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The hard-won campaign to honor Martin Luther King Jr.

BY TERRI J. HUCK

The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

REGION - Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which falls on Jan. 16 this year, is the result of a long, tireless struggle to honor the man who was the chief leader of nonviolent activism during the Civil Rights Movement. The legislative effort to establish a national holiday took 15 years, and full nationwide participation took another 17 years.

Within days of King's assassination in April 1968, Michigan Rep. John Conyers first introduced legislation calling for a federal holiday; he continued to do so year after year as lawmakers refused to move the bill forward. In the meantime, Illinois, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Jersey passed statewide laws to commemorate King.

A bill to honor him with a federal holiday finally moved through Congress in 1979—after multiple congressional appearances by King's widow, the late Coretta Scott King; pressure from then-President Jimmy Carter; and a grassroots lobbying effort. However, the bill fell five votes short of passage, with opponents arguing that it would be too expensive to give federal employees the day off or that King did not deserve such recognition.

Undeterred, the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, established by Coretta Scott King in 1968, sought the support of companies and the public. Stevie Wonder's 1980 hit song "Happy Birthday" popularized the campaign, and 6 million people signed

a petition urging Congress to pass the law, which had been reintroduced by Indiana Rep. Katie Hall.

In 1983, Congress finally approved the bill, and President Ronald Reagan signed it into law. It didn't take effect until 1986, and even then, many states resisted or combined it with other holidays. It wasn't until 2000 that all 50 states officially observed the holiday. Arizona, New Hampshire and Utah were the last three states to recognize it, and South Carolina was the last to designate it as a paid holiday for state employees. Previously, those employees could choose between Martin Luther King Jr. Day and three Confederate holidays.

Even today, some states still combine Martin Luther King Jr. Day with Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's birthday, and less than 40 percent of employers treat it as a paid holiday. However, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is celebrated around the world, including in Toronto, Canada, and Hiroshima, Japan.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton signed legislation that urges Americans to spend Martin Luther King Jr. Day in service to others. To learn more or find a volunteer opportunity near you, go to NationalService.gov/MLKDay.



Coretta Scott King (far left) looks on as President Ronald Reagan signs legislation establishing Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983.

PHOTO PROVIDED



Martin Luther King, Jr. 1964.

PHOTO PROVIDED

I-91 Rockingham Bridges - a continuous update

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - The following is the anticipated schedule of the construction to take place on the I-91 Rockingham Bridges #24S & 24N over the Williams River beginning January 09, 2017.

Weather permitting, I-91 southbound travel lane only (right lane) over the bridge con-

tinues to be closed until approximately January 13 to allow crews to drill test borings. The left (passing) lane will be open to thru traffic and motorists should have little to no delays.

It is anticipated that from January 17 - 27 the northbound travel lane only (right lane) will be closed

along with the northbound Exit 6 on-ramp. Traffic needing to use the Exit 6 on-ramp will be detoured to Route 5 north to I-91 Exit 7 on-ramp.

Please note that these dates are subject to change due to weather/road conditions. Motorists use extreme caution as the safety of the

workers along with themselves is of the utmost importance.

The Public Relations telephone number to call with any questions or concerns regarding this project is 802-862-6085 or 866-602-6868. Find updates/changes at: <http://countonitinc.com/road-construction-updates/>

Calvin Essay contest encourages students to understand and solve political divisions

PLYMOUTH, Vt. - President Calvin Coolidge was known for his civility and his ability to work across the aisle. Do you think Coolidge could win the presidency today? What lessons from President Coolidge might help heal our political divisions? What can you do in your own life to encourage civility in America's political dialogue while still advocating for the things in which you believe?

These powerful ideas are to be explored in the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation's 2017 Calvin Essay Contest. This is open to all Vermont students or students who go to school in Vermont age 13 through 18. A first place prize of \$1500 and second place prize of \$500 will be awarded. Students are to prepare an article, essay, or poem of 800 words

or fewer that addresses these questions. Due May 19, 2017.

The Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation is the official foundation dedicated to preserving the legacy and promoting the values of America's 30th president. The Foundation was formed in 1960 by John Coolidge, the president's son, along with a group of fellow Coolidge enthusiasts. The Foundation is headquartered at the president's birthplace in Plymouth Notch, Vermont and offers a variety of programs including History Exploration Programs at the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site, Outreach, and Debate Programs.

For full information and resources, see: <https://coolidgefoundation.org/blog/2016-calvin-prize-for-vermont-youth/> Contact education@calvin-coolidge.org or call 802-672-3389.



Calvin Coolidge as a student. What lessons from President Coolidge might help heal our political divisions?

PHOTO PROVIDED



Cooking for students

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - The Collaborative hosted a 6-week long cooking class for students in grades 5-8 from Flood Brook School. The students prepared and tried new foods including veggie quesadillas, lo mein, black bean chocolate chip muffins, frittatas, yogurt parfaits and baked ziti. One student exclaimed, "I wasn't expecting to like the black bean muffins but I did!" Along with cooking, the students also learned about nutrition and physical activity. We want to thank IGA Clark's for generously donating food for this cooking class!

For more information about The Collaborative's programs visit our website at www.thecollaborative.us or contact Laura Muro at 802-824-4200. The Collaborative's mission is to promote the development of a healthy, involved community supporting the development of substance-free youth.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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Over \$50,000 to be awarded in scholarships for students with record of volunteerism

REGION - Berkshire Bank, America's Most Exciting Bank® is excited to announce that it will honor a record thirty five high school seniors across Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, Vermont, New Jersey and Pennsylvania for their volunteer service through the Berkshire Bank Foundation's annual Scholarship Awards Program. The program will award \$52,500 in total scholarship dollars to students who have exemplified

community service through their volunteer efforts, have been successful academically and have a financial need. Additionally, students must attend a high school that is located in a county with a Berkshire Bank office. Through the program, thirty-five \$1,500 scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who will be attending a two-year or four-year college in the fall. Applications are evaluated based on the student's

record of volunteerism in the community, academic standing and financial need. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of a 3.0 and a family household income under \$75,000 to be eligible to apply. A team of more than 200 Bank employee volunteers will review the applications and select this year's recipients. Scholarships will be awarded in the geographic regions where Berkshire Bank offices or its subsidiar-

ies are located. Students can apply online through the Bank's website at www.berkshirebank.com/scholarships. To be considered, all applications must be submitted online by Wednesday, March 22nd at 4:00 p.m. Additional information about this year's program can be obtained through the Bank's website or by contacting Berkshire Bank Foundation at scholarshipinfo@berkshirebank.com.



Volunteering can be rewarding in many ways!

PHOTO PROVIDED

14 Vermont towns to launch Weatherize Upper Valley

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, Vt. - Vital Communities and volunteers in 14 Vermont towns will launch a new Weatherize Upper Valley initiative later this month to encourage more homeowners to invest in energy efficiency projects. Hartland, Hartford, Norwich, Thetford, Sharon, Royalton, Bethel, Randolph, Braintree, Brookfield, Windsor, Reading, Cavendish, and Weathersfield are participating in the pilot program this January through May. The 14 towns—organized into four unique Weatherize campaigns—will host public kick-off events later this month. Interested residents are encouraged to attend to learn more about home energy efficiency and the Weatherize process, meet their community's certified weatherization contractors, and talk with neighbors



Vital Communities to launch a new weatherizing initiative.

PHOTO PROVIDED

who have completed home energy efficiency projects. Weatherize Upper Valley teams up community volunteers with certified weatherization contractors to provide FREE professional home energy assessments, proposals, and quotes. Homeowners who sign weatherization contracts by May 31 will be entered into drawings for prizes ranging up to \$2,500 toward energy improvements. "It can typically cost homeowners

\$400 or more just to get a project proposal and quote. Providing free home assessments is a significant way to help more homeowners explore the idea of energy improvements," said Sarah Brock, energy program manager at Vital Communities, who worked with a variety of stakeholders to develop the Weatherize Upper Valley concept. "Energy efficiency projects—focused on air sealing and insulation—are the best kept secret in home improvement; the average cost for these projects in our region is \$7,800, resulting in average energy savings of 26% annually. With generous rebates in both Vermont and New Hampshire, plus the benefit of increased comfort, it's an easy decision for many homeowners to make if we can just help them take the first step. Weatherize Upper Valley does that, with a goal of doubling the number of home energy projects completed in the Upper Valley each year." Local Weatherize Upper Valley kick-off event: Ascutney Team Weatherize Kick-Off- For residents in Cavendish, Reading, Weathersfield, and Windsor on Saturday, January 28, 10 - 11:30 a.m. at The Weathersfield School. Residents in participating towns don't have to wait until the kick-off event to get started. More information and instructions for participation can be found at VitalCommunities.org/Weatherize.

Green Thumbs at Work: employee garden grants

REGION - The Vermont Department of Health and Vermont Community Garden Network, in partnership with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont, Gardener's Supply Company, and gardening expert Charlie Nardoizzi, are offering grants for small business and organizations to establish workplace food gardens for their employees. The Green Thumbs at Work grants are open to any Vermont business or organization with 100 or fewer employees. The grant award includes \$500 for materials, a \$200 gift certificate to Gardener's Supply Company, and \$1,000 in garden planning support and technical assistance from Charlie Nardoizzi and the Vermont Community Garden Network. The deadline to apply is Friday, February 10, 2017. Now in its fourth year, the Green Thumbs at Work grant program gives employers an additional way to support employee morale and healthy behaviors. Though workplace gardens, employees can have



The Green Thumbs at Work grants are open to any Vermont business or organization with 100 or fewer employees.

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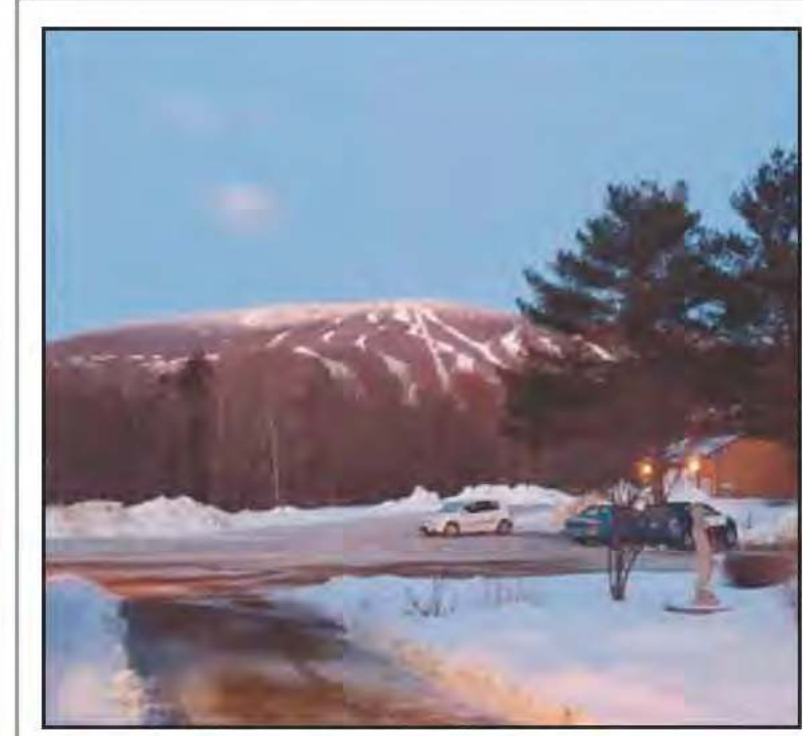
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across industries and sectors, including manufacturing facilities, natural food cooperatives, social service organizations, engineering firms and others.

Grant winners are selected based on readiness to develop a workplace garden, including the ability to provide matching funds and in-kind services for garden development, plans for employee participation, and clear articulation of how the garden will help meet employee wellness goals. Employees must be the primary users and beneficiaries of the garden. The technical assistance provided through the grant program helps each workplace determine the type and size of garden that best meets its needs, and develop strategies to ensure the garden will be successful throughout the 2017 season and for years to come. Green Thumbs at Work grant winners will be announced February 24, 2017. For more information about Green Thumbs at Work and a link to the online grant application, visit <http://vcgn.org/what-we-do/green-thumbs-at-work> or call 802-861-4769.

Ludlow Legion Friday Dinners are back

LUDLOW, Vt. - The American Legion Post #36 in Ludlow has started up their Friday Night Dinners again for the new year! This Friday, Jan. 13 they will be serving Roast Pork with Mashed Potatoes and Mixed Veggies, followed by dessert. The American Legion is hosting this dinner for \$12, to benefit the legion. Seatings are from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Call 802-228-9807 for reservations. Hope to see you there!

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Top five goals from Gov. Scott's inauguration speech

REGION - Republican Gov. Phil Scott, in his first speech as Vermont's top executive, laid out a general blueprint for reviving the state's flagging economy, lowering the cost of living and welcoming young people and families to the state.

Scott proposed five key goals for his first term during his inauguration address.

Bringing back jobs

A cornerstone of Scott's 2016 political campaign was his call to create new jobs and retain existing jobs.

The former lieutenant governor has been especially concerned about Vermont's declining workforce, particularly in the 25 to 45 age range.

"Since 2010 we've lost 16,000 workers, and that downward trend continues. We are losing 2,300 more every year, which means by tomorrow we will have six fewer workers than we have today. Those losses shrink our tax base and deter businesses from opening here," Scott said Thursday in his inaugural address.

He said IBM and burgeoning technology businesses helped mitigate the loss of jobs resulting from

closed mills and railroads following World War II, noting that Vermont needs similar growth going forward.

"I know future economic development will look very different than it did in 1957, but we must develop a network of small-to-midsize businesses that will grow into the next IBM, My Web Grocer or GW Plastics," he said.

Property taxes

As a part of making Vermont more attractive to a new generation of workers, Scott alluded to reducing property taxes by controlling school spending, among other factors.

"We spend \$1.6 billion annually on K-12 education — about \$19,000 per student, which is one of the highest in the country," he said. "However, we're not yet an education destination for young families."

Scott said investment in early education is one way to reduce health care and special education costs. He added that Vermont's level of support for state colleges and universities is among the lowest in the nation, and also needs to change.

The opiate crisis

In his address, Scott also pledged

to continue the fight against opiate and heroin drug abuse, a major initiative of the Shumlin administration.

"The opiate crisis is one of the most significant challenges we face," he said. "It shows no bias towards the rich or poor, young or old, urban or rural. This epidemic touches nearly every Vermont family."

Scott called for improvements in drug treatment, prevention and enforcement. He also urged better communication between agencies: "[We need] models for success and lessons-learned to flow freely from agency to agency and community to community."

To help achieve that goal, Scott plans to establish a director of Drug Abuse Prevention along with an Opioid Coordination Council.

A tense political climate

During the election season, Scott refused to endorse Republican President-elect Donald Trump. Even so, on Thursday he said he hopes his administration can function regardless of current political tensions.

"This transition comes at a time when the political divide across the

country feels as deep and as personal as it ever has. [It's] a time when uncertainty and anxiety cloud our view of the future, and a time when many have lost confidence in government's ability to solve the real and diverse problems facing so many."

Scott said he has put a team together to handle the big changes ahead: "The change in Washington creates a level of uncertainty, but we have a strong team in place to respond."

Honest communication

Rather than make empty promises for his administration, Scott was careful to temper expecta-



Gov. Phil Scott.

PHOTO PROVIDED

tions and focus on immediate budget woes.

"Despite modest economic growth, state revenues are flat and costs are increasing faster than we can pay. Between federal funding changes, statutory liabilities, and case-load pressures in human services and health care, we face a budget gap of at least \$70 million this year."

Scott expressed hope of working across party lines during the legislative session.

"I know we're not always going to agree, and even when we do, change may not always come as fast as we would hope. But we must always treat others the way we want to be treated. It's a rule I've followed in life, politics, business and racing," he said.

By Michael Bielawski from Watchdog.org

Two thesis-year scholarships for emerging filmmakers

REGION - The Vermont College of Fine Arts (VCFA) MFA in Film program has announced two new scholarship awards geared toward emerging filmmakers. The two full-tuition, thesis-year Emerging

Filmmakers Scholarship awards are available for a MFA in Film student's second and final year of the two-year, low-residency program.

VCFA will award one scholar-

ship to a student working with documentary form; the College will award the second scholarship to a student working in narrative form. Documentary and narrative film projects that explore episodic, transmedia, and hybrid-form filmmaking are encouraged. Each Emerging Filmmakers Scholarship award is worth \$26,500 in tuition and fees. These scholarships are available only to new MFA in Film students enrolling for April 2017.

"At VCFA, we have long supported emerging artists, including filmmakers," said Stephen Pite, Ph.D., program director for MFA in Film. "Filmmakers can often face financial challenges while completing a thesis during their second year of earning an MFA. Through these two Emerging Filmmakers Scholarships, we hope to both support a student's current project as well as help expand and personalize their voice as a filmmaker."

The MFA in Film program at VCFA began in 2013 and encour-

ages its students and filmmakers to refine their creative expression through self-created film projects while working with faculty mentors. In the program's two-year, low-residency model, students attend VCFA's Montpelier campus in April and October for screenings, workshops, critiques, and lectures, all while developing a detailed semester study plan with faculty. Students then return home and regularly meet with their faculty mentors (via Skype, phone, or in-person) to discuss their MFA projects. For more information about the program, visit the MFA in Film site at vcfa.edu/film.

The application deadline for the Emerging Filmmakers Scholarship is Feb. 25, 2017. Applicants must complete additional requirements in the admissions process to be considered for these scholarships. Contact Sharon Trautwein, assistant director of film admissions, at Sharon.Trautwein@vcfa.edu or by phone at 802-828-8649.



The Vermont College of Fine Arts presents two new scholarships for their film program. PHOTO PROVIDED

Winter herbal workshop

BELMONT, Vt. - Join Northern Naturals and Gardens for a winter workshop focusing on winter cuisine, tea making, and herbal skin health. January 15 from 1 - 2:30 p.m. at the shop location at 899 Frost Hill Road. Please email us at northerngardensvt@gmail.com,

or call (802) 259-3762 for information and to sign up. Space is limited. Come and enjoy a cup of tea, learn a few herbal hints, and make your own dips, teas and skin products. Learn how your gardens can help you with your winter health!

Blood drive

LUDLOW, Vt. - The American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive at the Ludlow Community Center on Monday, Jan. 23. Take advantage of RAPIDPASS on your

computer at home, the day of the blood drive before you come in. Give the gift of life! Donation hours will be held from 12:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Free computer troubleshooting course

WESTON, Vt. - Join Matt, owner of sydscompufix.com, a computer repair service, for a free troubleshooting computer basics class for PC Windows users. Bring your laptops, tablets and other devices to the library and feel free to ask Matt questions about your computer trouble spots.

Registration is required, and we encourage you to reach out to Matt directly via email before the class to let him know your questions in advance so he knows what to cover. Matt will tailor his class to the needs of his students.

Matt will host his course on

Saturday, Jan. 21 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. To sign-up please contact: director@wildermemoriallibrary.org or phone 802-824-4307. To contact Matt in advance of his class, email sydscompufix@rocketmail.com



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Indexed Annuities

REGION - An indexed annuity (IA) is a contract between you and an insurance company. You pay premiums in a lump sum or periodically, and the issuer promises* to pay you some amount in the future. The IA issuer also provides a minimum guaranteed* interest rate on your premiums paid.

With an IA, the interest earnings are tied to the performance of an equity index such as the S&P 500 or the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

With an IA, your interest earnings may increase if the market performs well, but if the market performs poorly, your principal is not reduced by market losses. Indexed annuities are generally subject to a lengthy surrender charge period. Most IAs pay a minimum guaranteed* interest rate (e.g., 3%) on a percentage of premium (e.g., 87.5%). However, if the IA doesn't earn interest greater than the minimum, cashing in the account prior to the end of the surrender period may cause the investor to lose money.

Note, however, that any return, whether guaranteed or not, is only as good as the insurance company that offers it. Both the IA's principal and

its earnings are entirely dependent on the insurer's ability to meet its financial obligations.

Also, be aware that buyers of IAs are not directly invested in the index or the equities comprising the index. The index is merely the instrument used to measure the gain or loss in the market, and that measurement is used to calculate the interest rate.

*Annuity guarantees are subject to the claims-paying ability of the annuity issuer.

Basics

The first IAs that were introduced worked very simply; the interest rate was determined by computing the difference between the value of the index to which the annuity was linked on the annuity's issue date and the value of the same index on the annuity's maturity date. If the difference was negative (i.e., the market performed poorly and the value of the index decreased), interest was calculated using the minimum interest rate. If the difference was positive (i.e., the market performed well and the value of the index increased), the interest rate used was a percentage of the difference—but usually not the entire difference.

Participation rates

The participation rate determines how much of the gain in an index will be imparted to your annuity. For example, if the difference (i.e., gain) in the index is 7% and the participation rate is 90%, then the interest rate is 6.3% (90% of 7%). Participation rates of 70% to 90% are typical. Obviously, the higher the participation rate, the higher the potential return. Participation rates are set and limited by the insurance company.

Indexing methods

The indexing method is the approach used to measure the change in an index. The original method, which measures index values at the beginning and end of the term, is known as the point-to-point or European method. The point-to-point method is the simplest approach, but it fails to consider market fluctuations that occur in between the issue and maturity dates. This can result in unsatisfactory returns if the market declines at the end of the term.

Another approach, known as the high-water-mark or look-back method, looks at the value of the

index at certain points during the term, such as annual anniversaries. The highest value of these points is then compared to the date-of-issue value to determine any gain to be credited to the IA.

A third approach, the averaging method, also looks at the value of the index at certain points during the annuity's term, then uses the average value of these points to compute the difference from either the date-of-issue value or the date-of-maturity value.

The fourth main indexing method is known as the reset or ratcheting method. With this method, start-of-year values are compared to end-of-year values for each year of the annuity's term. Decreases in the index are ignored, and increases are locked in every year.

How interest is credited to an IA

With some IAs, no interest is credited until the end of the term. With others, a percentage of the interest is vested or credited annually or periodically, which gradually increases as the end of the term nears. Further, some IAs pay simple interest while

others pay compound interest. These features are important not only because they affect the amount of your return, but also because having interest vested or credited to your IA periodically instead of at the end of the term increases the likelihood that you'll receive at least some interest if the market thereafter declines.

Caution: Many IAs have surrender charges, which can be a percentage of the amount withdrawn or a reduction in the interest rate. Further, withdrawals from tax-deferred annuities before age 59½ may be subject to a 10% penalty.

Interest rate cap

Some IAs put an upper limit on the interest rate the annuity will earn. Say, for example, that an IA has an interest rate cap of 6%. If the gain in the index is 7% and the participation rate is 90%, the interest rate will be 6%—not 6.3%.

Asset fee/spread/margin

Some IAs charge an asset fee, also known as spread or margin, which is a percentage that is deducted from the interest rate. The asset fee may replace the participation rate or it

may be added to it. For example, if the gain in the index is 7%, the interest rate on an IA with an asset fee of 2% will be 5%. If there is also a 90% participation rate, the interest rate will be 4.5%.

Questions to ask about an IA

- What is the minimum guaranteed* interest rate?
- What is the participation rate?
- What is the indexing method? How does it work? Is there an interest rate cap?
- Is there an asset fee/spread/margin? Is it in addition to or instead of a participation rate?
- What is the term?
- When is interest credited or vested? Is interest compounded?
- What are the surrender charges? Are there penalties for partial withdrawals?

*Annuity guarantees are subject to the financial strength and claims-paying ability of the annuity issuer.

This article was written by your Registered Investment Advisor Representative MARK HUNTLEY of Huntley Financial Services, Inc.

Vermont Woodworker Association to hold annual meeting at Andrew Pearce Bowls

WOODSTOCK, Vt. - The Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association is holding their annual meeting at Andrew Pearce Bowls and the Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Historical Park in Woodstock, Vermont



Andrew Pearce turns bowls in his factory in Hartland, Vermont.

PHOTO PROVIDED

on January 27, 2017 from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The meeting will start with a tour of Andrew Pearce Bowls led by Andrew, in Hartland, Vermont (Route 4). Andrew Pearce bowls combine the artistic integrity of a hand-turned bowl with the efficiency of a machine-manufactured product. Using locally sourced wood, Andrew Pearce bowls are created through a unique manufacturing process employing equipment specifically designed by Andrew. The lathe he created emphasizes efficiency and safety. It roughs out the bowl blanks, which in turn are dried, and then turned on a traditional woodturning lathe, where they are finished by hand to capture all the authenticity and design of a hand-turned bowl. The process produces very little waste, utilizing as much of the wood as possible to minimize impacts on the environment and encourage sustainability.

At 3:00 p.m. members will gather for a brief business meeting at Marsh-Billings NHP Forest Center. Please park at Billings Farm. There will be an Election of board members and officers as well as a presentation of 2016 Accomplishments and 2017 Year Ahead by Brent Karner, President & owner of Clearlake Furniture, and Exec Director Kathleen

Wanner. The 2016 Woodworker of the Year and Friend of the Industry Awards will be handed out.

At 4:00 p.m. members will enjoy social hour, dinner and drinks, also at the Forest Center. Enjoy networking with other members and woodworking companies from the area. We will provide a catered dinner right at the Forest center by The Worthy Kitchen.

Please let us know of dietary restrictions when registering. There is a cost to attend so please pre-register. Please consider joining the VWMA if you aren't already a member, information at www.vermontwood.com. You must be current in your membership dues to vote in the election of officers at the annual meeting. Please sign up by filling out the form at www.vermontwood.com, by emailing Erin at erin@gwriters.com, or calling office at 802-747-7900 by January 25th, 2017.

The Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association: Representing primary and secondary woodworking companies and related businesses statewide. Member companies produce wood furniture, bowls, toys, carvings, flooring, windows, doors and much more. VWMA's mission is to support the industry in Vermont and promote its long-term viability by expanding members presence in the marketplace, ensuring a sustainable supply of raw materials, increasing workforce skill and acting as responsible employers and community members. Supporting the wood products manufacturing industry in Vermont. www.vermontwood.com.

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LOCAL HISTORY

BY RON PATCH

Ron Patch is a Chester native, Chester Historical Society president, Historian at Olive Branch Lodge #64 and a lifelong antiques dealer. He can be reached at 802-374-0119 or email knotz69@gmail.com

Gordon O. Gates & Sons

"The lumber business slowed down a bit + at the time the government started to build Ball Mt. Dam + the ski tows were growing up fast. The government was hiring help like crazy + paying big wages just to lean on a shovel. Good help was hard to get + I couldn't match that high wage. I had one man, Donald Green that had worked for me almost about since I started the mill. He and I ran the mill almost alone for a while. His wife Pearl came a lot to help out. She was strong and as good a worker, better than some men I had.

After a while I heard Don had been offered a job over at Straton Mt. Ski Tow, blasting. I new Don was qualified because he used to work in the copper mine + also explosives in the army. I asked him why he didn't take the job? I told him it would pay a lot more than he was getting. He said no I'm going to stick with you. I really didn't know how to change his mind. Finally I told him I was going to shut down for a while. He didn't believe that. So the next morning when Red Persons came in with a load of logs I told Red I'd take one more load of logs because I was going to close the mill down. Don asked me a couple of times that morning if I was going to close down + I said yes, and this noon you're coming in the house + call Straton and see if that blasting job is still open? It was and Don got it. Don + Pearl came every week end + helped me saw logs I had in the yard.

I didn't know where I was going from there. As it happened a Mrs. Martain my wife had been helping wanted her kitchen done over. Walls, ceiling, floor

and new cabinets + she asked Patty if she thought I'd do it for her? I went and looked at the job and took it. It was tearing everything out and building a whole new kitchen with 2 big counters + a lot of cabinets. I was there over 2 months. Mrs. Martain was very pleased with the job, so I was to.

I heard that an outfit was building 5 shales up on Magick Mountain so I went up there to see what was going on. I walked around + watched a while + finely and old gent asked me if I was looking for a job. I told him yes I shure was I'd just finished a kitchen job down the road + I lived close by and a job here would be kind of handy. All he asked me was have you ever laid any asphalt shingles? And I told him yes a few. Well he said the name we go by is General Builders and I'm one of the three partners + we'll give you a try.

The next morning I reported for work and was told I was going to shingle with a local man. It turned out to be a friend of mine "Buckshot Bill Merrill!" I told Bill all the shingeling I'd ever done was on my own house. He said don't worry I've got enough experience for both of us "I've laid millions of squares."

Note (Kind of a joke)
The boss came up on the roof one morning and it was awful foggy. He said we could go inside and work if we wanted till the fog cleared up. Bill said no this ain't real foggy. "Wy you know I was shingeling one day when the fog was so thick that when it cleared I found I'd laid five rows of shingles right up over the ridge poll + nailed them right to the fog." That was some fog and that was Bill!"



Gordon setting the saw in his sawmill.

PHOTO PROVIDED

The story was written by Gordon Gates. It is part of a much longer story he wrote about carpentering with his sons, George and Charlie. You will recognize many of the names and places he mentions.

The story will continue in future issues.

Don't forget the Antiques Roundtable January 15th at 2 p.m. upstairs at Chester Town Hall. Displays will include snowshoes, traps, game calls and other winter sports. Free to all.

This week's old saying is from Oscar Wilde. "I can resist everything except temptation."

Buying:

- Antiques
- Early Photographs
- Military Artifacts
- Antique Clocks & Parts
- Guns
- Coins
- Etc.

Ron Patch 802-374-0119

Restoration of historic, grand drape and main curtain

CLAREMONT, N.H. - Thanks to the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts the Claremont Opera House, COH, will restore and re-install the historic, original grand drape, hand-painted canvas that served as the main stage curtain when the opera house opened over 119 years ago in 1897. COH also hopes to restore the two hand-painted canvas drapery panels or "legs" that stood on either side of the drape and four original forest scene legs.

This is the only original grand drape in N.H. known to be still in the possession of the opera house that commissioned its creation.

COH drape was painted by Maxwell Alexander of Boston, a little-known, journeyman scenery painter who worked throughout New England. Few of his works have survived. He originally painted seven scenes for COH. The drape has fared better over time than the other surviving three which are severely damaged. Fragments of the woodland scene are available for future restoration.

After years of furling and unfurling, being stretched by heavy weights at the bottom when opened, and decades of neglect as live performance venues were replaced by movie theaters and television, most drapes wore out and were discarded. Others disintegrated in storage.

COH has been more fortunate. When restoration work began on the opera house in 1979 they found the drape to be faded but it was still viable. It has been carefully stored and in 1993 COH engaged an art restoration specialist to stabilize it by backing it with muslin to keep the original canvas from tearing or decaying, then sealing it. Although much of the paint has become brittle and some has flaked



Original hand painted canvas main stage curtain will go under restoration.

PHOTO PROVIDED



The historic drape was painted by Maxwell Alexander of Boston, few of his works survive today.

PHOTO PROVIDED

away, enough remains to still display the original colors and forms.

However, the stored drape and legs continue to deteriorate with time. The sooner these rare artifacts are restored, the greater chance that the public can experience them as they were in their original grandeur.

John Bennett, Vice President of the board of COH is excited to finally see his dream of restoring the curtain come true thanks to the N.H. State Council on the Arts Mooseplate Grant.

The process will begin with warmer weather in the spring. Stay tuned. COH plans to document the process with more photos and video.

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editorial

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vermont's minimum wage increased

Whether you think it's a good thing or not, Vermont's minimum wage increased from \$9.60 to \$10 an hour on Jan. 1.

The minimum basic wage for tipped employees like waitstaff rose from \$4.80 to \$5 an hour.

The changes are part of a stage of increases to Vermont's minimum wage and tipped wage that former Gov. Peter Shumlin signed into law in 2014.

The legislation phased in an increase in the state's minimum wage to \$10.50 per hour by 2018.

So it will rise again to \$10.50 an hour and \$5.25 for tipped employees on Jan. 1, 2018. After that, the minimum wage will continue to go up each year as the consumer price index does or by 5 percent, whichever is lower.

Shumlin said the phased-in method softens the impact of the wage increase on businesses.

Many businesses have complained that they can't afford the increases, phased-in or otherwise, but the legislature hasn't changed anything. It's unknown what Gov. Phil Scott will ask them to do. During the election campaign, he didn't say specifically. But he did say: "I support increased wages, but I don't support another mandate."

It's mostly working women who will benefit from the increase, since 60 percent of minimum wage workers are women. It's often repeated that minimum wage workers are chiefly teenagers just starting in the workforce, but nationally more than 88 percent of minimum wage workers are older than age 20, and the average age is 35.

Shumlin and other New England governors appeared with President Obama last year in Connecticut to ask for a national increase in the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 an hour.

With Donald Trump elected president, it's unlikely that will happen in the next four years.

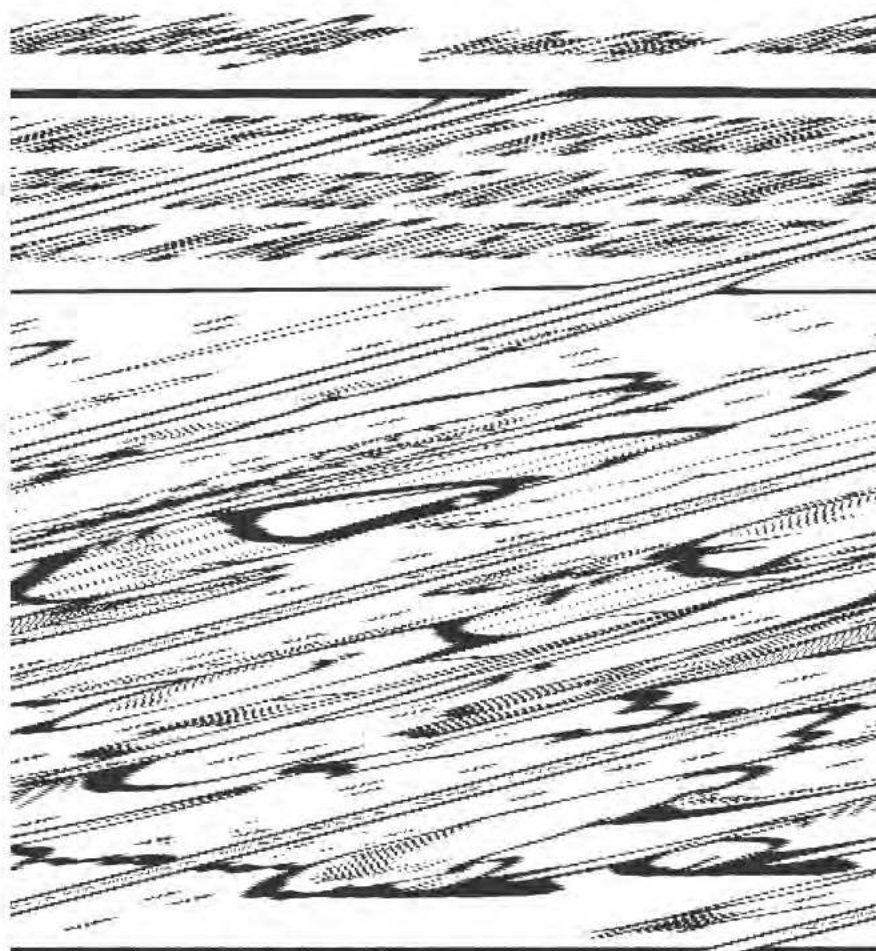
Vermont is one of 26 states and the District of Columbia that have a minimum wage higher than the national minimum, or have authorized a higher wage to take effect in the future.

Whether you support a higher minimum wage or not, statistics showed that it was pretty much impossible to support a family with a minimum wage job. And 30 percent of minimum wage earners are parents.

Many businesses currently pay minimum wages that exceed the federal rate. From the numbers of signs in business hubs like West Lebanon, NH promising to pay workers \$10 an hour and up if they will please just come in and apply, it may be that there's a shortage of people who will work for the minimum wage.

It doesn't look like we'll be going back to a lower minimum wage. We'll have to wait and see what Gov. Scott does now that he's in office.

~BM~



LAFF - A - DAY



"Ma! It's the Board of Health! Come out with your hands washed!"

Op-Ed: 2017 states with the most racial progress

With Martin Luther King, Jr. Day around the corner and 46 percent of U.S. voters expecting Donald Trump's presidential triumph to result in worse race relations, the personal-finance website Wallethub conducted an in-depth analysis of 2017's States with the Most Racial Progress.

To measure America's progress in harmonizing racial groups, Wallethub's analysts measured the gaps between blacks and whites in 16 key indicators of equality and integration for each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The data set ranges from "median annual income" to "voter turnout."

This report examines the differences between only blacks and whites in light of the high-profile police-brutality incidents that sparked the Black Lives Matter

movement and the holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who played a prominent role in the Civil Rights Movement to end segregation and discrimination against blacks.

Most racially integrated states: 1. Hawaii, 2. Idaho, 3. Kentucky, 4. Texas, 5. Delaware, 6. Nevada, 7. West Virginia, 8. Oklahoma, 9. Montana, 10. Tennessee

States with the most racial progress: 1. Georgia, 2. New Jersey, 3. Maryland, 4. Mississippi, 5. Wyoming, 6. New Mexico, 7. North Dakota, 8. Texas, 9. North Carolina, 10. Louisiana

Key Stats:

The District of Columbia has the lowest gap in homeownership rates between whites and blacks, at 11 percent. Connecticut has made the most progress in closing this gap since 1970, with a change of 8

percent.

Hawaii has the lowest gap in median annual household incomes between whites and blacks, at 9 percent, and has made the most progress in closing this gap since 1979, with a change of 31 percent.

Alaska has the lowest gap in labor-force participation rates between whites and blacks, at 1 percent. North Dakota has made the most progress in closing this gap since 1970, with a change of 23 percent.

Montana has the lowest gap in unemployment rates between whites and blacks, at 1 percent. North Dakota has made the most progress in closing this gap since 1970, with a change of 13 percent.

Hawaii has the lowest gap, almost none, in poverty rates between whites and blacks. Mississippi has made the most progress in closing

this gap since 1970, with a change of 24 percent.

Hawaii has the lowest gap in business-ownership rates between whites and blacks, at 38 percent. Texas has made the most progress in closing this gap since 2002, with a change of 7 percent.

Idaho has the lowest gap in the number of residents with at least a bachelor's degree between whites and blacks, at 2 percent, and has made the most progress in closing this gap since 1970, with a change of 8 percent.

To view the full report and your state's or the District's rank, please visit:

<https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-the-most-and-least-racial-progress/18428/>

Article and statistics provided by Wallethub

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The staff and clients of Black River Good Neighbor Services offer their sincere thanks to all who made our annual holiday food and gift distribution possible.

Again this year our staff and volunteers packed and then distributed dinners and toys to many community residents who would otherwise have a bleak holiday. On December 19th some 30 volunteers packed boxes and then on December 22nd about 70 volunteers descended on our distribution center at Fletcher Farm and fanned out across the area, carrying boxes and bags to 110 households.

Thanks go to Lee Potter and Jane Pixley who coordinated distribution of the goods. In all we delivered nearly \$11,000 worth of food and toys to people in Ludlow, Cav-

endish, Proctorsville, Plymouth, Mount Holly, and Belmont. This project has been a centerpiece of the Black River Good Neighbor Services' program for over twenty years. It has grown substantially, although the staff and volunteers wish it wasn't needed. In addition to those who packed and delivered, many people gathered in the food and toys during the previous months. This was an area-wide effort.

The process begins early in the year, but gears up in earnest with the annual Stuff-a-Bus in Ludlow, followed by the Okemo Cares and Shares food drive. Thanks go to all who worked at the Stuff-a-Bus and all those who worked at the Okemo food drive, especially the Mountain Ambassadors, the Okemo employees, and Okemo itself for making

the food drive happen. And, importantly we thank all those who donated food or money at either event.

Thanks go to Okemo for donating turkeys, to Black River Produce for giving oranges, apples, and potatoes, to Country Side Lock and Alarms for hot chocolate and candy canes, to Peoples Bank for delivery drivers, to Mountainside House for help off loading food, Shaw's Market for their help, and to numerous individuals who gave cash, which was used to buy perishable and non-perishable food items.

Toys were donated by Ludlow Rotary, Heritage Credit Union, United Church of Ludlow, Annunciation Church, Ludlow Garden Club, Friends of the Library, St James Methodist Church, Ludlow Wom-

en's Club, Ludlow Town Employees, Berkshire Bank, CTM Media, and Ludlow Elementary School all of whom deserve deepest thanks. A special thanks is due to Okemo and above all to Claire Walker and to Linda Potter for their superb coordination amongst all of these organizations.

Lastly, the Fletcher Farm School gets special thanks for donating space for all of this to happen. This is truly a community effort, and the BRGNS' officers, staff and clients deeply thank all of the many individual volunteers and donors who make this program possible each year.

Thank you,
Peter J. LaBelle, Board President
Audrey Bridge, Executive Director

Dear Editor,

The November Spotlight of Giving put out by Springfield Hospital reviewed fundraising efforts in the recent past in support of needed renovations and upgrades for the hospital and its mission to serve a one and expanding community in Vermont and New Hampshire.

These projects have been diverse and creative and they directly improve our quality of life even if we don't need them in any given year. What I found interesting, and a bit troubling, was the relatively few persons contributed to improvements that were made to be available to all of us, our families and friends and neighbors.

The project garnering the greatest numerical support was the renovation of the Emergency Department - to which only 750 individuals/families contributed. I say "only"

because the population of Springfield alone is over 9000 and adding the populations of surrounding towns that depend on Springfield Hospital easily adds another 25,000 and more - the bulk of whom, at one time or another, have been served by Springfield Hospital.

Now this year's special project is a major upgrade of the Childbirth Center, and this seems like a venture we could all join in for a variety of reasons. I suspect many reading this newspaper were born at the hospital, others have given birth there, or are friends of families that have used the Center.

I encourage everyone reading this letter to make a contribution for this project - large or small, they all add up and help make this our hospital. To honor your mother, to honor a friend, to say "Thank

You," this is a good project to start off this New Year.

Send contributions to Springfield Hospital P.O. Box 2003, Springfield, Vt. 05156 with Childbirth Center

on the memo line.

Thank you,
Peter T. Farrar
Andover, Vt.

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

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

OBITUARIES

church services

ALSTEAD, NH

THIRD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALSTEAD, RIVER ST.
Sundays at 10:30 a.m. with Pastor Maureen Lasell. Find us on Facebook (Third Congregational Church) or call 603-835-6358.

ASCUTNEY, VT

OPEN BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH, 168 CEMETERY RD.
Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. Morning service at 11 a.m. Fellowship meal at 12 p.m. Afternoon service at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at 7 p.m. Sanctuary handicap accessible. Visit: obbcvt.org. Pastor Ralph Fryman at 603-293-3265

BELLOWS FALLS, VT

CURRIER HALL, 12 CHURCH ST.
Celtic worship service at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays. The service may include: song, chant, instrumental music; verbal and silent prayer; readings from the Old and New Testament; stories of Celtic saints; a brief meditation; social time follows the service.

CHESTER, VT

ST. LUKES EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 313 MAIN ST.
Services are held Sundays at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Wednesday mid-week worship service and study beginning at 9:30 a.m. Sunday Jan. 1 The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ at 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

FIRST UNIVERSALIST PARISH OF CHESTER, RTE. 103. 211 NORTH ST.
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. between Sept. and June. Fellowship with refreshments follows the service. www.chestervtuu.org or 802-875-3257.

GRAFTON, VT

THE GRAFTON CHURCH (UCC AND ABC), 55 MAIN ST.
Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. Reverend Christine Dyke welcomes everyone!

CLAREMONT, NH

HOLY RESURRECTION ORTHODOX CHURCH, 99 SULLIVAN ST.
Services: Saturdays at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Please stay for coffee & refreshments after Sunday



The Grafton Church in Grafton, Vt. PHOTO PROVIDED

service. 603-542-6273; frandrew@tregubovstudios.com; hroc.org

HARTLAND, VT

VISION OF LIGHT CHURCH OF SPIRITUALISM AND HEALING, 10 LEGION DRIVE
Sunday at 10 a.m., at the Legion Post #48, behind Mike's Mobile station. Take exit 9, off I-91, and turn on Route 5 toward Hartland. 1 mile to the Mobile station on the right, turn into the parking lot past the pumps,

continue around the westside of the building, first drive to the right.

LUDLOW, VT

THE UNITED CHURCH OF LUDLOW (UCC AND METHODIST), 48 PLEASANT ST.
Sundays starting at 10:15 a.m. followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments. 802-228-4211 (Sandra Russo), Email: unitedchurch@tds.net. www.unitedchurch.us. Services by The Reverend Dr. Donald E. Harpster.

LUDLOW BAPTIST CHURCH, ON THE GREEN, 99 MAIN ST.
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Fellowship at 10:30 a.m., Singing at 10:45 a.m. Morning service at 11 a.m. Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Prayer meeting on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. www.ludlowbaptist.org or Pastor Tom Deibler at 802-228-2631

NORTH SPRINGFIELD, VT

NORTH SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH, 69 MAIN ST.
Worship and Praise Service on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. followed by a fellowship time and classes. 802-886-8107 or www.nsbvvt.org. Call Pastor George Keeler at 802-886-2672.

PRECISION VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, 69 RTE. 106

Sunday at 10 a.m. Adult Bible study Sunday from 9-9:45 a.m. We are located right next to Cota & Cota.

SPRINGFIELD, VT

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, 10 PLEASANT ST.
Mass on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Contact the rectory at 802-885-3400.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, ROUTE 11, CHESTER RD.
10 a.m. Sunday School for all ages, 11 a.m. Worship Service; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Devotional. Enter through the back downstairs door. FB ~ Springfield Church of Christ.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, 21 FAIRGROUND RD.
A Martin Luther King Day Celebration at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Springfield with Rev. M'ellen Kennedy, 10 a.m. The inspiration and lessons from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. could not be timelier. Let's look to the life of King and other great spiritual teachers, for guidance, solace and grounding in facing difficult times. There will be a Souper Sunday after church and then a Friends on the Path Small Group discussion on the theme of the service facilitated by Rev. M'ellen.

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Sunday School at 10 a.m. with coffee hour at 11 a.m. Located on east side of the Walpole Common. Wheelchair accessible with ramps and elevator. 603-756-4075. Church e-mail: walpolechurch@yahoo.com.

WALPOLE UNITARIAN CHURCH, MAIN ST.
Sunday Services: 10 a.m. in the church. "Family First" Service on the first Sunday of every month in the Hastings Memorial Parish House behind the church. Rev. Kitsy Winthrop & Rev. Elaine Bomford. Check website: www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org

Obituaries

Mark E. Stocker, 1952 - 2017

MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. - Mark E. Stocker, 64, of Mt. Holly, Vermont passed away Tuesday, January 3, 2017 while at work.

He was born August 17, 1952 in Springfield, VT, the son of Arthur and Edna (Carlisle) Stocker.

He grew up in Cavendish and graduated from Black River High School in 1970. He married Kendra (Upton) Stocker in 1972.

During high school, he worked for van Schaik Brothers. Over his lifetime he was a heavy equipment operator, logger, sawyer and small engine mechanic, owning and operating Lakeside Power Center. For the past 20 years he worked for Markowski Excavating.

Mark loved being in his woods at camp in Mendon, cutting firewood and hunting. He also loved spending time in Colorado, elk hunting and fly fishing with flies he tied himself.



Mark E. Stocker, 1952 - 2017 PHOTO PROVIDED

Mark is survived by his wife of 44 years, Kendra; son Eric and his wife Christy of Mt. Holly and granddaughter Audrey; His son Thomas and wife Lyndsie and grandson Mason of Auberry, CA; his sister

Kathy Vachon and husband Robert of Walpole, Mass., niece Kerri Ann Baccari, her husband and children and nephew David Vachon and several cousins; an aunt and uncle Clarissa Coleman and Leonard Carlisle. His parents predecease him.

Relatives and friends are invited for a time of Visitation on Tuesday, January 10 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Adams Funeral Home, 12 Meadow St., Ludlow. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 11 at the Tyson Church, Tyson, Vermont. Graveside committal services in the Cavendish Cemetery will follow at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Black River Rod & Gun Club, c/o Ruth Cenate, P.O. Box 821, Springfield, VT 05156; reference: in memory of Mark Stocker.

Arrangements are by Adams Funeral Home, Ludlow.

Charles Albien Towle Johnson, 1942 - 2016

CAVENDISH, Vt. - Charles Albien Towle Johnson Sr. 74, passed away at his home on December 31st 2016.



Charles Albien Towle Johnson, 1942 - 2016 PHOTO PROVIDED

his wife Tracy and daughter Michelle, grandchildren Samantha, Corrina, Maria, Dylan and Torrie. Siblings Cedric, Clifford, Kay, Gwen, Eydie and dozens of nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, his son Robert

and his siblings Diane, Bruce, Phyllis and Pauline predeceased him.

Relatives and friends are invited to the memorial service at the Cavendish Baptist Church on Saturday January 7th at 2 p.m. light Refreshments will follow at the church.



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Answer

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

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Answers
Solution time: 21 mins.

B	A	B	E	S	A	D	S	P	A	T	
B	A	R	N	A	C	L	E	A	R	C	O
C	H	A	R	C	O	A	L	V	I	N	E
	A	M	T	I	M	A	G	E	S		
W	E	D	G	E	S	C	A	N			
E	R	I	E	C	H	A	R	T	E	R	
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C	H	A	R	L	I	E	D	E	A	R	
	B	I	L	K	W	I	N	D	Y		
E	X	H	U	M	E	C	O	S			
P	R	O	S	C	H	A	R	M	I	N	G
E	A	S	E	T	I	A	M	A	R	I	A
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arts & entertainment

The Mighty Acorns Club announces new programs

GRAFTON, Vt. - The Nature Museum announces new topics for the Mighty Acorns Club, a pre-school program designed for young explorers to discover the wonders of nature. This club for budding naturalists aged 3-5 and their caregivers meets on the third Thursday of every month of the school calendar year.

The first 2017 Mighty Acorns Club will take place on Thursday, January 19, from 10 - 11:30 a.m. at The Nature Museum. During this program, "Wild About Bears," the Mighty Acorns will learn all about what bears eat, where they live, and how they survive in winter. Does your

"bear cub" like blueberries? So do bears. Time outside along with a story and hands-on items will teach your child all about bears.

The February 16 Mighty Acorns Club features Snowshoeing and

Winter Animal Adaptations. After a short lesson about how animals survive cold Vermont winters, the group will venture outside to learn how to use snowshoes. Is that an animal track we see?

Who has been here, and where is that animal going? This is a great program to introduce your Mighty Acorn to snowshoeing, with time outside exploring and tromping through The Nature Museum's field. Children's snowshoes are available to borrow upon reservation for this program.

Through stories, games, hands-on items, and crafts, the Mighty Acorns programs help children connect with nature. There is a cost per child but caregivers are free. Children should bring a snack and clothes for outside. Drop-ins welcome! Pre-registration is encouraged, but is not required. Programs for the year can be found at www.nature-museum.org.



The Mighty Acorns club programs help children connect with nature. PHOTO PROVIDED

Early Celtic music from Gaelic Scotland and Ireland

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - On Friday, February 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Immanuel Episcopal Church there will be music revolving around St. Brigid and other Celtic saints. Brigid is the Celtic Saint and the Goddess of Poetry, Healing and Smithcraft. She has been revered

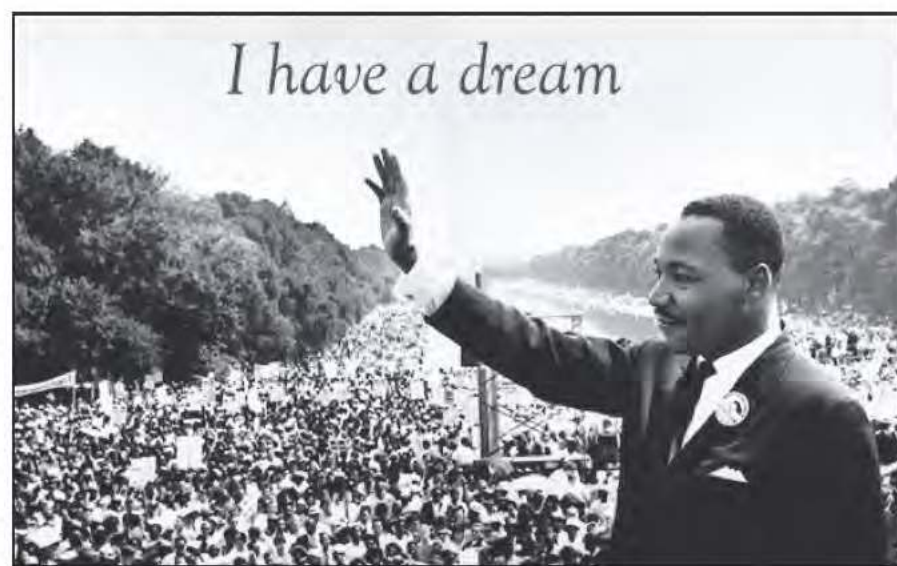
by the Celtic people as a Saint for over fifteen hundred years, and worshiped as a Goddess long before the Roman invasion of Britain and the birth of Christ. Her cult was so powerful that the Celtic Christian Church had to adopt her as a Saint, and the Roman Catholic Church

followed suit, for her people would not abandon her. Along with St. Patrick, she is the patron Saint of Ireland. St. Brigid is often referred to as Muire na nGael 'Mary of the Gael'. Visit: <http://www.stonechurcharts.org/> for ticket purchase.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. - On Sunday, January 15, at 4:00 p.m. there will be a celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. in Brattleboro. The service will include readings from Dr. King, musical offerings by jazz vocalist Samirah Evans and Friends, and a community choir. The celebration will end with the traditional lighting of a candle by everyone in attendance. Singers of all ages and abilities who want to sing in the community choir are asked to come to the church at 3:00 p.m. to rehearse songs for the service.

A spaghetti dinner and community gathering will follow the celebration on the lower level of the church. The dinner is a fundraiser for the interfaith youth service trip to work with the Che-



Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.

PHOTO PROVIDED

enne River Sioux in La Plant, South Dakota. Vegetarian and gluten-free options will be available. There is a fee for the dinner.

After the supper, the Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity, the Root Social Justice Center, and Black Lives Matter Vermont

will all have information and make short presentations on how people can be involved locally to work against racism.

For more information about these events please contact Guilford Community Church, U.C.C. at (802) 257-2776.

The Page Turners

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - On January 21 at 7:30 p.m. at The Chapel

of the Immanuel Episcopal Church on 20 Church Street with host The

Page Turner. Carolyn Kendrick and Jake Howard are an award-winning group who has a strong foothold in the acoustic music scene. They became musical friends as students of Berklee College of Music, and started playing together through the Berklee American Roots Program.



The Page Turners to perform in Bellows Falls.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY KMC PHOTOGRAPHY

From those experiences, they began to play music together more and grew from goofy friends who loved BBQ and bluegrass, into goofy band mates as well. The Page Turners write sharp and adept original music and put new twists on old favorites. They like to blend their love of bluegrass, whiskey-fueled old-time, country music, swing, and fearless song-writing into one all-purpose seasoning of good ol' fashioned Roots Music.

For more info and ticket purchase visit: sca-irc.wildapricot.org

Brattleboro Concert Choir presents Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. - Under the direction of Susan Dedell, the Brattleboro Concert Choir presents a work that is as deeply connected

to the core of earthly existence as it is to unseen realms of eternal connection.

Soaring, shimmering, loving,

embracing, transcendent, Johannes Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem is vividly composed in the colors of the rich countryside beloved of the composer. While entitled A German Requiem, Brahms is quoted as saying he would have been content to call it A Human Requiem, since the music attests to his love of and faith in the natural world, always renewing, healing, and evolving, and always alive.

Performances will feature soloists Stan Norsworthy and Margery McCrum, and are scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 14, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 15, at 3 p.m. at the Latchis Theatre, Main Street, Brattleboro.

For ticket information, contact the BMC at 802-257-4523 or visit www.bmctvt.org

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sports



THIS AND THAT

BY BILL MURPHY

Green Mountain Union High School has moved on athletically. We mentioned a couple of weeks ago about Brendan McNamara riding off into the sunset and we spoke to new Athletic Director, a position which is combined with Facilities and Transportation Director, Todd Parah Tuesday about his background and his week and a half officially on the job thus far. The present status: so far so good.

"I think this is where I am suppose to be. This is what I am suppose to be doing," Parah told us, going on to say, "I care a lot about the kids. Things are going real well. How often do you get to have a job you really like? I love kids. I love the family atmosphere. I really like it."

Parah grew up in northern Vermont. He went to school and later coached high school basketball at Missisquoi High School in Swanton, Vt. Parah was the captain of the Thunderbirds his senior year. He grew up and worked around a farm for years and has driven trucks for a living as well. These life experiences prepared him well for his three-headed task ahead.

"I was driving tractors on the farm at a young age. I started driving trucks as a teenager; there was no CDL back then. Growing up around the farm, there was always something to be fixed. You get things done. You just learn how to do it," he remembers.

Parah officially moved to Chieftain Country back in 2013. When there was an opening at Green Mountain around that time for the Facilities/Transportation Director part of the position, he applied. Back then the AD position was a separate job and was manned by Eric Anderson. McNamara was awarded the Facilities/Transportation job that time around and Parah instead, worked at a sawmill and drove truck for a living.

Parah's best friend from back home was from another generation. He became close with a trucker by the name of Whitey Ladieu. Ladieu was much older than Parah and actually Parah, had attended kindergarten with Ladieu's daughter. He would hear about Ladieu's daughter over the years and her whereabouts, happenings, etc. from her father. He also would eventually learn, that she also had gone on to do some coaching. Ladieu's daughter was a very good soccer coach at Green Mountain Union High School. Her name was Julie Walton.

Most people from Chester and the surrounding area already know that Julie would eventually become Julie Parah. Since she gave up the Green Mountain Girls Soccer job as her son, Mack, began his varsity career at GMUHS, Todd Parah's AD position would not be faced with a conflict of interest.

We asked Todd Parah when reporting for work in 2017, what areas he was most concerned about and if he had any overwhelming days in his first week and a half, that a three headed job might throw at you?

"I haven't had one of those yet," he said, "but, you do need to stay on top of it. I think it has helped me that Brendan is a good friend and we would talk about his job and I would watch him do it too and already knew many of the challenges he faced. He has really helped me with the transition. I am really excited about my job."

Parah has a title in front of his current position, which is spelled, interim. It is customary when school jobs open during a school year, for the position to be an interim one with the position posted in June for a permanent hire. Parah is only nine days in to the experience, but we are betting that by June, he will file another application and by that time will have earned even more experience in hopes of officially landing the job.

Fall Mountain Football- The show is expected to go on and the head position is open. John Callahan stepped down after serving two seasons on the job. Numbers are iffy, but AD Gordon Danserau says that they are looking for a candidate with staying power.

"We don't want someone who is looking to use the job as a stepping stone. We are looking for someone, who will commit to build our program," he told us."

This corner agrees with Danserau, however finding the right person is an enormous task, maybe even impossible. It would be nice if it will work out for Danserau to please two people. My guess is that someone will apply that could be the right candidate to fit the criteria but is wet behind the ears and needs growth time. If that person is willing to be an assistant first, Danserau could take his chance on a more proven applicant, who may or may not stay, and everyone can enjoy the best of both worlds.

One thing I am certain of, this is one of the biggest building jobs this area has ever had. This is a bigger job than being the initial Fall Mountain coach. Bob O'Hearne, was in charge, way back when the sport of football was born in Langdon. Back then you had the excitement of a brand new sport being offered. Now you have small numbers and poor commitment value by many, so this is a major tooth pull. I hope it works out, BUT most of all, it's up to the student/athletes to care about achieving at the highest-level possible. To this point in time, too few Wildcats have been willing to pay the price to get better on a regular basis.

Local Baseball Camp- Springfield High School will be the site of a four week US Baseball Academy Camp for baseball players from Grade 1 thru Grade 12. Cosmo baseball coach Rich Sappack will be the Site Director and local coaches, including Bellows Falls' Bob Lockerby will help out with the instruction. The coaches will be donating their time and the monies earned will go towards the Cosmo and Terrier high school programs.

The program will run four Saturday mornings and the base cost for 90 minutes of instruction is \$99, but registered players have an a la carte type menu, which enables longer sessions for more money. The camp will take place on February 11, 18, 25 and March 4 and players must register in advance. The camp is an unique concept which provides young players with advanced hitting, pitching, fielding/base running and catching training programs. For more information contact the US Baseball Academy at 866-622-4487 or register at www.USBASEBALLAcademy.com.

Feel free to communicate with us about our sports page by contacting bmurphy@vermontjournal.com.

Springfield and Green Mountain boys lose most recent contests

BY BILL MURPHY

The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The week after Christmas was not kind to the Springfield and Green Mountain Boys Basketball teams. Springfield fell to Woodstock 64-52 and Otter Valley 56-33 in games in which they came up short, but showed much improve-

ment. Green Mountain was disappointed in falling to Long Trail 52-48 in a game Coach Brian Rapanotti said, "we turned the ball over too many times to expect to win."

GJ Scherington (shown guarding Green Mountain's James Anderson #22 in a game earlier this winter) has been top scorer for Springfield in half their games this season by tallying 12, 10 and 16 against MSJ,



GM #22 JAMES ANDERSON.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



SPFLD #24 CALEB HUNTER.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

Green Mountain and Bellows Falls respectively. Caleb Hunter #24, paced the Cosmos with 17 versus Woodstock and Dakota Bushey was top pointsman with 14 in the Otter Valley game. Springfield is 0-6 on the year, but Coach Mike Ruppel feels, "we made a strong showing" in the Woodstock contest.

James Anderson led the Chieftains in scoring in the Long Trail loss with 18 and Ian Kehoe added 15. The defeat drops Rapanotti's team to 3-2 and they face West Rutland and Black River this week. Ryan McSally, #1 shown guarding Hunter, has been a constant producer for GM this winter thus far.

Win one lose one for Bellows Falls girls basketball

BY BILL MURPHY

The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Thus far it's two wins and two losses for the Bellows Falls Girls Basketball team. Head coach Joe Goodhue told us recently "the turnovers kill us." This is certainly amplified further when the team only shoots 30 percent from the floor against Poultney (a 48-36 win) or half that (15 percent) in the first half versus

Williamstown (a one sided loss). It was more of the same in the shooting/turnover department in a 63-43 loss to Windsor and the Lady Terriers played their best ball in a 45-38 overtime victory over Springfield. The team stands 2-2 and was playing at Black River Tuesday evening as this paper was on the presses.

"The girls are playing with great hustle," Goodhue said encouragingly, but he realizes the shooting and turnovers must improve, if thoughts

of a winning season are to be seriously thought of.

Molly Kelly shown shooting, led Goodhue's team in scoring versus Windsor in the opener with 16 and

added 7 and the coach pointed out the 11 rebounds of Murphy Hicks and the important 6 steals by Taylor Goodell, who had a big 8 points at Williamstown all in the first half.



BF #11 MADISON STREETER.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



BF #3 MOLLY KELLY.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

once again in the Williamstown loss when she tallied 11. During the Poultney triumph, Goodhue saw Madison Streeter, (shown shooting, trailed by Keri Ticino) lead the team in scoring with 13 and Hannah Kelly

The Springfield overtime win was the most exciting of the season and Abbe Cravinho's 10 points paced a balanced scoring effort with Streeter again coming up with another 10 and Hannah Kelly contributing 9.

Busy season for Springfield Wrestling Team

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Springfield Wrestling Team has had a busy season so far, with lots more action to come! Despite a few cancelled tournaments, wrestlers have been hitting the mats with determination and skill, bringing home plenty of wins.

The current JH/HS roster includes newcomers as well as seasoned veterans: 8th graders Skyler Congdon and Troy Meier; freshmen Brandon Bennett and Skyler Wallace; sophomore Tim Bapp-Cederholm; juniors Gillian Guy, Matt LaChapelle, Matt Prosser, Trent Lewis-Briere, Peter Berlenbach, JJ LeCouffe, Mason Olney, and Jayson Webster; senior Moira Stettner.

Among Springfield's most recent accomplishments include the Saint Johnsbury Early Bird varsity tournament where 1st place went to Matt LaChapelle, a bronze medal, at the same tournament, was earned by JJ LeCouffe. A silver medal went to Skyler Congdon at a JH tourna-

ment in Chelmsford MA.

The competition was tough as nails at the recent Minickiello Holiday Varsity Tournament in Keene NH, and the action never stopped. Matt Prosser wrestled up 20 pounds in each of his five hard matches in the eight-hour day. Wins came fast and furious, and even the lost matches included some excellent stamina and skill. Newcomers and veterans alike are showing impressive strength and determination, a testament to the conditioning practices and discipline being instilled by their coaches.

The team's next event will be a 2-day varsity tournament in Essex Vt., followed by a junior high tournament the same weekend. Stay tuned as the green grapplers of Springfield make serious waves! Come check

out the team and all the wrestling action on Saturday, February 4th as the team hosts the Springfield Grapple Festival at Riverside Mid-

dle School, beginning at 10 a.m. There is an admission fee and there will be a 50/50 raffle as well as a full concession stand.



Skyler Congdon at a JH tournament in Chelmsford MA.

PHOTO PROVIDED

outdoor news

Moose study initiated by VT Fish & Wildlife Department

REGION - The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is initiating a multi-year study to better understand the state's moose herd. Moose across the Northeast are increasingly under stress from a parasite known as winter ticks. The ticks are becoming more prolific as spring and fall weather has warmed in recent years, causing some moose to collapse from blood loss or die from hypothermia after rubbing their insulating hair off in an attempt to rid themselves of the parasite.

Beginning in January 2017, researchers with the Fish & Wildlife Department will start placing radio-collars on up to 60 wild moose to fol-

low their movements and determine causes of mortality. Moose will be captured by expert wildlife capture contractors using nets from helicopters via well-established techniques that minimize stress and harm to the animal. Department staff will then track these moose for several years using the GPS points gathered by the collars, and by visiting moose directly in the field to record observations. Vermont is the fourth northeastern state to partake in such a study - state fish and wildlife agencies in New Hampshire, Maine, and New York are currently using the same methods to examine their moose herds.

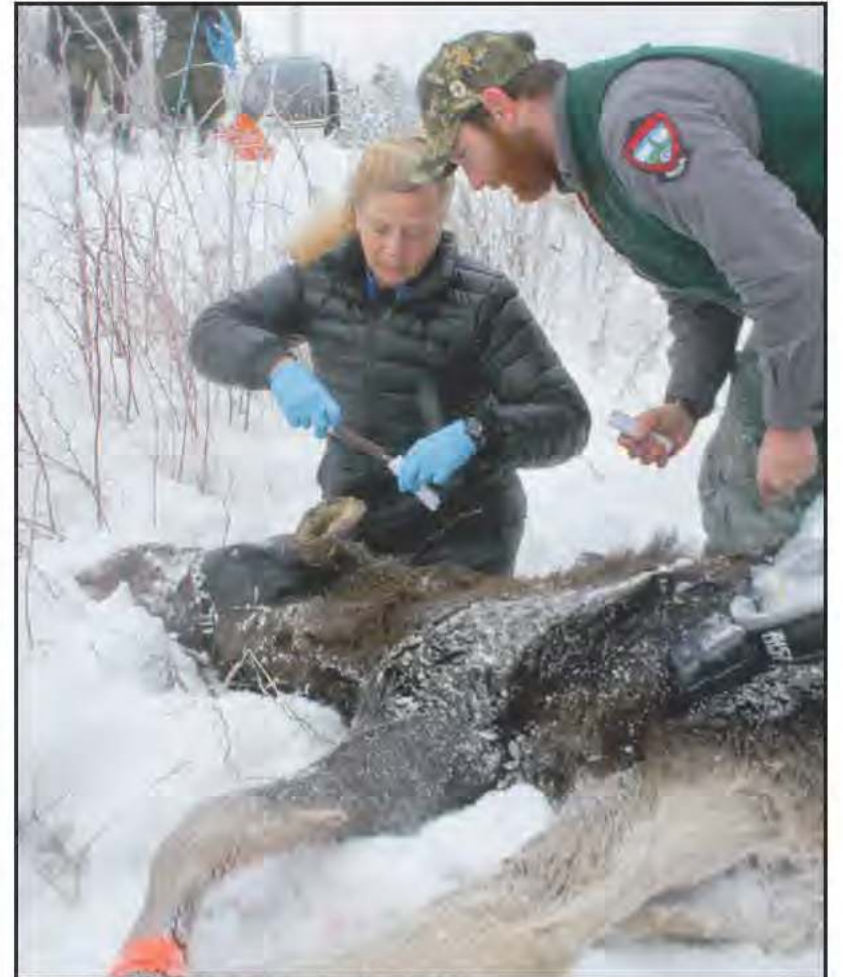
Biologists hope to better understand whether Vermont's moose calves are surviving to adulthood. They want to know what is causing the death of any moose that die during the study period, including those that are killed by predators such as coyotes or bears, and those that die from brainworm infections or stress caused by winter tick parasites. Biologists will also examine whether female moose are successfully reproducing and where their young go after they leave their mother's side.

"Moose face a variety of potential threats in the northeast, from warmer temperatures to dramatically increased parasite loads and habitat fragmentation," said Cedric Alexander, Vermont Fish & Wildlife's lead moose biologist. "It is important that we understand how much these factors are affecting our moose population in Vermont. Our moose conservation efforts must be based on a strong foundation of science if we are to understand and address these threats in the long term."

Vermont's moose herd has decreased from an estimated high of over 5,000 individuals in the state

in the early 2000s to roughly 2,200 today. The majority of the reduction in the number of moose was a deliberate effort by biologists to bring the herd into better balance with available habitat at a time they were considered overabundant. A single moose can eat over 25 pounds of food a day and their browsing was damaging forest ecosystems, harming not only their own habitat but habitats for many other animals.

According to Alexander, this deliberate reduction in the herd through hunting may have also helped Vermont's moose stave off the worst effects of winter ticks as they have increasingly become a problem in recent years. "Winter ticks spread more rapidly when moose are overabundant," said Alexander. "Although we decreased Vermont's moose herd to reduce the impacts of moose on the landscape, it may have also contributed to the much lower rates of winter ticks on Vermont's moose than biologists observe on moose in New Hampshire or Maine." The study will run through 2019. For more information, go to www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



Vermont will soon begin a three-year study of the state's moose herd by capturing the animals and placing radio-collars on them. PHOTO PROVIDED BY MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE



Okemo's Slalom Races

Thursday and Friday, Jan 5 & 6, Eastern FIS Giant Slalom on Okemo's Chief, Ladies. Saturday and Sunday, Jan 7 & 8, Eastern FIS Slalom on Okemo's Wardance, Ladies.

Pictured is Dolores White, a student at Okemo Mountain School, during the Slalom Race on Wardance, Bib No. 127.

PHOTO BY DONALD DILL

Snowshoe or backcountry ski Bromley with Green Mountain Club

PERU, Vt. - On Monday January 16, meet at 10 a.m. at the Bromley Ski Area parking lot at the west end of the lot. Leave some cars here and car pool to the start of the trip on

Mad Tom Notch Rd. Snowshoe or skin up on your skis from the winter parking lot to the Long Trail and use the Long Trail south to the summit of Bromley Ski Area, lunch at the sum-

mit, and then snowshoe or ski down a ski area trail back to the parking lot, and retrieve the cars at mad Tom Notch Rd. Bring extra clothes, lunch and snacks, fluids. Moderate climb

up with about 900 feet elevation gain, 2.5 miles up and then the trip down the ski trail. RSVP to Katie Brooks at 516-978-4016 or email: kktadams@comcast.net

Celebrate Vermont's public places

REGION - VT Urban & Community Forestry is proud to be a part-

ner in sponsoring Vermont's Public Places Awards. This awards program recognizes special public spaces, the corridors that connect them, or net-

works of public spaces which have been defined or enriched by planning or design, as well as regulations that promote positive public uses and

benefits. Nominations are due January 26, 2017. More information on <http://vtcommunityforestry.org/celebrate/awards/corridors-commons>

Brilliant Bears program

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Springfield Town Library is excited to host the Grafton Nature Museum program Brilliant Bears on Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 4 p.m. During this program children will learn all about what bears eat, where they live, and how

they survive in winter. Do you have a bear cub in your life that likes blueberries? So do bears! A story, hands-on items and a craft will teach you child all about this very important Vermont mammal. This program is designed for youth Pre-K to grade

4 and is free and open to the public. For more information on this or other programs at the library- www.springfieldtownlibrary.org, find us on facebook or call 802-885-3108. Springfield Town Library is located at 43 Main St., Springfield, VT

Like us on Facebook to see your local news! @VermontJournal



On the Snow provides The Vermont Journal & Shopper with daily snow reports online!

Visit us online at www.VermontJournal.com to get daily snow reports for all the local mountains and resorts! Reports include how many lifts are open, snow depth, and amount of snowfall.

If you click on a mountain, a more detailed report will open in a new tab, providing ticket prices, trail details & maps, temperatures, web cams, and more!

Here is our report from Monday, Jan. 9:

ON THE SNOW SNOW REPORT			
	Lifts	Snow Depth	Snowfall
Stratton Mountain	9 / 11	24"	2" (1/9)
Okemo Mountain Resort	12 / 20	34"	1" (1/9)
Sugarbush	13 / 16	36"	1" (1/9)
Killington Resort	14 / 21	24"	0" (1/9)
Magic Mountain	0 / 4	12"	0" (1/9)



JANUARY

14 LET IT GLOW

Guests will feel immersed in a laser canopy of light and sound as colorful beams bounce off the snow on Okemo's Bull Run in front of The Sitting Bull. Laser light show is at 7:00 p.m. and admission is free!

15 SHAKE 'N' SKATE

A fun evening of ice skating with a live DJ, games and fun for the whole family in Okemo's Ice House skating pavilion at Jackson Gore. Skate rentals are available. At Okemo's Ice House from 6 - 9pm.

21 FLANNEL WITH FLAIR

Enjoy dinner, dancing with live music and auctions at Okemo's Jackson Gore Roundhouse. A benefit for the Okemo Community Challenge, Flannel with Flair supports the local community's nonprofit organizations by giving grants that honor the "heart and soul" of Ludlow. Call William Raveis Vermont Properties at (802) 228-8877 for more information.

30 OKEMO'S 61ST BIRTHDAY

Celebrate Okemo's 61st Birthday in the Clock Tower Base Lodge. Sing "Happy Birthday" and enjoy a piece of birthday cake.



ALWAYS SNOW. ALWAYS AMAZING. ALWAYS HOME.

SPECIAL DEALS FOR VT & NH RESIDENTS!

Wonderful Wednesdays Ski or ride an entire day on ANY non-holiday Wednesday this season for just \$45 (half day after 12:30pm for just \$34).

Sunday Mornings Ski and ride from 8am - 1:30pm for \$39 for an adult, \$36 for young adults/seniors and \$32 for junior/super seniors. Kids 6 and under are FREE.

Sunday Afternoons Purchase afternoon lift access valid 12:30-4pm just \$34, all ages!

Proof of residency required and a valid Real.Easy Card is required to take advantage of these lift access offers. If the skier/rider does not have one registered in their name, a card may be purchased for \$5.

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LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

business spotlight

The Village Clipper
463 Main St.
Proctorsville, VT



802-226-7233
On Facebook at:
The Village Clipper



The Village Clipper hair salon in Proctorsville was founded 20 years ago by Joe Frye, and has been owned and ran independently by Julie Call for the past 8 years.

Julie cuts and styles hair for men, women, and children of all ages. She specializes in cuts, color, styling, perms, and facial waxing. Julie only uses a line of Paul Mitchell hair products, which you can purchase right at the salon.

Bring the family over to Village Clipper. Don't forget to make an appointment! Julie is the only stylist on the floor, and the days can get busy! She is open for business Tuesday - Saturday from 9 a.m.



ADULT/CHILD CARE

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

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AUTOS WANTED

WE BUY CARS AND TRUCKS:

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APARTMENTS / HOUSES FOR RENT

LUDLOW, VT - 1 bedroom apartments for elderly or handicapped/disabled. Federally assisted rent for immediate occupancy & wait list. Must meet income & eligibility requirements. Application & security deposit required. Laundry on premises. Call 1-800-496-9449. Equal Housing Opportunity. (01/31)

LUDLOW, VT - 1 bedroom apartments at Gill Terrace Retirement Apts II for the elderly. Federally subsidized rent. Must meet income & eligibility requirements. Accepting applications for immediate occupancy & wait list. Call 1-800-496-9449. Equal Housing Opportunity. (01/31)

SPRINGFIELD, VT - 1 bedroom apt on ground floor. Heat included. \$795pm 802-885-3819 (01/17)

SPRINGFIELD/CHESTER, VT - Rental space for storage in both towns. Car storage & reg. heated storage space. \$65pm 802-885-3819 (01/17)

CLEAN OUTS

NEED SOMEONE TO BUY OR SELL YOUR STUFF? We do all the work while you sit back and collect the cash. Call 802-885-5522 (TFN)

FOR SALE

WOODSTOVE - A Garrison woodstove located in Ludlow. \$150 802-

688-4623 (01/17)

HELP WANTED

LUDLOW, VT - Heritage Family Credit Union has two positions open: FINANCIAL SERVICES REP. & BRANCH MANAGER. Please visit www.hfcuvt.com for more information and to apply. E.O.E. (01/17)

SAVE ON WOOD BOILERS

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

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SEPTIC PUMPING AND LOCATING. Reasonable rates 802-672-3719 (TFN)



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Blue Flame Gas Co., Inc | 37 Elm Street | PO Box 67 | Hoosick Falls, NY 12090
518-686-7378
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business services

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chiropractor

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11A Hospital Court, Bellows Falls. Accepts most insurance including state plans. Appointments, hours and directions are online at www.jimrizzo.com. 802-732-9137. TFN

cleaning & clean out

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counseling

CHESTER COUNSELING CENTER
Bob Wubbenhorst, LCMHC Psychotherapy and Counseling, 802-376-1034. Located on School St. in Chester. TFN

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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

EVENTS CONT.

WED., JAN. 18 CONT. - Neary's dark comedy brilliantly skewers a family in crisis on Halloween. A night of confrontation, mystery, and relentless suspense. Advisory: Ages 14 and up for subject matter and strong language. An optional 20-minute post show conversation with the company follows Trick or Treat performances January 24 - February 4. Tickets and more info at www.northernstage.org

FRIDAY, JAN. 20 - KEENE, N.H. - The Congregation Ahavas Achim, Keene's Synagogue, and the Historical

Society of Cheshire County invite everyone to a special dinner event. At 4:30 p.m. Rabbi Loewenthal will begin the evening with a special talk on the Shabbat (Sabbath) followed by dinner and songs at 5:30 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. guests are invited to participate in a Sabbath service. Menu includes: Stuffed Grape Leaves, Fresh-baked Challah, Chummus with Assorted Vegetables and Crackers, Mixed Olives, Lentil Soup, Spinach with Potato and Feta Casserole, Rice with Carrots and Raisins, Mixed Green Salad with Pomegranate Seeds, and Seasonal Fruit. Tickets can be purchased the Historical Society of Cheshire County by calling 603/352-1895

or visiting 246 Main Street, Keene.

MONDAY, JAN. 23 - LUDLOW, Vt. - American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Ludlow Community Center. Take advantage of RAPIDPASS on your computer at home, the day of the blood drive before you come in. Give the gift of life! 12:30 - 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 24 - CAVENDISH, Vt. - At 7:00 p.m., noted photographer and Proctorsville resident Tim O'Donoghue will present a slideshow and talk about his wildlife photos. The presentation will take place at the Cavendish town office meeting room, 37 High Street. Tim is an accomplished photographer, especially concentrating on all kinds of wildlife. He will discuss how and where he got the shots and will also talk about the animals that live in our midst. This is the latest in the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association's Walk and Talk Series of events. The series is designed to present topics of general ecological interest to the public in the Cavendish area. Anyone can attend, space permitting, and the presentation is free. Please contact Robin Timko at 226-7736.



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

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

EVERY FOURTH SUNDAY - PUTNEY, Vt. - Dinner and A Movie. At each event, at 5:30 p.m., the chefs at the Gleanery will serve a special menu in time for diners to make it to the hosted 7 p.m. film screening around the corner at the newly-renovated Next Stage. For pricing or reservations call 802-387-3052. Limited seating available. 15 Kimball Hill Rd.

WEEKLY - CHESTER, Vt. - Beginning on December 30, Whiting Library, will host a new pop-up exhibition from the National Archives, The Bill of Rights and You, commemorating the 225th anniversary of the ratification of this landmark document. The

Bill of Rights and You invites visitors to connect directly with the people, places, and events that mark this historic document's evolution. This exhibit runs through March 2017. Please call the Library for more information at 802-875-2277, whitinglibrary@yahoo.com and visit us Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Rockingham Free Public Library will host a new pop-up exhibition from the National Archives, The Bill of Rights and You, commemorating the 225th anniversary of the ratification of this landmark document. The Bill of Rights and You invites visitors to connect directly with the people, places, and events that mark this historic document's evolution. This exhibit runs through February 28, 2017.

LIBRARIES

TUESDAY, JAN. 17 - ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - From 4 - 5:30 p.m. at the Rockingham Library, VT State Biologist Jim Esden from the Springfield office will lead a program on the elongate hemlock scale. For the past five winters, Alma Beals has coordinated a survey of hemlock trees in 5 southern Vermont towns; Rockingham, Westminster, Chester, Springfield & Grafton, for signs of the woolly hemlock adelgid beetle. This year, her group of volunteers will examine

the underside of hemlock branches for signs of both the adelgid beetle and the elongate hemlock scale. Surveys are conducted 5 times each winter in each of the 5 towns. New volunteers are always welcome. This program is free. For more information, call (802) 463-4270, visit rockinghamlibrary.org or stop by at 65 Westminster St., Bellows Falls.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18 - SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Grafton Nature Museum program Brilliant Bears at 4 p.m. During this program children will learn all about what bears eat, where they live, and how they survive in winter. A story, hands-on items and a craft will teach you child all about this very important mammal. This program is designed for youth Pre-K to grade 4 and is free. For more information- www.springfieldtownlibrary.org, find us on facebook or call 802-885-3108. Springfield Town Library is located at 43 Main St., Springfield, VT

MONDAY, JAN. 23 - ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - Join the discussion on Pushing the Limits of Nature at 6:30 p.m. in the Rockingham Library's top floor Meeting Room. Pushing the Limits is a four-part reading, viewing and discussion program. This program brings together books and video featuring authors, scientists and everyday people who thrive on exploring the natural world. January's topic is developed in T. C. Boyle's novel "When the

Killing's Done" and explored in video clips with the author and everyday people. A light meal will be provided by Lisai's Deli. Space is limited and registration is encouraged. These events are free. To register or more information, please go to rockinghamlibrary.org, call (802)463-4270, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org or stop by the Library at 65 Westminster St., Bellows Falls Vt.

SATURDAY, JAN. 28 - BELMONT, Vt. - This family friendly presentation at the Mount Holly Town Library, 26 Maple Hill Road, is for children as well as adults. We will look at the historical significance of the beaver in North America. Their unique adaptations allow them to survive year-round in a habitat of their own making. The ecosystem that is created supports a diversity of wildlife while also playing a major role in flood control and environmental rejuvenation. Questions? Email mthollylibrary@gmail.com 4 - 5:30 P.M.

MEETINGS

SATURDAY JAN. 14 - CHESTER, Vt. - Next Music in the Meadow meeting will be held at 10 a.m. at the motel in the meadow.

MONDAY, JAN. 16 - CHESTER, Vt. - Please join the Chester Senior Citizens Club for their monthly luncheon meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Chester Congregational Church on Main Street. Come and enjoy lunch and play board/card games! Just bring your place setting, if possible a dish to share, and a friend. If you need a ride, just call Georgia (875-6242).

FRIDAY, JAN. 20 - BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The monthly coalition meetings for Greater Falls Connections provide informative presentations on issues related to substance abuse prevention and updates on our work. Come learn, share, and be part of community-oriented solutions. Meetings are open to everyone, beginning at 5 - 7:30 p.m. located at Parks Place.

TOWN OF CHESTER SELECTBOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CHESTER UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT BYLAWS

A Public Hearing will be held before the Selectmen for the Town of Chester, at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 1, 2017, at the Chester Town Office to consider the adoption of the amendments to the Chester Unified Development Bylaws pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4442).

The full text of the proposed Chester Unified Bylaws is available for public inspection with the Town Clerk at the Chester Town Office during regular business hours. These bylaws are also available on the Chester Town website, www.chestervt.gov.

TOWN OF LUDLOW NOTICE OF TAX SALE

Parcel No. 230649.100

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of lands in the Town of Ludlow, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by the Town of Ludlow for the 2015-2016 fiscal year remains, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described land in Town to wit:

Being those same lands and premises described in a Warranty Deed from Joseph A. Josselyn and Jamie M. Josselyn to William C. Dolan and Brett E. Fish dated February 4, 20015 and recorded in Book 282, Page 62 of the Ludlow Land Records and Warranty Deed from William C. Dolan and Brett E. Fish to Carole O'Leary dated December 15, 2006 and recorded in Book 306, Page 419 of the Ludlow Land Records. Consisting of 2.45 acres, more or less, of land located at 79 Pleasant Street, Ludlow, VT.

So much of said lands will be sold at public auction at the Town Office in Ludlow, Vermont, a public place in said Town on the 24th day of January, 2017 at 10 o'clock a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs and fees, unless previously paid.

You have the right to request in writing, at least 24 hours prior to the tax sale date set forth above, that only a portion of the property be sold to satisfy the delinquent tax bill. Should you wish to proceed with this request, you must: follow the procedure set forth in 32 V.S.A. §5254; clearly identify the portion of the property to be sold; and include a certification from the Act 250 district coordinator and the town zoning administrator that the portion identified may be legally subdivided.

If you qualify under 24 V.S.A. §1535, you may be able to receive an abatement of the property taxes, interest and collection fees you owe to the town. Abatement means that your taxes could be reduced or eliminated. You have the right to appear before the Board of Abatement and explain why you think your taxes should be abated. To apply for an abatement, you must write to Ulla Cook, Town Clerk, PO Box 307, Ludlow, VT 05149.

Dated at Ludlow, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont this ____ day of December, 2016.

Attest: Frank Heald
Collector of Delinquent Taxes for the
Town of Ludlow and the Town of Ludlow School District.

TOWN OF LUDLOW NOTICE OF TAX SALE

Parcel No. 070357.000

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of lands in the Town of Ludlow, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by the Town of Ludlow for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 fiscal years remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described land in Town to wit:

Being those same lands and premises described in a deed to Sandra Colman Lerner, Trustee of the Rainbow Realty Trust Dated January 25, 1999 from Sandra Lerner dated December 11, 1998 and recorded in Book 181, Page 311 of the Ludlow Land Records and subject to Warranty Deed from Sandra Colman Lerner, Trustee of the Rainbow Realty Trust Dated January 25, 1999, to Richard and Lorraine Ippolito dated May 7, 2003 and recoded in Book 237 Page 245 of the Ludlow Land Records (13.01 acres conveyed out). Consisting of land located at South Hill Road.

So much of said lands will be sold at public auction at the Town Office in Ludlow, Vermont, a public place in said Town on the 24th day of January, 2017 at 10 o'clock a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs and fees, unless previously paid.

You have the right to request in writing, at least 24 hours prior to the tax sale date set forth above, that only a portion of the property be sold to satisfy the delinquent tax bill. Should you wish to proceed with this request, you must: follow the procedure set forth in 32 V.S.A. §5254; clearly identify the portion of the property to be sold; and include a certification from the Act 250 district coordinator and the town zoning administrator that the portion identified may be legally subdivided.

If you qualify under 24 V.S.A. §1535, you may be able to receive an abatement of the property taxes, interest and collection fees you owe to the town. Abatement means that your taxes could be reduced or eliminated. You have the right to appear before the Board of Abatement and explain why you think your taxes should be abated. To apply for an abatement, you must write to Ulla Cook, Town Clerk, PO Box 307, Ludlow, VT 05149.

Dated at Ludlow, in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont this ____ day of December, 2016.

Attest: Frank Heald
Collector of Delinquent Taxes for the
Town of Ludlow and the Town of Ludlow School District.

pets of the week



Hi! My name is Iris and I'm a 6-year-old spayed female Cattle/Aussie Mix. I came to Lucy Mackenzie from the south, and I'm so happy to be in VT. Have you ever seen snow? It's my new favorite thing! I'd be happy being an only-dog in my new home. And truth-be-told, a large part of the reason I wound up in a shelter is because I kept running away. The new rule is that I have to always be on a leash or live in a home

with an Iris-proof fence. I've been working very hard on my obedience training with the people at Lucy Mackenzie and I think I'm doing fantastic! I've made a few kitty friends too. It would be best if there were no young kids in my new home, as they might be a bit too much for me. If what I need is something you can provide and you've been looking for a new four-legged best friend, stop in and meet me today!



Hi! My name's Oliver and I'm a 10-year-old neutered male. I was adopted years ago from Lucy Mackenzie with two of my friends, Kit and Polly. We were returned when our owners could no longer care for us. Kit and Polly have been adopted, and I'm really happy for them! I'm a loving, attentive cat that will easily make you feel like the most important person in the world. Despite my big, spectacular

size, I'm a sensitive guy and there's nothing wrong with that. I've been told it makes me more lovable. So, if you have room in your home and heart for an incredibly deserving and special boy, stop in and meet me today!

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society is located at 4832 Route 44, West Windsor, VT. We're open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 12 - 4 PM. Reach us daily at 802-484-LUCY. Visit us at www.lucymac.org, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter.

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Quality Used Cars and Trucks
Ask about our **Guaranteed Credit Approval**
Bankruptcy • Bad Credit
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AUTOMOTIVE

Bascom Maple

CAMBRIDGE, Vt. - Runamok Maple, a maker of all-natural, organic maple syrup, including a collection of barrel-aged, smoked, and infused maple syrups, today announced the acquisition of Brattleboro, Vermont-based Bascom Maple Farms' maple candy operation.

As of today, the candy operation of Bascom Maple Farms, consisting of maple candy and maple butter, will be owned by Runamok Maple and operated under the name of True North Maple, a newly developed maple candy brand from Runamok Maple. True North Maple will use the production facilities at Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation's Cotton Mill Building in Brattleboro, but will operate as a separate entity.

"After working in the maple syrup business for over ten years, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to diversify my knowledge of maple products and expand our business in an exciting, new direction," said Eric Sorkin, Co-Founder of Runamok Maple and True North Maple. "Our team plans to build on the amazing foundation that Bascom Maple Farms has created and offer consumers a fresh, innovative approach to maple candy and maple butter."

Beyond producing its own

maple candy products for consumers under the name True North Maple, Sorkin's team will supply six private labels with their maple products as well as actively seek collaborations with sugar makers who are looking to white label or private label.

Bascom Maple Farms, the largest independent supplier of pure maple syrup, maple sugar and maple candy in the country, will continue to be a leading supplier of maple products to distributors, manufacturers, and retailers. Bascom will contract their candy from Runamok and will still be marketing maple candy through its Coombs and Brown Family Farms brands. With the sale of his maple candy operation to Runamok Maple, founder and owner Bruce Bascom plans to focus his attention on growing his core maple businesses.

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About Runamok Maple:

Runamok Maple, a Vermont-based company owned by husband and wife team Eric and Laura Sorkin, produces organic maple syrup alongside a unique line of barrel-aged, smoked, and infused maple syrups. With over 1,000 acres of land in northern Vermont, the team at Runamok Maple manages 81,000 taps to bring their pure maple syrup to consumers near and far. Boasting ten varieties of

pure, barrel-aged, smoked, and infused maple syrup, including



Maple candy operation of Bascom's has been acquired.

PHOTO PROVIDED

flavors like bourbon barrel-aged, pecan-wood smoked, and cinnamon-vanilla. Runamok Maple is available for purchase on runamokmaple.com as well as in select specialty food shops across the U.S. For more information, please visit runamokmaple.com or check out Runamok Maple on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

About Bascom Maple Farms: Bascom Maple Farms, based in Alstead NH, is owned and

operated by Bruce and Elizabeth Bascom. Bascom Maple Farms is one of the largest producers of pure maple syrup in New England and the largest independent maple supplier in the country. The Bascom farm is located on over 3,000 acres high in the hills of New Hampshire near the Connecticut River. Bascom is a major supplier of maple products to retailers, distributors, manufacturers and restaurants.

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<p>2015 TOYOTA TACOMA DBL CAB 4x4, V6, Auto, TRD Off Road Package SALE PRICE \$28,995</p>	<p>2014 CHEVY CAPTIVA Auto, Fully Loaded, Only 46,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$11,995</p>	<p>2013 CHEVY 1500 CREW CAB 4x4, Z71 Off Road Package, Loaded, Like New Condition SALE PRICE \$27,995</p>	<p>2009 CHEVY 1500 EXT CAB 4x4, Z71 Off Road Package, One Owner, Extra Clean SALE PRICE \$14,995</p>
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<p>2015 CHEVY CRUZE LT Package, One Owner, Only 16,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$13,995</p>	<p>2014 TOYOTA PRIUS PLUG-IN Navigation, Super Economy, Only 28,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$14,995</p>	<p>2011 HONDA CRV EXL Package, Leather, Sunroof, Extra Clean, All Wheel Drive SALE PRICE \$15,995</p>	<p>2005 CHEVY 2500 HD CREW CAB Duramax Diesel, LT Package, Leather, One Owner JUST ARRIVED</p>
<p>2015 CHEVY MALIBU LT Package, Sun Roof SALE PRICE \$15,995</p>	<p>2014 CHEVY MALIBU LT Package, Fully Loaded, Only 23,000 Miles SALE PRICE \$12,995</p>	<p>2004 FORD F-150 SUPER CAB 4x4, SXT Package SALE PRICE \$2,995</p>	

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arts & entertainment

Sweeney Todd stage set under construction

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Opera House is abuzz with the sound of saws and hammers as work begins on construction of the set of the musical Sweeney Todd: the Demon Barber of Fleet Street



The London setting for the story requires a barber shop over a pastry shop, with a basement below. PHOTO PROVIDED

that opens there Thursday, March 16 for a two-weekend run.

The Main Street Arts production will feature a revolving three-story stage set that has been designed by David Stern, who is also directing the production.

"We at Main Street Arts are thrilled to be working with the Opera House and myriad local supporters to create the first live musical production in Bellows Falls in memory," said Stern. "It is so exciting to take on something monumental and find, all around us, people willing to lend a hand to make the dream a reality."

John "Chip" O'Brien of Westminster is directing the volunteer set crew that includes Ed Dinnany, Bill Lockwood, Keith Clark, Albert Bupp, Simon Bupp-Chickering, Marit Bjerkadal, Ken Lawrence and Rick Cowan.

The London setting for the story requires a barber shop over a pas-

try shop, with a basement below. Stern has designed a unique way of connecting the barber shop and the basement via a kids' spiral tube slide. The whole set will swivel on a pivot point as the action of the story changes.

Performances are scheduled for March 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25, with a grand opening planned for the first night.

"We've had great support from the community," said Stern, who listed Cota & Cota, Greater Falls Pharmacy, High Meadow Rovers, Springfield Printing, LaValley Building Supply, Allen Brothers, Ruggiero Trash Removal, Kimball Union Academy and the Rockingham Arts and Museum Project



Model of the set to be built for the Sweeney Todd play. PHOTO PROVIDED

(RAMP) as sponsors of the production.

Ticket information is available by contacting Main Street Arts in Sax-

tons River at (802) 869-2960, info@mainstreetarts.org or at www.mainstreetarts.org. Special youth and group rates are available.

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The WWII Observation Posts

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The WWII Observation Posts in Springfield will be presented by Hugh Putnam on Saturday, January 21 at 2:00 p.m. at the Springfield Art and Historical Society, 65 Route 106, North Springfield.

Hugh Putnam has been researching Springfield's World War II Observation Posts including reading the old Springfield Reporters to find out more about these posts. People have

reported more posts than official records show, and two of these buildings still exist. Also, Dick Stevens has loaned the Society one of the actual logs used at the Skitchewaug site on the Stevens farm. Hugh's analysis of the entries for a specific three-month period shows the amazing dedication of the townspeople with regard to this effort.

This will be a power point presentation of existing pictures and infor-

mation and will also include a YouTube video interview with Dorothy Johnson, one of the actual observers in the old school bus post at the Dutton farm. He hopes people will come to the program and shed some additional light on this part of Springfield's history.

The Society's programs are free and open to the public. For more information call 802-886-8430 or email sahs@vermontel.net.

The Rumpus for ART

RUTLAND, Vt. - An evening of live storytelling started in January, 2016 at the Speak Easy Café in Rutland. On January 28th they will end their first season with a fundraiser for the Rutland community theatre company, Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre. The producers, Bridgett Scott and Michael Kingsbury, have coordinated twelve shows inspired by NPR's The Moth. They will end their first year with the Brick Box performance for a Story Slam Competition with nine storytellers who will compete for \$175 in prizes and bragging rights!

The event will be presented in the Brick Box at the Paramount Theatre,



Photo from the play "Whose Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"

PHOTO PROVIDED BY ACTORSREPTV.ORG

30 Center Street, Rutland on January 28th at 7:30 p.m.

The storytellers are Meg Barrows, Sam Bonosevetch, Steve Costello, G.W. Foley, Deena Frankle, Ann Lezak, David Mook, Judi Tompkins, and Kevin Voltz. Bonnie Pritchard and Peter Marsh will serve as judges. Bridgett Scott will host the performance and she and Michael Kingsbury are the producers.

Each storyteller must tell a true, first person story told extemporaneously. The stories must be told, not read, nor can the teller use notes. Stand-up comedy, crowd work and a series of jokes are all not allowed. Each storyteller has up to seven minutes to tell their favorite story

(stories?). There is no theme. Each story is judged on its own merits. The judges select the winners.

The Rumpus presented in the Brick Box, has limited seating. Reservations are available by calling the Paramount Box Office at (802) 775-0903, stopping by the box office or going on-line at their website: www.Paramountlive.org. Tickets will also be sold at the door based on availability.

For more information about Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre visit the Company's website at www.actorsreptv.org and like us on Facebook.

You can also reach us at: ART, PO Box 580, Rutland, Vermont 05702 or e-mail at: actorsreptvt@aol.com

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