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Residents look to possible Black River independent school

BY SHARON HUNTLEY
The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. - Ludlow and Mount Holly residents voted “yes” on the proposed unified school district vote on Nov. 28 with Ludlow voters tallying 344 yes vs. 172 no votes and Mount Holly coming in with 341 yes vs. 66 no votes. With the eventual closure of Black River Middle High School by 2020 being a key component of the new unified school district, residents now turn to a possible establishment of a Black River Independent School as the one possible avenue left to keep a local school option open in town.

The Black River Independent School Committee (BRISC) was established in recent months to explore that possibility of turning Black River Middle High School into an independent school in order to keep it operating in town. The yes vote helps the

committee in their mission since students from middle school and high school will have school choice, with their tuition dollars following the student to their selected school, including an independent school.

According to Uli Donohue, committee member of BRISC, “the fact that it was such a clear vote for yes was encouraging to us” since the establishment of an independent school would need to attract those student dollars. “I want to make sure that everyone is aware that we really are very serious about wanting to establish an independent school,” said Donohue.

The committee will begin the arduous task of applying for approval by the State Board of Education. This is a lengthy application process that includes many factors including a solid financial plan, viable school governance structure, a mission statement, and community acceptance. Accord-

ing to Donohue “the biggest hurdle will be getting approval with the state since there seems to be resistance within the Agency of Education to accommodate schools beyond the public school model.” The application therefore must be a thorough and in-depth proposal that will likely take many, many months to develop.

One of the biggest challenges for an independent school is to generate additional income to help bridge the gap between what the district will pay for each student and the actual cost of running the school. According to Donohue, based on the information they have gleaned from other independent schools, they would need anywhere from half a million to one million dollars annually to cover their projected shortfall. “We’re looking at a variety of fundraising options including crowd funding websites, private donations and we’re investi-

gating implementing a 1 percent option tax,” said Donohue.

With an option tax, 1 percent additional tax would be applied to rooms and meals within the town and those dollars would go back to the town, to then be passed onto the independent school. This option would need to be presented to and approved by the town voters however, and there would need to be a commitment from the town to forward these dollars to the school. Of some note, this same tax option had been proposed and defeated several years ago, but Donohue notes “there had been no clear idea of how that money would be used for that previous vote.” Although independent schools have more flexibility when it comes to special education, according to Donohue additional rules and

We are Black River.

PHOTO BY SHAWNTAE STILLWELL

guidelines will be coming from the State Board of Education on special education issues that will impact finances as well. “We would like to cater to as many students as possible, that’s our goal. The difference between our goal and the realities will play themselves out as we go along.”

As for immediate next steps, BRISC will be working on logistical barriers such as registering a non-profit business with the state, and registering for federal non-profit status. These are necessary since an independent school is set up and run as just that, a non-profit business. Donohue also mentioned that the committee would like to go back to the name Black

River Academy, the name the school was called before being made a public school, though they are still exploring the feasibility of this option.

Donohue is pleased with the additional support and interest in BRISC she has seen since the yes vote last week but welcomes even more community involvement. “I would encourage everyone to come and educate themselves and get involved,” she said. The Black River Independent School Committee meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Ludlow Elementary School in the library.

For additional information contact blackriverindependentschool@gmail.com or visit www.blackriverindependentschool.org.

Donations can be made to www.gofundme.com/blackriverindependentschool.

SB discusses fiscal approach to unified school systems

BY LYZA DANGER GARDNER
The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. - The Ludlow Select Board deliberated over portions of the town’s Fiscal Year 2019 budget and voted to adopt the Municipal Plan on Monday, Dec. 4, amidst uncertainty and complexities raised by the recent voter approval of a unified school district with Mount Holly.

At present, Ludlow has two active plans: a village plan and a town plan. The new, merged municipal plan has been adopted by the Select Board but still requires the approval of the Village Board of Trustees.

While most of the amendments to the proposed municipal plan were small - syntax or data tweaks - the energy chapter has been rewritten. In 2016, State Act 174 introduced new standards for municipal and regional energy planning. But also promised that, if these standards are met, the resulting plan would be given more clout, described as “substantial deference,” during Section 248 siting procedures. “They invented a term,” said Board member Logan Nicoll, “but they didn’t specifically define what

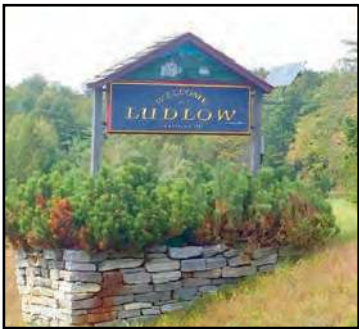
that meant.”

The state’s new energy standards are ambitious, including a “90/50” goal (90 percent of energy from renewable resources by 2050). Jason Rasmussen, director of planning at Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission (SWCRPC), has aided Ludlow’s Planning Commission in the chapter rewrite, helping the town navigate the complexity.

As the meeting turned to the discussion of 2019 budget appropriations, a theme emerged that would persist during the much of the evening: what should the town’s fiscal approach be to the upcoming closure of Black River High School and the unified school district with Mount Holly?

Ludlow foots the bill for an assortment of school operating expenses, like library books, sports, and mentoring programs. While Mount Holly benefits from these services, the town doesn’t currently pay for them. Several board members and citizens present expressed frustration at this arrangement, considering it unfair.

The future is also ambiguous for the town’s other school-related expenses, like transportation. In theory, the



Ludlow discusses unified school. PHOTO PROVIDED

closing of Black River High School, slated for 2020, should result in a net savings for Ludlow taxpayers. But there are as yet many unanswered questions about how budgeting will work - how expenses will be apportioned between the town and the Two Rivers Supervisory Union (TRSU), which includes the new Ludlow-Mount Holly Unified Union School District (LMHUUSD).

Dramatic distortion of the gym floor at the school is causing a series of headaches, as well. A recent attempt at a repair has been unsuccessful, with portions of the floor continuing to bulge upward - with enough force to force all of the nails out - and other portions sinking into depressions. A proposed plan to have only away games for the season is problematic, too, as finding enough drivers with a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) is proving difficult. To work around this, the town may need to rent a 15-passenger van - which doesn’t require a CDL for operation - in order to transport student athletes to the games.

The Board also discussed highway, police, and recreation department budget planning for 2019, deferred a decision on solid waste rates and scheduled a meeting for Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. regarding the recruitment process for a municipal manager.

Ludlow Municipal Manager announces his departure

LUDLOW, Vt. - Longtime Municipal Manager, Frank Heald has announced his plans to step down from his position on May 1 after more than 15 years piloting the town and village of Ludlow. Heald’s plans were announced after the Select Board, Village Trustees, and Water Commission meeting in November.

“Leaving this position was a difficult decision,” Heald said. “I do so with a great sense of accomplishment and with the confidence that I am leaving the municipality in a strong financial position, and in the hands of capable and talented staff members.” Heald added, “With several major projects planned over the next three to seven years, this is a good time to hand over the reins to a new manager to oversee.”

“Frank has been a real asset to Ludlow from his first day on the

job,” commented Howard Barton, Jr., chair of the Select Board. “We are sorry to see him leave us and are grateful for his many years of service and dedication to our community and its citizens.”

Heald has been instrumental in securing federal and state funds to finance a number of large projects in both the town and the village and save taxpayers and residents money. In addition to his sense of community spirit by giving back to the community through his volunteerism, Heald is passionate about education, community events, and Ludlow’s youth. He was a fixture at school athletic events and was one of Black River’s biggest fans.

“Frank has done an outstanding job managing our municipality,” commented Robert Gilmore, chair of the Village Trustees. “He’s one of the hardest working, and most competent

managers in my 30 years serving on the Village Board of Trustees.”

“We have been very fortunate for Frank’s steady leadership of the Village Water Department over the last 15 years,” commented David Rose, chair of the Village Water Commission. “I’ve enjoyed working with him and I wish him the best.”

“Over the next five months I plan to remain fully engaged until my last day on the job,” commented Heald. “I look forward to seeing through a number of projects and activities that we have been working toward.” Heald also urged residents to remain optimistic about their future and the future of the Ludlow.

The members of the Select Board, Village Trustees, and Water Commission expect the search for a new Municipal Manager to last several months and hope to have a candidate in place in the spring.

Ciufo family Go Fund Me

LUDLOW, Vt. - As many of you know, my uncle, Tony Ciufo became seriously ill in May and after several hospital stays, it was determined he had an undetected heart attack. Because it was undetected, it left scarring on his heart that left him ineligible for stents or bypass surgeries.

After several months of various therapies without improvement, Tony decided to obtain a second opinion at Mass General Hospital in Boston. The cardiac team there quickly determined that medicine was not going to improve his heart and the only option was a heart transplant. On Oct. 1, Tony was officially listed for a heart transplant. He was able to stay home

while waiting for a heart under close eyes of his doctors; but they ultimately decided it was no longer safe for him to wait at home. He was admitted to MGH on Nov. 3. While there, they performed additional testing and determined that Tony now needs

a kidney transplant as well. Tony will remain hospitalized in Boston until a heart and a kidney become available.

Prior to his diagnosis, Tony was healthy and active, with his wife Angi and their two boys, Nick and Topher. As you can imagine, this sudden and shocking news has hit their family pretty hard. Tony has always been the rock in his family and a wonderful friend to so many. Now it is our turn to be there for him.

The transplant process is long, complicated, and expensive. Please consider helping Tony so that he can concentrate on the surgery and the long recovery he will face after the transplant.

Thank you in advance from the bottom of my heart for supporting Tony and his family. To make a donation, please go to www.gofundme.com/tonystransplantfund.

Written by Ashley Billings



From left to right, Topher, Nick, Tony, and Angi Ciufo. PHOTO PROVIDED

We're in the KPAA Festival of Trees!

KILLINGTON, Vt. - The Vermont Journal & Shopper participated in the Killington Pico Tree Festival with an Elf on the Shelf themed tree.

PHOTO BY BENJAMIN WEBB

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All press releases are **subject to space and may not include pricing information.**

Send images as a JPEG.



Santa came to town with gifts

LUDLOW, Vt. - Santa and Mrs. Claus visited with children at the Ludlow American Legion this past weekend, distributing gifts to all the boys and girls.

PHOTO BY DONALD DILL

An old-fashioned Christmas in Weston

BY SHAWN TAE STILLWELL

The Vermont Journal

WESTON, Vt. - The small town of Weston, home of the Vermont Country Store, the Weston Village Christmas Store, the Weston Village Christmas Shop, and the Weston Playhouse, was bustling with families in the Christmas spirit on Saturday, Dec. 2. There were plenty of activities for the whole family during the old-fashioned Christmas in Weston.

At the Vermont Country Store, folks waited for the horse-drawn wagon rides for a donation to Just Neighbors. Right outside the Country Store, Mildred's Dairy Bar was selling hot coffees, cocoa, cookies, and doughnuts to snack on and keep warm while waiting for a wagon ride. The horses went to the Weston Playhouse at Walker Farm and back, and passengers would get a tour and hear a brief history about the quaint Weston, Vt.

Back inside the Vermont Country Store, there were samples of fudge and other snacks, and children of all ages waited patiently in line to

tell Santa and Mrs. Claus what they wanted for Christmas. Moms and dads snapped photos of their little ones and wandered through the store looking at unique memorabilia.

Outside, next to Mildred's Dairy bar, children enjoyed a small petting zoo with goats from Taylor Farm. Across the street, visitors enjoyed looking at an array of Christmas decorations for sale at the 18th century Weston Village Christmas Shop, including themed Christmas villages, stockings, and many Christmas tree ornaments. Right next door, guests could purchase all things Vermont at the Weston Village Store, circa 1891, the original country store of Weston. They were sampling cheese and fudge, while featuring Vermont attire, mugs, glasses, and other trinkets alike.

Down on the green, Christmas music played near the tree on the gazebo while youngsters were roasting marshmallows over a fire, men were log splitting, and Weston firemen were selling hot dogs. All the while, there was a magician at the Play-



Santa and Mrs. Claus sitting in the Vermont Country Store.

PHOTO BY SHAWN TAE STILLWELL

house at Walker Farm, as well as "A Christmas Carol" reading, and later Santa made his way to Walker Farm to sing with the community.

Other festivities of the day included cookie decorating, museum tours at the Farrar-Mansur House and Mill, reading "The Night Before

Christmas" at the Wilder Memorial Library, and a gingerbread contest. After the Christmas caroling, Santa and Mrs. Claus headed over to the green to light the Christmas tree, a finale of Christmas events that brought the community and families together in the holiday spirit.

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BY LYZA DANGER GARDNER


The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. - There's something about the old general store in the hamlet of Gassetts that has long appealed to Nancy and Hugh Pennell. The long-time Chester residents recently realized a vision years or, perhaps, even decades in the making, recently opening their own fine woodwork and

home wares store - Smokeshire Design - in the freshly-renovated historic building.

Nancy Pennell stands in the airy front room, hand-finished by husband Hugh with slate and detailed woodwork accents, surrounded by shelves arrayed with Simon Pearce glassware and Andrew Pearce wood bowls.

"I've long had a fascination with thinking about life in small villages



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The Smokeshire Design building has been beautifully remodeled, inside and out.

PHOTO PROVIDED

100, 200 years ago, without the modern conveniences, when distances meant so much more than they do today. And I imagine the thriving little community here in Gassetts, when it would take a long time to get to Chester or Ludlow," said Nancy, sipping coffee as she reminisced about the genesis of the story that led, ultimately, to the store as it lives today. "And Hugh has

always wanted to have his own store and sell his own furniture."

Nowadays, the Chester-Ludlow stretch can be negotiated in about 20 minutes, and motorists zip by the store, sited midway between the two towns along a broad westerly curve of Vermont Route 103. But when the Pennells moved to the area in the 1960s, the building still housed a general store and a post office. Sometime in the late 1970s, the general store was shuttered, and eventually the family that ran it - the Austins - moved away. The building changed hands several times before ultimately falling into abandoned disrepair.

For years, the Pennells' ideas remained on hold. Nancy Pennell continued to envision that stewardship of the historical assets of Gassetts, like the old general store building, could help rekindle the community's vitality, but the demands of life and family and a certain amount of self-doubt interfered. "I didn't have the wherewithal or the time or the energy - I didn't know how to do it." For his part, Hugh, a serial entrepreneur juggling numerous businesses and projects, lacked the free time to devote to the project.

Then there came a "knock at the door," according to Nancy. Seven years ago, the building became available by bank auction, and the Pennell couple purchased it. Several things "merged together at a time in our life when we needed to be doing something - and it seemed like a good idea," she said.

Still, it took years to fully refurbish the building. Dealing with the basement alone took up a full summer. Life threw up some roadblocks, too. Hugh suffered a serious injury requiring many months of recovery. But, as Nancy explains, "Hugh is one of those people who makes things happen - and he brings you along."

Above the cashier's counter hangs a sepia-toned, textured painting of local sheep - local sheep painted by local artist Amy Mosher. Mosher is one of about a dozen Vermont artisans and producers whose works are currently available at the store. The seasonal palette in the store is has a natural linen-and-blond-wood vibe: the earthy, natural feel of Nicolas Seidner's ceramics; the warmth of a cherry dining table made by Clearlake Furniture; Rebecca Haas' jewelry gracefully displayed on a bed of river rocks.

Nancy sums up the years-long project: "We were delighted to be able to save this historic building. People have come to us and said that they're so glad that the building has been remembered and refurbished."

Smokeshire Design is open Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. For more information, call 802-875-3109.

See old-time photos of the building on Facebook @VermontJournal.

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The 32nd annual Overture to Christmas

BY LYZA DANGER GARDNER
The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. - The town of Chester welcomed the holiday season with a series of events on Saturday, Dec. 2, all part of the 32nd annual Overture to Christmas.

The Kids' Craft Bazaar at MacLao-mainn's Banquet Room was packed with energetic groups of kids, who piped frosting and glitter onto cookies and painted ornaments between trips to the snack table for popcorn and apple slices. Mrs. Claus roamed the room, jingling, and several youngsters gathered in the warm corner by a Christmas tree.

As the afternoon dimmed into a

flat gray twilight, an audience gathered around the nativity scene in front of Chester Baptist Church, sipping cocoa and singing along with the carols that punctuated the church's Christmas pageant. Joining the costumed kids and grown-ups was Comet, a month-old calf. At times during the performance, Comet displayed a touch of stage fright, balking and tugging on his lead, but afterwards, the pale-chocolate calf seemed not to mind the pets and pats from a swarm of eager kids.

Presently, attention turned to the headliners: Santa and Mrs. Claus in a tractor-drawn wagon, slowly parading westbound from Chester-

Andover Elementary School, escorted by Chester Fire and Police vehicles, lights blinking and sirens bleating. As the wagon rolled at walking speed past Chester Baptist, several children ran after it, clamoring up the wagon's rear stairs to join the Claus family.

As Santa's procession continued up Main Street, Bruce Meyer stood at attention next to a power junction box on the Village Green. His miniature command post bristled with multiple heavy-duty extension cords leading to nearby light-wrapped trees. "I'm only in charge of one button," he said modestly, indicating that his switch would turn on the lights on the east end of the

green. The other, west end - which contains the town's Christmas tree - was the real focal point, he explained.

There, Chris Meyer, Bruce's son, served as master of ceremonies, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Claus and a crowd of excited onlookers. After a brief countdown, the lights along the entire green were lit, eliciting cheers and applause.

The darkness deepened and the cold began to feel colder. Mr. and Mrs. Claus withdrew into the Fullerton Inn, trailed by fans young and old alike, the inn's broad porch thronged with kids hoping for a visit with Santa. Beyond, the newly lit Green twinkled merrily.

Sixth graders host a successful open house

LUDLOW, Vt. - The sixth grade of Ludlow Elementary School had a successful Open House at Black River Academy Museum. This event was well attended and all that came learned a great deal of information about "Main Street 1938-42"

The exhibit included a documentary of students in every aspect of this project, a drawing by Elizabeth Lombard of downtown Ludlow during this time

period, and the students' well-constructed buildings that replicated a building back in 1938-42 while we all listened to Glenn Miller.

Many thanks to the following people for their role in this project: Bob Fortuna, Elizabeth Lombard, Ginny Gurdak, Charlotte Pluta, Georgia Brehm, Joan Willett, Michael Normyle, Mike Tuomisto, and Chet Gates.

Women's Club meeting

LUDLOW, Vt. - The November meeting of the GFWC Okemo Valley Women's Club was held Monday, Nov. 13, 2017. More than 18 women attended the meeting including two guests: Betsy Greene and Ellie DeCos.

This month's speaker was Ann Rose from the Green Mountain Sugar House in Ludlow, a family business for many years in its present location, and is still worked and run by the Harlow family. Ann explained how they tap around 13,000 trees beginning on snowshoes in January each year with three family members, including herself.

Also discussed were ongoing club fundraisers, volunteer efforts, charitable donations, scholarships, and local school programs to which the club contributes.

The next meeting will be Monday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. at the home of President Darlene Remy. Anyone wishing to learn more about GFWC and the Okemo Valley Women's Club may contact President Darlene Remy at 802-228-1907, membership chairwoman Roxie Davis at 802-226-7417, or any club member.

Ski and Snowboard Swap raised over \$30,000 for Okemo Mountain School

LUDLOW, Vt. - This year's Okemo Ski and Snowboard Swap was a record-breaking one, raising over \$30,000 for Okemo Mountain School. The proceeds from the swap will go toward operating costs in order to keep tuition as affordable as possible for all students. The event was extremely well attended this year. Customers seemed quite pleased with their purchases, finding outstanding deals on all sorts of new and used winter outdoor gear.

Dates for the 2018 Okemo Ski and Snowboard Swap have already been planned. Equipment drop-off will be Nov. 10, 11 and 14. The swap will open for business Nov. 16-20.

Okemo Mountain School, celebrating 26 years in operation this winter, is a non-profit educational institution dedicated to the academic and athletic development of serious snow sports athletes. Student athletes are given the opportunity to train in alpine ski racing, snowboarding or freestyle skiing, while pursuing a rigorous course of academic study. Okemo Mountain School relies heavily on fundraisers like the swap to help keep tuition affordable.

For further information, please contact Mariel Meringolo at mmeringolo@okemomountain-school.org or call 802-228-1513.

Mariel Meringolo, head of school and organizer of the event said, "I would like to gratefully acknowledge all of the volunteers who donated their time, as well as all of the mountain personnel who went above and beyond their normal duties to provide support to the event. Without all of the volunteers and the help of the mountain, the ski swap could never have been such a success. Everyone's efforts are greatly appreciated by the entire school community!"

FOLA prepares for Christmas celebrations



LUDLOW, Vt. - FOLA (Friends of Ludlow Auditorium) has begun planning for its annual Community Christmas Celebration in Ludlow Town Hall Auditorium on Friday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. In keeping with its tradition, FOLA erected its annual Christmas tree on the Ludlow Town Hall Auditorium's stage. According to the planning committee, FOLA will offer several dramatic readings of Christmas tales, songs by local artists, the music of students from the Ludlow Elementary School, Mt. Holly Elementary School, and the Black River Middle High School. More information may be obtained about the program by calling 802-228-3238 or going to the FOLA website at www.fola.us.

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BY SHAWN TAE STILLWELL
The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

REGION – The Inndulgence tour took place on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2 and 3 from Noon – 5 p.m., featuring ten local inns. Julie and Mike Wood, owners of the Golden Stage Inn, started the Inndulgence Tour last year to encourage locals, second homeowners, and tourists to explore inns in the Okemo Valley that they may not have previously

known about. Each uniquely decorated inn provided rooms to explore, and offered a dish or treat to sample and indulge. The Golden Stage Inn, located at 399 Depot Street in Proctorsville, is a historic bed and breakfast built in 1788. The Woods moved from Massachusetts seven years ago to this small town that has an abundance of “rural beauty.” They house eight guest rooms, including two family suites, that provide guests with a historic,

colonial charm, combined with modern and casual comforts that make you feel at home. Each room has its own theme, upgraded bathrooms that feature their own Bee Kind soaps and shampoos, and many have charming fireplaces. The Inndulgence tourists were offered a delicious homemade chocolate cake, cookies, tea, and homemade hot cocoa. The Stone Hearth Inn and Tavern is a historic Federal style inn, built in 1810. Innkeepers were serving sweet treats to their guests, and raffled a gift basket filled with unique items from the



The rooms at Golden Stage Inn feature historical, colonial charm with a cozy warmth.



A set private dining room at the Castle Resort.



Echo Lake Inn served a fabulous Guinness beef stew.



The Pettigrew Inn, built in 1829 in Ludlow, was recently opened under new ownership and a new name.

PHOTO BY BENJAMIN WEBB

inn, and from Meditrrina Wine and Cheese shop. They are located at 698 VT Route 11 in Chester.

The Inn Victoria is just down the road, located at 321 Main Street in Chester. Visitors came to enjoy high tea, an assortment of delicacies including savories, scones, sweets, chocolates, fruit, and more than 50 different flavors of tea.

The Blue Gentian Lodge located at 289 Magic Mountain Road in Londonderry offered samples of cheesecakes, and a beautiful Christmas tree decorated with hand-cut paper ornaments. Demonstrations of ornament making were also given to guests at their leisure.

The Inn at Weston at 630 Main Street was part of the tour as well. The beautiful inn gives a warm and welcoming feel, featuring thirteen graciously appointed guestrooms. Visitors can easily access the village green and enjoy the waterfall, shops, and galleries. Innkeepers Bob and Linda Aldrich offered special treats to their guests and a craft beer and Vermont cheese tasting on Saturday as a part of Christmas in Weston festivities. After the tree lighting on Saturday, tourists were invited back to the Inn at Weston for a Christmas dinner and music.

The Pettigrew Inn, formerly known as the Andrie Rose, was reopened in July by Courtenay Dundy. The inn was built in 1829, in an elegant

house at 13 Pleasant Street. Dundy is excited to be in the heart of Ludlow, making minor changes to the inn, while continuing to offer gracious hospitality to her guests. Pettigrew Inn features 14 rooms that all have a unique rustic theme, all with private baths. She is also presented a soft opening to an addition to the inn, My Grandma Baked a Cookie, owned by Nicole Cramer since 2013. Cramer uses many of her grandma's recipes, and brings an array of turnovers, pies, cookies, and more to the Pettigrew Inn's table, which were available for tasting on the tour. Ten percent of all her proceeds are donated to charity, always.

The Echo Lake Inn can be found by taking a scenic drive by the lakes along Route 100 North, to 2 Dublin Road in Plymouth. The innkeeper Tom Gianola greeted guests at the front door with a big smile on his face. The inn was built in 1840, offering a historic residency to its guests with 23 rooms and seven condos. President Calvin Coolidge was once a guest! The inn also provides a swimming pool, tennis court, Jacuzzi, and a dock on Echo Lake. Tourists were served a choice of Guinness beef stew or a cauliflower cashew gluten and dairy free soup.

The Hartness House is a magnificent property at 30 Orchard Street in Springfield. They provided hot chocolate and cider to their guests, as well as a mix of sweet and savory treats. They also raffled a gift basket full of Vermont products that anyone would love.

The Inn at Weathersfield showcased its 1792 kitchen, while serving mulled cider and savory colonial treats. Guests were invited to explore the holiday décor, take a self-guided tour of the inn, its unique rooms, and the cooking classroom in the old barn. A raffle was available to their guests. The Inn at Weathersfield is located at 1342 VT Route 106 in Perkinsville.

The Castle Hill Resort & Spa was built between 1901-1905 as a private home for governor Allen Miller Fletcher. The elegant stone, wallpaper, and mahogany wood are all original details that resemble a castle, which is located at 171 Castle Hill Drive in Cavendish. Guests were immediately warmed at the entrance by a grand fireplace, and a view of the oval dining room, which was once the formal dining room of the Fletcher family. Beside that was once a billiard room for games of pool and smoking cigars that now houses more tables for fine dining. Across the hall is the library, with a wood stoked fireplace and all original books from floor to ceiling. By the beautiful staircase is a private dining room, which used to purpose as Allen Fletcher's office, with a separate private entrance. Upstairs are ten beautiful guest bedrooms. Touring guests were served an option of butternut squash soup or a crème brulee dessert.

Which inn did you enjoy exploring?



Did you take the tour? How did you hear about it?

PHOTO BY SHAWN TAE STILLWELL

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LOCAL HISTORY

BY RON PATCH

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

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

1938 Hurricane in Cavendish

Below is an eyewitness account of the 1938 Hurricane and the damage done in Cavendish, Vermont. It was written by Peter Farrar's grandfather, Philip Tiemans, who owned 'Windy Hill' in Cavendish. Ann mentioned is Peter's mother.

Windy Hill,
Sept. 25, 1938
"Dearest mother,
"We are waiting anxiously to hear from you and from Isabel's several families. No one seems to know anything definite about the damage down-country, but from the Rutland paper - which is the only one I have been able to see - I judge that it must have been terrific. And even up here it was no party.

"It had rained since Monday. While we were eating lunch Wednesday, Merton appeared on the way home from taking Carr to Hanover, and at that time we thought it was clearing. Then about milking time the rain commenced again, and looking from the barn it seemed to me that the wind was rising. The trees began to whip and bend, and water blew across the north field in sheets. Ann had gone on an errand to the Cadys' and came in badly frightened; we were suddenly in the midst of a regular tempest. The barometer fell so fast you could almost see it drop, and lower than I've ever seen it. It was getting dusk and of course turned very dark; the rain came in torrents, and the wind. Well, maybe you experienced some of it. The clothes were on the line; we made a dash for them, and while taking them down the paper began to scale off the wood-shed roof; a branch of the lilac went; limbs were showering down from the crab-apple and the butternuts. When we got in the house we found water dripping from all the window-casings, - rain spraying under the closed windows so you could feel it way out in the rooms. The front hall was a puddle. We wedged clothes around the windows and door; still the wet came in. You should have heard the brooks roar. Looking out front I saw the second brook washing right across the pasture along the fence-line and merging with the nearer brook; the road was submerged; behind the buildings was a regular river. Presently the cellar began to fill. At about seven-thirty the storm was at its height; about that time there was an awful din and clatter upstairs, and dashing up I found several bricks from the chimney in the fire-place (all of the latter were trickling dirty black water). From then on we held our breath not knowing what to expect next; but fortunately, though it lasted some time longer, the worst was past. About ten o'clock we went to bed, wondering what we would find in the morning.

"Well - ! The face of nature was certainly lifted. You just can't believe what havoc the wind did. Not so much to our place, - we were fortunate. No serious dam-



Windy Hill owned by Philip Tiemans circa 1936. PHOTO PROVIDED BY PETER FARRAR

age to any of the buildings; a nick in the chimney, and all the paper off the west sides of the wood-shed and the barn across the way (which of course I am planning to repaper anyway). In the woods, which Isabel and I tramped through this morning, there are plenty of wind-falls, although the trees around the house which make up our 'view' are fairly intact. But the second brook just ran away, - I figure it carried away about an acre of land. The channel is greatly altered, - about twice as wide, counting the old bed which is now nothing but a mess of boulders and sand, - it took bank and trees and all. "Tent Rock" was rolled over and is now part of an island. The regular crossing is a gully, the further bank about six feet high. Well, - you will see it sometime!

"Other places suffered much worse. Roofs off, chimneys down, smaller buildings demolished, - and in spots trees down by the acre in great swaths. And the roads, - up by our bridge there was a great hole; down below, the road was taken out completely in two places. Again, other roads are worse, - so much so that they have been repairing ours first (unheard of), in order to permit the people above us,

who usually use other roads, to get out through ours, as their own will take much longer. So ours has been passable since Thursday, and today it is almost completely restored (?). Not that it's to be compared with a paved highway, you understand, but it's relatively 'good'.

"Telephone lines are still down, but I imagine will be working soon. We haven't had any mail from the south, but are hoping for plenty tomorrow. Am most anxious to see accounts in the New York papers.

"Of course the crops suffered, - corn was blown flat. But I'm getting things in shape again; cut and brought down about two-thirds of the corn yesterday. Apples and plums pretty much ruined.

"Though I still get tired, am feeling much improved and can do about half a day's work by working most of the day! Feel badly that I can not take a share in the repairs, - all the other men are 'on the road', but that is beyond me yet.

"The children got a big kick out of all this, - it's an experience I guess we'll all remember. I hate to think what it's going to cost. Guess that's enough news for one week!"

River Valley Technical Center names students of the quarter —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - It is with great pleasure to announce the RVTC Students of the Quarter. The student of the quarter is selected by the program instructor, and instructors hold very high standards for this recognition. In fact, an instructor will present this award only if he/she believes that there is a student who truly deserves such recognition. A special breakfast and luncheon was held in their honor. Congratulations to all students.

Carissa Bailey, Culinary Arts I, Green Mountain Union High School
Delenn Moore, Culinary Arts II, Green Mountain Union High School
Hannah Buffum, Human Services I, Green Mountain Union High School
Rachel Parent, Human Services II, Green Mountain Union High School
Trent Briere-Lewis, Carpentry I, Springfield High School
Henry Watson, Carpentry II, Springfield High School
Cameron Purington, Technology Essentials, Springfield High School
Nick Lescord, Hands On Computers, adult student
Megan Banik, Health Careers I, Bellows Falls United High School
Haley Rabtoy, Health Careers II, Springfield High School
Hannah Fowler, Guidance, Windsor High School
Kyriona Quelch, Criminal Justice I, Green Mountain Union High School
Brandon Nutting, Criminal Justice II, Fall Mountain Regional High




River Valley Technical Center honored their students of the quarter with a banquet dinner. PHOTO PROVIDED

School
Jacob Matulonis, Horticulture I, Springfield High School
Seth Martin, Horticulture II, Springfield High School
Dakota Jones, Pre Technical Studies, Bellows Falls Union High School
Collin Robertson, Pre Technical School
Reis Jones, Business I, Bellows Falls Union High School
Kaylee Norton, Business II, Springfield High School
Jarrett Staples, Industrial Trades I, Black River High School

Get your LOCAL HISTORY from Ron Patch with us every week!

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5:30 PM TO 7:00 PM
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Reservations are held until 6:30 pm
Commander Smokey Aumand & the 'Friday Night Dinner Committee' thanks everyone for their support.

Elf on the Shelf



Jack is back! Today he is chillin' with his elf friends. Left to right Buddy, Chip, Noel, Merry, and Jack in the front.

Stay tuned! We will publish a picture of Jack every week through December!

Visit us on Facebook and Twitter @VermontJournal for our daily posts of Jack bringing Christmas spirit, and mischief, to our office throughout December!

PHOTO BY SHAWN TAE STILLWELL

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opinion

Op-Ed: What I learned in high school... last week

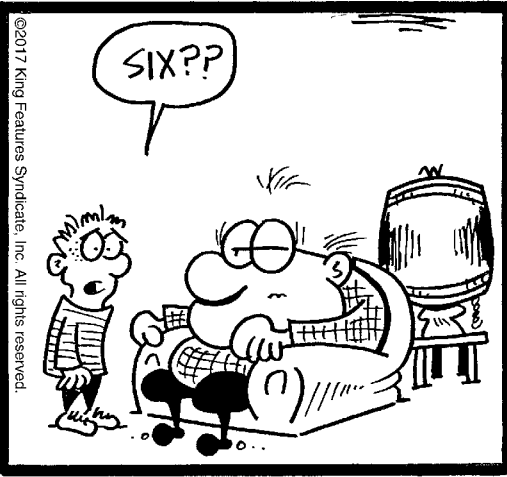
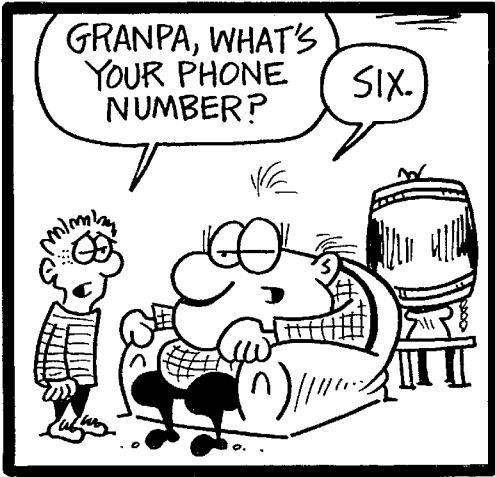
Last year, more than 60,000 people died from opioid overdoses in the United States. That's more Americans dying in one year than during the entire 19 years of the Vietnam War. In our small state, 112 Vermonters died from a drug overdose, which is three times as many as died in 2010. And what's even more shocking than the sheer numbers of people dying is how hard this epidemic is hitting younger people. Drug overdose is now the leading cause of death for people younger than 50. In Vermont, the average age of death from overdose is just 40 years old. And in 2016, nearly 20 percent of the drug overdose deaths were in people under age 30.

Solving the opioid epidemic will not be easy. We're going to have to challenge the pharmaceutical industry, which made huge profits by putting drugs on the market that were

far more addictive than they admitted. We're going to have to deal with drug wholesalers, who are selling far more pills than anyone thinks is necessary for medical reasons. We're going to have to make sure doctors and dentists – as Vermont providers have begun doing – take up safe prescribing practices so excess painkillers aren't abused or misused and that states use tools to curb so-called “doctor shopping” and “pill-mills.”

But, at the end of the day, if we're going to solve this terrible crisis, we're going to have to do a lot better job at prevention – keeping people from turning to drugs in the first

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

tion opioids, but refuse to cover other options like acupuncture and yoga, or mental health care.

If I learned one thing from talking with and listening to these students, it's that they do know the dangers of heroin and other opioids. They know that these drugs can destroy their lives, and the lives of the people they love. But I also learned that

they want and need constructive alternatives. And that, as adults, is our job.

We must create schools that challenge them intellectually and support them emotionally, and make sure that none of them “fall through the cracks.” We must help make sure they have a safe place to live and an opportunity for higher education or a job that gives them purpose. We must appreciate their ideas and make them a part of the solution. Every single one of our young people deserves a chance at a bright future. And when we accomplish that, I have little doubt that we will have gone a long way toward ending the opioid crisis.

Written by U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders.

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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place. And to do that, we must look to our young people. For that reason, on the Friday before the Thanksgiving break, I went to Burlington High School to talk to the entire student body. I was joined by T.J. Donovan, Vermont's Attorney General; Dr. Heather Stein, an expert on opioid addiction; and Kelly Breeyear, a courageous woman who is living in recovery from addiction. I wanted to discuss the dangers of taking opioids with the students, but I also wanted to hear from them. I wanted and needed their help.

In Washington, I sit on the Senate's Health, Education, Labor, and Pension Committee, which hears from some of the most knowledgeable people in this country on all kinds of matters relating to health care and education. But on this issue of opi-

oid and heroin addiction, and on the question of why so many young people are turning to drugs and how we can prevent that, I believe our nation's young people might know more than the experts.

These young people know firsthand what it's like to live in a family where a parent struggles with addiction. They know from personal experience what kind of pressure exists when your best friends are experimenting with pills and ask you to join in. They might also know, if they injured themselves or had their wisdom teeth removed, how tempting it could be to keep taking painkillers prescribed by a doctor, even when the physical pain subsides. They certainly know better than older generations what it's like to be growing up in today's crazy and rapidly changing

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The Springfield Garden Club would like to thank the civic-minded sponsors and guests who made this year's 25th annual Festival of Trees a huge success. If you missed the event on the Friday before Thanksgiving, you can still view the trees and trimmings thru Jan. 5 at the Great Hall, 100 River Street in Springfield. The sponsor names are there on the wall next to the pharmacy.

The club appreciates the following local businesses who each decorated a tree: All-4-One, Claremont Savings Bank, Fiber Arts Group, The Gallery at the VAULT, HB Energy Solutions, Kelley Sales & Service, Tina's Hallmark, Town of Springfield, and Von Barga's Jewelry. This year's tree winner, voted by all who attended was Von Barga's Jewelry.

The Garden Club is grateful to the members and spouses who made the event possible as well as Ted Foster and crew, who always provide enthusiastic assistance. Artist Dan O'Donnell deserves a warm thank

you for designing the invitation again this year. The club would also like to thank the crew from Black Rock Steakhouse for the delicious appetizers and cheerful service.

The Garden Club wishes all a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year ahead. The club would like to acknowledge the following list of civic-minded sponsors who gave a private or a corporate donation, or a raffle or silent auction item. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. One hundred percent of all proceeds goes back to serve the community in the form of civic beautification, scholarships and other programs.

The Garden Club applauds the following Festival of Trees sponsors: 106 Deli, Advanced Auto Parts, Advanced Skin Care, Alaura's New Nails, All Seasons Construction, Baba-A-Louis Bakery, Barb Riotte, Bibens Home Center, Black River Quick Stop, Black Rock Steakhouse, Blackwatch Farm, Bob O'Brien, Boccaccio's, Bond's O'Reilley's,

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Thank You,
Springfield Garden Club

Dear Editor,

On Thursday, Oct. 19, 2017 Meals on Wheels celebrated its many volunteers at a banquet at the Springfield VFW. The members of the VFW graciously provided the hall and prepared a roast pork dinner for the volunteers and their guests.

The theme of the evening was “Volunteers are like the red rose with lots of love for our seniors.” Meals on Wheels has an estimate of 75 volunteers. Along with our staff, volunteer drivers deliver to the greater Springfield area including Chester, Ascutney, Windham,

Andover, and Baltimore. We thank these towns for their support of the Meals on Wheels program. We would also like to thank the many businesses and organizations that supported the event and donated gifts and door prizes.

We are fortunate to have so many generous volunteers and supporters throughout the year.

Sincerely,
Lucy Stone
Meals on Wheels
Springfield, Vt.

Dear Green Mountain Union High School community members,

It is with a heavy heart that I announce my retirement effective the end of this school year. It has been a pleasure being your principal for the past 11 years. The support of the school board, parents, and community members has been nothing short of remarkable.

In my professional opinion, you have a fine and vibrant learning organization with wonderful students, dedicated educators, and loyal staff. I believe they are poised to progress to the next level of teaching and learning, that of Proficiency Based Education. The teachers are working diligently to prepare for this change.

When implemented, this switch to Proficiency Based Education will positively enhance student learning.

In closing, the past 11 years at GM have been the most satisfying in my tenure as a public school principal. I will miss my colleagues very much and will miss the students most of all.

Thank you again and I wish you the very best.

Sincerely,
Tom Ferenc
Principal
Green Mountain Union High School



Meals on Wheels is thankful for its volunteers.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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Bow Baptist Church, 1102 Route 5.
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Open Bible Baptist Church, 168 Cemetery Rd.
Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. Morning service at 11 a.m. Afternoon service at 2 p.m. Wednesday at 7 p.m. Sanctuary handicap accessible. Visit: obbcvt.org.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

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

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St.
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Faith Cristian Church, 582 Rockingham Rd.
Pastor Matt and Brenda Farkas welcome all to come and enjoy their services. Sunday worship music & song at 10 a.m. Children's Church (3-7 years) at 10:30 a.m.

802-591-1350. www.Sapatv.org - "Doing Life." www.fact8.com - "Say What!" 12/9: Work Day 9:00-Noon, Lunch c/ Church. 12/24: CHRISTmas 'Eve' Service (call ahead).

CAVENDISH-PROCTORSVILLE, VT.

Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St.
Sundays at 10 a.m. More at CavendishBaptist.com or call 802-226-7131

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

CHESTER, VT.

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

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

GRAFTON, VT.

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

welcome!

LUDLOW, VT.

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

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

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

PERKINSVILLE, VT.

Perkinsville Community Church, Route 106
The annual Christmas candle light service will be held on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 5 p.m. There will be holiday carols, harp, guitar, chime choir, vocals, piano, organ, flute,

and violin. All are welcome. Come and enjoy an evening of music and Christmas scripture readings.

PLYMOUTH, VT.

Tyson Congregational Church, Corner of Rt. 100 and Dublin Rd.
Worship begins at 10:30 on Sundays. 802-228-5114. Christmas Candle Light Service on Dec. 17 at 7 p.m., all are welcome!

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Rd.
"Trans People" Dec. 10 service at 10 a.m., with Grace Alden. Alden, a retired corporal from the Lebanon, N.H. Police Department who will talk about her experience as a transgender woman. Transgender people are victims of hate violence at a higher rate per capita than any other demographic group in the United States. The political and social environment has changed significantly in the past decade. Alden will share about the process of transition, and the trials and triumphs trans folks encounter. Tree decorating after the service. All

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WESTMINSTER, VT.

Christian Family Circle Chapel, 1512 Back Westminster Rd.
Sunday song service begins at 10 a.m., Sunday school at 10:30 a.m. Fellowship lunch on first Sunday of each month. Non-denominational. Visit www.christianfamilycirclechurch.com and like us on Facebook

First Congregational Church, 3470 Route 5
On Sunday, Dec. 24, we will celebrate Christmas at our Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 p.m. Come and join us. No morning

worship on Dec. 24. The service will include great music, carols, and the Christmas story. Weather permitting we will end the service outside in front of the church among the luminaria with a candle-lit carol sing.

WEST WINDSOR, VT.

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

Sylvia M. Carpenter, 1937 - 2017

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Sylvia M. Carpenter 79, passed away Sunday morning Nov. 26, 2017 at Keene Center in Keene, N.H. She was born Dec. 11, 1937 in Danby, Vt. the daughter of Francis J. "Frank" and Mabel (Griffith) Mandigo. She attended Springfield schools, graduating from Springfield High School class of 1955.

Carpenter worked at New England Telephone in Bellows Falls, Byrant Grinder Co. in Springfield, the Book Press in Brattleboro, and Ames department store in Springfield. She loved to fish, take rides in the country, visit to the White Mountains, and go to the beach.

She is survived by her son Glenn A. Carpenter of Marlboro, Vt.; one brother Francis Mandigo of Springfield, Vt.; three grandchildren Nicholas M. Carpenter, Colby J. Carpenter, and Daniel L. Carpenter; and three great grandchildren Josie A. Carpenter, Arianna J. Carpenter, and Madison J. Carpenter.

She was predeceased by her parents Francis and Mabel; one brother



Sylvia M. Carpenter, 1937 - 2017. PHOTO PROVIDED

Edmund Mandigo; and four sisters Annie Simms, Marjorie Rogers, Janice Dressell, and Barbara Barrows.

A graveside service will be held in the spring of 2018 at the Plain Cemetery in Perkinsville, Vt. Arrangements are under the direction of the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt.

Mildred L. Park, 1937 - 2017

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Mildred L. Park 80, passed away on Monday Nov. 27, 2017 at the Springfield Hospital in Springfield, Vt. after a short illness. She was born Nov. 6, 1937 in Manchester, Vt. the daughter of Earl Sr. and Unice Mary (Burdick) Reynolds. She attended school in the Manchester area.

She was married to Francis Allen. He predeceased her, and she was later married to Gene Park. They later divorced.

Park worked in several woolen mills, tanneries and machine shops over the years. She also worked as a clerk in several grocery stores, as well as being a wonderful and loving mother to her seven children.

She lived in Florida and Massachusetts for many years, moving to Springfield, Vt. in 2003 to be close to her son John and his wife Barbara. She enjoyed traveling, camping, spending time outdoors, fishing, playing bingo, and attending the activities at the Whitcomb Building where she resided in Springfield. She

enjoyed knitting and crocheting and made hats and mittens for the needy for many years.

Park is survived by three sons John Allen and his wife Barbara, Dan Allen, Gene Park Jr. and his wife Joni; two daughters Laura Lupien and Heather Park; two brothers Earl Reynolds and George Reynolds; many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was predeceased by her parents, one son Preston Allen and one daughter Mary Allen.

A graveside service will be held in the spring of 2018 at the Factory Point Cemetery in Manchester, Vt. Contributions may be made in her memory to the Springfield Meals on Wheels program, 8 Southridge St, Springfield, VT, 05156 or to the Springfield Family Center Food Bank, 365 Summer St. Springfield, VT, 05156.

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

Patricia Richards Decatur, 1943 - 2017

CHESTER, Vt. - Patricia Decatur passed away on Dec. 2 after a long fight with cancer surrounded by her family and close friends at the Springfield Health and Rehab Center. She was born in Exeter, N.H. on March 2, 1943, the daughter of Edward N. Richards and Mary Bean Richards Ross. She is survived by her husband Lee of 56 years; four children Brian Decatur of Williston, Scott Decatur and his wife Nan of Colchester, Heather Cloud and her husband Rick of Baltimore, and Jordan Decatur and Maevae of Burlington; nine grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. One grandson, Raymond White Jr. predeceased her.

Decatur attended Exeter public schools, graduating in 1961. She moved to Chester in 1969 with her family. She was a member of a rope-skipping troupe in Exeter during her preteens and took up highland dancing and the drum as a teenager. She was a member of the Granite State Highlanders Pipe band for many years. She won many medals with her highland dancing, which she later taught for two years at Franklin Pierce College in Antrim, N.H. In Chester, she took up photography and won many ribbons, and later produced photo cards and many other craft items. She was a 51-year member of the Order of Eastern Star and served in many local and state offices. She also was president of the Grand Representatives Association. She was a Cub Scout Den mother and mother advisor for many terms in the Order of Rainbow for Girls and on advisory boards in Springfield and Chester.



Patricia Richards Decatur, 1943-2017. PHOTO PROVIDED

When her children were in high school, she took up housekeeping for a private estate for over 15 years retiring in 1999. She enjoyed spending her winters in Florida where she made many friends and was often seen on her three-wheel bike, spreading joy as "Pat in the hat" around the community she was in. One of her favorite things to do was to obtain lots of stuffed animals and deliver them to fire stations, ambulance, and police departments to have in their vehicles to give to kids for comfort. She would often say, "Anything you do for a child is never wasted."

In lieu of flowers, any tributes may be made to Chester Rescue or Chester Police K-9 fund. A celebration of life for Decatur will be held at MacLaomainn's Pub Great Room in Chester on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 1 p.m. All are welcome to bring your "Pat" stories.

Floyd Quimby, 1953 - 2017

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Floyd "Rick" Quimby 63, of River Street died Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2017. Quimby was born in Springfield on Dec. 13, 1953, the son of Wilbur and Barbara (Warner) Quimby. He was a graduate of Springfield High School and served in the Navy for 15 years. He worked as a painter for Zagaris Associates and was a cook for Mr. G's in Ascutney. He was a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose in Springfield and the American Le-

gion Post 67 in Chester, Vt. Quimby enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping.

He is survived by his companion Beverly Heynig, his longtime friend Cindy Dutton, his daughter Rae-Ann Quimby, his stepmother Ella O'Hara, and his beloved cat Trouble.

He is predeceased by his parents, his wife Jean, his sisters Debra Gordon and Tammy Mitchell, and his brother Rip Quimby. Per Quimby's wishes, there will be no services.



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

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R	E	E	F		P	I	C	T		L	E	T
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sports



THIS AND THAT

BY BILL MURPHY

The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

Sitting here wondering, how many of you enjoy the leftovers of Thanksgiving as much as you enjoy the meal itself? The chances are the overwhelming majority of you get really bummed when those leftovers are gone. They are a special treat.

We have plenty of sports nuggets left on our plate here at the paper. Today, we will pass some of them along, as well as a few new ones, which have found their way into the pile.

Fall Mountain girls' soccer came so close to back-to-back titles. No wonder they had five players recognized for their stellar play this fall. Madi Parrot stood above them all, making the New Hampshire Division III All-Star team, but Allie Stoddart, Zoe Utton, Aly Monty, and Zoey Luopa were also given notice.

A couple of weeks back when tracing the coaching history of Bellows Falls football, I listed Larry Hadley, Brian Flynn, Tom Lovett, Gerry Curcuro, Bis Bisbee, and Bob Lockerby as coaches in the last 70 years or so. I asked two questions at that time. Was Flynn in command one or two years and how long did Hadley coach? I mentioned he was coach for eons, but how long are eons?

Reader Ann Hadley, Larry's cherished daughter, responded, "My dad coached from 1947 until 1961. Fourteen years."

As little kid, I didn't know enough to understand age back then, but I do remember Hadley coming down with Dot Jones to teach physical education classes at Central Elementary School. When I learned Hadley died during that time, my feeling all these years was that he must have been older and had been coach for eons. Ann let me know the beloved coach was only 40 when he passed.

Larry Hadley's teams competed against mostly Division I opponents back in those days, and I spoke to a senior on Hadley's final team, Tim Nelson, now living in Florida, who remembered, "Each year, we seemed to win one more than the year before. I remember how happy coach was that season when we beat Brattleboro and Andy Natowich. He was really proud of us that day."

He continued, "Everyone was excited about the next season. I wouldn't be there, but I thought there was a lot of talent returning and they would be really good." Obviously Hadley had built that foundation and now wouldn't be around to enjoy their success.

Unfortunately, neither did the talented returning class. Flynn took over as coach and ran a pre-season camp for the ages. This edition of Terrier football was going to be in great shape to reap the benefits of their talent. Unfortunately, as the tale goes, they worked so hard in that camp, they were either injured or burnt out before the first game kicked off.

As a result, the stories of Flynn's legacy as coach in Bellows Falls for that one year are not something to write home about. I remember watching that edition of the Terriers play and heard about why they weren't better than they were, but I can't judge the job Flynn did. His triple sessions in that pre-season are still talked about today among the Bellows Falls football fanatics. Was Flynn a better coach than anyone realizes and somehow got carried away in preparing his team or did he just end up at the right place at the wrong time or the wrong place at the wrong time or some other combination of rights and wrongs? What I do know is, it didn't work.

Jumping back to Nelson, he remembered Hadley as a coach very fondly and can drift back to that senior season, offering, "We knew

that he wasn't right, but as kids we weren't told what was wrong. I remember shortly before he died, I went up to see him at the Veteran Hospital in White River. He said 'I'm going to get better and I will be back to get you ready for track,' but I thought that might not happen. He didn't look good. He died shortly after. When I'm home, I still go and visit his grave."

Nelson certainly was not alone in remembering the effect the young coach had on them. The naming of Hadley Field shortly following his death tells you all you need to know.

Two coaches who have been in the wings waiting for their opportunity to coach at the varsity level are Todd Wells and Justin Cassarino. One winter ago, they were the Bellows Falls Girls Junior Varsity and Fall Mountain Boys Junior Varsity coaches respectively. Wells played at BFUHS and has been the JV coach through both the Justin Aube and Joe Goodhue days. Wells was passed over when Goodhue was hired, likely due to Goodhue's previous coaching experiences, but he has been given the reins now. Josh Ferenc moved from the middle school to the JV position.

Wells' team "looked competitive much of the time versus Keene" in a scrimmage. However, Wells told me, "We need to rebound better to be what we could be. We are a little behind where I would like to be because there isn't enough time to get everything done before games begin." The Terriers open Saturday, Dec. 9 at West Rutland at 2:30 p.m.

Cassarino spent about three years learning in the JV position and was hired by Fall Mountain when Jason Bardin stepped aside. I was unable to reach him, but Athletic Director Gordon Danserau said, "They did okay in their scrimmages. They beat Sunapee and played well and then went 2-2 in the jamboree, where they only lost to Hopkinton by 2. They open at Conant Thursday night and you know Conant is always good."

Danserau also sent along the information to me that the Fall Mountain football team was awarded the New Hampshire Football Officials Sportsmanship Award for Division III.

FM girls hoops gets first winter win

BY BILL MURPHY

The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

LANGDON, N.H. - The area winter sports season jumped into gear Friday Dec. 1 when the Fall Mountain girls' basketball team opened their 2017 campaign with a relatively easy 43-25 victory over Campbell. Former Wildcat boys' coach Brian Pickering, now the new Lady Wildcats coach, sat in the driver's seat, watching his basically young team open up a 23-17 halftime lead. They then took things a few steps further with a 13-2 pressure defense blitz attack in the third period on the way to the one-sided triumph.

Junior forward Zoey Utton paced her team statistically with 10 points and 9 rebounds and was provided plenty of support through senior guard's Zoey Luopa's 8 points and 6 rebounds. Freshmen guards Morgan

Beauregard and Sophie Bardin both tallied 7 points.

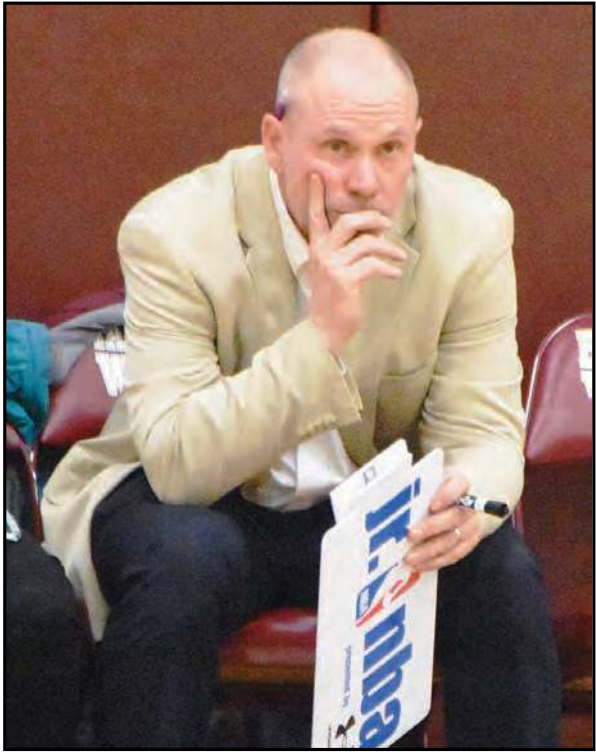
Pickering was quizzed on whether he was surprised about the score in the opener, judging from both the youth of his squad and the holes, which were created by graduation. The coach replied, "I don't know if age ever defines if a team can be special or not. I think the team we have can compete with all the teams on our schedule. We have some seniors, who we expect to step up, and I think we have some younger players, who have the skills to win now."

Looking at the difference in the two halves, Pickering noted, "We focused on rebounding at halftime. We took care of that in the third quarter."

Four seniors, in addition to Luopa, fill the Wildcat roster with another guard in Allie Stoddart, forward Izzy Lord, and centers Chryssabella Craig and Amber Beliveau. Two ad-

ditional juniors, forward Mary Beth Groton and center Kendall McAllister are on the squad. Sophomore guards are Autumn Cummings and Olivia Dunnigan. Two more talented freshmen have made the cut: forward Hillary Berry and guard Shea Pickering.

Fall Mountain traveled to Hillsboro-Deering Tuesday, Dec. 5 and then will host Conant on Friday, Dec. 8 in the Wildcat Den.



Coach Brian Pickering served as the Fall Mountain Boys Varsity Coach for eight years, beginning in the 1990-91 season. Pickering said, "I am sure glad to be following Jon [Aumand], who left this program in good shape. He met with me, went over everything, and gave me all kinds of notes to help me get going."

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



BF tri-captain, Santorelli

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - In last week's 11-29-17 This & That, we missed a photo of Paxton Santorelli who was the girls' field hockey tri-captain, along with Dani Marchica and Reagan Baldasaro. According to Coach Coursen, Santorelli was a great center back and a strong voice on the field.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

Bellows Falls and Springfield players represent South Football All-Stars

BY BILL MURPHY

The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS / SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The names are Shane Clark, Logan Cota, Jared Zobkiw, Matt LaChapelle, Mason Olney, and JJ LeCouffe. The first three are Bellows Falls Terriers. The other three are Springfield Cosmos. A couple of Saturdays ago, they were teammates playing for the South squad in the 17th annual North-South Football All-Star Game at Middlebury College. The North won in an offensive-friendly game 57-41.

"They all played well," said South Head Coach Rich Saypack of Springfield, whose head was still spinning when I spoke to him recently. "Coaching a game like this is quite the task. It's a really busy job. You spend much more time organizing than you do coaching."

Both Clark and LaChapelle had strong days running the football. They rushed for 120 and 83 yards respectively with Clark scoring two touchdowns. Cota stepped in as a versatile offensive performer, as had been his role for the Terriers. He was part of a scoring play throwing an option pass for a 51-yard score.

The other three local performers played in the trenches where numbers are not available to show their worth. Saypack said that although



Bellows Falls' Shane Clark is wrapped up in defenders. He may have been stopped this time, but he ran for a team high of 112 yards and two touch downs.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



Bellows Falls Logan Cota is on the run. Cota threw an option pass for a touchdown in the contest.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE



Matt LaChapelle was a standout running back for Springfield in the 2017 Cosmo football season. He excelled again in the North-South All-Star Game gaining 83 yards on only four carries.

PHOTO BY DOUG MACPHEE

which was the South's second score, cutting the count to 27-14. The North led 33-14 at the half and kept the lead much of the game by big numbers.

The South benefited from the 10-point rule most All-Star games have allowing the team that is behind by 10 or more points to receive every kick-off. The South did cut the margin to 51-41 with just under ten minutes remaining, but they were never able to get closer.

Support Springfield Wrestling

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Mark your calendar! On Wednesday, Dec. 13, come to the Park St. School gym in Springfield, Vt. to watch some exciting varsity wrestling action and to show your support of this hard-working local team. Springfield hosts Fair Haven for a couple of hours. The fun begins at 5 p.m. with a brief routine by the SHS varsity dance team to pump up the excitement. Bake sale items will be available, as well

as glow-in-the-dark bracelets and window clings, so you can tell the world you support Springfield, Vt. wrestling.

Admission is free. Parking is around behind the back of Park Street School, located at 60 Park Street, Springfield Vt. across the street from the Elks Club.

Contact Kelly Stettner with any questions at k.stettner101@gmail.com or by leaving a message at 802-738-0456.

arts & entertainment

O'Brien watercolor workshop, Hunter art show —

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. — Award-winning watercolor artist Robert O'Brien will offer a one-day workshop on Painting the Winter Landscape at Main Street Arts Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The workshop will focus on the magnificent New England countryside in winter. Light, shadow, value and composition will be emphasized. The instructor will begin with a demonstration, explaining each step of the process. Participants will then paint, with the instructor providing hands-on assistance. A critique will be given at the end of the class.

Pre-registration is required, at which time a materials list will be provided. Reference photos will be provided, and participants are encouraged to bring their own. Registration is available by calling MSA at 802-869-2960 or e-mailing info@mainstreetarts.org.

A full-time artist and instructor, Perkinsville resident Robert O'Brien has been painting in watercolors for 40 years. Examples of his work can be seen at www.robertjobrien.com.

Artist Charlie Hunter and the participants in his annual March plein air (outside) painting retreat are

mounting a show of some of their work that will run from Nov. 27 to Jan. 5 in the MSA gallery.

Additionally, Hunter will give a talk, entitled "In the Very (Plein) Air" on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. at MSA in its Taste of the Arts series that features dinner and a presentation by a local creative person.

Reservations for the Taste of the Arts event are requested by Tuesday, Dec. 12 by contacting Main Street Arts at 802-869-2960, online at www.mainstreetarts.org, or by emailing info@mainstreetarts.org.

Free showing of "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians"



"Santa Conquers the Martians."

STOCK PHOTO

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — If you're looking for a different holiday film this year, mark your calendar for a free showing of the 1964 cult classic, "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians!" on Thursday, Dec. 14. This event is sponsored by RAMParts Presents in the Bellows Falls Opera House, Bellows Falls, Vt.

This sci-fi holiday treat entered the cult canon when it was featured on an episode of Mystery Science Theatre 3000. Early special effects create green Martians living on the planet Mars, who capture Santa Claus from earth so that their depressed children can be happy. But in the end, Santa teaches everyone the true meaning of Christmas.

The sets are kitschy, the costumes outrageous, and the acting is what you'd expect! Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and seating is general admission. Running time is 69 minutes. All manner of holiday dress is encouraged! Contact Susan MacNeil at 603-313-0052 or email susan@svidol.com for more information.

The Weston Holiday Cabaret —

WESTON, Vt. — Six former Weston Young Company members McKenzie Jones, Emily Morris, Matthew Pitts, Allie Seibold, Michael Seltzer, and Jacob Waldron return under the direction of Founding Director Tim Fort, for the first Weston Holiday Cabaret at the Company's second stage, Weston Playhouse at Walker Farm! Lovers of the summer cabaret will adore this fun and festive holiday take on the popular summer staple. The Winter Cabaret is a perfect way to get into the holiday spirit and support Weston's Young Company program.

The Weston Playhouse Young Company will celebrate its 19th year in 2018. Composed of actors, singers, and dancers who are either attending or are no more than one year beyond graduation or departure from a conservatory or undergraduate training program, the Young Company program is aimed at providing performance opportunities for young artists as well as offering a forum for sharing the expertise of Weston-related theatre professionals through a series of workshops, discussions, and interactive exercises.



2017 Weston Cabaret.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Tim Fort said of the program, "Over the years our Young Company has produced an impressive group of Broadway actors, playwrights, composers, teachers, and industry stars. But most importantly, they have brought their wit, enormous talent, and big hearts to every aspect of our profession."

A Weston Holiday Cabaret per-

formances will be on Dec. 15 and 16, starting at 7:30 p.m. The Weston Playhouse at Walker Farm is located at 705 Main Street, Weston, VT, 05161. Proceeds benefit the Weston Playhouse Young Company program. Visit our website www.westonplayhouse.org or call 802-824-5288 on Tuesday or Thursday to order tickets.

Village Square Booksellers hosts a literary weekend with poetry on Saturday, then prose on Sunday —

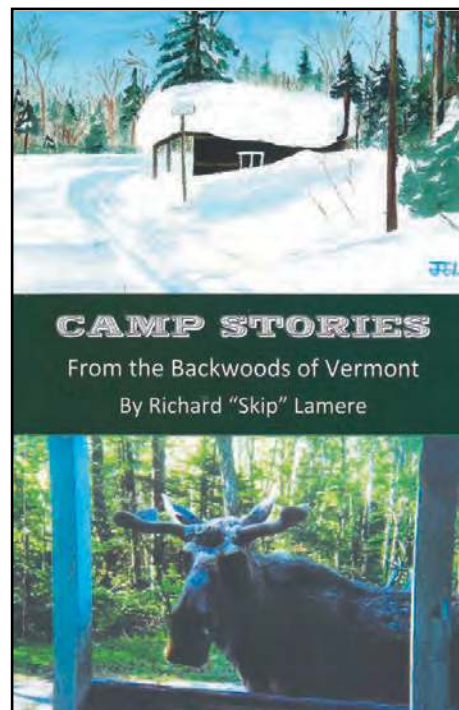
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — On Saturday, Dec. 9 at 1 p.m., Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls, assisted by New Hampshire Jim Fowler, will host the second Saturday Open Mic followed by poetry readings by Pat Fargnoli and Tim Mayo. The open mic is held by having poets take turns reading from their works. The poets sit around a table, so there is no need to be nervous about standing in front of a room for newbie poetry readers. Call 802-463-9404 for book and event reservations, or go to www.village-squarebooks.com/event/poetry-open-mic-plus-pat-fargnoli-tim-mayo.

Patricia Fargnoli, from Walpole, N.H. was the New Hampshire Poet Laureate from 2006-2009. She's published five books and three chapbooks of poetry and has won the May Swenson Book Award, the Foreword Magazine Silver Book of the Year Award, the New Hampshire Literary Award for Poetry, and the Sheila Mooton Book Award. Her latest book is "Hallowed: New and Selected

Poems." She's published over 300 poems in literary journals such as Poetry, Ploughshares, Massachusetts Review, Harvard Review et. al. A Macdowell Fellow and retired social worker, she now teaches poetry privately.

Tim Mayo is the author of two full length collections of poetry: "The Kingdom of Possibilities" (Mayapple Press, 2009) and "Thesaurus of Separation" (Phoenicia Publishing, 2016), which was a finalist for the 2017 Montaigne Medal and a 2017 poetry category finalist for the Eric Hoffer Book Award. Among the many places his poems and reviews have appeared are Avatar Review, Barrow Street, Narrative Magazine, Poetry International, Poet Lore, River Styx, Salamander, San Pedro River Review, Tar River Poetry, Web Del Sol Review of Books, Verse Daily, and the Writer's Almanac. He is a six-time Pushcart Prize Nominee, twice a finalist for Paumanok Award, and the recipient of two Vermont Writers Fellowships from the Vermont Studio Center. He lives in Brattleboro, Vt., where he was a founding member of the Brattleboro Literary Festival and currently works at the Brattleboro Retreat.

On Sunday Dec. 10, at 1 p.m., Village Square Booksellers welcomes Richard "Skip" Lamere, the author of "Camp Stories From the Backwoods of Vermont." The author shares humorous stories of a "glorified shack" in the heart of the Northeast Kingdom shared by his brother and father and over 50 years of experiences that memorialize camp life highlighting camaraderie, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, animal encounters, problems, fun, and food. The book also includes a bit of the history of



"Camp Stories from the Backwoods of Vermont" by Richard "Skip" Lamere.

PHOTO PROVIDED

the area, including rise and fall of certain animal populations, and of changes in hunting garb, techniques, and technology he has seen in his six decades of hunting. Secret camp recipes that can't fail round out the book. The author, a Vermont native, was born in Newport but lived in several other towns while growing up. He now lives in Waterbury Center with his wife, Joan, who is also a lifelong Vermonter. Educated at the University of Vermont, Lamere was a high school biology and chemistry teacher before going to work within the Vermont Agency of Human Services in programs for people with disabilities. Both he and Joan left their "real jobs" earlier than planned to keep up with their business—making strings for folk harps. For book and event reservations, call 802-463-9404.

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Soup 'n Sip annual gala fundraiser

LUDLOW, Vt. - Join the festivities at the Black River Academy Museum on Saturday, Dec. 9. It's time for Soup 'N Sip, our annual fundraising event for this year. There will be many activities taking place at the museum. From noon until 4 p.m., there will be wreath-making activities along with decorating graham cracker "gingerbread" houses. You can also make Christmas ornaments. There will be a price for each activity.

While getting into the holiday spirit, take time to relax and join Gretchen Gregory from the Northern Gardens and Landscapes who will be serving all-natural teas during the afternoon. Children can look for fairy houses hidden throughout the museum. A finder's prize will be given to each child who finds these delightful miniature homes. These houses will be put up for silent auction in the evening. In order to get an idea of how many supplies will be needed for all of these activities, please call ahead to register for this event at 802-228-5050.

In the evening, there will be a silent auction, games, stocking and



Fairy Houses will be hidden throughout the museum for children to find. PHOTO PROVIDED

basket raffles, a scavenger hunt, and of course, delicious soups, chowders, and chili to warm you on a cold December evening. The soup will be served in hand-painted bowls, which you can take home. Adult beverages will be available.

There is an admission cost to this event. The museum cannot accept

credit cards at this time, please use cash or checks to pay for these fundraising events. See you at the museum on 14 High Street in Ludlow from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Start off the winter season with an enjoyable day at this historical venue decorated with a holiday Victorian ambiance.

The Groovebarbers and JEW MONGOUS at Next Stage

PUTNEY, Vt. - Next Stage Arts Project is delighted to present international a cappella sensation the Groovebarbers, with special guests, the Putney Central School Chorus, in the fourth annual holiday concert, on Friday, Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m. The newly-renovated and accessible Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill, Putney, Vt. Tickets are available online at www.nextstagearts.org, or at the Putney Coop or Turn It Up in Brattleboro.

The Groovebarbers annual show has become a staple of the holiday season in Putney, and returns by popular demand. Bring the family for an evening of harmony and song that will have your spirit soaring and your kids rushing to start their own vocal quartets as quick as you can say Wenceslaus!

This is show is so family friendly that kids 6 and under are free when accompanied by an adult (limit of one free kid per adult ticket). There will be popcorn and other refreshments in the lobby.

Each member of this all-vocal powerhouse quartet is a bona fide star in his own right: Sean Altman, Charlie Evett, and Steve Keyes are former members of the pioneering



The Groovebarbers. PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE GROOVEBARBERS FACEBOOK PAGE

modern a cappella group Rockapella. Kevin Weist is a renowned bald vocal guru. Collectively they have established themselves as the go-to vocal group for rock, doo-wop, jazz, barbershop and - with the help of guest soprano Inna Dukach - a new hybrid genre they call "doowopera."

On Friday, Dec. 22 Next Stage presents Sean Altman's JEW MONGOUS at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the door, online www.nextstagearts.org, or at the Put-

ney Coop or Turn It Up in Brattleboro. Ex-Rockapella star Sean Altman presents an unkosher comedy song concert. His classic Pass-over song "They Tried To Kill Us (We Survived, Let's Eat)" has been featured on NPR's Fresh Air with Terry Gross. Altman sings vocal standards at the bedside of hospital patients as a volunteer with Musicians On Call and has performed JEW MONGOUS throughout the USA, Europe, Israel, and once in China. All faiths and the faithless are welcome but due to occasional potty-mouthedness, Sean Altman's JEW MONGOUS is not appropriate for kids under 16 unless you're training them to be sailors.

Saxtons River Bell Ringers holiday concert

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Springfield Town Library is pleased to present the Saxtons River Bell Ringers on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. The Bell Ringers will play beautiful holiday music on English handbells - a magical way to ring in the holiday season! To accommodate a larger audience, this popular annual event will be held at the First Congregational Church, located at 77 Main Street in Springfield, just three doors down from the library. This event is free, accessible to people with disabilities, and open to the public. Sponsored by



English hand bells. PHOTO PROVIDED

the Friends of the Springfield Town Library. Please call the Springfield Town Library at 802-885-3108 for more information. The snow date will be Monday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m.

The Dance Factory presents "The Nutcracker"

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Dance Factory presents a fully costumed production of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. Both performances are at Springfield High School and will benefit the Springfield High School Drama Club.

Please join us for this beautiful classical ballet featuring young dancers from all over southern Vermont and New Hampshire. "The Nutcracker" tells the story of young Clara Staulbaum and the magical Nutcracker she is given from her Uncle Drosselmeyer.

The Dance Factory's production features dancing dolls, a fierce Mouse King, a glorious scene of dancing snowflakes led by the Snow Queen, and a visit to the Kingdom of sweets ruled by the Sugar Plum Fairy, and dances

from around the world.

Students dance all the roles in the Dance Factory's production of "The Nutcracker," including the principal roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Snow Queen. Many dancers begin in Mother Goose and continue performing in various roles throughout their childhood. Originally choreographed by Susan Hagan, this year's production will be directed by Ashley Hensel-Browning and will feature new and old choreography from productions past.

Do not miss this magical production!



Madailein Wolf of Springfield as Clara, Ben Haseltine of Chester as the Nutcracker, Lydia Churchill of Cavendish as the Sugar Plum Fairy, and Eliza Rounds of Chester as the Snow Queen. PHOTO PROVIDED

The Winter Concert at BFUHS

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - To those who dare to dream, and those who live life on the edge of their seat. The Bellows Falls Union High School Music Department is cordially inviting you, the dreamer, the darer, the music lover, to attend the annual Winter Concert on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017, at 7 p.m. in the BFUHS auditorium.

Sit back, relax, close your eyes, and invest a couple hours of your time to think, listen, and enjoy the sounds of the season. While the fall sports season comes to a close, and as the winter season draws near, why not trade in your bleacher seat for one in front of a stage where singers and instrumentalists alike have been practicing for a performance like no other?

Witness both ends of the musical spectrum as the BFUHS concert band, under the direction of Nick Pelton, performs both symphonies and marches alike. Hear senior Ethan Lauricella perform his feature piece, "Dream Song" by Richard L. Saucedo on the grand piano. Listen to the BFUHS jazz ensemble swing low and scoop high on classic arrangements. You'll be enchanted by the concert choir, under the direction of Mary Westbrook, as they perform a selection of holiday favorites.

A call to those who sometimes

wonder what life is really about, especially as the holiday season draws near. The Winter Concert is free and open to the public. It will be held in the Bellows Falls Union High School Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 14. A 50-50 raffle will be held to help fund the Music Department's trip to the competitive festival, Music In The Parks on June 2.

This article was written by Bradie Harris, a BFUHS junior. Harris

is a member of the band and the student run news site, The Howler.



The 2016 Winter Concert musicians. PHOTO PROVIDED

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outdoor news

Vermont's Mikaela Shiffrin takes gold in slalom

KILLINGTON, Vt. – Vermont's Killington Resort reported record-breaking crowds at the World Cup with more than 34,000 spectators over the weekend, while Germany's Viktoria Robensberg won gold in giant slalom and Mikaela Shiffrin won gold in slalom and silver in giant slalom. "I really felt the crowd carry me to the finish. The fans on the East Coast are the best that I race in front of," Shiffrin said.

"We're thrilled with our second

World Cup - it's an incredible opportunity for Killington and the surrounding community," says Mike Solimano, president and general manager of Killington Resort and Pico Mountain. "Everyone involved rolled out the red carpet for athletes and spectators. With the support of our community, we're looking forward to again showcasing Killington and the state of Vermont to the international ski community next year."

"Based on the athletes' performances and the enthusiastic spec-

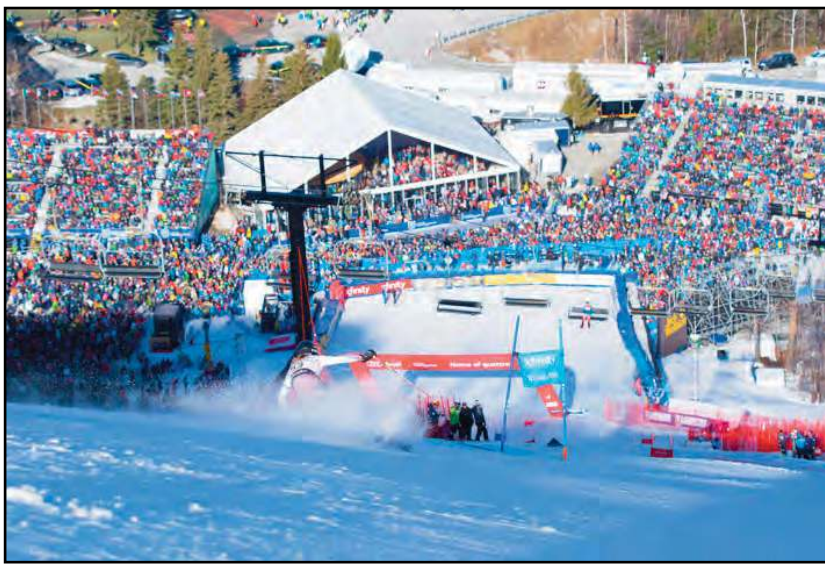
tators who cheered them on, Killington Resort and the Killington

community have demonstrated once again that the east can successfully host world-class global ski racing events," says Herwig Demschar, chair of the Xfinity Killington Cup Local Organizing Committee and VP of International Business Development at POWDR. "This year's World Cup raised an even higher bar for ski racing in the US, and when the celebration finally stops, we'll carry that momentum into World Cup 2018," adds Demschar.

"Killington is already a special place, but when the World Cup comes to town they go all out to celebrate the athletes, put on a top notch experience for fans, and inspire the next generation of skiers, and that's our goal at POWDR and why we host the World Cup," says John Cumming, founder and CEO of POWDR. "Hosting the World

Cup at Killington is important to us because it's consistent with who we are. We are one of the last standing independent, family owned and operated ski companies and we are committed to bringing the adventure lifestyle, including ski racing, to families and youth."

The Xfinity Killington Cup set American attendance records with an estimated 34,000 spectators across two days - 18,000 for the giant slalom and 16,000 for the slalom - beating last year's attendance by 4,000 spectators. The Xfinity Killington Cup was broadcast in more than 60 countries worldwide and live on NBC in the United States. The Xfinity Killington Cup returns to Killington Resort on Nov. 23-25, 2018. Over 2,000 children from New England ski clubs participated in the opening parades Saturday and Sunday.



Thousands arrived to cheer on the athletes in this year's Killington World Cup. PHOTO PROVIDED

Winter Bird Feeding Basics

MONTPELIER, Vt. – With winter weather now taking hold, Vermonters are readying their bird feeders. But before residents put up their avian offerings, Vermont Fish & Wildlife recommends a review of the bird feeding basics.

"Birds of all species have very interesting behaviors, shapes, and plumage, and observing them up close is a great source of enjoyment throughout the winter months,"

said John Buck, Vermont Fish & Wildlife's migratory bird biologist.

Buck recommends that people only feed birds during the winter months to avoid attracting bears. Bears are very fond of suet and bird seed, especially black oil sunflower seed. Bringing feeders in at night doesn't work, because bears will still feed on seed that is spilled on the ground, and bears can also be active during the daylight hours. Bears that are lured by birdfeeders can become unafraid of people, which can result in the bear needing to be put down.

While the department suggests a general feeding window of Dec. 1-March 31, bears will continue to be present when the ground is snowless and abundant fall foods are available. Buck recommends waiting to put feeders out until



Vermont leads the nation in residents who participate in bird watching. Feeding birds in winter is a great way to enjoy seeing wildlife from your home. PHOTO BY JOHN HALL

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According to Buck, birds don't generally need food from backyard feeders to survive, but the activity is a great way for people to interact with nature and if done properly, won't harm bird populations. Many local hardware stores sell bird feeders and a variety of seed mixes that will appeal to different types of birds. For an all-purpose food, black oil sunflower seeds will attract many native bird species.

Buck also urges people to clean birdfeeders at least once a month to prevent a buildup of harmful pathogens. Bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites can be spread through dirty feeders and make birds ill, particularly vulnerable species are common redpolls, pine siskins, sparrows, finches, and cardinals.

Buck recommends using a solution of one-part bleach to nine parts hot water to kill bacteria. Hot water with unscented dish detergent also does an excellent job. Bottle brushes work well in tube feeders. He recommends thorough rinsing and drying before refilling feeders, and cleaning up seeds and droppings below the feeder. Buck also recommends checking feed after rain or wet snow to look for clumping or rotting seeds. And feeders are best placed away from larger windows that birds can sometimes crash into. With some forethought and precautions, bird feeding can be a really rewarding activity on a dark winter's day.

Vermonters who feed birds will have plenty of company. Nearly half of households in Vermont feed birds each winter, contributing an estimated \$65 million to Vermont's economy. People can help birds and other wildlife by making a tax-deductible donation to the Nongame Wildlife Fund on line 29 of the state tax returns or by purchasing an annual Vermont Habitat Stamp, available at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

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bakery

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Yummy Pastries, Cakes, Pies, Breads, Cookies. Full Breakfast & Lunch 73 Depot St. Proctorsville 802-226-7007. crowsbakeryandcafe.com. Like us on Facebook. (01/09/18 TFN)

builders/contractors

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Snowplowing & Interior Refinishing

Building & Remodeling: Framing, roofing, siding, windows & doors, decks, interior/exterior painting, flooring, and more.

Property Management: Plowing, sanding, snow & ice removal, and shoveling.

Excavation

Contact Antonio Diaz: cell 802-779-8117, office 802-297-7680, antonio.noel.diaz@gmail.com (12/04/18)

PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION

Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, roofing and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville. 802-226-8125 (02/20/18 TFN)

chiropractor

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

cleaning

THE STOVE DEPOT, INC.

Stove Cleanings and Service: Any Makes and Models - Wood and Pellet Units - thestovedepot@comcast.net (802)747-9950 North Clarendon, (802)824-3677 Londonderry (01/18/18 TFN)

CLEANING & CLEANING OUT

Cleaning and cleaning out houses, apartments, businesses, condo’s camps, barns and sheds. One-time or regularly. Fully insured - Free Estimate. Call Reggie 802-376-4159 (02/27/18 TFN)

furniture

CHRISANDRA’S HOME FURNISHINGS

Our customers say “Your prices are great!” Shop our large selection of affordable furnishings and accessories. 122 Main St., Ludlow, VT www.chrisandras.com 802-228-4581. (08/08/18 TFN)

home decorating & remodeling

CHRISANDRA’S HOME SHOWCASE & DESIGN CENTER

Affordable design consultations including color selections, room layouts, window treatments and furniture choices. Pond St, Ludlow 802-228-2075. Main Street, Ludlow 802-228-4581. www.chrisandras.com (08/08/18 TFN)

masonry

MOORE MASONRY

Fireplaces, chimneys and liners, chimney sweeps, patios, walls, steps, restoration and repairs. Fully insured, free estimates. Contact Gary Moore at 802-824-5710 mooremasonry802@gmail.com (08/22/18 TFN)

painting

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Quality interior & exterior painting and wallpaper removal. Insured, and free estimates. 802-885-8633 www.TonesAndHues.com (08/08/18)

plumbing & heating

TAILORED PLUMBING AND HEATING

All aspects of plumbing, heating, air conditioning, residential repair or new construction. Available 24 hours. 802-417-1647; email: tailoredplumbingheating@gmail.com (TFN)

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House Washing, Deck Cleaning, Sidewalks, Gut-

ter Cleaning, Vinyl, Wood, Concrete, Brick. Fully Insured, Member of PWNA. Call (603) 721- 9335 www.bandbpowerwashservices.com (TFN)

rentals

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For Rent: Like new 10,000 lb Kabota Excavators w/ steel or rubber tracks. Both machines offer a thumb, angle float blade, A/C, heat, and free local delivery up to 15 miles.

For Rent: 28 foot 10,000 lb capacity deck over trailer with electric brakes, with our without ramps.

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Complete Dry walling Services, 25-years experience, free estimates, fully insured. 802-376-8755 or visit me at: Virgil@newhallsnewwalls.com www.newhallsnewwalls.com (TFN)

small engine repair

KINNEY’S SMALL ENGINE REPAIR

15 Paradise Hill, Bellows Falls, VT. Chain saw, Trimmers, Riding and Walk-behind mower, Compact Tractors Saw chain and Mower Blade sharpening. 802-463-4715 (TFN)

wood pellets & bio bricks

THE STOVE DEPOT, INC.

Prebuy on Pellets/Biobricks (802) 747-9950 North Clarendon or (802) 824-3677 Londonderry or thestovedepot@comcast.net to reserve your now! (01/18/18 TFN)

calendar

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY, DEC. 7 - ASCUTNEY, Vt. - There will be a free, public talk on Wildlife Habitat Improvement for Landowners on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Weathersfield Town Hall, 5199 Route 5, Ascutney, Vt. Sponsored by the Weathersfield Conservation

Commission, the talk will be given by Andrea Shortsleeve and forester Hannah Dallas of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. It will touch on how small and large landowners may undertake projects to improve habitat for both game and non-game species. For more information, contact Jeff Pelton at 802-885-9517.



MONDAYS - BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Bellows Falls Area Senior Center Knit and Stitch group meets Mondays at 9 a.m. They can help you finish a project, repair an item and even take on special projects. The group is happy to donate “Knitted Knockers” to breast cancer survivors. Stop by and ask for Betty for more information. Call: 802-463-3907. TFN

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

TUESDAYS- BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - River Voices Poetry meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Flat Iron Exchange building on the Square. All poets welcome. Discussion of all aspects of the poem. 802-463-2204. TFN

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

WEDNESDAYS - BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Bellows Falls Area Senior Center Knit and Stitch group meets Wednesdays at 9 a.m. They can help you finish a project, repair an item and even take on special projects. The group is happy to donate “Knitted Knockers” to breast cancer survivors, stop by and ask for Betty for more information. Call: 802-463-

3907. TFN

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

CAVENDISH, Vt. – From 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., there will be a Tai Chi beginners’ class at DG Bodyworks, 7 Depot St. in Cavendish/Proctorsville, Vt., next to the Post Office at the corner of Rte 131 and Depot St. There is a monthly tuition cost. To learn more about the classes, please contact Djemila at 802-490-0225, by email: djem.translator@gmail.com or check for updates on Facebook: www.facebook.com/gemstaichi/. TFN

CHESTER, Vt. - Liza Eaton, founder of Buddhaful Yoga, will be offering a Gentle Flow Kundalini Yoga class for beginners every Wednesday 9:30-11 a.m. You will be encouraged to go at your own pace and listen to your body. Held at the Fullerton Inn, on the Chester Green. For more information visit www.buddhafulyoga.com or call 802-875-2868. TFN

THURSDAYS - CHESTER, Vt. – Strength-building chair yoga class with Liz Eaton, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Fullerton Inn, Main Street, Chester. This is a strength building yoga class in the hatha tradition for anyone looking to build bone density, physical strength, flexibility and endurance. Come as you are and do what you can. Use a chair, yoga mat, or both! Drop in anytime or purchase a few classes at once. No experience necessary. For details, contact 802-875-2868, eaton.liza@gmail.com or www.buddhafulyoga.com. TFN

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

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Edgar

May Open Play Group 10-11:30 a.m. at Studio Momentum, 71 Main St. An active playtime specifically designed for children aged 6 months through 5 years! Free to member families. Call 802-885-2568 or info@myreccenter.org. TFN

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

LUDLOW, Vt. – Okemo Valley TV offers “Train the Trainers” workshops on fourth Thursdays at no cost, 6-7 p.m. at the Okemo Valley TV studio, 37C Main St. in Ludlow. Everyone who wants to learn the “ticks and tricks” of TV-video production is welcome. Reserve a space at pcody@lpctv.org or call 802-228-8808. TFN

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

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Fridays, 9-11 a.m. creative movement activities and playgroup held in the gym of the Community Center. All parents with young children are welcome. Contact Parks and Recreation Dept. at 802-885-2727. TFN

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

SATURDAYS - SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Edgar May Open Play Group 10-11:30 a.m. at Studio Momentum, 71 Main St. An active playtime specifically designed for children aged 6 months through 5 years! Free to member families. Call 802-885-2568 or info@myreccenter.org. TFN

SUNDAYS – RUTLAND, Vt. – Spartan Arena is sponsoring a series of Learn

to Play instructional hockey sessions led by members of the Rutland Cutting Edge women’s ice hockey team. Instruction will be geared to players of varying abilities, even if you have never skated before. No experience is necessary! But the following equipment is required: hockey helmet with face shield, hockey gloves, hockey skates (rentals are available at the rink), and a hockey stick. It is also highly recommended that you wear elbow & shin pads. The Cutting Edge has some equipment to loan to get you started. Sessions run from 6 - 7 p.m. on Sundays, (Dec. 10, and Dec. 17.) No preregistration is necessary, though it is recommended that you arrive 20 to 30 minutes ahead of time to suit up! Questions? Email rutlandcuttingedges@gmail.com

WEEKLY – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Come swim with a great group of adults in our masters swim group at the Edgar May Center. The group meets on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 8 a.m. The group is comprised of a wide range of abilities including new swimmers. Call 802-885-2568 or visit www.myreccenter.org. TFN

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

REGION - Bone Builders to combat osteoporosis. Free and open to 55+. Call 802-674-4547. Monday and Wednesday: Brownsville Town Hall 9 -10 a.m.; Martin Memorial Hall in Ascutney 10-11 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday: Cavendish Baptist Church 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday: Andover Community Church 3 – 4 p.m. TFN



CLUBS

MONDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Springfield Community Chorus rehearsals are on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church on 21 Fairground Rd. Contact Terri at springfieldcommunitychorus@gmail.com or call Barbara at 802-886-1777. www.springfieldcommunitychorus.org. TFN

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

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

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

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

RUTLAND, Vt. – Marble Valley Duplicate Bridge Club meets from 7-10:30 p.m. at the Godnick Center in Rutland, Vt. Snacks provided. Come join for a fun evening. More info call 802-228-6276. TFN

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

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

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

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Health Care & Rehabilitation Services of South Eastern Vermont
A Community Mental Health Agency
Serving Windham and Windsor Counties

Hospital Diversion Program of HCERS and NFI VT

Shift Supervisor(s)

The Hospital Diversion Program of HCERS and NFI VT are seeking two full-time Shift Supervisors located in Brattleboro. The Hospital Diversion Program provides crisis stabilization, clinical consultation, individual treatment and discharge planning in a small, safe residential setting. Shift Supervisors provide supervision and support to youth, as well as provide a sense of safety and security. Shift Supervisors are also responsible for: taking lead in managing the overall tone of the milieu, for attending to administrative aspects of the program including the staff schedule, and for coordinating training for respite staff. Job requirements: Superior interpersonal skills and ability to function well in a team atmosphere a must. Bachelor’s degree in psychology or related field required. Experience working in residential treatment and/or with adolescents who have been impacted by trauma.

Awake Overnight Residential Specialist(s)

The HCERS and NFI Hospital Diversion Program is hiring for Awake Overnight Residential Specialists. Hospital Diversion is a short-term in-patient facility working with adolescents in psychiatric crisis in Brattleboro. This position provides supervision and support to the youth during the sleeping hours, completes client intakes after-hours and performs administrative duties. This is a great entry level position with opportunities to advance within the agency. The ideal candidate would have a bachelor’s degree in a related field, superior interpersonal skills, and experience working with adolescents struggling with emotional/behavioral difficulties. These positions are 30 hours a week (Thursday, Friday and Saturday overnights).

Relief Awake Overnight Residential Specialist(s)

HCERS and NFI are looking to hire Relief Awake Overnight Residential Specialists. These are part-time, per-diem positions that would help to cover three residential programs during the overnight hours in Brattleboro. Our residential programs include short and long term work with adolescents experiencing emotional and/or behavioral challenges. Responsibilities include providing supervision and support to the youth during the sleeping hours and performing administrative duties. This is a great entry level position with opportunities to advance within the agency. The ideal candidate would have a bachelor’s degree in a related field, superior interpersonal skills, and experience working with adolescents struggling with emotional/behavioral difficulties.

Day-shift - Residential Specialist(s)

The HCERS and NFI Hospital Diversion Program is hiring for Day shift Residential Specialists. Hospital Diversion is a short-term in-patient facility working with adolescents in psychiatric crisis in Brattleboro. This position provides supervision and support to the youth during the day, completes client intakes and performs administrative duties. This is a great entry level position with opportunities to advance within the agency. The ideal candidate would have a bachelor’s degree in a related field, superior interpersonal skills, and experience working with adolescents struggling with emotional/behavioral difficulties. These positions are 40 hours a week.

HCERS is proud to offer one of the best benefits packages in the area. Our benefit package, coupled with competitive salaries, allows us to attract and retain the best staff you may ever work with. The high caliber of our staff creates an environment of excellence; making HCERS a great place to work and helping us make a positive difference in our community.

Please send resume and letter of interest via our WEBSITE at www.hcers.org, by fax to 802-886-4530, or by mail to: HCERS - Attn: Human Resources, 390 River Street, Springfield, VT 05156
Equal Opportunity Employer

TOWN OF WESTON, VERMONT

Ordinance Governing Parking of Motor Vehicles Between November 1 and May 1
Be It Ordained by The Selectboard Of the Town of Weston, State of Vermont, pursuant to Title 23, V.S.A. §1008 as follows:

1. No person owning, operating or controlling a motor vehicle shall park, or cause to be parked said motor vehicle on any street or highway within the Town of Weston from 7:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M., inclusive from November 1st to May 1st, inclusive; excepting herefrom, however, motor vehicles owned, operated or controlled by persons attending the critically ill or injured on emergency calls, and motor vehicles of persons attending church services.

2. Motor vehicles parked in violation of this ordinance may be removed by the Town Constable or Road Commissioner or by employees of the Town who are under the supervision of the Road Commissioner, to a place of storage; and the person owning or controlling said motor vehicle so removed shall be liable for all cost of removal and storage.

3. Persons owning or controlling a motor vehicle removed pursuant to this ordinance shall be liable for an additional charge of \$2.00 per hour above the cost of storage for each hour or fraction thereof said motor vehicle is in storage commencing at 8:00 A.M. of the day said motor vehicle is stored.

4. The Town Constable and Road Commissioner and employees of the Town who are under the supervision of the Road Commissioner shall be exempt from liability for damage incurred to motor vehicles removed under this ordinance; and all persons other than the Town Constable and the Road Commissioner and employees of the Town under the supervision of the Road Commissioner shall be insured and are deemed to be self-insured for liability for damages incurred to motor vehicles which they remove under this ordinance.

5. Every person convicted of a violation of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00).

6. This Ordinance shall become effective upon the third publication of the terms thereof, such publication to be once each week for three successive weeks on the same day of the week; thereafter, a single publication will be made annually.

DONE AT WESTON, IN THE COUNTY OF WINDSOR, STATE OF VERMONT, THE 8TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1974.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
James F. Convery
Donald W. Hart
Robert G Parker, Jr.

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMUNITY MEALS

TUESDAY, DEC. 12 - PUTNEY, Vt. – The next Putney Cares community luncheon will be held on Tuesday Dec. 12 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Putney Cares Barn located at 54 Kimball Hill in Putney. The menu will include roast turkey or tofu, dressing and gravy, roasted root vegetables, green salad with dressing, chocolate cake, and coffee or tea. There is a suggested donation. Volunteer help is also needed for providing rides to the luncheon for those who cannot drive and with the cleaning up after the meal. This event is co-sponsored by Senior Solutions. Please call: 802-387-5593 or email putneycares@svcabl.net to reserve your seat. Reservations accepted until Monday Dec. 11 at 2 p.m.

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

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

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

EVENTS

THURSDAY, DEC. 7 – ASCUTNEY, Vt. – On Thursday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m., enjoy a free concert by the Saxtons River Bell Ringers at

the Ascutney Union Church in Ascutney, Vt. Sponsored by the Weathersfield Proctor Library.

FRIDAY, DEC. 8 - PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts Project and Twilight Music present contemporary folk singer/songwriters Mark Erelli and Stephen Chipman at Next Stage on Friday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. Mark Erelli has toured internationally as a solo artist for the past 18 years, appearing onstage everywhere from coffeehouses and major folk festival stages to Fenway Park. Stephen Chipman learned to play guitar at an early age and rode the folk music wave through college frat parties and corner bars in the 1970s. Forty years later, Chipman returns to his songwriter roots with a set list of songs dedicated to poking fun at himself and the follies of his past. Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, VT. For information, call 802-387-0102. Advance tickets are available at www.nextstagearts.org, Turn It Up in Brattleboro and Putney Food Co-Op in Putney. For more information, visit www.markerelli.com, www.twilightmusic.org, and www.nextstagearts.org.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – “After Spring” is the story following two refugee families in transition and aid workers fighting to keep the camp running, viewers will experience what it is like to live in Zaatari, the largest camp for Syrian refugees. Jon Stewart produced this film, which is 103 minutes long. All welcome, no charge. This presentation will take place on Friday, Dec. 8. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Film starts at 7 p.m., and we will serve beverages and popcorn! This event is held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Road, Springfield, VT.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – It’s Ladies Night in Bellows Falls & vicinity! Several businesses are donating a portion of their proceeds from Ladies Night to Dance Away Cancer/Relay for Life Team Super Hero, and others are donating to a local charity. It’s always a fun night for girlfriends, sisters, sisters in law, moms & daughters, co-workers, etc. to shop. There are refreshments in the shops, specials at the restaurants and of course, places to get your Shop Local Cards stamped. For more information, including participant hours and specials, check out BFDDA’s Facebook page www.facebook.com/

Bellows-Falls-Downtown-Development-Alliance-BFDDA-118134114887946/ for details.

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

WALPOLE, NH -The Walpole Unitarian Church will hold its holiday food sale outside the Walpole Post Office on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9 - 11:15 a.m. Expect an assortment of savory and sweet homemade items including boxes of holiday cookies ready for gift giving, holiday breads, cakes, quiches, casseroles and preserves. Many items can be frozen to serve throughout the holiday season.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls will host their 2nd Saturday Poetry Open Mic on Saturday, Dec 9 at 1 p.m. followed by a reading by Pat

Fagnoli & Tim Mayo. The Open Mic is held by having poets take turns reading from their works. The poets sit around a table, so there is no need to be nervous about standing in front of a room for newbie poetry readers. Call 802-463-9404 for event reservations. For more information visit www.villagesquarebooks.com/event/poetry-open-mic-plus-pat-fagnoli-tim-mayo

SATURDAY, DEC. 9 – SUNDAY, DEC. 10 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Dance Factory presents Tchaikovsky’s “The Nutcracker” on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. Both performances are at Springfield High School and will benefit the Springfield High School Drama Club. The Dance Factory’s production features dancing dolls, a fierce Mouse King, a glorious scene of dancing snowflakes led by the Snow Queen, and a visit to the Kingdom of sweets ruled by the Sugar Plum Fairy and featuring dances from around the world. Students dance all the roles. Originally choreographed by Susan Hagan, this year’s production will be directed by Ashley Hensel-Browning. Do not miss this magical production!

SUNDAY, DEC. 10 – GASSETTS, Vt. – Gassetts Grange is holding their Christmas Swap Jamboree on Sunday, Dec. 10 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Anyone who wishes to take part in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift, costing from \$5 - 10, to swap. Everyone who does this will receive a ticket on entering. We will have drawings throughout the day. Refreshments will be

on sale in our kitchen, and 50/50 Tickets will be sold throughout. A small donation will be requested at the door. Our House Band, The Green Mountain Express will open the show and share the stage with anyone who wants to entertain us. For more details contact Dave at 802-875-2637 or Donna at 802-591-4290.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls welcomes Richard “Skip” Lamere, the author of “Camp Stories From the Backwoods

of Vermont” on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 1 p.m. Mr. Lamere memorializes events from his more-than-fifty-years of camp life in the heart of the Northeast Kingdom including camaraderie, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, animal encounters, problems, fun, food, all told with a lot of humor. For book and event reservations, call 802-463-9404.

THURSDAY, DEC. 14 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the VAULT’s first ever Men’s

Night is on Thursday, Dec. 14 from 5 to 7 p.m. Join us for refreshments and camaraderie as you explore beautiful and original items in a wide price range including jewelry, scarves, ornaments, mobiles, and garden items, photographs and fine art as well as creations in glass, pottery, stone, and wood. Includes free gift wrapping. Gallery at the VAULT, is located on 68 Main St. in Springfield. Visit www.galleryvault.org or call 802-885-7111.



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A Community Mental Health Agency

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Community Support Specialist—Police Liaison/Crisis Intervention Specialist

Full time 37.50hr/week position working within the Vermont State Police Department-Westminster Barracks. This police liaison is an integral member of the VSP team, embedded in the barracks. The liaison works side by side with law enforcement officers providing mental health, substance use and social services support to people who come into contact with law enforcement. Ideal candidates are solid under pressure and have quick solution focused critical thinking skills. The liaison provides emergency screening, supportive counseling, care coordination and resource connection. The ideal candidate will also be invested in community development and community safety and capable of working collaboratively with community partners. We are looking for a person with at least two years’ experience in a mental health related field and experience working collaboratively with law enforcement. A relevant Bachelor’s degree is required with a MA preferred. Please reference position - #4015

Area Manager – DS- Brattleboro - Are you looking for a leadership role in an organization dedicated to providing creative, collaborative, and compassionate services, responsive to the needs of the people we serve? HCERS Developmental Services Team is looking for an Area Manager in our Brattleboro office. In this role, you provide daily oversight to a large, collaborative, team supporting those we serve in the Brattleboro area to build and maintain independence. We need you to have strong organizational, communication and leadership skills. In this role, you consistently interface efficiently and diplomatically with a variety of stakeholders. You will also need to develop mastery of understanding of Developmental Services in Vermont. Your ability to train, support and supervise staff are critical. Minimum requirements included a bachelor’s degree and five years of experience serving people who experience Intellectual and Developmental disabilities.

Residential Specialist Per-Diem/Full time Positions:

Available in Brattleboro, Bellows Falls and Springfield Vermont
HCERS Residential Programs are currently hiring Per-Diem and Full time Residential Specialists on all shifts. We are looking for creative, flexible and dependable people to support residents in increasing life and relationship skills through group activities, community integration, one on one support, and role modeling. We strive to create an environment that provides opportunities for growth to all members of our community. The ideal candidate would be one that; enjoys being a member of a community with a shared purpose, incorporates their interests/skills into their work, maintains healthy boundaries, works well in a team, enjoys a diverse work day, brings positive energy, and is open to traditional and non-traditional perspectives and ways of responding to emotional and social distress. Positions are available at each of three residential programs. Please contact HCERS at the number below for more information on individual programs.

HCERS is proud to offer one of the best benefits packages in the area. Our benefit package, coupled with competitive salaries, allows us to attract and retain the best staff you may ever work with. The high caliber of our staff creates an environment of excellence; making HCERS a great place to work and helping us make a positive difference in our community.

Please send resume and letter of interest via our WEBSITE at www.hcers.org, by fax to 802-886-4530, or by mail to:
HCERS - Attn: Human Resources, 390 River Street, Springfield, VT 05156
Equal Opportunity Employer

TAKE A BREAK!

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Use an old phone

5 Plastic user's accumulation

9 Yon bloke

12 Resting

13 Neighborhood

14 Expert

15 Shipwreck site

16 Ancient Briton

17 Say it's OK

18 It's right on the map

19 Shell game need

20 Took the bus

21 — canto

23 Mainlander's memento

25 Flower cluster

28 Heckle or Jeckle

32 Baking potato

33 Any of four that chase Pac-Man

34 Aberration

36 Last syllable of a word

37 Ultra-modernist

38 Meadow

39 Dressed

42 State of matter

44 Infamous lyre player

48 Fond du —

49 Abrupt

50 Fed

51 Bonfire residue

52 Soft cheese

53 Dryer collection

54 "How come?"

55 Celeb

56 Therefore

horse

6 Huron neighbor

7 Soothe

8 Body art, for short

9 Good ring?

10 On the rocks

11 Apportion (out)

20 90 degrees

22 Overact

24 American emblem

25 Carnival city

26 Throw in

27 Scoundrel

29 Luau bowlful

30 Doctrine

31 Greek H

35 Dairy-section item

36 Overcoat named for a region of Ireland

39 Talon

40 Whip

41 Sore

43 Bocelli show-stopper

45 Eastern bigwig

46 Pealed

47 Aware of

49 Letterman's employer

DOWN

1 Tragic

2 Concept

3 Hearty quaffs

4 Forgotten

5 Spotted

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Salome's Stars

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Avoid overtaxing yourself, even if your energy levels are high and you feel that you can do it all. Best to pace yourself so you won't run yourself down before the holidays.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your sense of humor helps get you through a stressful period. Some of your quick quips can take the edge off any remaining negativity being aimed at you.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your artistic talents not only help you express yourself these days, but they also set up a line of communication between you and someone very special.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) It's fine to appreciate the importance of "proper form" for doing things. But relax a bit in order to allow newcomers on the project to feel less intimidated by you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Use your boundless reserve of optimism to persuade others to work with you to resolve a difficult workplace problem before it can ruin your holiday fun.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You brim over with self-confidence as you begin to tackle a new challenge. And, before you know it, you're not alone: Others have taken the plunge with you.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a highly defined sense of commitment to others. You would make a fine social worker.

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calendar

PETS OF THE WEEK/AUTOMOTIVE

EVENTS CONT.

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

GASSETTS, Vt. - Bingo will be

held every Thursday night at the Gassetts Grange. Starts at 6:30 p.m., doors open at 5 p.m. Supper, raffle and 50/50 tickets are on sale. Come and join in. Call Donna at 802-591-4290 or you can call the hall at 802-875-1051. TFN

SATURDAYS-
BELLOW FALLS, Vt. – Internet and jazz jam Saturday at the Flat Iron Exchange, located in the square. No cover charge,

just a tip jar to listen to some great jazz music. Enjoy a coffee and relax. 5-7 p.m. TFN

SUNDAYS–
PUTNEY, Vt. – Dinner and a movie every fourth Sunday, 5:30 p.m. At each event, the chefs at the Gleanery will serve a special menu in time for diners to make it to the hosted 7 p.m. film screening around the corner at the newly renovated Next Stage. For

pricing or reservations call 802-387-3052. Limited seating available. 15 Kimball Hill Rd.

FARMERS' MARKETS

FRIDAYS-
WESTON, Vt. – We are happy to announce the start of the new Weston Winter Farmer's Market at the Walker Farm Playhouse. Starting Dec 1, Friday hours are from 3 - 6:30 p.m. Your favorite dairy, eggs, cheese, meat and bread vendors will be on hand as well as prepared foods, artisans and crafts people. Come and support by purchasing local and fresh! Dates for December are Friday Dec. 8, 22 and 29. The Friday Dec. 8 market will feature Andover's own fiddle and banjo duo John Specker and his daughter Ida Mae. Lots of fun and real close to home. Shop and enjoy local!

LIBRARIES

SATURDAY, DEC. 9 -
BELLOW FALLS, Vt. - On Saturday, Dec. 9 at 1 p.m., Alma Beals will offer a holiday broom decorating program at Rockingham Library. Space is limited to ten participants. So call the library to reserve your spot. Pine brooms and festive decorations will be provided free of charge. Several glue guns will be available, but feel free to bring your own. This program is free and open to the public. To register or for more information, call 802-463-4270, go to www.rockinghamlibrary.org or stop by the library at 65 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls.

SUNDAY, DEC. 10 –
WINDSOR, Vt. – Join the Windsor Public Library for the magic of the holiday season at our 6th Annual Adult Holiday Read Aloud on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. at the Snapdragon Inn on Main Street in Windsor. Light refreshments, flute music, and heartwarming holiday stories read by local performers. This event is sponsored by the Friends of Windsor Library. For more info, please call 802-674-2556 or visit www.windsorlibrary.org.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13
ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – On Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. the Women's Freedom Center presents the documentary film "Granny's Got Game" at the Rockingham Library. This documentary film is about a senior women's basketball team in their seventies who battle physical limitations and skepticism to keep doing what they love. This is the fourth in a series of 6 films by and about women, sponsored by the Women's Freedom Center running the second Wednesday of each month through February 2018 at Rockingham Library.

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

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

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

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

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

BELLOW FALLS, Vt. - Rockingham Library hosts a series of six films by and about women for everyone, sponsored by the Women's Freedom Center on the second Wednesday of each month through February. These events are free and open to the public. For more information, go to rockinghamlibrary.org, call 802-463-4270 or stop by the library at 65 Westminster St., Bellows Falls

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

WINDSOR, Vt. - Preschool and Toddler Storytime every Wednesday from 10:30-

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

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

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

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

BELLOW FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Area Senior Center Book Club, in partnership with the Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St., meets on the first Friday of every month at 9 a.m. Call the senior center at 802-463-3907 or the library at 802-463-4270 for details. TFN

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

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Specials of the Week

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 <p>2011 Ford Escape XLT AWD 4 Cylinder Auto</p>	 <p>2012 Nissan Rogue SV Fully Loaded AWD Auto 4 Cylinder</p>

\$20

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802-463-3320

pets of the week



CHUNK



LIZZIE



SIERRA



GABBY

I was adopted!

Cuddles on the couch, and people to love, that is all we ask for this Christmas! Four amazing dogs looking for their forever homes! Each one would have to be your only furbaby, but they all have so much love to give. One is all you will need! Adoption fees are being waived to find them a home for the holidays. Please stop by Wednesday thru Saturday from Noon to 4:30 p.m. or call 802-885-3997 for more information.

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www.spfldhumane.org
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AUTOMOTIVE

MEETINGS

SUNDAY, DEC. 10 - BRATTLEBORO, Vt. - Liberty Union Party monthly open public meeting is at the Brattleboro Food Co-Op conference room, 2 Main Street in Brattleboro, on Sunday Dec. 10 from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. No registration required. For more information visit www.libertyunionparty.org

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

SPRINGFIELD, Vt.- The Steampunk Society event committee meets Tuesdays at the Hartness House Inn at 6 p.m. located at 30 Orchard St. TFN

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

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

THURSDAYS- PERKINSVILLE, Vt. - Twin State Depression Support Group Board of Directors will now meet every other month in 2018 on the third Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at 2520 Route 106 in Perkinsville. Please come join us. New local phone number is 802-795-0098. This is a voice mail line. Updates regarding meetings will be posted during bad weather. Messages will be checked daily. The 2018 schedule is: Jan. 18, March 22, May 17, July 19, Sept. 20 - the one exception will be in November - that date to be announced.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

TUESDAYS- SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Breast Feeding Support Group second and fourth Tuesdays at the Springfield Hospital Library Level D. Noon-2 p.m. It is free and no registration is required. For more information call Erin at 802-885-7511. TFN

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

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

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - TOPS Chapter Vermont #12 meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Sacred Heart Social Center, 39 Green Street in Bellows Falls. Come to TOPS (take off pounds sensibly) a non-profit, non-commercial, weight loss support group that really works. Every week there are interesting programs that touch on topics that help us in our quest for weight loss. We share healthy recipes for main meals and snacks. Your first meeting is free. Bring a friend; you

won't be disappointed. Visit our website www.tops.org for more information. TFN

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

specialize in eating behavior. To join call 802-975-0435 or email shiri@fitwoman.com.

ASCUTNEY, Vt. - Twin State Depression Support Group meets on the third Wednesday at Martin Memorial Hall, Lower Level (Handicapped-accessible), 5259 Route 5, Ascutney, (near Exit 8 off I-91) at 6:30 p.m. Do you know or think you may be depressed? Have a friend or family member who has depression?

Then this group is for you! Support, empathy, sharing, education, confidentiality, peer-led. Contact TwinStateDSG@gmail.com or 641-715-3900 (ext. 650055#). TFN

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Twin State Depression Support Group meets on the fourth Wednesday at Turning Point Recovery Center (Handicapped-accessible), 7 Morgan Street, Springfield at 6:30 p.m. Do you know or think you

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

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

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

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

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Auto, PW, PDL, One Owner
SALE PRICE \$22,995

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Auto, One Owner, Extra Clean
SALE PRICE \$13,995

2016 CHEVY TRAX
All Wheel Drive, LT Package, One Owner
SALE PRICE \$17,995

2016 CHEVY MALIBU
LT Package, Sun Roof, Only 15,000 Miles
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LTZ Package, AWD, 6 Cyl, Sun Roof, Navigation, Leather, One Owner
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CREW CAB
271 Off Road Package, 4x4, One Owner, Only 34,000 Miles
SALE PRICE \$26,995

2015 FORD F-150
SUPER CREW CAB
4x4, Fully Loaded, One Owner
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4 DOOR CREW CAB
SR5, 4x4, TRD Sport Package, Long Box, One Owner, 26,000 Miles
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SE Package, Auto
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LT Package, Auto, One Owner, Only 15,000 Miles
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2014 GMC 2500 HD
CREW CAB
4x4, SLT Package, Fully Loaded, One Owner
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2013 CHEVY TAHOE
LTZ Package, Fully Loaded
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2012 FORD FUSION
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Sport Package, Fully Loaded Only 50,000 Miles
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4 DOOR CREW CAB
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2010 CHEVY EQUINOX
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2010 TOYOTA COROLLA
S Package, Fully Loaded
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Just a few days left to sign up for 2018 health coverage –

REGION – State officials marked the end of the first month of open enrollment by thanking Vermonters for acting promptly ahead of this year’s deadline and reminding those who still need coverage to be sure to log in to www.VermontHealthConnect.gov or call by Dec. 15. They also announced that the customer support center will be open Saturday, Dec. 9 to take applications and change requests from new and renewing members.

“Most calls are being answered in under a minute,” said Cory Gustafson, commissioner of the Department of Vermont Health Access, “but it’s important to note that the actual application can be lengthy, especially

for new members who are seeking financial help for the first time. The Saturday hours can be a good option for Vermonters who are busy during the week.”

The special Saturday hours are offered for new applicants signing up for coverage and for existing members who want to change plans, add a household member to their plan, or report a change in income or other household information. Members will also be able to pay for their cov-

erage and request online account access, while those who want to address other account issues are asked to call during the week or to log into their online accounts.

Vermonters who qualify for financial help have three ways to apply through Vermont’s health insurance marketplace: online www.VermontHealthConnect.gov, by phone 855-899-9600, or with one of more than 150 in-person assisters located across the state.



Sign up for health care today.

STOCK PHOTO

Vermonters whose household incomes are too high to qualify for financial help have the additional option of enrolling directly with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont or MVP Health Care and establishing a single point of contact with their insurance carrier.



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Income in respect of a decedent

REGION - Taxpayers are generally required to recognize income for federal income tax purposes in the year in which it is received. If, however, someone dies before receiving income to which he or she is entitled, that income is not included on his or her final income tax return. Instead, such income, referred to as “income in respect of a decedent,” or IRD, is included as gross income in the decedent’s estate for federal estate tax purposes. And, IRD also becomes taxable income to the person or entity who ultimately receives it (in direct contrast to the general rule that inherited property is not included in an heir’s taxable income).

The inclusion of IRD on both the estate tax return (Form 706) and the recipient’s income tax return creates the potential for double taxation. Fortunately, to avoid this result, the tax code provides an income tax deduction for any estate tax paid that is attributable to IRD.

What constitutes IRD?

According to the Internal Revenue Code, IRD represents “those amounts to which a decedent was entitled to receive as gross income but which were not properly includable in computing taxable income for the taxable year ending with the date of his death.” In plain English, IRD is income the decedent earned but did not receive prior to death. Common sources of IRD include:

- Uncollected salaries, wages, bonuses, commissions, vacation pay, and sick pay
- Uncollected alimony
- Uncollected rent
- Interest and dividends accrued
- Distributions from certain deferred compensation and stock option plans
- Taxable distributions from employer-sponsored retirement plans, including pension plans, profit-sharing plans, and simplified employee pension plans (SEPs)
- Taxable distributions from individual retirement accounts (IRAs)
- Gain from the sale of property if the sale is deemed to occur before death, but proceeds are not collected until after death
- Accounts receivable of a sole proprietor
- Difference between the face amount and the decedent’s basis in an installment sales obligation
- Distributive share of partnership items for the period before death for a partnership tax year that ends after death, unless the death causes the partner’s tax year to close

Who owes income tax on IRD?

IRD is taxed to the person or entity receiving it. This can be the decedent’s estate, the surviving spouse, or some other beneficiary. IRD is reported on the recipient’s income tax return in the year it’s received. If IRD is paid to the decedent’s estate, it is reported on the fiduciary return (Form 1041). If IRD is paid directly to a beneficiary, it is reported on the beneficiary’s income tax return (Form 1040).

Character of IRD

The character of the income taxed to the recipient is the same as it would have been in the hands of the decedent; capital gains are taxed as capital gains, and compensation and interest are taxed as ordinary income. There is no step-up in basis for IRD items.

Deductions in respect of a decedent

There are also deductions in respect of a decedent (DRD), which can offset IRD. DRD items are deductible expenses that were owed at the time of death, but not yet paid. Such items might include real estate taxes, state income tax, and deductible interest. As with IRD, DRD can be taken on both the estate tax return and the beneficiary’s income tax return, and must be deducted in the same manner as the decedent would have taken the deduction.

The deduction can be taken by the IRD recipient who is obligated to and actually pays the DRD items. DRD items are deductible in the year in which they are paid.

If DRD is taken on the estate tax return, the income tax deduction for estate tax paid on IRD is limited to net IRD (IRD minus DRD).

Income tax deduction for estate tax paid on IRD

If estate tax is paid on IRD, a deduction can be claimed on the income tax return that must report the IRD. For individual taxpayers, the deduction is available (as a miscellaneous deduction) only if they itemize. The deduction, however, is not subject to the 2 percent AGI floor for miscellaneous itemized deductions.

The deduction is calculated by re-computing Form 706 without IRD, then subtracting this number from the original estate tax due. The difference is the estate tax on IRD and the amount of the total deduction.

The IRD recipient’s portion of the deductible tax must then be determined by:

- Dividing the value of the IRD included in the beneficiary’s income by the total value of the IRD included in the decedent’s estate (not reduced by DRD), then
- Multiplying this fraction by the total estate tax deduction

Example: Amy dies leaving three children, Bob, Candy, and Dennis. Bob and Candy each inherit \$10,000 in IRD items, and Dennis inherits \$5,000 in IRD items. Bob becomes liable for \$1,000 in DRD items. The net IRD included in Amy’s estate is \$24,000 (\$10,000 + \$10,000 + \$5,000 - \$1,000). Assume the estate tax attributable to the IRD items is \$10,800. Each child’s estate tax deduction is calculated as follows:

Bob and Candy:
 $\$10,000 / \text{by } \$25,000 = 0.4$
 $0.4 \times \$10,800 = \$4,320$ each
Dennis:
 $\$5,000 / \text{by } \$25,000 = 0.2$
 $0.2 \times \$10,800 = \$2,160$

Planning for IRD

If IRD items will make up a large portion of your estate, failing to plan for them may have unintended results. For example, say you leave your house to your son and your IRA (composed of deductible contributions and earnings) to your daughter. If the house and the IRA have the same market value, your daughter will end up receiving less than your son because she will have to pay income taxes on each IRA distribution she receives. You can avoid such results by properly allocating IRD items.

Here are some strategies to consider:

- Leave IRD items to charity, which is exempt from income taxes.
- Leave an IRA to a young beneficiary, which has the potential to defer the payment of income taxes for as long as possible.
- Leave IRD items to a credit shelter trust. This postpones the payment of estate tax until the death of the surviving spouse, and thus the payment of income taxes.

For further help with planning for IRD, see your estate planning attorney or tax planning professional.

Article written by Huntley Financial Services. For more information, call Mark Huntley at 888-922-1035.



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