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Springfield Garden Club hosts 27th Festival of Trees

BY JO ROBBINS

The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – As many as 200 people attended the Springfield Garden Club's annual Festival of Trees "Winter Wonderland" fundraiser Friday, Nov. 22 at the Great Hall at 100 River St. This may be considered the event of the season with an opportunity for folks to dress in their formal best and enjoy the food, music provided by a jazz ensemble, and the incredible decorations all while giving back in a big way to the Garden Club to help support its many projects.

The Great Hall was stunning with the trees and lights, the men in black tie, and the women in stylish dresses. It was as good as it gets for a formal event. Not only was it well attended, but one club member said the Garden Club organized the event like a well-oiled machine. Clearly, this was an

opportunity to celebrate the holidays in style.

For 26 years, this organization has devoted its time and efforts to the community through its multiple projects and has given more than \$200,000 back into Springfield through activities, scholarships, and services. Friday night's event did not disappoint the many people who attend this festival on an annual basis.

Sandy MacGillivray, a co-chair of the festival, along with Barb Riotte, the club's treasurer, collected tickets and welcomed folks at the Pearl Street entrance of the hall. They directed guests to vote for their favorite tree among the 10 on display, lavishly decorated by local organizations such as Claremont Savings Bank, Springfield High School's Community Outreach Group, and Kelley Sales and Services to name a few. MacGillivray said the festival is a major event and a won-



Barb Riotte (left) and Sandy MacGillivray (right) at Festival of Trees. PHOTO BY JO ROBBINS

derful kickoff to the holidays, but more than that it is the sole means of support for all of the programs the club provides to the community throughout the year.

There was a silent auction and a raffle of baskets that con-

tained donated items and services offered by many area companies and larger items such as artwork, a 65-inch homemade quilt, a necklace, home heating oil, gym memberships, golf discounts, and ski lift tickets. For sale were handmade wreathes,

bow-adorned candleholders, and evergreen baskets and centerpieces created by the Garden Club members.

New member Katherine Parker moved to Springfield a year ago from Oklahoma and said she is proud and happy to be a part of an organization that is so giving and is "just a nice group of people." She was especially impressed with the club's creation of small floral bouquets that are placed on the trays for the appreciative recipients of the Meals on Wheels program once every month.

Karen Vatne, the club's photographer since 2016, said the club is always looking for new members, as the institutional memory of the organization will retire with its oldest members. She said you don't have to be a grower or have a background in horticulture; you just need to join as either a full member or as a support member and be willing to give back

to your community.

Of the many services the Garden Club provides, Vatne said there are monthly guest lecturers from educational organizations like Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and garden therapy in the summer months for adult day care seniors.

These are only a handful of the many ways in which the Garden Club provides for its own community. It has given scholarships to graduating high school seniors or college students pursuing the fields of horticulture, forestry, or environmental studies and worked with younger students to teach them how to plant a garden.

The Garden Club also oversees the plantings throughout the town including the town's gardens at the Iron Bridge and the Blue Star Memorial, gardens that make Springfield such a lovely place to reside and offers a colorful welcome to visitors just passing through.

"Let's Take Action" forum for the future of Rockingham

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Dec. 4, all members of the Rockingham community are invited to kick off "Let's Take Action," a community process to engage all residents of Rockingham, Bellows Falls, and Saxtons River in setting direction for a vibrant, prosperous, and dynamic future. This process is a practical, pragmatic, and facilitated way for residents to actively participate in reviewing challenges and opportunities facing the community, identify top priorities for action, and develop concrete action plans. This will also be an opportunity to bring both technical and financial resources to Rockingham to move priorities forward.

This first step in the "Let's Take Action" process will be a series of community forums to discuss assets, challenges, and opportunities for action within nine focus forums being held throughout the day. Everyone is invited to join in Dec. 4 to share your ideas in forums on nine different topics, chosen by a steering committee representing people from varied occupations and parts of town, including tourism and lodging; transportation; attracting and supporting young people; education: from early childhood to workforce; building redevelopment; arts and entertainment; economic revitalization and infrastructure; housing; and rec-

reation. Forums will take place at the American Legion, Rockingham Free Library, and the Moose Family Center.

At 6 p.m., everyone is invited to a free community dinner at the Moose Family Center. Childcare will be provided at the library during the forums. Door-to-door transportation is available to forums by request. Call 888-869-6287 by Dec. 2 to reserve a ride.

Step two of "Let's Take Action" will be a community meeting in January when all residents will be invited to champion action ideas, set priorities, and have the option to sign up for task forces to take on each priority initiative. VCRD will return in February for step three, "Let's Take Action Resource Day," with a visiting resource team of Ver-

mont leaders to help support the work of the new task forces with technical and financial resources as they create action plans to move their priorities forward.

Rockingham Municipal Manager Wendy Harrison invites all to participate. "I am looking forward to hearing all of the ideas from the community. Please join us – everyone is welcome to share your ideas for our community's future! This is a great opportunity to develop a vision and chart a path forward together."

The process is produced by VCRD, who was invited to the community by the Rockingham Selectboard and Bellows Falls Trustees, in partnership with the Vermont Community Foundation. VCRD is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization dedicated

to the advancement of Vermont communities. In the past 20 years, they have worked with over 70 communities throughout Vermont to bring residents together through their facilitated and structured process to share ideas and move toward common solutions.

VCRD community and policy manager Jenna Koloski says, "VCRD is excited about working with Rockingham residents to set and advance priorities for the future. We believe strongly in the power of local leadership and in engaging the full voice of the community in setting direction forward. Everyone in the community is invited to share their ideas, and we're eager to help connect to support and resources to help the community move forward."

"Let's Take Action: Rockingham Community Visit" is funded with support from the Vermont Community Foundation and the Northern Borders Regional Commission.

VCRD will bring with them a visiting team of more than 20 Vermont state, federal, business, nonprofit, and philanthropic leaders to listen to and reflect on the challenges and opportunities for action that residents identify. The visiting team members will include Ben Doyle, USDA Rural Development; Kevin Wiberg, Vermont Community Foundation; Lindsey Kurrle, Secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development; Aly Richards, CEO of Let's Grow Kids; Xusana Davis, Vermont

See ACTION on Page 2A



Kurn Hattin children give thanks

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – The children and staff at Kurn Hattin Homes wish each of you – our friends, supporters, volunteers, and families – a very warm and meaningful Thanksgiving.

PHOTO BY KRISTIE LISAI

Redevelopment of historic Woolson Block

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Nov. 13, 2019, affordable housing owners and developers, Springfield Housing Authority, and Housing Vermont joined local elected officials, funders, and project participants to celebrate the start of redevelopment of the Woolson Block building. Renovations will return this historic property to its prominent origins and contribute to the economic vitality of downtown Springfield.

The Woolson Block is a three-story Italianate-style brick building, built in 1868 by the president of a Springfield machine tool company and woolen mill. The historic building sits perched above the falls of the Black River in the center of downtown Springfield. Historical photos from the early 1900s show the Woolson Block as a busy, well-kept mixed-use building. In more recent years, the building had fallen into disrepair, which ultimately led to tax sale by the owner.

"The Woolson Block represents a significant step in the revitalization of downtown Springfield from its old machine tool factory days to a

modern infrastructure that attracts and retains younger people to our beautiful downtown where they can live safely and affordably," said Bill Morlock, the executive director of the Springfield Housing Authority. "Both the housing and commercial spaces will contribute directly to Springfield's continued economic revitalization through property tax revenue, the provision of goods and services, and new affordable housing."

The redevelopment plan at Woolson Block involves a substantial rehabilitation of the historic structure and the creation of affordable apartments, transitional housing, and more than 5,000 square feet of commercial space on the street level. The residential space will provide 15 rental apartments designated for a mix of households, all with incomes at or below 60% of the area's median income. There also will be four single-room occupancy and service-enriched apartments for homeless and at-risk youth between the ages of 18 and 24 with incomes at or below 50% of the area's median income.

The transitional program will provide a structured environment for at-risk youth so that they're able to develop the skills and habits they need to live independently.

Funding totaling more than \$8.6 million from several private and public sources was raised to finance the total redevelopment costs. PNC Bank invested over \$5 million through the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, which is administered by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency. The Vermont Housing & Conservation Board provided over \$1.75 million, including \$1 million from the state Housing for All Revenue Bond of 2017. The Vermont Community Development Program provided \$450,000 through the town of Springfield plus Downtown Tax Credits worth \$328,000. The town also provided \$200,000 through its revolving loan fund. The Vermont Community Foundation provided \$250,000 in critical gap funding. The Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission provided \$175,000 in EPA Brownfields funds. Efficiency

Vermont incentives of \$34,000 were also provided.

"Redeveloping this historic building will be challenging," said Housing Vermont President Nancy Owens. "However, it offers several important community benefits including creating much-needed affordable housing and boosting the vitality of downtown Springfield. With the leadership of our elected officials, supported by a diverse range of funders, we will be able to offer a forward-thinking mix of uses to include 15 new affordable homes as well as four service-enriched apartments for at-risk youth along with street level commercial space."

Housing Vermont and the Springfield Housing Authority have previously collaborated in downtown Springfield. After a 2008 fire destroyed the Ellis Block, HVT and SHA worked together to restore the building, a historic movie theater with residential housing, which sits across the street from Woolson Block.

Renovations on the Woolson Block are estimated to be complete in June 2020.

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Springfield Democrats to host Paul Millman

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Democrats get an undeserved bum rap when it comes to business. For the record, Democrats are not anti-business. Democrats believe that businesses and corporations have a responsibility to their community. In that spirit, the Springfield Town Democrats will host Paul Millman, the president and one of the founders of Chroma Technology, at

the Springfield Town Democrats meeting Monday, Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the HCRS building, 390 River St. The public is welcome.

“Chroma Technology Corp. is a manufacturer of interference filters for the ultra-violet, visible and near-infrared portions of the spectrum.” These are the types of filters that are used in molecular biology and



Paul Millman (left) giving a tour of Chroma.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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autonomous vehicles. Chroma is a certified B Corporation and is 100% employee-owned. At Chroma, everyone has a fair share of the responsibility and a fair share of the rewards. Chroma Technology is an integral part of Bellows Falls and the surrounding community. Its commitment to give back to the community and to be a steward of the environment is realized on an ongoing basis.

Paul Millman will describe what it looks like to give back to the community and how Chroma seriously addresses its responsibility to address income inequality. He will refute Gov. Scott's claim that businesses are fleeing the state and tell the audience why Chroma Technology is in Vermont and not New Hampshire. There will be time for the audience to ask questions.

The Springfield Town Democratic Committee is proud to have Paul Millman as its guest speaker Monday, Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the HCRS building. Light refreshments will be served. Contact Char Osterlund at charmf@vermontel.net for more information or, in the case of inclement weather, for cancellation information.

HCRS celebrates EMR implementation at annual meeting

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, southeastern Vermont's community mental-health agency, held its annual meeting Nov. 6 at the Great Hall in Springfield. Attended by more than 125 board members, staff, clients, and community members, the event celebrated the agency's accomplishments and impact on clients during its last fiscal year.

One of the most significant accomplishments at the nonprofit agency was the successful implementation of their new Electronic Medical Record, a significant undertaking for any health care organization. The implementation process was highlighted for its positivity, creativity, short timeline, and teamwork. An annual Encore Award was presented to the EMR Project Team, which led the effort, and all staff in attendance illustrated the success of this implementation through enthusiastic applause and exclamations of approval. As

noted by one of the Agency's Board Members, "How often do you hear vigorous applause for an EMR implementation?"

Additional Encore Awards were presented to the following staff for going "above and beyond" in their work: Kerri-Ann Esty, Brooke Kearney, Jayne Stout, and Cassandra Viado.

Three guest speakers, all of whom have received services through HCRS, eloquently spoke of their challenges with mental illness or disabilities and how HCRS has supported them in their recovery. Their appreciation for the staff was repeatedly highlighted. Each of these client's stories were so impactful that they all received a standing ovation in recognition and appreciation for sharing their private and very personal journeys of recovery.

Following the presentations, HCRS CEO George Karabakakis, Ph.D., with the assistance of Anne Bilodeau, Chief Human Resources Officer, handed out 45 staff awards for years of service totaling 560 years. Recipients were Teresa Boni, 35 years; Katherine

Duhamel, Lori Schreiner, Brad Sewall, 30 years; Joan Egbert, George Karabakakis, Shirley Roy, 25 years; Dr. Stuart Copans, Karon Eagles, 20 years; Dr. Kathleen Alden, Jeanette Austin, Terence Flood, Shannon Lamb, Heather Lockwood, Rick Logan, Jennifer Marandino, Edmund Moore IV, Tamara Simmiolkjier, Jayne Stout, Rose Wheeler, Cora Willis-Cooper, 15 years; Erin Boxer, Cindy Dominique, Keryn LaVarnway, Jillian Tripp, 10 years; Leah Austin, Danielle Blake, Christine Block, Dawn Bradshaw, Megan Chapman, Kimberly Crossman, Joshua Dallaire, Joshua DiGiovanna, Bethany Freitas, Corey Ickes, Faraja Kurubai, Jason Lovett, Justine Mercier-Senn, Shaun Milek, Alicia Monty, Currie Murphy, Jessica Ostrander, Duane Perkins, Rachel Rice, John Tobin, 5 years.

Karabakakis stated, "This past year has moved HCRS forward in some powerful ways. We are pleased to be able to celebrate our many accomplishments with our community at this annual event."

Light A Pole in downtown Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Every year, the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce decorates the lampposts on Main Street in downtown Springfield with banners and white lights to bring twinkle and cheer to the neighborhood during the winter months. This tradition helps to create an inviting avenue for visitors passing through our lovely town and creates a sense of warmth and community for all who live here.

We're busy making arrangements for this year's holiday program, but we can't do it alone! Many of the strands of LED lights we used last year are now worn out and need to be replaced. The cost of buying new lights is significant, but if we work together we can make it happen. We are looking for businesses, organizations, and individuals who might be interested to sponsor a pole lighting to assist us in continuing to bring this special tradition to

Springfield. Sponsors will be recognized via social media and a press release, and you will have the warm fuzzy feeling of contributing to our beautiful community in a meaningful way. We appreciate any and all support. Anyone with questions about lighting a pole should contact Caitlin at the chamber at 802-885-2779 or caitlin@springfieldvt.com. Checks can be made payable to Springfield Regional Chamber and sent to Springfield Regional Chamber, 56 Main Street, Suite 2, Springfield, VT 05156.

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Springfield Elks 1560 memorial service

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Elks Lodge announced they will be observing their annual memorial service for their recent absent members who have passed during the last year from Dec. 2018. It will be held Sunday, Dec. 8 at noon at the lodge. This service takes about 20 minutes and is for all Elks, family members, and friends.

This year, the Springfield Elks will be honoring William Otis of Springfield and Colin Boreham of Charlestown, N.H.

ACTION

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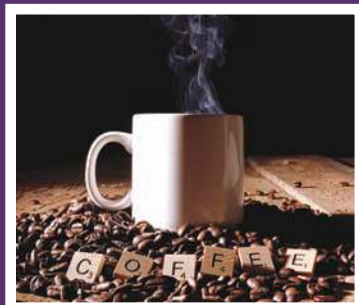
Director of Racial Equity; Chris Campany, Windham Regional Commission; Gary Holloway, Vermont Dept. of Housing and Community Development; Erica Campbell, Office of Senator Sanders; Karen Mittelman, Vermont Arts Council; Scott Finn, president and CEO of Vermont Public Radio; Michael Harrington, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Labor; and many other key Vermont community, tourism, education, and economic development experts and leaders.

All members of the community are invited to participate. For more information, visit www.vtrural.org, contact VCRD at 802-225-6091 or jenna@vtrural.org, or visit the event Facebook page at www.facebook.com/events/733469563798689.

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Local winemaker introduces new maple syrup wines

BY JO ROBBINS

The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Saturday, Nov. 23, Fernleigh Cellars, the state's first maple syrup winery, hosted a wine tasting event at the Trout River Brewing Company at 100 River St. in Springfield, where Erin Hunter, Fernleigh's owner and winemaker, introduced her four new maple syrup wines.

Erin Hunter has a lot of layers, and she is a woman of "firsts." In college, she wrote a thesis on dendroclimatology, utilizing core samples of maple trees and a handwritten journal to compare tree growth as it relates to the weather. In 1990, when Hunter sold the family winery in Virginia and moved to Vermont, she worked for a time as a high school nurse, but then she was hired by the River Valley Tech Center where she became the first female carpentry instructor in the state and has taught for the past 18 years. Like most entrepreneurs, this is her day job.

Hunter is also a member of the state's wine council and has been producing wines since 2014 from her Springfield home, the circa 1799 Old Whitcomb Farm nestled in Spencer's Hollow by the Connecticut River, where she and her team of three dedicated women, Wendy Reeves, Sue Dana, and Jenevieve Johnson, together produce, bottle, and distribute the Maple Reserve Wines. Although Fernleigh Cellars is licensed for wine-tasting and retail sales, Hunter said there is presently not a designated area at the farm to offer these services full-time, but that is on her agenda – to open to the public with regular hours instead of by appointment only.



From left to right: Jenevieve Johnson, Sue Dana, Erin Hunter, and Wendy Reeves with their new maple syrup wines.

PHOTO BY JO ROBBINS

The whole team attended a sensory wine workshop where they experienced test methods and learned to identify differences and preferences in wine in order to educate and better promote the success of the business.

At the wine tasting Saturday, Hunter and Reeves introduced four new maple syrup infused wines. The first is a Tappers Maple Mead with honey, maple syrup, and yeast. As described in Fernleigh's website, "The sap gives the mead a unique citrus note that compliments the wildflower honey." Next is a Maple Reserve Amber "reminiscent of a light sherry, with notes of apricot." Third is a Special Dark "port like" maple wine made from 100% Vermont dark maple syrup. The last is a Maple Reserve Special Dark, a "cognac like" wine aged for up to 12 months in oak whiskey barrels that infuse the wine with vanilla and caramel flavors. In all of these wines, the only sugar is the maple syrup and none are distilled. The lightest is the mead and the

heaviest is the special dark harvested in the oak barrels. The alcohol content runs from 13.7% to 14%.

How is a maple syrup winery different from a grape vineyard when it comes to the effects of the weather on the product? It is not very different at all, according to Hunter. She said the wine is fairly stable after aging, but the product is affected by the same elements that affect every vineyard. Climate, the cold, and length of the season can all impact a maple syrup wine.

Hunter, who is of Irish descent, admits that the name Fernleigh Cellars has a bit of a family hook to the Fern part of the name; but mostly it originates from the countless varieties of ferns that grow in Vermont. She said the Leigh comes from the Gaelic translation for meadow.

Erin Hunter invites the public to plan a visit and experience all that the farm offers.

The Cactus Patch Mexican Cocina opens

BY JOE MILLIKEN

The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – A new restaurant, the Cactus Patch Mexican Cocina, is open for business in Springfield. Owned by the mother-daughter tandem of Vicki Stewart and Nicole Spicer, the restaurant launched with a "soft opening" the first week in October with a plan for a grand opening coming soon.

Located at 12 Clinton St., the former location of the Oriental Palace for over 20 years, the new Cactus Patch restaurant features authentic-style Mexican food, including a full menu of appetizers, dinner entrees, and a kids' menu.

"My mom had run the Royal Diner here in Springfield for the last seven years," Nicole Spicer said in a recent interview. "When we signed this new lease, we decided to do something different, and we are really excited about this new opportunity."

The complete menu includes a variety of appetizers such as tacos, empanadas, chile relleno, Mexican pizza, and Cactus Patch nachos and guacamole made fresh daily. Delicious dinner entrees include fajitas, chimichanga, quesadillas, taco salad, burritos, enchiladas, a fiesta bowl and margarita grilled chicken.

The kids' menu includes a single taco, a bean and cheese burrito, macaroni and cheese, chicken fingers, and side dishes including rice and beans, French fries, and applesauce. Drinks include Jarritos Mexican soda and Prickly Pear lemonade.



Cactus Patch Mexican Cocina in Springfield.

PHOTO BY JOE MILLIKEN

"We are the only Mexican restaurant in the area, and we bring an authentic taste from our home town in Arizona," Nicole added. "We also offer house-fried chips, homemade salsa, and fresh, in-house guacamole made daily. We will also very soon be obtaining our liquor li-

cense from the state."

The Cactus Patch is located at 12 Clinton St. in Springfield. The restaurant hours are Friday through Tuesday, 4 to 9 p.m., and Sundays 4 to 8 p.m. For more information, visit their Facebook page or call 802-885-1144.

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Recreation as economic focus for Mt. Ascutney area

REGION – The towns of Weathersfield, West Windsor, and Windsor have joined together to identify ways to strengthen recreational and economic opportunities and to explore potential connections between villages and recreation areas. This three-town endeavor serves as a foundation for future collaborative efforts to market the area as a recreational destination. The steering committee has scheduled a public meeting to present project findings Dec. 5, 2019 at 6 p.m. at the Windsor Welcome Center.

Outdoor and forest-based recreation and the associated tourism are major drivers of Vermont's economy. Outdoor recreation in Vermont generates \$5.5 billion in annual consumer spending, 51,000 direct jobs, \$1.5 billion in wages and salaries, and \$505 million in state and local tax revenue.

Today, recreation related businesses provide approximately 23% of the employment in Windsor County, and 16.7% of the employment in

the three-town area. When moving to Vermont, many people choose a home based on its proximity to natural features and recreational opportunities. Nationwide, 80% of Americans consider having trails and places to walk one of their top priorities when deciding where to live, according to the National Association of Realtors' Community Preference Survey. This ranked even higher than "high quality public schools," which was selected by 74% of survey respondents. National Realtors Association, 2015.

As part of this project, the SE Group evaluated the economics of recreation in the Mt. Ascutney area.

A number of opportunities have been identified to enhance outdoor recreation in the Mt. Ascutney area. These can be placed in two general categories: physical improvements and organizational efforts. Physical improvements include building and improving trails and developing river access points. Organizational efforts include holding annual

stakeholder summits and cooperative branding and marketing efforts.

The SE Group estimated possible future economic impacts of various physical improvements to help identify projects with the largest likely economic benefit for the area. Three of the most impactful project ideas include a trail around Mt. Ascutney, a trail connecting Artisan's Park to downtown Windsor, and formalizing an existing system of trails in Weathersfield. Based on economic models, the trail around Mt. Ascutney is expected see the greatest impact. Assuming medium visitation levels, it could possibly generate 10,000 annual visits and \$974,000 in total sales activity, 15 full-time equivalent job positions, and \$134,000 in total tax revenue each year.

The plan can be downloaded at www.swcrpc.org/mount-ascutney-recreation-plan. For more information, please contact Jason Rasmussen at 802-674-9201 or jras-mussen@swcrpc.org, or Drew Pollak-Bruce at 802-735-9144

or dbruce@segroup.com. This effort was funded by a Municipal Planning Grant through the Vermont Department of Commerce and Community Development.

SEON grant from High Meadows Fund

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – The Sustainable Energy Outreach Network has been awarded a \$12,000 grant from the High Meadows Fund. The grant will be used to partially subsidize incumbent worker tuition, keeping the cost affordable, for SEON's High Performance Builder courses, which are part of its Certified Level 1 High Performance Builder program. This grant and SEON's program will support the building efficiency priority of the Legislature's Climate Solutions Caucus by focusing on workforce development. A goal of SEON is to brand the region of southeast Vermont as a knowledge center of high performance construction and attract or re-

tain young working age adults who are excited about learning this trade and contribute to solving our climate emergency.

SEON developed the Certified Level I High Performance Builder program with assistance from the Windham County Economic Development Program and has been piloting the training in Windham County. In 2020, SEON plans to deliver the training programs to Bennington and Chittenden counties. Key to the success of the pilot has been partnership with the Windham Regional Career Center's Adult Education Program and the Architecture and Construction Program. SEON members serve on the Advisory Commit-

tee, introduce outside experts to the students, and construct "mock-up" wall systems in the shop for student reference and for use in SEON's High Performance courses.

SEON members will also work with the Pipeline and Pathways Program of the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation to introduce students to the world of high performance construction.

For information about SEON's High Performance Builder program, go to www.seon.info/hpb-overview or contact Guy Payne, executive director, at guy@seon.info or call 802-376-9262. SEON is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Brattleboro.

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Springfield Edward Jones offices Toys for Tots drive

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield area Edward Jones Financial Advisors have joined together to support the Marine Corps League Toys for Tots program by using their offices as drop-off locations for this year's toy drive.

Local residents may help children in the area by bringing in a new, unwrapped toy to any Springfield area office during regular business hours from Nov. 11 through Dec. 13, 2019.

With the holiday season

around the corner, we are all getting ready for the festivities, says local financial advisors Amy, Gerry, and Dan. As this is the season of giving, now is a great time to remember the less fortunate in our community.

The local Edward Jones Financial Advisors include Amy Duffy, 41 Chester Rd., and Gerry Mittica and Dan Richardson, 300 River St.

Edward Jones, a Fortune 500 company headquartered in St. Louis, provides financial ser-

VICES in the U.S. and, through its affiliate, in Canada. Every aspect of the firm's business, from the investments its financial advisors offer to the location of its branch offices, caters to individual investors. The firm's 18,000-plus financial advisors serve more than 7 million clients and care for \$1 trillion in assets under management. Visit our website at www.edwardjones.com. Member SIPC.

SEVCA is recruiting for tax volunteers in the Upper Valley

REGION – The IRS-sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance has been providing community service to millions since 1969 by helping taxpayers prepare their tax returns for free. VITA provides measurable results with a positive economic impact. As a volunteer, you will help people that need it most: low-to-moderate income households, senior citizens, and people with disabilities as well as others who fall within



Become a VITA volunteer.

PHOTO PROVIDED

three to six hours per week from Jan. 27 through April 15, 2020. Although prior tax preparation experience is not necessary, a commitment to classroom training and certification is required.

Who can volunteer? Anyone can with the desire to help people if you are willing to complete the IRS training program. No prior experience is required. As a VITA volunteer, you may choose from several roles and responsibilities depending on what you would like to do. There is a role for you: greeter, screener, IRS-certified tax preparer, quality reviewer, volunteer recruiter, and more.

Training sessions will be held in Westminster during the end of November through January and at your convenience using online IRS self-study training materials provided. Continuing on-site training and supervision is provided during the tax preparation season.

To learn how you can make a difference in your community by becoming a VITA volunteer, please contact Leslie Wood at lwood@sevca.org or 802-722-4575, ext. 199.

the income guidelines.

SEVCA's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program has celebrated its 10th year in the 2019 tax season. Southeastern Vermont Community Action will provide free tax preparation for lower income taxpayers for the 2020 tax-filing season through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. SEVCA is now recruiting volunteers to help as many families as possible claim the tax credits and refunds available to them.

Don't know that much about taxes? Don't worry – you'll receive specialized training from a certified VITA instructor plus IRS online courses. We are looking for individuals who are willing and able to commit

Giving Tuesday at Grace Cottage Hospital

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – After Black Friday and Cyber Monday comes Giving Tuesday, a worldwide day of philanthropy during the season of gratitude. Grace Cottage Hospital asks its friends and neighbors to participate in its Giving Tuesday campaign Dec. 3 and to help raise funds to purchase new vital signs monitors for its hospital patients. This year's Giving Tuesday campaign goal for seven new units is \$28,000. A very generous kickoff donation of \$5,000 brings the total to be raised down to \$23,000.

Monitors that provide ongoing or intermittent measurements of a patient's temperature, heart rate, breathing, and blood

pressure are essential for any hospital environment. Recent strides in telemetry technology have made it necessary to upgrade the hospital's current system. State-of-the-art, identical units will result in greater accuracy, reliability, and consistency across all settings of care from the emergency department, to the inpatient and rehabilitation rooms.

"Living in a rural area should not limit a person's access to the highest quality technology in critical care. With these new vital signs monitors, our highly trained nurses can provide the best quality care regardless of our location," offered nurse manager Rebecca Lapointe, R.N.

To participate in Grace Cottage's Giving Tuesday 2019

campaign, go to www.gracecottage.org Dec. 3 to donate or call 802-365-9109 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Checks may be made out to Grace Cottage with "Giving Tuesday" on the memo line, and sent to P.O. Box 1, Townshend, VT, 05353. Any money raised beyond the campaign goal will be applied to the Grace Cottage Patient Care Fund.

Grace Cottage is a Critical Access Hospital and Rural Health Clinic located in Townshend, Vt., serving residents and visitors in Windham County and surrounding towns. It is the recipient of a 2017 and 2018 "Top 20 Critical Access Hospital in the U.S. for Patient Satisfaction" Award from the National Rural Health Association.

New at investing? Follow these suggestions

REGION – If you're fairly new to investing, you might be wondering what sort of rules you should follow or moves you should make. And while everyone's situation is different, there are indeed guidelines that make sense for all investors. Here are some to consider.

Learn the basics. The investment world can seem confusing, but the more you know about the basic components, the more confident you'll be when you begin to invest. For starters, you'll want to be familiar with the essential types of investments: stocks, bonds, mutual funds, government securities, and so on. And it's also important to know that some investments are designed to provide growth – an increase in the investment's value – while others provide income in the form of dividends or interest payments, and still others may offer growth and income.

Set your goals. You need to know why you're investing – and that means you must clearly define your goals. Do you want to re-



Make the most of your investments.

STOCK PHOTO

tire early? When you do retire, what kind of lifestyle would you like to have? Are you planning on helping your children – or grandchildren – pay for college? Once you've established your goals, you can create the appropriate investment strategy for achieving them, taking into account your time horizon and risk tolerance.

Invest regularly. At first, you may only be able to afford to put in small amounts to your investment accounts, but even so, try to contribute regularly. You'll get into the habit of investing and, later on, when you earn more money, you can ramp up your contributions. If you have a 401(k) or similar plan at work, the money can come out of your paycheck before you even see it.

Think long term. As you begin investing, it's important to have the right attitude. Specifically, don't look for the "hot" investments that will make you a "bundle" in a matter of weeks. Investing just doesn't work that way – instead, it's a decades-long process of carefully choosing, managing, and adjusting a diversified portfolio that's suitable for your individual needs. And by maintaining a long-term focus, you'll be less susceptible to making ill-advised moves in response to short-term market events.

Don't get scared off by down-

turns. If you invest for many years, it's inevitable that you will experience sharp drops in the financial markets. But these declines are actually a normal part of investing. If you overreact to them by selling investments just because their price has dropped, you'll not only be breaking a cardinal rule of investing – to buy low and sell high – but you'll also be disrupting the type of cohesive, continuous investment strategy that's necessary to help you achieve your goals.

Get some help. You may find it easier to navigate the investment landscape if you get some help from a professional advisor – someone who understands your goals and family situation and who can make appropriate investment recommendations. A financial advisor can also suggest changes to your portfolio in response to changes in your life – new job, child graduating college, etc. – and in your goals, such as a new date for retirement.

When you invest, there aren't many guarantees. But by following these suggestions, you will know, at the very least, that you're taking the steps that can lead to success.

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

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Come on over! ~ Cmdr. Don Stocker / Pub. Rel. Smokey Aumand

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Live Music 6-9 pm w/ Silas & The Witch

LIVE MUSIC

Saturday, Nov. 30
Sammy Blanchette 5-8 pm
Jake Kulack 9 pm - 12 am

LIVE music



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

Vermont Big Game Records

Well, here we are again, deer season. While I no longer hunt, I do keep my rifle ready. I do see deer in the field, but nothing yet with horns. The deprivation continues.

A few years ago, I was contacted by Curtis P. Smiley of the Vermont Big Game Trophy Club Inc. Curtis was publishing his second book of Vermont big game records and wanted to know if I knew of any trophy bucks taken in this area in years past. I knew of a couple ancient deer heads.

I contacted those current owners and put them in touch with Curtis. One deer I knew of was taken over 60 years ago. The antlers could still be scored by Boone & Crockett. It has since been scored and is included in this book.

Boone & Crockett is a method of measuring racks. It's a complex method, which totals the length of tines and distances between beams and other statistical factors of the rack. Vermont has produced some monster bucks.

Curtis published his second edition in 2018. I have a copy so I can give you an idea what's in it. It's a hardcover book of 336 pages, many in color. It's a beautiful book and very well done.

It contains Vermont state records for deer, moose, bear, and turkey. Archery records and sheds are included. A bow hunter took a 450-pound bear. You'll see monster bucks over 225 pounds. The buck Chester's Brian Benson took in 2014 along with stories Ed Peck and I contributed.

Before they are sold out you should order a copy.

It would make a great Christmas gift for the sportsman. It's available at www.vermont-biggametrophy-club.com.

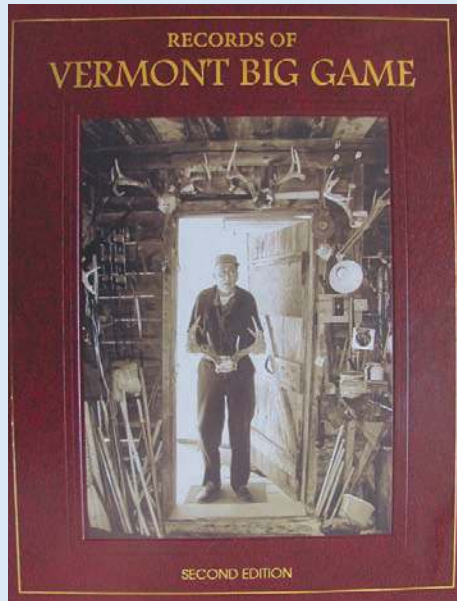
Chester's big game reporting station

Chester Hardware is a big game reporting station. I stopped over the weekend hoping to find someone reporting a deer. Not this day, so I quizzed Julie as to how many deer and bear have been reported. Scott Carsen reported a 309-pound bear. Friday, Nov. 22, a 200-pound buck was reported. The count is down this year. But one reporting station does not a trend make.

My classmate Kevin Gould, who lives in Baltimore, got his deer the first morning. Kevin was sitting in the hardwoods when a mama bear and her cub came along eating acorns. Kevin didn't shoot them. Instead, he sat and watched them. Then he heard the leaves rustle. Kevin thought another cub was coming. No, it was a seven-point buck weighing 167 pounds.

Kevin has been writing poetry for years for his own pleasure. Below is one of his poems about deer hunting.

First Day Of Deer Season
*"T'was a frost on the ground
 and a bite in the air.
 I felt a slight shiver
 just standing there.
 So I wiped my nose
 on the back of my glove.
 Then on up the mountain*



2018 Vermont Big Game Records. PHOTO PROVIDED

*I knew I must shove.
 Here is the spot
 I'm willing to bet.
 So there I did stop
 and I commenced to set.
 I hope and I pray
 as I sit real still.
 That a BUCK will come by
 'I know that he will.'
 Now hours have passed
 with not one Deer.
 And I'm asking myself
 "Why am I here?"
 I say this is great
 but I know that it's not.
 My body's half frozen
 my glove is all snot.
 My leg has a cramp
 my back has an ache.
 How much of this fun
 can I possibly take?
 What a miserable day
 this first one has been.
 And to think that tomorrow
 I CAN DO IT AGAIN!"*

This week's old saying my mother used to say. "The only thing the horns are good for is stirring the gravy."

It's a small world

DALLAS - Ron Patch's son, Shawn Patch, is an archaeologist with New South Associates in Greensboro, N.C. Last week in Dallas, Texas, there was held the Society for American Military Engineers Small Business Conference. This was a show where vendors could exhibit products or services that might interest military leaders from all branches of the service.

At this show, Shawn met General Todd T. Semonite. The general is a native of Bellows Falls. General Semonite is the Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Shawn had a copy of Ron's "Local History" book and presented it to the general. The general's parents ran Farr Garage on Tuttle Street in Bellows Falls for many years. It is a small world!



From left: Shawn Patch, General Semonite holding "Local History," and Jasmine Heckman, Shawn's co-worker. PHOTO PROVIDED

Tuttle Street in Bellows Falls for many years. It is a small world!

Wardens and Marines Corps League collecting Toys for Tots

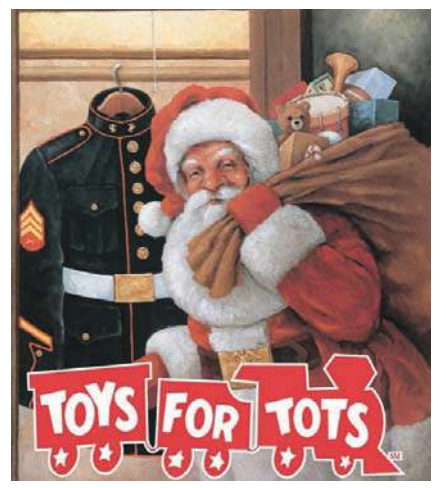
REGION - Vermont State Game Wardens and the Marine Corps League are partnering to collect Toys for Tots. Wardens will accept toys, gift cards, and donations until Dec. 15, which will allow time to transfer them to the Toys for Tots program.

People can call their local warden to arrange a pick-up of toys or donations, or they can bring toys to one of these Vermont Agency of Natural Resources offices:

- Springfield ANR, 100 Min-

- eral St., Springfield
- Rutland ANR, 271 N. Main Street, Rutland
- Essex ANR, 111 West St., Essex Junction
- St. Johnsbury ANR, 374 Emerson Falls Rd., St. Johnsbury

Wardens and their phone numbers are listed on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com/contact/contact-a-warden.



Vermont Wardens and Marines Corps League is collecting Toys for Tots. PHOTO PROVIDED

Veterans can now enroll in VA's Million Veteran Program online

REGION - Veterans can now join the Million Veteran Program online as part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' effort to improve the lives of veterans through health care research and innovation.

More than 775,000 veteran partners have already joined MVP, a national, voluntary, research initiative that helps VA study how genes affect the health of veterans.

"MVP has already resulted in a number of important scientific publications that increase our knowledge of conditions that affect veterans' health, and we expect this resource to continue to prove its value over the coming years," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "VA is excited to announce the launch of MVP Online, which will make it even easier for veterans nationwide to take part in this landmark research effort."

Veterans currently enrolled in VA care can use their existing VA

credentials to securely log in to MVP Online to view their personalized dashboard and learn more about the program. To partner with MVP, veterans can use the online portal to complete the consent process, allow access to health records for research purposes only, answer surveys about their health and lifestyle, and schedule an MVP visit at a participating VA site to provide a blood sample. VA is currently piloting ways to make the MVP sample collection more convenient for veterans who do not live near a participating VA site.

MVP helps researchers better understand how genes affect health and illness, which may help prevent illnesses and improve treatments of disease. Research using MVP data is already a part of more than 30 VA projects, including efforts focused on understanding the role of genes in PTSD, diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and suicide. Significant research find-

ings have already published in high-impact scientific journals. This research is helping VA to better understand the role genes play in illnesses common among combat veterans.

MVP partners include veterans from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam. MVP also has the largest representation of minorities of any genomic cohort in the U.S.

For more information about the Million Veteran Program, visit MVP Online at www.mvp.va.gov. For veterans not enrolled in VA care, the ability to join using MVP Online will be available soon. Until then, please call the MVP Info Center at 866-441-6075 to learn more about how to join.

Walk-in office hours are also offered at White River Junction VA Medical Center Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the Mountains Building Room 132.

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Includes: Omelet Station • Scrambled Eggs • Bacon Sausage • Pancakes • French Toast • Home Fries
 Brunch • Potatoes • Fresh Fruit • Juice & More

\$11.00 Kids under age 12 for half price!

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- Fish & Chips - \$8.00
- Chicago Prime Rib - \$13.00
- Maple Glazed Salmon - \$9.00
- Baked Shrimp, Haddock, Scallops - \$13.00
- Teriyaki Steak Tips - \$10.00

Other Daily Black Board Specials Available Served Monday - Saturday from 11am - 4pm. Excludes Holidays.

All Specials Include your Choice of Baked Potato, Sweet Potato Fries, OR Regular Fries, AND a Choice of Vegetable of the Day OR Coleslaw.

opinion

TAKE A BREAK

Dear Editor,

We are living at a very important time. We are being called to recreate our community in an inclusive and holistic way. I urge every person in Rockingham to participate in the upcoming community forum hosted by the Vermont Council on Rural Development.

When I think about the past, I recognize that there are important lessons to learn from it even though it is now over. It is also apparent to me that the future will be very different from the past because of the clear science about how humans have changed the natural environment. Scientists are certain that we are in a climate emergency with limited time to turn the crisis around. The climate crisis affects every aspect of our lives and our community. In this light, it is a time to think together in fresh, new ways about our town.

We find ourselves at the moment between the past and the future, a powerful present

moment where we need to set priorities, make decisions, and take action. The community forum, called "Let's Take Action," Dec. 4, from 2:30 to 8:30 p.m., has been set for us to begin this process of decision-making. For more information, contact Jenna at 802-225-6091 or email jenna@vtrural.org.

To be well informed, we must include the thinking of all people in our town and listen to new and old voices. I hope that young people and young adults come in large numbers and speak up about how they want our community to be in the future. I hope that indigent people and people of the global majority – people of color – come and speak up, too. I hope that folks living in the rural areas of Rockingham come and share their vision for the town's future because they have a different point of view from folks who live in the villages. I'm encouraging the elders who live here to weigh in on the

possibilities for the coming decades in this part of Vermont. Our friends and neighbors who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer have insights I hope they will share.

For me, it will be especially important for people who are not middle class to come to the meetings. Folks who struggle to make ends meet and who have to make tough choices daily because of money have ideas we need to make a community that works for everyone. Those of us who struggle to live here understand what does and doesn't work in our current set-up.

There will be transportation provided to and from the meetings if you reserve ahead of time. There will be a free meal for everyone to share. There will be childcare. These are real and necessary support to help people from all backgrounds and economic situations to fully participate in creating a vision of the future of our town.

We are at the powerful present moment when, together, we can take steps to create a hometown where everyone is included and supported to thrive as we face the challenges of the climate crisis.

Sincerely,
Laurel Green
Bellows Falls, Vt.

Dear Editor,

Fellow residents of Bennington and the surrounding area, we are asking you to join us on National Wreaths Across America Day, Dec. 14 at 12 p.m. at the Vermont Veterans' Home on 325 North St. in Bennington. Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission to "Remember, Honor, and Teach" is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as over 1,600 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad. We at the Vermont Veterans' Home are honored to participate in this national event as one of the privileged

locations.

Last year, the day was cold, windy, and snowing, yet as resilient Vermonters, you attended and participated in honoring those who served our great nation. The number of attendees was humbling; over 400 of you joined in and laid a wreath on the grave of a fallen soldier, sailor, airman, or marine.

If you are a leader of a youth organization, please consider attending this event with your group. This is a tremendous opportunity to "Remember, Honor, and Teach" about our heritage and heroes. These graves contain warriors from the Civil War to current conflicts. Our earliest interments contain warriors who marched

south into the unknown so that others may be free.

Please bring family and friends to participate in this year's event. It is vitally important for our children to understand and honor our departed veterans on this day. The ceremony itself is short, but meaningful. Its purpose is not to "decorate graves," but to commemorate their sacrifice and dedication to these United States and the cause of freedom.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Semper Fidelis
Colonel A. M. Faxon Jr.
Deputy Vermont Veterans' Home
Bennington, Vt.

Dear Editor,

The Hodge Family would like to thank our family and friends who joined us for the celebration of Erwin "Butch" Hodge's 70th birthday and retirement party Nov. 2, 2019. He was very surprised and had a great time!

Thank you,
Arlene, Lemonie, and Sabrina

News: Holiday safety is important for you and the Postal Service

REGION – Safety should be a year-round concern. But with all the hustle and bustle to get ready for the holidays, it's possible that safety isn't the first thing that comes to mind for most of us.

For the U.S. Postal Service, safety is always a top priority. We have some tips that can not only help keep our carriers safe as they deliver your holiday gifts, but you and your family as well.

If there is snow or ice on the ground, make sure to shovel and salt your sidewalk and steps for sure footing for both you and your carrier. Clear any snow or ice buildup from on top or around your mailbox.

Even when snow and ice isn't a problem, toys, small pieces of yard equipment, yard trimmings, or other items on the lawn, walkway, or steps can cause a tripping hazard or serious injury. While you might be able to avoid tripping, mail carriers may have their hands full of packages and could miss seeing these items. Take a moment to make sure your yard and walkways are clear of any obstacles to make it safer for everyone.

"Safety is everyone's responsibility, and sometimes we can take it for granted," says USPS Safety Director Linda DeCarlo. "Just taking a few extra minutes every day to look around for hazards in your home or workplace, or learning proper pet ownership, can reduce injuries."

Dogs are wonderful companions who bring joy and happi-

ness to their families. But unfortunately, sometimes things happen, and the pup could end up biting someone.

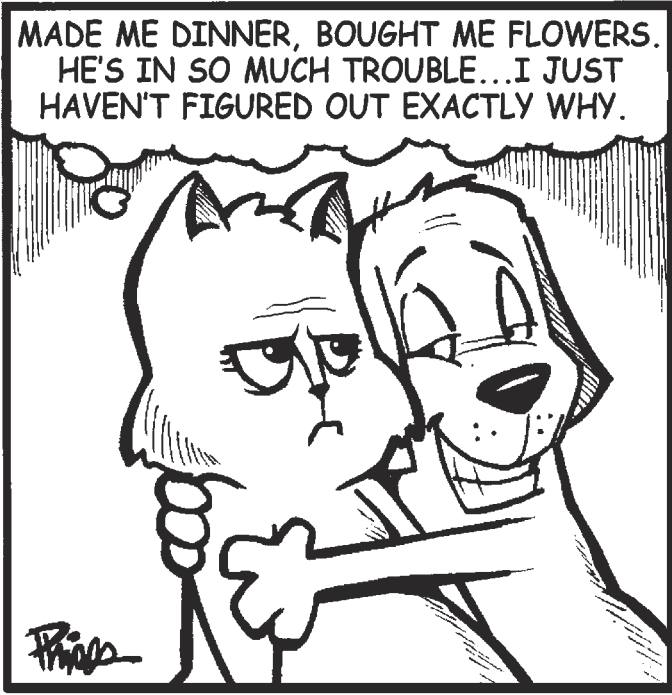
Nearly 6,000 postal employees and a staggering 4.5 million Americans were attacked by dogs last year. Many attacks could potentially be avoided if dog owners would take a few extra moments of precaution. The Postal Service participates in National Dog Bite Prevention Week every year and here are a few tips to keep you, your carrier, and your dog safe at the holidays and year-round.

If a carrier delivers mail or packages to your front door, place your dog in a separate room and close that door before opening the front door. Some dogs burst through screen doors or plate-glass windows to attack visitors. Dog owners should keep the family pet secured.

Parents should remind their children and other family members not to take mail directly from carriers in the presence of the family pet, as the dog may view the person handing mail to a family member as a threatening gesture.

The Postal Service places the safety of its employees as a top priority. If a carrier feels threatened by a dog, the owner may be asked to pick up mail at a Post Office until the carrier is assured the pet has been restrained. If a dog is roaming the neighborhood, the pet owner's neighbors also may be asked to pick up their mail at the area's Post Office.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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"This year it finally happened...the stamps cost more than the cards."

TAKE A BREAK!

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

2			4		3				
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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 Temperate
- 5 Owns
- 8 Lovers' quarrel
- 12 Sandwich treat
- 13 Final (Abbr.)
- 14 Small combo
- 15 "Desperate Housewives" actress Eva
- 17 Cincinnati team
- 18 Ingratiate
- 19 Warehouse pile
- 21 Pigpen
- 22 Deck for a 10-count
- 23 Wife of Saturn
- 26 Embrace
- 28 Become one
- 31 Addict
- 33 Shell game item
- 35 "My Heart Will Go On" singer
- 36 Ringworm
- 38 Egypt's boy king
- 40 Toss in
- 41 Transmit
- 43 Afternoon party
- 45 "Jane Eyre" author
- 47 Do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do
- 51 Mongolian

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- 5 "Get a move on!"
- 6 Foreman foe
- 7 Pile
- 8 Wandered off
- 9 Transvaal city
- 10 Staffer
- 11 Pitch
- 16 Inauguration recitation
- 20 Ewe's mate
- 23 No longer
- 24 Omega preceder
- 25 Brain's stimulus receptors
- 27 Understand
- 29 Deity
- 30 Conclude
- 32 Space flight conclusion
- 34 Job for a medical examiner
- 37 Pismire
- 39 Georgia —
- 42 Considers
- 44 Coral circle
- 45 Tourney situations
- 46 Derriere
- 48 Vicinity
- 49 Competes
- 50 Corn spikes
- 53 Web address

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CHURCH SERVICES

ALSTEAD, N.H.

Third Congregational Church UCC, River St.

Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m. For more information, contact alsteadthirdchurch@gmail.com or 603-835-6358.

ASCUTNEY, VT.

Bow Baptist Church, 1102 Rt. 5

Sunday school at 10 a.m. Morning service at 11 a.m. Evening service at 6 p.m. Prayer on Wednesday at 7 p.m. Call 802-546-4902 or www.bowbaptist.com.

Vision of Light Church of Spiritualism and Healing, 2 Legion Rd., Hartland, Vt.

Every Sunday at 10 a.m. at the Hartland Legion Post behind Mike's Mobil Station. Potluck lunch after service. For information, contact Barbara Welch at 802-356-9624.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St.

Holy Eucharist Services are offered at 8 a.m. (quiet service) and 10 a.m. (with music) every Sunday. Handicap accessible. For more information, call 802-463-3100.

Faith Christian Church, 582 Rockingham Rd.

Pastor Matt and Brenda Farkas welcome all to Sunday worship and praise at 10 a.m., the Message at 10:30 a.m., Children's Church (3-7 years) at 10:30 a.m., and Holy Spirit service on the first and third Sundays of the month at 6:30 p.m. Bible Study Wednesdays at 6 p.m. at the Church Home in the same parking lot. For more information, call 802-591-1350.

CAVENDISH-PROCTORSVILLE, VT.

Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St.

Sundays at 10 a.m. More at www.CavendishBaptist.com or call 802-226-7131.

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church, Main St.

Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m. Call 802-228-3451.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, 99 Sullivan St., Claremont, N.H.

Saturdays at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m. 603-542-6273; andrew@regubovstudios.com; hroc.org.

Charlestown Congregational Church, 71 Main St.

Sunday service on starts at 10 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, call 603-826-3335.

CHESTER, VT.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 313 Main St.

Sunday service is at 8 a.m. Service with music, Sunday School, and nursery care available at 10 a.m. Wednesday morning

Stacia Breslend, 1925-2019

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Stacia Breslend, 93, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019 at her home in Springfield. She was born Nov. 24, 1925 in Springfield, Vt., the daughter of Michael and Nadja (Darhoun) Balous. She attended Springfield schools, graduating from Springfield High School Class of 1943.

During World War II, she worked at Jones & Lamson Machine Tool Company and Bryant Grinder Company. On Feb. 19, 1955, she married Donald J. Breslend in Springfield, Vt. He predeceased her July 23, 2018. She loved to cook and enjoyed knitting and crocheting.

She is survived by a son Michael Breslend and his wife Karen of Springfield, Vt.; grandson Brian and his wife Nicole; granddaughter Kelsi and her husband Nate; great-grandsons Michael and James; nephews John Usko, James Usko, and David Balous; and niece Betty Sue Sullivan. She was predeceased by her parents, her husband



Stacia Breslend, 1925-2019. PHOTO PROVIDED

band Donald, brother Walter Balous, and sister Sophie Usko.

A graveside service will be held at the Oakland Cemetery in Springfield, Vt. in the spring of 2020 and announced at that time. Memorial contributions may be made to Honor Flight New England, P.O. Box 16287, Hooksett, NH 03106.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Davis Memorial Chapel.

Gary A. Williams, 1952-2019

ANDOVER, Vt. – Gary A. Williams, 67, of Port Richey, Fla., passed away Nov. 21, 2019. He was born in Springfield, Vt. Aug. 23, 1952 to Mary and Albert Williams.

He is preceded in death by his father Albert. He is survived by his loving wife Marion; mother Mary; daughter Tiffany; sisters

Teri Williams (Frank Davidson) and Sherry Williams; brother Berry Williams (Gerry); and grandchildren Kole and Kayden.

Services will be held Dec. 7, 2019 at 2 p.m. at Andover Community Church, 928 Weston Andover Rd., Andover, Vt. The family has requested no flowers.

prayer at 9:40 a.m. Visit www.stlukeseiscopalvt.org or call 802-875-6000.

First Universalist Parish of Chester, Rt. 103, 211 North St.

Sunday service at 10 a.m. between September and June, followed by light refreshments and conversation. Free childcare available for children under 5. The building is handicap accessible with an elevator. More at www.chestervtuu.org or 802-875-3257.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

Second Congregational Church of Londonderry, 2051 N. Main St.

Worship service is at 9:30 a.m. Sunday school and childcare available. For more information, call the church at 802-824-6453 or go to www.2ndcongregationalchurchvt.org.

LUDLOW, VT.

Tyson Community Church, Corner of Rt. 100 and Dublin Rd.

Service is at 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship. Communion offered the first Sunday of each month. Wheelchair accessible. For more information, call 802-522-8249 or email cindysummer55@gmail.com.

Village Baptist Church, 32 Church St., Mount Holly, Vt.

Sunday service is 9:30 a.m. For more information, call 802-259-2440.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Advent Christian Church, 11 Church St., N. Springfield

Worship is Sunday at 10 a.m. We are a small, friendly, Evangelical church. For more information, call Pastor David Young at 802-376-2136 or go to www.acchurch.net.

Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main St.

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Sunday school starts at 11 a.m. We invite you to join us for worship and fellowship, and our events during the week. For more information, call us at 802-885-2349 or go to www.calvarylovesspringfield.com.

Church of Christ, Rt. 11, 972 Chester Rd.

Sunday school starts at 10 a.m. Worship service at 11 a.m. Wednesday Devotional is at 6:30 p.m. Enter through the back downstairs door. Check out the Facebook page: Springfield Church of Christ. Due to Thanksgiving, the usual Wednesday free community dinner has been postponed until Dec. 18, 2019 at 6 p.m.

Rachel P. Freeman, 1923-2019

CHESTER, Vt. – Rachel Polly (Mudge) Freeman, 96, passed away Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019. She was born Jan. 22, 1923 in Belmont, Vt., the daughter of Basil and Catherine (Priest) Mudge. She graduated from Wallingford High School with the Class of 1941.

Polly worked at Tampax in Rutland and was a telephone operator in Cuttingsville and Mount Holly before her employment with NewsBank/Readex for 30 years. She made evergreen wreaths by the hundreds during the 1960s. She was a member of Rebekah with the Lakeside Lodge 31 of Belmont as well as the Hope Lodge 32 in Chester, the Columbia Lodge 21, and the Crystal Lodge 14 in Saxtons River.

Polly is survived by her daughter Debra Wheeler and her husband Frederick of Ches-

ter, Vt.; her granddaughter Miranda McNamara and her husband Brendan of Cavendish; two grandchildren Maryn Rae and Brogan Roger McNamara; four other loves Connor, Natalie, Laura, and Emma; and several cousins and many friends.

A graveside service will be held in Laurel Glen Cemetery in Cuttingsville, Vt. in the spring of 2020 and will be announced at that time. Memorial contributions may be made to Make-A-Wish Vermont, 431 Pine St., Suite 214, Burlington, VT 05401; St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105; or to Miracle Flights for Children, Miracle Flights, 5740 S Eastern Ave, Suite 240, Las Vegas, NV 89119. Arrangements are under the direction of the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt.

Ruth P. Stevens, 1919-2019

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Ruth P. Stevens, 100, of Route 121 passed away Nov. 19, 2019 at Sterling House surrounded by her dear friends and beloved dog, Bo. Ruth was born in Brandon, Vt. Oct. 20, 1919, the daughter of Clarence and Chloe (Moore) Douglas. She attended school in Brandon and worked as a dietary supervisor at the Rockingham Hospital for 33 years.

Ruth was a faithful member of the Immanuel Episcopal Church where she recently celebrated her 100th birthday with

her church family and longtime friends. Ruth spent the last three years of her life at Sterling House, a place she called home. She was always thankful and grateful for the wonderful care she received. Ruth will be forever remembered and always in our hearts.

Ruth is predeceased by her husband Robert Stevens and her parents.

There will be a graveside service in the East Clarendon Cemetery in the springtime. Arrangements are in the care of Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 33 Fairground Rd.

Holy Eucharist, Rite I traditional Liturgy is the first and third Sundays of the month. Rite II, contemporary Liturgy, is the second and fourth Sunday. Both are at 8:30 a.m. The rare fifth Sunday of the month will be Congregation's choice. Holy Days as announced. For more information, call 802-885-2723.

Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Rd.

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. For more information, call 802-885-3327 or go to www.uuspringfieldvt.org. All are welcome.

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.

First Congregational Church of Walpole / United Church of Christ, 15 Washington Sq.

Sunday service is at 10 a.m. Sunday school at 10 a.m. with coffee hour at 11 a.m. Wheelchair accessible with ramps and elevator. Call 603-756-4075 or email walpolechurch@yahoo.com.

WESTMINSTER, VT.

Christian Family Circle Chapel, 1512 Back Westminster Rd.

Sunday song service begins at 10 a.m., Sunday school at 10:30 a.m. Fellowship lunch on first Sunday of each month. Non-denominational. Visit www.christianfamilycirclechurch.com and like us on Facebook.

The First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 US Rt. 5

Regular Sunday worship is at 10 a.m. All are welcome! The church has a ramp and lift for wheelchair access and a handicapped bathroom. For more information, call 802-772-4148, or find us on Facebook.

WESTON, VT.

Weston Community Church on the Hill, 37 Lawrence Hill Rd.

On Dec. 7, join Christmas Caroling led by Pat Connelly during Christmas in Weston. For more information, go to www.vtchurchonthehill.org.

Tiffany T. Gordon, 2000-2019

ANDOVER, Vt. – Tiffany Thea Takara Gordon died Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019. Tiffany, aka T-Dog, was born Feb. 16, 2000 with many congenital heart defects and other birth abnormalities. Her heart only had two chambers instead of the usual four. She joked about only having half of a heart, but her life proved that her half had more capacity to love than most.

Tiffany spent the first three months of her life in the hospital. Social Services deemed that she should be in a foster home as soon as she could be discharged. They contacted Harry "Sonny" and Helen Gordon. She was discharged into this home with the understanding that she would probably only live for a few weeks.

Tiffany was an overcomer right from the start. With some creative feeding tactics from Helen, Tiffany started to improve and gain strength. Her last open heart surgery was when she was 10 years old. Tiffany started living out her calling the morning after that surgery. Accompanied by her father and an IV pole, she went from room to room in that ICU unit and made the other occupants smile. She was a social butterfly.

Tiffany lived life to its fullest in spite of her many hospitalizations and medical issues. She loved to swim, ride motorcycle with her dad, play basketball, roller skate, and travel. She loved painting and crafts and to make the perfect gift for everyone she knew. Her hospital rooms always looked more like an art classroom and the nurses called her



Tiffany T. Gordon, 2000-2019. PHOTO PROVIDED

the "glitter girl!"

Tiffany did have a stubborn, feisty streak. Everyone who worked with her experienced this and seemed to love her even more because of it. She made the best of her many hospital stays by her crafts and building relationships with most of the staff. They became her second family. Tiffany treated school the same way and worked her way into the hearts of the staff there as well.

Tiffany was predeceased by her mother Helen in 2017. She is survived by father Sonny and wife Lindelle Gordon; siblings Johnathan and Joseph Gordon, Ashley Rowe, Amanda Stillwell, Rachel Bucher, Raymond Gordon, Leah Gendron, Amanda Cleveland, and Hannah Cleveland; 11 nieces and nephews; grandmothers Janice Gordon and Barbara Mikkelsen; and many aunts and uncles.

There will be a celebration of Tiffany's life Dec. 1 at 3 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Chester, Vt.

From the family of Michael Pember

I would like to thank you all and especially the dear people of Cavendish for the cards, social media posts, expressions of sympathy, and those consoling hugs for the passing of my husband Michael Pember.

Your support has given me so much comfort during this difficult time.

Thank you,
Sandra Russo



Michael Pember, 1934-2019. PHOTO PROVIDED

PLEASE NOTE

In order to have room for each obituary we receive each week, we ask that submissions be limited to 350 words. We reserve the right to shorten any obituary.

Church Services are subject to space with priority given to obituaries. Each service is published on a rotation every two to four weeks. All Church Services are listed online at www.VermontJournal.com.

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda at Editor@VermontJournal.com.

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holiday happenings

Village gears up for Christmas in Grafton

GRAFTON, Vt. – For the third year, community members in Grafton, Vt. have been busy making a list – and checking it twice – as they prepare for an event that has quickly become an annual occasion to mark the start of the holiday season.

Taking place Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., this year's Christmas in Grafton festival has Kevin Wolfe of Mercantile behind the holiday party-planning helm. The full-day event hosts over a dozen stops throughout the village, complete with a Christmas in Grafton Passport. Guests who have their passports stamped at all participating venues will have the opportunity to enter a drawing for the Christmas in Grafton Gift Basket. The basket will be raffled off at 4 p.m. during a Mercantile and Grafton Village Cheese Shop reception, with snacks and drinks for all.

The day kicks off with the

9 a.m. Grafton Fire & Rescue Auxiliary Christmas tree sale in the Phelps Barn parking lot, which will also continue Sunday, Dec. 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A Grafton Community Church Bazaar will take place in the Grafton Chapel at 9 a.m., and a craft show will be set up along the first floor of the Robinson House beginning at 10 a.m. The Grafton Public Library is hosting its Gingerbread House Extravaganza, as well as two sets of story hours: one with Santa at noon and another with Bill Toomey at 2 p.m., geared towards older children and adults. Wreaths, poinsettias, and garlands will be on sale through the Grafton Historical Society, which is also hosting visitation to the Brick Church from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Children can enjoy free admission to the Nature Museum from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with hot cocoa and paper snowflake

crafts, and hone their cookie decorating skills at MKT between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Artist and illustrator Will Moses, great-grandson of famed folk artist Grandma Moses, will be at Mercantile from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. signing his children's books, calendars, and prints.

The day's festivities lead up to the 5 p.m. Christmas tree lighting at the Grafton Public Library. Afterward, MKT is hosting seatings for their special Christmas in Grafton Dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. Make reservations in advance by calling 802-843-2255, or opt for concert tickets to see Seraphic Fire ensemble at 7 p.m. in the Grafton Community Church. Tickets for the concert are available at www.seraphicfire.org/tours.

For more information or to view the full lineup of venues and passport locations, please visit the Facebook event: www.facebook.com/events/741673406303879.

Christmas Concert in Westminster to kickoff season

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – The First Congregational Church of Westminster invites you to celebrate Christmas with us. There will be a variety of events to keep you in the Christmas spirit.

On Sunday, Dec. 1, from 4-5:30 p.m., join us for a musical evening when the Westmoreland Town Band plays their Christmas Extravaganza. This Christmas Concert in Westminster at the church is for the whole community. The band is known throughout New England for its excellence and will kickoff their Christmas season in Westminster. A selection of Christmas music will be performed upstairs in the church.

In addition, our Jolly O' Elf from the North will make a guest appearance. After the concert, refreshments will be served, and



Celebrate the Christmas season with the First Congregational Church of Westminster.

PHOTO PROVIDED

there will be a chance to meet Santa, the band, and visit with friends and neighbors.

During the four Sundays in December leading up to Christmas, there will be special Advent worship services at 10 a.m. On Tuesday, Dec. 24, the First Congregational Church

of Westminster will celebrate our Christmas Eve service at 5:30 p.m. The service will include special music, carols, and the Christmas story. Weather permitting, we will end the service outside in front of the church with a candle-lit carol sing.

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Friesen, Rogers in holiday concert

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Cellist Eugene Friesen and singer-songwriter Elizabeth Rogers will bring in the holiday season at Main Street Arts with a CD-release concert Saturday, Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m.

The duo will bring a soulful collaboration to a repertoire of Celtic-infused holiday songs and instrumentals from their new recording "Down in Yon Forest," featuring such classics

as "The Ivy and the Holly," "I Wonder as I Wander," and less well known songs of the season. Rogers's crystal-clear soprano and Friesen's cello, with Irish whistle, guitar, and harp, will breathe new life into old songs.

Celist Friesen has performed on six continents, playing his own blend of original and improvisational music. He is a four-time Grammy-award winner as a member of the Paul Winter consort and is on the

faculty of the Berklee College of Music in Boston. He is the author of "Improvisation for Classical Musicians." He is active internationally as a concert and recording artist, composer, conductor, and teacher and has worked and recorded with such diverse artists as Dave Brubeck, Martin Sexton, Toots Thielemans, Betty Buckley, Dar Williams, Will Ackerman, and Dream Theater.

Born and raised in Manhat-



Elizabeth Rogers and Eugene Friesen will present a holiday concert at Main Street Arts.

PHOTO PROVIDED

tan, Rogers now lives in southern Vermont. She sings original and traditional music that tells the stories of the large and small themes that run through a life. Her voice has been compared to Joan Baez and Joni Mitchell, and her music has been described as "transformational folk."

From Main Street Arts, the duo will be heading to the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in Manhattan for holiday performances. "We are delighted they have chosen Main Street Arts as the kickoff for their holiday concert tours," said Abigail Golde, chair of the Music in Quarter Time classical music series at MSA.

Tickets for the concert are sold at the door with reservations available by contacting MSA online at www.mainstreetarts.org or by calling 802-869-2960. A reception for the musicians and light refreshments will follow the concert.

Main Street Arts is a non-profit community arts center whose mission is to be a catalyst for arts and community, fostering creative expression through artistic experience accessible to all. It is handicapped accessible.

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Edgar may Health and Recreation CENTER

Run: Thursday, November 28th at 9:00 a.m. Course: Starts and ends at Springfield Hospital.
Registration: Opens at 8:00 a.m. Cost: \$20 if you register before Nov 15th, \$25 after.
or at our website and at active.com Register by 11/15 to receive a t-shirt.

Please bring a non-perishable item to donate to the Family Center.

holiday happenings

Christmas trees available in the National Forest

RUTLAND, Vt. – U.S. Forest Service officials in Vermont are encouraging the public to purchase Christmas tree removal permits should they be interested in a tree from the Green Mountain National Forest for the holidays.

In addition, this year, all fourth graders can again take advantage of the Every Kid Outdoors initiative and get a free Christmas tree voucher at www.everykidoutdoors.gov. Fourth graders that present a printed copy of the voucher may redeem it for an Every Kid Outdoors Pass and a Christmas tree removal permit at one of the U.S. Forest offices listed below. This is a one-time opportunity to cut down a Christmas tree on national forest land during the 2019 holiday season. Christ-

mas trees for personal use may be cut on the Green Mountain National Forest, subject to the following conditions:

A "Christmas Tree Removal" permit must be purchased at one of the Forest Service offices located in Rutland, Manchester Center, or Rochester, Vt. The permit must be attached to the tree before transporting it from the site where it was cut. The permit holder is responsible for knowing that the tree comes from Forest Service land. Maps are available when you purchase your permit. The height of the tree stump left after a tree has been cut should be six inches or less above the soil.

Trees over 20 feet tall are not designated for cutting by the Christmas tree permit. Christmas trees shall not be cut in ac-

tive timber sales, wilderness areas, campgrounds, picnic areas, or within 25 feet of any Forest Service, town, or state maintained road.

Only one Christmas tree permit will be issued per household per year. Permits are not refundable. Trees obtained under the Christmas tree permit may not be resold.

U.S. Forest Service offices in Vermont:

- Rutland, Forest Supervisor's Office, 231 North Main Street, Rutland, Vt. Call 802-747-6700.
- Manchester Ranger Station, 2538 Depot St., Manchester Center, Vt. Call 802-362-2307.
- Rochester Ranger Station, 99 Ranger Rd., Rochester, Vt. Call 802-767-4261.

Ludlow Recreation Dept. Gingerbread House contest

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Ludlow Recreation Department is sponsoring its first ever Gingerbread House contest.

Houses must be edible. If using lighting, please use only solar or battery powered. No electricity, please. Entries must be submitted no later than Nov. 30. The categories will be determined upon number of entries. Ribbons will be awarded to first, second, and third place winner in each category.

So, get your family and friends together and have



Submit your own gingerbread house.

STOCK PHOTO

lots of fun making your best gingerbread house ever!

Entry forms for the contest are available at DJ's Restaurant, Ludlow Town Hall, Ludlow Community Center, Berkshire Bank, and People's United Bank. Entry forms should be returned to Nick Miele at the Rec. Center no later than Nov. 30. For more information, call Nick Miele, recreation director, at 802-228-2655. The gingerbread houses will be displayed in

the store window of DJ's Restaurant.

The Walpole Artisans 17th annual fall tour

WALPOLE, N.H. – The 17th annual Walpole Artisans Tour will once again be held Thanksgiving Weekend, Friday, Nov. 29 through Sunday, Dec. 1. The tour features the juried work of over 25 local artisans who create original artwork and fine crafts. This is an opportunity to meet the artisans and discuss their processes and products.

Perfect for the gift-giving season, items for sale represent a wide variety of mediums, including wool and silk scarves, hand-forged jewelry, fused glass art, blown-glass vases and paperweights, cloth and leather handbags, wood and leather candle holders, turned wooden bowls and pens, etched-glass stemware and mugs, etched

black onyx jewelry, metal garden sculptures, all-natural skin care products, wooden harps, original paintings and prints, holiday ornaments, and a wide variety of note cards.

Tour locations include:

- The Walpole Artisans gift shop, 52 Main Street, Walpole, N.H.
- The Walpole Town Hall, 34

Elm St., Walpole, N.H.

- Sherwin Art Glass, 33 Bridge St., Bellows Falls, Vt.

General hours of the tour are Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Walpole Artisans Cooperative Gallery. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Walpole-Artisans-Cooperative or email thewalpoleartisans@gmail.com.

BFDDA Open House Weekend

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance is hosting an Open House Weekend from Friday, Nov. 29 through Mon-

day, Dec. 2. Join us for Plaid Friday, Small Business Saturday, Open House Sunday, and Cider Monday. Our Shop Local cards are distributed to almost

60 locations throughout Bellows Falls, Rockingham, Saxtons River, and Westminster, Vt. Go to www.bellowsfallsvt.org for more details.



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- Visit with Santa 11- 2:30 at The Vermont Country Store
- Horse Drawn Wagon Rides 11-3:30 at The Vermont Country Store (Weather permitting)
- Petting Farm from North Meadow Farm 11-3:30 behind Mildred's Grill
- The Little School Cookout 11- 2:30 Housemade Sausage, Peppers and Onions from The Downtown Grocery
- The Firemen's Cookout 11- 2:30 Burgers, Hot Dogs and Fixins' on the Green
- Children's Craft Workshop 11-3:30 At The Little School
- Toasting Marshmallows 11-3:30 at the Weston Village Store
- Hot Cider and Homemade Cookies 11-3:30 at the Weston Village Christmas Shop
- Cookie Decorating & Museum Tours 11- 3:30 at the Farrar- Mansur House & Mill

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- Readings of "Donkey and Carlo" and "Donkey it's snowing" 11:30-12 at the Village Green Gallery. Books were written and illustrated by Elaine Raphael and Don Bolognese. Read by UK Actor and Director Daymon Britton.
- Magician Two Shows: 12- 12:30 & 2:30- 3 Face Painting 11-3 at the Weston Playhouse
- Reading of "The Night Before Christmas" 12:45 - 1:15 at the Wilder Memorial Library
- Martha Welch Vintage Button Jewelry See handcrafted Vintage Button Jewelry 1-3 at Weston Village Gallery
- Reading of "A Christmas Carol" 1:15 - 2 at The Old Parish Church
- Christmas Caroling 2:15 - 3 at The Church on the Hill
- Enjoy Chili, Cookies plus Mac n' Cheese and Apple Cider Donuts provided by The Grafton Market.

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Overture to Christmas

Celebrate Chester's 35th Overture to Christmas

CHESTER, Vt. – Join your community in Chester to celebrate the Overture to Christmas, beginning Dec. 1 and continuing through Dec. 8.

On Sunday, Dec. 1 at 6 p.m., kick off the Christmas season with Carols, Cookies, and Cocoa at the Chester Congregational Church.

On Monday, Dec. 2, from 4-5 p.m., kids in pre-K through second grade can join in Gingerbread House Building at the Fullerton Inn. On Wednesday, Dec. 4, from 4-5 p.m., kids in third through sixth grade can make their own gingerbread houses at Fullerton Inn.

On Thursday, Dec. 5 and Friday, Dec. 6, from 3-5 p.m. both days, kids can enjoy painting at Endless Creations. Thursday will be for kids in kindergarten through third grade. Friday will be for kids in fourth through sixth grade.

The weeklong activities lead up to Saturday, Dec. 7, with a full day's schedule of fun for the whole family.

- 11 a.m. St. Luke's Christmas Tea & Bazaar

- 1-3 p.m. Crafts for older children at MacLaomainn's Pub



Don't miss Chester's Overture to Christmas and start off your holiday season with the family.

PHOTO PROVIDED

- 1-2 p.m. Story time for younger children at Blair Books & More

- 2:30 p.m. Live Nativity at Chester Baptist Church

- 3:30 p.m. Santa parade and tree lighting. Visit with Santa at Fullerton Inn

- 7:30 p.m. Springfield Community Chorus at Chester Baptist Church

To round out the weekend, join the Chester Holiday Cookie Tour, Sunday, Dec. 8, from 12-4 p.m. Visit historic homes, talk to owners, meet neighbors, and sample homemade cookies. Passports can be purchased at Southern Pie Cafe on the green. Sales are limited. Proceeds benefit the Chester-Andover Family Center and Overture to Christmas 2020.

On Saturday, Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., is the annual Christmas Tea and Holiday Bazaar in Willard Hall at St. Luke's Church, 313 Main Street, Chester. A festive focus at Chester's Overture to Christmas, this event is the traditional kickoff to the Christmas season for many in Vermont, New Hampshire, and nearby states. It's a lovely way to celebrate the season with friends by eating and chatting at festively decorated tables while enjoying an enhanced high tea, featuring delicious light sandwiches and scrumptious sweets.

St. Luke's famous Christmas Tea and Holiday Bazaar

Just a few feet away, the Holiday Bazaar makes shopping for special gifts very quick and easy. Offerings include unique handcrafted and quilted items, live evergreen and hand-sewn Christmas decorations and ornaments, original floral note cards and candles, and much more. New this year is a pet corner with tasty treats and special gifts for favorite furry friends. The C-



Beautiful Christmas buffet table arrangement.

PHOTO PROVIDED

linary Classics table offers a delicious array of handmade chocolates, baked goods, jams, soups, and casseroles that will ease cooking at this busy time of year and brighten up any winter day. Another favorite feature of the event is Grandma's Attic, where former treasures and practical items for one person can become a collectible or practical solution for a new owner.

This event is a joyous time for delicious food and conversation and the discovery of special presents and treats. So, invite a friend to lunch and shop at this special holiday tradition. For more information and directions, please visit www.stlukesepis-copalvt.org.

HOLIDAY BAZAARS AND CRAFT FAIRS

NOV. 30 – LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River High School 40th annual Christmas Craft Fair comes to Ludlow Saturday, Nov. 30,

2019, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., featuring 50 quality artists and crafters displaying their talents. Items for sale will include baskets, pottery, jewelry, fleece,

goat cheese, hats, mittens, Vermont maple syrup, herbal soaps, dips, bird houses, ornaments, quilts, wooden folk art, handmade gift cards, photography, and plenty more. Black River Senior Class will be selling fresh balsam wreaths and offering a homemade lunch. This will be a great time to get a head start on your holiday shopping, and we promise there will be something for everyone! Parking is free and there is no admission fee.

GRAFTON, Vt. – On Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019, Grafton Community Church will hold their annual Christmas Bazaar and Food Sale in the Chapel at 4 Main Street, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Hot lunch will be available along with baked goods and handmade items. Vendors will also be selling their creations at the Robinson House, 72 Main Street, across the street from the church from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

READING, Vt. – The fourth annual Reading Holiday Craft Fair, sponsored by the Reading Historical Society, will be Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Reading Town Hall, 799 Route 106. Come for the quality handmade crafts by local artisans, woodworking, jewelry, custom greeting cards, photography, pottery, home and garden decor, yarn and fiber art, and more. Lunch will be available for purchase. Free admission.

S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The annual Christmas Bazaar at Second Congregational Church will once again be held the first Saturday of December, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Church Friendship Room. There will be handmade wreaths to purchase and decorate, a delicious lunch, a cookie walk, crafts and gift items, and much fun to be had! Come join us for a wonderful day to get into the Christmas spirit! For more information, please call the church office, 802-824-6453.

DEC. 6 – LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Don't miss the Flood Brook Students Activities Cooperative annual Holiday Bazaar Friday, Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Flood Brook School Gymnasium. Enjoy local products, a silent auction, refreshments, arts and crafts, 50/50 raffle, and a bake sale. Help support arts and enrichment programs for the students of Flood Brook. For more information, please email nadinevanhouten@yahoo.com.

DEC. 7 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Area Senior Center Holiday Bazaar will be held Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will have a very exciting raffle coming up just in time for the holidays. Tickets can be purchased at the senior center. The winner will be drawn at the bazaar. Come check out the handcrafted items and bake sale at 18 Tuttle St.

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sports



THIS AND THAT

BY BILL MURPHY

The Vermont Journal & The Shopper



Following every high school football season, Vermont holds a North-South football game featuring All-Star players from all over the state. This year's game was at Castleton State University. The South team owned the day defeating the North 47-9. The series is close to even as the North now leads the overall standing 11-8. Pictured: Springfield Cosmo Noah Zierfus knocks down a pass intended for North receiver (84) David Hutchinson of St. Johnsbury.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

During this holiday week, we take a moment to look back and reflect on the recently completed fall sports season by presenting you a number of photographs taken by our sports photographer Doug MacPhee. Many pictures are worth more than words.



When it comes down to All-Star football games, rivals often play along side each other. This photo shows two South linebackers who stood out in the game. Springfield's Brady Clark (32) is lined up beside Bellows Falls' Hunter Smith (62). This is not the first time these two had been teammates. Clark competed for the Terriers his first three years of high school when he was attending Vermont Academy.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



Exactly one week prior to the All-Star game, Brattleboro defeated Bellows Falls in the Vermont Division II State Championship football game. In that contest, Brattleboro's Tyler Millerick led the way to victory and Bellows Falls' Dylan Clark was on the losing end. In the North-South victory, Millerick was throwing the ball to Clark, including for the opening score of the game. Clark (80) is shown making another catch in the game.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



Green Mountain's Eben Mosher (9) making a play in Green Mountain's 4-3 golden goal overtime victory over Mill River in the Vermont Division III Boys Soccer Title Game.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

Okemo Mountain School to host Trot It Off 5k fundraiser

LUDLOW, Vt. – On Nov. 29, 2019, Okemo Mountain School is scheduled to host Trot It Off, a 5k running and walking race. This community event that takes place each year on the Friday fol-

lowing Thanksgiving is perfect for the avid runner or the recreational walker hoping to burn off the calories from that extra serving of Thanksgiving pie.

Proceeds go to the Wendy

Neal Scholarship Fund. All participants will receive an event gift. The Tots Trot, a kids' fun race for children 10 and younger, will take place just before the 5k. Registration will start at 8:30

a.m. on the day of the event in the Cornerstone Room at Okemo's Jackson Gore Inn. The Tots Trot will start at 9:15 a.m. and the 5k race will start at 9:30 a.m. Okemo Mountain School is

a nonprofit educational institution dedicated to the academic and athletic development of serious snow sports athletes. Student-athletes train in alpine ski racing, snowboarding, and

freestyle skiing while pursuing a rigorous course of academic study.

For more information, or to register for the event, visit www.okemomountainsschool.org.

pet of the week



My name's Fritz, and I'm a 3-year-old neutered male. I came to Lucy Mackenzie when things didn't work out for me in my previous home. Now I'm on the lookout for a new home with a new human or humans who will help me get all of my endearing – and loveable! – energy out. I have a lot of playfulness in me, you see. Usually, a cat laser-pointer will do the trick, but any sort of fun cat toys will do. I love them all, and promise you I will not be particular. The only thing I'd be particular about is being an "only animal" in the home. No other cats or dogs or children, please. Other than that, I'm easy, handsome – and did I mention energetic? If you think you may just be the cat-savvy human companion for me, then drop by the shelter and come visit me today!

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Learn if curling is the sport for you

HARTFORD, Vt. – Curling is a fast-growing sport in New England, but it has been played here for many, many years – it's not just something to watch on TV. There is a very active curling club in the Upper Valley and members share their love of the game at "Learn to Curl!" sessions in Hartford.

They have two sessions scheduled for the month of December: Tuesday morning, Dec. 3 at 9:30 a.m. and Saturday, Dec. 7 at 5:45 p.m. Experienced curlers will hold a short course on curling for people who have not yet played the game. The club regularly plays in White River Junction at the Barwood Arena. Many people watched the USA win gold in curling at the last Winter Olympics. Whether you watched then or not, here is your chance to find out how much fun the game can be.

Registration is required. The club provides all equipment; all you need to do is wear warm clothing, including a hat and gloves, and bring shoes with clean, non-skid soles. Register at www.uppervalleycurling.org. Space is limited, so sign up

early.

For more information, please email uppervalleycurling@gmail.com. The club also has league play and drop-in curling games. The Barwood Arena is located behind Hartford High School at 45 Highland Ave.



Delivering the curling stone.

PHOTO PROVIDED

arts & entertainment

FOLA announces main schedule for 2020 season

LUDLOW, Vt. – Friends of Ludlow Auditorium announces its main schedule for the forthcoming 2020 season. In its recent meeting, the FOLA Board of Directors Program Committee presented its recommendations for the new year, which were adopted by the board.

The 2020 season will begin with a documentary on the ascent of the second tallest mountain in the world, K2, a mountain considered by climbers to be far more difficult and demanding than Mt. Everest.

FOLA will continue its series of three movies featuring well-known performers and directors. This year's series will feature three outstanding films starring Robin Williams. The annual Silent Movie Festival will feature a classic comedy by Harold Lloyd, "The Freshman."

The full schedule for FOLA



The FOLA 2020 season begins with "K2: Beyond the Comfort Zone." PHOTO PROVIDED

events, which start at 7 p.m. in the Heald Auditorium, in 2020 will include:

- Jan. 4 – "K2: Beyond the Comfort Zone"
- Feb. 8 – "Easy Rider"
- March 14 – "The King and I"
- April 18 – "Moscow on the Hudson"
- May 2 – "Good Morning Vietnam"
- May 16 – "Awakenings"
- June 20 – "O Brother, Where Art Thou"
- July 11 – "Apollo 11"
- July 25 – "Duck Soup"
- Aug. 15 – Silent Movie Festival, "The Freshman"
- Aug. 29 – "Green Book"
- Sep. 19 – "The Anchorman"

- Oct. 3 – "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane"
 - Oct. 24 – "Abbott & Costello Meet Frankenstein"
 - Nov. 14 – "Plane, Trains, and Automobiles"
 - Dec. 19 – Community Christmas Celebration
- In addition to these scheduled dates, FOLA may add additional events, which will be announced during 2020. As is the policy of FOLA, all of these events are free and open to everyone; donations are appreciated to cover the costs of the planned events and activities. For more information, call 802-228-3238 or go to www.fola.us.

BRAM introduces international folk dancing

LUDLOW, Vt. – Let's dance away those winter blues by joining Melissa Lovell Post at the Black River Academy Museum Friday mornings, Dec. 6, 13, and 20, from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., at 14 High St. in Ludlow. The dances will be at the begin-

ner to intermediate level. No partner is necessary. All beginners are welcome. Dances will come from Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, Hungary, Romania, Greece, Albania, France, Israel, and the USA. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes that slide easily on wooden floors. For more information, contact Melissa at 802-875-4102 or email her at goodwood@vermontel.net.

Dirty Deeds, the AC/DC experience

CLAREMONT, N.H. – On Saturday, Nov. 30 at 8 p.m., Claremont Opera House welcomes for the first time on its stage, Dirty Deeds, the AC/DC Experience out of Boston. The band has been touring the country for over 20 years bringing forth their high energy and wildly entertaining tribute to one of the world's best rock bands, AC/DC!

Dirty Deeds' performance revisits all of the timeless AC/DC hits along with a theatrical ride through rock n' roll history bringing you back to the early music that

was at the roots of AC/DC's rise to stardom. Earning a reputation for their attention to detail and passion for AC/DC, Dirty Deeds recreate the exact sound of AC/DC by performing the songs authentically note for note along with capturing the unique and exact tone that the super group has come to be known for.

Band members love the music and always make the fans part of the show. One band member said, "It's the best music there is. It's energy. It's a party. It's a show. It's Rock and Roll!"

Tickets can be purchased in advance at

Don't miss Dirty Deeds. PHOTO PROVIDED

toperhouse.org, by phone at 603-542-4433, or in person at the Opera House Box Office in City Hall Complex at 58 Opera House Square. Tickets are also available night of show. Beer and wine sales available before the show and during intermission from Sweet Fire BBQ.

Gilfeather Turnip Dinner at Four Columns Inn

NEWFANE, Vt. – For one night only, Friday, Dec. 6, the Four Columns Artisan Restaurant in Newfane, Vt., and the Friends of the Wardsboro Library invite everyone to celebrate the season of the Gilfeather turnip, Vermont's State Vegetable, with three special dishes added to the restaurant's regular dinner menu.

Nick Squires, general manager at the Four Columns says, "We are honored to host the Gilfeather dinner at what has become an annual tradition as people look forward to supporting such a worthy cause."

The dinner menu specials for this one evening, which is a fundraiser for the organization, include the same Vermont-grown ingredient – Gilfeather turnips from Dutton's Farm in Newfane. Chef de Cuisine Erin Bevan says, "The Gilfeather turnip is a remarkable vegetable in that it lends itself to both sweet and savory applications, and that it is so versatile, yielding a variety of different taste ex-

periences depending on treatment. The Gilfeather deserves to be the focus of a menu for this very reason, I plan to use this heirloom vegetable in six different ways over three courses, and in no way will it be redundant or boring."

Diners have two options for ordering from the menu. They may choose the prix-fixe menu as a three-course meal or order just one or two of the special Gilfeather Turnip dishes.

The menu is mouthwateringly layered with flavors and textures. For starters, there will be a warm Gilfeather Sformato, with wild mushrooms, flax crisps, cider crème fraiche, pickled Gilfeather, and petit mustard green salad. A "sformato" is an Italian version of a soufflé.

For the main course, diners may try Gilfeather Gnocchi, lightly sauced in an oxtail ragu made from local beef, over a Trout River Trout Trout beer and Gilfeather puree, served with Dutton's Farm kale, Parish Hill Reverie cheese, and for a bite of crisp, Gilfeather chips.

For dessert, Chef Erin is making Gilfeather Napoleons with Vermont maple and Gilfeather crème and Scott Farm heirloom apple gelee, in a spiced puff pastry, garnished with bourbon-caramel and dark chocolate.

The dinner is, in part, a

benefit for the Friends of the Wardsboro Library, recent hosts of the Gilfeather Turnip Festival. The festival's co-chair, Linda Giffkins of Wardsboro, says, "The Friends just held their most successful Gilfeather Turnip Festival at the end of October, at which they sold more than 1,000 pounds of Gilfeather turnips and 50 gallons of Gilfeather turnip soup. The December dinner at Artisan at Four Columns is a great opportunity to discover new ways of cooking Vermont's favorite turnip."

There is a suggested donation per check, which the Four Columns Inn has generously offered to match. The funds raised support the 1840s farmhouse and barn, which houses the Wardsboro Public Library. The Third Edition of the Gilfeather Turnip Cookbook and some unique handmade turnip ornaments will be on sale at the event.

The Four Columns Artisan Restaurant is at 21 West St. in Newfane, Vt. Dinner hours are 5:30-8:30 p.m. For reservations for Friday, Dec. 6 for the Gilfeather menu dinner, call 802-365-7713 or go to www.fourcolumnsvt.com/reservations.

Learn more about the lore, cultivation, and gastronomy of the Gilfeather turnip at www.wardsborovermont.com.

Musicians wanted for Springfield Community Band

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Community Band will be presenting its first-ever spring concert in April. Rehearsals are already in progress, but the band still needs clarinets, percussion, and flutes. Next rehearsal is Dec. 3. If you have experience with any of these instruments and you'd like to join a vibrant, friendly, and fun musical ensemble, please email info@springfieldcommunityband.com.

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arts & entertainment

Mark Breen presents “The Star of Bethlehem” at OLLI —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — Mark Breen will appear for his ninth OLLI program Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. at the Nolin Murray Center next to St. Mary’s Catholic Church on Pleasant Street in Springfield, Vt. A favorite presenter, he has created a special program with a seasonal theme: “The Star of Bethlehem.”

During the Christmas season, we see images and figurines and hear songs about three wise men following a star to Bethlehem. Did this really happen? Countless astronomers, philosophers, and theologians have examined the account in the Gospel of Matthew, other historical accounts of the time, and combined this with our knowledge of astronomy. Breen will retrace these investigations, offering a fascinating exploration of history and astronomy. Was the Star of Bethlehem real? Let’s

find out!

Mark Breen is the VPR voice of “Eye on the Sky” weather forecasts from Fairbanks Museum as well as host of “Eye on the Night Sky,” presenting astronomy lessons. As the senior meteorologist and planetarium director at the Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury, he brings a wealth of knowledge to share.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, affiliated with the University of Vermont, is a local membership program for those who want to engage in meaningful learning “just for the fun of it!”

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

2 p.m. Membership for the semester includes nine programs. Non-members are welcome to attend individual lectures for a single program fee. Single program fees may be paid at the program.

The next OLLI program will be Tuesday, Dec. 10 and will be the rescheduled program with Dr. Robert Hamill, “Protecting the Aging Brain: Lifestyle Matters.” This will be the final program of this semester. The Winter/Spring 2020 semester starts Jan. 28 with many exciting and interesting programs planned.

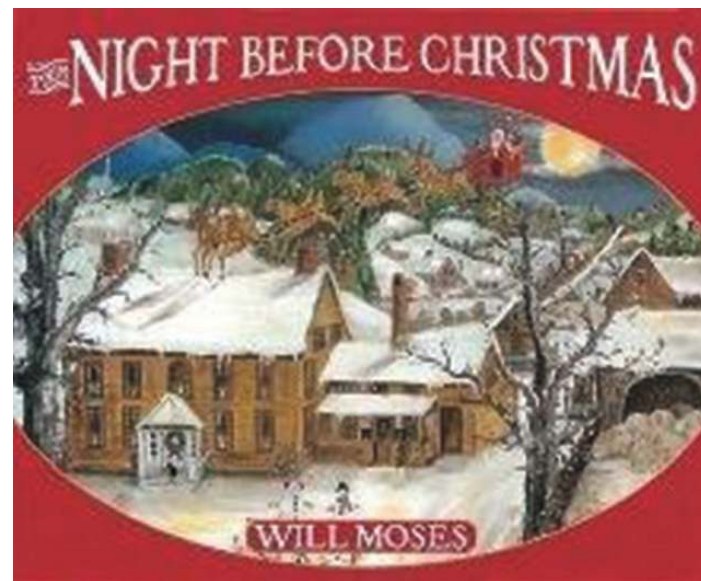
The complete program list is available at www.learn.uvm.edu/olli. For weather-related changes to the schedule, you may check the above mentioned website or SAPA TV, 802-885-6248, or call 802-885-3094.

Mercantile to host Will Moses for signing event —

GRAFTON, Vt. — Famed folk artist and illustrator Will Moses will make an appearance at Mercantile in Grafton Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., as a part of the village’s Christmas in Grafton festival.

Will is the great-grandson of Anna Mary Robinson “Grandma” Moses. While he paints in a style reminiscent of his celebrated great-grandmother, Will’s style is more complex and sophisticated. “Will has created a vivid, delightful miniature world, peopled with villagers who have stepped out of the past to charm us with their simple, everyday pastimes.”

Will still creates his art in the same 200-year-old farmhouse in Eagle Bridge, N.Y. where his great-grand-



“The Night Before Christmas,” illustrated by Will Moses.

PHOTO PROVIDED

mother began her career. Will has created a delightful line of illustrated children’s books, puzzles, calendars, and cards. All of which Will will be happy to sign and personalize during the event. These hand-signed heirlooms will make the perfect holiday gifts. Should you

not be able to make the event, you can stop by Mercantile to pre-purchase your item with signing instructions and then pick up after the event.

For more information, please call Mercantile at 802-289-4566 or email mercantilegrafton@gmail.com.

Village Square Booksellers hosts authors Thanksgiving Weekend

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — Village Square Booksellers in Bel- lows Falls, Vt. welcomes Ben Z. Rose, author of “John Stark: Maverick General,” Saturday, Nov. 30 at 1 p.m. and Tom Fontaine, author of “Grafton’s Medical Men,” Sunday, Dec. 1 at 1 p.m.

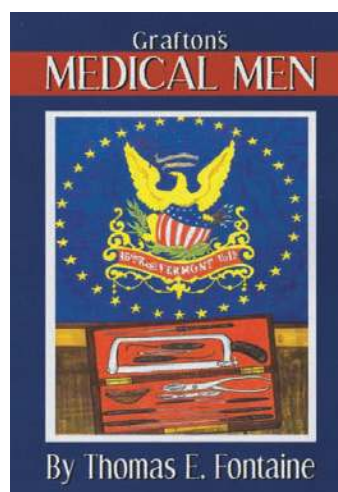
Ben Z. Rose’s “John Stark: Maverick General” brings to life the legendary hero of the New England militia during America’s War of Independence. John Stark survived Indian captivity and later fought alongside the British in the French and Indian War as part of Rogers Rangers, the forerunner to today’s U.S. Army Rangers.

Author Ben Z. Rose has been

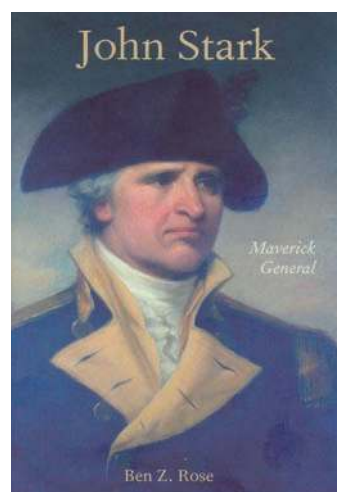
a featured speaker at numerous bookstores, museums, historical societies, and civic groups. His writing have been featured in the Boston Globe, the Manchester Union Leader, and the Walloomsack Review. He has been a guest on Vermont and New Hampshire Public Radio.

Tom Fontaine’s “Grafton’s Medical Men” takes young readers on an imaginative field trip across the battlefields of the Civil War to the canvas medical tents and surgical tables where two Grafton doctors struggle to keep the wounded alive during the historic Battle of Gettysburg.

This book is Fontaine’s third in a series, sometimes fictionalized, on the role the men and



Thomas E. Fontaine. PHOTO PROVIDED



Ben Z. Rose. PHOTO PROVIDED

boys from Grafton, Vt. played in the Civil War. The Grafton Historical Society published his three books. Fontaine has been

in education for over 30 years. For more information or event reservations, call 802-463-9404.

Auditions for “Noises Off”

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. — Main Street Arts is holding auditions for its production of the British comedy “Noises Off,” scheduled for performances during its Great River Theater Festival next summer.

Auditions are Friday, Dec. 6, from 6 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 7, from 3 to 6 p.m., with call backs Sunday, Dec. 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. Rehearsals will begin in May and will typically be held two evenings a week and weekend mornings. Performances are July 10-19.

Those auditioning should expect to read from the play and work into a scene or two. Anyone not able to attend either audition may contact director David Stern at dstern@mainstreetarts.org to arrange an alternative audition time. A list of roles is available on the MSA website at www.mainstreetarts.org.

The 1982 comedy by Michael Frayn takes its name from the

theatrical direction indicating sounds coming from offstage. The play deals with what’s happening on both sides of the curtain, as the characters play off each other off-stage to undermine the on-stage action, with plenty of slapstick thrown

in. Nominee for multiple Tony awards, including three for best play or best revival of a play, it also received Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and Drama League nominations and awards. “Noises Off” has become a staple of profes-

sional and community theater companies on both sides of the Atlantic and, most recently, opened in October for a revival in London’s West End.

Further information about Main Street Arts is available at www.mainstreetarts.org.

Fall Holiday Savings

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outdoor news

Early December is prime time for feeding birds

MONTPELIER, Vt. – The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and Audubon Vermont are urging Vermonters to prepare their bird feeders to put up around Dec. 1, the date recommended by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department to avoid attracting bears.

“Winter feeding is an opportunity to witness first-hand the array of bird life found near our homes,” said Doug Morin, Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s bird project leader. “But, in doing so, we need to wait until early December when most of Vermont’s black bears are normally in their dens.”

“With the first snowfall of the year blanketing the Green Mountain Audubon Center here in Huntington, the urge to put out our feeders is strong,” said Audubon Vermont Education Program Coordinator Debbie Archer, “but we urge folks to follow the recommendations from Vermont Fish and Wildlife to wait on putting out feeders to protect the bears that are thriving in Vermont.”

Vermont’s bear biologist, Forrest Hammond, says the availability of fall foods is the most important factor determining when bears go into



Vermont Fish & Wildlife and Audubon Vermont urge waiting until Dec. 1 to feed birds to avoid attracting bears. PHOTO BY JOHN HALL

their dens. “Pregnant sows tend to den earlier than the rest of the bear population,” said Hammond. “But, we urge folks who are feeding birds to be vigilant for signs of bears because they can re-emerge for short feeding forays if there is a period of warm weather. If you see bear tracks or bears are raiding bird feeders in your area, you need to take the feeders down until later.”

Hammond points out that bears are especially attracted to black oil sunflower seed and suet, and that they can smell

both from very long distances. He also adds that a bear that learns to get food from people will continue to do so, potentially leading to property damage and dangerous encounters with people, which can result in the bear’s demise.

We offer these tips for successful bird feeding:

- Make sure your feeders are free of potentially harmful bacteria and viruses by cleaning them with a 10% bleach solution and rinsing with water.
- Place feeders far enough from windows to reduce the likelihood of birds colliding into them. Collisions are a major source of bird mortality each year. Feeders 4 to 10 feet away from windows cause the most problems as birds flush off a feeder and hit windows with a lot of speed.
- Keep cats inside, as domestic cats kill thousands of birds each year, and bird feeders can make birds particularly easy prey for them.

Muzzleloader and second archery deer seasons, Dec. 7-15

MONTPELIER, Vt. – Vermont’s hunters will get one final chance for a deer this year during the muzzleloader deer season and the second part of the archery deer season. The two seasons run at the same time – Dec. 7-15.

A muzzleloader hunter may take one legal buck anywhere in the state. In addition, a hunter who received a muzzleloader antlerless deer permit may take one antlerless deer in the Wildlife Management Unit designated on the permit.

An archery hunter may take a legal buck anywhere in the state, provided they didn’t take one in the earlier part of archery season. An archery hunter may take an antlerless deer anywhere in the state.

A legal buck is a deer with at least one antler having two or more points one inch or longer.

An antlerless deer is a deer without antlers or with



Get ready for muzzleloader and second archery seasons, Dec. 7-15. PHOTO BY JOHN HALL

no antler longer than three inches.

A deer with three-inch or longer spike antlers may not be taken during the archery, November rifle, or muzzleloader seasons.

A muzzleloader or archery license is required in addition to a standard hunting license, except for a nonresident who chooses to purchase just a limited archery license for the archery season.

Vermont hunters may take up to three deer in a calendar year with appropriate licenses and permits for each deer season. Only two of the three deer in the annual limit may be legal bucks, but only one legal buck may be taken in each season. Check the 2019 Vermont Hunting & Trapping Guide for regulation details. It’s available free where licenses are sold and on Fish and Wildlife’s website: www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

2020 baitfish regulations expand opportunity for Vermont anglers

MONTPELIER, Vt. – On Jan. 1, 2020, new baitfish regulations will go into effect aimed at providing anglers with additional opportunities to use and harvest baitfish. “We spent the last two years listening to the public and working with the Fish and Wildlife Board to improve regulations while limiting the spread of fish diseases and invasive species,” said Vermont Fish and

Wildlife Department Fisheries biologist Shawn Good. “I think anglers will be pleasantly surprised by these new regulations.”

Some changes include:

- Baitfish transportation receipts will be valid for 10 days instead of four days.
- Bait can be moved between water bodies in two separate baitfish zones, an East Zone and a West Zone, as long as the water body isn’t listed as a Black-List Water.
- Some waters are now defined as Black-List Waters. These waters have known invasive species or fish diseases so baitfish can still only be used on this water and not on any other water body.
- Some species of wild baitfish may be harvested and moved within a Baitfish Zone if the person harvesting bait passes a free Baitfish Endorsement Quiz and adds this tag to their fishing or combination license.



New baitfish regulations will go into effect Jan. 1 to provide anglers with additional opportunities to use and harvest baitfish. PHOTO PROVIDED

“While these regulations provide more opportunities for baitfish use, anglers should still be aware of the risks of moving bait,” said Good. “Always discard unwanted baitfish in an appropriate location on land or in the trash, and drain and let dry all water from your boat, motor, bilge, live wells, and bait bucket to remove the threat of introducing microscopic invasive species and diseases from one water body to the next.”

For more information and the full list of rules, please visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com/using-baitfish-in-vermont.

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Bellows Falls Middle School PTO Ski Sale

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Saturday, Dec. 7, Bellows Falls Middle School PTO is having our annual Ski Sale, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the cafeteria. Great prices on ski equipment with all proceeds benefiting student activities. Baked goods and drinks will be available for purchase. Cash and checks accepted. Bellows Falls Middle School, 15 School St., Bellows Falls, Vt. Enter through Cherry Hill Street entrance.

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SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Horse hay 2019 first cut, dry round bales. Under cover, not wrapped. \$40 each. Also for sale, several 4X4 diesel tractors. Call 802-885-4669. (12/10)

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SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. - Available apartments: 2, 3, 4 bdrm, H/HW, W/D hookups. Rent 30% of income, income limits do apply. Equal Housing Opportunity. Contact Kathy 463-9863. (12/24)

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STRATTON, Vt. - Stratton Mountain Resort is currently seeking parking staff: FT Parking Lead and PT Parking attendants. Seasons pass, employee discounts, and endless sunrises waiting for you! Apply today at www.stratton.com/employment. (12/03) (802-297-4806)

LUDLOW, Vt. - Mary W. Davis

Realtor & Associates in Ludlow is looking for an Administrative Assistant. Candidate will possess excellent computer skills and be proficient in Microsoft Access, Word and Excel, as well as Adobe InDesign, Illustrator and Photoshop. Must have experience with database management and possess good language skills. Knowledge of computer networking is desired. Ability to work well in a team environment is a must. Send resume and cover letter to: reagentvt@gmail.com. (TFN)

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TOWN OF CHESTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY TRUCK DRIVER/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/LABORER

The Town of Chester has a full time employment opportunity available in its Public Works Department. This job is specific to the position of Truck Driver/Equipment Operator/Laborer and includes work involving heavy equipment operation, dump truck operation and snow plowing. In addition, this position performs a variety of unskilled and semi-skilled maintenance work, and operates a variety of equipment in the construction, operation, repair, maintenance and replacement of town roads and storm drain facilities and systems.

A CDL is required for all applicants. Two years of experience is preferred.

Please submit Employment Application and Resume to the Chester Town Manager's Office, 556 Elm Street, P.O. Box 370, Chester, Vt, 05143 **no later than 3:00 p.m. on December 13, 2019.**

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Chester, VT 05143

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NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION TOWN OF ROCKINGHAM NUISANCE, BLIGHTED, UNSOUND, OR ABANDONED PROPERTY ORDINANCE

Pursuant to Title 24, Vermont Statutes Annotated, Sections 1972 and 1973, the Selectboard of the Town of Rockingham, Vermont, adopted the following Town Ordinance on November 19, 2019:

AN ORDINANCE TO ADDRESS PROPERTIES THAT ARE IN A STATE OF DISREPAIR AND DETERIORATION, ABANDONED, OR POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS AND ARE DEEMED PUBLIC NUISANCES.

The Ordinance shall become effective sixty days after the vote to adopt. The adoption of the Ordinance may be disapproved by a vote of a majority of the qualified voters of the Town voting at an annual or special meeting duly warned for the purpose, pursuant to a petition for a vote on the question of approving the adoption. A petition for a vote on the question of approving the adoption shall be signed by no less than five percent of the qualified voters of the Town of Rockingham, and presented to the Selectboard of Town Clerk within forty-four days following the date of action by the Selectboard.

The full text of the Ordinance is available for review at the Rockingham Town Clerk's Office/ Municipal Managers Office, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, contact Municipal Manager, Wendy Harrison, Town Hall, 7 Square (P. O. Box 370), Bellows Falls, Vermont, tel. 802-463-3964. The municipal website may be found at www.rockbf.org. It is updated as needed.

Town of Londonderry, Vermont Development Review Board Notice of Public Hearing

The Londonderry Development Review Board will meet at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at the Twitchell Building Town Office, 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT for a Public Hearing on the following Applications:

Application 2019-48 by Marie and Roger Sheehan - Request for a Variance on Appeal of Zoning Administrator's decision to deny construction of new 29' by 49' garage as accessory to an existing single-family dwelling, located on Parcel 066034.000 at 114 Brophy Lane.

Application 2019-43 by Judith and Thomas Platt - Appeal of Zoning Administrator's decision to deny the replacement of an attached greenhouse with a wood frame addition of the same dimensions, on Parcel 102023.000 located at 2136 North Main Street.

Application materials are available for inspection at the Town Office or by email from the Zoning Administrator at townadmin@londonderryvt.org. Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Sections 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in the local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Posted and distributed November 21, 2019

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calendar

REAL ESTATE

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

DEC. 7 – GRAFTON, Vt. – The Nature Museum presents “Paper Snowflake Craft Day,” Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Learn a little of the science behind these crystalline shapes while cutting paper snowflakes to take home. Revel in the warmth of the holiday spirit while enjoying homemade hot cocoa and cookies.

CLUBS

TUESDAYS – KEENE, N.H. – Keene Cheshiremen Chorus rehearsals Tuesdays, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship, 25 Roxbury St., in Keene. As the oldest chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society in New Hampshire, we welcome any male singers – no training necessary. We’re now starting work on Christmas music. Visit www.cheshiremen.org, call 877-312-7467, or email info@cheshiremen.org.

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

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

LUDLOW, Vt. – Looking for a friendly game of bridge? Want to learn how to play or update your rusty skills? We play every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High St. in Ludlow. You are most welcome to join us. For more information, call 802-228-2983.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Great Hall Handcrafters group meets every Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. at The Great Hall Gallery, located

at 100 River St. in Springfield. Bring a project to work on, including knitting, crocheting, embroidery, quilting, rug hooking, rug braiding, basket making, or anything alike.

SATURDAYS – MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. – Still-life drawing. The Mount Holly Artists Group meets at 10:30 a.m. in the community center room under the 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.

SUNDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Catamount Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol meets every Sunday, from 3:30-6:30 p.m. at Squadron Headquarters, 13 Airport Rd., N. Springfield. Cadets ages 12-plus at these meetings go through indoor and outdoor classes learning about becoming a ground team member. For further information, contact Captain Williams 802-886-8199 or the squadron at 802-558-5571.

a.m. to 9 p.m. Enjoy discounted farmhouse pottery and receive a free 4-inch glass evergreen when you spend a certain amount on Simon Pearce gifts. A local farm will be there with a selection of holiday wreaths and trees. Serving cocoa and cookies too. Open every Friday night in December until 9 p.m.

NOV. 29 – NOV. 30 – CHESTER, Vt. – Chester-Andover Family Center is having their first Black Friday Weekend Sale Friday, Nov. 29, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 30, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Everything in the Thrift Shop will be half-price.

NOV. 29 – DEC. 1 – PUTNEY, Vt. – The 41st annual Putney Craft Tour happens Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 29 through Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Saxtons River and Putney. Glass blowers, potters, jewelers, weavers, painters, woodworkers, etc. invite visitors to come in to their studios, sip hot cider, and buy that one-of-a-kind gift directly from the artisan who made it. Visitors may start at The Gleanery Restaurant, 133 Main Street, in Putney for information, maps, and a preview exhibition of the artisans’ works. For more information, go to www.putneycrafts.com.

NOV. 29 – DEC. 3 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls celebrates the BFDDA Open House weekend from Friday, Nov. 29 – Dec. 2 with many special events including a Llama Llama Pajama Drive ending Tuesday, Dec. 3. On Plaid Friday, show your plaid for 10% off hardcover books. On Saturday at 1 p.m., see Ben Rose of “John Stark” biography. Sunday at 1 p.m. see Tom Fontaine with “Grafton’s Medical Men.” Many specials throughout the weekend. Enjoy Cider Monday for free cider and donuts. The pajamas collected will be donated locally to the Bellows Falls Police and Fire Department project.

DEC. 5 – CHESTER, Vt. – Sip & Shop Wine Tasting at Smokeshire Design Thursday, Dec. 5, from 5-7 p.m. Join us for a little sipping, shopping, and a drawing for two Simon Pearce wine glasses. Enter to win at this event. Drawing held at 6:30 p.m. Tasting courtesy of The Wine & Cheese Depot.

PUTNEY, Vt. – An evening with author David Blistein to discuss his book, “Opium: How an Ancient Flower Shaped and Poisoned Our World” Thursday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at Next Stage in

Putney. There will be a Q&A following the reading. Tickets available at the door or at www.nextstagearts.org. The event is a benefit with 100% of ticket sales supporting Groundworks Collaborative and Next Stage Arts Project.

DEC. 6 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Friday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m., Springfield UU will screen “Dancing with the Cannibal Giant: 5 Stories of the New Transition” at the Springfield UU Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Rd. Executive producer of the film, Chris Wood of Building a Local Economy in South Royalton, will join us for a discussion after the film. This documentary portrays “five remarkable stories of people and places transforming the world.” The film includes groups from Vermont and upstate New York. Free admission and popcorn. All are welcome.

DEC. 7 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Saturday, Dec. 7, Bellows Falls Middle School PTO is having our annual Ski Sale, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the cafeteria. Great prices on ski equipment with all proceeds benefiting student activities. Baked goods and drinks will be available for purchase. Cash and checks accepted. Bellows Falls

Middle School, 15 School St., Bellows Falls, Vt. Enter through Cherry Hill Street entrance.

CHESTER, Vt. – Gala Night Open House Party at Smokeshire Design Saturday, Dec. 7, from 5-8 p.m. Join us as we celebrate our second anniversary. Wine, beer, and hors d’oeuvres, festive music, and drawing for one lucky winner to choose from either a Simon Pearce evergreen or an Andrew Pearce wooden bowl. Enter all week long to win. No purchase necessary.

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Warren Miller film, “Timeless,” will be shown Saturday, Dec. 7, from 6:30-9 p.m. at Vermont Academy in Saxtons River. Tickets are available online at www.vtacademyparents.eventbrite.com. Film attendees will enjoy lift ticket deals and gear discounts from WME resort and retail partners. All moviegoers are entered into door prize drawings and the national sweepstakes to win gear, swag, and ski trips.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Wundergroove Dance Party Saturday, Dec. 7 at 9:30 p.m. until closing at Wunderbar in Bellows Falls. No cover. With guest DJ DVA spinning a diverse mix of funky dance tunes through the ages. Nightclub dance party atmosphere, great bespoke cocktails made in-house, and inclusive happy vibe. All welcome. Come dance with us.

WINDSOR, Vt. – Santa is coming to town by fire engine with a police escort this year! He will be arriving Saturday, Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. He will be at the Windsor House, 54 Main Street, Windsor, Vt., from 3 to 4 p.m. Bring your list and tell Santa whether you have been naughty or nice. Hot chocolate, cookies, books, and candy canes. All are welcome. For more information, call 802-738-6904.

FRIDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Smokeshire Design is hosting a Glass Friday event every Friday night in December until 9 p.m. Enjoy discounted Farmhouse Pottery and receive a free four-inch Glass Evergreen when you spend a certain amount on Simon Pearce gifts.

KIDS’ CORNER

DEC. 6 – GRAFTON, Vt. – Mighty Acorns Preschool Explorers Club presents “Fantastical Feathered Birds” Friday, Dec. 6, from 10-11:30 a.m., at The Nature Museum in Grafton. Investigate real bird wings, feathers, and nests to learn more about these high-flying creatures. We’ll also get a chance to try and build your own bird nest, observe real bird visitors at the museum’s bird feeders, and make your own natural bird feeder to take home. Learn more and register at www.nature-museum.org.

MONDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Children of all ages are invited to join the LEGO Club at the Whiting Library in Chester.



THM

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ANSWERS TO TAKE A BREAK!

— Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

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

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

MILD	HAS	SPAT
OREO	ULT	TRIO
LONGORIA	REDS	
ENDEAR	CRATES	
	STY	KAYO
OPIS	HUG	MERGE
USER	PEA	DION
TINEA	TUT	ADD
	SEND	TEA
BRONTE	OCTAVE	
YURT	EUPHORIA	
EMIR	MRS	LEER
SPAY	SLY	LAIS

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Lori Muse, Broker/Owner Carol Cole, REALTOR



Restored 1800's home offers lots of interior room with office, eat in Kitchen with pantry, formal dining room with built in's. Spacious living room with access to the porch, oversized bath with claw foot tub, curved hall leading to a grand staircase, upstairs with 4-5 bedrooms. Level lawn and two bay barn. A nice find in today's market. **\$149,900**



This Comfortable Cape Style Home has character and style. Includes an efficient kitchen with warm oak cabinets, large combination formal dining and living room with natural light, bright first floor bedroom and refinished bath, upstairs master suite with office space & large bedroom and lots of storage. Oversized detached garage has a side covered porch with views of local hillsides and a large back yard that connects to the next street. **REDUCED AGAIN TO \$114,000**



Not your average ranch style home. This Perkinsville home offers 2-3 bedrooms, open concept living space with large living room, kitchen and dining area. Includes laundry area on the first floor, two bedrooms, office, den, full bath and sliders to the back deck. Basement has a finished room for additional family room or bedroom. Lovely grounds with garden space, yard and shed. **JUST REDUCED AGAIN TO \$115,000**



Well maintained, tri-level home located in an established cul-de-sac. This 3 bedroom home offers a kitchen with lots of cabinet/storage space, formal dining room area with large picture window, spacious living room with access to the deck, long range and back yard views. Upstairs includes three bedrooms and a bath, downstairs includes a laundry/bath, spare/guest room and family room with fireplace and access to the attached two car garage with workshop. Outside offers a patio for summer evening enjoyment, multiple terraced gardens and beautiful stone scape, lily pad pond, perennials and shade trees. **\$179,900**

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Location! Location! Location!
Perfect For Business! Excellent Exposure, Plenty of Parking!
Chester, \$225,000



Country Home w/Privacy & Convenience! View of The West River, 4 Bedroom, 2 Baths
Newfane, \$199,000



Cape In Country Setting w/updates.
Great Room Addition Roughed In,
4 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 14.3+/- Acres
Athens, \$185,000



Ranch/Cottage on Open 0.75+/- Acres!
2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
Springfield, \$139,000



Cozy Cape Cod w/2 Car Garage and Breezeway
2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, 2.7 +/- Acres
Weathersfield, \$119,000



Commercial Building In Great Business Location!
In Good Condition
Springfield, \$109,900



54 +/- Acres! Peace & Privacy
Not Far To VAST Access
Athens, \$69,500



10.8 +/- Acres w/Country Location
Gently Wooded Lot, 4.9 of Acreage in Reading
Cavendish, \$39,900



GRAFTON
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CHESTER
802-875-2323



SPRINGFIELD
802-885-8282



NEWFANE
802-365-4311



AUTOMOTIVE

calendar

We will provide the LEGOs and DUPLOs, and you supply the imagination. The program is Mondays, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. For further information, call 802-875-2277, visit www.whitinglibrary.org, or check our Facebook.

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

TUESDAYS – CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Story time for toddlers and Pre-K at the Silsby Free Library from 10:30 a.m. Children and parents are invited for stories, songs, and finger plays. Session includes playtime, an activity, and a story time. Free and open to all.

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – Crafts, stories, and playtime for toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy stories, songs, crafts, and activities. Rockingham Free Public Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Contact 802-463-4270.

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

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Town Library story time, 43 Main St.,

10 a.m. Free and open to the public with stories, songs, and activities for the youngest readers. For more information, call the library at 802-885-3108.

WINDSOR, Vt. – Preschool and toddler story time every Wednesday, from 10:30-11:30 a.m., at Windsor Public Library, 43 State St. Each week features a theme, music, stories, and a craft. For more information, go to www.windsorlibrary.org or call 802-674-2556.

WEDNESDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Play group at First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls/Rockingham Recreation Center, from 9:30-11 a.m. Come join the fun! Healthy snack served. Call Molly 802-376-6204.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Story time for ages 5 and under on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Fletcher Memorial Library in Ludlow. Children and their caregivers are invited to join us each week for early literacy activities, STEM explorations, music, and more. Call Sacha at 802-228-3517 or email skrawczykvt@gmail.com for details.

THURSDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Edgar May Open Play Group, 10-11:30 a.m., at Studio Momentum, 71 Main Street. An active playtime specifically designed for children aged 6 months through 5 years. Free to member families. Call

802-885-2568 or info@myreccenter.org.

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

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

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Creative movement activities and play group are held in the gym of the Community Center, Fridays, from 9-11 a.m. All parents with young children are welcome. Contact Parks and Rec Dept. at 802-885-2727.

SATURDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Edgar May Open Play Group is 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 email

info@myreccenter.org.

LIBRARIES

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

MUSIC & THEATER

DEC. 6 – PUTNEY, Vt. – On Friday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m., Next Stage presents a Holiday

A cappella Extravaganza. The GrooveBarbers return to southern Vermont for one show only, featuring Russian-American opera diva, soprano Inna Dukach, in a delightful night of classic holiday tunes for all ages. Next Stage is located at 15


Kimball Hill in Putney, Vt. Tickets are available at the door or at www.nextstagearts.org.

THRU JAN. 5 – WHITE RIVER JCT, Vt. – Northern Stage Presents "The Sound of Music" through Jan. 5 at The

Barrette Center for the Arts. For details, visit www.northernstage.org. Based on the true story of the Von Trapp Family Singers, the classic score by Rodgers and Hammerstein features some of Broadway's greatest songs.

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