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Chester continues to discuss retail cannabis for vote

BY SHARON HUNTLEY
The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – Despite the Chester Selectboard’s decision not to put the retail cannabis opt-in vote on the town meeting ballot, the board once again discussed the issue in their Feb. 2 meeting after a local resident petitioned for its inclusion.

Local resident Scott Blair, owner of Southern Pie Café, circulated a petition amongst Chester residents and garnered the required 5% of signatures in order to force the issue onto the ballot for this year.

According to Board Chair Arne Jonynas, the board now wants to get as much information as possible out there before the vote so Chester residents can make an informed decision.

Jonynas said that currently there is no tax benefit to the town for opting-in, although the Vermont legislature is reviewing a bill that could change that.

He also pointed to the fact that the town cannot make any special laws, rules, or regulations concerning the placement of a cannabis dispensary other than the state’s restriction requiring that it can’t be placed within 500 feet of a school.

Board members Jeff Holden and Lee Gustafson both asked about facility location, questioning whether other youth congregating areas also posed a restriction and why the distance did not match that of alcohol sales. Town Manager Julie Hance said she would find out those answers in time for their next meeting.

Holden and Gustafson also brought up issues about the growing of cannabis, including energy, pesticide use, and impact on ground water. Jonynas clarified that the vote is only to determine the sale of cannabis in Chester, and that growing is allowed and will not be regulated or impacted by the town. He also suggest-



Chester continues to discuss retail cannabis. PHOTO PROVIDED

ed that since Vermont is a farm state that encourages small farms, growers would likely be regulated the same as all agriculture.

Chester resident Robert Nied suggested that there was no urgency to approve the issue now, other than by Blair and the small percentage that signed the petition, and was concerned there was no data to look at and gauge how it would impact a town like Chester. He also said that the town would have less control over cannabis than it does alcohol.

Gustafson stated that other states, ones with a history in selling cannabis, were now dealing with unforeseen repercussions of their decision.

Chester resident Tim Roper refuted claims by both Nied and Gustafson citing information from the state cannabis control board which allows towns to set up a local cannabis control commission which can exert control over cannabis licensing, including enforcing zoning bylaws, addressing any public nuisance complaints, and even revoking a license.

He also added that, after doing some research, “I couldn’t find a single article where a municipality said they wished they had not allowed retail cannabis.” He went on to suggest that if someone was going to cite instances on a particular point, that they provide some documentation to support it.

Andi Goldman, a Ludlow resident who has worked in legal cannabis for many years and who was behind

the recent retail cannabis effort in Ludlow, said she agreed with Roper and suggested they look to Massachusetts and Maine for feedback. “Not only is there not buyer’s remorse in

Massachusetts, but the highest officer for cannabis control has said that all of the fear mongering did not actually realize itself.” She added that it would increase business throughout the rest of the town, keeping tourists from simply driving through Chester.

When asked on why a Ludlow resident was weighing in on the issue, Goldman said that since Ludlow had passed on opting-in, she was committed to providing education to surrounding towns, and if the measure passed in Chester, she would come to Chester to purchase.

Gustafson responded to Roper and Goldman’s statements, saying that he had provided the board a document, titled “Why Marijuana Retail Sales are Not Good for Chester,” prior to their last meeting, which had links that supported his point on unforeseen repercussions.

Jonynas said the board would have the issue again on their next agenda and find out the answers to questions raised at this meeting and discuss further. “I think it will help guide our town when it comes up to vote. [It’s] up to people to decide where they want to go with this issue,” he said.

The next Chester Selectboard meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. in person at Chester Town Office or via Zoom.

Plymouth Town Meeting structure

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – The Town Meeting for Plymouth will have a hybrid structure this year. The town will hold an informational meeting Monday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m., both in person and on Zoom. The link will be posted at a later date on the town website, www.plymouthvt.org. Articles will be discussed and questions may be answered at the informational-only

meeting. Voting on all articles will happen by Australian ballot Monday, March 1 at the Plymouth Municipal Building, from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. You may request an absentee ballot by contacting Sandie, town clerk, at 802-672-3655.

The 2022/23 school year budget informational hearing will take place Thursday, Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Windsor Central Su-

pervisory Union and on Zoom. You can find the meeting link at www.wcsu.net/wcousd-budget-information. More financial details will be posted as documents become available at www.wcsu.net. The vote for the school budget will also take place by Australian ballot on March 1 at the Plymouth Municipal Building.

Mask mandate to end in Ludlow on Feb. 21

BY SHARON HUNTLEY
The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. – During their Feb. 7 meeting, the Ludlow Selectboard opted not to renew the town-wide mask mandate, choosing to let it lapse after Feb. 21. The board also discussed proposed state legislation to decriminalize personal use amounts of opioids and considered a pilot micro-transit program for 2023.

The board unanimously decided not to renew Ludlow’s town-wide mask mandate, instead letting it come to an end on Feb. 21, which coincides with the start of President’s week.

Board member Justin Hyjek noted that Covid case numbers have dropped significantly in recent days. Board member Heather Tucker said that she was glad they had the mandate earlier, and now those who are conscious of the risk will probably continue to wear them. Businesses that want to continue to post a mask mandate may continue to do so. The Ludlow mask mandate has been in place since Dec. 6 of 2021.

Police Chief Jeff Billings spoke in opposition to a bill proposed by the Vermont House Judiciary Committee which would decriminalize possession of limited quantities of controlled substances, such as heroin or fentanyl, instead

imposing a \$50 fine. This bill was written by Ludlow’s state representative Logan Nicoll, who was on hand to discuss the proposed legislation.

H.644 is one of three bills being considered that would direct resources towards substance abuse as a matter of public health rather than criminality. It would establish a board to determine amounts that would constitute a personal supply. The other two pieces of legislation include H.309, which would decriminalize psychedelic fungi and cacti, and H.505, which would reduce many felony drug charges to misdemeanors.

Billings asked the board to take a stand against the legislation, saying that the police department would not enforce a ticket and warned, “you’re going to see a free-for-all for everything in Vermont.” He also said he was surprised that the bill was even put forward and supported by Ludlow’s representative, since no one had contacted the police department to discuss the issue.

Nicoll stated that he campaigned on the issue throughout the district before he was elected and the fact that the legislature is now supporting decriminalizing the possession of some drugs is open policy. He said that there is an effort to change how the state views and treats substance abuse disorder.

After some discussion and push back on the board on how the legislation

would achieve the desired outcome of getting addicts into treatment, Nicoll said that the bill would be going through many changes as it works through the legislative system and admitted that the bill would require substantial improvements in the healthcare system. He urged the board to follow the discussion through the Judiciary Committee’s YouTube channel.

Nicolls said he would like to talk about ways to move this forward with the chief’s support. He said that he wants to see addicts in treatment where they belong and that “putting those people in prison is not working for us.”

The board ended the discussion saying they will continue to watch the issue and decide when they would chime in.

Lucy Gibson presented a Micro-transit Feasibility Study to the board, and proposed a pilot program for the winter of 2022/2023, which would provide an after-hours bus service from approximately 5 p.m. – 2 a.m. for a total of 39 days per year, during winter season on Fridays, Saturdays, and two vacation weeks during Christmas, and Presidents week in February.

The study was prepared for the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission by a steering committee that included Municipal Manager Scott Murphy, two Okemo transportation executives, the Okemo Valley

See **LUDLOW** on Page 2

Ludlow Rotary hears from Cavendish Town Manager

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Feb. 1 luncheon meeting of the Ludlow Rotary Club featured Brendan McNamara, Cavendish Town Manager, speaking to Rotarians and guests about the state of the Town of Cavendish. Cavendish is within the Rotary service district.

McNamara reported that there have been concerns about the aging infrastructure in the water and sewer systems, as well as the need for larger stormwater capacity. He wants Cavendish to be proactive in these issues and is looking to use Covid recovery funds from the ARPA to begin work. Having been Town Manager for the past several years, McNamara spent the first five of these continuing projects that were already underway or in the planning stages from the prior administration.

In regards to a question on the repaving of

VT Route 131, McNamara stated that he is glad the project has been completed. While not a pleasant experience, he said, the repaved road is certainly much nicer than the old, pothole-ridden one. He also addressed the broadband service in the community, acknowledging that it is spotty and inconsistent but that the town is working on it. A question was raised on whether Cavendish had increased in residents due to the pandemic, to which McNamara pointed to the higher volume of people at the transfer station, alluding to increased traffic and the probability of a generally higher population.

McNamara has been a lifelong Cavendish resident who is pleased to be able to serve his hometown in this capacity. He was educated



Brendan McNamara and Ludlow Rotary Club President, Art Randolph. PHOTO PROVIDED

at Green Mountain High School and Keene State College before returning to the area.

In other business, Rotary inducted new member Lauren Severy of Summit Solutions Property Services in Ludlow as a new business member.

Anyone interested in learning more about joining the Rotary is invited to contact Kevin Barnes, Membership Chairman at 802-228-8877 to receive an invitation to a meeting.

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DEADLINES

The deadline for all content is **Friday at 12 p.m.** for the following Wednesday publication.

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Okemo Valley Chamber awarded marketing grant

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce was recently awarded a \$30,000 Tourism and Economic Recovery Marketing Grant from the VT Department of Economic Development. The region was also awarded a similar grant in 2021.

The success of this application was the result of a regional collaboration, including support letters and other input with partners including the communities of Chester, Londonderry, Ludlow, and Weathersfield. All twelve core communities in the Okemo Valley will benefit from these marketing efforts provided by the award. As the project manager, the Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce will also engage with its over 300 members.

These Regional Tourism Marketing Grant Awards are for organizations whose efforts and activities are related to economic recovery,



The Okemo Valley Chamber of Commerce in Ludlow. PHOTO PROVIDED

consumer stimulus, marketing, or tourism related projects to support businesses that have suffered economic harm due to the pandemic. They are intended to enable local, regional, or statewide organizations to implement campaigns and initiatives that will increase consumer spending, support local businesses, and advance community recovery efforts.

The approved marketing plan submitted by OVRCC includes: cooperative New England promotional ef-

forts, expanded regional digital and social media promotion, support for Okemo Valley Magazine content and increased distribution, enhancements to our regional website, an expanded seasonal photography inventory, and facilitating outdoor recreation partnerships. Working together as a region, this marketing project will further enhance the Okemo Valley's strong position as a visitor destination.

Neighborhood Connections offers seminar on keeping spaces tidy

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Clutter can affect our anxiety levels, sleep, and ability to focus. It can also make us less productive, and trigger coping and avoidance strategies that make us more likely to snack on junk food and watch TV shows (including ones about other people de-cluttering their lives). Are you feeling over-

whelmed by clutter, but don't know where to start?

Join Ruth Shafer, a Certified Tidying Consultant, on Tuesday, Feb. 15 at 3 p.m., in this online presentation hosted by Neighborhood Connections.

Ruth uses the KonMari Method, where tidying is done all at once, by category, and in a specific order. The

result is not only a clutter-free home, but greater clarity of purpose and self. Go to www.neighborhoodconnections.vt.org or call 802-824-4343 to join this program.

Neighborhood Connections is a nonprofit social services agency serving the area mountain towns in south-central Vermont.

Okemo Valley Women's Club holds bake sale

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Tree of Remembrance is brightly lit in Veteran's Park and The Green in Proctorsville. The General Federation of Women's Clubs, Okemo Valley, is still fundraising for a scholarship that will go to a local high school senior, and that fundraising opportunity will be coming to an end Feb. 11, at 3 p.m. with a Bake and Appetizer Sale in front of the Shaw's in Ludlow.

Remember your loved ones past and present with a donation for this worthy cause.

Thank you all for your continued support to our scholarship.

The following are those who are being remembered:

Mary and Ed Augustakis, Helen Ballaid,

Beth Bartlett, Oscar and Nell Beckman, Earl Bonneau, Harold and Mary Bragg, Harley and Ida Bragg, Margarite and Oscar Bryant, Roy and Marie Bryant, Kim Bryant, Stanley and Francis Bryant, Evelyn Bryant, Brian Burke, Peter Connor, Lane Danyou, Roy and Leta Davis, Ellsworth and Dorothy Davis, Joy Davis, Frank and Christine Deluca, Carol Deluca, Tom and Mary Derlinga, George and Evelyn Dever, Kathy Dever, Carolyn Gauthier, Leonard Gendron, Brenda Gregory, Stan Hart, Rita Higgins, Leta Hudgings, Francis Hughes, Paul Keith, Tina Koye, Carol Lee Kuk, George Laber, Dexter Lockwood, Irene and Joseph Lorrain, George and Rose Macintyre, Russell Maimone, Fred Marin, Edwin and Elizabeth Merrill,

Anna McKinnie, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. McLean, Aaron W. McNabb, Marylin and Richard Milliken, Jud and Ginnie Nelson, Ernest and Melba Noll, Emma Noll, Pete Noyes, Ellen Parrish, Lana Parks, Helen Remy, Laval Remy, Gardner and Laura Ripley, Carole Robert, Don Robert, Carol Rowan, Ronald Schuster, Leon and Mary Shabbott, Bernard and Shirley Snow, Nick and Betty Stone, Vera and Donald Sullivan, Dan Sullivan, Rick Sullivan, Terri Tabshey, Doris and Harold Tedford, Jim and Marian VanGuilder, Lindsay Wiseman.

Please send your donations to Fran Derlinga, P.O. Box 229, Plymouth, VT 05056, checks made out to GFWC Okemo Valley Women's Club.

Sarah Vangel joins Grace Cottage Hospital Board

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – The Board of Trustees of Grace Cottage Family Health and Hospital welcomes attorney Sarah Biolsi Vangel to the Hospital Board.

A native of Brookline, Vt., Vangel attended Leland and Gray Middle/High School and received her B.A. from Wheaton College in Norton, Mass. She began her legal career as a para-

legal for Fisher & Fisher Law Offices in Brattleboro before attending Western New England Law School, where she received her J.D. law degree in 2009.

After clerking in the Bennington Superior Court, she was a partner at Kramer & Vangel, focusing on real estate law, litigation, probate, and criminal defense. Vangel was appointed to the Vermont Ethics Commission in 2018 and joined

the law firm of Costello, Valente & Gentry, P.C. in 2019.

Vangel lives in Townshend. "Grace Cottage was my healthcare provider throughout my childhood and has always served my family and me well," she said. "I look forward to being able to contribute to the future of Grace Cottage, such a valuable asset to our community, by my service on the board."

Kurn Hattin kids earn sledding day

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Each month the children at Kurn Hattin Homes have a Positive Behavioral interventions and Sup-

port challenge to reach a goal and earn prizes by showcasing Kurn Hattin Homes' mission: We are kind, We are proud, and We keep trying.

In January, the students reached their goal of earning 350 snowflakes. During the winter months, students earn paper snowflakes, which are demonstrations for going above and beyond expected behavior. Their prize was an afternoon of tubing and hot chocolate.



Fun day of sledding and hot chocolate. PHOTO BY KRISTIE USAI

"Students really embodied our core values during this event; they were patient, took turns, and worked well together. It was a great afternoon overall," said Catherine Seltzer, teacher of grades four and five.

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LUDLOW
 From Page 1
 Chamber, and other transit officials, and included input from stakeholders around the area.
 The pilot program would

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provide one 14-person bus that would service the Ludlow village and immediate surrounding area for patrons who needed a ride from their dinner and bar destinations, back to their accommodations. The bus would be free to riders. Initial costs for the town would come to just over \$40,000, or \$1000 per day.

The board spoke about a few challenges, including buses not being allowed to stop along Main Street and the need to shorten the time frame, since bars are not open in town until 2 a.m. They also suggested that they might be able to outsource the pilot to an existing bus service.

After discussion, the board agreed to await a more detailed report for the pilot program before approval to move ahead.

In his Municipal Manager's report, Murphy discussed the increased traffic through Ludlow saying the town is in a difficult spot right now, and just trying to get to the end of the season. He said he will be working with Okemo on a long list of concerns to discuss with them. He acknowledged that the number of people traveling through town was stressing services and that a number of Vail ski towns were having similar problems.

The next Ludlow Select Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 7 at 6 p.m. in the Heald Auditorium at Ludlow Town Office.

Sammy Pierce Memorial Scholarships

REGION – The Sammy Pierce Memorial Scholarships are awarded annually to deserving students in recognition of volunteered time and talent. These scholarships are open to students in communities served by the Crown Point Board of REALTORS (Andover, Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester, Clarendon, Grafton, Ludlow, Mount Holly, Plymouth, Reading, Rockingham, Shrewsbury, Springfield, Wallingford, Weathersfield, Weston, and West Windsor).

The Crown Point Board of REALTORS awards \$1,000 to two deserving students. The students may be 2022 high school

graduates, homeschoolers, returning college students, previous recipients returning to upper classes, or adult students continuing their education in a two or four-year college program.

While the course of study is not restricted in any way, applicants must have a strong history of volunteer community service.

Applications and information for the Sammy Pierce Memorial Scholarships are available at your local high school or by contacting Helen Wachtel at 802-275-3902. The deadline to submit applications for these scholarships is Monday, May 2, 2022. Selections will be announced

in June.

The Sammy Pierce Memorial Scholarships are given in honor of Sammy Pierce, who is remembered as one of the most generous, thoughtful REALTORS in Windsor County. His generous character and the impact he made on his community is honored by this annual scholarship.

Those wishing to make a contribution to the Sammy Pierce Education Fund are encouraged. Donations may be sent to the Sammy Pierce Education Fund, Crown Point Board of REALTORS, c/o Rachael Hyjek, Treasurer, 126 Main St. Suite 1A, Ludlow, VT 05149.

Catphishing scams

REGION – Romance scamming, also called catphishing, is a growing menace that impacts millions of people of all ages. Much of the threat results from the current pandemic and is fueled by less social interaction, more isolation, the deaths of friends and family members, and general boredom, leading many to find companionship via the internet. The impact is greater on the elderly who feel less connected, more stressed, anxious, lonely, or depressed.

Social media has become a gathering place for many. While dating websites aggressively market their services, so have online chat rooms. Enter the scammer who may register in social media, chat groups, or even with dating websites. The scam can take several months to develop. During that “warm up” period, the scammer builds a “sincere” relationship by sharing real or created personal stories, fake credentials, and stock photos to create believable profiles. Con artists use distance to separate themselves from direct contact by pretending to be in the military, employed in a remote location, or serving with a humanitarian agency in a third world country.

The trap is sprung with a hardship story: family illness, unreliable transportation, gambling debts, or legal fees. The stories are endless and the message does not vary – send money! Given the time expended in building the relationship, the story is believed and the targeted person sends money. Victims repeatedly send money to help their needy friend who they care about.

Combating romance scams is difficult. The victim frequently defends the predator and refuses to listen to reason. Enlisting the assistance of a family mem-

ber, close friend, clergy person, or physician may be of some assistance, but consider discussing the issue with local law enforcement as well. Telling people to stop online dating, particularly in the age of Covid, will not work. Education is often the best defense.

There are some dead giveaways to romance scams: requests for money, which are often via gift cards, wire transfers, or e-cards; refusal to meet in person; and attempts to move the relationship from “public” settings to private exchanges. Don't give money to anyone you have not met in person.

Other tips include:

- Stop communicating if you believe you are dealing with a scammer.
- Take things slowly in the relationship; give yourself time to ask questions and check out answers.
- Try a reverse image search on the internet to see if pictures you were sent are

stock images of photos connected to another person.

- Learn more about romance scams at www.ftc.gov/romancescams or www.aarp.org/scams.
- File a report with the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov/complaint or the F.B.I. at www.ic3.gov.

Questions or Comments?
 Email egreenblott@aarp.org. **Elliott Greenblott is a retired educator and coordinator of the AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Network. He hosts a CATV program, “Mr. Scammer,” distributed by GNAT-TV in Sunderland, Vt. www.gnat-tv.org.**



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 ronpatch27@gmail.com

Bartonsville memories

Below is a story by Lee Kendall. Henry can relate. It takes place in 1964 when the Kendalls were living in Bartonsville:

All the big kids in town spent a lot of time hanging around the covered bridge. The bridge is about half a football field long with a wonderful swimming hole beneath.

Rainy days we'd hang out in the bridge, climb into the roof rafters, carve our names and other stuff into the big old, rough beams, or just watch the water flow. Hot summer days we'd swim or fish. The bridge was a neat place to keep out of the hot sun.

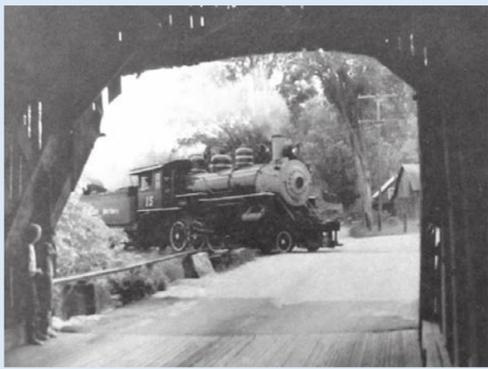
In 1964, Steamtown started giving scenic train rides from Bellows Falls to Chester. The train always stopped at the covered bridge so passengers could take photographs. There were two trips a day. It didn't take long for us to learn the schedule.

The train always pulled a little bit past the bridge before stopping so as not to block traffic. There was a gravel parking lot, with plenty of room for passengers to get off and cars to park.

One fine summer day we were at the bridge. We heard the train blow its whistle for a crossing a mile and a half south of us. At that time Steamtown was using an old steam locomotive to give a more historic feel. As the train got closer we could see the smoke and hear those big steam pistons chugging.

Somebody suggested we put some pennies on the track to see how flat they would get when the train ran over them. We were amazed. After the engine and six or eight cars went over the coins, they were just pieces of thin shiny copper.

The train continued to Chester. By the time it returned we had gone home for more change and were back at the bridge waiting. This time we had pennies, nickels, dimes, and



An unusual view from inside the Bartonsville Bridge, circa 1920s. Notice the boys on the left. PHOTO PROVIDED BY CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

even quarters. The train returned right on schedule, and as it huffed out of sight we gathered up our large, shiny, flat treasures.

It was a couple of hours or more between trips so we went home for lunch but were back at the bridge for the afternoon train. We heard the whistle blow and started putting more coins on the track.

My cousin, whose name I won't mention so as to protect the guilty, picked up an iron nut about an inch square. It was one of the nuts used to connect sections of rail.

“I wonder how big this nut will get?” he said, holding it up so I could get a good look.

“I don't think you should put that on the track,” I said. “It's iron. It's too hard.”

“What do you mean,” he replied. “That locomotive weighs 200 tons. This nut will be a foot long after it gets run over.”

“I wouldn't do it,” I said as he lined it up on the track with coins.

The train came chugging up to the bridge where we stood watching. When the engine hit that nut it appeared to jump six inches into the air. As each successive wheel hit the nut you could see that big iron machine shake and rattle.

Before the train stopped moving we knew it was time for us to leave. We ran half way up the mountain behind the village to an old cow pasture where we could look down on the bridge, the train, and all the houses.

The engineer and a couple of other railroad guys got off the train and spent a lot of time looking under the wheels and picking stuff up.

Soon three state police cars arrived, and then a couple of unmarked cars with serious looking detective types who took a lot of pictures.

Eventually the train proceeded on to Chester. The police and detectives drove up through the village, stopping at every house. They spent all afternoon talking to whoever was home.

My parents were both at work so they weren't available for questioning. We stayed up on the mountain and watched the police cars finally leave. We saw my parents' cars come home and still we waited until almost dark to come down.

We came into the house hot, tired, thirsty, and sweaty. My Dad looked us over a good long look and finally asked, “Were you boys down at the bridge this afternoon?”

“No,” I said. “We've been up on the mountain all day exploring.”

“This week's old saying is Nelson Kendall's epitaph: ‘I'm pretty well caught up.’”



Opening day of the new 2012 covered bridge. PHOTO BY RON PATCH

Springfield Hospital welcomes new general surgeon Anthony Campbell

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Hospital is pleased to welcome Anthony Campbell, DO to the general surgery department.

Dr. Campbell received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the Kansas City University of Medicine & Biosciences in Kan-

sas City, Mo. in 2011. He completed his general surgery residency with Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital in Wyandotte, Mich. from 2011-2016. He attended the University of Massachusetts Medical School where he completed a Post Sophomore Anatomic Pathol-

ogy Fellowship in 2009. Dr. Campbell was designated as a Diplomate and awarded his certification in General Surgery from the American Osteopathic Board of Sur-

gery in 2018.

Dr. Campbell is currently accepting new patients at Springfield General Surgery. Call to schedule an appointment at 802-885-5600.

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opinion

Dear Editor,

I am writing to request your support of the Springfield School District 2023 budget. The school board and budget committee spent several meetings reviewing the capital and operating budgets, asking questions, having discussions, and unanimously approving the school budget sent to voters.

The warning article for the budget reads: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the School Board to spend THIRTY TWO MILLION, NINE HUNDRED NINETY SEVEN THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$32,997,951.00), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$19,288 per pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 5.75% higher than spending for the current year.

At first glance this number is always a shock to me year after year. I have been on the school board for four years now and my gut reaction is that this is a heck of a lot of money. Why is it so much? When you dig into the budget there are two

buckets. The first are the fixed operating costs. These include heat, electricity, telephone, insurance, etc. There is limited control over these numbers without closure of a building or other drastic measures. The second bucket, and our largest, is labor cost. Labor cost includes employee wages and their benefits. The insurance benefits are negotiated at the state level and not at the local level. So there are two competing questions we have as a school board. How do we reduce the budget while simultaneously trying to improve test scores and school rating? That, of course, is the thirty-three million dollar question. If we cut teachers and increase class sizes, research shows this will have an adverse effect on test scores. As a school board, we value education and improving the school ratings. When we improve school ratings, more people will consider moving to Springfield and the tax base will increase. This will lead to decreased taxes.

Of the above stated number, roughly seven point nine million dollars (\$7.9 million) will be raised through local taxes. The other money comes from taxes raised in the State of

Vermont. These taxes will be spent on other areas of the state if not spent in Springfield. The Vermont State Education fund is then comprised of: 100% of your sales and use tax, 33% of your gas tax, 33% of your diesel tax, 25% of your meals and room tax, and 100% of your lottery purchases. Then, for every dollar that you pay out of pocket in school tax, the State will give the Springfield schools an additional \$3. This is a value for our town as we are not property tax rich.

This past year (FY21), mainly due to Covid, we ended with a two point one million dollar (\$2.1 million) surplus. One million dollars (\$1 million) of this surplus will be applied to the next budget to lower the local school tax rate. This benefits all community members. The school board, in conjunction with school administrators, is asking the community to vote on using the remaining surplus in the following manner. First we are asking that four hundred thousand (\$400,000) of this be contributed to operating expense reserve. This will allow the school board to use this money in future budget cycles to lower tax rates when unexpected operating costs arise. This

will help to ensure that we do not have sharp increases in our school tax rate as a town. The second article will ask the voters to comprise using seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) for capital improvements. The school board approved a capital improvement plan for the next five years that is available on the district website. Our schools are in need of repair and this fund will help us to make those improvements as needed.

I ask that you consider these three articles to enable the district to give our students the education that they deserve. These students will be the future of our town. Please reach out to any board member with questions about the budget, we are here to support the community members. All of our contact information is listed on the district website. If we do not have the answer to your question we will get back you with the information. You can also email budgetquestion@ssdvt.org. Please ask those questions, as an informed vote is the best vote.

Sincerely,
Troy Palmer
Springfield School Board Director
Springfield, Vt.

Dear Editor,

I endorse Mary Krueger for a seat on the Springfield School Board. I have known Mary for almost a year and have seen her in action.

Mary Krueger is a good listener, analyzes what has been said, and responds in an intelligent manner. She is a good thinker. She is respectful, but also has the courage of a lion. Mary does her homework.

In her professional life, Mary is a lawyer who advocates for families. She will bring that training and empathy to the school board if elected. She will continue to listen to families and their concerns. Mary has the training and experience required for reading legal documents, a definite asset for a school director.

Mary Krueger gets involved in the community. She is the parent of a sixth-grade student, has served on the Springfield School District PTA, and as a girl scout leader. Mary attends school board meetings regularly, so she is familiar with the concerns and issues. She can hit the ground running.
Mary Krueger under-

stands how great schools and great communities go hand in hand. She gets it that we need good schools to attract people and businesses to Springfield.

Mary Krueger does not have a personal or political agenda to bring to the school board. She will serve the community and work to make our schools the best they can be.

Mary Krueger participated in the school budget process this year as an involved parent. She will proudly vote yes for the budget, because a yes for the budget affirms a commitment to our school district. Mary understands students do not feel valued when a school budget is voted down. Mary understands a school director's job is to promote the budget they agreed upon.

Perhaps Mary Krueger's shining star is that she understands the math behind the school budget and can explain it simply.

Please vote for Mary Krueger. For more information you can contact Mary at marykru@gmail.com or look her up on Facebook: @mary4schoolvt.

Sincerely,
Char Osterlund
Springfield, Vt.

Dear Editor,

Every ten years the results of the national Census requires each state to review the impact of any population change on their electoral districts. Our Vermont Constitution requires that our state's population must be fairly distributed to afford "equality of representation." Covid delayed the national Census returns and as a result, the re-districting process has been condensed. Each state manages its own work. Vermont's process begins with the Legislative Apportionment Committee. It is a non-legislative group, with a chair appointed by the Supreme Court Chief Justice and a Committee of seven, which is politically balanced. It is charged with taking the first stab at this work.

The LAB met this summer and fall and it produced two reports - a majority and minority report for both the House and the Senate to consider. In the House, the Government Operations Committee, after feedback from the Boards of Civil Authority, reviews the LAB proposals and after much

work, proposes a new re-districting map to the House for approval. In the Senate, the LAB report comes straight to the Senate Reapportionment Committee, a group of seven, balanced by party and region. You can find all the LAB reports and maps on either the Secretary of State's website or on the Legislative website on each Committee webpage (see below).

I have been appointed to the Senate Reapportionment Committee which has been trusted with the task of incorporating the 2020 Census data into our Senate Districts so that they equitably reflect the changes in population. While the population in Vermont grew from 625,741 in 2010 to 643,077 in 2020, most of that growth was in the NW of the State, in Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle Counties. The increase in Vermont's population requires that each House member represent about 4,300 and each Senator about 21,500. The Southern four counties (Bennington, Rutland, Windham, and Windsor) lost some population but the most significant loss has been in the North East Kingdom.

The SRAC has made a few decisions already. We have chosen to not accept the LAB's majority report, which created one person Senatorial districts. With the support of our constitution and historic precedent we have decided to adhere to the following standards. We

agree that Senate districts be based on 1) county boundaries, 2) substantial equality (minimal percentage deviations), 3) the avoidance of splitting towns and counties, 4) respecting community connections, common interests and geography, and 5) creating reasonably shaped districts (compact and contiguous territories).

We have a small window of time in which to finish our work - as candidates need to know what a district looks like before they know if they are eligible to run for it. With a primary date of Tuesday, Aug. 9, and candidate consent forms and petitions due May 26, we need to have finished our work by April 1. This is important work, which impacts the composition of the House and the Senate and how Vermonters are represented in their state legislature.

I appreciate hearing from you. I can be reached by email at aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us or by phone at 802-457-4627. To watch Legislative Committees in action, and to get more information on the Vermont Legislature, the bills which are being debated now, and those which have been proposed and passed, visit the legislative website: www.legislature.vermont.gov.

Sincerely,
Alison Clarkson
Vermont State Senator, Majority Leader
Windsor County District

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to explain how I think scouting is important for our community.

I think scouting is important in our community because of the loyalty it shows to our community and our country. It shows youth how to be an outdoorsman, patriotic, and a helpful person. It is really important to know about outdoor situations that could happen to you, such as: being lost in the woods, treating somebody for a wound, hiding from something, and many more things to save you. Scouts learn to be better people and

Dear Editor,

It is with an immense amount of pride that the Board of Directors of Springfield Medical Care Systems, Inc. would like to acknowledge the amazing efforts and commitment of all the staff of SMCS over the last two years during this pandemic. Their efforts have highlighted that excellent care is a team effort and that everyone's role is vital to delivering quality patient services. Many people have stepped up, putting in extra time, assisting other team members with tasks not normally their own, keeping condi-

can learn what you need to learn outside, such as making a fire, camping, building with logs, navigation, radio talk, and so much more. There are seven ranks that a scout earns by learning different skills. There are 100-plus merit badges out there for different things. A merit badge is earned after you studied and learned about a subject and passed it.

People need to know how important scouting is so that more people can help kids join and that our country can be better in the future. The goal of Scouts is to reach a rank called an Eagle Scout. Once you're an Eagle Scout it can ben-

efit what you want to do in your future because you have proved that you have worked hard and have been a leader. I as a scout have learned to speak nicer and be more aware of what is around me. I have also gotten more interested in the outdoors and many other things that I have learned from my merit badges and rank requirements.

Thank you for letting me tell you about how and why scouting is important in our community.

Sincerely,
Jackson Fletcher
Troop 252
Bellows Falls, Vt.

tions safe for patients and staff, spending more time away from their families, and continuing to provide care to the patients of our region.

Without these efforts, quality care delivered locally in a professional and competent manner would not have been possible.

We hope that in the com-

ing weeks and months the pandemic will ease and the staff will be able to get back to delivering that care in a much less stressful environment.

Sincerely,
Board of Directors
Springfield Medical Care Systems, Inc.
Springfield, Vt.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13				14				
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15	Shred										
16	Synonym for										
18	Guitar's kin										
19	Symbol of freshness										
20	Lancaster or Reynolds										
22	"Blue Bloods" ailer										
23	Fly high										
27	Flamenco cheer										
29	Oliver Twist, for one										
31	French composer Gabriel										
34	Hilo hello										
35	Snowman's nose										
37	Links org.										
38	Prop for Dr. House										
39	Devilish laugh										
41	Body powder										
45	I'm with you!"										
47	Meadow										
48	Pennsylvania city										
52	Conditions										
53	Boredom										
54	Kimono sash										
55	Packed away										
56	"The Dapper Don"										
57	Fixed										
58	Snake's sound										
8	"Shoo!" org.										
9	Acapulco gold										
10	Gullet										
11	Capitol Hill										
VIP											
17	Old U.S. gas brand										
21	Baseball manager Joe										
23	Pie-in-the-face sound										
24	Discoverer's call										
25	Satisfied sigh										
26	Genetic letters										
28	Summer sign										
30	Cleaning cloth										
31	TV watchdog										
32	Small battery										
33	Coffee vessel										
36	Biblical pronoun										
37	"Friends" role										
40	Community spirit										
42	Fake name										
43	Some jabs										
44	Attorney's load										
45	Roman 1052										
46	Skip										
48	Plead										
49	Rock's Brian										
50	Potent stick										
51	Shack										

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obituaries

Judith L. Bright, 2022

W. TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Judith L. Bright of West Townshend, Vt. passed away at the Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Mass. on Jan. 15, 2022. Judy spent her childhood in Canton, Mass. attending Canton schools and graduated from Canton High School. She then attended the Chandler School in Boston. She worked for many years as a secretary for a Canton insurance agency, Paul B. Carroll's law office for over thirty years and part time for the Canton Zoning Board of Appeals.

She was the daughter of the late Orlow S. Bright, Jr. and Ruth (Mutch) Bright. She is survived by her family, Peter S. Bright his wife

Bobbie and Joel S. Bright, all of Canton. She is also survived by three nieces, Charlotte Hogan and her husband Chuck of Sharon, Jennifer Kemalian and her husband Drew of Canton, and Amy Schaefer and her husband Brian of Wis. She is further survived by seven grand nieces and six grand nephews.

A private service will be held from the Pushard Family Funeral Home in Canton, Mass. and an interment will take place at the Canton Corner Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association or Cops for Kids with Cancer.

Jonathan M. Lescord, 1985-2022

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – Jonathan Michael Lescord, 36, passed away Jan. 28, 2022 at his home in Brattleboro, Vt. with survived partner Billy-Joe Hudgins. Jonathan was born Feb. 1, 1985 to Gary Lescord, Sr. of Saxton's River, Vt. and Theresa Benson of Rockingham, Vt.

Jonathan loved his friends, fishing, and hunting. Jonathan always made friends wherever he would go. He had a smile and a heart of gold.

Jonathan is survived by his father Gary Lescord, Sr., his

wife, and paternal grandparents Fred and Elaine Lescord. He is also survived by his mother Theresa Benson, two brothers Gary Lescord Jr. and Joshua Lescord, step-sisters, and a stepbrother. Jonathan had many nieces and nephews whom he loved very much. His maternal grandparents Leslie and Winifred Hitchcock are pre-deceased.

Services will be held at a later date. Arrangements are being held at Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

Bernard C. Neil, 1936-2022

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – Bernard C. Neil, 85, of Rockingham, passed away at home Feb. 1, 2022 surrounded by his loved ones. Bernard was born Feb. 22, 1936, son of Walter, Sr. and Florence (Chamberlin) Neil in St. Johnsbury, Vt.

Bernard graduated from VTC before joining the Army. He served in France from 1957 to 1959.

Bernard worked on the family's farm before he began working for St. Johnsbury Trucking as a trailer mechanic. Following the closure of the trucking company, Bernard worked for the Town of Rockingham before retiring in July of 2003. Bernard was a member of the American Legion, Moose, Polish American Club, and VFW.

Bernard enjoyed spending time at home where he could often be found tending the yard or relaxing on the deck with his best friend, Rick Fischer.

Bernard is predeceased by his wife, Emilie; a son, Robert; his parents; and brothers Walter and David Neil and Robert Fleming. He is survived by his daughters Gloria Vancor and Mary Moore of Bellows Falls, Vt.; Lori Compton of Calhoun, La.; and Dianne Milliken of Charlestown, N.H.; and a son, Leo "Rocky" LaCroix of Lyndonville, Vt. He leaves behind grandchildren Fallon and McGregor Vancor and

Michael Gideos of Bellows Falls, Vt.; Ashley Gideos of Walpole, N.H.; Peter Craig and Jocelyn Delworth of Danville, Vt.; Lauren Craig of Peacham, Vt.; Justin Milliken of Charlestown, N.H.; and Shane LaCroix of St. Johnsbury, Vt. He is also survived by his brothers James Neil of Cornish, N.H.; Bryant Fleming of Waterford and sister Muriel Clark of Barre, Vt. Arrangements are being made at Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, VT. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Feb. 12, at 11 a.m. at the funeral home, followed by a burial at the Rockingham Meeting House Cemetery. Reception will be at the American Legion.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Norris Cotton Cancer Center at DHMC or the Visiting Nurses of Vt. and N.H.

Lois C. Kenyon-Pesanelli, 1928-2022

WALPOLE, N.H. – Lois C. Kenyon-Pesanelli, 93, of Walpole, N.H., passed away Feb. 1, 2022 at Maplewood Nursing Home. Lois was born in Patterson, N.J. on Dec. 23, 1928, the daughter of Lawrence Cantliffe, Sr. and Martha James.

Lois enjoyed raising pure-bred collies at her business, Hillside Kennels. She also had an herb garden business and was a very active member of the East Westmoreland Church. Lois was very active and enjoyed cross-country skiing, traveling, and discovering the many stories that come with genealogy research, along with the pho-

tographs that can be uncovered. Lois married Harold C. Kenyon, who passed away in 1992. She then married Meric Pesanelli, who also passed.

Lois is survived by her daughter Kerry Hudson of Westmoreland and son Ross Kenyon of Clinton, Mass., three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She is predeceased by her son Steven Kenyon, her first and second husbands, and her parents.

Arrangements are being made at Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, VT. Services will be held in the spring.

Michael E. Cheslock, Jr., 1938-2022

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – Michael Edward Cheslock, Jr., 83, of Rockingham, Vt. passed away at home Jan. 30, 2022. Michael was born on May 3, 1938, the son of Michael E. Cheslock, Sr. and Eva (Zuikas) Cheslock in New Haven, Conn.

Mike ("Ches") enjoyed a 22-year career at Green Mountain Power and was an avid member within the community. Mike enjoyed spending time at the BPOE 1619 Elks in Bellows Falls; he was a Past District Deputy for the Southern Vermont Elks Clubs, Past State Ritual Chairman, Vermont Ritual Judge, and Past Exalted Ruler of the Bellows Falls club. He was a member of the Bellows Falls Moose Club and the Polish American Club in Bellows Falls.

He married his wife Frances Crann on July 23, 1971. His father instilled in him a love of the outdoors, making him an avid sportsman in the fishing and hunting sports his entire life. He was a member of the Abenaki Rod and Gun Club, and a past president. He very much enjoyed teaching Hunter Safety through the Abenaki Club for many years.

Mike was most grateful for his fishing trips to Costa Rica with his brother, Chuck. He also enjoyed many trips to the Salmon River with his buddy John T. Stoodley, who has been a caring and constant support since Mike's disabling stroke 12 years ago. He lived by the sports seasons. The annual deer hunting trip to Maine with his wife, his son Michael, and friends Kevin and Pat was a favorite tradition.

He was never one to wear his heart on his sleeve, but he loved his family dearly, and although separated by



Michael E. Cheslock, Jr., 1938-2022.

PHOTO PROVIDED

many miles, he worried and cared for them always. Mike is survived by his wife Fran, son Michael Cheslock III and wife Debi of Elkton, Md., three daughters, Theresa Cheslock of Amherst, N.H., Dawn Ladd of Fla., Julia Krulee and husband David of Bloomfield, Conn., brother Charles "Chuck" Cheslock of New Haven, Conn. and three sisters, Evelyn Cheslock of St. Petersburg, Fla., Cynthia Caliendo of Fort Mill, S.C., and Eileen Heinig and husband Walter of Ormond Beach, Fla., nine grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Donations in Mike's memory can be made to Kurn Hattin Homes, P.O. Box 127 Westminster, VT 05158 where he delighted in posing as the Grinch for many years through the Chester Rotary Club Christmas project at the Homes. Calling hours will be held at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home on Monday, Feb. 7, 5 to 7 p.m. with a prayer by Fr. Agnel Sami at 7 p.m. A graveside service will be held Tuesday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m. at the Rockingham Meeting House Cemetery. Arrangements are being made at Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, VT.

Franklyn S. Vester, 1939-2022

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Franklyn "Skip" Vester, 82, died peacefully on Jan. 30, 2022 with Jane Stevens and his daughters, Susan and Lisa, by his side. He was at Bay State Hospital and passed from Covid pneumonia. Skip was born March 15, 1939, the son of the late George and Gladys Vester.

Skip is survived by his three children, Ricky Vester of East Longmeadow, Mass., Susan Calabrese and her husband Frank of East Longmeadow, Mass., and Lisa Dowgielewicz and her husband Michael of New Braintree, Mass., his grandchildren, Stephanie, Gina, and Frank, his great-grandchildren, Lyla, Alivia, Luca, and Aria and his sisters Martha Johnson Bilo of Cromwell, Conn., and Barbara Powers of Hampden, Mass., as well as many nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his true love of 35 years, Jane Stevens of North Springfield, Vt., her son Vern and his wife Candy, as well as her grandchildren Zachary and Devan Stevens of Cape Coral, Fla. He was predeceased by his sister Joan Lucier.

Skip was a 1957 graduate of Springfield Technical High School and served in the National Guard. He went on to work for Hampden Trucking Company and then the United States Postal Service driving tractor-trailer for 38 years until his retirement in 1998.

Skip loved his family and friends and was always the life of the party. If you were his friend, it was for life. He



Franklyn S. Vester, 1939-2022.

PHOTO PROVIDED

loved to dance with Jane, especially the polka. He lived for hunting and fishing. He enjoyed spending time at his camp in Chester, Vt. He loved his deer hunting buddies and the outdoors. He got his last deer in New York in November, 2021. He was the best handyman around and was there for anyone that needed a helping hand. He will be missed dearly by everyone that knew him. Most people that knew Skip never even knew his real name was Franklyn and then he would tell you the story.

Arrangements have been made by his family to gather on Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022 from 1-3 p.m. at Forastiere Smith Funeral and Cremation, 220 North Main Street, East Longmeadow, MA. A service will be held at 3 p.m.

Due to Covid restrictions, the family will be planning a celebration of life at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Skip's memory may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

Henry Kraft, Jr., 1929-2022

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Henry Kraft, Jr., age 92, of Springfield, Vt., passed away on Feb. 2, 2022 at Springfield Hospital after a period of declining health.

Henry was born on May 9, 1929 in Jersey City, N.J., to Henry Kraft, Sr. and Ruth Kraft. Henry attended school in Jersey City, graduating from Jersey Preparatory School in 1947, and graduated from Rutgers University in 1951. He earned a Masters Degree from Dartmouth College.

He served in the United States Army during the Korean conflict. Henry married Alice Jane on March 29, 1952 and they celebrated 62 years of marriage before her passing in 2014. In addition to his military service, Henry worked at Mountainside Hospital and Valley Regional Hospital as a lab technician, a chemist at Chemway Corporation,

and for most of his career he taught science at Black River High School in Ludlow, Vt., retiring in 1991. He enjoyed gardening, hiking, swimming, woodworking, trains, and making maple syrup.

Henry is survived by his four children, Ruth Wadleigh (Melvin) of Charlestown, N.H., James (Joanne) and Stephen Kraft of Springfield, Vt., and Jae (Mark) Wiss of Newport, R.I. He is also survived by numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his wife, Alice Kraft, and his sister, Joan Kraft.

A private ceremony will be held for his immediate family, and a larger remembrance is planned at the time of his burial at a later date.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with arrangements.

William R. Moore, 1940-2022

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – William R. Moore, 81, of Springfield, Vt. passed away on Feb. 1, 2022

He was born Mar. 15, 1940 in Springfield, Vt. to the late William H. and Marjorie (Hesselton) Moore.

He attended schools in N. Springfield and Springfield, Vt. and graduated from Springfield High School in 1958.

Bill enlisted in the United States Air Force and became an aircraft fuel specialist. After his service he returned to Springfield, Vt. and was employed by Johnson & Dix, J&L, Idlenot Dairy, Gurney Bro. Construction, Mackenzie Construction, and Youngs Propane.

After retirement, Bill went on to drive buses for First Student, volunteer driving for the blind, disabled, and aging, and shuttle bus driving for Okemo Mt.

He married Nancy Gurney Munroe on June 20, 1981.

He is survived by his wife Nancy and children: Diane (James) Daniels of Springfield, Vt., Pamela (Jason) Murray of Middlebury, Vt., Julie Bartlett of Springfield, Vt., Jeffrey (Amy) Moore of Wasilla, Ark., Susan Lamphere of Woodsville, N.H., Wayne (Elly) Munroe of Charlestown, N.H., Lorie (Jim) Moore of Winchendon, Mass., and Janet Snow of Old Orchard Beach Maine. Grandchildren; Elijah Daniels, Amy Poole, Brittany Huntley, Felicia Persing, Ashley Clark, Kody Murray, Colton Murray, Gabrielle Shanks, Drew



William Moore, 1940-2022.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Hatt, Solieta Chey, Joshua Moore, Wyatt Moore, Christopher Lamphere, Catherine McLure, Amanda Emmerton, Kati Munroe, Michael Munroe, Melissa Moore, Julia Gagnon, Jennifer Vaughan, Jaimi Russell, Nikole Snow, and 30 great-grandchildren.

Bill was a bird enthusiast and all around animal guy. He loved hunting, fishing, gardening flowers, and just chatting. He had a big heart and will be greatly missed.

Services will be planned in the spring.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Contributions may be made in Bill's memory to the Springfield Humane Society, 401 Skitchewaugh Trail, Springfield, Vt. 05156.

Isaiah 40:31

"But those who hope in the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall soar on wings like eagles; they shall run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint."

Alan A. Regier, 1939-2022

REGION – Alan Regier died at home on Jan. 28, in the loving presence of his wife Wendy, daughter Hannah, and friend Denise. Alan was born in Hampton, Va. where his father Arthur was an engineer for the early NASA program. In 1968, Alan and his mother Dorothy purchased the home- stead in Proctorsville, which was home ever since, with Wendy joining him there in 1973.

Alan crafted and cultivated a beautiful life for himself and his family. He loved simple pleasures, like: home grown snap peas and Kentucky Wonder green beans; sitting beside their pond with gin and tonics; rambles in the woods; floats on boats; wildlife encounters; trips to museums and galleries; and relaxed meals and good discussions with family and friends. He also loved digging into big ideas, detailed histories, and wide ranging perspectives and philosophies on life. With creative hands, inquisitive mind, and generous heart, he worked as a potter, carpenter, math



Alan A. Regier, 1939-2022.

PHOTO PROVIDED

and science teacher, and site technician during his time in Vermont.

For the past 5 years, Alan stoically suffered from a chronic illness, never losing his will to live until the very end. Alan is survived by his wife Wendy, daughter Hannah, sisters Mary Alice and Katherine, five nieces and nephews, and his devoted dog Bess. He is predeceased by his parents.

A private celebration of life gathering will occur in the summer. In his honor, consider making a donation to a conservation organization of your choice.

CHURCH SERVICES:

We run Church Services on an alternating schedule. Subject to space. All services are posted online at www.VermontJournal.com.

OBITUARIES:

A basic 200-word obituary is \$75, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. A black and white photo is an additional \$10. Email to editor@vermontjournal.com by Monday at 12 p.m.

**Church Services
are online**
www.VermontJournal.com

outdoor & sports

Terry leads Terriers past Chieftains, 80-53

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Jake Moore fights for the rebound during a huge win against Green Mountain Feb. 2. The Terriers led the whole way with 11 players hitting hoops. Jon Terry led Bellows Falls with 19 while Jamison Nystrom dished out nine assists. Bellows Falls is now 8-3.

PHOTO BY KRISTIE LISAI, EAGLE TIMES STAFF



Windsor win over Springfield, 44-30

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Windsor had a come-from-behind win at Riverside Gym. Pictured, Windsor's Peyton Richardson and Springfield's Madison Clark battle for the loose ball during the Jacks win Feb. 1. The Cosmos, 8-5, leading scorers were Macie Stagner with 15 points and Megan Stagner with nine points.

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER SHABAN, EAGLE TIMES STAFF



Winter sports schedule

REGION – Game schedules are subject to change. For more information about an individual game or team, go to the schools' athletic department websites. If you would like to submit sports news or photos from a recent game, please email editor@vermontjournal.com.

MON, FEB. 14 –

Boys basketball – Bellows Falls at Mill River, 7 p.m.
Springfield at Mount St. Joseph, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball – Bellows Falls at Leland & Gray, 7 p.m.

FRI, FEB. 11 –

Boys basketball – Fall Mountain at Mascoma Valley, 6:30 p.m.

Girls basketball – Bellows Falls at White River Valley, 7 p.m.
Green Mountain at Leland & Gray, 7 p.m.
Mascoma Valley at Fall Mountain, 6:30 p.m.
Springfield at Mount Anthony, 7 p.m.

TUE, FEB. 15 –

Girls basketball – Rivendell Academy at Green Mountain, 7 p.m.
Springfield at Woodstock, 7 p.m.
West Rutland at Bellows Falls, 7 p.m.
White River Valley at Leland & Gray, 7 p.m.

THUR, FEB. 17 –

Boys basketball – Bellows Falls at Windsor, 7 p.m.
Hartford at Springfield, 7 p.m.
Twin Valley at Leland & Gray, 7 p.m.
White River Valley at Green Mountain, 7 p.m.

Kurn Hattin pushup challenge

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – During the month of January, students at Kurn Hattin Homes for Children took on the challenge of trying to reach their goal of 2,022 pushups during P.E. class. They have handily reached that goal. Their next challenge will be a students vs. teachers competition to see which group can do the most pushups in five minutes. Both students and staff will have the opportunity to do as many pushups as they can and then go tag in the next person.

“The students have been working hard and improving their strength each class,” said Maddie Rollins, PE Teacher and Athletic Director. “May the best team win!”

Since 1894, Kurn Hattin Homes for Children has helped thousands of children and their families by offering a safe home and quality education in a nurturing environment. Its mission: Kurn Hattin transforms the lives of children and their families forever. Follow their journey at www.kurnhattin.org.

PHOTOS PROVIDED



SAT, FEB. 12 –

Boys basketball – Green Mountain at Leland & Gray, 2:30 p.m.
Bellows Falls at Poultney, 12:30 p.m.

Waterfowl blinds must be removed

REGION – According to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, waterfowl hunters who did not remove their hunting blinds from the waters of the state must do so before Feb. 15 on Lake Champlain or May 15 on inland waters. State law requires removal of the blinds before these

deadlines to protect natural areas and to prevent boating accidents after the ice melts.

“Removal of the blinds and any posts that may be below the surface of the ice is important because of the danger they present when boaters are on the water in the spring,” said State Game Warden Colonel Jason Batchelder.

Batchelder says wardens annually record names and addresses of blind owners and will follow up with inspections.

Nongame Wildlife Tax Checkoff

MONTPELIER, Vt. – Vermonters can express their passion for wildlife conservation by donating to the Nongame Wildlife Fund on their state income tax form this year, according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. The fund helps protect some of Vermont's most threatened wildlife such as bald eagles, lake sturgeon, rare plants, and Indiana bats.

“Every dollar Vermonters donate to Nongame Wildlife Fund on their taxes is nearly tripled,” says Rosalind Renfrew, Fish and Wildlife's Wild-

life Diversity Program Manager. “Donations are leveraged by matching federal grants, meaning that a \$35 donation can help secure up to another \$65 in federal funds for wildlife conservation in Vermont.”

“The Nongame Checkoff donations, along with hunting, fishing, and trapping license revenue, have helped recovery efforts for Vermont's peregrine falcons, loons, ospreys, bald eagles, American martens, Indiana and northern long-eared bats, spiny softshell turtles, and other species,” said Director of Wildlife Mark Scott. “The common loon, osprey, and peregrine falcon are no longer endangered species in Vermont due to science-based management that continues to benefit those species.”

Vermont Fish and Wildlife biologists manage nongame wildlife projects that are diverse and include mammals, birds, turtles, fish, frogs, bees, freshwater muskels, and plants, as well as the habitats and natural communities they need.

“The Nongame Wildlife Fund has helped some of our greatest wildlife success stories in Vermont,” said Scott. “Thanks to the generous donations of thousands of Vermonters, we are restoring many of the iconic species of the Green Mountain State.”

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Hi, my name is Jackson and I'm an 8-year-old neutered male German Shepherd Mix. I came to Lucy Mackenzie after my last home didn't quite work out for me, and I'm now on the lookout for my new family and new home, and it's all very

exciting! It really is the perfect place for me here, as I wait to start my next chapter. If I had to describe myself, I would say I am a very cute and a very happy chappie. I like people, I like dogs, I like walks, and I especially like car rides. And, I can't wait to meet the humans who will take me on. I know I will just love them forever more. So, if you'd like to meet a super awesome dog like me, why not call to make an appointment (with the great folks at the shelter) and schedule a time to come meet me today?

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802-484-5829
www.lucymac.org

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GUNS WANTED

REGION - Guns wanted. Handguns, rifles, or shotguns. Top prices paid. Call Ray at 802-775-2859 or 802-236-7213.

HELP WANTED

LUDLOW, Vt. - Thrift Store Clerk, part-time, Black River Good Neighbor Services. Applications available at the Thrift Store and at www.BRGN.org.

WESTMINSTER, Vt. - Sojourns Community Health Clinic is looking for a Medical Receptionist for a busy multi-practitioner clinic. The ideal candidate will be someone who has the ability and willingness to manage multiple tasks, be flexible, and greets our patients with professionalism, grace, and compassion, whether in person or over the telephone. Additional skills required are: customer service experience, attention to detail, time management, and desire to be part of a team. This is a full time, 5 days a week position. Please send resume and cover letter to: Sojourns Community Health Clinic, 4923 US Route 5, Westminster, VT 05158. No phone calls or faxes please.

OTHER

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Accepting bids for refinish of approx. 3800 SF VCT tile floor. All materials and equipment furnished. No experience required. Email gwi@vermontel.net for information.

ZUMBA

LUDLOW, Vt. - Zumba classes Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. and Saturdays at 8 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. \$12 per class or \$100 for 10 classes. Call 802-228-1419 for more information. (03/08)

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TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD TAXPAYER NOTICE

The third installment of the 2021-2022 Town & Town School District Taxes is due and payable February 15, 2022.

Payments can be made as follows:

- In person or through the mail.
 - Dropped into our mail slot located in the white door that faces Main Street.
 - Dropped into our mail slot located in the brown door on the second floor at the top of the outside stairs.
 - Electronically on the town's website at <https://springfieldvt.gov>. A fee is charged for this method of payment.
- Payment receipts available in person or by including a stamped self-addressed return envelope or an email address. Town Hall is open M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Barbara A. Courchesne, Treasurer

NOTICE TO SPRINGFIELD VOTERS

Absentee Ballots for the Annual Town and Town School District Meeting to be held Tuesday, March 1, 2022, will be available at the Springfield Town Clerk's Office on Wednesday, February 9, 2022. If you wish to vote by absentee ballot, please contact the Town Clerk's Office as soon as possible in person, in writing, by phone or by email. An Absentee Request Form can be found on the town's website <https://springfieldvt.gov> or you may request your ballots online at <https://mvp.vermont.gov>. The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is Monday, February 28, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. You may register to vote on Election Day at the polls and then proceed to vote on that day. You may also register to vote any time at the Town Clerk's office or online at <https://mvp.vermont.gov>. Absentee ballots may be returned through regular mail, mail slots located in town hall entrances and at the polls. All voted absentee ballots must be received by the Town Clerk by the close of polls, 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at the polls. The polls are located at Riverside Middle School in the gymnasium and will open on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Town Clerk's Office will not be open on March 1, 2022.

Barbara A. Courchesne, Town Clerk, CVC
96 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont 05156
(802) 885-2104 tosclerk@vermontel.net

Special Projects Coordinator

This is a grant funded position that will run for 12 months with the potential to continue after that time.

The coordinator position will work 1-2 days per week with a degree of remote work possible.

The job requirements are dynamic and require some combination of skills related to social-digital marketing, video production and graphic design. A flexible personality and the ability to work within a team framework is essential.

To apply or for more information, please contact:

Carol Lighthall
Okemo Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce (OVRCC)
clighthall@yourplaceinvermont.com
802-228-5830

Custodial Positions

Chester-Andover Elementary School has two full year custodial positions open. The part time position is Monday-Friday from 6pm-10pm. The full time position is Monday-Friday 1pm-9pm. Duties include custodial tasks as assigned - cleaning and maintaining facilities. A background check is required. Two Rivers Supervisory Union is an Equal Opportunity Employer. To apply please send your resume to keith.cyr@trsu.org.

School Bus Driver

Green Mountain Unified School District has a position open for a Full Time Bus Driver starting immediately. Driving will be approximately 4 - 6 hours a day split between the morning and afternoon. This is a School Year Position. Requirements: CDL Class B with school bus and passenger endorsement, as well as current DOT Medical Card. Background Checks and a pre-employment drug test are required as well as being in a pool for random drug testing. EOE.

Job Type: Full-time

Pay: \$22.87 per hour

Send Resumes to: Michael Ripley at michael.ripley@trsu.org

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers
Solution time: 26 mins.

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

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Student Art Show - Works of Art by Springfield's 3rd through 12th Graders - 2/9 to 3/5.

Women and Animals, a Parallel Path - Dioramas by Louis Scott- 2/9 to 3/30.

Storytelling through Illustrations and Cartoons with Christine Mix- 2/19. Online class. Fun step-by-step lessons that focus on character design, expressions, action drawing, and how to create stories through illustrations. Age 10 and up. \$10. 1-3 p.m. Register by 2/16. (04/27/22 - TFN - 13)

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Dr. Denise Natale 58 Parker Avenue, Proctorsville, VT 05153, 802-226-7977 Hours: Tuesday 1pm-6pm, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-6pm. (08/16/22 - TFN - 52)

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Okemo Valley TV

LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

- Innkeepers' Ski Racing
- Story Times, Island Books, & Ice Skating Movies from Cavendish Library
- "Stuck in VT": All About De-cluttering
- Green Mountain & Mill River HS Basketball
- Yoga with Liza

Watch on TV: Community Channel: Comcast 1076 & Vtel 166 Education / Gov't Channel: Comcast 1086 / Vtel 167

(TV Schedules available at okemovalley.tv/schedules & on cable TV program guide)

Watch Online: okemovalley.tv & [youtube.com/okemovalleytv](https://www.youtube.com/okemovalleytv)
(02/15/22 - TFN - 13)

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arts & events

CALENDAR

Storytelling with illustrations and cartoons

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Chase away those winter blues. Gallery at the VAULT invites you to join Christine Mix via Zoom on Saturday, Feb. 19 from 1-3 p.m. to tell a story through illustrations and cartoons. This a fun step-by-step set of lessons that will focus on character design, expressions, action drawing, and how to create stories through illustrated, sequential scenes. You will be encouraged to use your own imagination while learning to mix words and pictures that make the stories and cartoons come alive.

You will receive a downloadable and printable pdf file of basic tracing and copy techniques to help build your skills.

Supply list: some favorite drawing graphite (B) or #2 pencils, a pencil sharpener,

erasers (kneaded or white smart erasers are best if possible), drawing paper or sketchbook (8.5 X 11 white copy paper can be used), tracing paper, and a 12-inch ruler or straight edge.

A supply list can also be emailed to you upon registration. Register by Wednesday, Feb. 16 so Christine can prepare and send you the link.

For more information, please call Gallery at the VAULT. We are open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. We are located at 68 Main Street and can be reached at 802-885-7111, galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit www.galleryvault.org or Facebook. Handicap accessible.

Next Stage Arts screens Questlove's "Summer of Soul"

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts presents a screening of the film "Summer of Soul (or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)" at Next Stage on Saturday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. The screening is part of Next Stage's programming in honor of Black History Month.

"There is arguably no bigger trendsetter when it comes to modern music than Questlove," says Keith Marks, Executive Director of Next Stage Arts. "His vision to produce this film fills not just a historical lens to appreciate Black music, but it speaks to our current situation with social justice that Black music inspired so much of this country's sound. It's exciting to screen this film and help promote some of that vision."

In his acclaimed debut as a filmmaker, Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson presents a powerful and transporting documentary – part music film, part historical record

created around an epic event that celebrated Black history, culture, and fashion. Over the course of six weeks in the summer of 1969, just one hundred miles south of Woodstock, The Harlem Cultural Festival was filmed in Mount Morris Park (now Marcus Garvey Park). The footage was largely forgotten – until now. "Summer of Soul" shines a light on the importance of history to our spiritual well-being and stands as a testament to the healing power of music during times of unrest, both past and present. The feature includes concert performances by Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, Sly and the Family Stone, Gladys Knight and the Pips, Mahalia Jackson, B.B. King, The 5th Dimension and more.

"Summer of Soul" premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, where it won both the Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award. It is streaming on Hulu in conjunction with Disney General Entertainment's Onyx Collective; Searchlight Pictures released it theatrically.

Next Stage showcases "Right In The Eye," a live concert over silent films

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts will be showing "Right In The Eye," a live concert designed as a soundtrack scored over a montage of silent films

on Wednesday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. The concert has been orchestrated by Jean-François Alcoléa and the subject films are by George Méliès.

George Méliès is a French Legion of Honour recipient and widely considered to be one of the inventors of cinematography. "Right In The Eye," introduces audiences to Méliès by combining music and sound compositions, lighting, still images, and moving pictures. It features a trio of musicians performing live as the films are projected.

Tickets are available at www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MT-M2NjA0 and by calling 802-451-0053.

For more information, visit www.alcolea-cie.net/en/right-in-the-eye/.

MARCH 12 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Don't miss comedian Rusty DeWees, aka The Logger, at Bellows Falls Opera House on Saturday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at bellowsfallsoperahouse.com or at Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls.

SUNDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Chester American Legion Post 67 hosts Bingo every Sunday. Doors open at 12 p.m., and games start at 1 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Catamount Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol meets Sundays, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., at Hartness Airport in Springfield. The Civil Air Patrol is the auxiliary unit of the U.S. Air Force tasked with the mission of supporting America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space, and cyber power. Cadets as young as 12 and senior members of any age make up this diverse group of volunteers.

MONDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Free Tobacco Quit class led by Sarah Doyle, Mondays, from 6-7 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Ext., Bellows Falls. Dinner included. Call or text Sarah at 802-289-0045 or email sdoyle@springfieldmed.org.

TUESDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Meals on Wheels serves a senior community lunch every Tuesday, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the meal site, which is located on the corner of Union and Southridge streets in Springfield. All-you-can-eat buffet includes milk, coffee or tea, and dessert. Suggested donation. For more information, call 802-885-5879.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Zumba classes Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. All fitness levels welcome. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

WEDNESDAYS – LUDLOW, Vt. – Tracy Blanchard from The National Council on Aging will be at the Black River Valley Senior Center on the first and third Wednesday of the month, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., to help

Medicare recipients find and apply for eligible assistance programs, services and support. Located at 10 High Street in Ludlow. For details, call 802-773-7917.

CHESTER, Vt. – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Wednesday, from 10-11 a.m. Classes will be held in the First Universalist Parish of Chester community room. Classes are free and open to all. Drop-in class, no registration needed. For details, contact Barbara at bwquilter1778@gmail.com.

THURSDAYS – CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Every Thursday afternoon, Upper Valley Land Trust holds community garden workdays at our Up on the Hill Conservation Area off of Richardson Road in Charlestown. The garden is run by the UVLT and all of the produce is donated to the Claremont Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry. No experience needed and all tools provided. Children welcome. An adult must accompany those under 15. Sign up to receive more information about scheduling and tasks at www.uvlt.org/food-pantry-garden.

CHESTER, Vt. – Knit Nite at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common Thursdays, from 5-8 p.m., and via Zoom, from 7-8 p.m.

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Support group for parents of pregnancy and infant loss on the first Thursday of the month, from 6-7 p.m., at Springfield Area Parent Child Center, 6 Main Street in North Springfield. For details or to register, email dominiquer@sapcc-vt.org or call 802-886-5242 ext. 258.

FRIDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Friday, from 10-11 a.m. Classes will be held in the First Universalist Parish of Chester community room. Classes are free and open to all. Drop-in class, no registration needed. For details, contact Barbara at bwquilter1778@gmail.com.

SATURDAYS – LUDLOW, Vt. – Zumba classes Saturdays at 8 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. All fitness levels welcome. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

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Circa 1900 Gambrel Attached Garage & Flower Garden! 5 Bedrooms, 2 Baths Springfield, \$195,000



REDUCED! Fabulous 3 Unit Property In Bellows Falls Village Rockingham, \$165,000



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Doesn't Include Synthetic Oil

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