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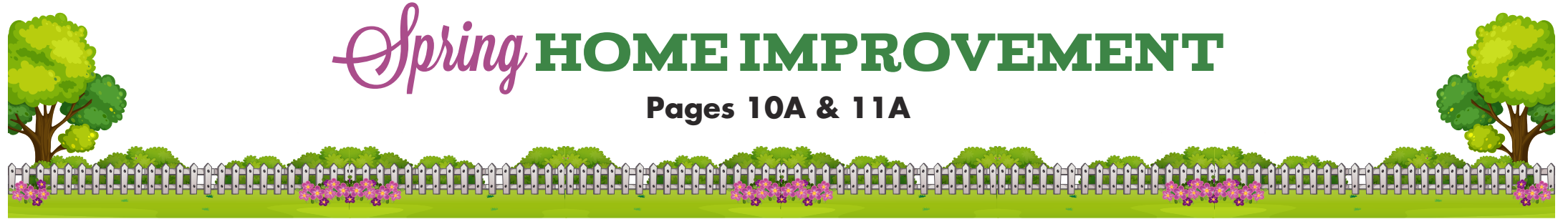
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Residents weigh in on Chester paper of record decision

BY AMANDA WEDEGIS

The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – On April 7, 2021, the Chester Selectboard held a public forum on their March 17 decision to use an on-line news source as their paper of record. Roughly 30 participants attended the meeting via Zoom including Steven Pappas, the editor of Rutland Herald and Times Argus, and Mike Donahue, executive director of the Vermont Press Association. Town Manager Julie Hance also mentioned she had received two letters and three phone calls concerning printed legal notices in a newspaper.

The public forum opened with Sharon Huntley, a reporter for The Vermont Journal, who spoke about the privilege of accessing the news online. She mentioned that The Vermont Journal is the only local news source that does not require internet access. “To read our publication, you don’t need to have a computer. You don’t need a monthly internet subscription. You don’t need a reliable and

strong internet signal.” She continued, “Not only is our paper free, we deliver it to everyone in town.”

Huntley also introduced Shawntae Webb, the publisher of The Vermont Journal. Webb spoke to the board about their decision to use an online news source as their paper of record. She began, “The Vermont statute still indicates that ‘when a notice is required to be given by a publication in a newspaper, it shall mean a newspaper published in the county where the subject matter is situated.’... The statute goes on to say the notice should be published in ‘either a daily, semiweekly, or weekly newspaper.’” Webb pointed out that those terms are used to describe a printed and distributed newspaper.

Webb added that The Vermont Journal reaches 25,000 mailboxes across the region and that, as an additional resource to the printed paper, legal notices are also uploaded to their website, www.VermontJournal.com, for no extra charge.

Residents of Chester gave

their comments over Zoom. There were both comments supporting and opposing the Selectboard’s decision to use Chester Telegraph as their paper of record.

Ginger Roper said, “I think it is a matter of accessibility and we should do everything we can as a town to make the information accessible to all.”

Cheryl Joy Lipton and Susan Bourne added similar comments. Lipton also emphasized, “It’s redundant to have [legal notices] online because [they’re] already online on the Chester website.”

Linda Diak in an earlier comment had said that she supported the town’s decision to use the Chester Telegraph for public notices. “I think it’s important for us as a town to support our local news source. But the issue at hand is the publication of notices,” she later added. “The issue is whether or not with these public notices if it’s efficient to put them on the Telegraph, being online. It’s my understanding that the word ‘print’ is not in the state statute.”

Steven Pappas of the Rutland Herald contributed to the discussion by reiterating that the state statute does require a printed newspaper as paper of record. “[The Vermont Journal] is still being printed, which is what the state law does require. You can’t do any better than getting into every home... You can argue that the town might want to nickel and dime and cost save, but the maximum exposure is already there.”

Pappas also spoke regarding legal notices as a newspaper’s revenue. “You’re not talking about an insignificant revenue stream. It is something to us. It’s not a large amount to us, but it’s enough that it makes a difference.” He closed by saying, “The Vermont Press Association and I... will defend the public notice structure as a newspaper and paper of record. You have a situation that does not have a problem. You don’t need to fix it.”

Following Pappas’ comments, Board Chair Arne Jonynas responded to comments about whether their decision to use

the Telegraph because of cost savings. He stated, “That was the least amount of our decision. It was a unanimous decision and it was more about the content, about the coverage, and about a lot of other factors, and the money helped at the end, but that was not the only decision in there.”

Board member Jeff Holden added, “It was my understanding that digital media was an acceptable way of putting out our notices. There’s other towns in the state that have already done it... I believe we are doing with what information we had at the time the best decision we could make for the good of the whole town – the whole community... We’re not picking on the publications.”

Claudio Veliz spoke of residents of Chester who are not currently living at home who would look to an online news source for information, and that this discussion is “one aspect of the really national and international debate on print and electronic media.” He also suggested the possibility of offi-

cially listing Chester Telegraph as paper of record and use The Vermont Journal for print notices.

Mike Donahue from the Vermont Press Association commented, “The Vermont law is quite clear on what a newspaper is. It hasn’t changed. The reality is The Vermont Journal is there as much as the Chester Telegraph is.” He also added that the VPA was not aware of other towns that have opted for online publication only. He did mention that similar issues have been brought to the Legislature in the past, and they had declined to change the law.

Resident Katherine Henry, speaking in support of the town’s decision, responded, “Everyone is online. There are some people that are resisting – and I understand that – but we’ve resisted a lot of things over time that have come to pass.”

At the end of the Selectboard meeting, Jonynas said that the board would gather more information and would revisit the issue in their upcoming April 21 meeting.

Decision on Divided Sky Foundation facility extended to May meeting

BY SHARON HUNTLEY

The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. – The April Ludlow DRB meeting, which dealt almost exclusively with the Divided Sky Foundation’s change of use request for their planned detox and residential treatment facility at the former Fox Run location, lasted for nearly three hours with a decision to continue the discussion at the May 10 meeting.

Although anyone could view the meeting via live stream, participation in the Zoom meeting was limited to those involved with, or impacted by, the project including facility owner’s Divided Sky Foundation representatives; Ascension Recovery Services representatives who will run the facility for DSF; those who live near the location at Fox Run Condominiums; future owner of Okemo Valley Golf Course; local law enforcement; local and state addiction counselors; as well as other board and town officials.

Ludlow’s Development Review Board is a quasi-judicial board with all participants being sworn in before testifying in the

meeting.

Divided Sky Foundation representative Morgan Henson began by introducing the Divided Sky Foundation as a 501(c)3, nonprofit organization that will be providing a detox and residential facility for rehab treatment for up to 40 people at the former Fox Run location. The program is specifically for those who are uninsured and cannot otherwise afford treatment. The facility will hire approximately 30 local employees.

The program will be run by Ascension Recovery Services, a company that is skilled at running small treatment centers as well as larger properties. Ascension CEO Doug Leech said they help an organization get started, off the ground and then manage the program and handle all licensing and accreditation.

Phish frontman Trey Anastasio, founder of Divided Sky Foundation, also spoke about the reasons for selecting the Ludlow location, saying that Windsor leads the area in overdose deaths and that Vermont is 11th in the nation in overdose rates. Anastasio, who himself is in long-term recovery and found

help at a residential rehab facility, said he wanted to help Vermont with this problem and that everyone agrees that “We don’t have enough beds,” and that more are needed to bridge the gap between needs and services. He also said, “It will be quiet,” and spoke about his own experience.

DRB Board Chair Phil Carter began the discussion by asking, “Why is this needed?”

Henson spoke about overdose rates and that there are only four treatment centers in Vermont, only two of which are accepting residents now. Local resident Otis Nelson said that he knew of three local kids that had passed away within the past year. Other citizens talked of the importance of their own rehab experience. Jessica Frasca, who lost her daughter Emily to an overdose last fall, and was behind circulating a petition supporting the project, captured 180 full-time resident signatures. She said that three is a tremendous need and

See **FACILITY** on Page 2A

GMUHS principal candidate rejection causes conflict

BY SHARON HUNTLEY

The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – Educators and staff from both Cavendish Town Elementary School and Green Mountain Union High School rallied to show support for the approval of GMUHS principal candidate Keith Hill after his appointment was rejected by the Green Mountain Unified School District Board by a 4 to 3 vote at their recent April 6 meeting.

Two days after the no vote, nearly 50 faculty and staff of both schools, “wore red in solidarity and support of the recommendation by both the search committee and Superintendent Fierman that Keith Hill be appointed principal of Green Mountain Union High School.” This statement by Green Mountain educator Julie Parah, who is leading the educators’ cause in support of Hill, went on to add, “The board’s rejection of the recommendation has caused confusion and mistrust across the entire GMUSD community.” The group is encouraging members of the community to contact their board members and attend the upcoming April 15 meet-

ing. It should be noted that the search committee recommended both the final candidates.

At the recent GMUSD meeting, members voted 4 to 3 to reject his nomination, even after an enthusiastic recommendation for Hill was made by TRSU Superintendent Lauren Fierman following the board’s emergence from executive session, during which they had interviewed both final candidates. Hill is a social studies teacher at GMUHS in both the middle and high school. The other candidate is Rutland High School math teacher Gwen Hagenbarth. Acting Interim Principal Mike Ripley was eliminated from consideration early on in the process.

After Fierman’s recommendation, Vice Chair Deb Brown made the motion to approve and voted yes along with board members Lois Perlah and Josh Schroeder. Board members Mike Studin, Rick Alexander, Dennis Reilly, and Jeannie Wade all voted no; and Wayne Wheelock abstained. Board Chair Joe Fromberger, initially thinking he needed to vote to avert a tie, also voted no. His vote, however, was not needed in the final tally since there was already a majority.

Following the result, the board agreed that Fromberger, Brown, and Fierman would meet to flesh out possible next steps before the April 15 meeting.

Responding afterward, board member Dennis Reilly, who is a college professor and has a doctorate in leadership, said that although he felt Hill was a great teacher, he did not have the educational leadership experience, including fiscal leadership “to move the high school into the 21st century.” He expressed his confidence and trust in Fierman but in this case said he couldn’t agree with her.

Requests for comment by Alexander and Fromberger went unanswered. Studin responded that he plans on making a statement at the April 15 meeting.

During the principal search process, both final candidates had participated in an open forum for parents and staff to attend March 30. According to SAPA-TV, who live-streamed the event, Fierman asked them specifically not to record the event, making it unavailable for viewing by parents or community members who were not able to attend the live stream.

When asked about the direction to SAPA-TV, Fierman said

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Chester's Route 103 Bridge project original decision is confirmed

BY SHARON HUNTLEY
The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Selectboard revisited the “contentious” Route 103 bridge project during their April 7 meeting, reaffirming their earlier decision to keep the Palmer Bridge and replace the Thompson and Jewett Bridges with one bridge spanning the Williams River.

The question came back to the board recently through VTrans, who asked the board to confirm their original decision, which went against the VTrans recommendation in 2019 of replacing all three with one bridge.

Although the board stood by their previous decision, comments by both Board Chair Arne Jonynas and member Heather Chase reflected frustra-

tion with the process. “I wanted it brought back up because I was hoping some revelation would happen to some of the neighbors in that area, that they would come together and try to do what’s best for the town... but I don’t see that happening,” Jonynas said.

Lee Gustafson said that he didn’t see any reason to revisit the board’s original decision.

Chase, who voted against the board’s choice in 2019 and was in favor of one bridge to replace all three, said that she voted that way because of the access from the road and felt it was the safest way to go. “I still feel that could have been the right choice,” she said and added, “It’s extremely disappointing that we find ourselves in this place...and the timing of the state coming to us is also problematic because if we were going to make this de-

cision, we should have made it back then.” She ended by saying, “It is something that’s very disappointing.”

The board confirmed that the state’s financial contribution was the same, regardless of which project was selected, although future repairs to the Palmer Bridge were unknown.

Chester resident Amy Mosher, who had been at the last board meeting requesting that the board reconfirm their 2019 decision, again asked the board to reach out to the project participants with their formal decision, saying it would give her “peace of mind.”

Jonynas confirmed that they would inform the proper channels with the decision they made a year and a half ago.

Maryann Farley Gagner Memorial Scholarship now accepting applications

LUDLOW, Vt. – This scholarship has been established in memory of Maryann Farley Gagner, a beloved member of the Black River family who served our community for over 20 years. This award is given annually to a deserving senior who exemplifies the core values of kindness, respect, tolerance, and compassion. Maryann herself never failed to demonstrate these qualities in her interactions with students, parents, and colleagues; she was an advocate for those in need, and she lived each day in accordance with her belief in love, patience, and dedicated service to others. Maryann was also a champion for the underdog, encouraging each stu-

dent to persevere through hard times and to never give up on themselves.

The scholarship is open to high school seniors who are a resident of Ludlow or Mount Holly. In keeping with Maryann’s spirit of inclusion, there are two options for submissions, and submissions are open to all students, regardless of academic performance. Applicants can submit to one or both. If choosing both options, applicants should submit two separate submissions. There is no word limit on submissions.

Essay 1: Explain how you have exemplified the qualities of kindness, compassion, and tolerance for others as a member of your community. How have you been an advocate for others? How have you worked

to be an ally for those in need?

Essay 2: Explain how you have developed the skill of perseverance in the face of hardships in your academic or personal life. How you have overcome obstacles, and how do you plan to continue to use this skill in your future?

Also, in aligning this scholarship with Maryann’s core values, applicants are offered several choices as to how they can apply. Applicants can submit a written essay, an audio recording, or a video recording.

Deadline to submit applications is May 1, 2021 and the recipient will be announced in June. Applications should be sent to Deborah Harrison, P.O. Box 16, Cavendish, VT 05142 or emailed to dharrisonlcs@gmail.com.

BRAM completes historic preservation masonry project

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Academy Museum in Ludlow completed vital work to the main entrance of this community organization. Masons from C.S. Surthing stabilized the stone steps after decades of use and weather-related incidents. The architectural fixture met students each day entering the Black River Academy including future-President Calvin



Cody Surething, Randy Parry, and Fred Decelle complete masonry on the front stairs of the Black River Academy Museum.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Coolidge. These repairs will once again welcome visitors, researchers, and community members to the local historical society.

The Black River Academy Museum preserves the history of the Ludlow area through education programs, exhibitions, and the stewardship of hundreds of artifacts. For more information, contact Executive Director Georgia Brehm at 802-228-5050.

FACILITY

From Page 1A

when someone with substance abuse disorder is ready to get clean, the most important thing is that they have a place to go.

Green Mountain High School counselor Pam O’Neill said that when you can’t get a bed for someone that’s when tragedy happens, and that 15,000 Vermonters are in need of treatment, according to the Vermont Department of Health. Brook Willard, program coordinator for Black River Area Community Coalition, said she has lost three peers since last November due to accidental overdoses and it would be a blessing to have a treatment facility in Ludlow. Michelle Stinson, a youth librarian, said that three young people had overdosed in the library.

Tony Caruso, who has an interest in an abutting property, the Okemo Golf Course, said that the two closest inpatient facilities were at 50% capacity. He was unable to provide supporting documentation or answer whether that was due to Covid concerns.

Jim Hoffman and Darlene Ragazine, both owners at Fox Run, said that no one within their group doesn’t disagree that there is a need, but that this is not the location for it.

Attorney Chris Roy, representing both Divided Sky and Ascension, said the town has an obligation to treat these residents and this facility fairly under the Fair Housing Act.

When the meeting moved onto the subject of zoning, Carter referencing section 460 of the

town bylaws, town RC district 1, noting this passage had been referenced by those in opposition to the project: “To provide for limited commercial uses in areas where there is residential development to serve primarily the needs of those residents... the character of the area should be protected and enhanced by shopping facilities.”

Attorney Tony Girardi, representing the Fox Run condo owners, said that residents certainly think this will change the character of the area and that now that character is defined as rural. She made the point that this facility and the condos were initially very intertwined.

Otis Nelson said that considering the prior facility was also a resident facility before he doesn’t see that it’s changing much.

The question of whether this facility was serving the needs of residents – that if residents were drug dependent, it would serve those needs – was also up for interpretation.

Carter also clarified Ludlow doesn’t have zoning language for “limited commercial use.” He also said there is no change of zoning here. They are interpreting the zoning and it is open to everybody’s suggestion.

The issues became more complicated when discussion on the past interconnection between the facility and the surrounding property, which was once an inn and built as part of the Fox Run Condos and the Golf Course. Mention of past lawsuits between the lodge and the inn were mentioned and shared water and septic were brought up. Past warranty deed rights to old tennis courts and pool were also mentioned and possible buried gas tanks beneath the facility property came to light.

Girardi said that the Fox Run residents were embedded in the facility area and that they were

concerned their real estate values would suffer.

Attorney Roy suggested they continue the discussion in another meeting since new evidence seemed to be emerging after the fact, but he still said that past relationship with the property is not the issue before the board.

Carter said that the relationship in land and usage between these two properties was important to the DRB as part of site analysis, not that they would change the deed, but look at it to interpret.

As the board was deciding that the process would require another meeting, Police Chief Jeff Billings spoke about his concern if some of the residents at the potential rehab facility might be there “mandated by court,” saying that if they don’t want to be there, they may try to run and cause trouble with in-house security and doctors. “That’s when we’re gonna be called there,” he said.

Roy suggested that given the need for a facility like this and the law, that the board should keep this analysis as much as possible over zoning use, understanding that regulatory agencies with expertise would ensure the operator of the facility would do right by the people of Ludlow.

With the site plan still to come under review, Carter agreed they would need to continue in the May 10 meeting. He agreed that Rose Goings would contact everyone with a date to submit any new evidence to give the board time for review.

Anastasio was one of the last to speak, thanking Chief Billings for his comments, and saying that he was one of those court mandated rehab residents and said, “My heart is in the right place.” He also thanked Frasca for “speaking so generously.”

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PRINCIPAL
From Page 1A

that it was not her practice to record open forum discussions, believing there is greater comfort and participation for attendees if they do not have to be concerned about having their words or images circulated. She

did add, “I did not anticipate any major conflict over the recommendation of a candidate. If I had, we might have made a different decision about recording.”

The GMUSD regular board meeting is Thursday, April 15 at 6 p.m. via Zoom. The Green Mountain principal search is on the agenda.

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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

A day in my life

Well, we've had some warm weather lately. I've always had a simple rule for spring. That is, yard work can wait during the first warm spell. Instead, I go do what I want.

I didn't get much exercise this winter so now that the ground is bare, I ventured out in the woods. Well, I took a tumble and realized while I need to get in shape doing so in the woods isn't the way. I better stick to level ground until I tighten up some muscles. I'll get there.

This past Friday morning, April 9, Lee Decatur and I met at the historical society. Peter Farrar came along up the sidewalk. The three of us visited a few minutes and then went our separate way. Lee and I walked up North Main Street to the Lovers Lane Road. Here we went up Lovers Lane.

I told Lee about the Rod & Gun Club fishing derby at the Lovers Lane Brook when I was a kid and Mrs. Kelly and her million-dollar horse farm. Lee is 10 years older than me and grew up in Kingston, N.H. Lee's memories of growing up and mine are not that different. Lee's father was a country doctor.

When we got to the new gazebo near the swimming pool, we sat down at one of the picnic tables. Kathy Estep was there with her 6-year-old granddaughter. Kathy asked if we had any photos of Ware's gristmill. We have one.

On our way back, several people on North Main were working in their yards. We stopped to say hello, commenting on the day or their flower gardens. One guy was watering his flowers when I noticed an unusual sculpture. Lee and I couldn't figure it out so I asked the homeowner what it was. He didn't



Butterfly harmonica Alton played. Notice the dime for scale.

ous life, I hung out in North Springfield so I knew many of Alton's friends. We have a lot in common.

After we struck a deal, we sat and visited. I was looking through a drawer of stuff when I found a tiny keychain harmonica. I showed it to Alton and said, "Look at this." Alton replied, "I can play that" so I handed it to him. Sure enough he began to play. It might seem corny to

PHOTO PROVIDED

know either.

We met a few people out walking that I didn't recognize. These had to be new people who came here in the last year or so. When Lee and I greeted them or commented on what a beautiful morning it was, they avoided replying. Two looked away as if we were lepers. One just nodded. Boy do they have a lot to learn if they ever hope to fit in.

Next Jerry Stewart was busy in his yard so we stopped to visit. I've known Jerry all of my life. We got to reminiscing about days gone by. Jerry told us about the day Wiggins burned. Jerry was in the movie theater when someone burst in and announced Wiggins was on fire and were there any firemen here? Jerry said he was 10 or 11 at the time and too young to help, but he did watch Wiggins burn.

Later that day

Now I'm home. About supertime, Alton Folsom stopped to see me. Alton stops to sell me antiques he picks up. I was looking over his offerings when we got to talking. Alton is a few years older than me and grew up in North Springfield. In a previ-

some readers, but it made my day.

A little later, Reggie Munson stopped by for a few minutes. We talked about cows, maple syrup, and work. Reggie plows driveways during the winter and does property management and lawn mowing in the summer. Reggie is a hardworking Vermonter.

On my way to Springfield the other day I noticed Reggie's truck parked on Route 11. I slowed down to see Reggie entering the woods. I had wondered what he was doing so I asked him this Friday evening. Reggie keeps a few beef cows so he has about 30 acres of pasture fenced in. Reggie told me some of his cedar fence posts needed replacement and that was what he was doing when I saw him. I asked how the maple syrup business was this year. Reggie said some producers did only about half of what they did last year. This was one day in my life.

This week's old saying: "It's a rare farm that has no bad ground."

Chester residents named to honors lists

CHESTER, Vt. - Caitlin Miller of Chester, a student at Northern Vermont University in Vermont, was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester. Students who achieve between a 3.50 and 3.99 semester average are placed on the Dean's List.

Samantha Pike of Chester, a student at Northern Vermont University in Vermont, was named to the President's List for the fall 2020 semester. Students who achieve a 4.00 semester average are placed on the President's List.

Northern Vermont University is a two-campus institution of higher education with campuses in Johnson and Lyndonville, Vt., as well as an online division that combines the best of our campuses' nationally recognized liberal arts and professional programs. Learn more at www.NorthernVermont.edu.



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Apple Blossom Cotillion to have limited in-person seating

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Rehearsing for the 65th Apple Blossom Cotillion continues under strict guidelines regarding Covid-19. Springfield Hospital and the Cotillion co-directors are pleased to announce that we are now planning to have limited in-person seating at this year's cotillion. Anyone who wishes to attend the event in person must purchase a chance ticket, which will be drawn and announced prior to the event. Tickets will not be

sold at the door. There will be two performances Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1 at the Springfield Community Players Theater. The Community Players have been very generous in donating their space for all the rehearsals and the performances.

The Apple Blossom Cotillion is a fundraiser for Springfield Hospital. The proceeds from this year's event provide support for the Dr. E. Sherburne Lovell Health Career Award and

the annual giving campaign for Springfield Hospital. The annual campaign funds are designated to help us bring the latest defibrillator technology to the hospital.

To support this year's cotillion by being a sponsor or to purchase a chance for in-person seating, visit www.springfield-hospitalgiving.org/cotillion. For more information, contact Sandy Peplau at 802-885-7686 or speplau@springfieldmed.org.

Little Yellow House Studio virtually presents "Tea & Twain"

ANDOVER, Vt. - Little Yellow House Studio presents "Tea & Twain," starring Broadway, film, and television actor Ron Crawford as the renowned American author and satirist Mark Twain. Viewers are invited to enjoy a favorite cup of tea as Ron performs his one-man show, "Travels with Mark Twain," based on Twain's famous traveling lecture series, featuring readings from some of his most beloved works, including "Tom Sawyer," "Huck Finn," and "Adam and Eve." The performance recreates Twain's lectures from a hundred years ago, his adventures as a steamboat pilot on the Mississippi, his mining days out West, the Hawaiian Islands, and his first tour of Europe along with his caustic, humorous observations - and a few tall stories.

Actor and creator Ron Crawford appeared in the original Tony Award-winning Stephenwolf production of "The Grapes of Wrath" as it progressed from Chicago to London to Broadway and became a television special on PBS.

Susan Haefner, Little Yellow House Studio founder, says, "I'm so excited to be collaborating with Ron again, having previously presented 'Travels with Mark Twain' in both Vermont and in NYC. Ron as Twain is simply a delight - audiences are in for quite a treat, in the comfort of their own living rooms."

Little Yellow House Studio team member and composer Lisa Brigantino will be supplying original music in the style of early 20th century music, as well as some Public Domain arrangements for pre- and post-show. "It's been wonderful collaborating with Little Yellow House Studio this past year. The studio has provided me a number of opportunities to supply music for virtual productions and it's been a great way to keep the creative juices flowing during this challenging time."

"Tea & Twain" performance dates and times are Saturday, April 24 and Saturday, May 1 at 7 p.m. EST; and Sunday, April 25 and Sunday, May 2 at 4 p.m. EST. Viewers are invited to a virtual tea party starting 30 minutes before each performance.

The performance is "pay what you can" with a recommended price per viewer. Tickets can be purchased at www.littleyellowhousestudio.com/events.



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opinion

Dear Editor,

It has been very troubling to see the story unfold ever since the Chester Selectboard voted for the local electronic media source, The Chester Telegraph, to replace the designated local newspaper, The Vermont Journal, as their paper of record. There seems to be a great deal of confusion on what the definition of a newspaper is, so I decided to consult the Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

“Newspaper, noun: A paper that is printed and distributed usually daily or weekly and that contains news, articles of opinion, features, and advertising.” (Source: www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/newspaper)

Now, if one were to review 1 V.S.A. & 174 Notice by Publication, “When a notice is required to be given by publication in a newspaper, it shall mean a newspaper published in the county where the subject matter is situated, pending or to be heard, or a newspaper published within the State which has a general circulation. In any case, in its discretion, the court may cause such notice to be further published in a newspaper which circulates in the neighborhood of the persons interested. Whenever a notice of any kind is required to be given by publication in a newspaper prior to a certain date for

a certain number of weeks successively, it may be given by an insertion prior to such date once a week, for the number of successive weeks required, either in a daily, semiweekly, or weekly newspaper. If such publication is in a daily or semiweekly newspaper, such notice shall be inserted on the same day of each successive week.” (Source: www.legislature.vermont.gov/stat.../section/01/003/00174)

Comparing these two passages, it is perfectly reasonable and implied that a newspaper is, by default, a printed publication. By this very definition, The Chester Telegraph is not a newspaper, but rather an online electronic media source. This hardly seems to fall under the statute on what can be a designated paper of record. The language and definitions are easy to comprehend, and it is even implied that the paper of record should be, in fact, a printed paper of record.

The Vermont Journal has always been a news source that has been a part of this community and it saddens me to see the very community they strive to serve turn against them.

I used to write for The Vermont Journal and it was the most rewarding experience I ever had. Unfortunately, I had

written an article that was accidentally biased towards a singular viewpoint. It is a common error, and my inexperience is what created it. We redacted my article and issued an apology because that is what entails professional journalism.

Several months down the line, I was contacted by The Chester Telegraph to write for them. They assured me that my article was not biased and I was treated poorly. It has been quite some time, but I am confident in the mistake I had made. I haven't returned to journalism because I am attending college for professional writing and creative writing so that I don't make the mistake again. It is troubling though that The Chester Telegraph did not see the error that I had made. I think this reflects their journalism. I hope one day I can more confidently return to the news world, but until then, I hope the Chester Selectboard makes the right decision, and follow common sense, that a newspaper is a printed publication, and The Chester Telegraph cannot even begin to serve their community without becoming a printed media source.

Sincerely,
Thomas Foster IV
Cavendish, Vt.

Dear Editor,

To vaccinate or not to vaccinate: that is not the question. The unasked question is this: how am I caring for my immune system?

We all stew in this pandemic brew together – vaccinated folks in the research group, those without the

vaccine in the control group. So when someone reveals their vaccine status, rest assured it is what's best for that person. When there is risk related to your body, choice is an essential aspect of the democratic process – as long as it's your choice.

Fear of “the other” generates stress, which promotes disease. How are you caring for your body to promote wellbeing?

Sincerely,
Betsy Thomason
W. Townshend, Vt.

Dear Editor,

The Springfield Town Democratic Committee commends Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos for his unflinching efforts to ensure we have safe, fair elections and to make it easy for people to vote. The strength of a democracy can be measured by the number of participants that are engaged in voting. Our voice is our vote.

The Springfield Town Democratic Committee condemns the actions of the Georgia legislature for their voter suppression law. This law makes it more difficult to vote, thus impacting the number of voices that will be heard. Provisions of the law disproportionately impact

people of color. To survive, a democracy must be representative of all its people.

The Springfield Town Democratic Committee is appalled by the intentional cruelty of this law that makes it illegal for anyone but election officials to give water or food to people standing in line.

The Springfield Town Democratic Committee fears that the most insidious provision of Georgia's voter suppression law that gives Republican state officials the power to take control of local elections and decline to certify local election results will ultimately override democracy. That the constitutional words, “We, the people...” will no longer apply.

The Springfield Town Democratic Committee urges our fellow Vermonters to raise your voice in protest. Democracy must not be undermined by voter suppression laws across the country. We call you to action. When you see an injustice, please speak up, kindly but strongly.

The Springfield Town Democratic Committee strongly supports passage of the “For the People Act” that will protect voting rights for all people and make the United States stronger as a democracy.

On behalf of the Springfield Town Democratic Committee,
Char Osterlund, chair
Springfield, Vt.

Dear Editor,

To all who shared my 95th birthday celebration on March 7, 2021: the motorcade, onlookers, friends and family members were an absolute surprise to me, thanks to my daughter Julie, Mrs. Alex Racicot, Jennifer Harper, and all who arranged the many details with amazing secrecy.

Thanks to the firefighters from Cavendish, Proctorsville,

and Ludlow, the teachers and students with all the handmade greetings – I received hundreds of cards. I'm humbled by the sentimental comments and I laughed at the amusing ones.

Chief Mark Fountain of the Springfield Police Department, his wife, and daughter honored me with their presence. I had a telephone call from a man that served with me in Vietnam 60

years ago. He saw the parade on Facebook in Germany! A friend's daughter wrote from southern France.

My prayer is that all your birthdays will be as enjoyable and as full of love and laughs. Be well. Be happy. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jim Hasson
Cavendish, Vt.

Dear Editor,

My name is Jesse Webber. I am the New England Assistant Team Leader for The Fallen Outdoors. The Fallen Outdoors is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the sole focus of getting veterans and service members into the great outdoors. We do this through coordinating and facilitating hunting, fishing, canoeing, hiking, and camping trips with local guides, charters, outdoorsmen, volunteers, and our organization's own prostaff members.

The goal is to provide these veterans with an outlet to step away from their life stressors. On these trips, veterans are able to build upon their existing support network to better equip themselves for what lies ahead of them. Our staff consists of active and former military service members who are all volunteers. Since our inception in July of 2019, Team New England has facilitated over 200 veteran and service member participation

in trips and events across the Northeast.

Team New England has specific goals that we would like to accomplish over the next year. First, we would like to facilitate 15-20 major fishing trips ranging from lake, river, and ocean fishing excursions. Second, we anticipate hosting 12-18 hunting trips targeting rabbits, turkey, deer, bear, and waterfowl. Lastly, we aim to provide three snowshoe hikes, five overnight hikes, eight canoe trips and three family-oriented barbecues. The focus is not necessarily what these veterans are doing but rather that they are doing it together and creating memories that they can lean on during tough times.

How to support The Fallen Outdoors mission to prevent veteran suicide: join our ranks as a prostaff member; donate your time or host a trip for a veteran; allow access to your land for one of our prostaff members to bring a veteran hunting or fishing;

donate used or new equipment; or donate money so that we can continue our mission.

Donations can be made through PayPal to NewEngland. Lead@TheFallenOutdoors.com; checks payable to The Fallen Outdoors, 320 Lake Drive, North Bennington, VT 05257; Venmo “TFO New England”; and items and equipment can be picked up by any one of our prostaff members located in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

Current news on our activity can be found by viewing The Fallen Outdoors on Facebook at “The Fallen Outdoors East Coast All Veteran” community page or on our website at www.TheFallenOutdoors.com.

Sincerely,
Jesse Webber
Assistant Team Lead - New England
The Fallen Outdoors

Dear Editor,

The Vermont Constitution is a living document and, as such, is allowed to be amended. However, the authors of our Constitution in 1777 did not make it an easy document to amend. It is a multi-year process, requiring review and approval in two consecutive legislative biennia – in this case 2019-20 and 2021-22 – and a vote by Vermonters at the end – in this case November 2022. Vermont's original Constitution was written in Windsor at the Old Constitution House, which was the capital of the early Vermont Republic. It was first amended in 1786. Our current constitution was adopted in 1793 after Vermont was admitted to the Union in 1791. In 1870 it was amended to allow for proposed changes to be ratified by the Vermont voters. Since then Vermonters have ratified 28 of the 30 amendments presented to them. Before 1974, constitutional amendments could only be proposed every 10 years. Now the Legislature is able to consider amendments every four years. Our constitution was most recently amended in 2010 to allow 17-year-olds, who would be 18 by the time of the general election in November, to vote in the primary.

On Friday, April 9, the Vermont Senate voted to send two proposals of amendment

to the voters for the General Election in 2022. I believe these proposals clarify the intent of the Constitution and affirm Vermont's history and values.

Proposition 2 clarifies the state's prohibition on slavery found in Article 1 of Chapter 1. Despite the historic pride we feel in Vermont being the first state in the Union to prohibit slavery, many have felt Article 1 wordy and equivocal about whether or not it allowed for slavery of persons under 21. If this amendment passes, the article will now clarify that “slavery and indentured servitude in any form are prohibited.” Some Vermonters might say that because the nation outlawed slavery in 1865 with the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, this is not important to clarify. But for many, the old, qualified language is long overdue for replacement with a clear, ringing prohibition. Sadly, we still face aspects of these issues in sex trafficking, migrant labor, and work in prisons.

Proposal 5 amends Chapter 1 by creating Article 22. It reads: “That an individual's right to personal reproductive autonomy is central to the liberty and dignity to determine one's own life course (as protected by this Constitution) and shall not be denied or infringed unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means.”

This change would give affirmative constitutional protection to what is current practice in Vermont. It is the same standard of review the U.S. Supreme Court used in the Roe v. Wade decision. It will protect our civil rights at a most personal level. It will affirm the right to abortion as it currently exists in our state – and will ensure reproductive liberty for family planning, contraception, and deeply personal decisions women and men make about their lives.

With changes in the membership of the U.S. Supreme Court, there is concern that it may move to weaken or overturn Roe v. Wade. This uncertainty has prompted the Legislature to move not only to affirm 50 years of protection Vermonters rely on, but also to recognize how much Vermonters value the liberty to make our own personal health decisions.

I appreciate hearing from you. I can be reached by email at clarkson@leg.state.vt.us or by phone at 802-457-4627. To watch Legislative Committee's 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,
Sen. Alison Clarkson
Windsor County

GAMES ARE SLIGHTLY SMALLER THIS WEEK. SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Subject to space. May be edited for clarity, grammatical errors, and libelous statements. Must be kept under 400 words. Must include name and town for publication. Viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal & The Shopper.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Repast
- 5 "Ben- —"
- 8 Lawman Wyatt
- 12 "Frozen" snow queen
- 13 "Right you —!"
- 14 Computer brand
- 15 Slightly
- 16 Actress Long
- 17 Hindu royal
- 18 Tidy up
- 20 Toto, to Dorothy
- 22 Peyton's brother
- 23 Commonest English word
- 24 Easter entrees
- 27 Vinegar variety
- 32 X-ray's cousin
- 33 Chopper
- 34 Hostel
- 35 "Becoming" author
- 38 Read quickly
- 39 Knock
- 40 Wildebeest
- 42 "Yippee!"
- 45 Held up
- 49 "Mamma Mia" group
- 50 Gardner of Hollywood
- 52 Actress Kate

DOWN

- 1 Intend
- 2 North Sea feeder
- 3 Largest continent
- 4 Coffee bar orders
- 5 Carthaginian general
- 6 Swiss canton
- 7 Harvest
- 8 Sultry singer
- 9 Campus figure
- 10 Gambling mecca
- 11 Bluenose
- 19 Chicago transport
- 21 UFO crew
- 24 "Let me think ..."
- 25 "Exodus" hero
- 26 Germs
- 28 Rocker Rose
- 29 "Shampoo" Oscar winner
- 30 — pickle
- 31 Blitzzer's channel
- 36 Badger
- 37 Clean-air org.
- 38 Hand in
- 41 "Forget it!"
- 42 Corridor
- 44 Theater award
- 46 Innocent one
- 47 Ms.
- 48 June honorees
- 51 Half of XIV

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CHURCH SERVICES

ASCUTNEY, VT.

Brownsville Community United Methodist Church, 66 Brownsville-Hartland Rd.
 Sunday service is 9:30 a.m., held in the church with reduced occupancy or streaming online at www.facebook.com/brownsvillecommunitychurch and www.brownsvilleumc-vt.org.

Vision of Light Church of Spiritualism and Healing, P.O. Box 133, Windsor
 The Sunday service is at 10 a.m. with Lay Pastor Dawn Hancy via Zoom. Sign up for the Vision of Light newsletter and Zoom links on Facebook @VOLChurch.

CAVENDISH, VT.

St. James United Methodist Church, 570 Main St.
 Please join us Sundays at 8:45 a.m. with Pastor John Hawkins. All are welcome. Masks and social distancing are required. For more information, call 802-674-3443.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

North Charlestown United Methodist Church, 471 River Rd.
 Go to www.facebook.com/UMCOofNorthCharlestown for daily prayers and more information.

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, 99 Sullivan St., Claremont, N.H.
 Weekday services are available online Wednesday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 5 p.m. If you plan on attending Sunday's 9:30 a.m. service, please email the church ahead of time as there is limited attendance. For more information, go to www.hroc.org.

CHESTER, VT.

St. Joseph's Church, 96 S. Main St.
 Services at St. Joseph's include Saturday at 4 p.m. and Wednesday at 9 a.m. There are no live streams for these masses. For more information, go to www.stmaryjoseph.com.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 313 Main St.
 Zoom services are Sundays at 10 a.m. Our service will be an enhanced Rite One Morning Prayer Service with music. For information, visit www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

First Baptist Church, 62 Crescent St., S. Londonderry, Vt.
 Worship services are now online-only and can be live streamed at www.firstbaptistslondonderryvt.org/streaming-worship.html. For more information, visit www.firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org or call 802-856-7266.

LUDLOW, VT.

United Church of Ludlow (UCC and Methodist), 48 Pleasant St.
 Sunday services are held in person and streamed online. Please be safe and care for each other. Email unitedchurch@tds.net for more information. Visit www.unitedchurch.us to receive Covid-19 updates on services and meetings.

Ludlow Baptist Church, on the Green, 99 Main St.
 Sunday school and service at 11 a.m. are in person. Mid-week prayer will continue over Zoom. For more information about social distancing guidelines, go to www.LudlowBaptist.org or call Pastor Jerry Scheumann at 802-228-7600.

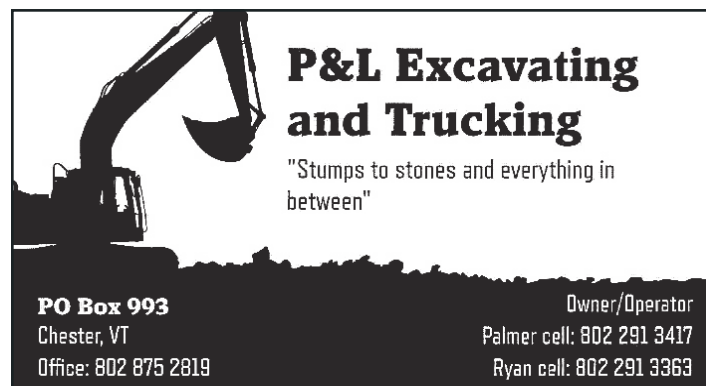
SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main St.
 Live streaming of Sunday services at 9:30 a.m. will continue at www.facebook.com/calvarybaptistchurchspringfieldvt. For more information, go to www.calvarylovespringfield.com.

Springfield Assembly of God, 269 River St.
 Sunday morning services are in-person and live streamed starting at 10 a.m. Masks are available and social distancing is encouraged. The sanctuary seating is arranged to promote distancing. Go to www.facebook.com/Springfield-Assembly-of-God-156583214402910 for links and more information.

WALPOLE, N.H.

Walpole Unitarian Church, corner of Union and Main St.
 Sunday Service begins at 10 a.m. via Zoom. For links and updates, go to www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org.



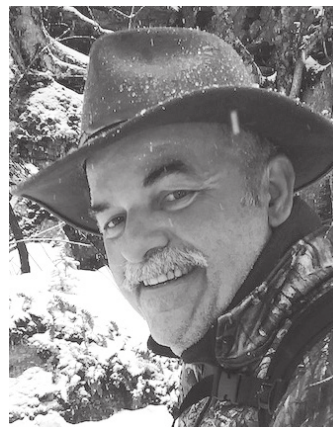
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Robert A. Pelletier, 1960-2021

RUTLAND, Vt. – A cowboy from birth, Robert Allen Pelletier (known to most as Bob) was born in Shelby, Mont., May 24, 1960. The leader of the pack of the Pelletier family, one of five siblings, was the son of Ovide and Jacqueline Pelletier. Nicknamed “Bonhomme,” meaning good man, he lived true to his nickname his entire life. Growing up he spent time in Montana, Rhode Island, Maine, Canada, and eventually settled in Vermont where he spent his entire adult life.

Moving to Vermont at 18 years old, knowing few people, he quickly established a reputation as a hardworking carpenter. Bob, first and foremost, was a family man, always lending a helping hand and leading by example. There was no such thing as a stranger to Bob. He made friends wherever he went, was a true storyteller, and always made a positive impact. Married for over 30 years to Lorraine Pelletier, they had three children, Anna, Bobby, and Andrew, all raised in Chester, Vt. His love for his children extended to his four grandchildren, Bryce, Ella, Erica, and Evita. Aside from being a hardworking man, he always had a love for the outdoors.

Bob was a hunter safety instructor for over 20 years, the President of the Chester Rod and Gun Club, and an avid motorcyclist – always seen with a smile on his face riding around town on one of his many Harley Davidsons. Bob was not only a hunter, but a long-range marksman able to shoot targets over 1,000 yards away with his very own custom-made bullets. Still holding the camp record at the Yo Buck Deer Camp in Pennsylvania, meeting his target at 1,350 yards. His love for the wilderness continued to blossom with his partner of the past four years, Gail Gorruso, as they spent almost every weekend outdoors hiking, hunting, fishing, or camping. Bob's family extended as he spent time



Robert A. Pelletier, 1960-2021. PHOTO PROVIDED

with Gail's two sons Robert and Sam.

Bob's nickname of “a good man” continued to prove true while living in Rutland and always being in a position of serving others. In his latest position of building inspector with the city of Rutland, he was only there for two short years, but made a lifelong impact. On Saturday morning, March 27, 2021, Bob passed away suddenly on a warm spring day while hiking with Gail and friends in a place they nicknamed the “magical woods.” Taken away too soon, a quote he spoke of, lived by, and is a lesson for all is “life ain't a dress rehearsal.” Bob certainly lived life to the fullest. He will always be greatly missed, but his stories, impact, smile, and spirit of Bonhomme will always live on.

Bob is survived by his mother Jaqueline Pelletier; siblings Julie Nadeau (Roch), Danny Pelletier (Tina), Tammy Clough (Mike), and Melissa Pelletier; his children Anna Gilcris (Eric), Robert Pelletier II, Andrew Pelletier (Krissie); grandchildren Bryce Gilcris, Erica Gilcris, Ella Pelletier, Evita Pelletier; and his partner Gail Gorruso.

A celebration of life will be held at the Black Line Tavern on Magic Mountain in Londonderry, Vt., April 24, 2021. A remembrance service will start at 11 a.m. with food and refreshments to follow.

Lory D. Molesky, 1959-2021

ALSTEAD, N.H. – Lory Dean Molesky passed away at his home in Lexington, Mass., April 8, 2021 after a 4.5-year battle with cancer.

Lory was born June 3, 1959, as the first child of Bernard and Margery (Lindgren) Molesky, and was raised in the mining district of Alstead, N.H. His childhood was spent building tree forts and treasure hunting at abandoned mines and old dumpsites. Early success with metal detecting led him to a lifelong hobby of coin collecting. After graduating from Fall Mountain High School, Lory received degrees from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and SUNY Stony Brook, where he met Chia Shen. They were married in 1987 and both went on to receive Ph.D.s in computer science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

He enjoyed chasing challenges and pushing the boundaries. As a 148-pound teenage powerlifter, he deadlifted 550 pounds – a state record at the time. His passion for skiing took him across alpine terrain throughout New England and the Rockies. He excelled at computer software architecture and development, and received numerous patents in data visualization and web UI design while working at Oracle Corporation.

Lory loved playing soccer, coaching youth soccer and basketball in Lexington, making musical YouTube parodies, playing board games, and spending time with his family. He was a musician and an artist. Like his father, Lory was a favorite uncle and made children laugh. During his last two years of life, he enjoyed crafting unique wood-



Lory D. Molesky, 1959-2021. PHOTO PROVIDED

working items and was a member of the LexArt woodworker's guild.

He was the grandchild of Lithuanian and Swedish immigrants. He continued to make the world a more united place with his marriage to Chia, a native of Beijing, China. In addition to Chia, Lory is survived by his daughter Nadine, son Max, brothers Dennis and Todd, sister-in-law Anna, nephews Benjamin and Jack, niece Katherine, as well as aunts, uncles, and many cousins.

A memorial service will be held in New Hampshire Sunday, May 16.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Lahey Hospital & Medical Center, 41 Mall Road, Burlington, MA 01805, c/o Lung Cancer Research & Education, in memory of Lory Molesky, or online at www.support.laheyhealth.org/LHMC-give. Under Gift Designation, please select “Direct my gift to: Other, and enter LHMC Lung Cancer Research. Please also select Tribute Gift in memory of Lory Molesky.

Alberta G. Rogenski, 1930-2021

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Alberta G. Rogenski, 90, died March 26, 2021. She was born Aug. 17, 1930 in Underhill, Vt., the daughter of Ralph and Glena (Grenier) King. Mrs. Rogenski worked in Bellows Falls, Vt. as a store clerk.

On July 6, 1948, she married Richard Rogenski in Fairfax, Vt. who predeceased her in 2009.

Alberta was also predeceased by her son Richard. She is survived by two sons Albert and Dennis.

A graveside committal service was held Monday, April 12, 2021 in the Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery in Westminster, Vt. Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, Vt. will be assisting with the arrangements.




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OBITUARIES:
 A basic 200-word obituary is \$50, and \$0.20 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:
 We are currently running Social Distancing Church Services on an alternating schedule. Subject to space. All services are posted online at www.VermontJournal.com.


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sports

Green Mountain's odds before winning boys Div. III basketball title, part 2

BY BILL MURPHY

The Vermont Journal & The Shopper

CHESTER, Vt. — Green Mountain finished their regular season as the number one seed in Division III. I spoke to many media members and fellow coaches and no one mentioned the Chieftains as a serious title threat. I received a couple of “can’t count them out,” but no close to ringing endorsements. After all, when was the last time the Green and Gold had ever won a meaningful game?

How good was this team from Chester? My quick answer is, “Very good.”

In many ways, they lost their single game at the perfect time. The Chieftains may not agree with this, but losing to Bellows Falls 52-42 in the last game of the regular season was jarring and kept them from being undefeated.

But ask Gonzaga today if they would trade a regular season loss for their title game loss. We all know the answer would have been yes. And to spite, who knows how that game would have turned out if the Chieftains had not lost the services of their most likely best player Jack Boyle before halftime to injury? Who believes in fate one way or another? Just asking.

On to the postseason where the first place seed really didn’t do the Chieftains any favors except line them up with three tough match-ups. Over the years, very few teams have faced this kind of artillery to claim a championship. Here’s thinking the gritty victories they pulled out during the regular season, and especially the loss to Bellows Falls, created a mindset to somehow conquer the route

they had to take.

After defeating Oxbow easily 62-34, next was a Vergennes team, which competes most seasons in Division II and has had their share of success there. The pandemic held their season down to eight games, only one of which was against Division III competition. Seven of their eight games were played against Division I and II schools and many expected them to compete for the title. Eighty-five of the 90 tournament games Vergennes has played in their previous tournament journeys have been at the Division II level. Prior to tournament play, when I looked at the pairings, I considered this one more unfortunate road bump to Green Mountain head coach Brian Rapanotti establishing his program.

“We had talked following the BF game and I thought this group would refocus and respond the right way when they needed to. Most of them played soccer and they had had successful tournament experiences. So despite the fact they hadn’t played in big basketball games, I thought they would be okay,” Rapanotti offered.

There were a number of ups and downs throughout the Vergennes game. Green Mountain had numerous chances to make the right game play choices, and they were ripe enough to make that work out in a thrilling 58-57 overtime victory. There were likely very few supporters and casual observers who realized this was a big time game versus an eight seed that was definitely one of the top teams in this year’s tournament. Now, what was next?

Defending champion Thet-

ford was on deck, and they had already upset a strong Windsor team on the road to set up this match-up. A year ago, the Panthers had disposed of Green Mountain on the way to their most recent title and possibly this stirred the pot a little to energize the Chieftains. No less an authority than veteran Windsor coach Harry Ladue told me, “That will be a really tough one for Green Mountain. Thetford is coming together and peaking at the right time.” Little did anyone outside of Chester know how much the Chieftains were peaking and the Panthers were tamed in Chester’s Nason Gym 75-51.

Then came the title game where Green Mountain was matched with the best of the best, the champion of champions, Williamstown, who had six titles in the last 20 years. The morning of the title game Rapanotti told me, “Although they have been to eight of the last nine title games, none of these kids have actually played in those games so I don’t think that will be a factor.”

I sat silent for a moment and decided not to say a thing. That’s quite an imposing history to cast away so easily, but he was certainly right in the end.

They competed in another of those nail-biting thrillers that went into overtime and needed a last minute comeback in regulation, which was dependent on a late season full-time call up from the junior varsity, to make a steal and pass to one of their unprimed scorers to sink a big hoop. The score came at the most convenient time in the school’s first championship game ever. Such a tale could only be believed in pandemic

times, and even then it’s still tough to believe there would be a group of kids gritty enough to pull such a thing off.

Rapanotti provided me with a short capsule on each of his players who were part of this historic team:

Austin Kubisek, the lone freshman on the team. “He played four quarters of JV but was physically ready enough to be a competitor who grew by practicing with us regularly.”

Evan Mosher This sophomore usually played five or six minutes a game and “is a ferocious competitor who brought rebounding and defensive skills to us. He had a huge putback versus White River Valley.”

Reid Hryckiewicz, a junior who “had 14 first half-points against Leland & Gray and you need this kind of player to step up when needed on a championship team.”

Brandon Rose developed much of the season as a swing player with the JVs. But the junior came up with probably the biggest steal in GM history in the final game. “He can really score the ball as he at times had 25 points in a half of a JV game. He has become more comfortable with the ball in his hands and as everyone saw in the Williamstown game he is a very good decision maker.”

Kagen Hance, a junior who was the Chieftains first man off the bench much of the season. He averaged about four points a game and “started the season strong but then missed some



Coach Brian Rapanotti with his team during the state title game.

PHOTO BY MARK OUIMET, LIFETOUGH

time, but [he] came back to give us some solid defense and rebounding we needed.”

Everett Mosher This junior “who helped lead the way to everyone understanding their roles [and] hit three big threes that were at important times this season.” He averaged about 11 points a game.

Skyler Klezos One of four remaining seniors, he “was a coach’s dream because he did a little bit of everything. He has a relentless motor who was a big contributor to our rebounding and defense.” He averaged about 6 points a game and converted the big hoop off from Rose’s steal, which set up the overtime title win.

Sawyer Pippin “He embraced our defensive stopper role, taking it to another level.” He is a strong ball handler who averaged about 9 points a game.

Ty Merrill “His role became more defined as the year went on. He became a leader who can be depended upon to score the ball. This role became more comfortable to him this season.” He was the team’s leading scorer

at about 15 points a game.

Jack Boyle “He was the unquestioned leader and heart and soul of the team. He didn’t come to us as a natural flow basketball player, but everything about him improved during his two years with us concerning his skills and hoop decision-making. He became the inside presence we needed as down the stretch as he played more inside as he realized if you give me the ball inside nobody can stop me. This was the key to beating Vergennes.” Boyle averaged 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Head coach Brian Rapanotti’s lasting memory: “To me it was all about the pig pile at the end of the game. That was really something. That was my favorite part. I made a conscious effort to watch how they reacted and that was really something to watch.”

This article is the second part of a story published in the April 7, 2021 edition. To read Part 1, go to www.VermontJournal.com.

Spring sports schedule, April 17-24

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.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17 —

Baseball —

Mount Anthony at Bellows Falls, 12 p.m.

Springfield at Fair Haven, 11 a.m.

Girls Tennis —

Rutland at Bellows Falls, 11 a.m.

White River Valley at Leland & Gray, 11 a.m.

Softball —

Springfield at Fair Haven, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 19 —

Baseball —

Sunapee at Fall Mountain, 4 p.m.

Softball —

Bellows Falls at Mount St. Jo-

seph, 4:30 p.m.

Green Mountain at Woodstock, 4:30 p.m.

Sunapee at Fall Mountain, 4 p.m.

Track & Field —

Fall Mountain at Stevens, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20 —

Baseball —

Green Mountain at Burr & Burton, 4:30 p.m.

Hartford at Bellows Falls, 4:30 p.m.

Springfield at Mill River, 4:30 p.m.

Girls Tennis —

Bellows Falls at Hartford, 4:30 p.m.

Softball —

Mount Anthony at Springfield, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21 —

Baseball —

Fall Mountain at Sunapee, 4 p.m.

Softball —

Bellows Falls at Hartford, 7 p.m.

Fall Mountain at Sunapee, 4 p.m.

Mill River at Green Mountain, 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22 —

Baseball —

Fair Haven at Green Mountain, 4:30 p.m.

Leland & Gray at Bellows Falls, 4:30 p.m.

Girls Tennis —

Woodstock at Bellows Falls,

4:30 p.m.

Softball —

Burr & Burton at Leland & Gray, 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23 —

Softball —

Springfield at Hartford, 7 p.m.

Ultimate Frisbee —

Sharon at Bellows Falls, 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24 —

Baseball —

Bellows Falls at Burr & Burton, 11 a.m.

Hartford at Green Mountain, 11 a.m.

Leland & Gray at Proctor, 11 a.m.

Girls Tennis —

Brattleboro at Bellows Falls, 11 a.m.

Softball —

Green Mountain at Bellows Falls, 12 p.m.

Leland & Gray at West Rutland, 11 a.m.

Ultimate Frisbee —

Mill River at Bellows Falls, 11 a.m.

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Mason/Tenders wanted. Pay based on experience. Contact Moore Masonry at 802-824-5710 or email mooremasonry802@gmail.com. (04/20)

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featured pet

Weasley is a 5-month-old Manx kitten that is looking for a loving family. After making the trip to Vermont from Georgia, Weasley is enjoying his time in the community cat room with his new kitty friends. It is unknown at this moment if Weasley is good with dogs, but he is young, so adjusting to one should be easier. This handsome gentleman definitely has spunk and is fast as lightning. He would do best in a home with another confident cat, so that he has a playmate and another kitty to show him the ropes. Catching Weasley is sometimes hard, but once you do, he will melt into your arms and enjoys being held like a baby! He would be best suited for a home without young kids, but older, cat savvy kids would be fine. Do you think you can welcome this southern



gentleman into your heart and home?

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

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Answers
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E	L	S	A	A	R	E	A	C	E	R			
A	B	I	T	N	I	A	R	A	N	I			
N	E	A	T	E	N	P	E	T	D	O	G		
		E	L	I	T	H	E						
H	A	M	S	B	A	L	S	A	M	I	C		
M	R	I	A	X	E	I	N	N					
M	I	C	H	E	L	L	E	S	C	A	N		
	R	A	P		G	N	U						
H	O	O	R	A	Y	R	O	B	B	E	D		
A	B	B	A	A	V	A	M	A	R	A			
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calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

APRIL 17 – ACWORTH, N.H. – Acworth Female Charitable Society Rummage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., outside at the Church on the Hill. Items for sale include clothing, household goods, and “white elephants.”

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Rummage Sale at Charlestown Senior Center Saturday, April 17, from 8 a.m. – noon. Clothing of all sorts and sizes. Small rugs, blankets, and linens. This is a fundraiser for the Senior Center and all offers of a donation will be accepted. Please practice social distancing and wear a mask while you are in the building.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Lions Club is hosting their annual “Food

from the Heart” food drive to benefit the Springfield Family Center Saturday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in front of Shaw’s at the Springfield Shopping Plaza.

APRIL 20 – CHESTER, Vt. – Explore the definition of Unitarian Universalism via Zoom with Rev. Dr. Nancy Jay Crumbine Tuesday, April 20, from 7 to 8 p.m. The conversation will include questions such as how Unitarian Universalism differs from other religions and why are those differences important. For more information or to get the Zoom address for this event, contact chestervtu@gmail.com.

APRIL 24 – CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Enjoy a take-out spaghetti dinner courtesy of Boy Scout Troop #31 at the

VFW in Charlestown Saturday, April 24, from 4 - 7 p.m. Enjoy Linda’s famous homemade meat sauce over an ample serving of spaghetti. Accompany that with homemade buttermilk dressing over a garden salad, a homemade roll, and your choice of a homemade dessert. Vegetarian sauce, gluten-free spaghetti, and sugar-free desserts are available upon request. Proceeds will go to support Scout summer camp.

MONDAYS – REGION – “Nurturing Skills for Families in Recovery” is an online mutual self-help support group for parents aided by a trained facilitator. The group will meet Mondays from 1-2:30 p.m. Whoever said parenting is easy? It’s probably the toughest job you will ever have, and sometimes it can be pretty overwhelming. You are

not alone! Come and join us. For more information and to join the free group, contact Amber at amenard@pcavt.org or call 802-498-0603.

WEDNESDAYS – REGION – Lori Wright from DG Bodyworks is offering a 45-minute slow flow yoga class via Zoom Wednesdays at 5 p.m. for all levels to improve flexibility and strength, reduce stress, and bring balance. Choose to attend the class live or watch the recorded session at any time during the week at your own perfect time. Contact Lori at loriwright163@gmail.com or call 603-401-8123 to register.

THURSDAYS – REGION – “Circle of Parents in Recovery” is an online mutual self-help support group for parents aided by a trained facilitator. The group will meet Thursdays from

3-4:30 p.m. Whoever said parenting is easy? It’s probably the toughest job you will ever have, and sometimes it can be pretty overwhelming. You are not alone! Come and join us. For more information and to join the free group, contact Amber at amenard@pcavt.org or call 802-498-0603.

REGION – “Circle of Parents for Grandparents” is an online mutual self-help support group aided by a trained facilitator. The group will meet Thursdays from 4-5 p.m. Come and join us. For more information and to join the free group, contact Amber at amenard@pcavt.org or call 802-498-0603.

DAILY – REGION – If you want to drink that’s your business, but if you want to stop, that’s ours. Contact Alcoholics Anonymous at www.aavt.org or call your local hotline at 802-885-

8281 and join a meeting. You are not alone.



Drug Take Back Day slated for April 24

REGION – On Saturday, April 24, the Windsor County Sheriff’s Office, local and state law enforcement agencies, and the Drug Enforcement Administration will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous, expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. The Take Back Day event is free and anonymous, no questions asked, with drop-off sites located throughout

Windsor County. “Rates of prescription drug abuse in this country are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs,” said Sheriff Mike Chamberlain of Windsor County. “We look forward to participating in Take Back Day again this spring as part of our continuing effort to protect the health and safety of Windsor County residents.”

Supported by public health coalitions, Take Back Day aims to prevent prescription drug abuse, a growing problem in the U.S. that claims lives through overdoses and accidental poisonings. A majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends.

Since inception of the Take Back Days, towns across Windsor County and the state have worked diligently to expand access to permanent drug collection units. Windsor County’s efforts align with those of the state in encouraging Vermonters to drop off unused or expired medications. Green Peak Alliance coordinator Courtney Hillhouse states, “To prevent misuse, we want everyone to know how to safely use, store, and dispose of unused or expired medicine.”

Residents participating in Drug Take Back April 24 have the opportunity to learn more about permanent collection such as locations of drop boxes, hours of operation, and what medication types are accepted.

On Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., the following locations in Windsor County will service as drop-off sites: Chester Police Department; Windsor Police Department; Weathersfield Transfer Station, operated by the Weathersfield Police Department; Springfield Police Department; Ludlow Police Department; Hartford Police Department; Woodstock Police Department; Royalton State Police Barracks; Royalton Police Department; and Norwich Police Department.

The Take Back Day and Permanent Collection services are free. Powders and patches are accepted in addition to pills and capsules. Medication return venues are supported in part by the Green Peak Alliance, a regional network that promotes healthy communities in east central Vermont.

At any time throughout the year, households in Windsor County may take advantage of the permanent drop-boxes in the lobbies of the following Police Departments: Chester, Hartford, Ludlow, Royalton, Springfield, Windsor, and Woodstock. For a complete listing of locations and hours of operation, visit www.twin-statesafemeds.org.

For more information about Take Back Day, visit www.dea.gov or call the Windsor County Sheriff’s Department at 802-457-5211.

BOOKKEEPER Payroll and Account Receivable

Two Rivers Supervisory Union in Ludlow, VT has an immediate opening for a full time Bookkeeper whose primary focus will be payroll and accounts receivable. The ideal candidate for this year round position should have 3 years of experience working in payroll, accounts payable, and accounts receivable. Background working in a school environment is helpful but not required. The candidate should be able to work independently as well as with a team and be detail oriented. Experience required for payroll software, Microsoft Excel and online reporting for payroll taxes and benefits.

Send resume and cover letter to: Chery Hammond, Business Manager Two Rivers Supervisory Union 609 VT Route 103 South Ludlow, VT 05149 cheryl.hammond@trsu.org

E.O.E.

Need of a Fun Summer Job? Interested in starting a Career in Education? How about Working at a Summer Camp?

Two Rivers Supervisory Union in Ludlow, VT has openings for the following Summer Camp positions:

- Summer Camp Director
- Summer Camp Counselor
- Summer Camp Junior Counselor

This is a great way to earn money in an active and fun environment. You must be able to meet the requirements to hold this position per the Department of Children and Families State Licensing regulations.

For more information or to send resume and cover letter, contact: Ms. Venissa White at venissa.white@trsu.org

Two Rivers Supervisory Union is an Equal Opportunity Employer

TOWN OF WESTON NOTICE OF MINOR SUBDIVISION HEARING

Lisa Yrsha has submitted an application for a Minor Subdivision, on a lot David Johnson owns in the town of Weston Vt., on Johnson Hill Rd. The Planning Commission will hold a hearing on this application on 5/3/21 at 7:00 PM on Zoom.

Those interested in seeing the application, or joining the online meeting, or should contact the Zoning Administrator at zoning@westonvt.org or P.O. Box 98, Weston Vt 05161.

Specific Instructions on how to attend the virtual hearing will be available the week of 4/30/21.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

NOTICE OF TAX SALE TAX SALE OF REAL ESTATE Town of Cavendish, Vermont

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgages of lands in the Town of Cavendish in the county of Windsor are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such town for the year 2020-2021 and municipal utilities remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following land and premises described in the Warranty Deed from Frederick B. Burnett and Barbara Robert, Trustee Gilbert W. Roberts Jr. and Barbara E. Roberts Revocable Living Trust to Jeffrey Biasuzzi, dated June 16, 2003 and recorded in Book 58, Pages 326-328 of the Land Records of the Town of Cavendish.

Reference may be had to said deed for more particular description of said lands and premises, as the same appears in the Land Records of the Town of Cavendish. And so much of the lands will be sold at public action at the Office of the Town Tax Collector, located at the Cavendish Town Office Building, 37 High Street, Cavendish, Vermont, on May 5, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge said taxes together with costs and other fees allowed by law, unless the same be previously paid.

Dated at Cavendish, Vermont this 14th day of April, 2021.

Brendan McNamara
Town Manager and
Collector of Delinquent Taxes

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Reference may be had to said deed for more particular description of said lands and premises, as the same appears in the Land Records of the Town of Cavendish. And so much of the lands will be sold at public action at the Office of the Town Tax Collector, located at the Cavendish Town Office Building, 37 High Street, Cavendish, Vermont, on May 5, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge said taxes together with costs and other fees allowed by law, unless the same be previously paid.

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Reference may be had to said deed for more particular description of said lands and premises, as the same appears in the Land Records of the Town of Cavendish. And so much of the lands will be sold at public action at the Office of the Town Tax Collector, located at the Cavendish Town Office Building, 37 High Street, Cavendish, Vermont, on May 5, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge said taxes together with costs and other fees allowed by law, unless the same be previously paid.

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Reference may be had to said deed for more particular description of said lands and premises, as the same appears in the Land Records of the Town of Cavendish. And so much of the lands will be sold at public action at the Office of the Town Tax Collector, located at the Cavendish Town Office Building, 37 High Street, Cavendish, Vermont, on May 5, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge said taxes together with costs and other fees allowed by law, unless the same be previously paid.

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Reference may be had to said deed for more particular description of said lands and premises, as the same appears in the Land Records of the Town of Cavendish. And so much of the lands will be sold at public action at the Office of the Town Tax Collector, located at the Cavendish Town Office Building, 37 High Street, Cavendish, Vermont, on May 5, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge said taxes together with costs and other fees allowed by law, unless the same be previously paid.

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Reference may be had to said deed for more particular description of said lands and premises, as the same appears in the Land Records of the Town of Cavendish. And so much of the lands will be sold at public action at the Office of the Town Tax Collector, located at the Cavendish Town Office Building, 37 High Street, Cavendish, Vermont, on May 5, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge said taxes together with costs and other fees allowed by law, unless the same be previously paid.

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AUTO/REAL ESTATE

outdoor news

Edgar May adds rock climbing and outdoor fitness

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – This summer the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center will add rock climbing and outdoor fitness to its wide array of programs and services. The climbing tower will provide area residents with opportunities to access open climbing times, clinics, and camps. It will also be available for birthday parties, groups, and corporate rentals. The outdoor area will also feature a 1,200-square-foot section of turf for outdoor fitness classes, group team building activities, team training, and more. The entire perimeter of the outdoor fitness space and climbing tower will be fenced in.

household income. Program registration for the three individual weeks of climbing and swimming



Edgar May rock climbing wall.

PHOTO PROVIDED

The 40-foot rock climbing tower and its six belay stations will provide opportunities for all levels of climbing. One side is specifically geared towards new or young climbers. Protrusions or features on the other sides will give more experienced climbers, or those looking for a challenge, a great go. The fourth side of the tower will feature a ropes course element called the "Dangle Duo" that teaches climbers teamwork and communication in order to ascend to the top. The climbing tower was funded by donations from more than 90 individuals, businesses, and foundations. Craig stated, "We have been so fortunate to have the support of donors who believed in this project and have helped make it a reality."

Construction. Foundations that have supported the project through grants have included the Cherry Family Foundation, Mascoma Bank Foundation, RiseVT, the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation, Claremont Savings Bank Foundation, and the Charles Wood Foundation. For those looking to be involved in this exciting project, donations are still being accepted to finish the build out and purchase of amenities for the space, including benches, storage, and

other equipment or to support scholarships for climbing programs for youth. The Edgar May is also seeking volunteers to help belay, instruct, and support the operations of the tower. For more information about the climbing tower and outdoor fitness area, you may call the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center at 802-885-2568 or email info@edgarmay.org. Information about this project will be updated at www.edgarmay.org.

campers will open April 15. Drivers on Clinton Street will see climbing begin April 14 as Edgar May staff begin three days of intensive technical training. The training is provided by High 5 Adventure Center of Brattleboro who also designed and constructed the tower. A grand opening event will be held in late May and will be announced as the build out of the entire area proceeds.

The climbing tower was funded by donations from more than 90 individuals, businesses, and foundations. Craig stated, "We have been so fortunate to have the support of donors who believed in this project and have helped make it a reality."

Local business support has come from Lawrence and Wheeler Insurance, Bibens Ace Hardware, Springfield Printing Corporation, Springfield Housing Authority, HB Energy, and All Seasons

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Commercial opportunity on Route 106 in North Springfield offers a highly visible/accessible location. Building offers close to 9000 square feet of office/storage space with ample parking on close to 1 acre of land. Currently used as a medical office with storage. \$365,000

Cottage with acreage! This property has much to offer. The cottage offers a rustic interior with open concept living space, 2 bedrooms plus a loft area and a front porch. The 26+/- acres is mostly wooded and could potentially be subdivided. Located in Weathersfield a short distance to paved roads, close to trails and recreation. \$220,000

This nice home offers multiple options and is within walking distance to town amenities. Use as a single family three to four bedroom home just by opening doorways. The first floor includes a remodeled eat-in kitchen and bath, formal dining room, large front living room (or bedroom) and den/bedroom. Upstairs makes a perfect in-law/guest suite with 2 or more bedrooms, newer kitchen and a full bathroom. Renovate the barn for extra storage or garage space, lot of paved parking (up to 6 vehicles) and a back yard. \$149,900

Two homes for the price of one. This property is located within walking distance to downtown Springfield and the State offices. The main house offers up to six bedrooms, kitchen, dining room, living room and 2-1/2 baths and a front porch. Guest house offers three floors of living space with three bedrooms, open-concept living/kitchen/dining and a full bath. Situated on a corner lot consisting of 1/2+/- acre, overlooking the Black River and the downtown. \$145,000

Grace Cottage Spring Into Health 5K

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – Registration is now open for Grace Cottage's 12th annual Spring into Health 5K. Your registration fee helps Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital to continue providing excellent patient care in our community. This year's event will be held both in person and virtually. There are a limited number of in-person timeslots

Saturday, May 8. Pre-registration is required. Participants are welcome to run, walk, stroll, or roll. There will be no 5K t-shirts this year, but all registrants will be given a numbered race bib. Or you may do your 5K virtually, whenever and wherever you choose. If you pre-register by April 30, we'll mail you a bib. Email a photo of yourself doing your virtual 5K while wearing your run-

ning bib to info@gracecottage.org, and we'll create a Facebook album of all our 5K-ers to celebrate our collective victories. You don't have to be a Facebook user to access the Grace Cottage Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GraceCottageHospital. For information and registration, visit our website: www.gracecottage.org/get-involved/spring-into-health-5k. Questions? Call us at 802-365-9109.

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<p>Spacious Office Building & Small Apartment w/ Excellent Exposure 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths Rockingham, \$229,000</p>	<p>Great Opportunity! 3 Unit Apt. Building Many Upgrades Springfield, \$125,000</p>	<p>Single Level Living Large Two Bay Garage 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath Chester, \$115,000</p>
<p>16+/- Acres w/ Western Exposure 3 Potential Building Sites Views Of Magic Mountain Chester, \$124,900</p>	<p>Corner Village Building Lot In The Heart of Bellows Falls 0.15+/- Acres Rockingham, \$39,500</p>	<p>1+/- Acre Lot Sits Directly Across From The Back Fairways of Tater Hill Golf Course Andover, \$33,000</p>

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Spring HOME IMPROVEMENT

Pollinators and Native versus Nativars and Non-native Plants

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Wednesday, April 21 at 6 p.m., join the Springfield Town Library for an online presentation of Pollinators and Native versus Nativars and Non-native Plants. Cheryl Joy will give a presentation on native pollinators and talk about why we must embrace these “no-frills” but effective plants that support bees and other pollinators.

Cheryl Joy Lipton is an ecologist, landscape designer, and sustainable living consultant in Chester. She specializes in native plants and invasive non-natives, serves on the Chester Planning Commission, and is a founding leader of Mountain Valley Climate Action 350VT,

the new nonprofit organization Chester Community Greenhouse and Gardens, and of Victory Gardening in the 21st Century, an online support group. She is also a homeschooling mother working on restoring a solar-powered, 1850 Gothic Revival farmhouse and its five acres in the village of Chester.

Sign-up required at www.eventbrite.com/e/pollinators-and-native-vs-nativars-and-non-native-plants-tickets-138286293025.



Learn about native pollinators and more. STOCK PHOTO

Amp up your spring cleaning routine with these hacks

StatePoint – Spring is a great time to refresh your home. Whether you’re planning a major clean sweep or just giving problem areas a little extra TLC, experts say that a few simple strategies will make the job easier and the fruits of your labor last longer.

“When tackling your spring cleaning, checklists are key. The best thing you can do is to plan ahead and make sure you have everything you need to get the job done, which will save loads of time. Second, work room by room until each area is clean. Jumping place to place makes accom-



Try some new cleaning hacks.

plishments take longer and it’s harder to see big results,” says Erin Chase, founder of 5DollarDinners.com, mom of four and “Cleanfluencer” for ALEEN USA.

To make larger spring cleaning tasks easier and keep your house smelling fresh every day, Chase is sharing her top hacks to get the best results from those larger cleaning tasks:

1. Create cleaning caddies for every bathroom, the kitchen, and garage. Having all of your supplies ready for quick touch-ups and cleaning saves tons of time.

2. “Clean” your cleaning supplies. Deodorize your mop by adding 3/4 cups Pinalen Original

Chase.

3. To really disinfect and deep clean non-porous floors, add 1/3 cup of disinfectant bleach to 1.5 gallons of water and mop or scrub and let dry. You’ll be surprised what comes off and how much they’ll sparkle.

4. To sanitize countertops, kitchen sinks, and the outside of appliances, mix 1 tablespoon of bleach with 1 gallon of water and apply. Let stand for at least two minutes and dry.

5. To clean baseboards without bending and crawling, rubber band a microfiber cloth over the bristles of a broom. Spray the cloth with your favorite cleaner and scrub. No aching back!

6. To make an easy shower door scum remover: mix four parts water to one part fabric softener, spray onto scum, wipe off with a sponge and rinse with warm water.

With a plan of attack and the right tools and strategies, your spring clean can be fast, efficient, and painless.

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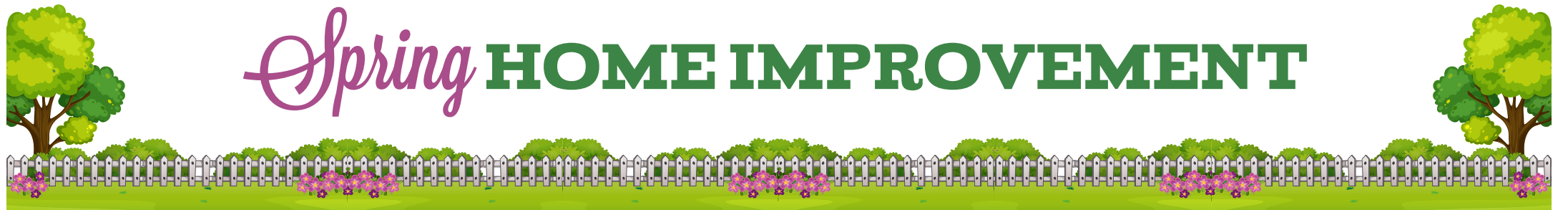
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Renovating your home? How to protect your investment

StatePoint – The increased time spent at home during the pandemic has resulted in many people deciding to tackle home renovation projects. From creating a new office space or virtual learning area, to larger projects like bathroom renovations, many homeowners are rolling up their sleeves to do the improvements themselves.



Protect your home renovation investments. STOCK PHOTO

And the trend doesn't seem to be slowing down. In fact, the Leading Indicator of Remodeling Activity projects the remodeling industry will be even stronger in 2021, up 3.8% compared to 2020. During the pandemic, homeowners have fixed up or added on decks, updated landscaping and installed new roofs, among other projects. According to HomeAdvisor's latest annual State of Home Spending report, the number one completed project was interior painting – 35% of households painted in 2020, making a visual impact with a low investment.

What's on your to-do list? If you're considering an upgrade but not sure where to start, check out the results of a

national survey by Erie Insurance, conducted prior to the pandemic, which revealed what homeowners don't have, but wish they did. Here are the top five:

1. Walk-in pantry: This topped the list with just under a third of respondents (30%) saying they wish they had one. Kitchen renovations are typically on wish lists, and Houzz reported that demand for kitchen remodelers was up 40% in June 2020 compared to the year prior.
2. Granite countertops: 17.8%
3. Kitchen island: 16.8%
4. Tankless water heater: 16.4%
5. Finished basement: 16.2%

Regardless of the new features or upgrades you choose,

it's important to let your insurance agent know so you can make sure you have enough homeowners insurance coverage.

Consider expanding your coverage beyond the standard homeowners policy with endorsements – like equipment breakdown to cover that new

tankless water heater. Some can also cover stolen or misplaced jewelry, sewer or drain backups, cyber-crimes, identity theft, and underground service lines. Adding these extra coverages to your home policy can provide you with the comfort knowing all the extra work you put into sprucing up your home will be protected.

Making home updates can be as big or small an endeavor as you like. If you do take the plunge, be sure you protect your investment.

Learn how to prune fruit trees, shrubs, and vines

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Windham and Windsor County chapters of University of Vermont Extension Master Gardeners will host a free Zoom presentation Saturday, April 24, from 9-10:30 a.m., on pruning fruiting plants.

Lee Reich, a horticultural consultant and writer, will describe correct and timely pruning methods for apples, peaches, grapes, blueberries, and other fruiting plants to keep them healthy, productive, and bearing the tastiest fruits. He also will demonstrate how to restore a neglected plant through proper pruning.

The session is being offered in collaboration with the Rockingham Free Public Library. It is open to all interested gardeners or homeowners in Vermont and neighboring states. To register, go to www.go.uvm.edu/fruit-plant-pruning.

Reich, who calls himself as an avid "farmdener" – more than a gardener, less than a farmer – is the author of several books, includ-



Prune your trees and shrubs. STOCK PHOTO

and "Landscaping with Fruit," among others. He writes a biweekly syndicated gardening column for the Associated Press and for a number of national gardening magazines.

His "farmden" in New Paltz, N.Y., has been featured in Martha Stewart Living and other national publications and has been included in The Garden Conservancy tours. It also has earned awards from both National Gardening Magazine and Organic Gardening.

For more information or to request a disability-related accommodation, contact Cindy Heath at 603-543-1307 or cindy.heath@uvm.edu.

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Vermont Forward Plan outlines phased reopening travel, gatherings

MONTPELIER, Vt. – At the Tuesday, April 6 press briefing, Gov. Phil Scott and other officials outlined the state's stepped plan to methodically and safely ease mitigation measures as more Vermonters are vaccinated.

"We're in the last laps of this race and this plan shows how we can finish strong if we all do our part," said Gov. Scott. "We need Vermonters to look at this roadmap and recommit to following the guidance so we can finish this pandemic with the fewest lives lost; with our kids back in school before the school year ends; and take every one of the steps forward on the timeline. I'm personally asking all of you to do your part. Please, we need your help today as much as we did last year at this time."

The Vermont Forward Plan uses vaccination rates as the key milestones for transitioning Vermont businesses to more general, universal guidance to prevent the spread of Covid-19; modifying travel guidance; and when gathering size can increase between now and July 4.

Universal guidance also transitions away from sector-specific measures, and towards general mitigation measures across most sectors. Some sectors, like healthcare and education, will retain individual guidance. Sectors have been

placed into two groups:

- Group A: Low contact, short duration, outdoor and controlled environment
- Group B: Long duration or close contact environments

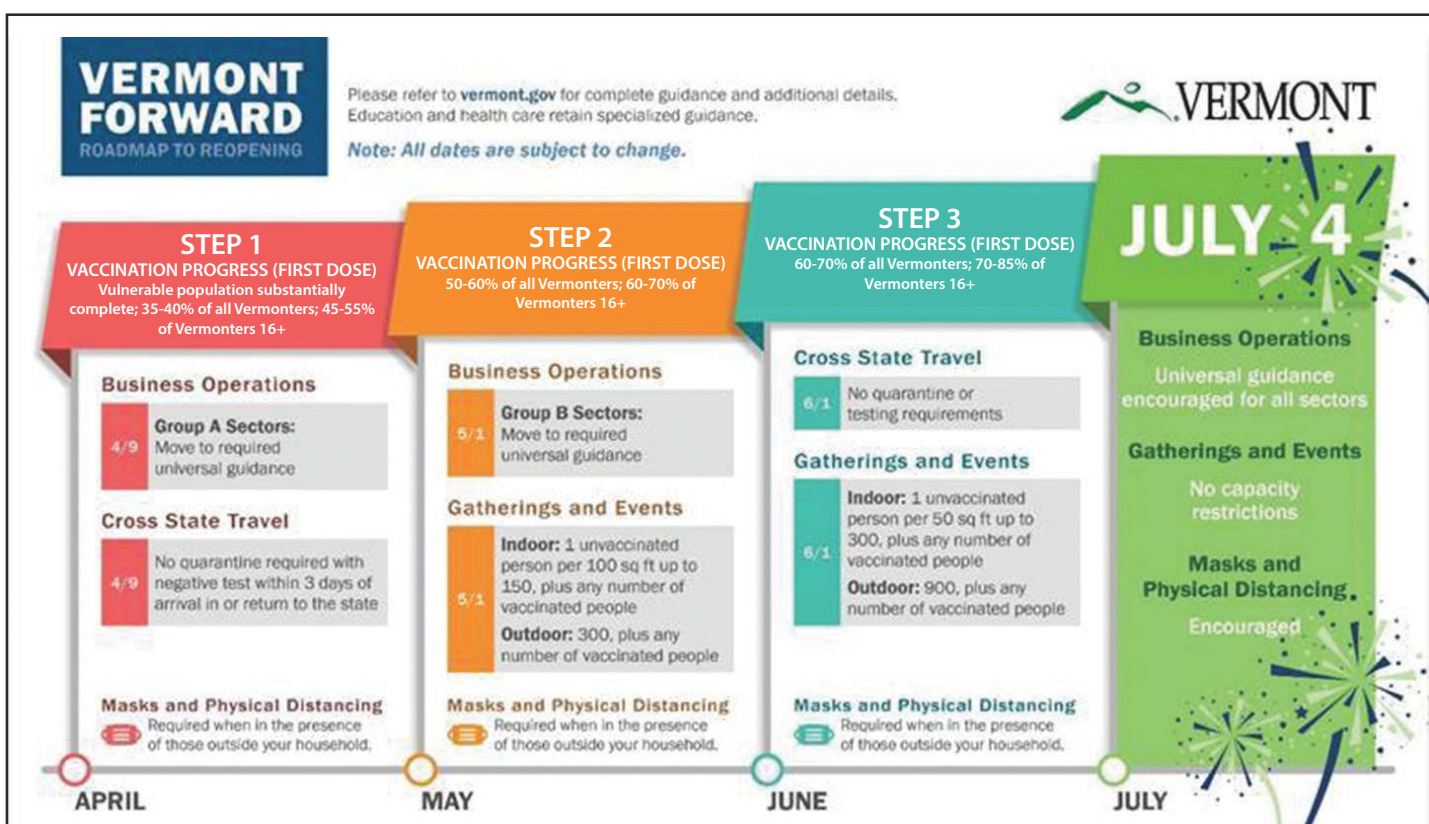
Vermont Forward Plan steps

Step 1 begins when approximately 45-55% of Vermonters 16 and older have received at least their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. As of April 9, Group A sectors moved to universal guidance. No quarantine is required for unvaccinated visitors to Vermont with a negative test within three days prior to arrival. Unvaccinated Vermonters who have traveled across state lines must be tested within three days upon return to the state.

Masks and physical distancing is required when in the presence of those outside your household.

Step 2 starts when approximately 60-70% of Vermonters 16 and older have received their first dose of the vaccine. As of May 1, Group B sectors will move to required universal guidance.

Gatherings and events may be held indoors with one unvaccinated person per 100 square feet for up to 150 people as well as any number of vaccinated people. Outdoor events may host 300 unvaccinated people plus any number of vaccinated people. Masking and physical distancing is still required.



Phased reopening plan.

Step 3 begins when 70-85% of Vermonters 16 and older have received at least their first dose of the vaccine. As of June 1, no quarantine or testing will be required for cross state travel.

Gatherings and events held

indoors may have one vaccinated person per 50 square feet for up to 300 people, plus any number of vaccinated people. Outdoor events may host up to 900 unvaccinated people plus any number of vaccinated people. Masking and physical

distancing is still required.

By July 4, the state projects that universal guidance will be encouraged for all sectors and there will be no capacity restrictions for gatherings and events. Masking and physical distancing will be encouraged.

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development will lay out full guidance as each step forward is taken. All guidance updates will now be made available in a central location at www.vermont.gov/vermont-forward.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Agency of Transportation announces restart of Amtrak and inter-city transit service

BARRE, Vt. – The Vermont Agency of Transportation announced that Amtrak passenger rail service and inter-city bus service in Vermont will resume effective July 19, 2021.

"We are very pleased to announce the restart of these vital transportation services for Vermonters and those who wish to travel to and from Vermont by train or bus," said Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn. "With the governor's announcement this week of the Vermont Forward Plan to reopen Vermont fully during the next few months, we now have a target date for when we will be able to safely resume Amtrak and transit services in July."

Amtrak service in Vermont was suspended March 26, 2020,

due to the Covid-19 State of Emergency. Gov. Phil Scott's phased reopening plan is based on the state's projected vaccination rate. Current projections indicate that 60%-70% of all Vermonters will be vaccinated by early June, making a full reopening possible by July 4 if the vaccination rate continues as expected.

Amtrak requires at least 90-day notice from the state to resume its passenger rail service. Amtrak personnel must complete route certification to prepare for the resumption of service.

Two Amtrak lines serve Vermont. The Vermonter originates in Washington, D.C., travels through Connecticut and Massachusetts, and has

Vermont stops in Brattleboro, Bellows Falls, Windsor, White River Junction, Randolph, Montpelier, Waterbury, Essex Junction, and St. Albans. The Ethan Allen Express originates in New York City and makes stops in Castleton and Rutland. The agency is working to extend the service to Burlington beginning in 2022 and including stops in Middlebury and Vergennes.

Agency-supported intercity transit is provided by two bus

lines. VT Translines serves areas from Colchester, Vt., to Albany, N.Y., including U.S. Route 7 communities in between, and also provides the Amtrak Vermont Shires Connector bus service from Manchester through Bennington to Albany, N.Y. Greyhound normally runs from Montreal to Springfield, Mass. As long as the Canadian border remains closed, Greyhound's northerly service termination destination will be Burlington.

Know Your Rights! Fair Housing, Tenant webinar

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Monday, April 26 at 11 a.m., join the Springfield Town Library for an online webinar "Know Your Rights! Fair Housing & Tenant Skills."

Join Wendy Rowe and Corrine Yonce of Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity's Housing Advocacy Programs for an engaging workshop on fair housing and renting in Vermont. This workshop covers the fundamentals of tenant rights and responsibilities, leases, security deposits, repairs, health code, terminations, and evictions, and also the history of the Fair Housing Act and resulting protections under federal and Vermont law,

how and when fair housing law applies, reasonable accommodations and modifications for people with disabilities, and what to do if you experience discrimination. This session is held via Zoom with lots of time for Q&A.

This event is sponsored by Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity and Springfield Town Library. Sign up is required at www.eventbrite.com/e/know-your-rights-fair-housing-tenant-skills-webinar-tickets-148236175391.

This event is free and open to the public. Contact Tracey at stlvtprograms@gmail.com or 802-885-3108 with any questions.

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