broken out by speeding plow trucks. Rebecca Skrypeck, resident of Green Mountain Road, commented, "I cannot live with the noise and live in fear of the traffic for two or three years." Due to budgetary restraints, VTrans pushed the construction on these projects to 2020.

Gary Sweeney; Gary LaRouche, project manager; and LaRouche's assistant Stephen Coley intend to make



Gary Sweeney Scoping Engineer of VTrans.

PHOTO BY TRINA MENARD

interim corrections to slow down traffic to protect the safety of the surrounding community until the problems can be remedied permanently.

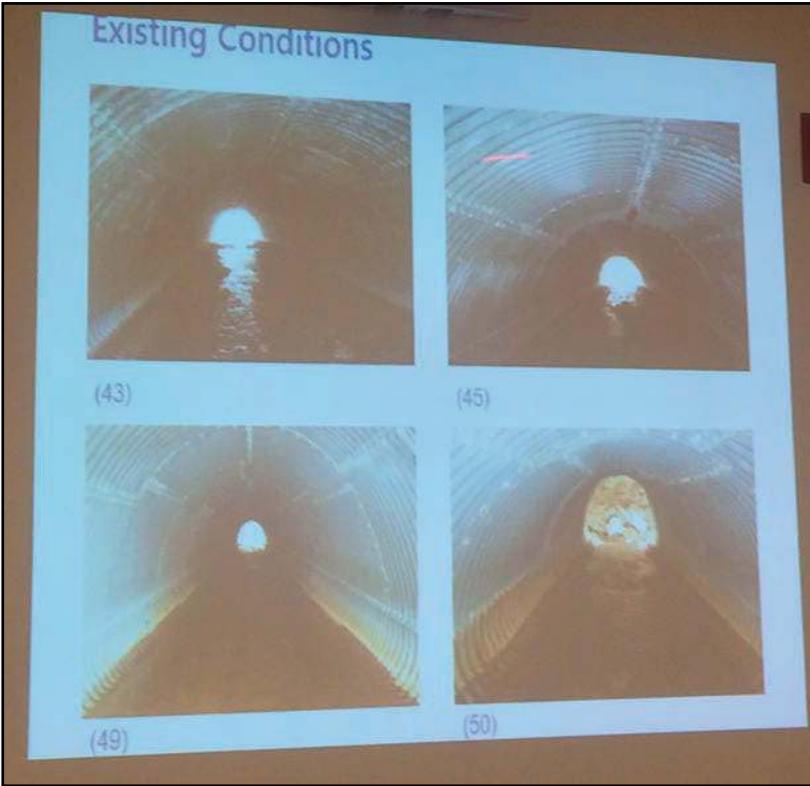
Out of the four culverts in need of replacement, three rate as serious and the one under bridge 43 rates as critical. There is serious invert deterioration on all the culverts, however all currently meet Hydraulic Standard but not the Band Full Width (BFW). BFW is the highest flood rate possible for the given body of water that passes through the culvert.

The other particularly difficult project, otherwise referred to as "the Town Project," or (49) that is located by Riverside School. Traffic estimates determined that 7,900 vehicles utilize that section of road daily. There is also hazardous waste present at that location as the sewer line runs directly under the culvert - something that was not against any regulations in the 1960s when the culvert was

last installed. There are also potential archeological concerns at the town project site, and so archeologists will have to be pulled in to determine if there is anything there of cultural significance before work can commence.

Each of the four culvert projects is estimated to cost approximately \$2,000,000. Finding state funding has been an issue and federal funds require the posting of 10 percent down. All alternatives have been considered, and replacement has been confirmed as the only viable solution in all four cases. Each has less than 10 years of viable service left, they cannot line or repair the current culverts as it appears they do not meet the current environmental needs and do not allow for movement of aquatic wildlife to transverse them safely, if at all.

The replacement of these culverts is a high priority item, but without finding the resources to replace them



Slides of the existing conditions of the culverts.

PHOTO BY TRINA MENARD



Teachers donate books

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Current and former teachers, members of Alpha Delta Kappa in Springfield, are donating over 100 books for children who participate in the Downtown Family Holiday Program on Friday, Dec. 1 starting at 4 p.m. at the Springfield on the Move office on 6 Valley St.

Pictured at Elm Hill School library, engrossed in new books, are kindergartners with ADK members (left) Andie Bentley, Mary Ann Lauder, and Pat Graves.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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Send images as a **JPEG.**



Humane Society Christmas fundraiser

BY TRINA MENARD
The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas! Nothing marks the holiday season like a trip to the Christmas tree farm; complete with fresh cookies, hot cocoa and a visit with Santa Claus. The Springfield Humane Society started the season at Christmas Trees of Vermont for their annual fundraiser on Nov. 24 with tables full of decadent baked goods. They will return each weekend through Dec. 17.

The treats are donated, and the table sells its treats by donation. Last

year, the Springfield Humane Society raised over \$4,000 at this table, making this its major fundraiser of the year.

Springfield Humane Society Board of Trustee members Barbara Higgins, president; Barbara Estey, secretary; and Peggy Knoras, treasurer delighted in the greeting the festive families that flocked to the farm to select their yearly tree.

Knoras said that the Christmas Trees of Vermont families extended a warm invitation, and said that the tradition of the donations table be continued with the presence of the Springfield Humane Society for their

holiday fundraiser. The donation table started many years ago, but it started outside instead of the cozy lodge they now enjoy.

The Springfield Humane Society has dedicated itself to the improvement of the quality of life for animals in the Springfield area for over 69 years. Not only do they provide services such as "protection, compassionate care, and adoption..." but also several public education and outreach services to help animals to not be

come in need of placement services in the first place. Organizations like the Springfield Humane Society are able to help the community by the community helping them through donations and volunteer hours!

Stop in for a treat at their booth at the Christmas Trees of Vermont. For information on how to donate goodies, your time, or to become a member of the Springfield Humane Society, go to www.spfldhu-mane.org.



Donation table manned by Barbara Higgins, president of the Board of Trustees. PHOTO BY TRINA MENARD

Keene State students intern at Our Place —



Keene State dietetic interns Katherine Rosenthal (middle) and Dani Cuddeback (right) pack bags for monthly home deliveries, which Kathy Leo (left) and others will make.

PHOTO PROVIDED

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Two young women, one from Des Moines, Iowa and the other from Seattle, recently spent time at Our Place Drop-in Center in Bellows Falls learning about the charitable food system and giving back what they have learned as students in the dietetics program at Keene State College.

Katherine Rosenthal and Dani Cuddeback worked alongside the staff at OP three days a week for three weeks to learn what the food pantry offers and to add their own touch.

Among their activities were interviewing clients about what they like to eat and how they access food, making chicken noodle soup and creating recipes for the monthly home deliveries, reviewing food safety training with staff, looking at the nutritional requirements of clients with diabetes and making signs to encourage handwashing and enrollment in the SNAP program.

In the pantry, they made healthy snack bags and nutritional signs, including one about the truth, benefits, and myths of eating eggs.

Their work fit into a standard

framework of 12 activities required by the Keene State program. Other activities as fourth-year interns include exposure to the Vermont Foodbank, local farms, hospitals, New Hampshire Community Action, and the Women and Children program (WIC). They will do two more rotations in January and April and take a national exam to become registered dietitians.

When asked why they chose Keene State, Cuddeback said, "It has opportunities others don't have, like access to farms and not just institutions."

Rosenthal said they will spend three weeks at Fertile Field Farms learning about the farm-to-table movement and at the Sullivan Center for Sustainable Agriculture.

"We get to see how bad food insecurity is," she said, "and what the barriers are to accessing food."

Our Place director Lisa Pitcher said it was nice to have young people in the building who are learning new things and sharing what they know.

Rosenthal said she was impressed that Pitcher and her staff are focusing on nutrition, citing the increase of fresh produce from 396,062 pounds in 2012-13 to 2,109,000 in 2015-16.

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“Smokey” Aumand Chairman

Artists' meeting —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Rockingham Arts and Museum Project (RAMP) and artists Chris Sherwin, Jeanette Staley and Clare Adams are hosting an Artists' Town Meeting at 33 Bridge Street in Bellows Falls at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 7 from 6 – 8 p.m.

Robert McBride, director of RAMP says, "There is an ever-growing community of working artists and local growers in our midst, all of whom are contributing greatly to the cultural and economic vitality of our community."

Some of the topics will include a debriefing of current gallery tours, planning for a month-long arts celebration in May, and update on the Vermont Arts Council Creative Network Initiative.

The meeting is informal and includes a potluck. RSVPs are encouraged and appreciated: email ramp@sover.net with "Artists' Town Meeting" in the subject line or by calling 802-463-3252. The 33 Bridge Street location is wheelchair accessible. Please call RAMP in advance at 802-463-3252 to make arrangements.

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HCRS welcomes new staff —



New staff members at HCRS.

PHOTO PROVIDED

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont's community mental-health agency, is pleased to announce the appointment of 14 new professionals whose talents will augment HCRS' services in the Hartford, Bellows Falls, Brattleboro, and Springfield regions.

As they appear in the photo, HCRS welcomes the following new employees (front row from left): Angela Smith, case manager in Springfield; Kristin Burroughs-Cross, case manager in Springfield; Kelly Brown, executive assistant

in Springfield; Makayla Smith, office generalist in Hartford; Michelle Cruz, residential specialist in Brattleboro; and Kathleen Doyle, service coordinator in Bellows Falls. In the back row from the left: Gary Fox, residential specialist in Springfield; Dianne Champion, CFS driver in Brattleboro; Gerald Rumrill, CFS Driver in Brattleboro; Robert Wubbenhorst, adult area manager in Springfield; Hayden Lawrence, behavioral interventionist in Springfield; Daniel Arseneau, respite provider in Springfield; Matthew Schibley, children's area manager in Brattleboro; and Dawn

Hubbard, service coordinator in Brattleboro.

Founded in 1967, HCRS is a non-profit, community mental health agency serving Vermonters in Windham and Windsor counties. HCRS serves over 4,500 individuals every year through its mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities programs. The agency provides holistic care for clients, supporting them with employment, housing, transportation, and other social service needs. Visit www.hcrs.org for more information.

Acworth non-profit marks 10th anniversary —

ACWORTH, N.H. - This fall the Acworth Community Charitable Trust marked its 10th anniversary as a 501(c)3 corporation and New Hampshire non-profit. The mission of the all-volunteer organization is to support charitable projects benefiting the town of Acworth and its citizens. Membership stands at 116 in a town of fewer than a thousand residents. In its ten years of operation, the trust has raised and distributed over \$80,000 in grants to local organizations and individuals.

In Acworth, recipients have included the Silsby Library, the Village Store, the Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, the Historical Society, the Primary School, the Friends of the Meetinghouse, the Sestercentennial Celebration Committee, and Save Your Ass Long Ear Rescue.

Projects have ranged from an equine quarantine barn, a pizza oven and pavilion at the store, renovations of the library and the Turn-around Barn, a portable pump and turnout gear for the firefighters and playground fixtures for the school kids, to printing the Sestercentennial booklet and computerizing historical archives. Individual residents have also received tuition grants for various enrichment seminars, workshops, and camps. Donors have also contributed to a long-term endowment fund now nearing \$50,000.

The trust holds a fundraising event yearly on the second Saturday in July, alternating a garden tour with an exhibition and sale of fine art and crafts, but member donations make up the largest part of its resources. People who share the trust's mission and make a donation of any amount are always welcomed as new members. For more information, visit www.acworthtrust.org or contact the trust secretary, Stella Herpel, at 603-835-2925 or frogwood@myfairpoint.net.



Live Edge Gallery

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Live Edge Gallery is opening this weekend! They will host an open house Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2 and 3 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 409 River Street in Springfield. The gallery will feature furniture by Dan Keirns, and a guest artist, Larry Boehmle.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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Mercantile. store opens —

GRAFTON, Vt. - Mercantile. and Dover House Antiques set up shop in the former "Collectibles and Widgets" space in the Daniels House directly behind the Grafton Inn. Longtime Grafton visitor, and now Grafton second homeowner of three years, Clarence Smith opened the store in early July.

Smith says that momentum has grown consistently every week since July. Since then, he and his partner have worked to fine tune the two concept stores within the space.

Mercantile. is the brand name for the gift and home arm of the business. The store is stocked with many Vermont made items and tasteful gifts and home accessories. Smith says he hopes to continue not only to sell to the many visitors that come to Grafton, but also to the residents and second homeowners in Grafton and the surrounding areas.

"One of the standout home lines so far has been Dash and Albert Rugs," says Smith. "There are so many styles and price ranges in the line that is virtually impossible not to find a style and price point that suits you."

The charming space is also filled with French scented candles, handmade New England wood products, coffee table books, handmade soaps, needlepoint belts and gifts, women's

fashion accessories, Simon Pearce glass, various pottery lines, kitchen items, holiday décor, and much more.

A third of the store space is devoted to Dover House Period American Antiques. Many in the area might already be familiar with Dover House. Smith has exhibited at the Weston Antiques Show and the VADA Antiques show in Woodstock for many years as well as many other prestigious Antiques shows in New England and around the country.

The Dover House space is brimming with period American country furniture, period folk paintings, appropriate small items, ceramics, prints, and folk art. Smith says he hopes that many locals and visitors will find the store as a great source for holiday shopping this season and is excited to be a part of the Grafton Community Christmas Festival on

Sunday, Dec. 3.

Mercantile. and Dover House Antiques is located at 56 Townshend Rd., Grafton (right behind the inn). Hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday or anytime by appointment. For more information, call 502-802-5689.



Mercantile.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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Energy Efficiency volunteers are needed

REGION - Interested in helping older adults and contributing to an energy efficient Vermont? Senior Solutions seeks volunteers to visit homes of eligible residents and install energy-efficiency items such as LED light bulbs, low-flow shower-heads, and water pipe insulation, if needed. Volunteers also determine whether a more in-depth energy-efficiency retrofit by a contractor would be helpful. The hours are flexible and volunteers will be reimbursed for mileage. The project, funded through a grant from Efficiency Vermont, is ongoing. For more information, call 802-885-2655.

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River Valley Technical Center students place 3rd in state competition

SPRINGFIELD / CHESTER, Vt. - Every fall for the past eight years, RVTC Culinary Arts students compete in the New England Culinary Institute NECI Classic cooking competition. This year the RVTC finished third earning them the prize of a new knife kit and a \$750 scholarship to the New England Culinary Institute. Career and Technical Education (CTE) culinary programs from across the state of Vermont competed in a timed contest to test their culinary skills. The teams had 90 minutes to prepare a soup, an entrée, and a dessert. This year, each team made mushroom barley soup, pork medallions with apple cider reduction sauce, braised kale and winter squash, and then finished with an apple crepe with caramel sauce. The competition was held at the Lost Nation Theater in Montpelier and was hosted by the New England Culinary Institute. Congratulations to Deleen Moore from Green Mountain Union High School; Brandon Short from Springfield High School; and Carissa Bailey from Green Mountain Union High School. Also, Gavin Glidden who served as the alternate.

Student chefs with their knife sets (left) Deleen Moore, Brandon Short, and Carissa Bailey.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Crisis Fuel Assistance is available for the winter season

REGION - The nights are getting longer and there's a chill in the air. It's time for everyone to bundle up against the cold when venturing outdoors. But for those who can't afford to heat their homes adequately, that chill is inescapable and they need to bundle up indoors, too. In fact, households with low incomes spend an average of about \$2,000 more than they can afford on energy costs every year. While many get some assistance through the state's seasonal fuel program, what happens when that's not enough? For low-income households facing a heating emergency, SEVCA's crisis fuel program can be their lifeline. As of Nov. 27, that lifeline is once again available to those who qualify. "Depending on how cold the winter is, anywhere from 800 - 1,600 households may need crisis fuel assistance in Windham and Windsor Counties," said Pat Burke, director of SEVCA's Family Services Program, which provides crisis fuel assistance. "We do our best to make sure no one in need has to go without heat." SEVCA may also be able to arrange an emergency furnace repair or replacement for qualified homeowners whose furnaces stop working or become unsafe to operate.

To be eligible for crisis fuel assistance, households must have had extenuating circumstances that led to the heating emergency - defined as being very close to being out of fuel or out of fuel without money to buy more - and income at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), which is based on household size. Most households must first apply for and receive seasonal fuel assistance before they can be considered for crisis

If your household qualifies for the crisis fuel program, learn the steps needed to apply.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HOPS IN THE HILLS CHICKEN WING CHAMPION FOUR YEARS IN A ROW 2014-2017	Open 7 Days a Week Pub Hours Mon-Thurs: 3pm-2am Fri-Sat: Noon-10pm Sun: Noon-9pm	Serving Food Mon-Thurs: 5 - 9pm Fri-Sat: Noon - 10pm Sun: Noon-9pm	Killarney	HOPS HILLS CHAMPION	TG It's Friday!	Come Trade your patch with ours, or purchase ours for \$5
3 Open Mic Night	4	5 TRIVIA Eat • Drink • Think	6 Come check out and join our MUG CLUB!	7 Irish Seanon (Members of Cypsy reel VT drafts \$6	8 Come Trade your patch with ours, or purchase ours for \$5	9 Sammy Blanchette 5pm-8pm
10 AWARD WINNING WINGS SPECIALS	11 Open Mic Night	12 Trivia Night	13 Come Trade your patch with ours, or purchase ours for \$5	14 VT drafts \$6	15 Come for the food Stay for the fun!	16 THERE ARE NO STRANGERS HERE ONLY FRIENDS YOU HAVEN'T MET.
17 AWARD WINNING WINGS SPECIALS	18 Open Mic Night	19 TRIVIA Eat • Drink • Think	20 Come for the food Stay for the fun	21 Winter Solstice	22 TGIF	23 Come check out and join our MUG CLUB!
24 31	25	26 Trivia Night	27	28 VT drafts \$6	29 Sammy Blanchette 5pm-8pm	30 Sammy Blanchette 5pm-8pm

Monday: Open MIC night. Come down to sing your favorite hit.

Trivia from 7-9PM on Tuesday and includes prizes for each round.

Come try our Hops in the Hills Award Winning Wings (4 years in a row). Wings Specials on Sunday.

Come watch your favorite sports on our 60 inch TVs.

Space available for private parties, please call Mark Verespy at 802-376-4282

fuel. Only households between 185 percent and 200 percent of FPL are eligible for crisis fuel without having to apply for seasonal fuel assistance. Burke urges all qualified households to apply as soon as possible for the seasonal fuel program, so that their application for crisis fuel, should they need it, is not delayed. They should also not wait until they are completely out of fuel, as it takes a couple of days to arrange a fuel delivery and there are no funds provided to cover the fee for a special delivery. Generally, only one crisis fuel assist is provided per household receiving seasonal fuel assistance per year (two assists for those who don't qualify). For more information, call SEVCA toll-free at 800-464-9951 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday. Applicants in northern Windham County may also call that number to schedule an appointment. Brattleboro area applicants should call 802-254-2795; Springfield area applicants, 802-885-6153; and White River Junction area applicants, 802-295-5215. Applicants must bring paystubs or other proof of income, know how much fuel is left in their tank (if oil heat), and provide information about their fuel dealer. For Crisis Fuel Assistance on weekends and holidays only, call 1-866-331-7741, and for furnace repair or replacement assistance on weekends, holidays, or for after-hours emergencies, call 1-877-295-7998. Crisis Fuel Assistance is available from Monday, Nov. 27 until Friday, April 13. To help bridge the gap between what is covered by the state's crisis fuel program and what is needed by a particular family in crisis, SEVCA raises money through grants and donations. To help keep low-income families warm this winter, individuals may donate to our "Share the Warmth" fund online at <http://www.sevca.org/share-the-warmth>. Checks may also be sent to 91 Buck Drive, Westminster, VT, 05158. Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) was established in 1965 as part of the national War on Poverty to address the needs of low-income residents of Windham and Windsor Counties. In addition to providing the "safety net" for households in financial crisis, its services help them stabilize their lives, make their homes safe and energy-efficient, take strides toward becoming self-reliant, and enable their children to escape the generational poverty cycle. These goals are achieved through such programs as Family Services, Crisis Fuel, Housing Services, 3SquaresVT (Food Stamp) Outreach, Weatherization, Home Repair, Small Business Assistance, Financial Fitness Education, Matched Savings Accounts, Job Readiness Training, Tax Preparation Assistance, Thrift Stores, VT Health Connect Navigator, and Head Start.



LOCAL HISTORY

BY RON PATCH

Ron Patch is a Chester native, Chester Historical Society president, and a lifelong antiques dealer.

He can be reached at 802-374-0119 or email knotz69@gmail.com

Otto Winestock... Inventor

Earlier this fall I was given a tour of the Weathersfield Historical Society at the Dan Foster house and museum in Weathersfield Center, Vermont.

Of interest to me were some antique spark plugs. A note with these plugs says they were made by Rev. Otto Winestock of Perkinsville. Winestock was a minister in Perkinsville and an inventor. These "Radio Blaze" spark plugs were used in Model-A trucks.

I have collected antique spark plugs for many years and had never seen these spark plugs before so you can see why I found them interesting.

I did a little research and discovered Winestock also invented a new process for washing pulp in the papermaking process. He applied for a patent Sept 17, 1917, which was issued. Below is taken directly from Winestock's patent papers.

"The principal object of the present invention is to provide an improved method and apparatus for washing pulp, which apparatus may be operated continuously, the waste or dirty water used in washing being gradually thrown off so that it is not ground into the paper fibers.

"A further object of the present invention is to provide a Washing apparatus comprising a series of tubular washers through which the pulp is continuously passed, and so constructing the same that a considerable quantity of water may be kept therein to assist in the agitating, washing and flowing of the pulp.

"Still another object of the present invention is to provide a series of tubes of the above nature having therein means for continuously agitating, washing and feeding the pulp.

"A still further object of the present invention is to provide in such a washer means for regulating the amount of pulp contained therein."

Writing about spark plugs reminded me of my Junior High School days. In 1963 I started the seventh grade at the Chester Junior High School. Today we know this brick building as the Academy Building. In those days the Junior High School was seventh and eighth grades.

John Arrison and Mike Palmer were a year ahead of me in school so they were in the eighth grade in '63. Both John and Mike were running for class president. Throughout the school were signs, "Vote for Arrison" or "Vote for Palmer." One sign is clear in my memory today. John's father, Bill Arrison, ran a vending machine business in Chester. Bill had numerous signs for the many different products he sold.

One morning when I went upstairs for history class a new sign was above the blackboard. It was a commercial sign for "AC" or "Champion" spark plugs. Molded in the center was a colorful spark plug. Under it



Otto Winestock Radio Blaze spark plugs.

PHOTO BY RON PATCH

was a handwritten sign, "Spark up your school. Vote for Arrison."

Mike Palmer not to be outdone but not having access to a commercial sign made his own sign. It read: "Spark plugs wear out. Palmer doesn't." Mike put his sign on the wall next to John's. Our history teacher who was either Mr. Jarvis or Mr. Richardson (I can't remember) pointed the signs out to us saying, "This is democracy in action." It was a spirited presidential race but my memory fades as to who won.

Perhaps of interest was junior high students had lunch in those days. At noon both seventh and eighth graders walked down to Chester Elementary School where hot lunch was served in the gymnasium. I don't remember being escorted by a teacher and we walked regardless of the weather. I do remember Mrs. Grace and Mrs. Benson working there as I'm sure many others will.

Hot lunches were inexpensive, maybe 25 cents. I do remember an extra carton of milk cost three cents. My mother used to put the exact change in my mittens so I wouldn't

lose it. This would have been earlier when I was in elementary school.

Some of us junior high kids went over to the Chester Drug Store run by Pember Hazen instead of going to the elementary school for lunch. Pember had a soda fountain with bubbling soda dispensers on the counter and all flavors of ice cream. I remember "Orange Crush," "Coca-Cola" and "Richardson's Root Beer" dispensers on the counter. This soda fountain was the Art Deco style with chrome stools with round, black Naugahyde seats. We would spin around on the stools laughing and giggling. In those days Barb Gammon ran the soda fountain. Eventually Pember would come out from behind his drug counter and chase us out of the drug store. Do you remember "Between the Acts?"

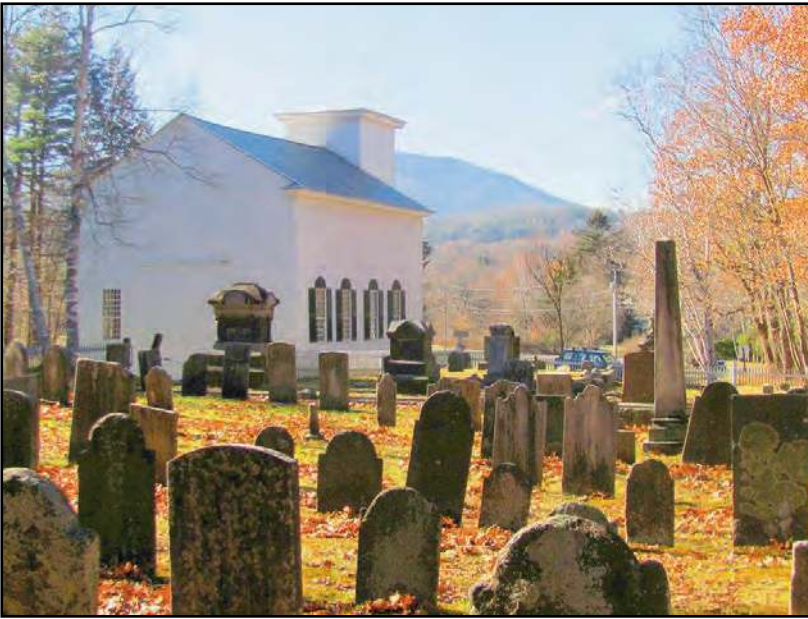
This week's old saying is from my father. "When you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there."

Trinity Cemetery views

WINDSOR, Vt. - The Trinity Cemetery with the Meeting House. This photo is taken across from Windsor and Cornish.

A nice blue sky and Mt. Ascutney is featured in the background, with orange fall leaves complementing the view.

PHOTO BY RON PATCH



Four good reasons to invest

REGION - Forty-eight percent of Americans do not own any stocks or stock-related investments, according to a recent Gallup poll. Individuals may cite different reasons for not investing, but with important long-term financial goals, such as retirement, in the balance, the reasons may not be good enough.

Why Invest?

Make money on your money

You might not have a hundred million dollars to invest, but that doesn't mean your money can't share in the same opportunities available to others. You work hard for your money; make sure your money works hard for you.

Achieve self-determination and independence

When you build wealth, you may be in a better position to pursue the lifestyle you want. Your life can become one of possibilities rather than one of limitations.

Leave a legacy to your heirs

The wealth you pass to the next generation can have a profound impact on your heirs, providing educational opportunities, the capital to start a business, or financial support to your grandchildren.

Support causes important to you

Wealth can be an important tool for impacting the world in a meaningful way. So whether your passion is the environment, the arts, or human welfare, you can use your wealth to affect positive changes in your community or around the world.

A Framework for Investing

The decision to invest is an acknowledgment that it comes with certain risks. Not all investments will do well and some may lose money. However, without risk, there would be no opportunity to potentially earn the higher returns that can help you grow your wealth.

To manage investment risk, consider maintaining a broad diversification of your investments that reflects your personal risk tolerance, time horizon, and the nature of your financial goal.

Because investing can be complicated, consider working with a financial professional to help guide you on your wealth-building journey.

Article written by Kevin Theissen, principal, Skygate Financial Group.

Kids Christmas Party



Sunday, December 10th
1:00 - 3:00 pm

Open to All Children of the Community 10 & Younger

Snacks, Presents, Meet "Santa,"
& Enjoy the celebration of the Holiday Spirit

American Legion Post #37

42 Rockingham Street, Bellows Falls • 802-463-9700
Commander "Smokey" Aumand

American Legion

Post #37

42 Rockingham Street
Bellows Falls, VT
802-463-9700



FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER
5:30 PM TO 7:00 PM

December 1st

Meat Loaf

Hosted by the
Sons of the American Legion

Dinners are \$11/person
which includes coffee/tea & dessert

Reservations are held until 6:30 pm

Commander Smokey Aumand & the
'Friday Night Dinner Committee'
thanks everyone for their support.



American Legion Post #36
135 Main Street
Ludlow, VT
802-228-9807
Seatings from 5:30 to 7:00 pm

Ludlow American Legion
FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

Friday, December 1st

Baked Ham
w/ Scalloped Potatoes & Veggies
and Dessert
\$12.00
to Benefit the
American Legion

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



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Sandwich
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Dinner
Buttermilk Fried Chicken
Slow Roasted Dr. Pepper Beef Brisket
Pan Seared 10 oz. Strip Steak

Kid's Menu Available for all ages

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Prime Rib Dinner
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Friday: 7:00 pm
Saturday: 5:00pm, 8:00pm
Sunday: 4:00pm, 7:15pm
Monday: 7:15pm
Tuesday: 7:15 pm

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ALL TICKETS: \$5.00
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4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Monday - Friday ~ Excludes Holidays

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\$11⁰⁰ Kids under age 12 for half price!

SUNDAY LUNCH SPECIALS 12 P.M. NOON TO 4 P.M.

Roast Turkey with Stuffing • Prime Rib • Baked or Fried Haddock Pot Roast • Fried Whole Clams • Grilled Salmon Fried or Broiled Bay Scallops

\$11⁰⁰ Includes Potato & Veggie of the Day

opinion

Op-Ed: A deeper look into growing the food system workforce

Vermont's struggle to grow its workforce weakens our economy, inhibits the ability for Vermont businesses to expand their operations, and threatens the ability for Vermonters and future generations to grow and thrive here in the Green Mountains. An aging workforce, stagnant wages in jobs without career ladders, the cost of housing and childcare, the opioid epidemic, and a need for more young adults entering the workforce are all contributors to our workforce dilemma.

According to a 2013 Vermont Food System Workforce Needs Assessment report, 40 percent of large employers and 50 percent of small employers surveyed said that hiring challenges are holding their businesses back - meaning they are faced with reduced revenue, less efficient production, and delayed expansion plans into new markets or larger production spaces. Four years later, the challenges have only increased.

The simple demographic fact is that more people are retiring and fewer people are entering the workforce each year. According to a report from the Vermont Futures Project released in January 2017, 11,375 Vermonters retire every year, and only 8,000 young people are entering Vermont's workforce from either high school or college. Frankly, we need more people in Vermont or these negative trends will continue, and we will not be able to afford to sustain the traditions that make Vermont such a special place to live.

There is also a widely-held perception that Vermont lacks sufficient opportunities for job seekers in general, and thus many young people leave the



Black River Produce employees.

PHOTO PROVIDED

state for more or better opportunities elsewhere.

Yet, in the Vermont Farm to Plate Network's efforts to strengthen economic development in the food system, we often hear from local food producers and businesses that the biggest challenge to growing their business is finding labor. Farmers, producers, and distributors cannot find the local people they need to drive trucks, harvest vegetables, process meat, milk cows, or manage poultry and livestock. These jobs are available, but Vermonters often do not apply because they are under the impression that these are low-wage jobs with no opportunity for career advancement. The honest truth is that not as many Vermonters want to do hard physical labor anymore, which begs the question - who will do this needed work?

Some who do apply, do not get hired or are not able to keep the job because they lack the necessary skills or struggle with drug and alcohol dependence. We've also heard that farmers and food producers cannot find enough workers with basic skills such as timeliness, accountability, and a work ethic.

Jobs that are typically hard to fill in the local food economy include truck drivers, product operations managers,

shipping and receiving, and general labor like hand weeding and working the packing line - especially during the harvest season. There is also a need for skilled meat cutters, cheese makers, HVAC installers, food safety inspectors, and experienced managers.

In addition, too few businesses in Vermont employ human resources professionals to work with owners to develop a compensation philosophy and workforce development and training processes. Often employees need additional on-the-job training before they can be fully productive, which can be challenging for employers to provide.

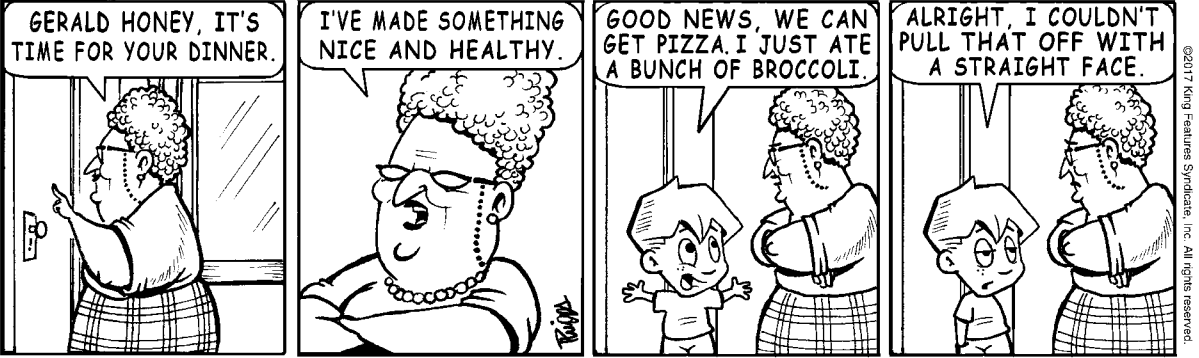
In some cases these jobs cannot be filled because of low wages, but not always. Wages in the local food economy are competitive and often above the state's \$10 minimum wage. Farmers and producers often pay anywhere from \$12.38 to \$17 per hour, with annual salaries of \$50,000+ for professional employees in higher level positions. The range of jobs in our food system varies widely. There are jobs in quality assurance, marketing and brand development, accounting, information technology, shipping and receiving in a farm or food business setting, and other professional positions just as there would be in other industries.

So, when we talk about Vermont's workforce, it's important to remember that this is a complex issue. It's not a simple argument about having enough jobs, paying good wages, or Vermont's aging population. The Vermont food economy has plenty of jobs available. These jobs - much to people's surprise - offer decent wages, quality of life, and an opportunity to be part of a growing sector of Vermont's economy. The jobs are there, and the local economy needs hardworking, skilled people to fill them.

Learn more about the work taking place to implement Vermont's Farm to Plate food system plan at www.vtfarmtoplate.com.

Written by Ellen Kahler, executive director, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

Op-Ed: Let us now praise famous men: Robert Gensburg

The irony in the title of James Agee's classic novel is that the sharecroppers who are the book's main characters were hardly famous. Robert Gensburg, the quiet Lyndon attorney who died last week, similarly did not seek celebrity or the limelight. Yet he is a famous man who deserves state and national recognition for advancing equality, fairness, and a democratic society.

Gensburg is best known for being the lead attorney in the *Brigham v. State* case, which established the principle of equality of education and financing across Vermont.

On this case alone his fame could be established. Yet his accomplishments are vast and span a half-century of tireless legal work.

Nearly 50 years ago, as a young attorney hired by the state as a special prosecutor, Gensburg unraveled the truth behind a crooked drug cop, Paul Lawrence, whose success in charging people with drug crimes was built on obtaining drugs illegally and planting them on his suspects. On the other end of his life, up until February of this year, Gensburg fought the 14-year detention of an alleged terror suspect, Abdul Zahir, at the U.S. Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba. Gensburg thought U.S. intelligence officials had the wrong guy - a suspicion largely confirmed when Zahir was finally released after Gensburg had made numerous trips to Guantanamo, filed endless arguments, and endured countless hearings.

Between the bookends of the Lawrence and the Zahir cases was the *Brigham* case. Gensburg led a legal team of five attorneys assembled by the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont in

suaging the state over unequal educational opportunities for schoolchildren. Although earlier school finance court cases had been filed around the nation, arguing a case based on equal protection grounds was basically plowing new legal ground. His preparations and presentation were flawless and his illustrations were so clear that in the *Brigham* decision, handed down in 1997, a unanimous Vermont Supreme Court would state simply that it was "unable to fathom a legitimate governmental purpose to justify the gross inequities in educational opportunities evident from the record."

But equally important - indeed, perhaps more important - to the *Brigham* case was establishing that Vermont from its very first years as a state was committed to ensuring that benefits provided by government - such as education - be distributed to its citizens on an equitable basis. The disparity in the tax or spending numbers laid out in the legal briefs would have counted for nothing had that right to equal treatment - under the "common benefits clause," Article 7 of Vermont's Constitution - not been clearly articulated in the lawsuit.

The enormity of what Gensburg and those working with him achieved was overwhelming. The Vermont Supreme Court stated in clear, unmistakable terms that we're all in this democratic enterprise together, and everyone counts. Taxes and education spending have been issues for the last 200 years, and will likely remain so for the next 200. But the state's responsibility for equal education financing and equal taxation has been permanently changed.

Could such massive changes have occurred without the work and dedication of individuals such as Bob Gensburg? We think not. In *Brigham*, Gensburg was the agate point on which change pivoted. He was the

clerk, the litigator, and the leader. Will there be threats to this vision of equality? Most assuredly. But we have Bob's legacy to help us protect our advances.

In remarks he had prepared - but was unable to deliver - this past February for a 20th anniversary celebration of the *Brigham* decision, Gensburg wrote, "In my opinion, there is no constitutional principle that is more important than Article 7. It is the foundational requirement for living under the rule of law. There are few instances in which that has been made as clear as in the *Brigham* decision and in the *Baker* case that followed it. It is a good rule for government to live by."

By the laws a society makes and keeps are its people known - and perhaps made famous. All three of us feel we have a lost a dear friend and Vermont has lost a principled leader. As a state, we were lucky to have Bob Gensburg among us.

Article written by Carol Brigham, Allen Gilbert, and William Mathis. Carol Brigham was a Whiting School Board member in 1995, where her seven-year-old daughter, Amanda, attended elementary school. Allen Gilbert was chair of the Worcester School Board in 1995 when it joined Amanda Brigham and eleven other plaintiffs in the Brigham lawsuit; he went on to become executive director of the ACLU of Vermont. William Mathis was superintendent of Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union in Brandon in 1995; he has been an advocate of equal education opportunity for children his entire professional life, serving most recently as managing director of the National Education Policy Center at the University of Colorado Boulder and as a member of the Vermont Board of Education. The opinions expressed are solely those of the authors.

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KMA Publications are members of the New England Press Association

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The Bellows Falls American Legion, Post #37 wishes to say "thank you." We were blessed this past Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23, 2017 by a abundance of outstanding guests! We held our annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner in appreciation to the wonderful community that we are part of.

Our kitchen crew of 25 volunteers, led by Lee and Richie Boucher cooked and served a total of 288 free meals, which included turkey, stuffing, gravy, and all the tasty trim-

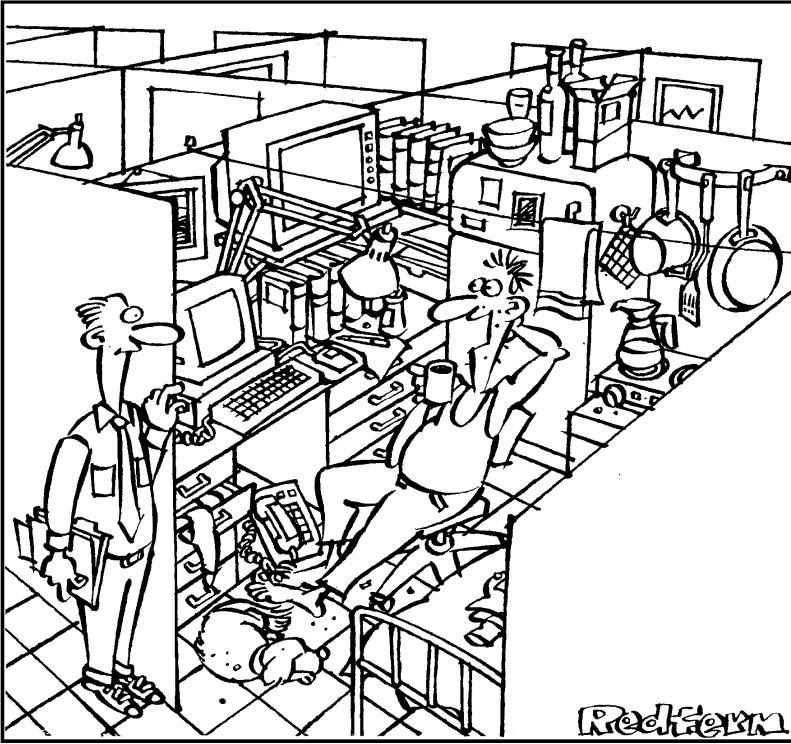
ings.

And to top off the dinner, we had 30 homemade pies by Simone Crosby, Maria Perrault, and family.

What a scrumptious way to end a meal. Again, we say thank you, to the community and all the volunteers that made this day a special day of Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,
Commander Smokey Aumand
Bellows Falls Post #37

LAFF - A - DAY



"...so I figured living at work was even more convenient than working at home."

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

Include town & daytime phone (not for publication)

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

OBITUARIES

church services

ASCUTNEY, VT.

Bow Baptist Church, 1102 Rte 5.
Sunday school at 10 a.m. Morning service at 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. Prayer meeting on Wednesday at 7 p.m. Call 802-546-4902 or www.bowbaptist.com.

Open Bible Baptist Church, 168 Cemetery Rd.
Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. Morning service at 11 a.m. Afternoon service at 2 p.m. Wednesday at 7 p.m. Sanctuary handicap accessible. Visit: obbcvt.org.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

Immanuel Retreat Center, Currier Hall, 12 Church St.
Celtic worship service at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St.
Holy Eucharist Services are offered at 8 a.m. (quiet service) and 10

a.m. (with music) every Sunday. Immanuel Church is handicap accessible.

BELMONT, VT.

The Village Church: 35 Church St.
The Sunday service and children's church is at 9:30 a.m. Contact 802-259-2440; vbch.weebly.com/

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

North Charlestown United Methodist Church, Route 12A River Rd.
Sunday worship begins at 9 a.m. Church is handicap accessible. Contact 603-826-0381.

CHESTER, VT.

St. Joseph's Church, 96 S. Main St.
Mass at 4 p.m. on Saturday and Thursday at 9 a.m. Confession from 3 – 3:30 p.m.

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

GRAFTON, VT.

The Grafton Church (UCC and ABC), 55 Main St.
Worship begins at 10 a.m. All are welcome!

LUDLOW, VT.

Annunciation Catholic Church, Corner of Depot and High St.
Mass on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. Sundays at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Call 802-228-3451

The United Church of Ludlow (UCC and Methodist), 48 Pleasant St.
Sundays starting at 10:15 a.m. followed by a time of fellowship and coffee hour. Call 802-228-4211 or email unitedchurch@tds.net. Visit us online at www.unitedchurch.us

Ludlow Baptist Church, on the Green, 99 Main St.
Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. Music Ministry Fellowship at 10:30 a.m. Morning service at 11 a.m. Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Prayer meeting on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. More information can be found at www.ludlowbaptist.org or by Pastor Jerry Scheumann calling 802-228-7600.

PERKINSVILLE, VT.

Perkinsville Community Church, Route 106.
The annual Christmas candle light service will be held on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 5 p.m. There will be holiday carols, harp, guitar, chime choir, vocals, piano, organ, flute, and violin. All are welcome. Come and enjoy an evening of music and Christmas scripture readings.

PLYMOUTH, VT.

Tyson Congregational Church, Corner of Rt. 100 and Dublin Rd.
Worship begins at 10:30 on Sundays. All are welcome. 802-228-5114

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 90 Park St.
Vespers on Saturdays at 5 p.m. and Liturgy on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call 802-885-2615 or go to www.htocvt.org.

North Springfield Baptist Church, 69 Main St.
Adult Bible study on Sundays at 9 a.m. before the worship service at 10 a.m., followed by fellowship and coffee hour. Call 802-886-8107, email nssbc@vermontel.net or go to www.nsbct.org for additional info and directions.

Precision Valley Baptist Church, 69 Route 106
Adult Bible Study on Sundays from 9 -9:45 a.m. Services start at 10 a.m. Located right next to Cota & Cota.

WALPOLE, N.H.

St. John's Church, corner of Westminster and Elm St.
Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. Services begin at 10 a.m., followed by coffee hour. For more information about Art After School program,

our outreach efforts, call 603-756-4533.

WESTMINSTER, VT.

First Congregational Church, 3470 Route 5
On Sunday, Dec. 24, we will celebrate Christmas at our Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 p.m. Come and join us. No morning worship on Dec. 24. The service will include great music, carols, and the Christmas story. Weather permitting we will end the service outside in front of the church among the luminaria with a candle-lit carol sing.

WEST WINDSOR, VT.

Brownsville Community United Methodist Church, 66 Brownsville-Hartland Rd.
Sunday worship 9:30 a.m. followed by fellowship and refreshments. Nursery care provided during church service for children 5 years and younger. ADA accessible. Call 802-484-5944, email bchurchvt@gmail.com, or go to www.brownsvilleumc-vt.org.

Springfield Elks memorial service

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - All Elks Lodges across the country will be holding their annual memorial service the first Sunday in December for the members who have passed away during the past year. This year's ser-

vice will be held on Sunday, Dec. 3 at noon at the Elks Lodge, 49 Park St., in Springfield. The memorial service will last about 25 minutes, and all Elks and families of the departed are urged to attend.

The members they will be honoring are as follows: Scott Patterson, PER, HLM; George Saris; Joseph Barrows, LM; Arnold Lashua, LM; Wilfred Sheehan, LM; and Paul Stone, LM.

Andrew E. Baldwin, 1957-2017

CHESTER, Vt. - Andrew "Andy" E. Baldwin, 60, passed away at home surrounded by family on Nov. 21, 2017 after a long battle with cancer. He was born on April 11, 1957 in Indianapolis, the third of seven children of Fred and Janet Baldwin, formerly residents of Chester, Vt. After growing up in Orange, Conn., he relocated to Vermont to start a family of his own.

As a young man, Baldwin began his lifelong career and craft as a master carpenter by working on a furniture assembly line in Connecticut. He then started his own business in

Vermont as a fine homebuilder and carpenter, building and restoring several local buildings including the Chester House Inn. He then worked for Gassetts Group in Ludlow, Vt. where he was a foreman for over two decades. Along with his love of woodworking, Baldwin also loved restoring his 1954 Willys pickup truck, sailing his vintage lightning sail boat, and hiking, hunting and snowshoeing in the woods of Vermont.

Baldwin is survived by his three children Sara Collins, Mae Keefe, and Daniel Baldwin; his ex-wife

Lynn Josselyn; his granddaughter Jane Collins; and his six siblings, Tom Baldwin, Gerry Conniff, Lorri Ambrosi, Cathy Forbes, Liz Petraska, and Aimee Toner.

A memorial service with light refreshments will be held at the Fullerton Inn on Dec. 2, 2017 from 10 a.m. to noon. In lieu of flowers, his family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network www.pancan.org/donate.

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

Marion (Whitcomb) Stearns, 1924-2017

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Marion Stearns passed away Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017 after a brief illness at the Springfield Hospital. Born on June 10, 1924 in Rochester, N.H., the daughter of Harold and Marion (Corbett) Sheahan. She grew up in Somersworth, N.H., spending summers at the family cottage on Moody Beach, Maine. She loved the ocean. Valedictorian of her high school class, she continued her education at the University of New Hampshire, graduating in 1945 cum laude with a B.A. in Music Education.

Stearns moved to Springfield, Vt. where she obtained a music teaching position with the public schools there in September 1945. Stearns married Merrill (Deak) Whitcomb in 1947, sharing a life with him and their two daughters, Hallie Jean and Cherry, on the scenic Mt. Ararat farm, which has been in the family since the late 1700s. Her work ethic and energy were evident as she balanced a life of teaching, raising children, and meeting the many demands of farm life. Merrill passed away in 1978 after a long illness through which Stearns tended him lovingly.

After many satisfying years teaching mainly vocal music with some instrumental, covering most of the Springfield schools, she retired in 1980.

Robert Stearns, whom Marion had met while at UNH, reconnected with her on a trip east from California flying in his home built airplane. They were married at a private ceremony on the Whitcomb farm a year later in September 1982.

Stearns and Bob lived in Livermore, Calif. where she soon became a vital part of the community and made many dear friends. She



Marion (Whitcomb) Stearns, 1924-2017. PHOTO PROVIDED

was active in the UU Church, the Livermore-Amador Symphony Orchestra and Guild, the community exercise group, and contributed to many groups through her musical talents of singing, piano, and violin. Bob Stearns joined her in the church and LAS activities when he retired from Bechtel Corporation. The Stearns enjoyed flying to many places in his plane for over 20 years, including two trips to New England. Due to the limitations of the light weight plane, which could not carry two people plus luggage over the Rockies, Stearns would fly commercially to Michigan, where her daughter Cherry lived, and Bob would pick her up there so the two could continue on to see friends in New England.

Alzheimer's Disease caught up with Bob Stearns, and he passed in November 2011. With no relatives in California, Marion moved back to Vermont in November 2013 to live with her daughter, Hallie. She happily

renewed friendships from her prior years in Springfield and became active in the local UU Church. Stearns' greatest joy was putting a smile on the faces of others. She did this often by making creative cards, telling jokes, singing songs to strangers and friends alike, and playing piano for others everywhere she could.

Stearns learned how to fold origami cranes, pinwheels, boats and hats from her Japanese daughter, Yuko. People will see these treasures all over town as she gave them away to youth and adults alike as thanks or just to brighten their days. This made her smile as well.

Stearns is survived by daughters Hallie Whitcomb of Springfield and Cherry (Ken) Westerman of Ann Arbor, Mich., grandchildren Erica Westerman of Fayetteville, Ariz. and Michael (Brittany) Westerman of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., step-grandchild Katrina (Stearns) Slater of Santa Cruz, Calif., three special nieces, and many cousins.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 2 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Rd., Springfield, Vt. Stearns has requested that in lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in her memory to:

- The Unitarian Universalist Church in Springfield, 21 Fairground Rd., Springfield, VT, 05156
- The Vermont Land Trust, 8 Bailey Ave, Montpelier, VT, 05602
- The Music Department of the Springfield School District, 60 Park St. Springfield, VT
- The Livermore-Amador Symphony, P.O. Box 1049, Livermore, CA 94551-1049

Davis Memorial Home in Springfield is assisting with arrangements.

Margaret Jean Chandler, 1936 – 2017



Margaret Jean Chandler, 1936 – 2017. PHOTO PROVIDED

geview Elementary School and Mobile Meals. She enjoyed theater and classical music, and was a long time member of the choir and bell choir at the church. Chandler traveled extensively when she had the opportunity, with trips to Europe, Russia, Australia,

lia, New Zealand, Central America, and Croatia.

Chandler is predeceased by her husband Albert, niece Lynn Chandler Monea, and her nephew Mark Chandler. She is survived by her son Ron and wife Carolyn; son Ken and wife Beth; daughter Karen and husband Ben Wallace; grandchildren, Rachael Chandler and Ian and Mary Wallace; brother Ed Gould and wife Bonnie; brother-in-law James and wife Kay; and her loving nieces and nephews.

There will be two memorial services. Memorial services will be held at Christ's Church in Saxtons River, Vt. on Dec. 16 at 11 a.m. and at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City on Dec. 30, 2017. In lieu of flowers, Chandler requests memorial fund donations dedicated to benefit either Christ's Church or the music program at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

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Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

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the 32nd overture to christmas

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017

CHESTER, Vt. – On Saturday, Dec. 2, the town of Chester will have its 32nd annual Overture to Christmas. From 1-3 p.m. there will be a Kids' Craft Bazaar at MacLaomann's Banquet Room, which is free. Kids can enjoy gingerbread cookie decorating with the Heritage deli, holiday crafts with the Art Garden, wet wool felting with Six Loose Ladies, Christmas stories and crafts with Miss Alice from the Whiting Library, ornaments with Endless Creations, an appearance by Mrs. Claus, and snacks.

Caroling and the living nativity

will take place at the Baptist Church patio at 3:30 p.m. Santa will arrive at the Baptist Church at 4 p.m. and the kids are invited to ride with him on the wagon. Families can parade to the Green!

The tree lighting will commence on the Green at 4:15 p.m. and children can visit Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Fullerton Inn.

Also this weekend, St. Luke's Episcopal Church will host their annual Christmas Tea and Sale in Willard Hall at the church located at 313 Main Street.



Kids can ride with Santa to the village green for the tree lighting ceremony. PHOTO PROVIDED

Townshend Holiday of Horses Parade

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – The Townshend Holiday of Horses Parade and Celebration will be held on Sunday, Dec. 3 and include four separate events around town. The Holiday of Horses Parade itself will start at 1 p.m. at Leland Gray High School. The

parade is weather permitting. At 2 p.m. there will be a holiday decorating craft hour at the Townshend Church. At 3 p.m., Community Hope and Action will sponsor a community potluck at the Townshend Church. Bring your favorite holiday foods if possible and meet your neighbors! Finally, the West River Valley Chorus will be singing a holiday medley at 4 p.m. on the Commons. Come join in with the singing and help light up the Commons. For more information, contact Community, Hope and Action at 802-365-4700.



Townshend Holiday of horses parade in 2016. PHOTO PROVIDED

Teddy's 31st annual Holiday Toy Party

KILLINGTON, Vt. – The leaves have dropped from the trees and the snow guns are ready to blaze; and we are all getting very excited to host Teddy's 31st annual Holiday Toy Party. It is going to be an amazing season here in Killington, and we can't wait to see you all Dec. 2 at the Foundry at Summit Pond.

Last year we raised over \$30,000 for some very deserving local charities and collected more than a truck full of toys that brought holiday joy to families who need a little help. It would be impossible to put into words how humbled to put into words how humbled we were for the generosity of friends, neighbors, local businesses, and the entire Killington Community at last year's party.

We hope you can join us for a

wonderful night of local music, great food, and holiday tidings at the Foundry at Summit Pond. Plus, there will be a special visit from our friend Kris Kringle, so be sure to bring the kids for pictures with Santa!

We would also like to recognize the many business owners who donated prizes last year for the raffle and items for our auction. Our sponsors have already begun to donate some amazing prizes for this year's party and many others are joining us for the first time to show their support. These local businesses truly make it possible for us to support our charities, and we hope that you will visit them all year long!

We are looking forward to another great year and we can't wait to see you on Saturday, Dec. 2.

St. Luke's sale and Christmas tea

CHESTER, Vt. – One of the most festive events of Chester's Overture to Christmas is the St. Luke's Christmas Tea and Sale. On Saturday, Dec. 2, Willard Hall will be filled with the sounds, smells, and surprises of Christmas. Beginning at 11 a.m. through 3 p.m., there is something for everyone.

Delicious light sandwiches and scrumptious sweets cover the tea table where your choices of coffee, tea, and hot, spiced cider are poured by a hostess. You fill your plate for a small fee, and join friends at inviting little tables festively decorated to eat and chat. Little hostesses come by with trays of goodies. Beforehand or after lunch, you can shop at Grandma's Attic for little collectibles, check out and choose handmade ornaments and Christmas decorations, and take home some specially baked goodies from the bake table.

There are always pleasant surprises like quilted pieces, painted items, candles, and other crafts and art. You can stay as long as you want. Call a dear friend and make a date to attend the Annual Christmas Tea at St. Luke's at 313 Main Street in Chester. Visit www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org for directions and information.



A holiday buffet.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Holiday Tree Lighting

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Sponsored by the Londonderry Rotary and Susie Wyman, the Mountain Marketplace Holiday Tree will be lit at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8. There will be caroling by the Nordic Harmonii, an appearance by Santa, and much holiday cheer. An open house will immediately follow at Neighborhood Connections, located next to the Londonderry Post Office. Bring the children for homemade cookies and hot chocolate.



Christmas Tree Lighting. STOCK PHOTO

Santa is coming to town

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Santa Claus will be at People's United Bank Plaza starting Friday, Dec. 1 from 6 – 9 p.m. for the tree lighting ceremony. He will also make an appearance on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 13, and 20 from 4 – 7 p.m.

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THIS AND THAT

BY BILL MURPHY

The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

The captains of the 2017 Bellows Falls Division II Vermont State Championship Field Hockey team agree on two things unanimously. Hartford and Burr & Burton both qualified as rivalry intense games in their championship drive for a threepeat this fall and they all were possessed of a fear of losing. Neither Hartford nor Burr & Burton put any blemishes on their perfect season, and their constant fear was never realized. The program has won 40 games in a row and the beat goes on.

"I was nervous ever since the season began," Tri Captain Paxton Santorelli said. "Every season I get nervous; I don't even know why. I'm always afraid we are going to lose a game, especially with the winning streak."

Reaghan Baldasaro, another tri leader, chimed in, "I was unsure at the start because we were going up a division. We beat the Division II champions [Springfield] last year, but it was all so new to us. I was nervous all season about the championship. I didn't want to end my senior year with a loss. That was a driving force for all the intensity we put into practices and games all season long."

"Each season and each game you are starting all over again," Tri Captain Dani Marchica added. She went on, "From the start, we had so many expectations for our teammates, our selves, our coaches, we asked ourselves 'can we do it again?' This

year was so emotional. Our coaches would push us as much as they can to make us be the best that we can."

The ultimate leader of this team and program, coach Bethany Coursen, had everything in perspective from the start. She told me, "I'm sure that fear they had came from the fact they haven't lost for so long. Keeping sharp is very important, and they were able to do that. Some of our followers don't understand how difficult it is to keep a streak like this going. One strongly sports oriented person said that the girls weren't learning anything because they haven't lost. They [meaning many followers and fans] will never understand what you learn when you push through things to keep a steak going like this."

Hartford and Burr & Burton were certainly the games that grabbed the Terriers girls' attention. Taking away those four encounters Bellows Falls went 10-0 and outscored the opponents 72-2. There were no games in which the verdict was ever seriously in doubt, but the four clashes with Hartford and Burr & Burton produced a much more down-to-earth total of 22-2.

There was a strong hint in the preseason that the Bellows Falls team would be tough to challenge at all. Coursen lined up a scrimmage with perennial Division I power South Burlington on the Wolves turf and Bellows Falls came out on top 2-1. It was a scrimmage, but both sides knew at the very least, the friendly game produced a level of competition, which should



Reaghan Baldasaro, senior captain. PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



Dani Marchica, captain. PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



Tricaptain Paxton Santorelli, holding the trophy, leads the Bellows Falls Division II Vermont State Championship Field Hockey team toward their families and fans after capturing the 2017 state title. PHOTO BY BRIGID HODSDEN

lead Coursen's team to the top of the Division II pack.

South Burlington and Vermont Field Hockey dominance are one and the same. On the day a couple of weeks ago that Bellows Falls won the title game, convincingly, South Burlington threepeated in Division I. It was the second time the Wolves had turned in such a feat this century. South Burlington has advanced to 11 Division I finals in the past 16 years and won eight of them. No other Division I program is even close to those numbers. The job Coursen has done building the program in Bellows Falls is a similar story. The Terriers and the Wolves are the hierarchy of the sport in Vermont today.

The Bellows Falls schedule had the first three contests on the road this fall. They opened with an 8-0 victory over defending Division II champion Springfield 8-0. Then there was another shutout at Division I Mount Anthony 5-0.

Next, Division I Hartford was waiting, and Baldasaro said, "There was some unfinished business from last year when our game got rained out and couldn't be rescheduled so that came into play with how big the game was. It turned out awesome."

Marchica could hardly be contained with her answer on this subject. She said, "We were on fire. I have never seen us play so well. We clicked, and we passed. We shot, and we played awesome defense. Everything in that game that we wanted to happen, happened. It was beyond what we expected. It was a game we wanted to win so badly. And when we did, it was like holy cow! It was amazing, and that's the feeling you want to feel every time you win. That's the kind of game you dream you have every time."

Santorelli had her own way of describing the same picture. She started out, "Everything about it was just flawless. If something went wrong, there was someone there to fix it. Sometimes, we have let down in other games, but this game, everyone had the same mentality all the way through to really beat them."

Bellows Falls and Hartford have had their own special rivalry over the years. Once upon a time, they were both Division II, and they had some really big games. They played a classic in the 1989 championship game when

they played forever and were finally declared co-champs following their 0-0 tie. If people see Jayne Barber, ask her about that one. The same coach, who went against the Terriers in that one, was on the sidelines this year.

Coursen was elated by the magical performance in the big victory in Hartford. "I was confident going in, but I can't say I saw that performance coming. I think their drive was intense at times, it even sometimes made them not trust each other, but they played amazing that day. It gave them the confidence they could play with anybody," she told me.

High school sports can be a game of emotion, and the feeling of the Hartford win likely allowed the bus to return home without the wheels ever touching the ground for the home opener. Burr & Burton was waiting for the first home contest. The combination of the feeling gained in White River Junction and playing on their home turf for the first time in the 2017 season made for a tough day for a decent Burr & Burton team 8-1. The only consolation for the Bulldogs was they scored the first goal against Bellow Falls for the season.

Hartford was staring at the Terriers at home in game number five. The Terrier girls were still flying high and did one better than their game a week earlier, this time prevailing 5-0. One road game at Rutland, a 6-1 triumph, interrupted three out of four games at home. Then it was 9-0 and 8-0 at home over Mount Anthony and Fair Haven respectively at home.

There was some excitement statewide and especially in Windsor for the season's tenth game. The Windsor Yellow Jackets, sitting on top of the Division III pack where the Terriers had sat one year prior - were coming to the Bellows Falls to challenge them. They had lost their opener to Division II challenger Otter Valley 2-1 and ran off six straight victories since. Bellows Falls and Otter Valley don't meet, so this was the biggest measuring stick the Terriers would have in Division II top three competition. The ruler burned up.

Bellows Falls controlled Windsor from start to finish for a 10-1 victory and established themselves as the team to beat in Division II. Spaulding would finish 12-1-2 in second place in the state seedings, and Otter Valley 9-2-2. But now it was quite clear that it would likely take a cold day in some place other than Vermont to find the Terriers on the losing side of a score.

Bellows Falls would finish the regular campaign with four more victories, at Brattleboro 5-0, at home versus Fair Haven 8-0, again on the road at Burr & Burton 5-1, before completing their second straight unbeaten season at home on Senior Day versus Brattleboro 6-0.

There was, however, a bump in the road at Burr & Burton. Coursen's team was 12-0 when they took the field in Manchester. Nothing anyone had seen on the field would make you think they could be challenged. And then...

"It was my fault," Baldasaro said. "It was their Senior Day, and it finally hit me that I am a senior too, so I started crying. I got very upset that I only had a few more games left. You know when one person starts crying, just about everybody starts crying, and Bethany finally said if I see one more tear you are going to sit on the bench."

There may not have been more tears, but the Terriers likely carried their emotions on to the field in one way or another because when intermission came Burr & Burton led 1-0. Is it possible, if you didn't already know the answer, they could in some way beat themselves?

They caught their usual fire following halftime, kept the Bulldogs away from their goal, and put up five tallies themselves on the way

to a 5-1 triumph. Then they rode home to face their own Senior Day.

"I certainly remember that moment," Coursen said of the Burr & Burton meltdown. "I told them if they let their emotions rule that they would get beat." You can see they didn't let that happen. Their own Senior Day saw no challenge at all from Brattleboro, and the Terriers ran away and hid 6-0.

The exact same score popped up its head in the opening round of the post season. The Purple and White hosted Middlebury and won 6-0. Junior Abbe Cravinho had four assists and a goal to lead the way. Baldasaro and Marchica each tallied two goals, and junior Molly Kelly had the final one.

An improved Burr & Burton team was waiting in the semis and Bellows Falls shut them out this time 3-0, but the contest was not easy. The shutout was the big step for the Terriers. Meeting any team three times in a season is always difficult, but a team that gets better each time is a little scarier. The Bulldogs scored half the goals (2) the Terriers gave up in the regular season, so holding Burr & Burton without a goal on the way to the finals was something special for Bellows Falls.

Spaulding pressed the Terriers for a little less than two minutes dominating the start of the championship game, but then Bellows Falls picked up play. A little over a minute later, Madison Streeter netted the only goal that would be needed in a 6-0 title party. Molly Kelly and Abbe Cravinho would each have two goals and Marchica would have another. It was the more merrier for the Bellows Falls team.

Bellows Falls' biggest challenge all year was itself. They had an extremely talented team and as Coursen mentioned their emotions, which included their intensity in both a positive and negative way, was at its core.

"There were times I had to be mean," Coursen said, citing the Baldasaro Burr & Burton situation. "The slow start at Burr & Burton was not Reg's fault. There were just times - and that was one of them - when the team didn't trust the process. They always meant well, but there are times when one tends to try to do too much. If you make a mistake, there will be someone there able and willing to help, especially between the forwards and the links and vice versa. At these times, they always didn't pass enough. This is when they had to be reminded to trust what we are trying to do as a team." While interviewing the tri-captains, they all appropriately pointed out the same exact thing.

Titles are about the sum of the team's parts, adding up to be greater than that accumulated sum. Coursen broke down those individual parts for us on each player who played in the title game:

Paxton Santorelli did a great job as center back. She helped the new players in new positions and was a strong voice on the field.

Dani Marchica came into this season on a mission to dominate. She scored seven goals last season and 29 this year. She worked very hard in every practice and brought it all to the game each time she stepped on the field.

Reaghan Baldasaro was a very strong player this year. She worked hard and passed well and had an amazing cross in front of the net.

Sarah Scarlett is a positive ray of sunshine on the team. She works very hard and never complains. She is excited every time she steps on the field and does her best with a smile.

Kylie Comstock played in a few varsity games and did a great job. She had a terrific stop in the state game to save the shutout. Kylie always worked hard at practice and has great hand-eye coordination.

Emma Lober worked hard all season. She probably would have loved to have been a bit busier in the cage.

Emma was a great communicator back there with her defense.

Abbe Cravinho had a great season. She made the MVL team and was the second highest scorer on the team. She worked very hard in games and in practices. She pushed herself and everyone around her to be the best they could. She was excited to score a goal in a state game and with 14 seconds left scored a second and the teams sixth to make sure there was no doubt that Bellows Falls Field Hockey came to play.

Sophia Hyslop was that quiet player that pushed herself and gave 110 percent all the time. When she was on the field, she made things happen. She had a great assist in the state game. She is a bundle of energy out on the field looking to do her best all the time.

Molly Kelly had a great season in the middle of the field. She combined with the players around her to have some great passing, scored 21 goals, and did it all with her long legs that bend in ways that no leg should bend.

Madison Streeter worked tirelessly at center link. She was a huge part of our offensive quarters and never stopped, not even after taking a ball to the head in the state game. I actually think she played better after the hit.

Brooke Bennett has great timing on attacking the ball in the backfield. Her approach is very good with her stick down. She had some great plays in the state game.

Michelle Marchica was a very strong link. I was lucky enough to have four solid links. I could switch them around left or right side, and she did a wonderful job. Michelle had a great game on the turf in Burlington.

Megan Banik worked very hard. She would enter the game and just play like she had been in the whole time. She is very aware of teammates around her and looks to pass when there is an opening.

Alice Salter-Roy is a link and does a great job switching in and out without missing a step. Alice gained more and more confidence in the position as the season progressed. She played very well against Spaulding.

Madi Joy was a link and a halfback. She worked very hard in both positions. She has lots of hustle. She has good timing on attacking the ball and never gives up.

Taylor Goodell moved from a forward to a halfback. She brought speed and desire to the field at any position she was put in. Taylor adjusted to halfback and learned the new spot quickly. She was a major part in the reason we had so many shutouts.

Meghan Kelly was my 4th link and did a good job. She worked very hard to earn a varsity spot and never stopped working hard all season. She was very good at working with the other links and defense in switching spots depending on where the ball was on the field.

Halie Dickerson also moved to defense from a forward. She picked it up very quickly. She has great timing and footwork and dodges around the opposing team to get the ball moved up the field.

Coursen pointed out she really enjoyed coaching this hardworking team and said she "is very proud of them. Going into the state title game, I had all the confidence in the world in them even with the slow start when they didn't get off the bus for the first minute or so. I knew they were conditioned better, knew we could score, and knew they would come to play."

The truth be told, the rest is history.



Positioned left to right, front row Megan Banik, Taylor Goodell, Dani Marchica, Sarah Scarlett, Madison Streeter, Sophia Hyslop, Halle Dickerson, Meghan Kelly, Abbe Cravinho. Back row: Emily Bazin, Molly Kelly, Michelle Marchica, Paxton Santorelli, Reaghan Baldasaro, Emily Harris, Madi Joy, Brooke Bennett, Emma Lober, Alice Salter-Roy, and Kylie Comstock. PHOTO BY BRIGID HODSDEN

Fall Mountain special Olympic team shines at state games

LANGDON, N.H. - The New Hampshire Special Olympics State Games were held at Yankee Lanes in Keene, N.H. on Nov. 18. Fourteen athletes represented the Fall Mountain Special Olympics Team. Scoring gold medals were Bonnie Kyle, Richard "Buddy" Judd, Sean Anderson, and Olivia Rounds. Grabbing

the silver medals were Mark Pebbles, Rachel Maxim, Dalton Hutchinson, Jacob Barboza, and Debra Hall. Rounding out the bronze medals were Eric Swain, Patrick Cannon, Sarah Johnson, and Mariah Pratt. Russell Putnam finished with fourth place in his division.

All the FMSO athletes have worked hard all season. Just like any sport, the athletes are required to practice weekly and cannot miss practices. We have had several athletes who have really made progress this year. Jacob Barboza is one athlete who has really improved from a year ago. He is spot on with his aim. Olivia Rounds is another athlete who last year very rarely got all the pins down. This year, she scored a strike in her second game, which gave her the lead and enabled her to grab the gold!

The FMSO team also found six of their athletes competing against each other. Bonnie Kyle, Sarah Johnson, and Rachel Maxim, all best friends, found themselves grouped in their division against each other. Rachel Maxim said, "It was hard trying to beat your best buds, but we had a great time."

Sean Anderson, Mark Pebbles, and Patrick Cannon found themselves in the exact predicament as their teammates. "We practice every week together so it was like practice just a little more competitive," said Sean Anderson.

"All the FMSO athletes did an amazing job," said coach Scott Kyle. "We are very proud of our whole team."

All the gold medalists across the state of New Hampshire will have their names put into a hat. On Monday, Nov. 20, they drew out four names and those will be the bowlers who will represent the state of New Hampshire at the USA Games in Seattle in the summer of 2018.

The next season for FMSO is Alpine Skiing, snowshoeing, and snowboarding. Anyone who is interested in becoming an athlete or volunteer for FMSO is encouraged to call Scott Kyle at 603-445-2323.



FM Special Olympics.

PHOTO PROVIDED

arts & entertainment

Springfield Community Chorus holiday concerts

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. -

Come and hear the joyful songs of the season sung by the SCC chorus at one or more of its three concert venues the first weekend in December. This year we are adding a third concert to our season. Friday night, Dec. 1, we will sing in Charlestown, N.H. at the Congregational Church at 7:30 p.m. Saturday night, the Dec. 2 concert will be in Chester at the Baptist Church at 7:30 p.m., and the third concert will be Dec. 3 in Springfield at the Congregational Church at 3 p.m.

Audiences will be treated to several movements of Handel's "Messiah" including the much loved "Hallelujah Chorus." Other lighter holiday tunes to be sung include: "The Very Best Time of the Year" written and arranged by John Rutter; "African Noel" arranged by Andre Thomas; "Follow the Star" written

and arranged by Salley K. Albrecht; "White Christmas" written by Irving Berlin and arranged by Ken Olsson; along with other holiday selections. The accompanist for these concerts is Keane Southard.

The concerts will be directed by Ken Olsson. He has been the chorus director for seven years. Olsson comes from a background of directing many productions at Main

Street Arts as well as seasons of opera with Southern Vermont Lyric Theatre. Olsson received a Bachelor's degree in Music from Ithaca College. After graduation, he worked for several opera companies in the northern New York area. He currently directs other local choruses and musical productions.

The chorus would like to thank our corporate sponsor, Image Tech and all other generous sponsors.

Come and bring your family and friends. Donations at the door are greatly appreciated. For more details about the concert venues, go to the chorus's website, www.springfieldcommunitychorus.org.



The Springfield Community Chorus will host three concerts in local towns.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Paramount Theatre 15th annual Festival of Trees

RUTLAND, Vt. - The Paramount Theatre is putting final touches on its 15th annual Festival of Trees Auction Benefit set to go off on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for patrons to participate in our extensive silent auction, preview the live items, and enjoy food and drinks. The live auction starts at 7 p.m. As in prior years, the auction will be conducted by veteran area auctioneer Bob Prozzo.

Bruce Bouchard, executive director, said, "This year we have a very special 'showcase item' which allows us to realize a Festival of Trees bucket list - namely, a car on stage."

The car to be auctioned is an Alderman's Chevy Bolt EV, donated to the Paramount in a partnership between Mark Alderman of Alderman's Chevrolet and Philip and Marlene Allen of Same Sun of Vermont. The live auction, as always, will contain all manner of delights and surprises.

Nearly 200 items will be available in our live and silent auctions. We are projecting a significantly shorter live auction this year.

Proceeds raised at the auction goes to benefit the National Landmark Paramount Theatre. So, come out and join us on Saturday, Dec. 2. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the live auction commence at 7 p.m. There will be plentiful food from Roots the Restaurant and desserts by A Dozen Eggs and a cash bar throughout.

Folk singer Elizabeth Rogers returns to Weston

WESTON, Vt. - On Dec. 10, at 4 p.m., celebrated contemporary folk singer Elizabeth Rogers will perform in concert at Weston's Old Parish Church. She will be accompanied by Grammy-winning cellist Eugene Friesen.

This concert is the latest presentation in the Hearts & Voices Performance Series, established in 2009 by Old Parish Church in memory of G. Frederick (Fritz) Zeller. Ms. Rogers' H&V appearance in 2015, also with Mr. Friesen, may well be the best-received and best-attended performance in the eight years that H&V has been in existence. This is an opportunity not to be missed.

Elizabeth Rogers' voice has been compared to that of Joan

Baez. Rogers started out singing opera, later branching out into jazz, a cappella, and folk music. After performing with various New England groups, she moved to Scotland where she lived in a spiritual community for a time. There she began composing and performing as a solo folk artist, and has since recorded two albums to critical acclaim: "One Fine Day" and "Breathe and Begin."

Her experiences in Scotland strongly influenced her writing, as her songs tend to contain themes of transformation and the search for home. After touring internationally and in the United States for several years, Rogers has moved to Vermont, and now lives in Bellows Falls. Samples of her music can be found on her website, www.elizabethrogers.com.

Proceeds from the H&V performances are donated to benefit deserving area non-profit organizations. For this performance, donations will benefit three neighborhood food pantries that help



Hear folk singer Elizabeth Rogers.

PHOTO PROVIDED

combat food insecurity in Southern Vermont.

Old Parish Church is located on Route 100, on the left as you enter Weston from the south.

The Turning of the Year: a Holiday Celebration

PUTNEY, Vt. - Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present "The Turning of the Year: A Holiday Celebration with John Whelan, Low Lily & Katie McNally" at Next Stage on Friday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Seven-time all-Ireland accordion champion and Narada recording artist John Whelan teams up with roots band Low Lily and Scottish-style fiddler Katie McNally for a spectacular holiday mini-fest of traditional and original music from Ireland, Scotland, and America.

Low Lily is Liz Simmons with vo-

cals and guitar; Flynn Cohen with vocals, guitar, and mandolin; Lissa Schneckeburger with vocals and fiddle; and Corey DiMario on double bass.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. For information, call 802-387-0102. Advance tickets are available at www.nextstagearts.org. Turn It Up in Brattleboro, and Putney Food Co-Op in Putney. For more information, visit www.johnwhelanmusic.com, www.LowLily.com, www.katiemcnally.com, www.twilightmusic.org, and www.nextstagearts.org.

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arts & entertainment

Grafton opens holiday doors

GRAFTON, Vt. - The community of Grafton will fill its streets with holiday bazaars and events for the first time in many years on Dec. 2 and 3. In its 250-plus year history, this southeast Vermont town of about 640 residents has had many holiday events. But this December the businesses, museums, and community groups have joined efforts to present two days of community celebration that is open to the public.

This charming colonial village with its 1801 inn and two classic New England churches has decorated its three streets and homes to welcome visitors and initiate the coming holidays.

On Saturday, Dec. 2 the town businesses and nonprofits groups will feature a "Shopping in Grafton" day. Then on Sunday, Dec. 3 holiday festivities are added to the agenda.

On Saturday, the shops and bazaar start at 10 a.m. going until 4 p.m. with special offerings. Here is a brief list of what to expect on Saturday:

- The Grafton Church will hold a Christmas bazaar and lunch at the White Chapel. It will be selling handmade evergreen centerpieces and homemade goods, plus offering a light lunch beginning at 11 a.m.
- The Grafton Fire and Rescue

Squad will be selling live Christmas trees in the parking lot behind the Old Tavern.

- The Grafton Historical Society will be selling decorated outdoor wreaths, swags, and hanging and standing pots of evergreens in front of its museum. Inside the museum, small Christmas items, wrappings, and GHS books will be sold.

- At 2 p.m. in the Grafton Public Library the Historical Society will sponsor a Meet the Author program to introduce Thomas Fontaine's new children's book on the Civil War. Fontaine will be on hand to discuss his "Grafton Cavaliers" and autograph books.

- Many of the business shops in town will be open and will feature a merchant passport program for discounts on their merchandise.

On Sunday, Dec. 3, Santa Day takes over. All of the above activities from Saturday will continue but added to the festivities will be many free activities to celebrate the day.

The Nature Museum starts the day at 10 a.m. with craft programs and a 10 percent discount in its gift shop. A kids' cookie decorating party will be underway at the MKT, the village grocery store, from 10 to 11 a.m. Santa arrives by fire truck at about

11:15 a.m. and he will spend some time on the porch of the Grafton Inn to meet and greet children.

Between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. horse drawn hay rides through the historic town streets will be available. At 11 a.m., the Grafton Public Library will start a reading of favorite holiday stories. This will run until 1 p.m. Then at 2 p.m. Bill Toomey, town storyteller, will spin some of his extraordinary tales.

At 3 p.m., the Grafton Cornet Band will perform Christmas music at the Grafton Church, followed by the Bellows Falls High School Choral Group. Following the concert, the choral group will lead carolers to the Grafton Public Library for the town's annual tree lighting ceremony at 4:30 p.m. Santa is expected to be there to hand out candy canes to the children.

The day will end with a gathering and free refreshments at the Grafton Inn. All events are open to the public.

Grafton is located at the crossroads of Rt. 121 and Rt.35 between the towns of Townshend and Chester and west of Bellows Falls.

Mark Breen presents space photos

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Mark Breen will present the OLLI-Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program on Tuesday, Dec. 5, "Going Deep: Exploring the Universe with Space Telescopes." It will be presented at 2 p.m. at the Nolin Murray Center next to St. Mary's Catholic Church on Pleasant St. in Springfield, Vt.

Breen, director of the Planetarium at the Fairbanks Museum, and well-known Vermont weather forecaster, will show photographs taken from the Hubble Space Telescope that, for more than 25 years, have thrilled the public.

Since the original telescope was launched, a fleet of space-based observatories has been exploring everything from our neighbors in the Solar System to the outer-most fringes of the universe. Each looks across the skies through a different window, using not just visible light, but radio waves, microwaves, ultra-violet radiation, and x-rays, gathering much more information than what our eyes can see. Breen will share these deep space discoveries using a vast collection of fascinating images, and offering insights about the advancements in scientific understanding.

OLLI-Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, affiliated with the University of Vermont, is a local membership program geared towards seniors 50 years and older who want to engage in meaningful learning, "just for the fun of it!" People of all ages are welcome to attend.

The OLLI series programs are selected with input from the local members and carry varied themes from semester to semester including history, art, music, literature, health, nature, science and current events.

Programs are held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons and last about an hour and a half.

Non-members are encouraged and welcome to attend individual lectures for a single program fee. Memberships, as well as single program fees, may be paid at the program.

This is the final program of the 2017 fall semester. The winter and spring semester begins on Jan. 30, 2018.

Brochures will be distributed throughout the area towns at businesses, the local libraries, town halls, and Chamber of Commerce offices. The complete Springfield and state-wide program list will be available at www.learn.uvm.edu/olli. Choose State-wide programs from the menu, and then scroll to Springfield.



Mark Breen will present photos taken from the Hubble Space Telescope and discuss deep space discoveries.

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President Coolidge Site Holiday Open House on Dec. 2

PLYMOUTH NOTCH, Vt. - Visitors can step back in time and celebrate the traditions of the season when the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site hosts the Coolidge Holiday Open House on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The open house has been selected as a 2017-2018 "Top 10 Winter Event" by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce.

Select museum buildings, including the homestead where President Calvin Coolidge was sworn in as president of the United States, will be open. The Coolidge birthplace will be decorated as it would have been in 1872, the year the future president was born. The event is free and features activities for the entire family.

An open house highlight will be Steve Morse of Montpelier, who will perform holiday organ and piano music throughout the day and lead caroling in the village church at 1:30 p.m. Attendees are invited to make a "Great Winter Hat" and prizes will be awarded at 3 p.m.

Other activities include:

- Tours of the Coolidge Homestead at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.
- Stocking stuffers and more at the museum stores
- Horse-drawn sleigh or wagon rides
- Traditional gifts, treats, and samples of award-winning cheeses at the Plymouth Cheese Factory
- Homemade chocolate demonstrations and tastings with The Chocolatorium
- Instructions by Clear Lake Furniture on how to make a Coolidge Rocker
- Paper craft making opportunities for cards, tags, tiny books, paper lanterns, and paper quilled stocking ornaments.

- Hands-on history activities for all ages in the Museum & Education Center's classroom
- Wreath-making, with sales benefit the Coolidge Site's garden fund
- Traditional craft demonstrations featuring silhouettes and fancy paper cutting, stenciling, and redwork embroidery.
- Special holiday postal cancellation at the historic Plymouth post office—the newest design in the John Lutz series from 12 - 4 p.m.

The Tyson Ladies Aid will once again be offering real home cooking, perfect on a cold winter day. Enjoy the home fires, warm ambiance and incredible soups, chilis, pies, or even a hot dog in the Wilder House at the Coolidge Homestead. Finish up with a slice of a Tyson Ladies homemade pie and a cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate by the fire at the Wilder House. All proceeds help the

Tyson's Ladies Aid in their efforts to support our local community such as the free historic Tyson Library, yearly scholarships to high school seniors from both Black River and Woodstock High Schools, supporting community members in need, and co-sponsoring the free reach out luncheons for the surrounding community.

The Coolidge Holiday Open House is also the last chance to see the 2017 temporary exhibit, "Homespun Treasures: The Textiles of Plymouth Notch," which features stunning quilts, Mother Coolidge's wedding dress, and a collection of nationally award-winning folk art dolls. Because of the fragile nature of the textiles, it will be many years before these items are back on display. For further information, call 802-672-3773, or visit www.HistoricSites.Vermont.gov.

Springfield High School Alumni Association, Inc.
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La La La: A Story of Hope
by Kate DiCamillo, Jaime Kim (Illustrator)

This nearly wordless graphic story follows a little girl who sings "La la la . . . la", in search of a friend, but hears no response - until at last she is heard. The subtle palette and captivating expressiveness bring to life an endearing character and a transcendent landscape that invite readers along on an emotionally satisfying journey. (Ages 4-8, \$17.99 hc)

Red and Lulu by Matt Tavares

Separation and miles cannot keep a determined cardinal from his loved one in an ode to serendipity and belief that is destined to be a new Christmas classic. This heart-tugging story combines the cheer of Christmas, the magic of New York City, and the real meaning of the holiday season: how important it is to be surrounded by love. (Ages 3-7, \$17.99 hc)

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outdoor news

Magic Mountain to host kick-off Winter Wild Race

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - The Winter Wild Race Series visits some of New England's most beautiful winter settings. This year, the series kick-off event is at Magic Mountain on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017.

Winter Wild is an uphill event with a twist. Grab your skis, grab your snowshoes, or just grab your favorite winter running shoes and show up for some winter fun. The race begins even before the lifts spin so racers are guaranteed first-tracks.

The activity is called "uphilling," and it's adding a whole new dimension of fun and purpose to winter recreation. It's a hearty winter workout, where participants ascend a ski

slope using either snowshoes, skis with climbing "skins," snowboards, or hiking boots with special cleats. For this Winter Wild event, participants go down the mountain on the same equipment they went up it.

Winter Wild allows different forms of uphilling "equipment" in a single event, ranging from simple sneakers and snow boots to full "skins" skis, and specialized Randonnee boots. There is a category and age group for anyone, ranging from those who are just out for a "romp in the snow" to serious racers.

Rules to participate:

Whatever you wear up the hill is what you descend with. There is one

exception to this rule, and that is if you would like to use a snowboard you may carry it on your back up the hill and then snowboard down. You will be listed in the "Heavy Metal" Category.

You cannot leave anything stashed anywhere on the mountain! Whatever you go up with you must return with to the start line. For example, if you use poles up the hill then you have to go down the hill with your poles. No sleds or blades will be al-

lowed. Acceptable devices are: Nordic XC Skis, Randonnee or Telemark Skis, snowboard, snowshoes, Micro-spikes or stabilizers... just plain running shoes.

Categories:

- Open category - Micro-spikes, running shoes, snowshoes, etc.
- Track skis - lightweight skating/diagonal Nordic ski gear
- Heavy Metal/Telemark - alpine skis, randonnee bindings, plastic boots or full metal edged skis with a 3-pin

or cable binding

All categories above include a Challenged Athlete Division

Registration is currently available online at www.winterwild.com and

day-of at the Magic Mountain base lodge. Check-in is 6:15 a.m. to 6:45 a.m. The race start is at 7 a.m. More information at www.magicmtn.com/events or www.winterwild.com.



World Cup at Killington

The Audi Women's World Cup was a well attended event at Killington Resort. PHOTO BY NEAL MAGNUS



Skiers in action

TOP: Mikaela Shiffrin USA, SL 1st Place.
BOTTOM: Petra Vlhova SVK, SL 2nd Place.

PHOTOS BY JERRY LEBLOND



World Cup winners

TOP: GS Podium left to right Mikaela Shiffrin USA, 2nd Place; Viktoria Rebensburg GER, 1st Place; Manuela Moelgg ITA, 3rd Place.
BOTTOM: SL Podium left to right Petra Vlhova SVK, 2nd Place; Mikaela Shiffrin USA, 1st Place; Bernadette Schild AUT, 3rd Place.

PHOTOS BY JERRY LEBLOND

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business spotlight



Christmas Trees of Vermont
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802-885-9597
www.christmastreeofvt.com
Facebook @christmastreesofvermont

Christmas Trees of Vermont opened under new ownership for the season on Nov. 24 and will continue to run until Dec. 17. Christmas Trees of Vermont has been open since 1982. While the new owners, Matt and Maggie Kurek, plan to make some changes, beloved traditions will remain.

The Kureks come from a farming background and have more than 20 years of experience as commercial vegetable growers. They are very excited to have found such a historic farm with deep silt and sandy loam soils in a beautiful spot between the river and a mountain. The high quality, well draining soil makes it possible to grow lush, full Fraser Fir trees, while the level fields make for a comfortable experience for people choosing their favorite tree with the traditional “choose and cut” option. In addition, Fraser Fir trees are pre-cut daily, and an assortment of wreaths are available.

Tim Mollica is still helping on the farm, just like in past years. He said the opening weekend “broke a lot of records,” selling hundreds of trees. “It was a great weekend with great weather.”



“What makes us different,” Mollica explained, “is that we have a house with restrooms, kitchens, places to warm up. People don’t have to worry about being cold.” The Christmas cottage will be open with two fireplaces, and visitors can enjoy baked goods, popcorn and hot chocolate from the Springfield Humane Society for a donation.

Besides selecting a tree, families can take free wagon and trolley rides, and taking photos with the giant snowman, which Mollica crafted with the Kurek kids. For the next two weekends, children can meet Santa Claus, and sing their favorite Christmas songs with Santa, and post clips on social media. Adults can taste and purchase wine on the weekends from Vermont Vines on the River.

“It’s more about the experience,” Mollica explains. Rather than attending an amusement park, “this is what you do in the winter.”

Christmas Trees of Vermont will be open seven days a week, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. until Sunday, Dec. 17.



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calendar

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY, DEC. 7 - ASCUTNEY, Vt. - There will be a free, public talk on Wildlife Habitat Improvement for Landowners on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Weathersfield Town Hall, 5199 Route 5, Ascutney, Vt. Sponsored by the Weathersfield Conservation Commission, the talk will be given by Andrea Shortsleeve and forester Hannah Dallas of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. It will touch on how small and large landowners may undertake projects to improve habitat for both game and non-game species. For more information, contact Jeff Pelton at 802-885-9517.

MONDAYS - BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Bellows Falls Area Senior Center Knit and Stitch group meets Mondays at 9 a.m. They can help you finish a project, repair an item and even take on special projects. The group is happy to donate “Knitted Knockers” to breast cancer survivors. Stop by and ask for Betty for more information.

Call: 802-463-3907. TFN
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - 9-10:30 a.m. playgroup at the Springfield Area Parent Child Center. Come to play and meet new friends. All parents with young children are welcomed. Contact Celeste at 802-886-5242 or email at celestem@vermontel.net. TFN

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. TFN

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

WEDNESDAYS - BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Bellows Falls Area Senior Center Knit and Stitch group meets Wednesdays at 9 a.m. They can help you finish a project, repair an item and even take on special projects. The group is happy to donate “Knitted Knockers” to breast cancer survivors, stop by

and ask for Betty for more information. Call: 802-463-3907. TFN
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Play Group at First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls/Rockingham Recreation Center. 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. Come join the fun! Healthy snack served. Call Molly 802-376-6204. TFN

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: www.facebook.com/gemstaichi/. TFN

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. Held at the Fullerton Inn, on the Chester Green. For more information visit www.buddhafulyoga.com or call 802-875-2868. TFN

THURSDAYS - CHESTER, Vt. - Strength-building chair yoga class with Liz Eaton, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Fullerton Inn, Main Street, Chester. This is a strength building yoga class in the hatha tradition for anyone looking to build bone density,

physical strength, flexibility and endurance. Come as you are and do what you can. Use a chair, yoga mat, or both! Drop in anytime or purchase a few classes at once. No experience necessary. For details, contact 802-875-2868, eaton.liza@gmail.com or www.buddhafulyoga.com. TFN

CHESTER, Vt. - Meditation class with Liz Eaton takes place on Thursday, 10:45-11:15 a.m. at the Fullerton Inn, Main Street, Chester. Learn simple yet profound meditation techniques for beginners (all levels welcome). There is no fee for this class; donations are appreciated. For details, contact 802-875-2868, eaton.liza@gmail.com or www.buddhafulyoga.com. TFN

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. TFN

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. TFN

LUDLOW, Vt. - Okemo Valley TV offers “Train the Trainers” workshops on fourth Thursdays at no cost, 6-7 p.m. at the Okemo Valley TV studio, 37C Main St. in Ludlow. Everyone who wants to learn the “ticks

and tricks” of TV-video production is welcome. Reserve a space at pcody@lpctv.org or call 802-228-8808. TFN

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

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Fridays, 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. TFN

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Free Open Art Nights, second Fridays from 7 p.m., open to people of all ages. Try something new, make mistakes, learn, and try again at the Art Gym on 62 Clinton Street, Springfield. Visit www.facebook.com/springfieldartgym/. TFN

SATURDAYS - 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. TFN

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 a.m. The group is comprised of a wide range of abilities including new swimmers. Call 802-885-2568 or visit www.myreccenter.org. TFN

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

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. TFN

CLUBS

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. TFN

QUECHEE, Vt. - Valley Stamp Club meets second Mondays at the Quechee library located at 1957 Main St. For more information contact John Lutz at 802-728-6212. TFN

CHESTER, Vt. - Please join the Chester Senior Citizens Club for their monthly luncheon meeting, third Mondays at 11:30 a.m. at the Chester Congregational Church on Main Street. Enjoy lunch, jokes and funny stories, and possibly Bingo. Just bring your place setting, if possible a dish to share, and a friend. If you need a ride, just call Georgia 802-875-6242. TFN

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

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. TFN

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. TFN

SATURDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Rockingham Library will launch a Google Computer Science First Game Design Club for youth ages 9 to 14, to learn to make their own computer video games. No computer experience necessary. Club sessions will be held Saturdays, noon to 1 p.m., in the library’s youth department, through Dec. 9. Participation is free but spots are limited and registration is required. For more information and to register, contact Sam Maskell at the library, 802-463-4270

or email youthservices@rockinghamlibrary.org.

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

SUNDAYS - SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Catamount Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol meets at 3:30-6:30 p.m. most Sundays at Squadron Headquarters, 13 Airport Road, N. Springfield. Membership is open to ages 12 and up. Call Commander Capt. Tom Williams at 802-558-5571, Twilliams@vtcap.org. TFN

COMMUNITY MEALS

FRIDAY, DEC. 1 – N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The North Springfield Baptist Church will be hosting a free community dinner Friday, Dec. 1 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Dishes served are usually: salads, casseroles, beans, soups, breads, desserts, and beverages. Everyone is welcome to attend. The church is located at 69 Main St. in North Springfield and is handicap assessable. For more information call 802-886-8107.

SUNDAY, DEC. 3 - SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. - The Connecticut Valley Ostomy & IBD Support Group (COG) will host a winter potluck on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 12:30 p.m. COG aims to bring people together who are managing with inflammatory bowel disease or who have had an ostomy of any type. We will be packaging excess supplies for the Friends of Ostomates Worldwide. Bring all your excess, unused supplies for those unable to get access, and enjoy some seasonal nibbles. Soup and drinks are provided. Call 802-376-8249 and get directions.

TUESDAYS- PERKINSVILLE, Vt. - Monthly potluck, third Tuesdays at the Perkinsville Community Church vestry located at 33 Church St. Bring a hot dish, salad or dessert and have a nice visit. For more information contact Lorraine Zigman 802-263-5245 or email lzigman@comcast.net. TFN

SATURDAYS- CHESTER, Vt. - Gassetts Grange holds a buffet breakfast every month on the 1st Saturday at 8-9:30 a.m. It consists of eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, toast, pancakes (blueberry and plain), real maple syrup, juice, coffee, tea, and hot cocoa. All are welcome! Admission at the door. Hope to see you there. We are located on Route 103N, just above junction of 103 and Route 10. Any questions, call Dave at 802-875-2637. TFN

WEEKDAYS- BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Bellows Falls Area Senior Center serves lunch 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Monday through Friday to area seniors. The Senior Meals menu for the week is available by calling 802-463-3907. The Bellows Falls Area Senior Center is located at 18 Tuttle St. We are wheelchair and walker accessible with plenty of parking. TFN

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Black River High School/Middle School in Ludlow, VT continues our search to fill the Middle School Boys, Girls and JV Boys basketball coaching positions for the 2017-2018 season.

Duties include organizing practice and game instruction, development of lower level programs and to provide a positive learning environment for student athletes. Successful candidates must be able to develop a solid rapport with student athletes, work cooperatively with the athletic program and provide positive leadership and role models.

It is our desire to establish long term commitments from all coaches; allowing the successful candidates to build and develop strong feeder programs.

Interested candidates should apply through SchoolSpring.com or send a cover letter with resume and references to:
**Joe Gurdak
Athletic Director
Black River High School/Middle School
43 Main Street, Ludlow, VT 05149**
Criminal Record Check is required.
EOE

LEGAL NOTICES

EVENTS

FRIDAY, DEC. 1 - PUTNEY, Vt. - Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present "The Turning of the Year: A Holiday Celebration" with seven-time all-Ireland accordion champion John Whelan, Brattleboro-based roots band Low Lily, and Scottish-style fiddler Katie McNally performing traditional and original music from Ireland, Scotland, and America on Friday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at Next Stage at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Tickets are available at the door. For information, call 802-387-0102. Advance tickets are available at www.nextstagearts.org, Turn It Up in Brattleboro, and Putney Food Co-Op in Putney.

SATURDAY, DEC. 2 - CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Enjoy the annual ARTS & CRAFT EXPO at the Charlestown Town Hall, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – The 16th annual community holiday fair will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Proctorsville Fire Department on Main St. in Proctorsville. Crafts, food, raffles, handmade gifts, trees and wreaths all available!

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – It's time for the Thrifty Attic holiday jewelry sale! Special items have been put aside all summer waiting for this big event on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 8 a.m. until noon. Something for someone on your holiday shopping list or a little treat for yourself - you can't go wrong! This is a one-day only event. The Thrifty Attic is on Main Street in Londonderry, Vt.

FRIDAY, DEC. 1 - SATURDAY, DEC. 2 - KEENE, N.H. – The Horatio Colony House Museum will be holding their annual holiday open house on Friday, Dec. 1 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 2 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The Horatio Colony House Museum, located at 199 Main St., Keene, will be festooned with traditional seasonal decorations. This is an event for the whole family. Children will specially appreciate the exhibit of animal images and the holiday animal tree decorated with animal-inspired ornaments made by students from Wheelock School. There is also a special exhibit of poems, short excerpts and artwork created by Keene Middle

School's Nature Writing Program. Cider and cookies will be served. Admission is free. Please park in Saint Bernard's Church Parking lot. Contact 603-352-0460 for more information.

SUNDAY, DEC. 3 – LUDLOW, Vt. - Once again, the American Legion Auxiliary would like to invite all the children in our community to attend our annual Christmas Party on Dec. 3, 2017 at 1 to 3 p.m. at the American Legion on Main Street in Ludlow. We will have cookie decorating, face painting, and games. There will be a very special appearance by Santa himself. All children between the ages of infant to 12 are welcome.

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – On Sunday, Dec. 3 from 4-5:30 p.m. the Westmoreland Town Band will present a Christmas Musical Extravaganza at the First Congregational Church, 3470 Route 5, Westminster, Vt. The band is known throughout New England for its excellence and will kick off their Christmas Season at the church. A selection of Christmas music will be performed upstairs in the church. In addition, our Jolly O' Elf from the north will make a guest appearance. Concert refreshments will be served afterwards, and there will be a chance to meet Santa, the band, purchase a CD, and visit with friends and neighbors.

MONDAY, DEC. 4 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The United Church of Bellows Falls will once again be hosting the St. Petersburg (Russia) Men's Ensemble. The show begins at 7 p.m., on Monday Dec. 4 at the United Church of Bellows Falls at 8 School St. This event is open to the public, and all are welcome. A freewill offering will be taken at the door. For more information, please call the church office at 802-463-4323.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6 - LANGDON, N.H. - A neighbors' coffee hour will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Langdon Municipal Building in Langdon. Drop in and join your neighbors for hot drinks, refreshments, and socializing. For convenient entry, please park at the rear of the building. For further information contact Kathie Beam at 603-835-2907 or Jessica Jarvis at 603-835-2058.

FRIDAY, DEC. 8 - PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage

Arts Project and Twilight Music present contemporary folk singer/songwriters Mark Erelli and Stephen Chipman at Next Stage on Friday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. Mark Erelli has toured internationally as a solo artist for the past 18 years, appearing onstage everywhere from coffeehouses and major folk festival stages to Fenway Park. Stephen Chipman grew up in Boston, where he learned to play guitar at an early age and rode the folk music wave through college frat parties and corner bars in the 1970s. Forty years later, when he's not rebuilding old parlor guitars in his Chester, Vt. shop, Chipman returns to his singer/songwriter roots with a set list of songs dedicated to poking fun at himself and the follies of his past. Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. For information, call 802-387-0102. Advance tickets are available at www.nextstagearts.org, Turn It Up in Brattleboro and Putney Food Co-Op in Putney. For more information, visit www.markerelli.com, www.twilightmusic.org and www.nextstagearts.org.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - "After Spring" is the story following two refugee families in transition and aid workers fighting to keep the camp running, viewers will experience what it is like to live in Zaatar, the largest camp for Syrian refugees. Jon Stewart produced this film,

which is 103 minutes long. All welcome, no charge. This presentation will take place on Friday, Dec. 8. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Film starts at 7 p.m., and we will serve beverages and popcorn! This event is held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Road, Springfield, VT.

SATURDAY, DEC. 9 - SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join us for a festive holiday open house at Gallery at the VAULT on Saturday, Dec. 9 from noon to 4 p.m. Paint a watercolor of your favorite winter tree with artist Nancy Lanoue. The event is free and all materials are provided. Enjoy music by Kathi Byam on flute, joined by Karen Engdall on violin. Find perfect gifts from the creations of 160 artists, all in a historic 1907 bank with a real vault. Enjoy 20 percent off Danforth ornaments. As well as refreshments, crafts, and gift-wrapping station. New open wall exhibit, Magical Light. Gallery at the VAULT, a Vermont State Craft Center, is located on 68 Main St. in Springfield, VT and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5. See www.galleryvault.org or call 802-885-7111.

FRIDAY, DEC. 15 - PUTNEY, Vt. –Next Stage Arts Project is delighted to present international a capella sensation The Groovebarbers, with special guests, the Putney Central School Chorus, in

the fourth annual holiday concert, on Friday, Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m. Kids under 6 get in free. The newly renovated and accessible Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill, Putney, VT. Tickets are available online at www.nextstagearts.org, or at the Putney Coop or Turn It Up in Brattleboro. The Groovebarbers annual show has become a staple of the holiday season in Putney, and returns by popular demand. Bring the family for an evening of harmony and song that will have your spirit soaring and your kids rushing to start their own vocal quartets as quick as you can say Wenceslaus! This is show is so family friendly that kids 6 and under are free when accompanied by an adult, limit of one free kid per adult ticket. There will be popcorn and

other refreshments in the lobby.

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. TFN

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. Call Donna at 802-591-4290 or you can call the hall at 802-875-1051. TFN

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. TFN

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

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TAKE A BREAK!

Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 PC alternative

4 Like omelet-tes or quiche

8 Secondhand

12 Have bills

13 Color quality

14 "The Thin Man" heroine

15 Hotel person-nel

17 Cole Porter's "Let's —"

18 Willingly

19 From then on

20 Jousting garb

22 Hunk of soap

24 Slender

25 Starving

29 Encountered

30 Bullwinkle's foe

31 Greek vowel

32 Ran through, in a sense

34 Unclear image

35 Black

36 Exhausted

37 Fragment

40 Mediocore

41 Actress Gilpin

42 Noble

46 "— go braght"

47 Sandwich treat

48 Science room

49 Rugged rock

50 Salamander

51 List-condens-ing abbr.

11 Social engagement

16 Friend of Dorothy

19 Vail gear

20 Charitable donations

21 Stench

22 Mariah or Drew

23 In the thick of

25 Place setting component

26 Squallid site

27 Needle holder

28 "Phooey"

30 Flex

33 Electrician's job

34 Spill the beans

36 Apportion

37 Blueprint detail

38 Frau's mate

39 Met melody

40 Huffed and puffed

42 Triumphed

43 Before

44 Scoundrel

45 Leno's employer

DOWN

1 Horde

2 Shock and —

3 Pen pal?

4 Old number?

5 Blunder

6 Economist's stat

7 "Of course"

8 Victoria's Secret wares

9 Any time now

10 Idle or

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Salome's Stars

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Watch out for distractions that could cause delays and leave you running twice as fast to finish your work by the 15th. Then go ahead and have fun.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might prefer to work on current tasks on your own. But be open to a potentially useful suggestion from someone who admires you and wants to help.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Avoid rushing full gallop into that volunteer project without knowing what's expected of you. Take things a step at a time as you begin to find your way.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Good news: You should begin to feel more comfortable expressing your emotions. This will go a long way in helping you with that personal situation.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) An old friend gives confusing signals. Best advice: Don't assume that things will necessarily work themselves out. Ask questions and demand straight answers.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A new relationship needs time to develop. Be careful not to let your emotions flood your natural sense of caution. Meanwhile, check out that new job offer.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your sense of right and wrong sometimes causes you to come into conflict with others. But you invariably come out ahead.

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calendar

PET OF THE WEEK/AUTOMOTIVE

LIBRARIES

SATURDAY, DEC. 9 -
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - On Saturday, Dec. 9 at 1 p.m., Alma Beals will offer a holiday broom decorating program at Rockingham Library. Space is limited to ten participants. So call the library to reserve your spot. Pine brooms and festive decorations will be provided free of charge. Several glue

guns will be available, but feel free to bring your own. This program is free and open to the public. To register or for more information, call 802-463-4270, go to www.rockinghamlibrary.org or stop by the library at 65 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls.

TUESDAYS –
CHARLESTOWN, N.H. - Story time for toddlers and Pre-K at

the Silsby Free Library from 10:30 a.m. Children and parents are invited for stories, songs and finger plays. Session includes playtime, an activity and a story time. Free and open to all. TFN

SPRINGFIELD, Vt.– Springfield Town Library story time, 43 Main St., 10 a.m. Free and open to the public with stories, songs, and activities for the youngest readers. For more information, call the library at 802-885-3108. TFN

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - Crafts, Stories and Play Time toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy stories, songs, crafts, and activities. Rockingham Free Public Library 10:30-11:30 a.m. Contact 463-4270. TFN

WEDNESDAYS –
WESTON, Vt. - Come and enjoy a story hour with friends at the Wilder Memorial Library, Lawrence Hill Road in Weston! 11 a.m.-noon. Call ahead to check, 802-824-4307. TFN

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Rockingham Library hosts a series of six films by and about women for everyone, sponsored by the Women’s Freedom Center on the second Wednesday of each month through February. These events are free and open to the public. For more information, go to rockinghamlibrary.org, call 802-463-4270 or stop by the library at 65 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. on Thursday & Friday and 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturday.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Weekly toddler and pre-school story time with a weekly theme, music, and activity. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Fletcher Memorial Library. Best suited for ages 5 and younger. Call Sacha at 802-228-3517 or email skrawczykvt@gmail.com to register for programs. TFN

WINDSOR, Vt. - Preschool and Toddler Storytime every

Wednesday from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Windsor Public Library, 43 State Street. Each week features a theme, music stories and a craft. windsorlibrary.org. 802-674-2556. TFN

THURSDAYS-
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Join the genealogy group at Rockingham Free Public Library every Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. when genealogy enthusiast Wayne Blanchard takes you on a quest to discover your family roots. If you own a laptop, please bring it along. Many free databases are available at the library. Beginners and seasoned genealogists are welcome. Free and open to the public. For details, call 802-463-4270, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org or go to www.rockinghamlibrary.org. TFN

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

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

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Area Senior Center Book Club, in partnership with the Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St., meets on the first Friday of

every month at 9 a.m. Call the senior center at 802-463-3907 or the library at 802-463-4270 for details. TFN

SATURDAYS-
ALSTEAD, N.H. - Stop by the Shedd-Porter Memorial Library for cinnamon buns the last Saturday of each month and visit with friends or neighbors. The cinnamon buns are from McGuire’s Bakery and are available for a small fee. All the proceeds go to benefit the library. The library is at 3 Main St., Alstead.

MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6 -
WALPOLE, N.H. – New Hampshire House Representatives Michael Abbott, Paul Berch, and Lucy Weber will be at the Walpole Town Hall, 34 Elm Street, on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. to talk about pending legislation and to answer questions. Come join your neighbors from Drewsville, North Walpole, and Walpole, and meet your local representatives. A great way to spend a winter evening! Sponsored by the Fall Mountain Alliance.

TUESDAYS-
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Bellows Falls Woman’s Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month, through May, at the United Church. The hall is accessible to all. Women interested in joining and helping with club projects may contact Barbara Comtois, membership chairman, at 802-344-0025. The Bellows Falls Woman’s Club is a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt.- The Steampunk Society event

committee meets Tuesdays at the Hartness House Inn at 6 p.m. located at 30 Orchard St. TFN

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Westminster Fire & Rescue Department monthly meeting on the first Tuesday at 7 p.m. Rescue training is on the second Tuesday and combined drill on the third Tuesday. More information can be found at www.westminsterfireandrescue.org. TFN

WEDNESDAYS-
LUDLOW, Vt.- Black River Area Community Coalition meets third Wednesdays in the Community room of the Fletcher Memorial Library, Main St. in Ludlow, starting at 5:30 p.m. More information, visit www.braccvt.org. TFN

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Overeaters Anonymous Meeting from 7-8 p.m., 44 School St., Bellows Falls. Please call 802-376-3507. TFN

TUESDAYS-
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Breast Feeding Support Group second and fourth Tuesdays at the Springfield Hospital Library Level D. Noon-2 p.m. It is free

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AUTOMOTIVE

SUPPORT GROUPS CONT.

TUESDAYS CONT. - and no registration is required. For more information call Erin at 802-885-7511. TFN

LUDLOW, Vt. - Co-Dependents Anonymous meets on Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the basement of the Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main St. in Ludlow. Find out more about CoDA at coda.org. For more information regarding this meeting, contact Sarah E. at sarahcoda2016@gmail.com. TFN

WINDSOR, Vt. - Cedar Hill Alzheimer's caregiver support

group. Meet fellow caregivers who really understand because they've been there, too, when things are difficult or isolating. First Tuesdays from 3:30-5 p.m. at 92 Cedar Hill Drive (off Route 5). TFN

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

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - TOPS Chapter Vermont #12 meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Sacred Heart Social Center, 39 Green Street in Bellows Falls. Come to TOPS (take off pounds sensibly) a non-profit,

non-commercial, weight loss support group that really works. Every week there are interesting programs that touch on topics that help us in our quest for weight loss. We share healthy recipes for main meals and snacks. Your first meeting is free. Bring a friend; you won't be disappointed. Visit our website www.tops.org for more information. TFN

WEDNESDAYS - LONDONDERRY, Vt. - Weekly

clean and sober 12-Step Meeting. Support Group meets at Neighborhood Connections next to the Londonderry Post Office at 5:30 p.m. every Wednesday. TFN

LUDLOW, Vt. - Eating behavior support group meets Wednesdays at 6 p.m. at the Women's Center for Binge and Emotional Eating on 70 Main St. This free group is intended to help you understand your eating and/or weight-related

struggles. The group is led by trained therapists who specialize in eating behavior. To join call 802-975-0435 or email shiri@fitwoman.com. TFN

ASCUTNEY, Vt. - Twin State Depression Support Group meets on the third Wednesday at Martin Memorial Hall, Lower Level (Handicapped-accessible), 5259 Route 5, Ascuney, (near Exit 8 off I-91) at 6:30 p.m. Do you know or

think you may be depressed? Have a friend or family member who has depression? Then this group is for you! Support, empathy, sharing, education, confidentiality, peer-led. Contact TwinStateDSG@gmail.com or 641-715-3900 (ext. 650055#). TFN

THURSDAYS - SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Mental health peer support group, 2-3:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 77

Main St. The group's goal will be to provide a safe and healthy environment for people to give and receive support around mental health issues. The group is free and open to the public. Call Diana Slade at 802-289-1982. TFN

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

Books for holiday gifts

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Holiday shopping? Libraries and independent bookstores can help! Librarians and booksellers love helping members find the right book for everyone on your list, regardless of age or habit. Stop by the Springfield Town Library for the Books for the Holidays list, or head to the Rockingham Free Public Library for their longer Gifts for the Holidays list. Independent bookstores like Misty Valley Books in Chester and Village Square Books in

Bellows Falls have glossy flyers ready for you.

Vermont librarians Amy Howlett of Springfield and Joy Worland of Waitsfield are hosting Across the Fence, the long running UVM Extension Service show, on Monday, Dec. 4 at 12:10 p.m. Tune in on channel 3 to hear their favorite books to give this year.

Hint: "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus" is perfect for kids of all ages, and save "Grant" for adults who love a meaty history or biography!

Open house and bookstore

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Friends of the Springfield Town Library (FOSTL) are holding a gala open house, Friday, Dec. 8 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the library. Listen to the Comtu Chamber Players, enjoy some mulled cider, and start your Christmas shopping.

This year FOSTL has invited Phoenix Misty Valley Books to open a pop-up bookstore at 6:30 p.m. so people can choose family read alouds, great novels, or some classic nonfiction. Free gift-wrapping included, courtesy of library volunteers!

All purchases made this evening benefit the library. Misty Valley is also donating several books, free door prizes during the evening. The Friends are selling raffle tickets for an amazing quilt, handmade locally. See it now in the library - and buy a ticket or two. The drawing will be held the night

of the open house.


The Springfield Town Library is located at 43 Main Street, Springfield, Vt. For more information, call the library at 802-885-3108 or check the website, www.springfield-townlibrary.org. All programs are free and open to the public. The library has an accessible entrance, program area, and restrooms.

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Inndulgence Tour is back for 2017

REGION – From Saturday, Dec. 2 to Sunday, Dec. 3, ten unique inns of the Okemo Valley region are partnering together for another inn-credible weekend of welcoming locals and travelers to a self-guided two-day open house with festive food and

drinks. Guests can see the inside of these country inns, delight in the holiday decorations, and taste the inndulgent treats each inn has to offer. Many inns have cash bars too. Inns will have their gift shops open, offering local syrup, handmade pot-

tery coffee mugs, Christmas ornaments, and an assorted list of Vermont-themed and Vermont-made products. Some inns will be holding raffles for gift baskets, but the most exciting raffle may be the one in which any guest who visits at least six inns over the two day period will be entered into a raffle for a free night at the inn of their choice. What a great Christmas gift you could give (to yourself even)! Tour visitors do not need to stay at an inn, which makes this event particularly appealing to those of us who call Vermont our home.

For more information or to order your tickets, contact Julie-Lynn Wood at innkeeper@goldenstageinn.com, call 802-226-7744, or stop by

the Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce in Ludlow. Visit us on Facebook @InndulgenceTour.

Check out these inns:

1. **Echo Lake Inn, 2 Dublin Rd, Ludlow. 802-228-8602.** The Innkeepers will be on hand to give you a tour of the guestrooms, living room, and tavern at this historic 200 year-old historic Vermont Country Inn. You will have your choice of two hearty homemade soups to enjoy in the pub or by the fire. Cash bar available.
2. **The Pettigrew Inn, formerly Andrie Rose Inn, 13 Pleasant St, Ludlow. 802-228-4846.** Come meet the new owner of this historic village inn. Tour guestrooms and enjoy the holiday décor, while sampling sweet and

savory baked treats, including mini pies, turnovers, and cookies. Enter their raffle for a collection of baked goods from My Grandma Baked a Cookie.

3. **Castle Hill Resort & Spa, 171 Castle Hill Drive, Cavendish. 802-226-7361.** Enjoy organic butternut squash and Grafton cheddar bisque along with a double crème brulee while relaxing in the library by the fireplace. Cash bar available.

4. **Golden Stage Inn, 399 Depot St, Proctorsville. 802-226-7744.** You'll love our "Saturday Night Chocolate Cake" and dueling bottomless cookie jars. We promise not to overlook those who are gluten-free. We'll also be raffling off jars of our own raw honey.

5. **Inn at Weathersfield, 1342 VT-106, Perkinsville. 802-263-9217.** Enter through the 1792 kitchen, enjoy mulled cider and savory colonial treats, explore the holiday décor, tour the inn and cooking classroom in the old barn and enter their raffle. Cash bar available.

6. **Hartness House, 30 Orchard Street, Springfield. 802-885-2115.** This magnificent property is offering hot chocolate and cider and a mix of sweet and savory treats. They'll be raffling a gift basket of Vermont prod-

ucts you're sure to want! Cash bar available.

7. **Inn Victoria, 321 Main St, Chester. 802-875-4288.** They will have high tea. Savor a lovely assortment of delicacies including savories, scones, sweets, chocolates, fruit, and more than 50 different teas.

8. **Stone Hearth Inn and Tavern, 698 VT-11, Chester. 802-875-2525.** At our historic Federal style inn of 1810, we'll be serving sweet treats and raffling a gift basket filled with items from our inn and from Medittrina Wine and Cheese shop. Cash bar available.

9. **Blue Gentian Lodge, 289 Magic Mountain Access Rd, Londonderry. 802-824-5908.** A sampling of cheesecakes awaits your arrival. Their Scherenschnitte Tree will be decorated with hand-cut paper ornaments and they will have a demonstration on how these paper ornaments are made.

10. **Inn at Weston, 630 Main St, Weston. 802-824-6789.** Innkeepers are offering tour guests some special treats. On Saturday only, enjoy a craft beer tasting and some Vermont Cheeses as a part of Christmas in Weston. After the tree lighting, you are invited to return for a Christmas dinner with an Evening of Christmas Music. Cash bar available.



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11AM-3:00PM
* **Visit With Santa & Mrs. Claus** *

11AM-3:30PM
* **Petting Zoo From Taylor Farm** *

11AM-3:30PM
* **Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides** *
\$1 donation goes to Just Neighbors*

1-3PM
* **Vermont Cheese Tasting** *
Featuring Cheeses From Taylor Farm

* **Carolers In The Green** *

* **Tree Lighting** *

Enjoy Special Holiday Menus
Lunch 11am-3:30pm

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Saturday, December 2nd

Family Fun and Festivities

All Day Long!

11am to 4:30pm

- Magician from 12-12:30 & 2:30-3:00, at Playhouse at the "new" Walker Farm
- Cookie Decorating and Museum Tours from 11:00- 3:00 at the Farrar- Mansur House and Mill
- Christmas Caroling from 2:15-3:00 at The Church on the Hill
- "A Christmas Carol" reading from 1:15-2:00 at Playhouse at the "new" Walker Farm
- Reading of The Night Before Christmas at 12:45 at the Wilder Memorial Library
- Gingerbread contest, firemen cookout on Green, log splitting and marshmallow roasting by an open fire, visit with Santa, live petting zoo and so much more...

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***Wagon Ride**
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WESTON Village Christmas Shop

656 Main Street • 802-824-5477 • Open Sun • Sat 9:30 - 5

Join us for a special reading of A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Dec. 2nd, 1:15-2pm
at The New Weston Playhouse at Walker Farm
Actors from the Playhouse, joined by community members, bring the Dickens classic to life! Free of charge.

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