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Schools in lockdown through 2 and a half hours

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Springfield High School and the River Valley Technical Center were placed in lockdown Monday afternoon for more than 2.5 hours after a student told administrators there was a potential threat to the building.

The lockdown, which was triggered at about 12:30 p.m., was lifted shortly after 3 p.m., ending the tense hours with parents waiting outside the school on the sidewalk along South Street.

But as they streamed down the stairs outside the school to waiting parents' cars and trucks and buses, students said they really didn't know what had happened to trigger the lockdown.

While the students left, police remained on site, with Vermont State Police troopers stationed outside the school in key locations. Inside the building, police in protective gear were seen talking to each other and school officials.

Students said they were constantly on their smartphones with each other and their parents during the lockdown, asking questions and sharing information.

Springfield School Superintendent Zachary McLaughlin stressed that "everybody is safe" but declined comment, saying the school district would issue a statement to the media.

Shortly after 6 p.m., McLaughlin issued a statement that shed little light on the incident, but thanked parents, students and the community for their cooperation as emergency personnel "worked through the emergency procedures." McLaughlin didn't say what the potential threat was.

Parents were kept up to date via School Messenger, with robocalls and emails going out to the community. Parents were also asked not to come to the school, and were



Springfield High School and the River Valley Technical Center were on lockdown.

PHOTO PROVIDED

told "no event had occurred and students were safe."

"School personnel and law enforce-

ment worked through their emergency procedures," McLaughlin said. "Springfield School District knows

that students' safety is our first priority and we feel that today represents our commitment to keeping our students safe," he added.

Students were dismissed shortly after 3 p.m. Teachers, like the students, said they didn't know what had prompted the lockdown, as students raced to catch their buses.

Jeff Matulonis waited for his sophomore son Jacob outside the school in his truck, eager for any update.

There have been too many school shootings nationwide not to be worried, he said.

Shortly after 3 p.m., the public address system could be heard, and kids started coming down the center steps outside the school.

Jacob Matulonis walked straight to his dad's truck, put his backpack in the back seat and climbed in. He said

he had been in history class when the lockdown started, and students and teachers stayed in their rooms.

Jacob said he still didn't know what had happened.

Two other students, Brevin Legasse, 14, and Skylar Sheldon, 15, both freshmen, said they had heard rumors that a student brought a loaded gun into the technical center.

"Kids didn't know what was happening," Legasse said.

McLaughlin thanked the many responders including Vermont State Police, police from Chester, Weathersfield, and the Vermont Fish & Game Department, and the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Springfield Fire Department sent fire trucks to block access to the high school.

Article written by Susan Smallheer of the Rutland Herald. The original article can be found at www.rutland-herald.com/articles/schools-in-lockdown-through-2-and-a-half-hours.

Village of Bellows Falls discusses parking enforcement

BY KRISTINE M. BURPEE

The Shopper

Bellows Falls discusses parking enforcement.

PHOTO PROVIDED

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Village Trustees met on Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2018 in the Lower Theater of the Bellows Falls Opera House where Municipal Manager Shane O'Keefe reported that the Select Board had a special meeting regarding the agreement between Great River Hydro on previous and future valuations. The village/town debt has been settled. Nothing is owed.

In a previous trustee meeting on Jan 9, 2018, Brian Joslyn, chief operator of the Water Department presented a grant of \$14,170 for the replacement of fluoride equipment. There was discussion on whether voters would agree to include fluoride in the update. O'Keefe mentioned at that meeting that he would look into the grant to be sure that the town is not responsible to pay back the funds if its decided to take the fluoride out of the water.

At the Jan. 23 meeting, O'Keefe informed the trustees that there is no obligation to pay back the grant in such circumstances and that moving forward to accept the funds would be a good choice.

Police Chief Ron Lake was present at the meeting to answer questions and concerns regarding parking enforcement in the Village Square.

He reported that he looked into the possibility of parking meters and it would cost \$505 for each parking space. The concern moving forward remains the budget. Trustee Deborah Wright mentioned that even with the meters an officer would be needed to do regular checks to see if people are violating their lot of time on the meters.

Kathleen Govotski, owner of Hallie Florist, commented that she's noticed cars parked outside her business all day long, and that many merchants also face the same issue, leaving few parking spaces for their patrons.

"This problem has been consistent since I opened my business in the square nine years ago," she said. "No one ever does anything about it. We have a beautiful downtown area

that needs recognition, but with this issue, we are losing businesses. We have lost five businesses since the nine years I've been here - one of them being a million-dollar business, Sam's Outdoor Outfitters." Govotski

asked the Board to support the merchants in addressing this issue.

Wright motioned to have the municipal manager hire a civil officer on voluntary basis for parking enforcement. Chief Ron Lake added that the individual would need to pass a background check and training. The motioned was passed unanimously.

Old, cold, and drafty: “Weatherize” offers energy saving solutions

BY KAREN ENGDAHL

The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - An audible groan came from the audience at the Jan. 25 Weatherize Upper Valley gathering as Paige Heverly, the presenter from Vital Communities, showed a picture of an 1850s era farmhouse festooned with eight-foot icicles.

“Here’s a wintertime problem many of you have experienced: ice dams!” she said. “Vermont has the second-oldest housing stock in the country, and most of these older homes are in need of weatherization to make them more comfortable and energy-efficient.”

Explaining the basic physics of heat loss in older homes, Heverly described problems many in the audience knew all too well from personal experience.

“This winter has been the perfect advertisement for why we need to weatherize our homes,” said Heverly, as she listed services available through the Vital Communities Weatherize Upper Valley program.

Heverly explained that most weatherization projects brokered by the organization focus on air sealing and insulation, typically the two most cost effective ways to reduce drafts, increase comfort, and reduce energy costs.

“Efficiency Vermont may provide



Willie Hargrove of Springfield browses Weatherize Upper Valley handouts.

PHOTO PROVIDED

up to \$2,500 in incentives,” she said, “and there are many energy efficiency financing options with discounted rates available for low and middle income homeowners.”

Heverly encouraged participants to sign up for free professional con-

sults and home visits from a qualified local contractor. Local Vital Communities volunteers, she explained, would check in periodically to help homeowners through the process.

Vital Communities, a non-profit



Paige Heverly, Vital Communities representative, and Char Osterlund, community volunteer.

PHOTO BY KAREN ENGDAHL

organization based in White River Junction, partners community volunteer teams with local contractors to help weatherize participants complete cost-effective home energy improvements. Local volunteers Char Osterlund, Melissa Mackenzie, Hallie Whitcomb, and others were present at the gathering to answer questions and encourage participants. Representatives from

partner contractors WARM VT, Vermont Foam Insulation, and Farnum Insulators were also on hand to answer questions.

For more information about Weatherize Upper Valley, check out their website at www.VitalCommunities.org/Weatherize or contact local volunteer Char Osterlund at 802-885-5115 or charmf@vermontel.net.



GFRCC Person of the Year 2018

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Each year, the Chamber honors an individual from the Great Falls Region who has made a notable contribution to the civic and social vitality of the area. Please tell us why you are nominating this person and describe their contribution and activities such as community affairs, charitable and not-for-profit involvement, governmental affairs, or other reasons. The winner will be announced at our Annual Dinner. More information on the Annual Dinner coming soon!

Your nominations can be emailed to doreen.gfrcc@gmail.com or mailed to Great Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce, 17 Depot Street, Bellows Falls, VT, 05101.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Join us for the Walk with a Doc

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - On Feb. 3, join us at 9:30 a.m. at the Pearl St. entrance to the Great Hall at Springfield Health Center for a 60-minute walk with Dr. Scott Durgin, our lifestyle health Doc! Dr. Durgin will give a brief lifestyle talk before we head out for our walk. The weather is looking great – partly sunny and brisk, so be sure to wear a warm jacket, gloves, and a hat to enjoy the walk!

According to the American Heart Association, walking has the lowest dropout rate of any physical activity. Think it doesn’t do any good? Think again. Walking is low impact; easier on the joints than running. It is safe – with a doctor’s okay – for people with orthopedic ailments, heart conditions, and those who are more than 20 percent overweight. In ad-

dition, research has shown that you could gain two hours of life for each hour of regular exercise! That quick stroll around the block seems a little more worthwhile now, doesn’t it?

SMCS-CHT is pleased to join this national program geared to promote healthy lifestyles. Join us on Feb. 3, at 9:30 a.m. Walk with a Doc is a walking program for everyone interested in taking steps for a healthier lifestyle. Walking is a great way to make strides to help your heart and improve your general health to live longer! While you walk at your own pace, you’ll have the opportunity to have questions answered by local physicians.

For more information, contact



Feb. 3 is Walk with a Doc day.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Jan Zona 802-886-8943 or jzona@springfieldmed.org.

Scholarships available for Vermont women

REGION - The General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Vermont (GFWC-VT) announces the availability of scholarships for Vermont women who are seeking to further their education, training, or to upgrade their skills in preparation for advancing in the workplace. Applicants must submit a specific plan for their education or training. Applications are due to Betty Haggerty, 16 Taylor St., Bellows Falls, VT, 05101 by March 15. Her contact information is listed below.

The scholarships range from \$500 to \$1,500. GFWC-VT has been awarding this financial aid, which is funded through contributions from the state federated clubs and from individuals, for many years. The scholarship is named for the late Barbara Jean Barker of Poultney, who served as GFWC-VT president from 1992 to 1994, and who was instrumental in establishing the program. Women receiving the awards have come from a wide range of towns in the state.

Applications for the scholarship can be obtained from Betty Haggerty, 802-463-4159 or hubbett@hotmail.com. They are also available at CCV sites around the state, and from federated clubs in several towns.

Other sources include Darlene Remy of the Okemo Valley club 802-345-0476 or remyslp@comcast.net and Joyce Lindamood, state president, gfcvvt@vermontel.net.

Applications are also available at Parks Place Resource Center, SEVCA, and the Rockingham Free Public Library.

The scholarships will be awarded at the State Federation’s spring meeting in early May.

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New book group starting at Springfield Town Library —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Looking for a book group that's a little different? The Springfield Town Library is starting one, and our first meeting will be on Thursday, Feb. 8 at 5:30 p.m. Each month we will choose a challenge from the library's free Take the Library Challenge in 2018 calendar and gather to discuss the books we have read.

For the month of February, the challenge will be to read any romance book or any book with the color red in the title. You might read "Mr. Rochester" by Sarah Shoemaker, "Persuasion" by Jane Austen, "Seeing Red" by Sandra Brown, or nonfiction like "Modern Romance" by Aziz Ansari or "Will's Red Coat" by Tom Ryan, or something else. We may all read different books, a few of us may read the same book. We aim for fun and to learn about a wide variety of books.

Stop by the library to choose from our display or read one of your own.



Springfield Town Library's new book group.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Join us for the discussion on Thursday, Feb. 8, at 5:30 p.m. This book group is free and open to the public.

To sign up, or for more information, contact the library at 802-885-3108 or stlas@vermontel.net.

National Winter Walk to School day

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - On Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018 the All-4-One program will be participating in National Winter Walk to School Day. In an effort to promote physical activity during winter months, the initiative will engage kids in walking to school. On Feb. 7, youth that are served through the All-4-One program in the morning will be walking to school either part of

the way or the entire way. Youth are encouraged to participate and dress warmly for the event. A special hot chocolate offering will be part of the excitement. All-4-One staff will be escorting the youth. If the weather is not conducive for the event, it will not take place. All-4-One is a before and afterschool program for youth in grades K-5. For questions, please call 802-885-2531.



Winter Walk to School day on Feb. 7.

STOCK PHOTO

Free tax preparation services offered by United Way of Windham County

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. - United Way of Windham County is offering two programs that provide free federal and state income-tax preparation services to eligible taxpayers: The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program and MyFreeTaxes.com. More than 70 percent of American tax filers don't know they can save \$200 or more in tax preparation fees each year by using VITA or MyFreeTaxes.com.

United Way of Windham County operates the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program in Brattleboro, where IRS-certified volunteers provide free tax preparation to eligible households that earn up to \$54,000 per year and who live or work in Windham County. VITA services are provided by appointment on Thursdays beginning Feb. 1, 2018 at the Brattleboro Retreat. Call 211 from anywhere in Vermont to find services in your area or to make an appointment.

MyFreeTaxes.com provides free federal and state tax preparation and filing assistance online to eligible households earning up to \$66,000 a year. MyFreeTaxes.com is an easy, fast and secure federal and state tax filing site powered by H&R Block®. The online tool allows eligible taxpayers to self-file for free using a simple

step-by-step process that includes telephone and online chat support. United Way is also partnering with libraries and other community sites to provide access to MyFreeTaxes.com on a computer with high-speed Internet for the public's use. Call 211

from anywhere in Vermont, for location and access information.

For more information on these two free tax preparation services, visit the United Way of Windham County's website at www.unitedwaywindham.org or call 802-257-4011.



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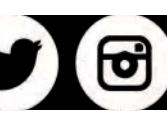
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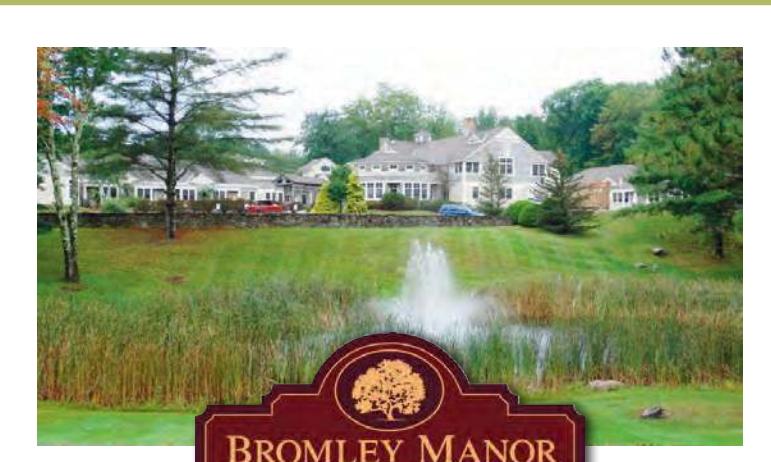
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Sale Prices Effective Tuesday, January 30 thru Monday, February 5, 2018

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Stretch your woodpile through spring

REGION - Following the two-week arctic blast from late December into early January, the 38 percent of Vermonters who heat in full or in part with wood may be looking with dismay at their dwindling woodpiles. The unseasonably cold and persistent sub-zero temperatures put early significant dents in woodpiles, with months of heating left to go.

It can be nearly impossible to track down dry or seasoned wood this time of year, so what is a homeowner to do if they're reluctant to fall back on their oil or propane backup? Here is a collection of suggestions to help stretch what's left of your woodpile through spring.

Do you have an old, inefficient wood stove? Consider replacing it with a new, efficient model. New EPA certified stoves can be up to 70 percent more efficient than older versions. Not only will you use less wood to heat your home, you will also improve your indoor and outdoor air quality. Not sure if your stove is EPA certified? If it's pre-1990, it's worth looking up the model and serial number. Your local stove dealer can help. You may also consider switching to a pellet stove. Pellet stoves look and function much like wood stoves, but burn wood pellets instead of cordwood. Pellets are readily available in bag and in bulk and are ready to burn when you get them.

Consider purchasing a cord or



Make your wood last through spring.
STOCK PHOTO

two of kiln-dried wood. While most firewood is dried outdoors for 6-12 months, kiln dried wood is dried in just two days and thus continually available throughout the season. It is dried much more thoroughly and evenly than outdoor drying can achieve. Kiln dried wood can also be heat treated, making it bug free and safe to store indoors. It is more expensive than wood dried outside, but it can be well worth the investment if your woodpile is looking a little slim.

Plug up drafts around your home. It's not too late to consider making basic efficiency improvements around your home such as caulking, insulating outlets, investing in heavy curtains, and sealing drafty windows with plastic sheeting. The same tactics you use to keep the oil and pro-

pene bills down can be used to help stretch your wood fuel too. Check out www.ButtonUpVermont.org and www.EfficiencyVermont.com for ideas.

Low-income Vermonters can apply for assistance. Cordwood and wood pellets are both eligible fuels in the Vermont Low Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP). For more information on how to apply, contact the Department of Children and Families Benefit Center at 1-800-479-6151 or visit www.dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/fuel-assistance.

Do not burn green wood. It may be tempting as your dry woodpiles start to dwindle, but never burn green wood in your stove or fireplace. Green wood burns less efficiently. Energy is wasted evaporating moisture out of the green wood before it can combust. That same piece of firewood will give you more bang for your buck if you hold onto it until next year.

Green wood also puts you at risk for a chimney fire. Green wood produces creosote, which can line your chimney and catch fire. It's bad for both indoor and outdoor air quality. The smoldering fire produced by green wood produces excessive amounts of particulate matter, which is harmful to your health. Learn more at www.healthvermont.gov/environment/climate/winter-weather.

Most importantly, make sure that you are keeping your home at a temperature warm enough for your own health and that of your home's – even if that means turning up the thermostat on the furnace.

Put a trusted "quarterback" on your financial team

REGION - On Feb. 4, the eyes of most of the country – and much of the rest of the world – will be on Minneapolis, site of the most-watched football game in the U.S. As a fan, you can admire the way quarterbacks in the big game direct their teams. But as an investor, you can learn something from the big game by putting together your own team to help you achieve your financial goals – and you may find it helpful to have your own "quarterback."

Who should be on your team? Your financial strategy will involve investments, taxes, and estate planning, so you will likely need a financial advisor, a tax professional, and an attorney. Ideally, your financial advisor – the individual with the broadest view of your financial situation – should serve as the quarterback of this team. And, just as a quarterback on a football team must communicate clearly with his teammates, so will your financial quarterback need to maintain consistent contact with the other team members.

Let's look at a couple of basic examples as to how this communication might work.

First, suppose you are self-employed and contribute to a Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) IRA.



Build a strong team with your financial "quarterback."

STOCK PHOTO

details that can make a big difference in the disposition of your estate. For example, your financial advisor might suggest that you review the beneficiary designations on your IRA, 401(k), and life insurance policies to make sure these designations are still accurate in light of changes in your life – new spouse, new children, and others. These designations are meaningful and can even supersede the instructions you might leave in your will or living trust. Consequently, it's important for you and your financial advisor to share this information with your attorney.

It can be challenging to meet all your financial objectives. But with the right team in place, and a quarterback to help lead it, you can keep moving toward those goals – and you might cut down on the "fumbles" along the way.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors are not estate planners and cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your estate-planning attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

Appointments available now for free tax return preparation —

WESTMINSTER, VT. - Income-eligible Winsor and Windham County residents can now schedule an appointment for free tax preparation assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, offered by SEVCA in collaboration with Granite United Way. SEVCA has experienced, IRS-certified volunteers trained and ready to prepare tax returns for area taxpayers with household income up to \$54,000. Appointments are available in Westminster, White River Junction, and Windsor starting Jan. 29 and continuing through the second week of April. Residents of nearby communities in New Hampshire may also make appointments at these sites.

VITA volunteers can help with special credits, such as the Earned Income Tax and the Affordable Care Act's Premium Tax Credits. They also prepare Vermont income tax returns, property tax adjustments, and renter's rebate claims. In addition to free tax return assistance, VITA sites offer free electronic filing. Individuals taking advantage of the e-file program receive their refunds in half the time compared to returns filed on paper – even faster, when tax refunds are deposited directly into a bank account.

SEVCA will provide free tax assistance by appointment only at the following locations:

- SEVCA's main office in Westminster on Tuesdays (daytime appointments)
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church in White River Junction on Mondays
- Windsor Resource Connection Center on Thursdays

Appointments in Westminster can be made by calling 800-464-9951. For appointments at White River Junction or Windsor locations, call 866-444-4211 (or simply 211 from a New Hampshire phone), or use the online scheduling system at www.nhtaxhelp.org/. Go to "Schedule an appointment now" and navigate to the White River Junction or Windsor site listing.

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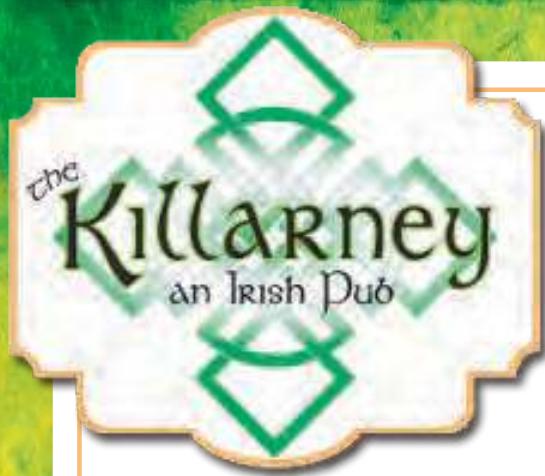
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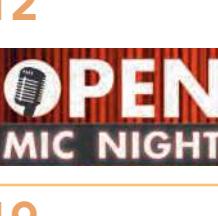
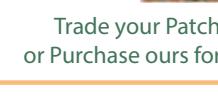
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February, 2018

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		 Chicken Wing Champions!		 1 IRISH SESSIONS GYPSY REEL 6:30-9PM	 2 tgif	 3 We've got VT Draft Beers!
4 SUPER BOWL 	5 OPEN MIC NIGHT 	6 HARPOON TRIVIA NIGHT w/ Rick Davis 6:30-8:30pm		 7 VT DRAFTS \$6 GYPSY REEL 6:30-9PM	 8 VT DRAFTS \$6 GYPSY REEL 6:30-9PM	 9 LIVE MUSIC with CK3
11 AWARD WINNING CHICKEN WINGS 	12 OPEN MIC NIGHT 	13 HARPOON TRIVIA w/ Rick Davis 6:30-8:30pm		 15 IRISH SESSIONS GYPSY REEL 6:30-9PM	 16 LIVE MUSIC with CK3	 17 LIVE MUSIC with CK3
18 Chicken Wing Specials 	19 OPEN MIC NIGHT 	20 HARPOON TRIVIA NIGHT w/ Rick Davis 6:30-8:30pm		 22 VT DRAFTS \$6 GYPSY REEL 6:30-9PM	 23 LIVE MUSIC with CK3	
25 AWARD WINNING CHICKEN WINGS 	26 OPEN MIC NIGHT 	27 HARPOON TRIVIA w/ Rick Davis 6:30-8:30pm		 28 Chicken Wing Champions!	 We've got VT Draft Beers!	



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

Remember When



Peter Farrar and Judy Thomas with the Abbott Homestead painting.
PHOTO BY RON PATCH



Abbott Homestead on Massey Road in Springfield by Ruby Abbott 1970.
PHOTO BY RON PATCH

A popular feature in the Vermont Journal/Shopper is the "Remember When" old photo. Over the years I have submitted many photos. Occasionally I submit a photo that I know nothing about. Sometimes I don't even know the town the photo was taken in. On several occasions savvy readers have replied to the paper with what they knew about a given photo. This has been a big help for me.

I was up to Peter Farrar's last fall when he showed me a painting of a rural Vermont farm. It was inscribed, "Abbott Homestead" and signed "R. Abbott 1970." Peter asked if I knew where it was. I did not.

I took a photo of the painting and sent it in to the Journal to be included as a "Remember When" photo. Almost immediately the Journal was contacted by Judy Thomas of Baltimore, Vermont. She recognized the painting as the place her parents owned many years ago. Peter called Judy and made an appointment for us to pay her a visit.

We went to Baltimore via the Harris Road on a bright sunny January day. We arrived at Judy's and sat down at her dining table. Judy told us how her mother had taken up painting about 1968 as a hobby. She had no training but she certainly had skill. The signature on the painting, "R. Abbott" was her mother Ruby Abbott. Judy had a few other paintings her mother painted and was very pleased when Peter gave her

his painting. The photo with this article is Peter and Judy with the painting. Directly above the painting Peter holds and hanging on the wall is the photo of the farm Ruby used to paint the picture. Both Peter and Judy were pleased to have found a home for the painting.

Where did Peter acquire the painting? Peter's aunt, Rebecca Farrar, "Becky" had owned the painting.

When Becky passed the painting came to Peter. We discussed with Judy possible connections between Judy's family and Becky, none were known. We have no idea how or where Becky acquired the painting but it's now where it belongs.

The Abbott homestead was on Massey Road in Springfield. Massey Road is off the upper end of Craigie Hill. Peter and I learned a lot that day. The barn you see on the left in the painting was used as a Mennonite Church for some time.

Judy and her husband, Shep Thomas, of Baltimore worked at farming over in New York State. There they milked 60 to 80 cows. Returning home to Baltimore, Judy worked in the First Vermont Bank in Springfield. Shep bought 'Advanced Fire & Safety' on Bridge Street in Springfield. Shep built the business up and later sold it to a cousin from Springfield, Massachusetts who was in the same business.

Judy was town clerk of Baltimore from 1990 through 2005. Because Baltimore is such a small town I asked Judy how many days the office was open. "A half day on Saturdays" she replied. Judy also told me that residents could come to her

house after 5 p.m. most any evening if they needed town clerk services.

Baltimore has always been an interesting town for me. It's very small and has no paved roads. If you've never been there I recommend you go see it. It has some of the most scenic country in southern Vermont especially this time of year.

If you have any old photos you would like identified I suggest you send them to the Vermont Journal. They might select them for Remember When. Perhaps you too will learn their identity as Peter did.

We need photos and postcards of Derry & South Derry, Chester, Gassetts, Popple Dungeon, Weston, Andover, Simonsville, and Smokeshire for Chester Historical Society's new book to be published this summer.

On Sunday, February 18 from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Tom Hildreth and other historical society members will be upstairs at Chester Town Hall. Bring your photos in and Tom will scan them while you wait. Here's your chance to have your photos published in a book. Don't miss it. With your help this will be the best photographic history published in years.

This week's old saying is from Ken Barrett and refers to the days from late January through early March. "When the days lengthen the cold strengthens."



When Ron Patch and Peter Farrar went to see Judy Thomas about the Abbot Homestead painting, he snapped a few nature shots along the way.

PHOTO BY RON PATCH



View from Loomis place on Harris Road in Baltimore.

PHOTO BY RON PATCH

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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



Remember When...

Do you remember this 10 horse team with a fire-tube steam boiler? It was positioned near the Baptist Church on Main Street in Chester.

Does anyone have any info on this photo? It would date to about 1910. Contact The Vermont Journal & Shopper or Ron Patch!

PHOTO PROVIDED

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opinion

Op-Ed: Gov. Scott's budget plan

Gov. Phil Scott has delivered his budget address, and the consensus of various pundits seems to be that it's mostly a no-excitement, small-bore initiative, hold the line, need more thinking, and "help me!" production. But let the governor take credit for this: "For the second consecutive year, Gov. Scott has proposed a budget that does not raise a single tax or fee," and his proposed general fund spending exceeds this year's by only \$82 million (a 2.2 percent increase). He also emphasized the importance of creating and applying performance indicators to assess the State's use of tax dollars.

In my take, the governor deserves a gold star for highlighting, right

at the beginning, "one of the most underreported fiscal issues that we face," our unfunded state employee and teacher pension and health benefit liabilities. In 2017 those liabilities totaled over \$4.5 billion, a staggering number for such a small state. Despite a conscientious effort by the treasurer and some legislators, those liabilities have been increasing. Gov. Scott is asking for an extra \$20 million above the Annual Required Contributions for this coming year.

The governor offered some small-change proposals with political appeal, but of very limited impact. Among these were exempting military pensions from the state income tax, and phasing out income tax on

Social Security income for low and moderate-income households.

It's regrettable that the governor once again endorsed Gov. Shumlin's "90 percent renewable energy by 2050" goal. Why? Because the single-minded pursuit of this unlegislated decree can only result in an increasing flood of subsidies, regulations, mandates, prohibitions, and taxes to enrich the renewable industrial complex for no detectable climate benefit, at the expense of everybody else. To his credit, he has steadfastly opposed any form of a carbon tax.

It would have been refreshing, albeit politically perilous, for the governor to announce a policy to set Vermont on a path to assure safe, reliable, and competitively priced energy that will make possible a strong, competitive, and growing economic base, for creation of new wealth and income, an inducement to his targeted recruits to return, and expanded tax revenues to enable the state to

meet its fiscal obligations.

The governor did embrace one really good idea for coping with the problem of phosphorous-fueled algae-fouled waterways: "My administration is exploring how the State can help create a commercial enterprise that captures a large amount of Vermont's excess phosphorous and converts it to a wholesale or retail product." This could turn out to be a far more cost effective alternative to the traditional big government model of taxes, fines, subsidies, mandates, and closely policed remediation efforts for the Lake Champlain basin.

Another proposal, however, was puzzling. He believes Vermont can become the "nation's leading manufacturer of battery storage technology." The nation's leading developer of that technology is a 15 mega-partner consortium based at Argonne National Laboratory west of Chicago. Vermont has two small Eveready battery plants (St. Albans and Ben-

nnington) but the St. Louis-based company's technology center is in Ohio and its portable batteries are mostly made in China. Let's hope the governor is on to something not yet disclosed to the public.

To cope with the projected 7 percent (\$75 million) shortfall in the property tax-financed Education Fund, the governor pointed to an 18-point menu of proposals released by his Secretary of Administration on Jan. 18. The governor promised only to "discuss all options with civility and respect." Hopefully the legislature will resist his inclination to push Vermont further toward One Big School System, micromanaged by an all-powerful Board in the Capitol, offering what he describes as "the best cradle-to-career system in the nation."

As the media saw it, the most important feature of the governor's address was his urgent appeal for the state to spend \$3.2 million on a new

"personalized" program to persuade one-time Vermont residents and vacationers to return to the state, bringing their workforce skills and spending habits. This is based on the idea that if only these expatriates – and others who "share our values" – grasped the opportunities and benefits of living in Vermont, a significant number would return, buy homes, take or create jobs, enroll their kids in our under populated classrooms, use their dollars to buy electric vehicles and solar panels, and, of course, increase the state's tax collections. This proposal may encounter legislative skepticism among those who have their own ideas about how the \$3.2 million could be more wisely spent.

Article written by John McClaughry. McClaughry is vice president of the Ethan Allen Institute. For more information, go to www.ethanallen.org.

LAFF - A - DAY



"A pair of your best wire cutters for my son, please."

Op-Ed: Will Jobless in Seattle be playing soon in Vermont?

There are six different legislative proposals up for consideration by the Vermont General Assembly this session to raise the state's minimum wage. Senator Michael Sirokin, chairman of the Senate Economic Development Committee, is leading the charge to enact S.40 which hikes the wage to \$15-hour over four years. He recently wrote an editorial citing a bipartisan committee report, which claimed raising the minimum wage would benefit the state and workers but result in very few job losses.

On behalf of nearly 1,300 small business owners who are members of NFIB in Vermont, I say, "Senator, there is evidence to show that won't be the case!"

To see just how destructive such a mandate can be to low-wage workers, one needs only look at the recent experiment in Seattle. Politicians in that city were hailed when they raised the local minimum wage to \$13, which is the second of three incremental increases to take that city's wage to \$15 per hour.

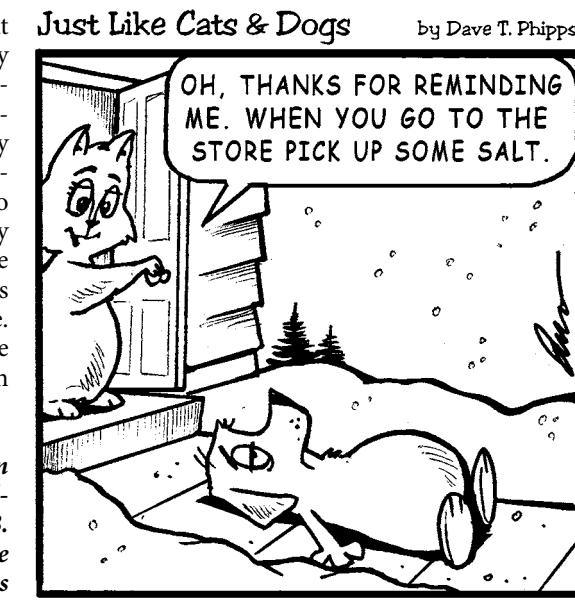
A recent study sponsored by the city of Seattle and conducted by the University of Washington found that nine months after the wage went to \$13, about 5,000 low-wage jobs disappeared. It also found the number of hours worked by low-wage workers dropped by 3.5 million hours, and the average low-wage employee saw their paycheck drop by \$125 a month. If Hollywood were writing this drama, it would be titled "Jobless in Seattle."

A similar policy in Vermont will hurt workers in our state and the small businesses employing them. When employers face a mandated wage increase, raising the pay of employees who fall below the new minimum isn't the only cost they face. There are also additional payroll taxes to be paid. If the wages of workers making above the new minimum aren't also bumped up, productivity is likely to suffer. The business owner may not be able to afford these added costs, and the marketplace might not tolerate higher prices for the goods they sell.

A business owner faces hard choices. Jobs can be eliminated, hours cut, and remaining employees asked to take on more duties. The latest Seattle study appears to confirm those were the choices employers made.

When Vermont lawmakers consider raising the minimum wage here, it is crucial that they consider the unintended consequences. This recent study shows that the people they intend to help would actually be hurt. Raising the minimum wage was a bust for Seattle. We don't want the sequel to play out in Vermont.

Article written by Shawn Shouldice of NFIB. Shawn Shouldice of Montpelier has



THE Vermont Journal & THE SHOPPER

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

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

Shawntae Stillwell, Graphic Director / Ad Designer
ads@vermontjournal.com

Amanda Wedegis, Editor
editor@vermontjournal.com

Sharon Huntley, Copy & Online Editor
calendar@vermontjournal.com

Julie Adams, Billing Department
billing@vermontjournal.com

Corporate & Production Office:
8 High Street • Ludlow, VT 05149
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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I believe Act 46 has created a crisis for the towns of Mount Holly and Ludlow. We need to look at this challenge as an opportunity to evaluate what matters most to us. We can embrace this as a chance to bring forth an independent school that builds off the strong legacy of Black River High School and utilizes the many civic and natural resources we have at our fingertips. We can honor and respect the past while innovating for the future.

School Choice

I support the option of School Choice 7-12 in both towns for the following reasons:

It gives our communities the best opportunity to rebuild our high

school with the freedom of an independent model.

I value a local option for educating my kids.

I respect the fact that some families wish to provide their children with opportunities in other communities.

Every child has different educational needs.

School choice coupled with an innovative, independent high school would be a draw to our towns and people would likely move here to provide these opportunities for their children, thus increasing our schools' enrollment beginning at the elementary level.

Hold Harmless Protection

The independent model would

mean no longer fearing the loss of our "Hold Harmless" protection and the risk of even more cuts to programs already suffering financially. The implications of a "NO" vote are that the fate of Black River High School will no longer be in the hands of a local school board. If the State Board of Education re-districts us, we will be at the mercy of default merger agreements and articles of agreement that we will no longer have input in. This will affect our representation on elementary school boards as well. While the State cannot force the closure of Black River, the school board of a newly merged district (i.e. the Green Mountain Unified School District) certainly could.

People who are interested in learning more or contributing to the process of establishing an independent school are encouraged to come to the ongoing meetings taking place on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Black River High School Library. The Black River Independent School Committee (BRISC) also has a Facebook page www.blackriverindependentschool.org and a website: www.blackriveracademy.org.

There is hard work being done in the spirit of renewal and community and a "YES" vote will ensure that these efforts can continue.

Sincerely,
Kristen Garvey, LES Parent
Ludlow, Vt.

Dear Editor,

Have you ever thought about how much you would be paid if you were summoned to serve on a jury panel for one of the Vermont courts? The pay is probably not your first concern, but once you show up it is nice to know you will get some compensation even if it isn't much. The per diem is currently \$30 but if Senate Bill #49 passes the Senate and the House, the pay will rise to \$50 for attendance. This amount will also be given to "talesmen," the term used for persons that are recruited from the street, so to speak, when there aren't enough jurors to hear a case. While the sheriff or court personnel don't find themselves going to the streets very often, it definitely does occur.

Mind you, the reimbursement isn't automatic and one does have to request it. Currently, the court system budgets \$137,000 per year for juror payments, and the estimate is that it will cost the courts \$114,000 more with the raise. Some jurors don't receive payment because their employer pays their wages while serving as a juror. Other persons serving don't bother to request the money as they say it isn't worth filling out the paper-

work. Surprisingly this bill has been before the Legislature previously but never got any traction. It's about time it passes. Federal courts in Vermont do pay more for jury duty.

Another Senate Bill #207 was

taken up by the Senate and passed on a unanimous voice vote. This bill speaks to eliminating fees for placing or removing a credit freeze. A security freeze on your credit report prohibits a credit-reporting agency from releasing any of your information without express permission from you. The freeze is designed to help prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. This past year, Equifax, one of the three big credit-reporting agencies in our country had a security breach of its own and released vast amounts of information about their own customers. You may be one of them. The interest in this bill came about as many people wanted to put a freeze on their credit after the incident and have done so. The freeze can be removed, if for example you wanted to have a bank check your credit to receive a loan to purchase a car. This bill will still need

to pass the House.

Other bills moving along in the Senate are S-244 re Spousal Maintenance; S-29 re Decedent's Estates, which is a re-write of a section of Probate Law and S-101 relating to the conduct of forestry operations.

Calls about coyotes are flooding my mailbox. There is a bill in the House but it may or may not come to the Senate. Testimony is being taken on numerous bills concerning many issues, and you are welcome to come

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Anthony Ciupo, 1957 - 2018

LUDLOW, Vt. - Anthony "Tony" Ciupo died on Jan. 22, 2018 of complications from heart and kidney transplants at Massachusetts General Hospital while surrounded by his wife and sons.

Ciupo was born on July 24, 1957 in Springfield, Vt., the son of Antonio and Aili (Oja) Ciupo. Ciupo graduated from Black River High school in 1975 and attended the University of Vermont. After spending several years in the Lake Tahoe area, working in the ski industry, he returned to Ludlow and married Angi Benson on July 18, 1992. Together they raised their two sons, Nick and Topher who Ciupo loved above all. He was a proud champion of all of their endeavors.

Ciupo owned a building company and was proud of the beautiful homes he built in the area. He was an avid water skier, enjoyed snowmobiling, riding his motorcycle, bicycling, camping, Union College hockey, and loved his time on Lake Rescue in his boat. He cherished his family and friends and will be remembered by his uncanny ability to forge meaningful relationships with people from all walks of life.

Ciupo spent several months in hospital at Massachusetts General Hospital during the transplant process, and his family thanks his excellent team of providers including Dr. Matthew Naylor, Natasha Lever, C-NP, and the entire heart transplant team members as well as the wonderful nursing staff at MGH.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Angi and two sons Nick and



Anthony Ciupo, 1957 - 2018.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Topher; his sister Cindy Billings and her husband Jeff; uncle Sal Ciupo; nephews Trevor Benson, Tyler Billings, and Garrett Benson; nieces Erika Benson, Ashley Billings, and Emily Benson, and many cousins. He is predeceased his parents, aunts, and uncles.

A funeral mass was held on Saturday, Jan. 27 at the Church of Annunciation in Ludlow. Burial will be at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Tony's name to the Heart Failure and Transplant program at Massachusetts General Hospital, Development Office, 125 Nashua Street, Suite 540, Boston, MA, 02114 or online at www.giving.massgeneral.org/.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Cabot Funeral Home in Woodstock, Vt. An online guest book can be found at www.cabotfh.com.

Denise A. Procko, 1948 - 2018

LUDLOW, Vt. - Denise Aranda Procko, 69, of Ludlow, Vt. passed away on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018, peacefully at her home.

Born on April 5, 1948 in New Britain, Conn., Procko was the daughter of the late Claire and Vincent Aranda. She graduated from Mary Immaculate Academy in New Britain. Procko was an incredibly passionate and talented artist. She moved to Vermont in 2004 where she was able to devote most of her time to her painting.

Along with her parents, Procko was also predeceased by her long time companion, John Holt of New Britain, and her sister Dale Aranda of Holland, Mass. She leaves behind two daughters Nicki (Procko) DelSanto of Los Osos, Calif. and her two sons, Kevin and Ryan Seddon, and Randi (Procko) Manafort of Berlin, Conn., her husband David Manafort, and their three sons, David Jr., Anthony, and Joseph.

Procko's family would like to thank Patricia Brown and Andria Donohue at the Ludlow Health Center for their



Denise A. Procko, 1948 - 2018.
PHOTO PROVIDED

unwavering care and support. Services will be private.

Donations may be made online to COPDfoundation.org or sent to COPD Foundation, 3300 Ponce De Leon Blvd., Miami, FL, 33134.

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

Raymond Thibeault, Sr., 1939 - 2018



Raymond Thibeault, Sr., 1939 - 2018.
PHOTO PROVIDED

CHESTER, Vt. - Raymond Thibeault, Sr., 78, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018 at his home. He was born Nov. 27, 1939 in West Stewartstown, N.H. He married the love of his life, Louise, on Aug. 22, 1958 in Lebanon, N.H. She predeceased him in August 2015. He later found companionship in his "lady friend" Carolina Gordon.

Thibeault drove a school bus and a Vermont Transit bus in his younger years. Then he drove a boom truck for 30-plus years.

He enjoyed collecting die cast cars, reading, animals, watching car shows and Gunsmoke, and most importantly spending time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He also enjoyed attending the North Springfield Baptist Church on Sundays.

Survivors include his daughter Laurie Gordon of Chester, granddaughters and caregivers Sheila Roby of Cavendish, and Jill Worden of Ludlow, and seven great grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his wife of 57 years and a grandson, Austin.



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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. Handicap accessible. www.obbcvt.org

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Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St. Sundays at 10 a.m. More at

George W. Arnold, 1927 - 2018

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - George W. Arnold, 91, passed away on Tuesday morning, Jan. 23, 2018 at the Springfield Health & Rehabilitation Center in Springfield, Vt. He was born Jan. 9, 1927 in Augsburg, Germany, the son of George and Wilhelmina (Grusshaver) Arnold. He graduated from high school and later graduated from agricultural school. On May 5, 1956, he married Alice Morse in Keene, N.H.

He has made his home in Springfield, Vt. for many years, working at the Fellows Gear Shaper for several years. He was later a building contractor for many years in the Springfield and surrounding area. He was a very talented wood worker and enjoyed wood working very much.

He is survived by his wife Alice of Springfield; four sons Richard Arnold and his wife Cynthia of Tennessee; Rodney Arnold and

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Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church, Main St. Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m. Call 802-228-3451

GRAFTON, VT.

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SPRINGFIELD, VT.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, 10 Pleasant St. Sunday Masses at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., Tuesday at 7 p.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration. Thursday and Friday at 9 a.m. Confession on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Contact the

his wife Priscilla of Springfield, Vt.; Emery Arnold and his wife Terri of Indiana; and Gregory Arnold and his wife Traci of Indiana. Also by eight grandchildren, several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his parents and by one sister Margaret.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018 at the United Methodist Church in Springfield, Vt. Reverend Gerry Piper Pastor will officiate. Friends may call at the church from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday prior to the services.

Contributions may be made in his memory to the Springfield Health & Rehabilitation Activities Fund, 105 Chester Road, Springfield, VT, 05156.

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

Lynn M. Smith, 1952 - 2018

LUDLOW, Vt. - Lynn Marie (Hammond) Smith, 65, passed away Monday, Jan. 22, 2018 after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. Smith, originally from Windsor, spent most of her life in Ludlow, Vt. and is survived by her husband, John Smith, sons Jeremy and Zach Smith, grandchildren Eliana and Dylan Smith, siblings Sherry Abbey, Dale Hammond, and Dawn Counihan, and several nieces and nephews who adored her.

Smith was born on Sept. 15, 1952 to Davis Hammond and Geraldine McSwain. She met her future husband at the University of Vermont before transferring and graduating from Webster College. When Lynn transferred to Webster, she and John wrote each other constantly before deciding they were meant for each other. They married on Aug. 25, 1973 and settled on East Hill in Ludlow, Vt. Smith worked at Black River Produce for 15 years before retiring in 2001 to move to the couple's dream home in south Florida.

Smith was a dedicated Christian, voracious reader, avid gardener, and talented athlete, but most of all she was a loving wife, mother, sister, and friend. She loved big family gatherings, spending time with her siblings and their families, and being there for her two kids. Her kindness knew no bounds, and you'd be hard

pressed to find anyone who had a bad thing to say about her. Her smile could light up a room, and she truly made the life of everyone around her better. She was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's in 2006 and battled for 11 long years. She will be missed, never forgotten, and always loved by those she touched.

The funeral service was held on Saturday, Jan. 27 at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Ludlow. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org. The family would like to thank Sullivan County Health Care & Nursing Home for their dedication and care.

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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rectory at 802-885-3400.

Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Rd.

Sunday service is at 10 a.m. All welcome. www.uuspringfieldvt.org or call 802-885-3327.

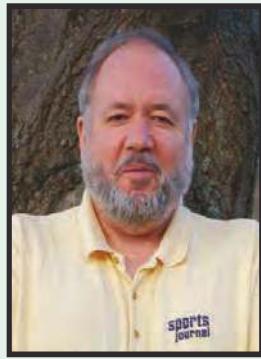
WALPOLE, N.H.

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.

Walpole Unitarian Church, corner of Union and Main St.</

sports



THIS AND THAT

BY BILL MURPHY

The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

Springfield competes in the Division III ranks in Vermont football and at this stage of the game, the Cosmos and their fellow teams can do little but shake their heads at what their schedule will look like. The MSJ/Poultney marriage of the past couple of seasons has dissolved and Missisquoi and Oxbow may and may not have enough players to field a team, so no one knows for sure, how many league games there will be in the fall of 2018. There was an early schedule sent out, but the developments have new drafts being considered now.

Tucker Peterson, former player and coach at Mill River, has been hired at MSJ to bring the Mountie program as far back to their hey day as is possible. His appeal as a coach to prospective students may add to a school enrollment that, at times, has dipped to low numbers, which have caused whispers as to whether the school would stay open. For years, many have been of the belief that without football, there would be no school. Football numbers had fallen so low in recent years, that to make sure they fielded a team, they combined with Poultney. They are now hoping their program will be attractive enough to add numbers from the outside, it seems.

Division III is not the only place where there are big questions headed into the fall of 2018. There is one big situation in Division I that should be answered prior to winter break. Football numbers at two of the states biggest schools, South Burlington (483 boys) and Burlington (493 boys) have both flirting with under 30 players in their football programs in recent years and both have strongly felt that they have been unable to compete at the highest level with that kind of participation. They have petitioned the VPA to combine their football programs into one. The VPA will be meeting late this week to possibly rule on this matter. The inside persons I spoken to say they believe the stamp will be put on this request. Time will tell.

One note of interest to those who feel big schools shouldn't be given any leeway at all on Division placement, I had the opportunity in recent years to speak to Burlington Coach Brendan Carney quite often and he told me about the diverse number of cultures, which make up Burlington High. Although seven languages were part of the school's pedigree, less than a handful of those traditional English as a second language students, have played football, and they make up a good part of the male population.

While on the subject of students and classification, football divisions are created by a formula using categories such as enrollment, as well as number of athletes in a program and teams records for a number of years, with each of the categories weighed in an attempt to put together the most competitive divisions possible. There are many good things about the method, but competitive football breaks down in Divisions II and III

where there always seems to be several separate competitive levels.

In the other Vermont sports, there are two, three, or four divisions, depending upon the number of teams competing in said sport. Using basketball as an example and the four Vermont schools we cover in this paper, Springfield and Bellows Falls are in Division II. On the girls' side, Springfield has 215 students and is the 6th largest of the 17 competing schools. Meanwhile, Bellows Falls' total of 166 girls places them 11th in the group. Over on the boys' side, Springfield's boys count is 221 and Bellows Falls' is 164, placing the two schools 9th and 16th respectively.

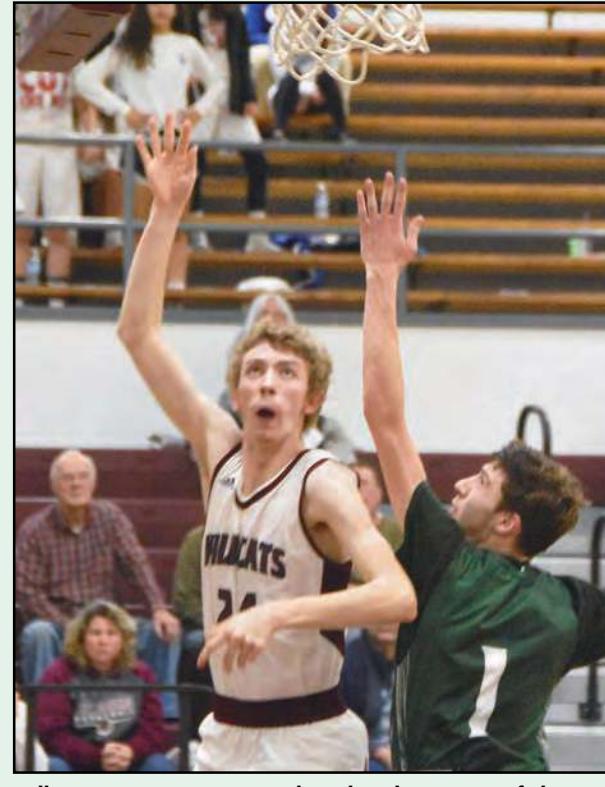
There are 18 schools in the boys Division II ranks. These counts tell us Springfield is a hard and fast DII established team, while Bellows Falls could be on the bubble team.

One cycle ago, Bellows Falls competed in Division III for girls and Division II for boys, but this time around, the boys are closer than the girls of sliding down a division. The funny thing about these numbers is that the divisions fluctuate depending on everyone's enrollment as a total. The VPA attempt to even out the numbers as best as they can between divisions. So the Bellows Falls boys could lose 10 students, which would have allowed them to petition to compete in Division III in the present 2017-19 cycle, but dependent of every school's numbers, that might not be the case for the next two-year cycle. Sometimes a school's enrollment can drop even more, but they may end up with the same placement, even if they are a bubble team.

Moving along to the other two area schools in our division - Green Mountain and Black River - the Chieftains are a Division III competitor and have 118 girls, placing them 6th in that classification. They have 97 boys, making them the 12th largest competitor in their ranks. In DIII, there are 16 girls' teams and 17 boys' teams. Black River competes in Division IV, and their official counts for the Fall 2017-Spring 2019 cycle are 55 on the girls' side, placing them as the fourth highest in their division, and 52 for the boys, which lands them as the 7th largest school.

I have mentioned before that unless a miracle occurs, Black River closes its doors in June 2019, but there are as many as four other schools likely headed the same way. So if indeed such a thing happens, there would be 9 girls' and 11 boys' teams remaining to compete come the 2019-2020 season. Will Division IV be eliminated at that time, or will fewer teams be assigned to every division with likely only 12 teams making the play-offs in each classification? Big things are coming our way in a short time.

For years now, I have been an advocate of Vermont going back to four divisions in football, especially due to comparative scores. This is an argument I presented after the fall 2016 schedule when the differences in each division between the "haves" and the "have-nots" were incredibly wide. It made for two-thirds of the games each week being blowouts. The powers say that they want to save football, but they allow a Springfield team, that is giving them all, to face Windsor, Woodstock, Bellows Falls, and Bellows Free Acad-



Fall Mountain's Ranger Wilson has been one of the intangibles in Fall Mountain's success this winter. He occasionally is one of the team's top scorers, but he adds plenty of those intangibles, which has led to the Wildcats success.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

son.

While referring to Fall Mountain, I should mention, both basketball teams are playing the best basketball around. The girls have been in contention for a number of years and could defeat any area foe, while the boys are also the best on court team at the moment. The boys are only 11th in the NHIAA standings at 7-5 in league games, but a four-game victory streak and a score of the highest proportions thrown at New Hampshire Division III top seed Mascenic before bowing on the road 49-48 put them in high stead. When I last reported on the team, they were 4-3, and they have lost just two tough games to number one Mascenic and a tough one to number three Hopkinton, 66-47. Their other losses this winter are also to teams in the top positions in the NH Division III rankings including Monadnock, Conant, and a second loss to number one Mascenic.

One sure sign of spring is that the Red Sox equipment truck will leave Yawkey Way in Boston and head to Jet Blue Park in Fort Myers, Fla. before I write another column. Many people will gather at Fenway Park on Monday, Feb. 5 to see the truck take off on its 1,480-mile journey to warmer weather where the Red Sox will attempt to lay the foundation for their third straight American League East title. Interesting that the Patriots could still be out celebrating a Super Bowl title from the night before.

Before we are hit with more bad weather, try to find your way to a neighborhood gym and see a game.

If you would like to comment on the sports page in this paper, feel free to email me at bmurphy@vermontjournal.com.

Terriers best Cosmos girls, 65-56

BY BILL MURPHY

The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Reverse the numbers on either side of this score and you end up with the same two numbers. There were a lot of things reversed on Thursday, Jan. 25 at the Riverside Gym in Springfield. There was the first half, then most of the second half, and then the last couple of minutes. Overall, Bellows Falls earned a 65-56 victory over Springfield. The two teams will play again this Thursday, Feb. 1 in Bellows Falls. Fans would be blessed to see more of the same action.

Then Cosmo Coach Joe Costello gave his halftime speech, and "Sis-Boom-Bah" the Cosmos came to play. Once the score reached 28-27, the

It was relatively easy to get the idea in the first half, that the Terriers were the better team. They sharply passed the ball, they controlled the offensive boards, and they out touched the Cosmos. Bellows Falls led after one period 17-8 and held a 28-19 half-time advantage. Springfield began to show some grittiness in parts of the second period, but it seemed like that was their best attempt just to keep it close. I had expected a wire-to-wire struggle for supremacy, and I was disappointed.

Interestingly enough, the Terriers had basically pulled the same trick in the first four minutes of the game, racing to a 13-4 game with Taylor Goodell tallying 9 of her eventual 27 points in the early surge. Halle Dickerson dropped in 12 Terrier points on the night, and Crosby led the Cosmos with 20, supported by Wardwell with 14, and Hailey Perham with 12.

Once the score reached 28-27, the

two teams traded baskets and leads a number of times, with the very good sized crowd on hand, cheering loudly for their favorites over the next ten-plus minutes. Springfield would lose Wardwell and Perham to fouls in the final three and a half minutes, giving Bellows Falls the license to accelerate play and come away with a victory in a hotly contested, exciting rivalry game.



Springfield Coach Joe Costello needed to coach extra hard in his team's rivalry game with Bellows Falls. He is shown here directing the charge with his team trailing the Terriers in the contest. Cosmos players sitting from left to right are: Julianne Albero-Levings (15), Hannah Crosby, Hailey Perham, Gabriella Wardwell, and Madee Stagner (not pictured). Standing from left to right are: Ashley Quelch (13), Ashley Chamberlin, Jessica Cerniglia (4), injured player Emma Howard, Kaylee Warren (21) and assistant coach Brooke Willey.

PHOTO BY KRISTINE M. BURKE

Springfield Girls chasing an identity

BY BILL MURPHY

The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Speaking to Springfield girls' basketball coach, Joe Costello, following his team's first eight games, he offered, "I think the schedule has played out about the way that I thought it would. We dropped a game that I thought we should of won." He's referring to a score of 53-47 in the second game of the season at Randolph. He continued, "We competed really hard. We caught a team in Hartford, who is a very competitive team that plays a tough schedule and they protected their home floor. We have won three of our four close games. We grew as a team a lot in the off-season. Still though, one of the things this team needs to learn is how to play as a favorite. That takes a maturity that we are trying to find. We are still a young team, but many of our young players already have experience on the basketball court, so I am expecting big things."

This edition of the Cosmos has shown that they are capable of playing on the road though. The season opened at Oxbow and they won a tight one 41-35. Gabriella Wardwell led the Springfield team with 10 points and Jessica Cerniglia added 8 in that one. The Cosmos game at Riverside with Mount Saint Joseph went to the wire with the locals claiming a 41-40 victory. Julianne Albero-Levings was the game hero. Not only did she lead the scoring parade with 11, but she hit the game winning three down the stretch to claim victory. Crosby added 10 points and Wardwell 8.

Three more consecutive wins, including over Twin Valley on the road 51-37, Leland & Gray at home 39-33, and Woodstock on the road 72-12 preceded the aforementioned four game losing skid. The MSJ thriller started the good days. Cerniglia and Wardwell each had 14 versus Twin Valley. Madee Stagner added 12. The Cosmos built a 14-point lead early versus Leland & Gray, but Costello said, "We just didn't finish."

Emily Perham's 11 points paced the offensive attack in this one and Crosby

Upper Valley Regional Games

LANGDON, N.H. - Fall Mountain Special Olympics participated in the Upper Valley Regional Games at Dartmouth Skiway on Saturday, Jan. 20. The weather was outstanding for the games and FMSO Athlete Debra Hall led the parade of athletes for the team.

The Regional Games are broken down into snowshoe racing, snowboarding, and alpine skiing. The FMSO team practices each weekend and reports their times to Special Olympics of New Hampshire who then sets the races by divisions based on time. Special Olympics is designed for all athletes to be able to participate regardless of their ability. Therefore, the divisions are set using timed scores versus age of athletes, etc. It is not uncommon to have adults

and teenagers to be in the same division.

The FMSO snowshoe team consists of Sean Anderson, Jacob Barboza, Debra Hall, Dalton Hutchinson, and Olivia Rounds. Anderson took first place in the 100 and 200-meter races and took home second place in the 50-meter. Dalton was fourth in the 100-meter, second in the 200 and 50-meter. Olivia Rounds was second in the 15, 40, and 25-meter race with her teammate Debra Hall coming in third place respectively. Jacob Barboza, in his first year of snowshoe racing, came in at an impressive second place in the 50-meter and fourth place in the 100 and 200-meter races.

The Alpine Skiers scored big in their divisions as well. For the slalom racing and Super G, Rachel Maxim came in third for both races, Mariah Pratt fifth and first, Caitlin Masure first for both races, Patrick Cannon fourth and third place, and Carroll Tenney first for both races.

Don't forget the snowboarders with Russell Putnam leading the team with two second place finishes, Bonnie Kyle with a third place and fourth place, Kyle Simpson placed second and first, and James Morse placed fourth and third in his division.

This year the FMSO team will be heading to the Vermont State Games on March 18-20, which is being held for the first time at Pico Mountain. The team is excited about the new venue and hope to bring home some medals.

FMSO is always looking for new athletes and volunteers, if you are interested please contact Scott and Maggie Kyle at 603-445-2323.



Dalton Hutchinson. PHOTO PROVIDED



Olivia Rounds. PHOTO PROVIDED



Sean Anderson. PHOTO PROVIDED

arts & entertainment

FOLA rolls the clock back with "Pillow Talk" movie —

LUDLOW, Vt. - FOLA turns back the movie clock to 1959 on Saturday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. in the Ludlow Town Hall Auditorium when it screens the romantic comedy, "Pillow Talk."

"Pillow Talk" is a 1959 Eastman color romantic comedy film in CinemaScope directed by Michael Gordon. It features Rock Hudson, Doris Day, Tony Randall, Thelma Ritter, and Nick Adams. The film was written by Russell Rouse, Maurice Rich-

lin, Stanley Shapiro, and Clarence Greene.

It tells the story of Jan Marrow (Day), an interior decorator and Brad Allen (Hudson), a womanizing composer/bachelor, both of whom share a telephone party line. When she unsuccessfully files a complaint on him for constantly using the line to woo his conquests, Brad decides to take a chance on Jan by masquerading as a Texas rancher, resulting in



"Pillow Talk" to show at FOLA.

PHOTO PROVIDED

the two falling in love. The scheme seems to work until Brad's mutual friend and Jan's client Jonathan Forbes (Randall) finds out about this, causing a love triangle in the process.

The film won the Academy Award for Best Writing (Original Screenplay), and was nominated for Best Actress in a Leading Role (Doris Day), Best Actress in a Supporting Role (Thelma Ritter), Best Art Direction-Set Decoration, Color (Richard H. Riedel, Russell A. Gausman, Ruby R. Levitt) and Best Music, Scoring of a Dramatic or Comedy Picture.

As with all FOLA movies, the film is free and open to everyone; donations are appreciated. Berk-

shire Bank will supply popcorn and water by FOLA. For more information, call 802-228-7239 or visit the FOLA website at www.fola.us.



Bundle of Love

CHESTER, Vt. - From now until Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, doll artist Bonnie Watters will be offering a 14 percent discount on any of the 40 plus dolls on her website www.bonniebundlesdolls.com. If you see someone you want, simply call 802-875-2114 and the Bundle will be held with a deposit. In June, the Watters will celebrate 50 years of marriage and 50 years of doll artistry for Bonnie. Bonnie's Bundles Dolls is located in the Stone Village in Chester.

PHOTO PROVIDED

The Spirit of Johnny Cash returns

CLAREMONT, N.H. - Back by popular demand, "The Spirit of Johnny Cash" starring Harold Ford as Johnny Cash and featuring the Red Hot Cash Band, returns to the historic Claremont Opera House on Saturday, March 10, 7:30 p.m. "The Spirit of Johnny Cash" name resulted from fans telling him that he was channeling Johnny Cash's spirit. Random strangers would come up to Ford and say, "Did anybody ever tell you that you look like Johnny Cash?" After hearing this for a while, Ford started replying, "You're the first one today."

This is what country music is all about - the music of Johnny Cash. The Nashville music press has hailed this show as a "must see to believe." Harold Ford is incredible as Johnny Cash. He sings and looks exactly like the man in black - and it comes naturally.

Harold Ford bears an amazing resemblance to Mr. Cash, both vocally, and physically. Harold and his Cash Band have, in fact, been invited to play in Nashville, as the first Cash tribute band to be formally asked to do so, after Johnny's death. Ford stated he didn't intentionally set out to be a Cash tribute singer, but people are demanding that he does so.

Harold Ford is the only Johnny

Cash tribute artist to be endorsed by John's Brother, Tommy Cash. "You have my brother's voice. John would be proud," says Tommy Cash. Tommy and Harold have also agreed to join ranks and perform together for select shows.

Ford's performance as a Johnny Cash tribute artist is exceptional, his striking resemblance to Mr. Cash in appearance, persona, and voice, elevates him to a class of his own. "The Spirit of Johnny Cash" returns to Claremont Opera House, Saturday, March 10, 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.claremontoperahouse.org, by calling 603-542-4433, or in person in the



Harold Ford as Johnny Cash.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Claremont Opera House Box Office in City Hall at 58 Opera House Square.

Knitting for Kindness —



Knit for Kindness this Valentine's Day.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - On Thursday, Feb. 8 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. is Knitting for Kindness. Bring your own tools and supplies. Join us and knit or create scarves, hats, mittens, or socks. Limited yarn is available. You can also donate new or like new scarves, mittens, hats, or socks. This Valentine's season show your neighbors in-need some love by giving the gift of warmth. This event is free and takes place at the Springfield Art Gym. The Art Gym is located at 62 Clinton Street. For more information about the Art Gym, call 802-376-8944, email springfieldartgym@gmail.com, or go to www.artgymvt.com. Check out our Facebook, @springfieldartgym for more information and events.

arts & entertainment

Grafton Winter Carnival is Saturday, Feb. 3



Enjoy the warmth of the fire and roast marshmallows.



Take a ride with the whole family on the horse-drawn sleigh.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

Kinetic art and mosaic classes at 103 Artisans Marketplace

CHESTER, Vt. — Come see our Kinetic and Moving Art Show, featuring juried artists. The show will take place from Feb. 10 - March 18 at 103 Artisans Marketplace in Chester, Vt.

Kinetic artwork includes anything from any medium that contains movement perceived by the viewer or depends on motion for its effect. This includes three-dimensional sculptures, jewelry, and figures, such as mobiles, that move naturally or are machine operated. Artists' submission deadline is Thursday, Feb. 1. All mediums welcome!

On Saturday, Feb. 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. join instructor Laurie Marechoux and learn how to make



Aesthetic Machine Number 6, made with wood, acrylic paint by Robert Waldo Brunelle Jr., 2011.

PHOTO PROVIDED

a jewelry mosaic. This is a fun project for Valentine's Day or any occasion! All you need is your imagination and a bunch of junk or costume jewelry, trinkets, buttons, and more in order to create a pretty, retro jewelry mosaic. Be sure to sign up early. Class is limited to 8 people.

Located at 7 Pineview Rd. and Route 103 South, 103 Artisans Marketplace is open Thursday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Find us on Facebook. Call 802-875-



Mosaic jewelry class just in time for Valentine's Day.

PHOTO PROVIDED

7400, email 103marketplace@gmail.com, or visit us online at www.103artisansmarketplace.com.

Monthly children's events at Edgar May

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — Every month the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center hosts a children's event. The February event will take place just when area schools are breaking for vacation.

On Saturday, Feb. 17 from 5 - 8 p.m., parents can bring their children to the Edgar May for three hours of supervised fun. Besides swimming, games, dinner, and a movie are provided. Recreational floats and water toys are allowed at this special event, so unpack the summer raft and get ready for some fun.

This monthly event is geared toward children 6 and up, but if you have younger children interested in participating, we just ask that you remain onsite with any child under the age of six.

Details about what movie will be playing are available on our website or by visiting our Facebook page or calling member services.

Pre-registration and advanced payment is required. We provide up to three hours of supervised fun, pizza from the Subway restaurant for dinner, beverages, and a healthy snack at the end of the evening. Easy online registration is available or call/stop

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NCUA

Don't miss the 2018 Chester Winter Carnival —

CHESTER, Vt. — This year's Winter Carnival takes place Friday, Feb. 16 through Sunday, Feb. 18. The festivities kick off with a Chester Andover Elementary School dinner and a movie for the kids from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Feb. 16. This event is free.

On Saturday, Feb. 17, festivities will take place throughout Chester, starting with sledding at the Pinnacle at 11 a.m. Other events taking place at the Pinnacle include:

- Sleigh rides with Smokeshire Farm from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- CAES PTG will have food and beverages for sale from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• From 5 to 8 p.m. Southern Pie Company will have coffee, hot chocolate, and pie for sale at the Pinnacle.

• The Chester Conservation Committee will host a self-guided tiki torch snowshoe hike around the disc golf course. Snowshoes will be available for borrowing.

• From 6-8 p.m., there will be a bonfire and a skating party with



Last year's broom ball competition.

PHOTO BY TERRI J HUCK

music to end the day.

Southern Pie Company will also host a pie tasting at 287 Main St. from noon to 4 p.m. Proceeds will be donated to the Chester Recreation Department. There will also be free face painting.

On Sunday, Feb. 18, the Winter Carnival concludes with a Broom Hockey tournament from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. There is a fee per team. Please pre-register by emailing matt.mccarthy@chestervt.org.

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www.magicmtn.com/events

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outdoor news

The Master of the Mountain Extreme Biathlon

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - Who's the best of the best? Racers? Free skiers and riders? Well, Magic has the terrain and premier event to answer the question definitively on March 3, 2018 with the Master of the Mountain Extreme Biathlon that puts it all on the line. One trail, 1,300-foot vertical drop. Two disciplines: freeride/ski extreme competition straight into a Giant Slalom race course. Non-stop. Thigh burning. Endurance, speed, fluidity, line, air and timing all-in-one mad dash down Magic's famous Black Line to claim title to the best all-around downhill alpine athlete in the east.

Presented by Two Roads Brewery and Performance Food Group, the Master of Mountain has a \$2,000 cash purse to be split among the top three finishers (both male and female categories) with other great prizes and medals for age and ski/snowboard divisions. The extreme biathlon will be a timed event from the upper "free ski" section to the lower "racing" giant slalom section. There will also be bonus points earned during the upper free ski section for line taken, style/fluidity, and any air tricks. And, as it is a non-stop run down 1,300 vertical feet of double black and single black diamond terrain, competitor endurance will



Master of the Mountain.

PHOTO PROVIDED

be tested like no other event along with the ability to handle two disciplines of alpine competition.

Overall 1st place Master of the Mountain: \$600 to the top male and female, plus prizes, and season pass to Magic for the 2018-19 season.

Overall 2nd place is \$250 cash for male/female, plus prizes and a Freedom 4-Pack of Magic tickets.

Overall 3rd place is \$150 cash for male/female, plus prizes and a Freedom 4-pack of Magic tickets.

Then there will be medals and other prizes for top finishers in each age category 10-14 years old, 15-29 years old, 30-49 years old, and 50+, plus

one snowboard category.

Because of the extreme nature of the Master of the Mountain biathlon, this will be a one-run, mad-dash-for-glory competition. There is a 100-competitor limit to the event on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration is available online at www.magicmtn.com/events-1/master-of-the-mountain.

Master of the Mountain is presented by Two Roads Brewery and Performance Food Group and additionally sponsored by Cornerstone Risk Management.

"This new comp is going to crown the best skiers and riders in the east," said Geoff Hathaway, president of Magic Mountain. "This mountain has the unique terrain, the ski run and the fun atmosphere to showcase an ultimate test of Eastern skiing."

More information on the new, still retro, Magic Mountain can be found at www.magicmtn.com or call 802-824-5645.

Pinnacle Association snowshoe hike at Bald Hill

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - A pair of snowshoes can take away concerns about whether it's snowed, rained on top, or iced over because one can just merrily trudged whatever frozen stuff nature has to offer. Furthermore the usually slower, more deliberate pace from snowshoes allows a closer look at one's surroundings.

To make the most of such an experience and learn about the terrain and the history of the area, join the guided walk that Vanessa Stern, member of Bald Hill Conservation Committee and the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association Board,

will lead on Saturday, Feb. 10 from 1-3 p.m. The program is free and open to the public.

Participants should dress in layers, bring water, and meet at the Cemetery Road gate kiosk near



Enjoy snowshoeing Bald Hill.

tion for the hike is required. Please contact Vanessa Stern at 802-463-4948 or at davidandvanessa@gmail.com to register, get more information, or check on the weather.

The Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association is best known for its conservation of almost 2,000 acres in Westminster, Brookline, Rockingham, Athens, and Grafton and for its publicly-accessible 25-mile hiking trail system that runs from Putney Mountain to Grafton.

For information about other programs or for maps to trails and trailheads, visit www.windmillhillpinnacle.org. Pinnacle is also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/windmillhillpinnacle/.

STOCK PHOTO

the Bellows Falls Union High School off Route 5 in Bellows Falls. The Bald Hill Reserve links to the Bellows Falls High School Forest lands, and together they offer over seven miles of trails readily accessible to hikers. Registration

Learn about the raptors around us

CAVENDISH, Vt. - Owls, hawks, falcons, and eagles are all around us even if we don't see them every day. The folks at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) know all about them and will present an evening of learning on Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cavendish Town Elementary School. You can meet captive owls, and perhaps falcons, and hear about their habits and lives.

The presentation will be sponsored by the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association as part of its ongoing Walk and Talk series of environmental and conservation events, and is open to residents of all area towns. Come meet live ambassador raptors from VINS



Learn about owls, hawks, falcons, and eagles.

PHOTO PROVIDED

its, predator-prey relationships, and the interdependence of the systems that support life. This first-hand encounter enables participants to understand the defining characteristics that make a bird a raptor and to observe their adaptations for life as a predator on the wing. There is a suggested donation at the door.

VINS' mission

stresses education as a way to change attitudes and maintain a healthy environment. Headquartered in Quechee, VINS houses hawks, eagles, falcons, owls, and other birds of prey in 17 state-of-the-art raptor enclosures. In addition, the site has two songbird aviaries, a welcome center, a nature store, a center for Wild Bird Rehabilitation, a center for Environmental Education, and the center for Environmental Research from which operates an active Citizen Science program.

For more information about the program, please call Claire Walker at 802-226-7259. Refreshments will be served.

Snowshoeing event at Killington Grand Hotel

KILLINGTON, Vt. - The Greater Killington Women's Club (GKWC) is sponsoring a Snowshoeing & Libations event on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018. Club Board Member Lisa Davis Lewis also owns Bear Trax Adventures. She has offered to host this snowshoeing excursion for the club.

Participants will meet at the lobby of the Killington Grand Hotel, 228 East Mountain Rd., Killington, VT, 05751 at 3:45 p.m. Guests will gather immediately following the outing for libations at Preston's also located in the Killington Grand Hotel. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided and a cash bar is available. There is a fee for members and non-members to attend this event. Non-members can then join the club at no additional cost. Equipment is also included for

those who do not have their own. Space is limited.

RSVPs are requested by Friday, Feb. 9, 2018 at www.evite.me/Ax6RFFAZd6 or on the club's Facebook event page www.facebook.com/pg/SherburneWomensClub/ events.

Only reservations that are pre-paid can be guaranteed. Please mail your payment to: Bear Trax, P.O. Box #324, Killington, VT, 05751.

Bear Trax is a snowshoe guiding service that provides tours in the Killington area. Their experienced guides customize tours to meet their client needs. Their travel routes take guests off the beaten path and allows them to experience the peaceful beauty of winter in Vermont. They also provide quality, made-in-Vermont snowshoes and poles.

The GKWC (formerly known as the Sherburne Women's Club) is a civic organization founded in Killington over 50 years ago. In more than a half-century of service to the Killington community, the club has given away over \$100,000 to local organizations, schools, and non-profits. The club invites members to join or renew and consider supporting this very worthwhile organization that does so much for the community. GKWC membership applications can be found on their website at: www.swcvt.com/membershipapplication.htm.

The Greater Killington Women's Club is a charitable organization whose focus is providing supporting fundraising efforts and a socializing network to nurture our local community. For more information go to www.swcvt.com.

Do recently rising heating oil costs have you worried? We can help!

We have a Special Budget Plan available for anyone who acts before February 2nd!

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If the price goes down, you'll get the lower price!

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PET OF THE WEEK

classifieds

business spotlight

STONE CREEK WORKSHOPS

Stone Creek Workshops
196 Roger Hill Road, Mount Holly Vt.
gstonecreek@gmail.com
802-259-2254
www.stonecreekworkshops.com

Geoff and Kathy Stone, owners of Stone Creek Workshops, would love to see you at their studio in Mount Holly. The Stones have combined their unique talents to provide their customers with distinctive furniture, custom built-in cabinetry, and pottery pieces for your home and garden.

"It has become a joint venture," Kathy said, "between my husband who's been in cabinetry for 25 years, and myself with pottery."

The Stones moved their workshops from Westbrook, Conn. to Mount Holly, Vt. four years ago in June. This fulfilled a lifelong dream to be in the Green Mountain State.

"Geoff had spent a summer in Shrewsbury working on a farm when he was in high school and loved it," Kathy explained. They have since spent a few days over the years on that same farm, "and my brother lives in Chittenden," she added, which gave the Stones a few reasons for the move. With them, they brought their two yellow labs Chester and Bailey. Dogs have always been a huge part of their lives, which you will see reflected in some of Kathy's sculpture creations.

Geoff started out by pursuing his career in home renovation and construction, and later transitioned into high quality custom cabinetry for kitchens and bathrooms, as well as custom furniture. His work is all done in his shop after a site visit with his clients to get measurements and other details.

Kathy started out taking pottery classes at the Guilford Art Center in Guilford, Conn. where she found encouragement from a professor, and pottery then became her new endeavor. She creates all kinds of pieces, from mugs and plates to vases and more. She can craft custom pottery and sculpture pieces upon request.

Their studio also features local photography by Steve Schild, Kathy's brother, who has a knack for capturing the beauty in nature with no filters or Photoshop effects. Schild snaps photos of wildlife, flowers, landscapes, and beautiful sunsets, primarily of Vermont, that bring you closer to nature.

Geoff's workshop is in Mount Holly, while Kathy's pottery studio is currently out of their home until the couple can construct a space to share. Kathy also attends some craft fairs such as the Fletcher Farm School art festival, the Rutland farmers market, and other venues where she showcases Schild's photography alongside her pottery pieces.

You can visit the Stones' workshop, by appointment only, by calling 802-259-2254.



ADULT/CHILD CARE

WEE HAVEN Childcare & Preschool
Call Jen at 603-826-KIDS (5437)
E-mail: weehavenchildcare@comcast.net (TFN)

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NEW AND USED ANTIQUES We have it all. Cummings Hardware Rt.103 Chester 802-875-3342 (TFN)

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FOR RENT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Trailer for rent. New insulation and flooring. Large yard. If interested, please email lynne369@att.net (02/13)

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Unfurnished two-bedroom apartment. Heat, hot water, electricity, snow, and trash removal included. Washer/dryer hook-up. References and security deposit required. \$1,200/mo. Pets negotiable. Call 203-668-3591. (03/06)

HELP WANTED

Vt. & N.H. - Visiting Nurse and Hospice is now hiring Licensed Nursing Assistants. Enable patients to stay in their homes by providing support and personal care services. Minimum starting wage of \$12.50 an hour. Must be licensed. Call 888-300-8853 or visit vnhcare.org/jobs. (02/04)

Caretaker for Private Fishing Club in Vt. Position available for year-round or summer employment, housing is available, with benefits. To request an application, contact Trout Club Caretaker, PO Box 310, Mont Vernon N.H. 03057 (02/01)

SAVE ON WOOD BOILERS

NEW HAMPSHIRE RESIDENTS save up to 30% of the system and installation cost on a Maxim wood pellet boiler. Contact New England Outdoor Furnaces at 603-863-8818. (TFN)

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pet of the week



Can I win your HART? My name is Harty, and I am a 2.5 year-old female. I was brought back to the shelter because my owner's health was making it difficult to take care of me. I miss them, but I know that they were just looking out for both our best interests.

I am looking for a more mellow, relaxed home where my true self can shine! I originally came over from a crowded shelter in Virginia, so I am a well-traveled girl. I have adjusted very quickly back to shelter life, but I am longing for another home to call my own.

I enjoy comfy spots in the center of attention, pats on my head, and jingle ball toys. I lived in an adult-only home previously and wouldn't mind that type of setting again. I'm an indoor cat, so no outdoors for me please! I like other cats and calm, friendly children. I have not lived with dogs before, so that may be more difficult of a transition for me. Come visit me soon!

Looking for a bargain? Join us Saturday, Feb. 3 for a giant indoor tag sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wag Sales is closing, and we need to move all inventory!

Come visit Harty and other friends Wednesday thru Saturday from noon to 4:30 p.m. or call 802-885-3997 for more information.

Springfield Humane Society
401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, Vt.
802-885-3997
www.spfldhumane.org
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art

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GALLERY AT THE VAULT

Step into this historic 1907 bank and find creations of 160 local and regional artists. Exhibits include Steampunk, Gil Perry's little paintings, Teresa Hilary's handpainted scarves, and Open Wall. Workshops offered. VAULT, a Vermont State Craft Center, is on 68 Main St., Springfield. Tues. - Sat. 11 to 5. galleryvault.org 802-885-7111 (03/06/18)

bakery

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chiropractor

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Dr. Denise Natale 58 Parker Avenue, Proctorsville, VT 05153, 802-226-7977 Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10AM-6PM (08/01/18 TFN)

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decorating & remodeling

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calendar

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY, FEB. 3 - WHITE RIVER JCT., Vt. - The Upper Valley Curling Club will host a "Learn to Curl Clinic" on Saturday, Feb. 3 from 5:45 to 8 p.m. at the Barwood Arena, 45 Highland Ave in White River Jct. For anyone aged 12 and older, this class is designed for those who have never before tried the sport. Bring warm clothes and shoes with non-skid soles. The club will

provide all of the equipment. The class begins with off-ice instruction, then moves into the arena for hands on practice and, time permitting, a short game. For more information email uppervalleycurling@gmail.com or go to www.uppervalleycurling.org.

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. - Join the Past Lives, Dreams and Soul Travel workshop on Saturday, Feb. 3 from 2 - 3 p.m. at Brooks Memorial Library on Main St. in Brattleboro. If you are curious about exploring

past life recall and the significance of your dreams, this open discussion is a chance to meet with others who share your spiritual interests. A spiritual exercise will be shared to actively tap the wisdom of your inner worlds through Soul Travel. For more details visit the Vermont Eckankar website at www.eckankar-vt.org, call 800-772-9390 or email eck.vermont@gmail.com.

SUNDAY, FEB. 4 - CHESTER, Vt. - Yoga Posture Clinic with Liza Eaton: Creating Good Posture for Youthfulness, Alignment and Pain Relief on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018, 2 - 3:30 p.m. at Buddhaful Yoga, Fullerton Inn, 40 The Common,

CHESTER, Vt. - Yoga Posture Clinic with Liza Eaton: Creating Good Posture for Youthfulness, Alignment and Pain Relief on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018, 2 - 3:30 p.m. at Buddhaful Yoga, Fullerton Inn, 40 The Common,

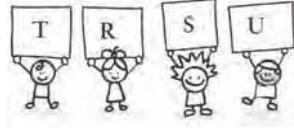
TOWN OF WESTON VERMONT

Invitation to Bid

2012 International Ford F-550 Dump Truck

Bids must be submitted by 12:00 PM February 12, 2018

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SUBSTITUTE STAFF NEEDED IN OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS!

The schools in the Two Rivers Supervisory Union (Mount Holly Elementary, Ludlow Elementary, Cavendish Town Elementary, Black River High School and Green Mountain Union High School) are looking for great people to work with our staff in our schools! Have fun, support our local children and earn a little money. Be a Substitute! We pay full day and $\frac{1}{2}$ day rates.

You must be at least 18 years old, Background check will be required.

Send a letter of interest with a resume and we will send you an application packet, or stop in on Wednesdays to pick one up. You are required to provide ID and proof of employment eligibility when you apply.

Two Rivers Supervisory Union
609 VT Route 103S (on the Fletcher Farm Campus)
Ludlow, VT 05149
www.trsu.org
802-875-3365
802-875-6438 (fax)

WARNING OF THE ANNUAL MEETING CAVENDISH TOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The legal voters of the Cavendish Town Elementary School District are hereby warned to meet at the Cavendish Town Elementary School on **Monday, March 5, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.**, to act on the following articles.

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act on the reports of the Cavendish Town Elementary School District Directors for the school year ending June 30, 2017.

ARTICLE 2: To transact any other business deemed proper when met, not involving the expenditure of school district funds or any other business acted upon in the preceding articles.

ARTICLE 3: To adjourn.

Ballot Items

To vote on the following items by Australian ballot. Polls open on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 10:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M. Voting to take place at the Cavendish Town Elementary School.

ARTICLE 4: To elect a Moderator.

ARTICLE 5: To elect four (4) Cavendish School Directors for the Cavendish Town Elementary School Board; one for a three year term, one for the remaining two years of a three year term and two for one year terms.

Cavendish Town Elementary School District Board of Directors:

Eugene Bont
[Signature]
Barbara Dickey
[Signature]
Fred Marin
[Signature]
Doug McBride
[Signature]

Dated at Cavendish, Vermont in the County of Windsor and the State of Vermont this 23rd day of January, 2018.

Diane M. McNamara, Clerk
Diane M. McNamara, Cavendish Town Elementary School District

Dated at Cavendish, Vermont in the County of Windsor and the State of Vermont this 23rd day of January 2018.

WARNING PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING CAVENDISH TOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The legal voters of the Cavendish Town Elementary School District are hereby warned to meet at the Cavendish Town Elementary School in Proctorsville on **Monday, March 5, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.** for a Public Information Hearing.

Cavendish Town Elementary School District Board of Directors:

Eugene Bont
[Signature]
Barbara Dickey
[Signature]
Fred Marin
[Signature]
Doug McBride
[Signature]

Dated at Cavendish, Vermont in the County of Windsor and the State of Vermont this 23rd day of January, 2018.

Diane M. McNamara, Clerk
Diane M. McNamara, Cavendish Town Elementary School District

Dated at Cavendish, Vermont in the County of Windsor and the State of Vermont this 23rd day of January 2018.

LEGAL NOTICES

Molly 802-376-6204. 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 802-228-8808. 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

TUESDAYS - 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

MONDAYS - SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - 9:30-11 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 802-886-5204. TFN

WEDNESDAYS - 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

TOWN OF ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The Selectboard of the Town of Rockingham, Vermont, hereby gives notice that positions for the Planning Commission and Development Review Board are being solicited. The Planning Commission is rewriting the Town Plan and will update the town's land use regulations. The Development Review Board reviews and permits development and land subdivision proposals.

Any Rockingham resident interested in serving must forward a letter of interest to Charles Wise, Town Planner, P.O. Box 370, Bellows Falls, VT 05101, or planning@rockbf.org, no later than March 2, 2018.

Please indicate if you wish to serve on the Planning Commission or the Development Review Board. The Rockingham Planning Commission will consider applications and recommend new members for appointment by the Selectboard. We anticipate the new volunteers will start April 2018.

WARNING OF THE ANNUAL MEETING CHESTER-ANDOVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 29

Annual Meeting of the Chester-Andover Elementary School District No. 29, a corporation composed of the Town School Districts of Andover and Chester, Vermont.

The legal voters of the Chester-Andover Elementary School District No. 29 consisting of the Town School Districts of Andover and Chester are hereby warned to meet at the Chester-Andover Elementary School on **Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**, to act on the following articles.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a moderator for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2018.

ARTICLE 2: To elect a school district clerk for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2018.

ARTICLE 3: To elect a treasurer for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2018.

ARTICLE 4: To hear and act on the reports of the Chester-Andover Elementary School District Directors for the school year ending June 30, 2017.

ARTICLE 5: To transact any other business deemed proper when met, not involving the expenditure of school district funds or any other business acted upon in the preceding articles.

ARTICLE 6: To adjourn.

Chester-Andover Elementary School Board of Directors:

Marilyn Mahusky, Board Chair
Monika Olesky, Board Clerk

Julie Hance, Clerk
Chester-Andover Elementary School District #29

WARNING OF ANNUAL MEETING GREEN MOUNTAIN UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 35

Annual Meeting of Green Mountain Union High School District No. 35, a municipal corporation consisting of the Town School Districts of Andover, Cavendish and Chester, Vermont.

The legal voters of the Green Mountain Union High School District No. 35 consisting of the Town School Districts of Andover, Cavendish and Chester, Vermont are hereby warned to meet in the conference room at Green Mountain Union High School, Chester, Vermont on **Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.** to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a moderator for a one year term beginning July 1, 2018.

ARTICLE 2: To elect a clerk for a one year term beginning July 1, 2018.

ARTICLE 3: To elect a treasurer for a one year term beginning July 1, 2018.

ARTICLE 4: To hear and act on the reports of the Green Mountain Union High School District Directors for the school year ending June 30, 2017.

ARTICLE 5: To transact any other business deemed proper when met, not involving the expenditure of school district funds or any other business acted upon in the preceding articles.

ARTICLE 6: To adjourn.

Green Mountain Union High School Board of Directors:

Alison DesLauriers, Board Chair

Deborah Brown, Board Clerk

Julie Hance, Clerk Green Mountain Union High School District No. 35

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 pcovy@lpcvtv.org or call 802-228-8808. TFN

FRIDAYS -

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

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@myrecenter.org. TFN

WEEKLY -

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.myrecenter.org. 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

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, Tessa 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 -

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



AUTOMOTIVE**COMMUNITY MEALS****FRIDAY, FEB. 2 -**

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The North Springfield Baptist Church will be hosting a free community dinner on Friday Feb. 2 from 5 - 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 accessible. For more information call 802-886-8107.

SATURDAYS-

CHESTER, Vt. - Gassets Grange holds a buffet breakfast every month on the first 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

EVENTS**SATURDAY, FEB. 3 -**

CHESTER, Vt. - Gassets Grange is holding a Square Dance and Round on Saturday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Gassets Grange Hall. Everyone is welcome. Come and swing your partner or watch the others swing theirs. We have refreshments on sale in our kitchen and we have 50/50 tickets on sale. Please come and join us for good music and loads of fun, for a small donation. For more information call 802-875-2637, 802-591-4290, or 802-875-1051.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - On Saturday, Feb. 3, at its 68 Main Street home, the VAULT will hold the eighth annual "Chocolate Tasting" fundraiser from noon to 4 p.m. to support VAULT programs. The public is invited and "donations are

welcome." Many businesses will donate their sweets.

Daily Chocolate, Red Kite Candy, and Lake Champlain Chocolates will present an abundance of candy and bars to sample with background music by flutist, Kathi Byam. For more information, contact Gallery at the VAULT at 802-885-7111 or galleryvault@vermont.net.

PERU, Vt. - Snowshoe up Bromley Mountain with the Manchester Section of the Green Mountain Club on Saturday Feb. 3, 2018. Meet at Shaw's in Manchester Center

at 9:40 a.m. or the Rt 11/30 Long Trail/Appalachian Trail parking lot at 10 a.m. Snow shoe up Bromley Mountain to the summit and return the same way. Total distance 6 miles, 1460 feet elevation gain. Bring extra clothes, lunch, snacks, and fluids. Dogs MUST be on leash for the last 0.3 miles to the summit and at the summit, which is shared with skiers. RSVP required. Contact Keld Astrup at 802-362-1422 or alstrupkeld@gmail.com

PUTNEY, Vt. - Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present award-winning

contemporary folk singer/songwriter Antje Duvekot and Philadelphia-based, Americana and acoustic blues duo Beaucoeur Blue on Saturday, Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Next Stage, 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney. 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.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - A national program called "Walk with a Doc" kicks off at Springfield Medical Care Systems on

Saturday, Feb. 3 at 9:30 a.m. Meet us at the Pearl St. entrance to the Great Hall at Springfield Health Center for a 60 minute walk with Dr. Scott Durgin, our Lifestyle Health Doc! Dr. Durgin will give a brief lifestyle talk before we head out for our walk. The weather is looking great - partly sunny and brisk, so be sure to wear a warm jacket, gloves and a hat to enjoy the walk! For more information contact 802-886-8943 or jzona@springfieldmed.org.

TUESDAY, FEB. 6 - PUTNEY, Vt. - Hosted by

Yellow Barn, music and poetry combine together with physical theater, and music for violin and piano by Matteis, Lutoslawski, Saarisho, Stravinsky, and Symanowski. For more information contact info@yellowbarn.org or 802-387-6637.

FRIDAY, FEB. 9 -

CAVENDISH, Vt. - The Cavendish Baptist Church is hosting a screening of the award-winning Sundance documentary "Look and See", a cinematic portrait of writer, farmer, and activist Wendell Berry, on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. The film examines the challenges

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CREW TECHNICIAN: Install weatherization measures in homes under supervision of Crew Chiefs as instructed. Go to www.sevca.org/Employment for detailed job description and application form.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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 Shopper's aid
- 5 " — and Circumstance"
- 9 Frenzied
- 12 Sandwich treat
- 13 Vicinity
- 14 Rocks
- 15 Teeny
- 17 Gun lobby org.
- 18 Thwarts
- 19 Bad lighting?
- 21 Conversation starter
- 22 "Olympia" artist
- 24 Knighted woman
- 27 Stashed
- 28 Carey or Barrymore
- 31 — Baba
- 32 Literary collection
- 33 Before
- 34 Carte
- 36 Doctrine
- 37 Exercise target
- 38 Bygone airline
- 40 On the other hand
- 41 Top story
- 43 Critter
- 47 Slithery squeezer
- 48 Twins' home
- 51 Flightless bird

DOWN

- 1 Barbershop item
- 2 Seed coat
- 3 Nevada city
- 4 Fencer's call
- 5 Campaign-funding grp.
- 6 Tulsa sch.
- 7 Blanc or Brooks
- 8 Song of praise
- 9 Troubadour
- 10 High (Pref.) example
- 11 Campus bigwig
- 16 Schuss
- 20 Crimson
- 22 Capital of Belarus
- 23 Leading man
- 25 Hearty quaff
- 26 Labyrinth beast
- 27 Groundbreak-ing musical
- 29 Historic time
- 30 Charlotte's creation
- 35 Submachine gun
- 37 Pats down
- 39 Pinnacles
- 40 Inseparable
- 41 Sleeping
- 42 Heavy reading
- 43 Kournikova or Karenina
- 44 Stereo alternative
- 45 On
- 46 Wood strip
- 49 " — had it!"
- 50 Profit

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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) It could be risky to push for a project you believe in but others are wary of. Never mind. If you trust your facts, follow your courageous Aries heart and go with it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your enthusiasm sparks renewed interest in a workplace project that once seemed headed for deletion. Support from supervisors helps you make all necessary changes.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A colleague might be a bit too contrary when your ideas are being discussed in the workplace. A demand for an explanation could produce some surprises all around.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Try to avoid distractions at a time when maintaining stability in a fluid situation is essential. There'll be time enough later for the Moon Child to enjoy some well-earned fun and games.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Stop wasting energy licking your wounded pride. Instead, put the lessons you learned from that upsetting experience to good use in an upcoming opportunity.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You love being busy. But try not to make more work for yourself than you need to. Get help so that you don't wind up tackling tasks that are better left to others.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your usually balanced way of assessing situations could be compromised by some so-called new facts. Check them out before making any shift in judgment.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might feel angry over an unexpected shift in attitude by someone you trusted. But this could soon turn in your favor as more surprising facts come out.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Love rules everywhere for all amorous Archers, single or attached. It's also a good time to restore friendships that might have frayed over the years.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) It's not always easy for the proud Goat to forgive past slights. But clearing the air could help establish a better climate for that important upcoming venture.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Good news: Your skillful handling of a recent matter has won admiration from someone who could be influential in any upcoming decisions involving you.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You continue to welcome new friends into the widening circle of people whom you hold dear. One of those newcomers might soon have something special to tell you.

BORN THIS WEEK: You love nature and inspire others to follow your example of concern for the planet's well-being.

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TAKE A BREAK!

calendar

AUTOMOTIVE

EVENT CONT

FRIDAY, FEB. 9 CONT

communities face as our society moves away from local, sustainable farming. Discussion will follow to address local challenges. Free admission with donations accepted for the Cavendish Fire Dept. emergency shelter initiative. For more information and to view the trailer, visit: <http://www.lookandseefilm.com>

FARMERS' MARKETS

FRIDAYS-

WESTON, Vt. – Weston Winter Farmer's Market at the Walker Farm Playhouse. Friday hours are from 3 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Your favorite dairy, eggs, cheese, meat and bread vendors will be on hand as well as prepared foods, artisans and crafts people. Come and support by purchasing local and fresh! Lots of fun and real

close to home. Shop and enjoy local!

LIBRARIES

THURSDAY, FEB. 1 –

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Sit & Knit Cavendish Fletcher Community Library on Thursday evenings starting Feb. 1 from 5 – 7 p.m. Sit and Knit or Crochet, or do any fiber art of your choice. Light snacks will be provided. There is no charge.

SATURDAY, FEB. 3 –

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – If you are curious about exploring past life recall and the significance of your dreams, come join a free open discussion on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 2 – 3 p.m. at Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St., Brattleboro. A spiritual exercise will be shared to actively tap the wisdom your inner worlds through Soul Travel. All are welcome. Hosted by Eckankar, a spiritual teaching that

provides simple exercises for people of all faiths, traditions, and walks of life to develop and deepen a conscious and practical relationship with spirit. For more information go to www.eckankar-vt.org or call 800-772-9390.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Please join Dinoman at the Springfield Town Library to celebrate "Take Your Child to the Library Day" on Saturday, Feb. 3 at 11 a.m. Dinoman will take us

on an adventure to the age of Dinosaurs! With magic, merry mayhem, and magnificent props, the audience is taken on a trip throughout the Mesozoic era. Brought to you by Friends of the Springfield Town Library and is free and open to the public. Please call Springfield Town Library for more information at 802-885-3108. It's Complicated (but Simple) is funded by Friends of the Springfield Town Library, and is free and open to the public!

building this machine! This program runs from 4 to 6 p.m. at Springfield Town Library, 43 Main St., Springfield, Vt. through Feb. 14. Geared for youth grades 6 and up! Call Michelle at the library for more information and to sign up: 802-885-3108. It's Complicated (but Simple) is funded by Friends of the Springfield Town Library, and is free and open to the public!

MEETINGS

THURSDAY, FEB. 1 –

As the re-vote on Ludlow, Mount Holly unified school district merger approaches; we encourage all voters and residents of Ludlow to inform themselves on the issues by attending the informational meeting on Thursday, Feb. 1 at 6 p.m. at Ludlow Town Hall. This meeting is hosted by the Black River Independent School Committee.

TUESDAYS-

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. T.F.N.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Bellows Fall 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.

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. T.F.N.

SUPPORT

FRIDAY, FEB. 23 –

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Connecticut Valley, Ostomy & IBD Support Group (COG) meeting is at 5 p.m. at the Rockingham medical group building in Bellows Falls, lowest floor in the fireplace room. COG brings people together who are managing inflammatory bowel disease. For more info call Margaret Heale at 802-376-8249.

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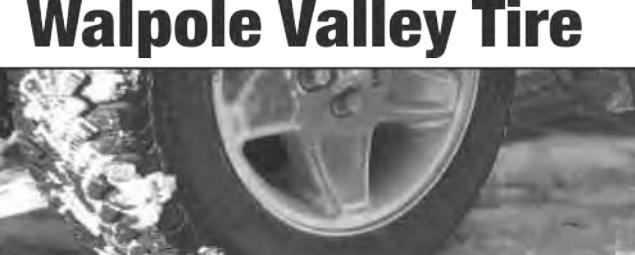
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WESTMINSTER AUTO WEEKLY SPECIALS



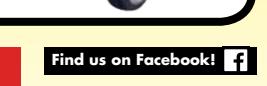
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