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2019 End of the Year Review, Part 2

July 1 - Local Marine walks 90 miles for the fallen Marines
WHITE RIVER JCT., Vt. - On July 1, 2019, David Roberts was on the back end of a 16-mile walk when he began the climb up Hartford's VA Cutoff Road. Staff and veterans alike waited outside the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in White River Junction with flags and gratitude. David Roberts, a Marine veteran set out to walk 90 miles to raise funds for the families left behind after fellow Marines and their loved ones were tragically killed in a motorcycle accident June 21, 2019.

July 1 - Junior firefighter Ahna Perry named Captain of cadet program
PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. - Proctorsville Fire Department junior firefighter Ahna Perry was honored by being named captain to lead 25 cadets during a weeklong Vermont State Firefighters Association Cadet Academy in Pittsford, Vt. during the last week of June. She also received special recognition at the closing ceremony from the administration of the Cadet Academy and has been invited back next year as a staff instructor.

July 5 - Chester American Legion Post 67 celebrates 100th birthday
CHESTER, Vt. - On Friday and Saturday after our nation's birthday on the Fourth of July, the Chester American Legion Post 67 held a

two-day celebration at their Legion Hall and an adjoining field that also included the Legion's own 100-year birthday this year. Post Commander Ron Farrar said, "We decided we'd give back to the community a day of events and entertainment."
By Bill Lockwood, The Vermont Journal

July 5 - Outer Limits Brewery ready to open its doors July 5
CAVENDISH, Vt. - It's been a dream three years in the making, but Outer Limits Brewing is finally about to open their doors Friday, July 5, debuting the first eight brews in their portfolio to enthusiastic local residents. Master brewer Wesley Tice and wife Taylor Shaw were first sold on the location because of the building back in the fall of 2016. Shaw's father lives in the area and suggested that they take a look. "What sold us on it was the building. When we first looked at it we said 'Oh my God, this has to be a brewery,'" Shaw said.

By Sharon Huntley, The Vermont Journal



Chester American Legion celebrates 100th birthday. PHOTO BY BILL LOCKWOOD

Aug. 11 - Heritage Deli takes Top Dog at the 8th annual Hot Dog Cook-off
CHESTER, Vt. - It was a deliciously successful Sunday afternoon, Aug. 11, when the Stone Hearth Inn once again hosted the 8th annual Hot Dog Cook-Off with Heritage Deli chosen as Top Dog for their "I Dream of Weenies" creation - a bacon wrapped natural casing hot dog with sautéed green peppers nestled in a Heritage Deli garlic knot and topped with a cheddar sauce and crispy shredded potatoes.

By Sharon Huntley, The Vermont Journal

Aug. 12 - Cold Spring Brook restoration breaks ground
WESTON, Vt. - The Weston Community Association broke ground Monday on the restoration of Cold Spring Brook including the removal of the lower dam that was breached by Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. The damage created environmental and safety hazards that the restoration will correct. Members of the Weston Conservation Commission and the WCA joined to form a task force to evaluate options for the breached dam and brook.

Sept. 1 - Vermonters must be 21 to purchase and possess tobacco
REGION - As of Sept. 1, Vermonters

must be at least 21 years old to purchase and possess tobacco products or paraphernalia. The new law also includes tobacco-substitute products, such as e-cigarettes. Health officials say the increase in buying age will help protect youth from nicotine addiction and potentially toxic chemicals.

Sept. 2 - Ludlow dedicates conference room in Howard Barton Jr.'s memory

LUDLOW, Vt. - At their regular meeting Sept. 2, 2019, the Ludlow Selectboard paid tribute to Howard Barton Jr., a longtime member and Chairman of the Board who passed away in 2018. A bronze plaque was dedicated in Howard's memory and the conference room was renamed the Howard Barton Jr. Conference Room. Bruce Schmidt, Selectboard Chair, spoke about Howard's commitment to the Ludlow community and the legacy he leaves behind.

Sept. 14 - Green Mountain Chieftains win 25th annual Josh Cole Tournament

LUDLOW, Vt. - Green Mountain Union High School boys won the Josh Cole annual soccer tournament defeating Leland and Gray by a score of 4-1 in the championship game Saturday night, Sept. 14 at Dorsey Park. Sophomore Everett Mosher scored all four goals for the Chieftains.

By Sharon Huntley, The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

Sept. 19 - TRSU dedicates magnolia tree to Dr. Gene Bont's memory

CAVENDISH, Vt. - Family and friends of Dr. Gene Bont, along with Two Rivers Supervisory Union administrators and School Board members, gathered at the Cavendish Town Elementary School Thursday, Sept. 19 for the TRSU dedication of a newly planted magnolia tree to honor Dr. Bont who passed away earlier this year. The tree has been placed next to a bench that was previously dedicated by CTES school board to honor Dr. Bont after he retired from the board in 2018 after almost five decades of service.

By Sharon Huntley, The Vermont Journal

Oct. 12 - The 29th annual Chili Cook-off awards Singletons, Alden Family top honors

LUDLOW, Vt. - Ludlow Rotary's 29th annual Chili Cook-off saw big crowds under their spacious yellow and white striped tent Saturday, Oct. 12, as visitors tasted 20 unique chili recipes from local restaurants and individuals in what has become a not-to-be-missed draw for leaf peepers and locals alike. Approximately 560 participants sampled, savored, and judged their way through the yearly event to determine the top three People's Choice Awards for one of three cash prizes.

By Sharon Huntley, The Vermont Journal

Oct. 29 - Sandy Burgess retires but Chrisandra's Interiors will live on

LUDLOW, Vt. - Forty years can go by in the blink of an eye when you are doing what you love. At least that's how it seems

according to Sandy (Chrisandra) Burgess of Chrisandra's Interiors. Although the time has come for Sandy to retire and for her part in the business to end, the name of Chrisandra's, as well as the Pond Street location, will continue on with a new owner and designer in the coming weeks. Sandy began her business in the basement of her home in 1980 sewing window treatments, pillows, dust ruffles, roman shades, draperies, and all manner of soft home goods.

By Sharon Huntley, The Vermont Journal

Nov. 2 - Green Mountain boys' soccer team are Division III state champions

Nov. 5 - Chester residents approve EMS building project

CHESTER, Vt. - Residents of Chester approved the 30-year bond for the EMS/Town Garage project for \$4.78 million by a healthy margin during the special town vote Tuesday, Nov. 5. The project will construct a new EMS Services building, located on Pleasant Street, which will house the fire, police, and ambulance services for Chester and completely renovate the existing Town Garage.

By Sharon Huntley, The Vermont Journal

Nov. 8 - Area schools welcome Gov. Scott and community to Veterans Day Assembly

LUDLOW, Vt. - The seventh annual Veterans Day Assembly, Friday, Nov. 8, at Ludlow Elementary School welcomed

See **YEAR** on Page 3A

Budgets again dominate the Chester Selectboard

BY SHARON HUNTLEY
The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. - The Chester Selectboard, who spent a good deal of their meeting Wednesday, Dec. 18 reviewing the town budget, started with welcome news from Springfield Selectboard Chairman Kristi Morris, that the Springfield Transfer Station fee would be reduced by \$5,000 for the upcoming year.

Chester's payment to Springfield for transfer station usage will drop from \$40,000 to \$35,000. Chester does not have a town disposal and recycling facility in town and pays the fee to help offset disposal and recycling costs. In addition to the fee paid by the town, Chester residents and property owners must also purchase a \$25 sticker to display on their cars to enter the Springfield facility as well as purchase a punch card to further pay for each bag of garbage brought for disposal. The larger yearly cost to the town has come under scrutiny recently since residents from surrounding towns may purchase stickers and punch cards to use the transfer station, but fees are not collected from their

town for that benefit. Morris and Springfield Town Manager Tom Yennerell responded to a request by Chester Town Manager David Pisha to present information to the Chester Selectboard concerning the transfer system costs and revenues and their fee structure. The reduction in the fee had apparently been worked out between the two town managers prior to the meeting.

According to Morris, the transfer station loses money every year because the money has dropped out of recycling, particularly since China no longer accepts plastic and glass. Last year's expenses totaled \$382,773, with revenue falling short by approximately \$60,000.

Morris said that Springfield enjoyed their partnership with Chester and certainly hoped that residents see the value. He also added that if Chester owned their own facility, they would have the capital outlays for that as well as for staffing.

Board member Heather Chase assured Morris that they had no intention of trying to duplicate their services. "I don't want our questioning of how

we pay to send the message whatsoever, that we want our own," she said.

Board Chair Arne Jonynas agreed that the town was happy to pay for the service but was concerned that the smaller towns weren't absorbing any of the costs other than through purchasing stickers and punch cards.

Derek Suursoo said he had collected some rough data from the Chester Town Office, which showed 411 Chester property owners or resident stickers and 147 out-of-town property owners.

Both Springfield and Chester representatives talked about collecting more data on users with the hope to have other towns contribute to the transfer station through their taxes. Also suggested by Morris was perhaps charging more for stickers for residents outside of the towns of Springfield and Chester to help offset the discrepancy.

Jonynas agreed it was important to keep collecting data from both sources and, if the transfer station becomes more profitable, lower Chester fees accordingly.

The Whiting Library is seeking a \$3,000 increase in their library fund budget mainly to meet the increased salary of a recently hired youth services librarian. According to Kathy Pellet, Chair of Trustees, the trustees recognized the need to be more competitive with their salary to stop turnover, eliminate the need to retrain and avoid disruption of services for children. They have also hired someone to handle shoveling for the library. Their request brings the library fund budget from \$75,000 to \$78,000. Pellet reminded the board that they haven't had an increase in three years.

Town Manager David Pisha presented the latest iteration of the proposed 2020 town budget, which shows \$266,969 needing to be raised by taxes, translating to a 6.5 cent per \$100,000 valuation tax increase to residents in the coming year. This number does not include the \$5,000 that was eliminated for the Springfield Transfer Station fee or the additional \$3,000 that the Whiting Library is requesting, which would net a reduction in that figure by \$2,000.

Though many categories are below budget or steady versus last year, Public Works has had the biggest impact, accounting for about 80% of that shortfall, largely due to weather patterns last year, which resulted in needing much more salt and sand and overtime than expected.

In reviewing employee healthcare expenses, Chase suggested that the town consider having employees contribute something to their health coverage, a topic she has raised for the last several years. "Most people pay something towards their healthcare," she said.

Under their current coverage, the town pays for the 25 Chester employee healthcare premiums, deductibles, and co-pays, totaling over \$103,000.

Board member Lee Gustafson suggested they consider incentivizing the town departments, seeing if they can cut expenses as a way to help to help cover their employee healthcare costs. "We want to protect our employees. We want to make sure they have the coverage that they need and all the benefits they deserve, but, on the other hand, is there a way that we can

help incentivize them to trim the budgets in certain areas?"

The Selectboard discussed different options but did not come to a final decision.

Suursoo commented that changes to the healthcare coverage were going to be a "great concern to the workers and needs to be handled very sensitively and without a huge blow to their pocketbooks."

A proposed \$8,000 for a position that would work part-time through the summer to help with the Chester Beautification Committee as well as work for the different town departments was up for debate. The committee was requesting at least two hours per day to help with flower box watering and maintenance.

A suggestion was made to explore alternatives, including whether current town employees could spare a few hours to perform those tasks during the course of their day. Pisha agreed to ask departments if they have someone who could do that.

At the next meeting, the final numbers will be in the budget. That meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 6:30 p.m.

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Whiting Library receives Pilcrow Foundation grant for children's books

CHESTER, Vt. – Whiting Library on Main Street in Chester, Vt. was selected as recipient of the Children's Book Project Grant awarded by the Pilcrow Foundation. The Pilcrow Foundation supports rural public libraries to enhance the lives of children.

We are thankful for the generosity of the Chester Rotary Club, without whom we would not have qualified to receive this grant. By this partnership, Whiting Library and Chester

Rotary are able to offer 72 new children's books. The Pilcrow Foundation also awarded an additional 23 math and science books through a donation from Hal Berenson and Laura Ackerman of Colorado. In all, over \$1,600 worth of new books will be added to the children's collection!

The Chester Rotary Club, a vibrant and generous community organization, agreed to donate \$400 as a pledge to the Children's Book Project Grant.

Rotary Member Ed Grossman, who is also on the Library Trustee Board, secured this pledge. The Rotary Club and Whiting Library remain committed to early literacy, children of Chester, and the community.

There are board books for babies, picture books, and chapter books; bilingual books in Spanish and English; books about scientific discoveries, artists, athletes, and pioneers in all fields. These books are fresh and inspiring and are sure to offer different perspectives. Our youngest patrons will enjoy the picture books, which reflect current families and cultural sensitivity. Our slightly older children will enjoy popular fiction, dynamic nonfiction, and more titles in the evolving collection of STEAM books. The Pilcrow Foundation Children's Book Project collection celebrates diversity of culture and recognizes unique achievements.

Whiting Library staff and Board of Trustees heartily thank Chester Rotary, the Pilcrow Foundation, and their sponsors on behalf of the children.

Please join us for an open house unveiling of this collection Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 11 a.m.

Ash tree crisis discussed at Ludlow Rotary meeting

LUDLOW, Vt. – At its recent luncheon meeting, the Ludlow Rotary Club listened to Barbara Schlutz, Forest Health program manager for the Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation, discuss the looming crisis created by the emerald ash borer as it impacted the ash trees of Vermont and the better part of the nation, in general.

Schlutz emphasized the need for every community not yet infected by the EAB to prepare for its onset throughout the state. She noted that the EAB was first detected in the Barre area in 2018. Since that date, it has spread to nine more regions of the state, the latest being detected in Londonderry.

In her presentation, she described the initial spread of the EAB in Detroit, Mich. in 2002. Since that date, it has spread to 35 states plus five Canadian provinces. The principle means of its spread has been by firewood



Ralph Pace and Barbara Schlutz following her presentation to the Ludlow Rotary Club.

PHOTO PROVIDED

since the EAB itself is unable to travel great distances.

In response to questions by LRC members, she indicated that the bulk of the effort to deal with this crisis would fall on individual towns. In this context, private property owners will be faced with the need to decide how to deal with the problem on their property and bear the cost of it. Individual towns would be responsible

for ash trees on publicly owned property as well as publicly managed right-of-ways.

Rotarian Ralph Pace indicated that a local group had been organized to help both towns and private property owners in dealing with the EAB. The group, the Regional EAB Resource Committee, will initially concentrate on conducting an inventory of ash trees in town-owned properties and ROWs.

The Collaborative announces \$1,500 Refuse to Use scholarship

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Collaborative is pleased to announce a new scholarship opportunity beginning Dec. 17, 2019 and running through March 15, 2020.

Eligible students are graduating high school seniors who have participated in the Refuse to Use program and complete their senior year in the RTU program.

To help participating Refuse to Use students with their future education plans, The Collaborative is awarding a \$1,500 scholarship. Eligible students may apply at www.thecollaborative.us/refuse-to-use.

"Young people are faced with difficult decisions around substance use every day," says Maryann Morris, executive director at The Collaborative. "The Collaborative has long been invested in making sure young people have the tools and

support to make more healthy choices. And we hope those tools help them as they build their future. We are so excited to roll out a scholarship that supports young people who have shown a commitment to making the healthy choice the right choice for them."

One \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded based on the student's RTU participation and their scholarship application. The application process opened Dec. 17, 2019 at www.thecollaborative.us/refuse-to-use and concludes March 15, 2020. The award winner will be announced no later than April 1, 2020.

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5 NFL Sundays	6 Open Mic Night Mondays at 8:00pm	7 VT TRIVIA 20oz Draft Beers \$7!	8 Trade your Patch or Purchase ours for \$5	9 \$7 VT Drafts GYPSY REEL 6:30-9PM	10 Thank God it's Friday	10 LIVE MUSIC King Arthur Jr. from 8-11 pm
12 FREE Nacho Bar	13 OPEN MIC NIGHT Mondays at 8:00pm	14 VT Drafts \$7! TRIVIA NIGHT w/ Rick Davis 7:30-8:30pm	15 Join our Mug Club	16 \$7 VT Drafts IRISH MUSIC GYPSY REEL 6:30-9PM	17 Sammy Blanchette 8-11 pm	18 LIVE MUSIC Sammy and Friends from 9 - 12
19 NFL Sundays	20 Open Mic Night Mondays at 8:00pm	21 VT TRIVIA 20oz Draft Beers \$7!	22 Trade your Patch or Purchase ours for \$5	23 \$7 VT Drafts GYPSY REEL 6:30-9PM	24 TG IF!	25 HELLO Weekend
26 FREE Nacho Bar	27 OPEN MIC NIGHT Mondays at 8:00pm	28 VT Drafts \$7! TRIVIA NIGHT w/ Rick Davis 7:30-8:30pm	29 Join our Mug Club	30 GYPSY REEL 6:30 - 9 PM	31 tgif	Come for the Food Stay for the Fun

Black River Valley Senior Center January events

LUDLOW, Vt. – Black River Valley Senior Center kicks off the new year with a series of events in January.

On Wednesday, Jan. 8 is the Community Lunch, serving homemade Shepard's Pie, bread, and dessert. Free bingo will follow. Reservations are required.

On Thursday, Jan. 16 is the Birthday Lunch, serving pork chops, sweet potatoes, green beans, and birthday cake. You eat free if your birthday is in January. Reservations are suggested.

On Wednesday, Jan. 22, the Community Lunch is homemade beef stew, bread, and dessert. Reservations are suggested.

On Wednesday, Jan. 29, the Community Lunch is a pizza party. Reservations are required.

Are you a bridge player? Have you always wanted to learn how to play bridge? Bridge is played every Thursday at 10 a.m. Come and play or learn to play with this fun group.

The Black River Valley Senior Center is located at 10 High St. in Ludlow. For more information, call 802-228-7421.

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CAFC thanks the Andover Snow Riders

CHESTER, Vt. – Every year, the Andover Snow Riders hold a pancake breakfast to raise funds and collect food for the Chester-Andover Family Center. This event is always well-attended thanks to Nick Baker and his team of Snow Rider chefs. This year's breakfast was delicious and plentiful, raising \$480 and collecting 110 pounds of food.



The Baker Family delivers proceeds from the Andover Snow Riders' Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser.

ers' breakfast helps us make a difference in our community by providing resources for financial assistance; supplemental, nutritional food; affordable clothing; and household goods. The CAFC Board thanks the Andover Snow Riders for their contribution to our community.

pendent, fundraising community events to keep our mission alive. The Andover Snow Rid-

Written by Stephanie Mahoney, CAFC Board President.

YEAR

From Page 1A

Gov. Phil Scott as part of their moving program to honoring veterans and active military members. Students from Black River Middle High School, LES, Mount Holly Elementary School, and Cavendish Town Elementary School were all in attendance, as were the Ballard-Hobart Post 36 American Legion color guard, local decorated veterans, and other members of the community.

By Sharon Huntley, The Vermont Journal

Nov. 22 – Main and Mountain decked their halls for their Miracle Pop Up Bar
LUDLOW, Vt. – There's decorating for Christmas, and then there's "Miracle On Main

Street," which ratchets the whole Santa-loving, Christmas situation up to a whole new level. And that's exactly what Main and Mountain, the trendy cocktail bar on Ludlow's Main Street, is going for. They have wholeheartedly embraced this worldwide concept that turns a favorite gathering spot into a happening holiday dream. This Miracle Pop Up Bar concept is a themed bar takeover complete with professionally developed Christmas cocktails and lots of kitschy nostalgic Christmas décor.

By Sharon Huntley, The Vermont Journal

Dec. 17 – Cavendish Fire Dept. donates funds for CTES emergency kits

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Cavendish Volunteer Fire De-

partment has come to the rescue of Cavendish Town Elementary School by donating funds to supply 13 emergency kits to be placed throughout the school. These kits, which will be placed in each classroom, with school specialists, and in the learning center, include "Stop the Bleed" kits, tourniquets, and emergency Mylar blankets as well as other supplies.

By Sharon Huntley, The Vermont Journal

Londonderry community speaks out

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Londonderry Planning Commission would like to thank everyone who contributed to "Project Londonderry." The bright orange posters around town were filled with ideas and suggestions on what residents would like for their life in Londonderry.

The four overriding themes expressed by residents were Main Street enhancements; expanded basic life services; year-round recreation and entertainment; and improved traffic flow and safety. Most frequently mentioned suggestions include affordable housing, child care, sidewalks, bike lanes, skating and roller skating rink, public pool, and a community and teen center. Some interesting business ideas cited brewery or brewpub, internet cafe, bowling alley, movie theater, and pizza delivery.

Planning Commission members are merging the "Project Londonderry" information with survey information from the 2017 Town Plan. This effort will provide an in-depth tally of what Londonderry residents would like to see for their town.

The Planning Commission will host a community pot-



Thank you to the community for participating in Project Londonderry. PHOTO PROVIDED

luck supper in February 2020 to discuss and prioritize "Project Londonderry" feedback. The potluck supper will be an

opportunity for residents to gather, eat, socialize, and make recommendations on next steps for "Project Londonderry."

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opinion

Dear Editor,

This is in response to Maureen Savage's Dec. 5, 2019 letter about the Savages' proposed quarry on Tierney Road in Cavendish. Tierney Road is a mile-long, dead-end, unpaved road, in an area identified as "rural residential," "forest," or "deer wintering." The Town Plan states that quarrying must take place "sufficiently distant and isolated from residential properties." After the Savages bought the property in 2016, they formed a joint venture with Jason Snow to operate a quarry on under an acre. On March 4, 2017, they promised to present a written disclosure about the proposed quarry operation but never did.

At the June 12, 2017 Select-board meeting, Justin Savage agreed that the Savages and Mr. Snow would provide information on the proposed quarry. This "informational meeting" was held June 26, 2017, but the Savages didn't speak and Jason Snow didn't attend.

On March 15, 2018, the Purchase and Sale contract between the Savages and Jason Snow was modified to address the concerns of the district coordinator who issued a jurisdictional opinion that Act 250 was required for the proposed operation. This change enabled Jason Snow to file an appeal, taking us into expensive litigation. This contradicts Mrs. Savage's statement that the Savages "have been fairly quiet, letting Jason Snow take responsibility

of the legal charge."

Mrs. Savage states: "It is important to understand how and when Snow will remove the stone, which is in the same manner as he had done with the Cavendish Gulf Road, where no objections or issues from the town or neighbors were raised." That road is in a sparsely settled area, with only two homes on the road to the Graham quarry, one of which is for sale. The closed quarry, while not dangerous, has hardly been restored to its natural state.

According to Mrs. Savage, the stone from the Tierney quarry would be "remove[d] and split by hand." She mentions only a "Ford F550 [landscaping truck]," not the 16-yard dump truck with trailer, the Cat 312 Excavator, the Kubota mini-loader, or blasting equipment, noted in Mr. Snow's testimony at the May 17, 2018 Vermont Superior Court Environmental Division hearing. Note that this equipment won't pass by the Savages' house but will pass the rest of us, and the noise from drilling and blasting will not be confined to their property.

Mrs. Savage states: "It's clear the assessor was lied to by Mr. Watson and took his word as fact without confirming..." giving no evidence for this libelous charge.

Mrs. Savage states: "Mr. Snow set up two meetings with the neighbors to describe his operation in 2016. Bruce Watson,

who lives at the beginning of Tierney Road, never attended either meeting." She neglects to say that Linda Watson attended one of those meetings. In a 2018 Mountain Times article, Mr. Savage is quoted as saying that "no one showed up" to site meetings. But, as Mrs. Savage now states, there were two such meetings, and most of us attended them, including Linda Watson.

Mrs. Savage notes that the Watsons' appeal quotes a 2008 study of quarry effects, but it quotes several studies showing decreases of 15-30% in property values - hundreds of thousands of dollars if applied to Tierney Road. The Savages have no qualifications to evaluate those studies. But one test should be convincing: the red face test. Can anyone say without blushing that a quarry on their road would not degrade their quality of life and property values?

Mrs. Savage states: "A small group has chosen to make this very personal and attack my family." This "small group" includes a majority of the owners of the 17 properties on Tierney Road. None of us has any interest in attacking the Savage family, only in reestablishing peace and quiet on Tierney Road.

Mrs. Savage also notes: "Watson stated in Nov. 14 Cavendish Board of Civil Authority meeting he showed the assessor where the quarry was - you can't see it from the road." It isn't necessary

to see it to show where it is - about 100 yards off the end of Tierney. In any case, it would be hard to see the quarry through the many "No Trespassing" signs surrounding the property - signs that don't exist on other Tierney Road properties.

Mrs. Savage says that among the neighbors "there wasn't an overall objection to the scope as a small operation with an ending to it." It will end, but we have become skeptical about when. The Savages claim that since most of their property is in Current Use, they will not quarry further. However, land can be quickly taken out of Current Use. In the 2018 court transcript, Page 184, Justin Savage was asked, "Is there a chance in the future that you are going to sit down and negotiate with somebody else for development of other stone quarrying parcels on your land?" Mr. Savage answered, "Have to see what the offer is." When then asked, "So there's a chance?" the answer was, "yes."

The Savages should produce a legally binding document that forever prevents quarrying beyond the one acre currently proposed. Their resistance to this suggests that they do have further plans for quarrying.

The Savages close by saying that "The NIMBYs ... are killing small businesses, Vermont generational craftsmen, and farmers." Playing the "Vermont" card isn't an argument. We opposed to the quarry have worked all our lives and want to live here in

peace and quiet, hosting our children, grandchildren, families, and friends. Four of us are Vietnam or Vietnam-era veterans. We pay our taxes and support local businesses and schools. Our real estate taxes have brought over a million dollars to Cavendish. Has anyone ever shown any value to the town from a quarry?

Sincerely,
Tierney Road Residents against Quarry
Cavendish, Vt.

Dear Editor,

Having had a recent ambulance trip to Springfield Hospital, I would like to thank the Ludlow Ambulance crew for their service.

I would like to note a special thanks to the doctors and nurses for their excellent service, and also to the maintenance staff for a spotless clean hospital facility. A special thanks to all.

Sincerely,
Herbert Van Guilder
Ludlow, Vt.

Amber Waves





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

District 20 Schoolhouse

Below is a brief history of the stone schoolhouse at the end of School Street in Chester. It was built in the summer of 1848.

In my collection is a 20th School District Clerk's ledger beginning Sept. 24, 1847. These minutes are a record of agenda items, the building of this school, teachers' pay, firewood, and other relevant expenses. It ends with the date of June 5, 1862. Below are a few entries as written.

The first entry regarding building the schoolhouse:

"Oct 5th, 1847 To see if the District will Build a school house in Said District the coming year."

*"Notice!!
"This is to notify and warn all the inhabitants of the 20th School District in Chester quified to vote in said District to meet at the School House in said District on Thursday the 14th day of October instant..."*

Where was the schoolhouse they met at prior to the stone schoolhouse being built in 1848? Peter Farrar found at the 1794 Town Meeting it was voted to build a schoolhouse in District 6. Peter found evidence of this schoolhouse on the upper end of the green as late as 1805. Yes, on the green. This was likely the first school in District 20, or what had been District 6.

"Oct 14th Voted to choose a committee of three to ascertain the probable expense of Building a school house and procuring a situation for the same and also to see what arrangements can be made with the Trustees of the Academy for a part of that Building for a school house."

The Academy referred to is Chester Academy (1814-1881). Chester Academy was a beautiful brick building out in front of the current Chester Historical Society building. In the early 1880s, District 20 did merge with the then declining Chester Academy.

"Jan 5th, 1848 To see if the District will vote to raise money to Build a new School house in said district and to purchase land on which to Set the same."

Now we are in 1848, the year the stone schoolhouse was built. I see some District 20 meetings were held at the old Chester Academy in 1848.

"Jan 14th, 1848 To see if the District will purchase land to place a school house on."



District 20 stone schoolhouse on School Street. PHOTO PROVIDED BY CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In April, there is much discussion as to where the school should be located and whose land to purchase.

"Nov 4 1848 To see what percent said District will raise upon the Grand List of 1847 to pay the expenses of building the new School house in said District and for the land and other expenses in fencing and finishing the yard about the house."

"Heard the report of the Auditors on Building Committee account. Voted to accept their report. Voted to adopt the report. Voted to raise 110 percent on the Grand List of 1847 to pay expenses of building new School house & fixtures. Voted to purchase the Maps which are now in the School house & Globe."

"The building committee report the expenses of building the new School house paying for the land furnishing the house with stove, Globe, Maps & other fixtures to amt to \$1328.37"

Today this would be \$39,000. By 1910, the stone schoolhouse had become the village fire department. In the early 1950s, it was a school again. Later in the 1950s, it became the village fire department again. I remember the siren in the belfry could be heard all over town.

The photo with this article is one of 18 photos in Chester Historical Society's 2020 calendar. They are available at The Framery of Vermont, Salon 2000, Erskine's Feed Store, Blair Books & More, Lisai's Market, Chester Hardware, and Stone House antiques.

Last week's "Whatzit" was a butternut cracker. Butternuts have a very hard shell and have always been difficult to crack open. This 19th century invention was helpful. You need to be sitting down to use it.

Place the curved section of the cracker on your thigh just above your knee. This way the round stud is upright to your leg. Place the end of the butternut in the hollow on top of the stud and steady it with your fingers. With a hammer in your other hand, you would strike down on top of the butternut. It took some practice to learn how hard to strike the nut. Too hard and you shattered the meat.

Instead of an old saying I have a question. What's the difference between partly cloudy and partly sunny?

Whatzit

Do you know what this is? Email your guess to Ron at knotz69@gmail.com.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH



Springfield Community Chorus starts spring season

CHESTER, Vt. – Do you like to hum along to tunes and sometimes sing the songs you know in the shower? Come and join singers like you who love to sing. The chorus starts its spring rehearsals Monday, Jan. 6. Registration is at 6:30 p.m. No tryouts are required.

Rehearsals are Monday evenings at 7 p.m. at the First Universalist Parish of Chester, 211 North St., Chester, Vt. Ken Olsson is the director and teacher. The concerts will be held May 2 and 3. The repertoire features New England composers with a medley of Leonard Bernstein's songs



Join the Springfield Community Chorus.

STOCK PHOTO

from "West Side Story" and "Make Our Garden Grow" from "Candide," songs by Randall Thompson called "Frostiana," John Corigliano's "Fern Hill," and a set of American tunes by Aaron Copland. Come and join us in the joy of singing.

For any questions, contact Kara, manager of the chorus, at sittinonahighnote@gmail.com or call Barbara at 802-886-1777. For more information about the chorus, go to www.springfieldcommunitychorus.org.

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obituaries

CHURCH SERVICES

CAVENDISH-PROCTORSVILLE, VT.

St. James United Methodist Church, 570 Main St.
Worship service is at 8:30 a.m. with Pastor Earl Dionne. Sunday school and nursery available. For more information, call 802-674-3443.

Gethsemane Episcopal Church, 89 Depot St., Proctorsville
Join us for worship Sundays at 11 a.m. followed by a coffee hour. For more information, call 802-226-7967 or go to Facebook @GethsemaneVT.

CHESTER, VT.

Chester Baptist Church, 162 Main St.
Sunday school at 9 a.m. for children and adults. Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. Childcare is provided for toddlers through preschool. Youth group Thursdays at 6 p.m. and prayer meeting at 6:30 p.m. Park on the street or behind the building. Wheelchair accessible. Call 802-875-2638, email churchoffice@chesterbaptist.org, or visit www.chesterbaptist.org.

Grafton Community Church, 55 Main St., Grafton
Worship begins Sunday at 10 a.m. Inspiring sermons and

glorious music in our fully accessible church. Coffee hour follows worship. All are welcome! Find details and special events at www.graftoncommunitychurch.org, or call 802-843-2346.

Ronald E. Gosselin, 1959-2019

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Ronald E. Gosselin, 60, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2019 at home. He was born Oct. 2, 1959 in Springfield, Vt., the son of Lawrence “Pepe” Gosselin. He attended Springfield schools.

Ronald was a self-employed carpenter for many years. He was a handyman and could fix anything. He enjoyed wood-working, cooking, and going to flea markets. He also loved shooting his guns and riding motorcycles.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Jacki (Pelkey) Gosselin; his children Justin Gosselin and wife Sara of Weathersfield, Vt., Nakita Raymond and husband Kale of Springfield, Vt., and Krista Gosselin of Springfield, Vt.; two brothers Richard Gosselin of Springfield, Vt. and Robert Gosselin and wife Virginia of Westminster, Vt.; and two sisters Judy Rumrill and husband Paul of Cavendish, Vt., and Debbie Madigan of Wisconsin; a grandson Nolan Raymond; a granddog Hoyt; and many nieces, nephews, and



Ronald E. Gosselin, 1959-2019. PHOTO PROVIDED

cousins. He was predeceased by brothers Larry Gosselin, Gary Gosselin, and Billy Gosselin.

Friends may call at the Davis Memorial Chapel Friday, Jan. 3, 2020, from 5 to 7 p.m. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020, from 1 to 5 p.m., at the Springfield Loyal Order of Moose Lodge, 39 South St., Springfield, Vt.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield is assisting with arrangements.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Lighthouse Baptist Church, 142 Wall St.
Saturday service at 10 a.m. Bible Study at 11 a.m. Worship Tuesday night is at 7 p.m. with bible study and prayer. For more information, call 802-885-5763.

All Church Services listed online at www.VermontJournal.com.

Mary Lou Gould, 1939-2019

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Mary Lou (Riedel) Gould was born in Chicago Aug. 25, 1939 and died Dec. 26, 2019 after a fulfilled and fulfilling life. She was married for over 60 years to the love of her life, David, who survives her. Also surviving are her children Jonathan Gould of Levant, Maine and Carla Gould of Queens, N.Y.; two grandchildren Sara Gould and Joseph Gould of Farmingville, N.Y.; and her sister Eleanor Rydin of Gold Canyon, Ariz. She is predeceased by her son Eric Gould.

Mary Lou was a multifaceted person – homemaker, wife, mother, financial manager, gardener, and artist. She handled each of her life roles with imagination, inspiration, grace, and love. Her spiritual strength came from her relationships with peo-

ple and her interaction with the world that surrounded her.

Simply stated, Mary Lou was a unique person who found joy and life in the simple things as well as the more complex issues that surround us. During her life, she held her head high, often marching to her own drumbeat, yet she continued to march onward and upward. She is already missed by her family and friends.

Her family wishes to express their deepest thanks to the nursing and support staff of Vernon Homes for their love, concern, and compassion shown Mary Lou during her life there.

A memorial service celebrating her life will be held at a later date. Arrangements are in the care of Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home.

Steven L. Pencek, 1952-2019

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – Steven L. “Snooky” Pencek, 67, passed away Friday, Dec. 13, 2019 in West Lebanon, N.H. He was born March 17, 1952 in Bellows Falls, Vt., the son of Stephen F. and Mildred E. (Alexander) Pencek. He was a graduate of the St. Charles School. He served in the United States Army.

Steven was employed at Smiths Medical in Keene, N.H. for 11 years prior to retirement. Previously, he had worked in various capacities at Okeemo Mountain in Ludlow, Vt. Snooky enjoyed hunting and fishing, cars and motorcycles, snowmobiling, and trips to

Maine. He is survived by his two sisters Linda Wright of Springfield, Vt. and Charlene Wade of Westminster West, Vt., as well as many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held in St. Charles Cemetery, Bellows Falls, Vt. in the spring of 2020 and will be announced at that time. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are suggested to the American Heart Association, 2 Wall Street #104, Manchester, NH 03101, or to the American Diabetes Association at www.diabetes.org.

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

Leo F. Sprague, 1932-2019

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Leo F. Sprague, 87, of Pleasant Street, passed away early Friday, Dec. 20, 2019. Leo was born in Holyoke, Mass., March 22, 1932. He served in the Navy during the Korean War and worked at the Bellows Falls Creamery, Rouse Trucking, and Webster Trucking. Leo enjoyed watching Patriot football and Red Sox baseball. He especially liked watching his son, grandson, and great-grandson play Terrier football.

In 1952, he married Barbara

(Simonds), who predeceased him. Surviving are his sons Richard and Michael Sprague and his daughters Christine Riendeau and Deborah Colgan. He is predeceased by his son Jonathan Sprague and grandson Daniel Riendeau.

There will be a celebration of Leo's life Jan. 4, 2020, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the American Legion Post 37. Burial will take place at a later date. Arrangements are in the care of Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home.

Jacqueline L. Kimball, 1945-2019

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Jacqueline L. “Jackie” Kimball, 74, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2019 at The Village in White River Junction, Vt., following an illness. She was born May 16, 1945 in New York City, the daughter of Julian and Erma (Terr) Bush, and graduated from Rockville Center High School in New York.

She completed her under-studies from NYU and received her master's degree in physical therapy. On Aug. 21, 1966, she married Daniel Kimball in Great Neck, N.Y. and enjoyed 53 years of marriage. She and her husband came to live in

Springfield in 1997. Jackie was a physical therapist for over 20 years, working in various clinics, nursing homes, and hospitals. She enjoyed gardening and baking.

Besides her husband, she is survived by two sons Daniel Kimball of Fort Mill, S.C. and Robert Kimball of Hancock, N.H.; two sisters Dorothy Seuter of Fernandina Beach, Fla. and Kathy Rucker of South Carolina; 10 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter; and several nieces and nephews.

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

Thank you from the Robert Haas family

The Robert Haas family thanks all who have supported us through this sad time of Bob's passing. We can't begin to name all of you who sent condolences, food, and flowers, or all of you who gave us hugs at the celebration of his life gathering. Our special thanks goes to the Westminster Fire and Rescue Department for being with us from the beginning and providing the firehouse and food for the celebration.



Robert Haas. PHOTO PROVIDED

Geraldine F. Thompson, 1932-2019

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Geraldine “Terri” F. Thompson, 87, passed away Sunday evening, Dec. 22, 2019 at her home in Perkinsville, Vt. She was born Jan. 4, 1932 in Hartford, Conn., the daughter of Earl J. and Mildred (Glidden) Cashman.

She was a mother and homemaker. She volunteered for many years around the Springfield and Ludlow area, volunteering at the Springfield Hospital and Springfield Adult Day Program for many years and the Black River Good Neighbor in Ludlow, Vt. for many years as well. She enjoyed art and enjoyed drawing and coloring.

She is survived by her children Dorothy Munson, Bonnie Butler, Pamela Jarvis, James Lapine, and Terri Dailey; 14 grandchildren Kim Mason, Kelly Butler, Alan and Sean Buck, Brian and Jason Jarvis, Zack, Shannon, Mike, and Desi Lapine, Amanda, Ashley, and Samantha Dailey; siblings Mary, Alberta, and Frankie; and also by 33 great-grandchildren and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was predeceased by her parents, one daughter Lynne Buck, and two sons William



Geraldine F. Thompson, 1932-2019. PHOTO PROVIDED

Thompson and Alan Cordeira; and siblings Earl, Russell, and Frankie Cashman.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Jan. 4, 2019 at 11 a.m. at the Calvary Baptist Church in Springfield, Vt. Reverend Malcolm Fowler will officiate. Burial will be in the Cavendish Village Cemetery in Cavendish, Vt. at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the Springfield Adult Day Program, 266 River St., Springfield, VT 05156.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield is assisting with arrangements.

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TAKE A BREAK!

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Big fish story?
- 5 Chart
- 8 Chow —
- 12 Reverberate
- 13 Commotion
- 14 Loosen
- 15 Sense
- 16 Result of canonization
- 18 Liberty
- 20 Supermarket section
- 21 Fellow
- 22 Former M&Ms color
- 23 O. Henry's specialty
- 26 Realm
- 30 Distant
- 31 Complete
- 32 Rage
- 33 Hollywood hope
- 36 140-character message brand
- 38 Conger, e.g.
- 39 Prohibit
- 40 Islamic decree
- 43 Ennui
- 47 Haphazardly
- 49 Church section
- 50 Active one
- 51 Gist
- 52 Family
- 53 Raced
- 54 Noshed
- 55 Maintained

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DOWN

- 1 Comic
- 2 Computer brand
- 3 Roller coaster
- 4 Grave
- 5 Lawyer played by Burr
- 6 First
- 7 Luau dish
- 8 Cutting the volume
- 9 Tackles'
- 10 "American —"
- 11 Alaskan city
- 17 Flatbread of India
- 19 Rotation duration
- 22 Dead heat
- 23 Conditions
- 24 Snitch
- 25 Man-mouse link
- 26 Basinger or Cattrall
- 27 Conk out
- 28 Raw rock
- 29 Bumped into
- 31 Encyc. component
- 34 Finder's fee
- 35 Campus VIP
- 36 Pitch
- 37 Mechanic's tool
- 39 Layered ice cream treat
- 40 Crazes
- 41 On
- 42 Genealogy display
- 43 Match in the ring
- 44 "Over hill, over — ..."
- 45 Ellipse
- 46 Fix
- 48 "CSI" evidence

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Time for some New Year's financial resolutions

REGION – Have you thought about your New Year's resolutions for 2020? When many of us make these promises, we focus on ways we can improve some form of our health. We vow to get more physically healthy by going to the gym, or we promise to improve our mental health by learning a new language or instrument. But it's also important to think about our financial health – so it's a good idea to develop some appropriate resolutions for this area, too.

What kinds of financial resolutions might you make? Here are a few suggestions.

Increase your retirement plan contributions

One of the best financial moves you can make is to take full advantage of your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. If you contribute pre-tax dollars to your plan, the more you put in, the lower your taxable income will be for the year, and your earnings can grow on a tax-deferred basis. So, if your salary goes up in 2020, increase the amount you put into your plan. Most people don't come close to reaching the annual contribution limit, which, in 2019, was \$19,000, or \$25,000 for those 50

or older. You might not reach these levels, either, but it's certainly worthwhile to invest as much as you can possibly afford.

Use "found" money wisely

During the course of the next year, you may well receive some money outside your normal paychecks, such as a bonus or a tax refund. It can be tempting to spend this money, but you may help yourself in the long run by investing it. You could use it to help fund your IRA for the year or to fill a gap in another investment account.

Don't overreact to market downturns

You've probably heard stories about people who lamented not getting in "on the ground floor" of what is now a mega-company. But a far more common investment mistake is overreacting to temporary market downturns by selling investments at the wrong time – when their prices are down – and staying out of the market until things calm down – and possibly missing the next rally. The financial markets always fluctuate, but if you can resolve to stay invested and follow a consistent, long-term strategy, you can avoid making some costly errors.

Be financially prepared for

the unexpected

Even if you're diligent about saving and investing for your long-term goals, you can encounter obstacles along the way. And one of these roadblocks could come in the form of large, unexpected expenses, such as the sudden need for a new car or some costly medical bills. If you aren't prepared for these costs, you might have to dip in to your long-term investments to pay for them.

To prevent this from happening, you may want to keep sufficient cash, or cash equivalents, in your investment accounts. Or you might want to maintain a completely separate account as an emergency fund, with the money kept in low-risk, liquid vehicles. If possible, try to maintain at least six months' worth of living expenses in this account.

It will take some effort but following these resolutions could help you move closer to your financial goals in 2020 – and beyond.

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

Six ideas for a new you in the New Year

StatePoint – The new year is the perfect time to hit the reset button and get a fresh start. Here are six resolution ideas, plus tools and strategies for accomplishing each.

Read more

Want to read more but never seem to have an opportunity to curl up with a good book? Downloading audiobooks and listening to them during commutes and workouts can be the perfect way to "read" when you don't have dedicated time in your day.

Get fit

Working out more is one of the most common New Year's resolutions people make. To get this one to stick, consider tools that will make reaching your goals more fun. Sports watches are a good example of how wearable tech can support fitness goals. Many connect to a phone app, which provides access to a number of health and fitness functions.

Control spending

It's all too easy to spend more than one has or should in any given day, week, or month. Use digital apps to create a budget and stick to it. Find one that will actually send you push notifications



Find tools to help you stick to your resolution to get fit.

STOCK PHOTO

when you've exceeded your limits.

Make music

Whether learning to play for the first time or resolving to create your own compositions, new tools can support your efforts. Bonus benefits: learning to play keyboard will improve hand-eye coordination and stimulate cognitive brain activity.

Declutter

The act of decluttering your home is important, however it can seem daunting, making this one resolution that many people make but don't keep. Rather than assume you need to dedicate an entire day or weekend to tidy up, block out just five to 10 minutes a day to clear out small areas. Before you know it,

you'll start to see some major improvements. You can even make it fun by putting on music and cleaning for three-song segments at a time.

Hone your math skills

Whether you're in school and looking to boost your grades or your formal math education is well behind you, it's never too late to hone your skills. And a great calculator can help you not only become a more efficient mathematician, but one who really understands the concepts behind his or her calculations.

This New Year, don't get caught in a rut. New tools and fun strategies can help motivate you to try new hobbies, sharpen your skills, and improve your life.

sports

Springfield Elks Lodge 1560 annual Hoop Shoot



Recent winners of the Springfield Elks Hoop Shoot. Front row: Payton Austin, Christian Arie, Hailey Magill, Carl Johnson, and Amelia Murchie. Back row: Jacob Blair, Sabastian Salls, Past Exalted Ruler Vicki Siliski, Oliver Kelley, Keeli Stewart, Meadow Murchie, and Savannah Dezaine.

PHOTO PROVIDED

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Recently, Springfield Elks Lodge held their annual Hoop Shoot at Riverside Middle School for participants ages 8 to 14. First place winners for girls were Keeli Stewart, 8-9 years; Savannah Dezaine, 10-11 years; and Meadow Murchie, 12-13 years. First place winners for boys were Jacob Blair, 8-9 years; Oliver Kelley, 10-11 years; and Se-

bastian Salls, 12-13 years.

Second place winners for girls were Payton Austin, 8-9 years; Hailey Magill, 10-11 years; and Amelia Murchie, 12-13 years. Second place winners for the boys were Carl Johnson, 8-9 years; Christian Arie, 10-11 years; and Jeremy Wilson Jr., 12-13 years.

All the first place winners will compete in the Vermont

Elks Southern District Hoop Shoot event at Springfield High School, Jan. 11, 2020 at 10 a.m. The Elks Lodges in the south are comprised of Springfield, Brattleboro, Bennington, and Rutland.

First place winners in the Southern District Hoop Shoot will participate at the Vermont Elks State Hoop Shoot in Barre, Vt., Jan. 25 at 10 a.m.

Winter sports schedule, Jan. 2-11

REGION – For more information about an individual game or team, go to the schools' athletic department websites. If you have any sports news or photos from a recent game, submit them to editor@vermontjournal.com, and we may include them in the next paper!

THURSDAY, JAN. 2 –

Boys basketball
Leland & Gray @ Arlington, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball
Mount Anthony at Springfield, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 3 –

Boys basketball
Hillsboro-Deering at Fall



Don't miss your next game!

STOCK PHOTO

Mountain, 6:30 p.m.

Girls basketball
Fall Mountain at Hillsboro-Deering, 6:30 p.m.
Green Mountain at Mill River,

7 p.m.
Leland & Gray at Proctor, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 4 –

Boys basketball

Arlington at Bellows Falls, 1:30 p.m.
Black River at Sharon Academy, 2:30 p.m.
Otter Valley at Springfield, 2:30 p.m.
Poultney at Leland & Gray, 2:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 6 –

Girls basketball

Bellows Falls at Proctor, 7 p.m.
Mount Saint Joseph at Leland & Gray, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 7 –

Boys basketball

Black River at Mid-Vermont Christian, 7 p.m.
Green Mountain at Springfield, 7 p.m.

Leland & Gray at Bellows Falls, 7 p.m.
Stevens at Fall Mountain, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball

Poultney at Green Mountain, 7 p.m.
Stevens at Fall Mountain, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8 –

Girls basketball

Springfield at Randolph, 7 p.m.
Twin Valley at Bellows Falls, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 9 –

Boys basketball

Bellows Falls at Springfield, 7 p.m.
Fall Mountain at Hopkinton,

7 p.m.
Green Mountain at Fair Haven, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 10 –

Girls basketball

Bellows Falls at Arlington, 7 p.m.
Green Mountain at West Rutland, 7 p.m.
Hartford at Springfield, 7 p.m.
Hopkinton at Fall Mountain, 6:30 p.m.
Mount Saint Joseph at Black River, 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 11 –

Boys basketball

Black River at Long Trail, 6 p.m.
Springfield at Woodstock, 1:30 p.m.

community news

Healing Library kits at Springfield Town Library —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — When traumatic events happen to children in your care, it can be difficult to know where to turn to help your family heal. Many caregivers do not know how to breach difficult subjects that they themselves are often still processing. Michelle Stinson, the Springfield youth librarian, said, “Families in distress often turn to the library for guidance. We needed a caring and thoughtful response to help families through these stressful and often confusing situations.”

The Healing Library was identified as a resource that we could provide to the community ensuring any family is able to access support that is specific to an event. Building Bright Futures, in collaboration with the library, began working to provide this resource to the community in order to better support families in Springfield.

The Healing Library kits were the brainchild of a team of professionals who determined

a need to assist families after periods of trauma that encompassed many forms of healing. They recognize that families are unique and deserve the opportunity to build their own journey of healing with the highest quality experiences and materials. Using their expertise of play therapy, social work, literacy, and child development, the team created kits to help families heal. Each kit consists of specific books, crafts, activities, and a guide with tips on how to discuss these difficult subjects with children.

Armed with their guidance, BBF Regional Coordinator, Ellen Taetzsch started gathering materials for the kits. She included creative supplies such as stamps, scissors, watercolor paints and paper, beads, cards, and loads of special tools for creative exploration. “I wanted to include an array of materials so that all families with children a variety of ages could find healing in these kits. We

know that supporting families to create relationships within the family and community, identify coping strategies, and work through their trauma helps create a resilient community, benefiting all.”

The books were purchased by the Friends of the Springfield Town Library, the discussion and activities guides were downloaded and printed at the library. The Healing Library Kits that the Springfield Town Library currently have are: Death of a Loved One, Death of a Pet, and Alzheimer’s and Your Family.

Springfield Town Library cardholders are able to check these kits out just like other library materials. Area providers and agencies also have access to these kits. Please contact the library if you are interested in borrowing a kit. Call 802-885-3108 or go to www.springfieldtownlibrary.org.

Division of Liquor Control workshops in the region —

REGION — Division of Liquor Control workshops will be held in East Dorset, Manchester, and Bennington during the months of January, February, and March. Anyone that sells or serves alcohol or sells tobacco must be trained before they start working and then must be recertified every two years afterwards, per the requirements of Vermont Department of Liquor and Lottery.

“We are excited to offer those

involved in the serving or sales of alcohol or tobacco the opportunity to attend one of our area classroom seminars... We have found that our instructor-led classes tend to be the most effective method for helping students understand their legal responsibilities as well as helping them to understand how vital they are to assuring responsible consumption of alcohol and in helping prevent the misuse of alcohol and tobacco,” says Erik

Volk, Vermont Department of Liquor and Lottery.

Preregistration is required at www.secure.vermont.gov/DLC/eventreg.

First class licensee workshops are for anyone that serves alcohol and works for a bar, restaurant, club, hotel, caterer, bookstore, art gallery, or library. Workshops will be held Jan. 7 at 9:30 a.m. in E. Dorset; Feb. 12 at 10 a.m. in Bennington; and March 6 at 1 p.m. in Manchester.

Second class licensee workshops are for anyone that sells alcohol or tobacco and works for a store. Workshops will be held Jan. 22 at 9:30 a.m. in E. Dorset; Feb. 26 at 10 a.m. in Bennington; and March 11 at 1 p.m. in E. Dorset.

The Collaborative is pleased to coordinate these trainings with the Division of Liquor Control. Sellers and servers of alcohol and sellers of tobacco are primary persons responsible for preventing underage access to alcohol and tobacco. These classes focus on the statutes and laws related to selling alcohol and tobacco and serving alcohol and how the seller and server can make a responsible sale.

For more information, contact Victoria Silsby, The Collaborative, at 802-824-4200 or Vermont Division of Liquor Control at 802-828-2339.

Weston Playhouse 2020 Walker Farm Music Series —



Join Weston Playhouse Walker Farm 2020 Music Series. PHOTO PROVIDED

WESTON, Vt. — Weston Playhouse Theatre Company presents its Walker Farm Music Series, back for its second year. Join nationally recognized musicians at Walker Farm Jan. 18, Feb. 1, Feb. 22, and March 14 at 7:30 p.m. and rock out with friends new and old.

Music curator Jed Hughes has joined forces with Weston to put together a series of eclectic, exciting events. All Walker Farm Music shows are “pay what you will” events, letting you determine the price option that makes the most sense to you while supporting live performance in Weston and creating opportunities for others to attend. This concert series is sponsored by R.K. Miles, Marvin Windows & Doors, J.J. Hapgood, Vermont Foam Insulation, and Four Seasons Sotheby’s.

First in the series, Jan. 18, is Kat Wright, whose voice is both sultry and dynamic, delicate yet powerful; gritty but nuanced, and has been described as “a young Bonnie Raitt meets Amy Winehouse.” Add to that voice enough stage presence to tame lions, and the combination of feline ferocity proves immediately enchanting. There’s soul flowing in and out of her rock ‘n’ roll with a serpentine seduction. Some of soul music’s sweet, grand dames belt, shout, seethe, and succumb, while Wright sings gently like a heartache’s

apology. It’s funky in spots and beautiful all over. And it hurts a little... like it should.

Next in the lineup is Carrie Nation & The Speakeasy, a high-energy blend of brass, folk, and punk with an emphasis on songwriting and live shows. Blazing mandolin and trumpet solos careen over churning drums, acoustic guitar, and standup bass, while gravelly vocals deliver thought provoking lyrics. Established in 2007, CNS has proven a dedication to both entertainment and improvisation through their unique live shows that flow in and out of a variety of tempos and sonic feels. Over the past 11 years, CNS has performed their eclectic brand of “brass ‘n’ grass” to thrilled crowds at fests, clubs, and basements in 49 states and 8 countries. Check them out Feb. 1.

Sugartone Brass Band, coming to Weston Feb. 22, has been funk’n’ up the brass band scene in New York City for over a decade. The band got its start in a basement studio in Brook-

lyn, N.Y., the summer of 2002. In 2003, they started their first residency on the Upper West Side of Manhattan at the Gin Mill on Amsterdam Ave.

In 2007, Sugartone released its first album, “Live in Brooklyn.” Sugartone continued its Upper West Side residency in 2008 at Jacques-Imo’s restaurant, a cafe fashioned after the famous Jacques-Imo’s restaurant in New Orleans, and in 2010 Sugartone moved to a new restaurant on the famous Restaurant Row in Midtown Manhattan, called Bourbon Street Bar and Grill. Sugartone is New Orleans brass through and through, and they’re bringing it all the way to our sweet spot in Vermont this winter.

Finishing the series March 14 is Upstate, who first emerged from New York’s Hudson Valley in 2015 with their critically acclaimed debut, “A Remedy.” The album earned the band festival performances from Mountain Jam to FreshGrass, as well as a slew of national headline dates and support slots with everyone from The Felice Brothers and Phox to Marco Benevento and Cory Henry.

All concerts will be catered by MKT: Weston, well-known to last year’s attendees as well as summer ticket-holders. They will provide a varying menu of fresh and local small entrees, snacks, desserts, Vermont craft beer, and wine.

Reserve your tickets by visiting www.westonplayhouse.org/wfm.

Three Vermont DAs file suit against opioid manufacturers and distributors

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — Three Vermont community mental health agencies announced that they are joining forces in a suit against the opioid drug industry. The three state-designated nonprofit agencies include Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, in southeastern Vermont; Counseling Services of Addison County, Inc. in Middlebury; and Northeast Kingdom Human Services in northeastern Vermont. Each of these community mental health agencies have incurred significant losses due to the impact of the opioid crisis. Not only have these agencies seen an increase in unreimbursed addiction costs, but they’ve also experienced increased pressures

from providing these critical services.

According to HCERS CEO George Karabakakis, Ph.D., “The opioid crisis has devastated our communities. In over 50 years of providing services, we have not seen the likes of this crisis before, which is impacting not only the individuals who become addicted to these powerful drugs, but entire families and our community. The manufacturers and distributors of opioids have misled health care professionals and the public regarding the addictive nature of these drugs. We feel it’s time for these companies to be held accountable.”

Rachel Lee Cummings, CEO of CSAC agrees. “Like all counties in Vermont, Addison County is struggling under the weight of the opioid epidemic. Our county is overwhelmed with opioids, and we have seen an increase in people who need treatment. As a result, we are

challenged to support clients and families because of the large financial losses in our substance use and other programs. We believe it is time to hold manufacturers, distributors, and retailers who contributed to this epidemic accountable for the cost of treatment and services.”

Tomasz Jankowski, CEO of NHKS, said, “NKHS is recognizing the opioid epidemic that has surrounded us for a long, long time. This epidemic is not subsiding. We want to ensure that we hold the manufacturers and the distributors accountable for the decisions that they have made that have led to the outburst of this epidemic.”

In Windham County, a consortium of community organizations has undertaken a year-long planning effort on how to address the opioid crisis in their community. The group is now focused on implementing their action steps based on their findings.

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FOLA's first 2020 film features attempt to climb K2

LUDLOW, Vt. – FOLA starts off its 2020 calendar of events with a documentary about an attempt to climb the iconic K2. On Saturday, Jan. 4 at 7 p.m., FOLA will screen "K2: Beyond the Comfort Zone - 13 Countries to K2" in the Heald Auditorium in the Ludlow Town Hall.

This 2019 Canadian documentary directed by Nils Krebs records the efforts of Mike Horn and his friends to make the journey from Switzerland to Pakistan, in attempt to climb K2. Filming took place in the following countries: Switzerland, Germany, Russia, Poland, Latvia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, China, and Pakistan.

The expedition to K2 was the first edition of Mike Horn's #DrivenToExplore adventures, which took place in spring 2015. Powered by the legendary Mercedes-Benz G-Class for which Mike is the proud ambassador, Mike and his team drove across a total of 13 countries from Switzerland to Pakistan covering over 10,500 kilo-



FOLA will show a documentary on the climb up K2. PHOTO PROVIDED

meters in 15 days. The second part of the expedition began when Mike and his climbing partners Fred Roux and Köbi Reichen swapped the wheels of the G-Classes for their trekking shoes and started their hike towards K2, the second highest mountain in the world, standing at 8,611 meters altitude. The movie will run one hour and 30 minutes, and it is not rated.

The movie will be shown Saturday, Jan. 4 in the Heald

Auditorium, upstairs at the Ludlow Auditorium. It is free and open to all. The United Church of Ludlow provides free water and Berkshire Bank provides free popcorn. Donations appreciated.

FOLA is always looking for fellow community members who want to help make the Heald Auditorium a great space for events. Please call 802-228-3238 if you are interested in joining the FOLA organization.

Painting the winter landscape in watercolor

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Robert O'Brien is offering a one-day watercolor workshop painting the New England winter landscape in all its splendor at Gallery at the VAULT Saturday, Jan. 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Rob will demonstrate glazing techniques and layering of subtle tints of snow. Value, composition, light, and shadow will be emphasized. Working from photos, students will learn to create a finished painting from a favorite winter subject. The instructor will provide hands-on guidance for each student. A critique and discussion will be held at the end of the session.



"Winter Birches" by Robert O'Brien. PHOTO PROVIDED

All levels are welcome. A materials list will be provided at registration. Please register by Jan. 4 so we can make arrangements for the best space. If there are more than six students by then, the workshop will be held at the Art Gym in Springfield with further registration possible. We must give them notice one week in advance.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street in Springfield and is open Monday 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and Wednesday through Saturday 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit www.galleryvault.org.

Film "Dancing with the Cannibal Giant" to be shown

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – "Dancing with the Cannibal Giant: 5 Stories of the New Transition" will be shown Friday, Jan. 3 at 7 p.m., at the Springfield UU Meetinghouse. Executive producer of the film Chris Wood of Building a Local Economy in South Royalton will join us for a discussion after the film.

"When today's stories of crushing greed and endless growth have come to an end, what, then, will be the new stories?"

This documentary portrays "five remarkable stories of people and places transforming the world." Narrated by Penobscot elder, Sherri Mitchell, "We are introduced to the Penobscot mythology of the cannibal giant: a creature awakened by the destruction of mother earth. The film is told through the lens of this powerful prophecy: only if people can awaken to their own destruction, and the need for change, will the cannibal giant be put back to sleep."

The film includes groups from Vermont and upstate New York among the New Stories for the Great Transition. "The way that we are living in the world right now is disconnected from the source of our survival ... This is not the time to wallow in

despair and fear, this is not the time to waste our energies pointing fingers and casting blame. This is a time for us to organize, it's a time for us to galvanize our efforts, and to unify in ways that we never have before, to protect what is sacred and precious to us," says Mitchell.

This film is rescheduled from



The film "Dancing with the Cannibal Giant" will be shown at Springfield UU. PHOTO PROVIDED

December. Free admission and popcorn. This event will take place at the Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Rd., in Springfield.

Multi-instrumentalist Owen Nied performs in Bellows Falls

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – After his energetic August set that ranged from smoldering to blazing ignited the audience, multi-instrumentalist Owen Nied returns as the main event to the Stage 33 Live listening room in Bellows Falls Jan. 5 at 7 p.m.

His original music careers from edgy pop to jazz to blues, rock and hip hop, influenced by artists as diverse as Wes Montgomery, Les Paul, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Jack White, Jeff Beck, Brian Wilson, B.B. King, Dick Dale, Tony Bennett, Dave Brubeck, Chet Atkins, and Ella Fitzgerald. In addition to playing solo, Owen fronts the guitar- and horn-driven indie trio The Onlys; plays lead guitar in the jazz-grass band Cats in the Limelight; and is half of the U.K.-based indie-jazz duo Spooky Tricycle.

Performing since he was 9, he was awarded featured slots



Owen Nied to perform at Stage 33 Live. PHOTO PROVIDED

music and film.

No opener; this is Owen's canvas. The performance will be recorded and filmed at Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge St., in Bellows Falls, Vt. Suggested donation at the door.

Along with more veteran performers, Stage 33 Live is pleased to host listening events this winter featuring up-and-coming area musicians. When success knocks on their doors, you can impress your friends by telling them you saw them play an odd room in Bellows Falls before they got big.

For more information about the nonprofit, all-volunteer project and other upcoming events, go to www.stage33live.com.

at the Ukulele Festival of Great Britain in 2011 and 2012, and has since toured the U.S., England, France, and the Netherlands. This is impressive for anybody, but Owen is just 21 years old and in his senior year at Hampshire College studying

Northshire Bookstore hosts author Cheryl Wilfong

MANCHESTER, Vt. – On Saturday, Jan. 11 at 6 p.m., writer, gardener, and Buddhist practitioner Cheryl Wilfong will present her book "Breast Cancer Meets Mindfulness: Surrendering to Life" at Northshire Bookstore in Manchester.

Cheryl Wilfong responded to her cancer diagnosis from the depth of her meditation practice – she would not "fight" it but experience it. This pragmatic and uplifting guide won the 2019 Independent Publishers of New England Book of the Year award.

Surprised by breast cancer, Cheryl responds from the depth of her meditation practice. Friends offer worry and chicken soup, fear and support, unwanted advice and helpful suggestions. Accepting life as it is leads, one mindful moment at a time, to peace of mind. She surrenders to life, but she doesn't throw in the towel. She focuses on what's important and lets go of what's not important. She keeps discovering her unique and genuinely Cheryl life.

Cheryl Wilfong teaches

mindfulness meditation at Vermont Insight Meditation Center. She is the author of "The Meditative Gardener: Cultivating Mindfulness of Body, Feelings, and Mind," winner of seven book awards. She also writes the blog, The Meditative Gardener, winner of a Blogisatva Award. She usually writes about gardening mindfully, but life offered her the opportunity to write about breast cancer with mindfulness.

Northshire Bookstore is located at 4869 Main Street in Manchester, Vt. For information, go to www.northshire.com.

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outdoor news

SMS students at 2020 Youth Olympic Games

STRATTON, Vt. – Four Stratton Mountain School student-athletes will represent USA at the 2020 Youth Olympic Games, taking place between Jan. 9 and 22 in Lausanne, Switzerland. “To have four Stratton Mountain School students invited to the Youth Olympic Games is an incredible achievement, which speaks to the hard work put in by our coaches, teachers, and, of course, these elite athletes,” said Headmaster Chris Kaltzas. “I am excited to watch our students compete at the highest level and wish them the best of luck.”



Stratton Mountain School's participants in the Youth Olympic Games.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Nordic student-athletes Will Koch '20 and Nina Seeman '21 are two of six U.S. cross country athletes who will compete at the Youth Olympic Games. Both Koch and Seeman boast an impressive competitive track record including podium finishes for each athlete at Cross Country Junior Nationals last spring.

“We are overjoyed to have not just one but two SMS Nordic athletes named to the Youth Olympic Games roster,” said SMS Nordic Director Matt Boobar. “Both Will and Nina have been arduously working to achieve this level of recognition along with the ability to compete with the best of the best. At the World Cup level, the U.S. is quickly becoming a force to be reckoned with on the trails, and Will and Nina are hungry to prove that the future of the sport is just as bright as the present.”

Alongside Koch and Seeman, Boobar has also been selected to attend the 2020 Youth Olympic Games as a coach for the U.S. Cross Country Ski Team delegation. “I'm excited for the

opportunity not only to represent Stratton Mountain School at the games, but also to be able to watch these incredible young athletes compete at the highest stage of competition for their age having seen their growth first hand,” Boobar concluded.

Freeski Montana Osinski '21 will be one of two female athletes represent the U.S. in Slopestyle and Big Air at the Youth Olympic Games, following her invitation to the FIS Junior World Championships over the past two years.

“Since being here at SMS, Montana has improved her skiing tremendously and achieved some really amazing results,” said SMS Freeskiing Director Jesse Mallis. “Montana has been working really hard over the years, and we're really happy she'll be repping Stratton Mountain School at the Youth Olympic Games!”

“Montana is always early to training, the last one to leave, and works hard on the hill as well as in the classroom,” added Freeski Coach Keith Shipman.

“It takes a lot of courage and dedication to be a Freeski competitor and Montana is chock-full of both of these qualities.”

New SMS snowboarding athlete Acy Craig '21, who qualified for the games while enrolled at Carrabassett Valley Academy, will compete in Snowboardcross.

“The immense work that goes into an achievement of this magnitude is often not recognized,” added Associate Headmaster Carson Thurber. “From the unseen effort in the gym and out training to keeping up with their academic work, the commitment that these students display is incredible and we are immensely proud of them.”

Stratton Mountain School is an independent boarding and day school that focuses on college preparatory academics and competitive winter sports. Located at the base of Stratton Mountain, SMS serves students in grades 7-12.

How to enjoy yourself and stay safe on the ice this winter

REGION – As winter sets in, many Vermonters are preparing for one of the most popular cold weather pastimes in the state – ice fishing. Anglers spend over 400,000 days each winter ice fishing in Vermont, and the state's Fish & Wildlife Department is encouraging more people to give this accessible pastime a try.

Department fisheries biologist Shawn Good says ice fishing is a fun, social, family-oriented activity, and that there are many great reasons for Vermonters new to the sport to try it this year.

“Ice fishing is generally more accessible than open water fishing,” says Good. “Almost anyone can walk out on a frozen lake or pond and fish through the ice. And once you're out there, there's lots of room to spread out.”

Ice fishing can be more social than open water fishing, with friends and family gathering on the ice for cookouts and winter fun, along with the fishing.

“For many, it's not just about the fish. Kids love ice fishing because they can run around and slide on the ice or play in the snow. I've seen families with grills, food, and hot drinks having a great time. They set their tip-ups, build snowmen, play football, and even skate in between bouts of fishing.”

It's inexpensive and simple to get started. “An auger used for cutting holes in the ice is the most expensive piece of equipment you'll need. But you can get a 4-inch or 6-inch hand auger for under \$50 and share it with oth-

ers, so not everyone needs one. Add a scoop for cleaning out the holes and an ice fishing rod and reel combo or a couple tip-ups with hooks, weights, and bait and you're set for a fun day on the ice.”

When you've had a successful outing, bringing home a meal of healthy, locally caught fresh fish is a delicious benefit. “I think fish taste better in the winter,” says Good.

“There's something different about pulling a tasty perch, bluegill, or bass from ice cold water. They tend to be firmer and have a milder taste than in the summer.”

Good says it is normal for new anglers to worry about venturing out on frozen water, but with a few basic precautions and common sense, ice fishing is safe. “A minimum of three to four inches of clear black ice is safe to walk on. If you're unsure about ice thickness in your area, call your local bait and tackle shop. They're always up on current conditions and can help you get started with gear and advice, too. You can also look for other people out fishing. Experienced anglers know how to read the ice, so if you're unsure, go where others are or have been,” advised Good.

It is important to know that ice isn't always uniform in thickness. Areas around pressure cracks or near stream or river inlets can be thinner and weaker than surrounding ice.



Ice fishing opportunities are close by, no matter where you are in Vermont. Ice fishing is a great way to enjoy the outdoors in winter, offering a fun, unique winter experience.

PHOTO BY SHAWN GOOD

Good advises anglers to carry a set of ice picks, head out with a partner, and let someone know where you will be fishing, your access point, and when you plan on returning home.

Good says dressing properly is key. “On a calm sunny day, you'll be surprised how comfortable you feel. Even with the thermometer showing single digits, the sun will warm you right up. Make sure you dress in layers and keep your head, hands, and feet covered and dry, and you'll be quite toasty,” said Good.

No matter where you live in Vermont, an ice fishing opportunity is close by. Ice fishing is a great way to enjoy the outdoors in winter, offering a fun, unique winter experience.

To learn more about ice fishing for beginners, visit Vermont Fish and Wildlife's “Ice Fishing Basics” webpage: www.vtfishandwildlife.com/fish/fishing-opportunities/vermonts-ice-fishing-opportunities/ice-fishing-basics.

Fish & Wildlife 2020 Vermont Angler Survey

MONTPELIER, Vt. – On Jan. 6, a questionnaire will be mailed to some Vermont anglers asking for information about their fishing activities, as well as their interests and opin-

ions on fishing and fisheries' management in Vermont.

The survey is directed and funded by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and is being carried out under contract by Responsive Management. The survey will be mailed to 4,500 resident and 900 nonresident anglers who have been randomly selected from Vermont's 2019 fishing license records.

The resulting information will be used to help inform the Fish and Wildlife Depart-

ment about general trends in angler opinions and activities. Anglers' identities will be kept confidential and answers will never be associated with their names.

“This survey will also compliment those conducted in 1991, 2000, and 2010, providing us with a good picture of trends in angler activities and desires over the past 30 years,” said Eric Palmer, Fish and Wildlife's director of fisheries.

“While the questionnaire may seem a bit long, it is di-

vided into sections, so anglers will only need to fill out those sections that reflect their fishing habits. If you don't fish for trout, you don't fill out the trout section,” explained Palmer. “While this is a voluntary survey, we encourage all anglers who receive them to take the time to fill them out, even if you do not fish very often. The more responses we receive, the better the survey will reflect Vermont's angling community.”

If you receive a survey and have any questions, please contact Fisheries Biologist Bret Ladago at 802-485-7566 or bret.ladago@vermont.gov.

Okemo debuts Jackson Gore Snowground winter playground

LUDLOW, Vt. – Families visiting Okemo's Jackson Gore base area through the winter will get to experience a newly constructed play area made of snow called the Gore Snowground. The sculpted pile of snow adds an element of fun for children to enjoy when they're not skiing or snowboarding. There are slides made of snow, construction tubes to crawl through, snow platforms to ascend, flag poles

with climbing ropes attached, and a giant tractor tire to play on.

The OkemoParks team created Gore Snowground with assistance from Effective Edge, an industry leader in terrain park strategy, signature product development, and operations planning. The project was completed over the course of several days. It required 24 hours of snowmaking, use of an excavator, a Prinoth Bison X snow cat, and hand detailing.

“This is a welcome addition to the fun, family atmosphere at Okemo's Jackson Gore Inn and base area,” said Okemo Vice President and General Manager Bruce Schmidt. “The terrain park team, as well as grooming and snowmaking, did a great job bringing this idea to life.”

Okemo approached the holiday period with 77 of its 121 trails open and 15 of its 20 lifts running. Snowmaking is expected to resume as temperatures permit.

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Check the Snow Report at www.VermontJournal.com

ON THE SNOW SNOW REPORT	FRIDAY, DEC. 27, 2019		
	Lifts	Snow Depth	Snowfall
Killington Resort	21 / 22	24"	0" (12/27)
Magic Mountain	4 / 6	18"	0" (12/27)
Okemo Mountain Resort	18 / 20	24"	0" (12/27)
Stratton Mountain	11 / 11	19"	0" (12/27)
Sugarbush	11 / 16	42"	0" (12/27)

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

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802-463-9863.

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JAMAICA, Vt. - Frigidaire Gallery side-by-side refrigerator, black stainless steel. 31" deep by 70-3/4" high by 36" wide. Purchased new in February 2019 for \$1,575. Asking for \$800. Call 802-874-4134.

HELP WANTED

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a Mental Health Clinician and a Psychometrician to provide psychotherapeutic services and administer psychological and neuropsychological tests. Clinical supervision is available. Send Resume and References to: Twin State Psychological Services, PO Box 2003, Springfield, VT 05156, or email: docroot@vermontel.net. Providing Excellent Services with Compassion for over 40 years.

LEGAL

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. - The annual report of Streamway Foundation Trust for the year ended December 31, 2019 will be available at its Saxtons River, VT office during the hours of 9am-4pm Monday through Friday (please call 802-869-1595 for an appointment) by any citizen who requests permission to inspect said report within 180

days of July 15, 2020.

WOOD BOILERS

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NOTICE

Black River High School Alumni 1939-1999

Student Records from 1939-1999 can be picked up at the Black River High School Middle School office by appointment only. Please contact Debby Neubert at 802-875-4721 to schedule an appointment. Student Records that have not been claimed by June 1st will be destroyed.



ANSWERS TO TAKE A BREAK!

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

J	A	W	S	M	A	P	M	E	I	N	
E	C	H	O	A	D	O	U	N	D	O	
F	E	E	L	S	A	I	N	T	D	O	
F	R	E	E	D	O	M	A	I	S	L	E
I	R	O	N	M	A	N	T	A	N		
I	R	O	N	Y	K	I	N	G	D	O	M
F	A	R	V	I	E	I	R	E			
S	T	A	R	D	O	M	T	W	E	E	T
E	E	L	B	A	R						
F	A	T	W	A	B	O	R	E	D	O	M
A	T	R	A	N	D	O	M	N	A	V	E
D	O	E	R	N	U	B	C	L	A	N	
S	P	E	D	A	T	E	H	E	L	D	

pet of the week



My name's Cadence, and I'm a 3-year-old spayed female Doberman-Hound mix. By any chance, do you enjoy hiking and exploring? If so, I may just be the girl for you! I'm looking for an active family that would love to take me on adventurous hikes. I love being outdoors, moving around - I'm a busy bee with a ton of positive energy. I'd really benefit from someone who can help me focus while I continue to work on basic skills.

As a matter of fact, I've been working quite diligently on my obedience skills since I've been here at Lucy Mackenzie with my human friends, and I'm doing a great job. I would do best in a home with older dog-savvy children, because I'm a super exuberant girl.

I'm sorry, but I just don't care much for other dogs and need to be the only dog in my new home. Do I sound like the one to complete your family? If so, stop by and meet me today.

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(12/31/19)

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calendar

AUTOMOTIVE/REAL ESTATE

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

JAN. 5-9 – CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Time to fulfill your New Year's resolution. Stop smoking in five days for free. This workshop is held at St. Luke's Parish Hall, 188 Main Street, Charlestown, N.H., and it starts Jan. 5 at 5 p.m. Limited seating. Call 978-496-5006 to register.

JAN. 9 – LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Community forum on "Planning for Emerald Ash Borer: Vermont's Latest Invasive Pest" Thursday,

Jan. 9, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Londonderry Town Hall. Hosted by Londonderry Conservation Commission. Free and open to the public. Snow date is Jan. 16.

JAN. 10 – PERU, Vt. – New Spring Farm, 135 Batchelders Barn Rd., Peru, is offering Ayurvedic lifestyle workshop Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. through Jan. 12 at 4 p.m. Learn how to recognize your unique dosha and pursue practical ways to correct imbalances. During this weekend workshop, we will focus on the principles of Ayurveda, guiding

you through self-care techniques and ways to address digestion and nutrition through food preparation and lifestyle practices. Sign up for personal consultations as well as bodywork. Deposits were due Dec. 31 to secure your spot. For more information, please email Edna Meyer at Edna@NewSpringFarmVT.com or call 802-681-3336.

WEDNESDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gentle Seva Yoga, every second Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Springfield Unitarian

Universalist Meetinghouse, 21 Fairground Rd, in Springfield. For details, call 802-885-3327.

FRIDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Free family fun art and music nights run second Fridays, starting at 6 p.m., open to people of all ages. We encourage families and friends to build community and come "exercise your creativity." Try something new, make mistakes, learn, and try again at the Springfield Art Gym on 62 Clinton St., Springfield. Visit www.facebook.com/springfieldartgym.

CLUBS

JAN. 7 – WHITE RIVER JCT., Vt. – The Upper Valley Curling Club is offering a "Learn to Curl" clinic Tuesday, Jan. 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Barwood Arena in White River Junction, Vt. The clinic is open to anyone interested in learning the sport. The club will provide all of the equipment needed to curl; you just have to wear warm clothing and shoes with non-skid

soles. Space is limited, so interested participants must register in advance at www.uppervalleycurling.org. Send questions to uppervalleycurling@gmail.com.

JAN. 11 – STRATTON, Vt. – On Saturday, Jan. 11, summit Stratton with the Green Mountain Club. Meet at 8 a.m. at the southwest corner of the Stratton Mountain Base Lodge. Park in the lot 1 and take the shuttle bus or walk to the base lodge. We will ride the gondola for free to the summit. Hike to summit trail to the Fire Tower and then the Long Trail north to Stratton Pond. Lunch at the shelter or the pond. Return via the Long Trail south to VAST 7, follow VAST 7, then the Catamount Trail and a side trail to Catamount to the ski area and descend to the base area on Stratton ski trails. Total distance is about 7.5 miles with about 1,800 feet of descent and about 500 feet of ascent. Moderately difficult. No dogs are allowed. Bring extra layers, a wool or fleece hat, extra mittens, hand warmers, snacks, lunch, and fluids. Poles are helpful especially for the downhill. RSVP is required to Dave Ratti at 802-366-0698 or dbrspruce@gmail.com.

First Friday Supper is Jan. 3, from 5-7 p.m., at the First Baptist Church, 9 Church St., in Bellows Falls. The menu is soups, chowders, stews, chili, sandwiches, green salad, desserts, and beverages. Suggested donation. Net proceeds go to Women's Freedom Center.

SATURDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Gassetts Grange Community Breakfast is on the second Saturday of the month from 8-9:30 a.m. Menu includes bacon, sausage, sausage gravy on biscuits, eggs, homefries, pancakes (blueberry & plain), toast, real VT syrup, OJ & tomato juice, coffee, tea, or cocoa. Cost per person.

EVENTS

JAN. 10 – GRAFTON, Vt. – The Nature Museum in Grafton will host a moonlit snowshoe walk Friday, Jan. 10 at 6 p.m. Experience a winter evening using all of your senses as we brave the cold to explore snow-covered terrain and, hopefully, hear an owl or two. We'll warm up by a fire with mugs of hot chocolate and share our experiences before we head home. Families are welcome.

TUESDAYS – PUTNEY, Vt. – Wound care for feet will be available at Putney Community Cares on the first Tuesday of every month, from 12-3 p.m., starting Tuesday, Jan. 7, with Margaret Heale, R.N. of Heale Wound Care. Call 802-376-8249 or email mheale@healewoundcare.com for scheduling.

SATURDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Round and Square Dance at the Gassetts Grange on the first Saturday of every

month from 7-10 p.m. Door donation per person.

KIDS' CORNER

JAN. 7 – LUDLOW, Vt. – Kids in kindergarten and older can join Crafty Tuesdays, from 3-4 p.m., at Fletcher Memorial Library in Ludlow. Jan. 7 is "Skiing Snowman and Friends." Build a ski mountain and some skiers to swish down the slopes.

LIBRARIES

JAN. 6 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Monday, Jan. 6 at 3 p.m., the Rockingham Library will host a discussion about what the monthly book club should read in 2020. A range of titles to select from will be on display. Each title will also be available in large print and audiobook format. Everyone is welcome. Join the conversation. Enjoy some refreshments. This event is free and open to the public. The library is located at 65 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, Vt., and is wheelchair accessible. For more information, call 802-463-4270, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, or go to www.rockinghamlibrary.org.

MUSIC & THEATER

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.

JAN. 5 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Multi-instrumentalist Owen Nied returns to Stage 33 Live Jan. 5 at 7 p.m. at 33 Bridge St. in Bellows Falls, Vt. No opener, this is entirely Owen. Suggested donation at the door. For more information, go to www.stage33live.com.

SATURDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Second-Saturday Synthfest Series at Stage 33 Live celebrates synthesizer performance, circuit-bending, and sound manipulation. Series dates are Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 14, and April 11 at 7 p.m., 33 Bridge St., in Bellows Falls. Suggested donation at the door. Find more information about these and other events online at www.stage33live.com.

SUPPORT GROUPS

WEDNESDAYS – TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital will host a Mental Illness Family Support Group on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Grace Cottage Wellness Center (133 Grafton Rd.) in Townshend. NAMI Family Support Group meetings are monthly 90-minute support groups. For more information, call 713-591-2857. Visit www.namivt.org.

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COMMUNITY MEALS

JAN. 3 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. –



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Chester, \$269,000



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4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 0.89+/- Acres
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Lori Muse, Broker/Owner Carol Cole, REALTOR

Long range valley views. This 1994 home offers great quality throughout in addition to a beautiful setting. First floor includes spacious kitchen with cherry cabinets and breakfast room, expansive living room with field stone fireplace and lots of windows, den/office, formal dining room, mudroom, full bath with laundry. Second floor with oversized master bedroom with walk-in closet and full bathroom, two additional bedrooms and full bath (one being family room sized with private staircase for potential in-law space). Two car attached garage with potting benches, expansive basement with workshop area and potential living space. Situated on 104+/- acres of pasture and woods (enrolled in Current Use), 36X46 horse barn with rubber mat flooring, multiple stalls, hot/cold water, tack room and storage room for approx. 600 bales of hay. **REDUCED TO \$549,900**



A good start. This classic cape style farmhouse offers a back porch, 2-3 bedrooms, eat-in kitchen, living room and a 3/4 bath. Located on a State Road the property has easy access. A bright and sunny location with barn and 4+/- acres offering a great opportunity for extensive gardens, lawn or pasture. **\$135,000**



Is Renovating a Farmhouse something you have always dreamed of? This 2700 +/- sqft home is situated in Baltimore with lots of space. Includes a remodeled kitchen, dining area, 1st floor bath, formal dining room, living room and 1st floor bedroom. Upstairs with master bedroom/bath and additional bedrooms, play room/office, attached garage with multiple bays for 6+/- cars or storage situated on 3+/- acres surrounded by country meadows and a view. **\$155,000**



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**