

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE

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Thank you for your kindness



Connor Michael Menning
5/31/1995-1/18/2011

The family of Connor Menning thanks the many individuals and families who have extended their support and generosity. More importantly, we are grateful that so many others knew and appreciated Connor and will share memories of his life. Those who wish may contribute to a lacrosse scholarship fund which has been set up by his classmates via the Connor Menning Fund, TD BankNorth, P.O. Box 670, Richmond, VT 05477, or at any TD BankNorth location.

Bolton proposes budget hikes for town and school

By Phyl Newbeck
Special to the Mountain Gazette
Bolton Town Budget

Last year the voters of Bolton authorized a major project on the Bolton Notch Road. As a result, the Bolton budget is up 3.9% this year. "We held the line as best we could," said Select Board Chair R.J. Vallie. Unfortunately, the bond repayment schedule means the town was unable to keep the budget level for the upcoming fiscal year. In electoral news, M. Peter Siegel is challenging Gene Armstrong for a three-year seat on the Select Board and Thomas May is challenging David Parot for a two-year seat.

Vallie isn't happy with the \$744,000 budget figure. "We would like to be doing more," he said, "but we don't want to put the financial burden on the taxpayers. We tried to keep it as low as possible but we had no flexibility on the bond repayment." Because of the repayment, the Select Board was forced to cut the highway budget by 5.6% and was unable to hire a third full-time employee. "We have concerns," said Vallie, "about the long term implications of not having extra hands to get the work done. It's hard to juggle the demands of the public when you have only two full-time staffers." Bolton does use a part-time employee to help out with plowing and other road chores. At roughly \$31,000, the highway budget is significantly less than the \$60,000 to \$80,000 of previous years. Vallie worries about the consequences of reducing money for things like road paving. "We have to be realistic," he said, "regarding what the voters and budget can sustain."

One area of budget increase is the fire department; up approximately 3%, driven mostly by the cost of heating the building. "The structure is in very poor condition," said Vallie, "and we're concerned about the heating costs which are in the \$6,000 to \$8,000 range." An ad hoc committee has been formed to work with the fire chief to come up with options. The first meeting took place on January 31 and the next one will be scheduled in February. The Select Board hopes the committee will come up with some ideas for future funding which might increase the building's energy efficiency.

For the second year in a row, employee salaries have been frozen. In an attempt to hold the line on health care costs, the town has again changed health insurance policies. Last year they saved money by switching to a higher deductible policy with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, but VLCT raised their rates by almost 18% so the town shopped around and found a similar policy with Blue Cross. Last year, the VLCT policy kept costs down but Vallie fears that Blue Cross' rates will also rise in the next year. "We've been very successful at having our employees be patient during the change," he said, "and it's functioning well."

2010 was a busy year in Bolton. Vallie is pleased with the results
Bolton continued on page 11

Proposed budget changes Westford Town up 6%; schools down 3%

By Phyl Newbeck
Special to the Mountain Gazette
Westford Town Budget

The Westford town budget is up by 6% but Select Board Chair Dave Tilton is optimistic that it will pass. The largest line in the \$1,492,000 budget is for road and town garage operations, coming in at \$624,000. A grant of \$95,000 is expected to help by covering the cost of replacing a culvert on Huntley Road. Last year the grant was not funded, but Tilton hopes the state recognizes that the need is even more urgent now. Without grant monies, the culvert will have to wait another year. Subtracting the grant money and carry-over funds from last year, \$1,084,000 will have to be raised via property taxes if the budget is approved.

Town administrative and planning functions account for \$381,000 of the budget, while solid waste and recycling services will cost \$193,000. Another \$121,000 is set aside for emergency and law enforcement services. One area of increase in the town budget is the cost of health insurance for town employees, up almost 18% from last year. In addition, most town employees received a 2% raise. One new expense is \$10,000 for a fresh coat of paint for the Westford Library.

Separate from the Town budget will be two Australian ballot articles for Town Meeting which were recommended by the Westford Road Committee. The first is to increase the Town road gravel budget by \$20,000, and the second is a request to add \$15,000 to the equipment reserve fund. "We have good dirt roads in Westford," said Tilton, "but we need to put more money into them." Tilton pointed out the need for additional gravel, signage and equipment. The gravel budget has stayed level for many years but Tilton said the quality of the gravel the town receives has decreased. He is also hopeful the equipment reserve fund expenditure will pass, allowing the town to save money by not having to borrow for future road equipment purchases. "One of the things we're struggling with," he said, "is projecting out those big ticket items and trying to be true to funding a capital budget that will let us purchase those items without a major bump in the tax rate." Tilton has decided not to seek reelection. His seat is the subject of a two-way race between Ira Allen and Alex Weinhagen. Richard Mathieu submitted a petition but dropped out of the race.

Jericho school, town boards hold the line on spending

By Ted Tedford
Special to the Mountain Gazette

Jericho voters will see a slight decrease in their school budget and a moderate increase in their town budget when they go to Town Meeting Tuesday March 1.

The proposed school budget of \$3.68 million shows a \$41,160 decrease or -1.1 percent from the present \$3.72 million budget.

The \$3.07 million town budget shows a \$556,000 decrease in the bottom line from this year's \$3.63 million budget, but the amount to be raised by taxes will increase by \$69,538 or 2.87 percent over this year's budget.

If voters approve both budgets figures supplied by the school board and Selectboard show the estimated combined school and town homestead tax rate would be \$1.76 per \$100 assessed value. For a home assessed at \$300,000, the tax would be \$5,280.

"One of the major factors in our budget going forward was paying off the 20-year bond for the 1990 addition (to the elementary school)," said Karen Glitman, chairwoman of the School Board. But the board seeks \$575,000 for a new roof over the addition next year and upgrade of the heating and air conditioning system in the original building. Voters will decide the bond issue by Australian ballot.

Glitman said during several board meetings this year, discussions centered on keeping this and future budgets down. The student population this school year stands at 237, down slightly from previous years. That means the town gets fewer dollars in state aid to education, she said.

"We don't know what is going to happen with state aid next year," Glitman said. "We didn't want to put our next school board in a position of being punished by two dramatic increases."

The large reduction in the Town budget from this year's \$3.63 million budget to the proposed \$3.07 million for next year is caused mainly by \$700,000 in grants for streetscape work and sidewalks along Route 15 being no longer budgeted because the work is nearly finished, according to Town Administrator Todd Odit. The budget shows nearly \$75,000 for new sidewalks from Palmer Lane to the Underhill town line.

Causing the tax increase is higher funding — \$50,000, for town road improvements, \$4,048 more for the town's share of supporting the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, and an \$11,126 increase in the Jericho Underhill Fire Department budget.

These increases would mean a one-cent increase in the homestead tax rate from 45 cents to 46 cents.

"I am pleased with the budget and the Selectboard is pleased with it," Odit said. "It provides more funds for highways which
Jericho continued on page 9

Another Australian ballot item will ask the Town whether they wish to authorize the Select Board to use \$140,000 from the sale of town-owned real estate to purchase an ownership interest in the Spiller Property on the Town Common from the Westford Historical Society. A follow-up item asks residents to authorize the Town to borrow money should the sale fail to raise sufficient funds. The February 17 issue of the Mountain Gazette will have more information on this proposed sale.

Even though the budget is going up, Tilton is hopeful Westford voters will recognize the need for the additional funds. "It's a nuts and bolts budget," he said. "There's no intrigue here."

Westford School

Last year wasn't a pretty one for the Westford School Board. Although the first budget proposed was approved by the voters, a recall vote subsequently challenged it and a second budget was also defeated before a third draft finally passed. This year, the Board is proposing a budget of \$5,002,758 which is a 3% decrease from last year. School Board Chair Martha Heath noted that the budget exceeds the Challenges for Change target set by the state by almost \$30,000. Andre Roy is running for reelection for a three year term on the School Board and David Brisson and Mark Drapa are vying for the two year term left open by Jennifer Townsend who is not seeking reelection.

The only section of the budget to show a significant increase is salaries and benefits, up by \$48,000. A large portion of this increase (\$10,000) comes from health insurance costs which rose 3%. There is also an increase of \$4,610 for student activities with the cost driven, in part, by the need to replace uniforms for the athletic teams. An additional \$900, funded by Medicaid, will go towards providing social worker support for the guidance department and another \$400 increase will go towards replacing books in the library.

In every other area of the budget, the numbers have decreased. A significant drop is in tuition for the high school and technical school where numbers are expected to be down by 13 students. For similar reasons, there is a decrease in the special education budget. A drop in the speech and language department, however, is attributable to a move of most of those services into the special education budget. \$10,000 will be saved by deferring two planned maintenance projects

Westford continued on page 12

Community comes to aid of Jericho fire victims

By Richard Mindell
Special to the Mountain Gazette

The shock of returning home from a pleasant evening out and finding your home fully engulfed in flames is hard enough to comprehend, but the immediate aftereffects, the realization that you've lost everything in your home, your furniture, your clothing, your precious belongings, keepsakes and treasures, not to mention things like your computer, with everything you rely on the hard drive, as well as all of your current and past personal financial records, receipts, tax returns, warranties and everything else people keep in their file cabinets or desk drawers, can be even more devastating. And the loss of a beloved pet can trump all of that.

So it was for Dick and Elaine Fisher who lost their home at 10 Griswold St., in Jericho, to a terrible fire Monday evening, January 17. The blaze destroyed the entire structure, including the entirety of its contents.

The Jericho Underhill Volunteer Fire Department received the emergency call from neighbors Glen and Joanne Carter just after 5:00 P.M. Within minutes firefighters were on the scene only to find the fire so far advanced and the conditions so difficult there was little they could do to save the home, despite their valiant efforts. Firefighters battled sub-freezing temperatures and frozen hydrants in addition to the blaze for several hours before bringing the fire under control. Several firefighters remained on the scene well into the night to make sure everything was safe and to help the Fishers in any way they could.

With nowhere to go and nothing left but the clothes on their backs, Dick and Elaine Fisher faced an uncertain future. Fortunately their friends and neighbors and members of the community, like the Carters, who have lived across the street from the Fishers for nine years, as well as people who the Fishers didn't even know came to the rescue.

"There aren't words to describe it," Dick Fisher said. "Elaine and I are overwhelmed by the community response."

The Carters offered them a place to stay Monday night and Tuesday night until the insurance company could make arrangements for them at a local hotel. The Fishers ultimately moved into a suite at hotel in Williston.

Right after the fire neighbors started showing up with bags of groceries, paper goods, "necessities you wouldn't ordinarily think of," Dick Fisher said, like tooth brushes and other toiletries. One neighbor offered to put a storage trailer in their front yard so the Fishers could sort out what they could salvage from what was left of the house and have a safe place to keep it until their home could be rebuilt. Unfortunately, there wasn't much to salvage.

"You can't imagine what it's like to walk into your home and
Fisher continued on page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

UNDERHILL JERICHO FIRE DEPARTMENT

By Kitty Clark

EMERGENCY CALLS:

January 13, 11:07 AM - EMS
 January 14, 9:18 AM - Jericho Elementary School, 90 VT RT 15, Jericho, Activated fire alarm
 January 14, 9:25 AM - 444 Irish Settlement, Underhill, for a one vehicle into a tree
 January 15, 6:20 AM - Assist Essex Rescue with a lift assist
 January 16, 9:13 AM - 974 VT RT 15, Westford for a one vehicle roll over
 January 17, 5:18 PM - Structure fire at 10 Griswold Street, Jericho
 January 18, 8:00 AM - EMS
 January 18, 8:09 AM - EMS
 January 19, 7:27 AM - 429 VT RT 15 for the smell of propane
 January 19, 7:42 AM - 389 Browns Trace for the smell of propane
 January 19, 7:43 AM - 12 Pleasant Valley Road, Underhill Center for an electrical problem
 January 19, 12:20 PM - Silent Alarm for a car into the ditch on Barber Farm Rd., Jericho
 January 19, 12:37 PM - Sq51 checked on another vehicle in the ditch Barber Farm and 117, Jericho
 January 19, 4:30 PM - 245 Plains Road, Jericho for a log truck on its side in ditch
 January 20, 8:11 PM - 953 VT RT 15, Westford for a carbon monoxide alarm
 January 21, 10:36 AM - EMS
 January 21, 3:58 PM - Two vehicle head on accident, near 275 VT RT 15, Jericho
 January 23, 10:59 PM - Activated fire alarm, St. Thomas Church, Underhill Center
 January 24, 9:23 AM - Two vehicle accident near the Jolley Store, Jericho
 January 26, 10:05 AM - Activated fire alarm, Jericho Elementary School, Jericho
 January 26, 13:45 PM - EMS
 January 26, 8:07 PM - 30 Skyview Drive, Jericho, chimney problem
 Tuesday January 18 - a business meeting was held which included elections to committees.

Tuesday January 25, Kitty and Cal of the fire prevention committee had the pleasure of having four Cub Scouts, with their leader Patrick Wilder and two parents visit the fire station and they each had five questions to ask us. They were very good questions, we reminded them of the importance of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and having a fire escape plan in place. Cal showed them the fire trucks and the explained what each is used for. We were very pleased to have Taylor, Colton, Andrew and Sam visit us, very well behaved young boys. At 7:00 PM a meeting was held with an annual review of "Infectious Diseases", Driving with due Regard" and "Sexual Harassment Policy".

Safety reminder: Big fires start small! That cozy fire in the fireplace or woodstove can spell disaster if proper precautions are not taken. Do not let your dreams go up in smoke. Also, remember if you have any kind of an emergency, do not hesitate, call "911".

POLICE REPORT

On January 24, 2011 at approximately 8:15 PM, the Williston Police Department received a complaint of an erratic operator on Route 2A in the Town of Williston. Police responded to the area and eventually located the vehicle in question. During the Officer's investigation, they identified the operator as **Paul A. MacCluskey**, 47, of Jericho, VT, and determined he was intoxicated. MacCluskey was subsequently arrested for suspicion of Driving under the Influence #3. During processing, MacCluskey's Blood Alcohol level was found to be .138%. MacCluskey was lodged at the Chittenden County Correctional Center for lack of \$1500.00 bail.

On December 31, 2010 at approximately 3:34 AM hours the Steeple's Market in Fairfax, VT was burglarized. After an extensive investigation with collaboration between the Vermont State Police in St. Albans and Williston and the Essex Police Department, one of the offenders in this case was identified as 35-year-old **Shane Woodard**, Jericho, VT. On January 22, 2011 after a two-week manhunt, Woodard was arrested in Chittenden County by Troopers assigned to the Williston Barracks. During the subsequent processing, Woodard - a self-identified crack-cocaine addict - admitted to his role in the Steeples Market Burglary. Woodard further admitted his role in the perpetration of several other commercial burglaries in northern Chittenden County. Woodard was ultimately transported to the Chittenden County Correctional Facility where he was lodged for lack of \$25,000 bail.

Woodard appeared in Franklin County District Court on January 24, 2011 at 1:00 PM to answer the charge of Burglary. Hehe plead not guilty. Case # 10A205834

Naomi Shaw – Making the world better, one volunteer hour at a time

By Phyl Newbeck

Special to the Mountain Gazette

Naomi Shaw of Westford has received plenty of acclaim for her professional life. She has been profiled in *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the East*, *Who's Who in American Women*, and *Who's Who in Business and Finance*. This year she will be included in an additional biographical directory created by the publisher of the *Who's Who* series. But when you talk to Shaw you realize that what really moves her is not in the professional realm; rather, Shaw is passionate about the volunteer work she does within her community and well beyond.

During the day, Shaw is an independent consultant, working mostly on management and risk assessment issues. It's in between those billable hours that she has really made her mark. Shaw can't pinpoint how old she was when she started volunteering, but believes it may date back to her days as a Brownie. "I remember visiting nursing homes and sewing bibs and making blankets for children's hospitals," she said. "I could see what just a little bit of work could do for people." The volunteer work continued with the Girl Scouts and 4H, and soon Shaw was recruiting friends who weren't involved in those organizations to help out. Her first Girl Scout Merit Badges were in hospitality and community service. Family members were skeptical, wondering why she couldn't pick more traditional fields like sports or art, but she remembers that her grandfather appreciated and supported her choices.

Last year was a busy one for Shaw. She travelled to Nashville for disaster relief work with trips to Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana, as well. Shaw is very matter of fact about how the Nashville trip started. "I got a phone call from a friend in Tennessee who said they were getting a lot of rain," she said "so I got on flight and went down there." Shaw noted that there were a number of organizations involved in helping out including Hands on Nashville and the Salvation Army. "I've done a lot of disaster work," she said "including hurricanes, typhoons and earthquakes but flooding is amazing because it really does kill your water supply. There's all this water around but you can't drink it, you can't use it, and it's filled with disease and bacteria."

Born in Vermont, Shaw moved so often that she has lost track of all the places where she has lived. When she was in third grade she attended thirteen different schools. Although Shaw didn't appreciate it at the time, she now recognizes that all that travel broadened her vision of the world. She has visited all 50 states and 56 different countries. "As long as there is one place you can call home," she said, "it doesn't matter how much you travel. For me, that place has always been Vermont."

Shaw started doing disaster relief work early in life; during the summer between high school and college she worked on a native encampment in Central America putting in fresh water lines for a school and an orphanage. When she flew down, her hair was long

enough that she could sit on it, but she returned with hair that stopped at her ears since there was no way to keep it clean in such an environment. Nevertheless, the volunteering bug had bitten her and a forced new hair style wasn't enough to get her to quit. Over the years, Shaw has offered her services to disaster victims including those affected by Hurricanes Andrew and Ike, the San Francisco Bay Area earthquake, the tsunami in Sri Lanka, Typhoon Roy, the earthquake in Hanshin, China, and the Gulf Coast oil spill.

Not all of her volunteer work involves filth and muck. Shaw speaks four languages fluently, although she said her written work is better than her speech. Thanks to her multilingual talents, she has done a good deal of translation work. It started years ago with a brochure for students in Snoquamish, Washington, continued in Mozambique and last year led her to do work for the Executive Committee of the United Nations International Human Rights Conference. Shaw didn't think she had time for that project but was attracted to the idea of working in the human rights field. Over the last fifteen years, she has been drawn to efforts involving human rights with particular emphasis on stopping human trafficking. One organization to which she has devoted significant time and energy is the Polaris Project. "People think of drugs and guns and there's plenty of that," she said, "but the human element of smuggling is far worse. What's going on is abominable; people are being mistreated and tortured."

Shaw cited George W. and George H. W. Bush with having said that everyone has at least 600 hours to give to community service. She defines community service as broadly as working on a local school board to finding time to walk or run for charity or the disaster relief work that she has done. "If you live to be 70," she said, "you've got 40 to 50 years to find those hours. It may not seem like a lot of time but if everybody did that there would be more changes in our communities, in our schools and even in our government."

Shaw knows a bit about government. She has met every man who served as President since her birth with the exception of Clinton and the latter was only missed because she couldn't attend the White House ceremony due to an emergency. A commissioned officer in the Vermont State Guard, she has also volunteered over 17,000 hours to the armed forces.

Shaw has put in her 600 hours many, many, many times over. She chuckles over the phone call she received a few years ago from the Chittenden County United Way telling her that she had put in too many hours. "I told them to stop keeping track," she said. Shaw would like to see people focus their volunteer efforts on prevention, noting that many efforts including disaster relief work occur after the fact. "So much more time, energy, money and resources are needed to fix things after they have broken," she said. "That's why human rights issues are a little more in tune with my beliefs, because I'm trying to prevent something from occurring." However, Shaw stresses that people should find their own niche. "I'd like to encourage people to get involved in anything they can," said Shaw.

See www.unitedwaycc.org for local volunteer options and www.volunteermatch.org for global opportunities.

COLLEGE NOTES

Underhill, VT native **Elissa Roberts'** design work will be featured on an upcoming book series from the Ohio University Press (OUP). Roberts designed book covers that have been selected for books in OUP's Series in Continental Thought. Introduced to Roberts and her classmates as an assignment in a Layout and Design course, the task became a contest to come up with the look for the series, which publishes philosophical inspiration by 20th and 21st century European thought. Also, the Columbus (OH) Dispatch recently selected Roberts' Oscar-themed page layout and story for publication. The Athens NEWS also chose Roberts' cover design for an upcoming section on healthy sleep habits.

Maura Spillane, class of 2013 at Connecticut College and a resident of Jericho, VT, has been named to the Dean's Honors list for the 2010 fall semester.

Emily Lindberg, a Childhood/Early Child Ed major from Jericho, VT, was named to the Dean's List by SUNY Potsdam.

Jenna Marie Heath of Jericho, VT was named to the Becker College Dean's List for fall 2010.

Springfield College has named **Jevin Carruth** of Underhill, VT, to the dean's list for academic excellence for the fall 2010 term. Carruth is a fourth-year student whose major field of study is biology.

Jackson K. Penfield-Cyr, of Underhill, VT, is participating in St. Lawrence University's International Study Program for the spring 2011 semester. Penfield-Cyr, a Junior at St. Lawrence, is studying in Denmark. Cross-Country and Track are among the activities that Penfield-Cyr has participated in on campus. He is majoring in Government and Sociology. Penfield-Cyr graduated from Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho, VT.

The fall semester Dean's List at Bryant University includes the following area resident: **Erin Wry**, a Senior, Communication, of

Underhill, VT.

Erin S. Fick of Westford, VT, a sophomore Nutrition and Dietetics major, has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at Samford University. Fick is the daughter of Jonathan Fick.

The following local residents earned bachelor's degrees from Saint Michael's College, a liberal arts residential Catholic college located in the Burlington area of Vermont, in December 2010: **Kaitlyn Joyce Begins**, daughter of Daniel Begins of Richmond, VT and **Krista Begins** of Jericho, VT earned a Bachelor of Science degree magna cum laude in Biology; **Laura Mae Sprogis**, daughter of Debra and Edmund Sprogis of Underhill, VT, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology.

The following area residents were named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2010 semester at Quinnipiac University: **Kathryn Bloch** of Jericho, VT and **Jessica Savage** of Jeffersonville, VT.

Madeline E. Boushie of Jericho, VT, has been named to the Dean's List at Western New England College for the fall semester of 2010. Boushie is a Sophomore majoring in Marketing Communication/Advertising at the College.

The following area residents have been named to the 2010 Fall Champlain College Honors list. They are: **Joseph Telensky**, of Jericho, VT is on the Dean's list. Telensky is majoring in Computer Networking and Information Security; **Derek Izor**, of Waterbury, VT is on the Dean's list. Izor is majoring in Web Development and Design; **Emily Danaher**, of Underhill, VT is on the Dean's list. Danaher is majoring in Criminal Justice; **Caitlin Ackerman**, of Jericho, VT is on the Dean's list. Ackerman is majoring in Early Childhood/Elementary Education; **Jodi Fontaine**, of Cambridge, VT is on the Dean's list. Fontaine is majoring in Social Work and Human Services; **Sophy Walsh**, of Underhill, VT is on the Dean's list. Walsh is majoring in Graphic Design and Digital Media; **Casey Hanlon**, of Westford, VT is on the Dean's list. Hanlon is majoring in Accounting.

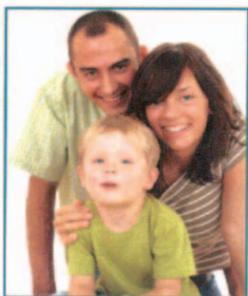
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COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Egypt

By Suzanne Kusserow
Special to the Mountain Gazette

Camels are interesting animals. I guess that is the politest way of putting it. If elephants and giraffes are put together by a committee, then camels are the House and Senate version of incompatibility. This one sits in the sand, with wrinkled knobs of knees splayed underneath a lumpy body. A long neck angles out of sloping shoulders, and at the end of this long neck, is an expression that can only be described as disparaging. I know that to anthropomorphize is dangerous; how can a human emotion be applied in a situation which is without verification? But I am absolutely certain that this camel doesn't like me, that she thinks I am rather worthless, and furthermore that I look rather heavy, and she has had enough of toting tourists around for the day. Her feet/hoooves/pads are absolutely perfect for what she is asked to do, and where she is most comfortable: mile after mile of orange sand, with nary a withered blade of grass to give any source of life. If you could find one of the Three Stooges, and kindly ask him to plop each foot into a filled pie tin, then that combination would be the shape of the camel's hoooves....a veritable sand-shoe. As the arctic hare has wide snow-board hind feet for holding him up through the deep snow, so the camel can trot miles in the sand. Well, perhaps trot isn't the best word. When a camel walks, it is closer to a jolting waltz.....somewhat like a rock and roll band playing Strauss, on board a small ship riding out a storm. The camel can also shut off her nostrils, in case of a bad sandstorm; she also has a double-thick set of eyelashes, and ears that close, when threatened by sand, or a screaming tourist.

Getting on a camel is not the easiest thing. The saddle is a series of blankets that surround the hump, so it is hard to tell where, exactly, you are sitting. But it seems quite low and easy to mount and up you go. Before you are well situated, the camel decides to rise, heaving its backside up first, so most tourists scream that they are going to fall off (the camel drivers are most amused by this; I am sure a secret command was prematurely given to our steeds) and then abruptly reversing your pitch forward, by bringing its skinny forelegs into a standing position. This is the time to leave, tell your guide that you want your money back before the creature spits at you. But Maudie, my granddaughter whose friendship made this a fun trip for me, has not been particularly enthused about whose dynasty was in power when the third pyramid was built, or the religious symbolism of the ankh, etc. but she has always wanted to ride a camel. Off we go, the driver holding onto the strings and colored ribbons and rotten pieces of rope that make up the halter. The streets and alleys are fairly clean, and full of young children, bouncing around a soccer ball, made of tightly packed old newspapers. Chickens make little effort to get out of my camel's way, but the status of chickens is so low that nobody cares if a camel's hoof kicks a few. We follow a canal of dirty water that ultimately came from the mighty Nile, but looks unimposing here with garbage floating peacefully by, women washing clothes, and kids jumping in and out. Kids wave; the mothers look disapprovingly at women who can take the time to do foolish things like ride a camel. We end in a dusty garden beneath fig trees, where a pleasant young man, who is a local school teacher, serves tea. (We did dismount for the tea; I was then satisfied that this anticipated portion of our trip had been fulfilled.)

We saw all the expected sights: the pyramids, the Sphinx (why is one capitalized and not the other?), Aswan Dam, Valley of the Kings, Karnak, Luxor. I am glad to have seen it; I have been working on improving my record of countries' visited to keep up with my son-in-law, who can boast of 47 countries. But the emphasis on trying to preserve one's glory through larger and larger monuments, digging 500 feet into a crypt to find King Tut's golden headdress, the carving of a sandstone temple to one's favorite queen (she was number 2 out of 4), seems rather futile to me. There is a poem by Shelley, entitled "Ozymandias of Egypt" which was often assigned in high schools, due to its direct message:

"Two vast and trunkless legs of stone stand in the desert/
Near them, on the sand, half sunk, a shattered visage lies/
And on the pedestal, these words appear: "My name is Ozymandias,
King of kings; Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay of that colossal wreck,
boundless and bare, the long and level sands stretch far away.

The Mountain Gazette

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Letters: maximum 400 words;
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Must be signed for attribution,
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The baby bottle battle

By Dr. Lewis First
First with Kids

Parents have been asking me a mouthful of questions about when and how they can wean their child from a bottle. Well, let me see if I can suck-up some of those concerns and provide some information on this topic.

When a baby is a year old, they usually have the dexterity and coordination to hold a cup and drink from it, which makes this a good time for a transition. If you are still breastfeeding, this does not mean you should stop but begin to offer other liquids like water in a cup. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends weaning all bottle-fed infants completely by 15 months to prevent tooth decay that can be caused by too much contact with beverages that contain sugar like milk or juice - such as when and if your child falls asleep with a bottle in his or her mouth.

What's the best way to do this? Well, it's been found not to be a good idea to cut-off a child cold turkey. Instead, gradually eliminate bottles at mealtimes. If your older infant/toddler takes three bottles a day, start by removing the midday bottle and offer milk or water from a sippy cup that has a snap-on lid so there is less spilling. It's OK as you do this to tell your toddler that they're getting to be a big boy or girl and compliment them on using a cup like mommy or daddy. A few days or a week later eliminate the morning bottle.

The night time bottle is usually the one your baby associates with the bedtime comforting routine, so you may need to add a new healthy snack and perhaps a new stuffed animal for comfort purposes as the bottle goes away while you maintain the rest of your bedtime routine.

If your child does use the cup, praise them and even consider calling friends or relatives to let them know you have done this. If they still ask for a bottle, try to figure out if it's because they're hungry or thirsty, or if what they really need is to be comforted. They might simply be bored and want some attention, which need not be satisfied with a bottle.

Here are some other tricks from parents: Dilute the milk in the bottle with water to make it less and less flavorful and put the good tasting full strength milk into a cup. Wrap-up the bottles and give them to a new baby in the neighborhood in exchange for a gift from that family to your "big boy or girl" (but let the family getting the bottles know that's what you're doing so they're not surprised to get your bottle collection).

If none of these suggestions work, often seeing other children their age drinking from cups is all it takes for your child to realize this is the preferred behavior as they get older. Be reassured that you don't see kids in school drinking from baby bottles - although they do use water bottles.

Hopefully, tips like this will fill your cup with hope and bottle up your frustrations when it comes to getting your older infant and/or toddler to wean from a bottle to a cup.

Lewis First, M.D., is chief of Pediatrics at Vermont Children's Hospital at Fletcher Allen Health Care and chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Vermont College of Medicine

LIFE

When you think life
What is it you think?

- Happiness
- Pain
- Love
- Hope
- Sorrow

Every person has their own idea
Life is an emotional rollercoaster

Life is not always easy
Sometimes it's
Difficult like a Rubix cube

Or
Sad like a broken violin
Everything that has to do with
Life

Is different!
What do you think when you hear life?

When I think life
I think

Life is something to be fulfilled

Life is like bungee jumping you got to live on the edge
Life is your own

Live life the way you want it!
Life is your own!

LIFE

By Casey Munns, Jericho - 6 grade poet

COURT REPORT

December 15, 2010, **Matthew L. Godek**, 22, Jericho, VT, charged with DUI, first offense, in South Burlington, VT on October 9, 2010; pleaded guilty; fined \$300.

Fischer continued from page 1

everything looks like charcoal." Dick said.

One of the few things that the Fishers were able to recover was a photo album. Dick was confident at least some of the photos might be able to be saved. They also found the computer. A friend is attempting to recover data for the Fishers from the hard drive.

Monday night was particularly difficult for Dick and Eileen, but friends made sure they weren't alone. "They were devastated," Joanne Carter said. But friends, neighbors and fellow members of the Jericho Congregational Church, including Pastor Andersen, stayed to console them. Numerous people called to offer Dick and Eileen everything, "Anything," Glen Carter said. "Anything they needed."

"People they don't even know were stopping by the house to see if they could help them," Joanne Carter added. Many people dropped off bags of food and clothing, anonymously, without asking for thanks. Friends Bob Terranova and Joe Casilli provided clothing for Dick. Another friend brought over several bags of clothing for Eileen. "One person came over from Sunnyview with a couple of bags of groceries," Joanne Carter said. "I don't think they

Fisher continued on page 9

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The hours of operation for

Jerihill Home Center

were listed wrong.
The correct hours are

**Monday - Friday 7-6
Saturday 8-5 • Sunday 9-3**

The Mountain Gazette takes
full responsibility
for the error and apologizes
to the folks at Jerihill.

Corrected email address

**Nate Guay
Outdoor Services**

802-279-1367

email: snowguay@yahoo.com

Correction: Dave Eaton is no longer a
Justice of the Peace for Jericho.

COMING EVENTS

Friday February 4,
Community Fish Fry, VFW POST 6689, 73 Pearl St., Essex Jct., VT, 6:00 – 7:00 PM. Baked or fried haddock, mashed potatoes or fries, coleslaw and rolls. \$10 (children \$5). Sponsored by the Men's Aux. Post 6689 - 878-0700 for more info.

Saturday February 5
French Canadian Supper, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church Hall, Richmond, 5:00 PM. Pea soup, meat pie, mashed potatoes, dessert, beverages, etc. Free will donation to benefit the charities of Rosary Council of the Knights of Columbus. For info call 434-3060(evenings) or 434-2521(daytime)

Saturday and Sunday, February 5 and 6
University Mall's Indoor Winter Craft Fair - A small sampling of the region's talented artisans and over 35 local crafters. Saturday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Sunday 12:00 noon-6:00 PM. Free. For more information, call 863-1066 x11. 155 Dorset Street, South.

Sunday February 6
Community Breakfast, VFW POST 6689, 73 Pearl St., Essex Junction, 9:00 - 11:00 AM. Adults, \$7, Children, \$3. Sponsored by the Ladies Aux. Post 6689 - 878-0700 for more info.

Wednesday February 9
The Green Mountain Chapter of the Embroiders Guild will meet at 9:30 AM at the Pines Senior living community, 7 Aspen Dr, South Burlington. First meeting is complimentary. Contact number 879-0198.

Panel discussion, Why Fair Trade? at 5:00 PM, Saint Michael's

College, St. Edmund's Hall, Farrell Room (#315) on the political, economic, ethical and practical issues involved.

Thursday February 10
Omicron Delta Epsilon Lecture by Dr. Elliott Fisher nationally recognized researcher, speaking on "Achieving a Sustainable Health Care System" at 4:00 PM, Saint Michael's College, St. Edmund's Hall, Farrell Room (#315).

Friday February 11
Graphic Novel Readers and Creators, Phoenix Books and Café at Essex Shoppes and Cinema, 5:30 PM. Free. More info: www.phoenixbooks.biz or 872-7111

Saturday February 12
Valentine Dinner Dance, VFW Post 6689, 73 Pearl St., Essex Junction, prime rib dinner, dancing with DJ Becky. Cocktails 5:00-6:00 PM, dinner 6:00-7:00 PM, DJ Becky 7:00-10:00 PM. \$15/person. Tickets available at the VFW in Essex Junction – 878-0700 for more information.

Share the Love—Share the WARMTH - A Valentine's benefit for the WARMTH program, providing emergency heat assistance for low income Vermonters. Shelburne Vineyard, 6308 Shelburne Road, Shelburne. Wine Tasting requires a valid over-21 ID. For more information: www.shelburnevineyard.com.

Kids and family activity Horse Crazy, Phoenix Books & Café at Essex Shoppes & Cinema, 2:00 PM, ages 6-10 years old. Free. For more information: www.phoenixbooks.biz or 872-7111

Sunday February 13
Spaghetti Dinner - The Knights of Columbus Council #7810 of St. Thomas Church in Underhill Center, 5:00 PM in the church hall. \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 5 – 12 years old. Under 5 free. Takeout meals will be available.

February 14 - May 25
 Join the **100 Day Challenge**, a nutrition and fitness program with guaranteed results. Boot Camp training, Fairfax and personal nutritionist in-person and on-line. Receive discounts and prizes from local businesses and attend a celebration on the 100th day. Visit www.100dayvtchallenge.wordpress.com or call 802-888-6262 or 802-849-6621 to register today.

Tuesday February 15
 Saint Michael's College presents **Ron Roy**, Saint Michael's graduate of the class of 1975, reading from his first novel *Passing Time* at 12 noon in the St. Edmund's Hall, Farrell Room (#315).

Sunday, February 20
Community breakfast, VFW POST 6689, 73 Pearl St., Essex Junction, 9:00 - 11:00 AM. Steak and Egg special \$8; Traditional breakfast fare \$7; Children \$3. Sponsored by VFW Post 6689 and the Auxiliaries - 878-0700 for more information.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday February 25, 17 and 28
The annual MOVE Book Sale in the Alliot Student Center lobby. Books culled from the SMC Library and from students and professors—fiction, current events, and more. Sale to benefit MOVE (Mobilization of Volunteer Programs) service trips to Kolkata, India, and to the Dominican Republic. Friday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM; Saturday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM; and Sunday 10:00 AM -2:00 PM.

Friday February 25
 Saint Michael's College presents **Paige Rinker, Ph.D.** candidate, department of mathematics, Dartmouth College, speaking on "From Symmetry Comes Simplicity: Using Abstract Algebra to Simplify Analysis of Voting Data" at 3:45 PM in St. Edmunds Hall room 102.

ONGOING EVENTS

ADULT ACTIVITIES

Chittenden County Postage stamps and post card club meets every first Wed. of the month 6:15 -8:30 PM, A IDX Circle GE Healthcare Building. South Burlington Information e-mail: Laineyrapp@yahoo.com or call me at 802 660-4817

The **Essex Art League** holds monthly meetings at the First Congregational Church, 39 Main St., Essex Jct. For information, 862-3014.

Chittenden County Stamp Club, First Wednesday of the month 6:15-8:30 PM, GE Healthcare, 1 IDX Circle, South Burlington, VT. Everyone is welcome to come learn about stamp collecting, postage history, cachets, postcards and postage stamps or a variety of other knowledge. Lainey Rappaport (802) 660-4817.

Eagles Auxiliary #3210 holds bingo at the club house on Rt. 109 Friday nights. Doors open at 5:30 PM. Bingo starts at 7:00 PM. For more info contact Sally at 644-5377.

Handbell ringers, Tuesday evenings, United Church of Underhill. All are welcome at rehearsals. Two ensembles; opportunity for small groups/shorter time periods. We ring a variety of music in a variety of settings and look forward to new faces joining us. Beginners welcome! Call Roger, 899-3106, for information.

Mt. Mansfield Scale Modelers gather on the third Thursday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Modelers encompassing all categories of interest and skill levels are welcome. Brownell Library, Kolvoord Community Room, Lincoln Street, Essex Junction. Next meetings Thursday December 16, 2010; Thursday January 25, 2011; and Thursday February 24, 2011.

Recorder players come and get together for fun and free to play early music - baroque, dance, folk tunes on recorders. Group meets every Saturday 2:00 – 4:00 PM at Presto Music Store in the Blue Mall on Dorset Street in South Burlington, but also have interest in getting a group started in the Underhill area. Interested folks contact David at info@prestomusic.net or by phone at 802 658-0030.

Vermont French Canadian Genealogical Society is located in Fort Ethan Allen, Colchester. We can help you get started in finding your ancestors, even those that are not French Canadian. We have the complete Vermont Vital Records so you don't need to drive to Middlesex to access that information. Come see us on Tuesdays from 3:00 to 9:30 PM and Saturdays 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Parking and entrance on Hegeman Ave. across from the State Police. Please visit our website <http://www.vt-fcgs.org>, or call 802-238-5934 for more information.

The Green Mountain Chapter of the Embroiders Guild will meet on December 8 at 9:30 AM at the Pines Senior living community, 7 Aspen Dr, South Burlington. First meeting is complimentary. Contact number 879-0198.

HEALTH EVENTS & GROUPS

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, "Wing It" group meets Sundays - 11:00 AM at Maple Leaf Farm on Stevensville Road, Underhill - it's an Open Speaker meeting followed by a Brunch (there is a \$10 charge for the brunch)

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, "The Firing Line" group meets Wednesdays, 7:15 PM - 8:15 PM at Maple Leaf Farm on Stevensville Road, Underhill - it's an Open Step meeting

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, "The Firing Line" group meets

Saturdays, 8:00 – 9:00 PM at Maple Leaf Farm on Stevensville Road, Underhill - it's an Open Speaker Discussion meeting

Alzheimer's Support Group - Free educational support group series for families coping with a loved one with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. This series gives caregivers the opportunity to better understand and develop strategies for the future. Held monthly at The Arbors at Shelburne. For more information and to register, contact Nicole Houston, Director of Family Services, The Arbors at Shelburne, 985-8600.

Overeaters Anonymous meets 6:00 – 7:00 PM Wednesdays at the Jericho United Methodist Church, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. TOPS Chapter 145 Jeffersonville meets 6:15 PM on Thursdays at the Eagles Club, Route 109, Jeffersonville. Weigh-in 5:15– 6:00 PM.

Healing Circle Breast Cancer Network, support group for women with breast cancer, meets first Tuesday of every month at 5:30 PM, Northwestern Medical Center, Conference Room #1. RSVP at 524-8479.

Franklin County Prostate Cancer Support Group, first Tuesday of each month, 5:15 - 7:00 PM, Northwestern Medical Center Conference Room #2, St. Albans. This support group offers men opportunities to educate themselves and each other; share and learn from each other's experiences; offer support to each other, a spouse or partner; and advocate early detection of prostate cancer. For information, Fern Mercure, 524-0719.

Statewide Quit Line, Telephone Smoking Cessation Counseling. Call 1-877-YES-QUIT (1-877-937-7848). Free.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, "Keep It Simple" group meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 8:00 – 9:00 PM and Saturdays, 6:30 – 7:30 PM at the United Church of Underhill, Underhill Flats.

Pilates Class Schedule, Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM at MMU. Monday evenings at 6:00 PM and Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM at Dakini Studio. Call Lisa Timbers at 899-4191 for more information or visit her website at <http://timbers.wordpress.com>

KIDS

"MUSIC WITH MIA" weekly musical story time at University Mall. Kids can enjoy music, stories, and sing-a-longs with local singer/song-writer Mia Adams. Located in center court, Mondays

Ongoing continued on page 5

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Health reform and assisted suicide cannot co-exist

To the Editor,

I am troubled that our new governor wants Vermont to show the rest of the nation how to control health care costs (speech at Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce, January 2011), but also wants Vermont's legislature to be the nation's first to legalize giving lethal pills to patients. I cannot say with certainty if these two "Vermont leads the way" health care initiatives are connected. But as a former HMO health insurance sales rep, I know that end-of-life care costs insurance companies plenty, and that their "cost control" would improve if society's very sick people begin to die prematurely by overdose of barbiturates.

It is up to our governor and the legislators pushing this bill to convince me and many other concerned Vermonters that health care reform will forbid legalized assisted suicide. If they cannot, we will dig in our heels and bring the message of "no death panels in Vermont" to our statehouse. At least two Oregon people were denied life-extending care they wanted but were still offered coverage for death pills they didn't want (ABC Nightly

News story, June 2008). That is an appalling breach of trust. The "death with dignity" folks in Oregon said it could never happen there, and they were wrong, and it is their money funding the lobbyists etc. for the Vermont campaign.

The bottom line is that we can't let vulnerable Vermonters become victims of the bottom line.

Heather Sheppard, Cambridge

Civility on issues

To the Editor,

In the January 18 Burlington Free Press, our Select Board member Tim Nulty made a plea for more civility on issues confronting our growing national discourse on key issues that have created more division than unity.

On this I agree with Tim.

Where I strongly disagree with Tim is his reference to this growing national discourse as a sign that those who seem to disagree resemble some resemblance to the rise of Nazi Germany!

Where are we going here Tim?

Does that mean those in the Tea Party ranks (many honored Veterans) are "Nazi like" when they voice strong opposition and

fear of a centralized Federal Government wanting almost complete control over health care?

When we see the Federal governments take over the student loan programs that results in up to 200 local jobs possibly lost at the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC).

I do agree with Tim that I would be angered as he was when he saw a Nazi swastika sign at then a candidate, Peter Shumlin rally.

But it is not only those on the "Right" that have a few crack pots. Keep in mind that at the height of the anger of the Vietnam War, that often President Nixon's "x" in his name was made in to a swastika

Tim has often done nothing but the best as a Select Board member and should be complimented for his service to our town of Jericho.

But when Mr. Nulty goes out so far to attack those on the "Right" that he feels spew hatred when they hide behind being patriotic, then it brings into question how fair and balanced Mr. Nulty can be when those of a different political view point bring issues before him, hoping for a fair and balanced solution.

Tim, no Nazi's I knew of in Jericho, just those still civil to agree that we often disagree!

Robert (Bob) Devost, Jericho

Ongoing continued from page 4

at 10:30 am. Free. This series goes through March 28, 2011. For more information, please call 863-1066 x11.

Playgroups are free of charge and open to all children birth through age 5 and their caregivers. At playgroup you will find stories, songs, crafts, free play, local events & information, and more. It is a wonderful opportunity to play with the children in your life, meet other playmates, and connect with other parents and caregivers. Playgroups follow the school calendar. Come to any or all groups that fit your schedule. For more information on any of the playgroups, please contact Heather Lebeis at 899-4415 or underhillplaygroup@yahoo.com.

Monday: Jericho Community Center 9:30 - 11:00 AM.

Wednesday: Bolton's Smilie Memorial School 8:15 - 10:15 AM and Richmond Free Library 8:45 - 10:15 AM and Huntington's Brewster Pierce Memorial School 3:00 - 5:00 PM.

Friday: Underhill Central School 9:30 - 11:00 AM.

Bolton Family Play Night, in the Smilie School gym, usually the first and third Fridays, 6:00 - 7:30 PM. Free. Mostly unstructured play with the school's equipment. Contact Tim Grover, 434-4180.

Kids' Yoga, 3-5 years & 6 years and up. Toddler tumbling and new moms' groups. The Well, 644-6700.

SENIORS/COMMUNITY MEALS

Jeri-Hill XYZ Seniors meet at the Town Hall in Underhill Center on the first and third Wednesday of each month. All seniors are welcome! Dinners are served at 11:30 AM. For information, please call Bette Workman, 899-4446, Loreen Teer, 899-1363 or Doug Keith 899-2582.

Johnson Community Meal - Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 11:30AM-12:30pm at the United Church in Johnson. Come for a hot meal and get to know your neighbors. The meal will be followed by a community gathering. For more information, please contact: Ellen Hill: 635-1439, ellen.hill@jsc.edu.

Westford Senior lunches - Join Westford Seniors for lunch at the Red Brick Meeting House on the Common the second Monday of each month. The next senior luncheon is on Monday, September 13. There is no lunch in July or August. Lunch is served at 12:00 noon with a short meeting or presentation following. Call 878-7405 or 879-7382 for information or for a ride.

Bolton Up and Downtown Club meets the last Thursday of the month at the Bolton Fire station Suggested \$3.00 donation. Meal at 5:00 PM. Open to adults 60 and over. Contact Doris Wheelock at 434-3769.

Huntington senior meal site - The Huntington Senior meals are served the third Tuesday of each month at 12:00 noon at the Community Baptist Church in Huntington Center.

St. Jude's Church, Hinesburg, senior meals held on second and fourth Wednesday of each month with bingo games after the dinners. Everyone is welcome including caregivers. Dinners are \$3.00 per person. For information call Ted Barrette at 453-3087.

Starksboro First Baptist Church, Starksboro - senior meals, fourth Thursday of the month, 11:30 AM, call Brenda Boutin at 802-453-6354 for more information.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Pliates - Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM at MMU. Monday evenings at 6:00 PM and Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM at Dakini Studio. Call Lisa Timbers at 899-4191 for more information or visit her website at <http://timbers.wordpress.com>

SUPPORT GROUPS

CFS, Fibromyalgia, Lyme Disease, Chemical Sensitivity and Gulf War Syndrome, 1:00 to 3:00 PM every third Thursday at: The Bagel Cafe, Ethan Allen Shopping Center Burlington, VT call or visit

website www.vtcfids.org or Lainey at 802 660-4817 or 800-296-1445 ask for Rik

Alzheimer's support group, third Wednesday, 9:30 - 11:30 AM, The Arbors, 687 Harbor Rd., Shelburne. Free education for individuals and families in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. For information and to register, contact Nicole Houston, 985-8600.

Approach Autism With Advocacy, Recovery & Education (AAWARE) in the Lamoille Valley, third Sunday, 3:00 - 5:00 PM, Second Congregational Church of Jeffersonville Community Room, Jeffersonville. Special topics, guest speakers, resource information; playroom for kids, fenced side yard for outdoor play. For information, Terry Holden, 644-2759 (Jeffersonville) or Tina Karl, 888-3430 (Hyde Park).

Veterans Job Networking, Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:00 AM, VFW Post, Essex Jct.; 1:00 - 2:30 PM, American Legion Post, St. Albans.

Eating Disorders Parental Support Group, third Wednesday, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, Covenant Community Church, VT Rt. 15, Essex Center. For parents of children with or at risk of anorexia or bulimia. We focus on being a resource and providing reference points for old and new ED parents. For information, Peter, 899-2554.

TOWN GOVERNMENT AND ORGANIZATIONS

Cambridge Area Rotary meets on the first Thursday of the month, rotating to local restaurants, 7:00 - 8:00 AM. For information, call Anita Lotto, 793-0856, or Chuck Hogan, 644-8134.

Westford Fire Department, Mondays, 7:00 PM, at the fire station next to the Town Garage. Volunteer for firefighting, dispatching, radio communications, computer operations, grant writing, equipment maintenance, fire police, education, and much more. For information, email John Quinn, jquinnvt@aol.com.

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Jericho-Underhill Water District meets first Monday of each month at the United Church of Underhill, Underhill Flats, 7:00 PM. For information, call 899-4076 or 899-3810.

Jericho Historical Society, second Thursday, 7:30 PM, Old Red Mill, Jericho.

Jericho Underhill Park District Board meeting, first and third Wednesdays, 7:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library project room, Jericho. Residents of Jericho and Underhill always welcome. 899-2693 for information.

Village of Jericho, Inc. - Please be advised that the Board of Water Commissions of the Village of Jericho, Inc. will hold its next monthly meeting Tuesday February 15, 2011, 7:00 PM.

Jericho Energy Task Force meets the third Wednesday of every month from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at Jericho Town Hall.

THRIFT SHOPS AND FOOD SHELVES

The **Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop** now is in full swing with its fall and cool weather clothes on display and don't forget those reasonable prices. It is located just east of the Five Corners on the right on Route 15 (beside the Congregational Church). The Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop, located just east of the Five Corners in Essex Jct. on Rte 15, the hours are from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Tues. and Wed., 4:00 to 8:00 PM on Thurs. Please check us out.

Westford Food Shelf, open on the third Saturday of every month, 8:00 - 10:30 AM, United Church of Westford. All are welcome. Fresh produce, meat, and non-food items available.

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Dartmouth • Northerner • Brooks • Woolrich • Sebago

HEALTH / SENIOR INFORMATION

BREATHE!

By Mary H. Kintner, D.C., R.N.

A fact of life is there will be challenges. When confronting challenges, TAKE A DEEP BREATH! Have you ever noticed how an upset child breathes?—short, shallow, irregular breaths. Conversely, when someone is in deep sleep, their breath is long and deep. Breathing is an involuntary action but it can be voluntary, too. Your emotions can influence your breath but your breath can also influence your emotions.

When you breath in, the diaphragm—a muscle that separates the chest from the abdomen—drops into the abdominal cavity. A vacuum is created and air is sucked into the lungs. When you exhale, the diaphragm returns to the chest and air is pushed out. A rich, deep breath requires abdominal (AKA as abdominal) breathing. Most people breathe shallowly—only into the upper lobes of their lungs. Shallow breath poorly supplies oxygen to the body and mind. Poor oxygenation exaggerates anxiety and pain. This is the reason pregnant woman are taught breathing exercises to prepare for childbirth.

You can tell if you are breathing properly by placing a hand on your abdomen and seeing if it rises when you inhale and falls when you exhale. If this occurs you are breathing properly. If not, practice so that you can breathe easily and naturally. Yogis, singers, and wind instrument players breathe this way because there is maximal air exchange. Yoga teaches breath control in a technique called pranayama. These practices were developed to optimize breathing. Breath control calms your nerves.

Chiropractic can influence breath. The brain and nerves traveling from it regulate breathing. Cervical (neck) nerves control the diaphragm. Relieving pressure in the chest (thorax) can increase the capacity of the lungs. Chiropractic care can maximize your ability to breathe deeply.

So when life is difficult, TAKE A DEEP BREATH and get aligned.

Mary H. Kintner, D.C., R.N., is a chiropractor and nutritional consultant practicing in Jericho, VT.

Vermont Quit Network Freshstart to hold tobacco cessation class

These classes start Mondays, February 21, 28 and March 7, 14, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM at the Northwestern Medical Center, Conference Room. Join others for this 4-session series to help you successfully quit smoking. As a Vermont resident, you can get free patches, gum and lozenges. To sign up for a session call Heidi at 524-8831.

Hypothermia - Symptoms, Treatment and Prevention

In cold weather, your body may lose heat faster than you can produce it. This is called hypothermia. When your body temperature drops below 95 F (normal is 98.6), your heart, nervous system, brain and other organs cannot work correctly. The most common causes of hypothermia are exposure to cold weather conditions or cold water, but prolonged exposure to any environment colder than your body can lead to hypothermia. Hypothermia can be fatal if not treated. If someone is exhibiting the signs and symptoms of hypothermia; call 911 to get immediate medical attention.

Constant shivering is a key sign of hypothermia. Look for the “umbels” – stumbles, mumbles, fumbles and grumbles; symptoms that the cold is a problem. Examples include: clumsiness or lack of coordination; slowed, slurred speech or mumbling; confusion or difficulty thinking; drowsiness, or very low energy and weak pulse.

While waiting for emergency assistance, it is important to keep the person warm and dry. The following are suggested first aid tips: Be gentle when helping a person with hypothermia. Don't massage or rub them. Don't use hot water, a heating pad or a heating lamp to warm the person. Extreme heat can damage the skin. If you are unable to move the person out of the cold, shield him or her from the cold and wind. Remove any wet clothing. Replace with dry clothing if possible. Cover the person with layers of blankets or coats. Cover the person's head, leaving only the face exposed.

A person with severe hypothermia may appear unconscious, with no signs of a pulse or breathing. If the person's breathing has stopped, begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). If possible, use your own body heat to aid the warming. Remove your clothing and lie next to the person, making skin to skin contact. Cover both your bodies with blankets.

Your best defense against hypothermia is staying safe. Drink plenty of fluids (do not drink alcohol – alcohol drinks can make you lose body heat) and get adequate food and rest. Wear proper clothing for outdoors, including: Mittens (not gloves); layers of clothing with wind-proof and water-resistant layers on the outside; two pairs of socks (avoid cotton) and scarf and hat that cover the ears. Major heat loss occurs through the top of your head.

Dressing for the outdoors and having the appropriate emergency supplies in your home and car will help ensure a safe and warm winter.

Local AARP free tax prep help available at Brownell Library

Starting February 10 and every Monday and Thursday morning through 14 April (with the exception of 2/24) between 9:15AM until 12:15 PM tax counselors Dorothy and Tak Ng, will be in the Brownell Library's Kolvoord Room to offer a free tax assistance service for low and middle income taxpayers (Annual Gross Income less than \$60,000), with special attention to those 60 or over. They will prepare tax forms or answer tax questions. Federal and Vermont tax forms could be either a paper return or e-file.

Qualified patrons who wish to avail themselves of the Ngs' expertise will need to call (878-6955) or visit the library to make a 45 minute appointment with one of them. Please come in 10 minutes before your appointment to fill out a required Intake and Interview Form.

However, if a patron's tax return is relatively complex he/she will be advised to seek professional tax assistance.

If married, both husband and wife should (but do not have to) be present during an income tax counseling session. Taxpayers must have available during their meeting with the Tax-Aide counselor all information and documents that have been received that apply to their 2010 income taxes including:

Internal Revenue Service (IRS): Copies of 2009 Federal Tax Return; Social Security or Individual Taxpayer ID numbers for all household members and personal identification; Checkbook or a check (write void across it) for Bank ID and Routing Number so any refund due can be direct deposited; All documents that relate to deductible expenses.

All 2010 income report forms that have been received: SSA-1099, Social Security Benefit Statement and RRB-1099-R, US Railroad Retirement Board forms. All 1099 form (1099-INT - Interest, 1099-OID Original Issue Discount, 1099-DIV - Dividends, 1099-B – Broker transactions, 1099-S – Real Estate transaction, 1099-G – State tax refund, 1099-MISC – Miscellaneous Income; 1099-R – Pension and annuity payments; W-2 from each employer, Wage and Tax Statement forms; W-2G, Certain Gambling Winnings forms. Original cost of any assets sold during 2010.

State of Vermont Tax Return: Copies of 2009 Vermont Tax Return. 2010-2011 Property Tax Bill. LC-142 Landlord Certificate. Income of all individuals who reside in the home. Statement of Non Profit Mobile Home Park, Co-op or land trust. Copy of most recent telephone bill –for lifeline phone credit.

AARP Tax-Aide is a program of the AARP Foundation, offered in conjunction with the IRS.

Community of VT Elders calls out harsh cuts in Governor's budget affecting low-income senior citizens

While not obvious from the Governor's budget address, one of the harshest cuts being proposed is directed against Vermont's most vulnerable citizens - our frail and low-income seniors and persons with disabilities, who need help with essential needs such as eating, dressing, toileting and/or bathing.

"When one fully understands the magnitude of what is being proposed, and to whom, the cuts are truly dramatic in scope," said Michael Sirotkin, Policy Advocate for the Community of Vermont Elders (COVE).

The Governor's proposal cuts in half the heart of critical parts of our home and community based long term care program, by severely reducing such basic support services as housekeeping, laundry, shopping as well as companion and respite care that is crucial for dedicated family members. All these services are designed to help keep our most needy neighbors in their own homes and communities as opposed to having to enter a nursing home or other institutional setting.

"On average, the reductions can amount to over \$2000 per person to 2500 of our most needy citizens," Sirotkin continued. "Many live alone and in poverty, with incomes below \$10,000 a year and nothing in the bank. How can this small group of frail, low-income Vermonters realistically be asked to absorb \$4.5+ million of cuts annually?"

In addition to the obvious hardship these cuts will bring to individuals, the proposal stands Vermont's long term care program, Choices for Care, on its head. The entire premise of the Choices for Care program was to lower our nursing home population by providing flexible support services in the community. This would allow low-income seniors to remain in their homes and be more independent, while saving the state huge sums of money by avoiding payments for the twice-as-expensive care in a nursing home.

"In a period where integrated and universal health care reform seems to be the goal, we could not help but notice that the Hsiao proposal excludes long term care of our most vulnerable from the plans," said Sirotkin. "For our seniors and our state, that would represent a major lost opportunity to move forward."

"Failing to address a growing problem is unfortunate. Exacerbating it is unacceptable," Sirotkin concluded. "COVE looks forward to working with policy makers to help better understand both the short and long term impacts of cutting in half these essential home and community-based services."

RECIPES BY MARIAN TOBIN

Scotch Oatmeal Muffins

- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 cup quick oatmeal
- 1 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt (if desired)
- 1 egg slightly beaten
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup oil (cornola or vegetable)

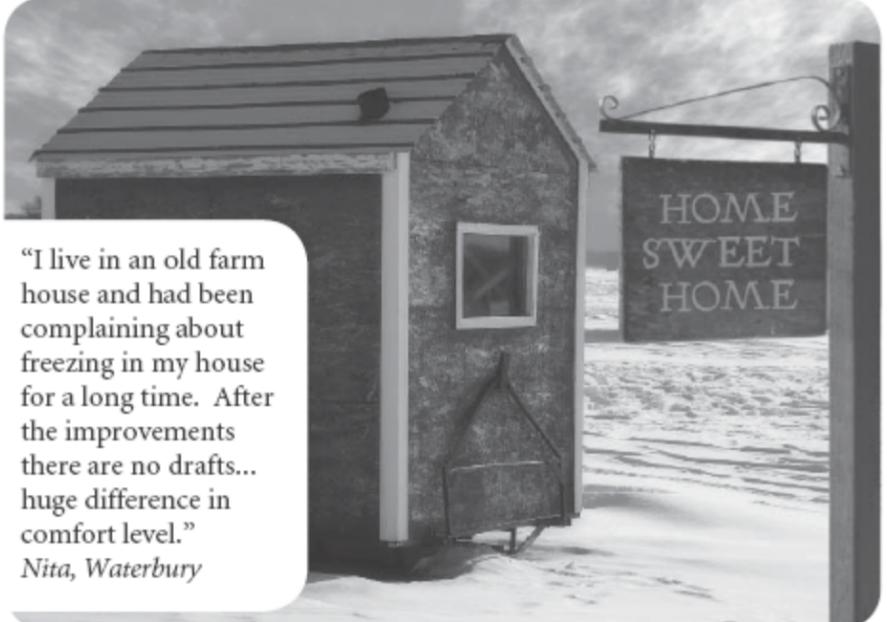
Soak oatmeal in buttermilk 15 minutes. Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Add egg, brown sugar and oil just until blended. Bake at 350° for 20-25 minutes. (1 dozen muffins)



February 2011 Community Senior Meals
For more information call the Champlain Valley Agency on Aging at 865-0360

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 *** NEW *** Essex Grill Essex Jct. (formerly located where A's was) 10:30 a.m. check in 11:00 a.m. lunch Beef Stew	2 JP's Restaurant River Rd., Essex Jct. 10:30 a.m. check in 11:00 a.m. lunch 1/2 Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Cup Soup	3 Bridge Street Café Richmond 10:30 a.m. check in 11:00 a.m. lunch Chicken 'n Biscuits	4 Hinesburg Mealsite 11:30 a.m.
7 Covenant Church Essex Ctr. 12:00 noon Coulash Garden Salad Marble Rye Bread Peaches	8 Pizza Hut Susie Wilson Road, Essex Jct. 10:30 a.m. check in 11:00 a.m. lunch "All you can eat Pizza Buffet"	9 Dutch Mill Shelburne Rd. Shelburne 10:30 a.m. check in 11:00 a.m. lunch Baked Ham	10 Holiday Inn So. Burlington 11:00 a.m. check in 11:30 a.m. lunch Turkey Dinner	11 United Church Hinesburg 12:00 noon Biscotti Soup, Sliced Turkey, Cheese & Tomato, Bulky Roll, Chocolate Pudding
14 Pizza Hut Susie Wilson Road, Essex Jct. 10:30 a.m. check in 11:00 a.m. lunch "All you can eat Pizza Buffet"	15 T-Bones Hampton Inn, Colchester 10:30 a.m. check-in 11:00 a.m. lunch Lasagna	16 Fonderosa Williston Check in 11:00 a.m. Lunch at 11:15 a.m. "all you can eat Buffet"	17 Pizza Hut Susie Wilson Road, Essex Jct. 10:30 a.m. check in 11:00 a.m. lunch "All you can eat Pizza Buffet"	18 United Church Hinesburg 12:00 noon Pot Roast, Roasted Vegetables, Wheat Bread, Fruited Jello with Topping

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HUNTINGTON / RICHMOND NEWS

OBITUARIES

Connor Michael Menning, born May 31, 1995 in Burlington, left us unexpectedly on Tuesday January 18, 2011. Connor was devoted to his friendships and greatly enjoyed the time he spent with his friends or communicating with them. Lacrosse and football were a focal point of his life, and he had many friends throughout the area's lacrosse and football communities. His defensive play in lacrosse was a matter of great pride, and during informal summer lacrosse games, he and his two brothers formed a fearsome defense line. He was anticipating this year's lacrosse season, and was doing conditioning runs on the snow-covered trails of Camels Hump, as well as enjoying time on the slopes riding his snowboard. Connor expressed interest in becoming a Vermont State Trooper after college. He also had a great interest in science and had many questions about subjects such as the nervous system and physiology. Connor showed a natural talent for language in his German studies and wanted to begin study of Russian next year; he hoped to study abroad at some point during college. He was looking forward to locating an early Ford Mustang, restoring it, and driving it extensively. We all relished his sense of humor, which was both dry and kind. On the playing fields, his coaches knew him as a serious athlete who remained focused during training and games. He did all he could individually and as a leader to do his best and to bring out the best in his teammates. Connor's immediate family includes his sister, Amber; his brothers, Will and Austin; and his parents, Joyce and Bill Menning; as well as his close friend of the family, Ashley Potvin. His closest friends of many years were David Hodge and Sundance Stadler, but his larger circle of friends was extensive. A celebration of Connor's life will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2011 at 11:00 AM in the Richmond Congregational Church. There will be no visiting hours. Flowers may be sent to the Richmond Congregational Church, 20 Church Road, Richmond, VT 05477.

HUNTINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Planet Huntington - Come see Malaysia and Singapore as seen by Don Dresser and Barb Winters in November of 2010. From ultra modern Singapore to the ancient caves in Mulu to snorkeling in the North China and the Sulu Seas. You'll see orangutan, monkey, human and sea turtle babies from the jungles of Borneo to the street bazaars of Kota Kinabalu - all this and more on Sunday February 13 at 7:00 PM.

Middle School Mindfulness - This four-session workshop for middle school-aged youth will teach strategies for relaxation, focus, stress reduction and being present in the moment. Participants will learn skills in meditation, tai chi, yoga and massage. Each session will be led by a local practitioner in the discipline. The workshop will be from 3:00-4:00 PM on Sunday afternoons in March. Registration is required. For more information or to register call the library or e-mail hpl@gmavt.net.

Baby Brunch - It is time for our annual Baby Brunch for babies born in the year 2010 and their parents. If you welcomed a new bundle of joy in 2010 and we neglected to send you an invitation, know that you are invited and encouraged to attend. Brunch foods will be provided by the Friends of the Library. Join us on Sunday January 30 from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Beginning with Mother Goose - You may already know how important it is to read to your child, even your baby, but sometimes it's hard to know where to start. In early 2011 we will be teaming up with the Vermont Center for the Book to offer a workshop that will provide participants with all the tools needed to get started, including a bag of free books. Join us on Tuesday February 15 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Call the Library to register.

Who's Hooting? - We will be joining forces with staff from the Green Mountain Audubon Center to bring young children a program all about owls. We'll swoop into the world of the most mysterious flying mousetraps and find out why owls are such silent and successful predators. Children will examine real owl specimens and learn how to hoot back to the different owls they may hear in the night. Join us on Friday February 18 at 10:00 AM.

Download Audio Books - We subscribe to listenupvermont.org a service which allows library patrons to download audio books for free and listen to them on their home computer, a portable device or burn them to CD. The service is easy to use and can be accessed anytime from anywhere with your library card. Call or stop by the library and we'll get you started.

Echo Pass Available - Ask the librarian to borrow the Library Echo Pass and up to 2 adults and 3 youths in your party will be admitted to ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain for \$2 each. The pass can be checked out for three days at a time.

POLICE REPORT

On Wednesday January 26, 2011 at approximately 9:30 PM Officer Anderson of the Richmond Police Department conducted a motor vehicle stop for a minor traffic violation on interstate 89N. as a result of the traffic stop **Joseph Casey** of Richmond, VT was arrested for Driving License suspended and violation of Conditions of Release stemming from a prior Driving License suspended. Casey was issued a citation to appear at court on February 14, 2011 in Chittenden District Court, Burlington, VT.

On Wednesday January 26, 2011 at approximately 2:15 AM, the Williston Police Department conducted a motor vehicle stop on a vehicle for erratic operation. During the Officer's investigation, it was determined that the operator, **Christopher Cole**, Richmond, VT was under the influence of alcohol. Cole was subsequently taken into custody and processed for suspicion of DUI. Cole's blood alcohol level was determined to be .205%. Cole is due in Chittenden County Court on February 15, 2011 at 8:15 AM to answer to the charge of Driving under the Influence #2.

On Monday January 24, 2011, Vermont State Police and Huntington Fire Department responded to a report of a vehicle off of Main Rd, Huntington. It was determined **Samuel Harris**, 23 of Huntington, VT, lost control of his vehicle, causing it to leave the roadway. Further investigation showed Harris had been driving while intoxicated. Harris was processed at the State Police barracks in Williston and released on a citation to appear in court on Monday February 14, 2011 to answer to the charge of DUI #2. Case # 11A100427

COURT REPORT

December 16, 2010, **Joseph D. Helm**, Richmond, VT, charged with depressant/stimulant/narcotic sale, felony, in Burlington, VT on September 17, 2010; pleaded guilty; sentenced to six to 36 months, concurrent; charged with non-controlled drug - sell as controlled in Burlington, VT on August 29, 2010; pleaded guilty; sentenced to three to 12 months, concurrent.

Recycled Ink Cartridges - We have a recycle bin for your used ink and toner cartridges. Bring them to us and we can send them in for a rebate. Thanks.

On-line Catalogue - You can access our catalogue on-line via our up-to-date website at huntingtonpubliclibrary.org.

Good Search - Thank you to everyone who uses GoodSearch.Com to search the web. We earn a penny for every search, and the pennies add up to the dollars we turn into new books. Keep it up!

New Adult Books - *Luka and the Fire of Life* by Salman Rushdie, *Naturally Healthy Babies and Children* by Aviva J. Romm, MD, *The Dirty Life* by Kristin Kimball, *Mediterranean Style* by Catherine Haig, *At home* by Bill Bryson, *The House at Riverton* by Kate Morton, *Great House* by Nicole Krauss, *Nature's Garden* by Samuel Thayer, *Herbal Recipes* by Rosemary Gladstar.

New Picture Books - *The Village Garage* by G. Brian Karas, *A Bedtime for Bear* by Bonnie Becker, *Oh, Daddy!* By Bob Shea, *Switching on the Moon: Poems* collected by Jane Yolen, *Brand-New Baby Blues* by Kathi Appelt, *Pecan Pie Baby* by Jacqueline Woodson, *The Trucker* by Barbara Samuels, *Yucky Worms* by Vivian French, *LMNO Peas* by Keith Baker, *I'm the Best* by Lucy Cousins.

Storytime - We currently address the six early literacy skills, as adopted by the Vermont Department of Libraries, every week at Storytime. These six pre-reading skills are ones a child can start learning from birth. The first skill is "Print Motivation" which is defined as a child's interest in and enjoyment of books and reading. Children who enjoy books will want to learn to read. All young children are invited to join us for books, music and fun at 10:00 AM every Friday.

JUST MARRIED

CHARBONEAU-SOUTIERE

Adrienne Michelle Charboneau, daughter of Robert and Anne Charboneau of Ticonderoga, NY, and Andrew Paul Soutiere, son of Gary and Janet Soutiere of Richmond, VT, were united in marriage on Saturday, October 2, 2010.

The Rev. Bill Muench officiated at the ceremony at Saint Mary's Church in Ticonderoga, NY.

Kristina Charboneau-Wells, sister of the bride, was the matron of honor. The bridesmaids were Kathleen Monforte and Rebecca Geragosian. Gracie Wells, and Emmi Charboneau, nieces of the bride, were the flower girls.

Nathan Soutiere, brother of the groom, was the best man. The ushers were Christopher Gagne and Rene Cusson. The men of honor, brothers of the bride, were Robert Charboneau and Nathan Charboneau.

A reception followed at the EMA in Ticonderoga. The couple honeymooned in Play Del Carmin, Mexico.



Mrs. Soutiere graduated from Ticonderoga High School and St. Michael's College. Her husband graduated from Winooski High School and is a manager at Costco Wholesale.

The couple resides in Colchester, VT.

RICHMOND FREE LIBRARY NEWS

The AARP is again offering free tax preparation assistance to the elderly and to those under certain income limits. Please call the library to schedule an appointment with a tax preparer. One hour sessions will be held on Mondays between 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM beginning Monday February 7.

Stop by and view the beautiful queen-sized quilt made by Gencie Gray of the Richmond Terraces. The quilt is being raffled to benefit the Richmond Senior Center, \$1 per ticket, or \$5 for 6 tickets. The winning ticket will be drawn on town meeting day, March 1.

The Friends of the Richmond Free Library "Love Your Library Book sale" is scheduled for Saturday February 12, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM, in the library's performance hall. Many items will be available for children and adults, including literary and popular fiction, non-fiction and media. Please consider donating your gently used books, CDs, puzzles and DVDs to the Friends of the Richmond Free Library. All materials may be dropped off in the foyer of the library. Volunteers are also welcome. Let the library know if you're interested in helping at the sale.

The New York Times listed 100 Notable Books of 2010; the library owns 41 from the list, including: *Comedy in a Minor Key* by Hans Keilson, *Great House* by Nicole Krauss, *The Invisible*

Bridge by Julie Orringer, *Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War* by Karl Marlantes, *Room* by Emma Donoghue, *To the End of the Land* by David Grossman, *Apollo's Angels: A History of Ballet* by Jennifer Homans, *Charlie Chan: The Untold Story of the Honorable Detective and his Rendezvous with American History* by Yunte Huang, *Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food* by Paul Greenberg and others.

The book, *Stranger in the Kingdom* by Howard Frank Mosher will be the title discussed at the library at 7:30 PM on Tuesday February 15. Multiple copies are available for check-out. All are welcome.

In addition to books, the library also subscribes to a number of magazines. Some of our titles are: *Aperture*, *Birds & Blooms*, *Bon Appetit*, *Consumer Reports*, *Cooks Illustrated*, *Discover*, *Economist*, *Family Handyman*, *Mother Jones*, *New Moon Girls*, *Orion*, *Parenting*, *Rolling Stone*, *Scientific American*, *Time*, *Utne*, *Vanity Fair*, *Vegetarian Times*, *Vermont Magazine*, *Vermont Life*, *Wired* and others.

For more titles and descriptions, links, and the library calendar, go the library webpage: www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org. On the home page (on the lower left side) you can also subscribe to receive email notification of "breaking" library news and announcements.

Friends of Richmond Free Library to hold book sale

Friends of the Richmond Free Library will host a book sale in the library's community hall on Saturday, February 12, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. All sort of items will be for sale for kids and adults: fiction (literary and popular), non-fiction (from how-to to history), audio books, music, and more! For more information, feel free to call the library at 434-3036. The Friends are accepting donations until February 10. The library is located at 201 Bridge Street in Richmond. Parking is available at the adjacent town center parking lot or at the Volunteer's Green.

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Copley Birthing Center is small. That means you get intimate, personal care from staff that's like an extended family. Here, our moms and babies get the kind of care that only a small, community-oriented facility can offer. From our décor of cozy quilts and soothing earth tones to the hand-made, knitted caps we give to each new arrival, our family of doctors, nurses and midwives provide a very personal level of support, both physically and emotionally. We may be small, but so are babies!

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Ollie and Oakley new additions to Save Our Strays

By Brenda Boutin
Mountain Gazette Staff

The media bombards us with messages, many of them falling on deaf ears. But there is no greater message than the ones on animal over population. Television host Bob Barker of the *Prices Right* ended every show with "Have your pet spay or neutered."

Shelters and animal rescues are full to overflowing and many wonderful pets are euthanized every day.

On Wednesday January 5, *Save Our Strays* received the following urgent e-mail plea. "Sweet Soul at municipal shelter in NY - he doesn't even have a name, just a number '8458' - curled up in kennel with no bed, shivering from chill and fright, undernourished and estimated to be 10 years old - NO CHANCE this dog will be chosen as he is among many adoptable dogs at the shelter." This dog was scheduled for euthanasia on Friday January 7.

Lisa and Roy Haynes of *Save Our Strays* acted quickly and with the help of ARF (Animal Rescue Flights) pilot Victor Girgenti flew him to *Save Our Strays*; within 24 hours he was safe in Vermont and on the road to a better life.

Victor Girgenti is a 54 year old businessman with his own private plane who resides in Long Island, NY. He volunteers for "ARF"



Unlike other dogs that Victor Girgenti has transported, Ollie settled in and slept the entire trip.

Animal Rescue Flights and has done numerous of these lifesaving flights.

Girgenti speaks humbly of his part in the rescues. "We travel a lot," he said. "We take our dogs with us." Girgenti and his wife Lisa don't have children. "I refused to put my pets in cargo hole." After hiring expensive private flights he decided to learn to fly. "For our own safety," was his reasoning, "I wanted to have an idea of how the plane worked in case of an emergency."

A few lessons and Girgenti was bitten by the bug and he purchased his first plane. He decided that he could provide a needed service and began transporting human patients to hospitals. But transporting dogs is far more rewarding.

The match between Victor and his wife Lisa and the Haynes is a perfect match, although Lisa and Lisa have never met, they act like sisters talking several times a week on the phone.

"If it was not for my Lisa doing all the leg work and phones calls none of these trips would ever happen. I just get told where to fly," mused Victor.

"My first trip to Vermont was to bring Sam to the Haynes," Victor said. Sam is one of the Haynes personal pets now and goes to nursing home and outings. He is one of their Santa dogs.

Girgenti's last two trips have been at his own expense bringing Ollie a poodle mix and Oakley a lab mix to *Save Our Strays*. Ollie is the "Sweet Soul" and Oakley is a large black lab mix that Victor flew up last weekend. "Ollie slept the entire trip." Victor said. "Dogs usually are nervous." Girgenti went on to say that they had to wake him up when they arrived in Burlington.

Oakley's previous owner was having a hard time financially, lost his childhood home, had to move to a small apartment and unfortunately, could not keep him as he could not afford an apartment that would welcome his beloved Oakley. He was distraught over the situation, and contacted a lab rescue in NY who

From wrestler to rescuer, this Vermonter loves animals

According to Mark Twain, "If you pick up a starving animal and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man." Lisa Haynes, founder of *Save Our Strays* (SOS) in Huntington, VT, liked Twain's saying so much that she adopted it as the motto for her rescue organization. A former professional wrestler known as *The Adjuster*, Haynes' life changed when she spotted a stray dog on the way to a wrestling match in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The unsightly German shepherd dog had lost much of his coat and carried a scant 40 pounds on his large frame.

Though she had three rescued dogs of her own at home, Haynes stopped and coaxed the dog into her car. Later, she called dozens of animal welfare agencies, yet no one offered to help. She took "Shep" to her veterinarian who determined the scrappy dog was malnourished and ridden with fleas, tapeworms, and sarcoptic mange. The veterinarian recommended euthanasia, but Haynes couldn't let Shep go without a fight. She took the dog home, giving him home-cooked food, flea dips, and medication. Eventually, Haynes brought the dog back to health and found him a permanent home.

"It was truly a rags-to-riches story," Haynes says of the dog now named "Alf." The experience motivated Haynes and her husband Roy to move from Florida to rural Vermont and start a rescue operation so they could provide care to homeless animals.

Haynes founded SOS in 1996 as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) operation. Along with her husband and several volunteers, Haynes rescues both dogs and cats. The organization takes animals from shelters as well as pets that owners surrender. Veterinary care is provided and animals stay at the Haynes' house until the right adopter is found.

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would not take Oakley because he was a mixed breed lab and not a pure bred with papers.

The NY shelters were overcrowded and if Oakley was taken there he would have been euthanized due to his size and age. *Save Our Strays* were contacted and asked if they could accommodate this dog into their rescue, and once again *Save Our Strays* stepped forward to save another good dogs life. Victor was made aware of the situation and volunteered to fly Oakley to us.

Save Our Strays website allows would-be pet owners to see pets available for adoption. Visit *Save Our Strays* on Facebook at: *Save Our Strays VT* or their website at www.SaveOurStraysVT.org.

Animal Rescue Flights (ARF) promotes, plans, and performs the process of transporting animals from overcrowded shelters where they face certain death to other parts of the country where qualified families are waiting to adopt them.

Animal Rescue Flights is a not-for-profit organization made up of hundreds of volunteer pilots who donate their skills, time, and privately owned aircraft to fly animals over great distances to rescues and families where they can start a new life. Animal Rescue Flights works with hundreds of shelters and rescues to coordinate the transports and has utilized both pilots (air) and drivers (ground) to complete the missions.

Aside from organizing and coordinating rescue flights, ARF is also actively involved in promoting the importance of spaying and neutering.

ARF is continually looking for volunteer pilots, student pilots, and non-pilots who can contribute their time and skills in planning, performing, and promoting this effort. The more volunteers we have, the more animals can be transported to safety. For more information visit our website at <http://www.animalrescueflights.org>.



On Girgenti's second trip, within a couple of weeks, he delivered Oakley, a lab mix rescue, to Roy Haynes of *Save Our Strays*.

Despite other commitments such as volunteering at the local Agency On Aging, Haynes' main focus is the shelter. Her husband is self-employed. "We need a flexible schedule to keep up with the animals' needs," Haynes says.

Fundraisers help to encourage adoptions. Additionally, SOS promotes animals available for adoption through a "Pet of the Week" feature on local TV station WCAX, WOKO radio, and once a month "Critic Corner."

Available dogs and cats are posted on both the station's website and the SOS website. "Those outlets have been great advertisement for us," Haynes says.

Since its beginning, SOS has saved nearly 3000 animals, rescuing about 125 dogs and cats a year. The SOS animal shelter sits on one and a half acres at the Haynes' house. The dogs are housed indoors and out. A fenced backyard is divided into sections, enabling dogs to be grouped according to size for exercise. A 16-by-30-foot addition with a screened outdoor area and access to the indoors was build onto the garage for the cats.

"We want the animals to live as they would with a family and to become socialized if they are not already," Haynes says. "Then we are better able to assess their personalities." Animals are matched with adopters according to their energy levels and health needs.

SOS screens potential adopters through background checks and veterinary references. The organization finds out if adopters have spayed and neutered their pets in the past, and if they live in a pet-friendly home.

No matter the distance, SOS refuses to ship animals. "Everyone has to actually come and visit the dog or cat they are interested in," Haynes says. "Plus, we require our animals to meet all family members or other animals in the household before an adoption can take place."

Funded strictly from donations, SOS depends on contributions from local businesses and adopters. The Haynes make up the difference if SOS runs short on funds. Contributions come in from fundraisers and from people who receive SOS's free quarterly newsletter, *The Pet Gazette*. Adoption events at pet stores also spur donations.

Save Our Strays website allows would-be pet owners to see pets available for adoption. Visit *Save Our Strays* on Facebook at: *Save Our Strays VT* or their website at www.SaveOurStraysVT.org.

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pastor@jerichocovenantchurch.org - www.jerichocovenantchurch.org

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Directions to the UVM Jericho Research Forest:
 From I-89 Exit at Richmond head west briefly on Route 2. Bear right on River Road (VT 117). Almost immediately turn right on Governor Peck Road. Go about 1.5 miles. Turn left on Tarbox Road. Go about 1.5 miles and turn left at Jericho Research Forest sign. Head several hundred yards to end of road.



Jericho continued from page 1

always seem to be slipping, and we budgeted some increase for town employee salaries. And, there is only a minimal increase in the tax rate. The board has done a good job of keeping the tax rate to a minimum in the last few years."

Town employees will receive a 2 percent, cost-of-living pay raise, with an additional 1.5 percent based on performance. The salary budget line increases 3.8 percent with some of that scheduled for road department overtime.

Odit also said the Selectboard decided to make a change in the Assessor's office. They propose eliminating a contracted assessor paid \$1,750 a month for an average of 24 hours a month, to a part-time employee at the same pay but for 80 hours a month.

The Jericho Center Preservation Association seeks \$5,000 for work on the Community Center in its Campaign for a Solid Footing.

In a bar graph attached to the town budget, tax rates from the fiscal year 1909 through 2012 were nearly steady, around 4.5 cents per \$100 assessed value. In fiscal year 2005, the rate jumped to just short of 6 cents. That dropped to just over 3 cents the next fiscal year, 2006.

Fisher continued from page 3

knew them."

"The community's outpouring of love has been phenomenal," Glen Carter said.

A number of local organizations have offered their assistance. The Jericho Underhill Fire Department has set up a fund for the Fishers. The Jericho Congregational Church has also set up a fund in the form of a checking account at the Merchant's Bank, on RT 15, in Jericho, into which people may make donations by depositing money directly into the account. Local businesses have also stepped up to the plate. Body Logic, on RT 15, donated a full day's receipts to assist the Fishers with daily living expenses. Clark's Truck Center has put information about the JUF's fund drive on their bulletin board at the corner of RT 15 and Brown's Trace Rd. Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop told the Fishers they could come in and get whatever they needed, free. Even the manager at the hotel where Dick and Eileen are staying upgraded their accommodations at no additional charge when he found out their house had just burned down.

In addition to losing all of their material belongings, including irreplaceable things like slides of the kids growing up, the Fisher's fourteen year-old cat, Hobbes, has yet to be found and is presumed to have perished in the blaze. "We miss him," Dick said.

Investigators were unable to determine what caused the fire. At first it was believed that it had originated in the garage, but investigators have determined the fire started inside the house. The Fishers have a wood stove but investigators were unable to say the cause of the fire was related to the wood stove. There were no injuries reported.

Regardless of what started the fire, Dick Fisher is certain of one thing. "People are great!" Dick said. "What has happened to us has strengthened our belief in the Human race."

(If you would like to help the Fishers, please contact the Jericho Congregational Church, at 899-4911.)

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The Jericho-Underhill Community Directory will reach all of the homes and businesses in Underhill & Jericho.

The *Jericho-Underhill Community Directory* will be bulk-mailed to 3750 homes in Bolton, Jericho, and Underhill. In addition, 250 copies will be store-delivered to businesses in Bolton, Jericho, and Underhill.

- The listings and information will include:
- **Local Business & Residential Telephone Listings**
 - Telephone Exchanges
 - Zip Codes
 - **Community Information**
 - Emergency Numbers
 - Utilities' Numbers
 - **Town Offices & Departments**
 - Town Representatives
 - Select & School Boards
 - Rubbish & Recycling
 - Schools • Daycares
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 - Historical Societies & Museums
 - **Clubs & Organizations**
 - **Recreation Information**
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	1/8 PAGE \$100 3-1/2" W. x 2-1/4" T.	1/16 PAGE \$55 1-3/4" W. x 2-1/4" T.	Single Line Listings are Free. ADD BOLD AND ALL CAPS, COST - \$25. BOLD/CAPS listing includes: Business name, address, phone number, and two line that tells what you do or lists your products. Two pt. bold line above & below

Deadline: May 15, 2011 Publication: July 2011

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Mountain Gazette

For more information, call Brenda at **802.453.6354**

ART / MUSIC / THEATER

ART

Middlesex artist, Cheryl Daye Dick pulls images out of the past and onto her canvas in her latest exhibition *Memories: North and South* at the **Emile A. Gruppe Gallery**, January 27 through February 27.

On Sunday February 6, Cheryl will discuss her work, 3:00-4:30 PM at the gallery. The public is invited to this free session. African American history is at the heart of much of her art and life experiences. Cheryl says "art is a way of looking. Through the use of silent image, art allows our minds in a preverbal, almost primitive way, to create a story, feelings and subjective response to it. Landscapes both Northern and Southern tell a great deal about how I feel formed and informed by place - languid, southern heat, Vermont's flinty cold. My figures come from childhood dinner table discussions that always drifted to southern subjects and relatives."

Cheryl's work is adeptly expressed in pastels, watercolor and oils. She has exhibited in galleries throughout New England. In 2001 her show *The Ancestors*, hung in the Vermont Supreme Court Gallery in Montpelier.

First Friday Art Walk - February 4, 5:00 to 8:00 PM, Citywide, Burlington. Over forty galleries and art venues stay open late to welcome walkers and share Burlington's incredible art scene. Take a guided tour or make your own. Pick up your copy of Art Map Burlington, First Friday Art Walk's official publication, and your guide to art in Burlington or check out www.artmapburlington.com to see a list of participating venues. First Friday Art Walk and Art Map Burlington are sponsored by Burlington City Arts, Kasini House, Opportunities Credit Union and the Robert Hull Fleming Museum. Questions? Call 802-264-4839 or send email to info@artmapburlington.com.

Join us this winter at the **Fleming Museum of Art** for an incredible new line-up of exhibitions, programming and events as we celebrate life and spectacle under the big top.

Under the Big Top: The Fine Art of the Circus in America - January 25-May 22. The circus was recognized in late-19th-century Europe as a subject of avant-garde art, but in America, it was not until artist Robert Henri's appeal, in 1923, to paint contemporary life that artists began to search out and paint scenes of this popular entertainment. For artists, as well as for many individuals, the circus offered much more than an enjoyable leisure activity. It provided a spectacle of man's tragic failings as seen in the foolish performances of the clowns; a vision of man's rich potential symbolized by the daring and skill of the aerialists and acrobats; and it offered artists a lens through which to see themselves.

Georges Rouault: Cirque de L'Etoile Filante, January 25-May 22. The world of the circus had always interested French artist Georges Rouault, with its contrast of superficial brightness and the infinite sadness of the clown's life. From 1926 to 1938, he and his Parisian print publisher and dealer, Ambroise Vollard, published Rouault's print portfolio, *Cirque de L'Etoile Filante*, (*Circus of the Shooting Star*) which is Rouault's attempt to strip away the "spangles" of the clown's costume and reveal the "reflection of paradise lost." Seventeen color etchings with aquatint introduce the portfolio, followed by a selection of wood engravings that illustrate the text, also written by Rouault.

Masked Spectacle: Commedia dell'Arte and Bread & Puppet Theater - January 18 - May 8. This exhibition combines prints by American/Hungarian artist Giuseppe Pecszenke (1942-1989) featuring characters and scenes from the independent theater form, *Commedia dell'Arte*, with masks and puppets from the radical puppet theater group, Bread & Puppet, based in Glover, Vermont. *Commedia dell'Arte* and Bread & Puppet incorporate and combine various aspects of pantomime, dance, circus, and masks, often using stock characters to tell their tales and to stage their spectacle. Although visually quite different, both forms of spectacle stress human themes: love, money, sex, greed, hunger, war, fear and death. Moreover, they both incorporate the use of masks to call attention to issues of identity.

Pippo Lionni - January 25 - May 22. The Fleming Museum of Art is delighted to present work this spring by Paris-based artist Pippo Lionni in the Museum's *New Media Niche*, located in the



Buffalo Soldier at the Emile Gruppe Gallery

have been featured at the gallery over many years, including TM Nicholas, Mark Tougias, Eric Tobin, Barbara Lussier, Bob Duffy and Robert Blair in the East Gallery.

The Landscapes of Bradley Fox (1959 - 2010): A memorial exhibition of 30 landscapes by Bradley Fox of Johnson, VT in the gallery's Middle Room.

Bryan Memorial Gallery is open Thursday - Saturday, 11 - 4, and by appointment at any time. The gallery is located at 180 Main Street in Jeffersonville, VT 802-644-5100, www.bryangallery.org, info@bryangallery.org.

Vermont Studio Center announces: Vermont Artists Week April 21-May 1, Vermont Artists Week was created in 1984 to support Vermont's artists and writers with an intensive week of studio work and fellowship with other Vermont artists. The Vermont Studio Center is grateful to all those who've made Vermont Artists Week possible, and would like to extend special thanks to the Vermont Community Foundation's Arts Endowment Fund, Peter and Bari Dreissigacker, and the Studio Center alumni.

Applications must be received by January 31, 2011. To apply, fill out the application form and mail it with the following: Manuscript or Portfolio. See application for details. Current Résumé. \$10 Application Fee. You may pay by check in US dollars, money order or credit card (VISA, Master Card, Discovery, American Express). Self-Addressed Stamped Postcard (Optional). Returned to you as confirmation of receipt of your application. Email the Vermont Studio Center if you would like to receive a paper copy of the application in the mail.

Fellowship Awards: Open to all artists and writers Applications must be received by February 15, 2011. VSC awards a number of fellowships for 4-week residencies throughout the year. In addition to VSC Awards, a variety of special fellowships are also available for full or partial funding as well as specific international fellowships with deadlines on April 1st. To apply for a fellowship, please download an application. To apply for a special fellowship award, applicants should note any additional award name(s) for which they are eligible. View the October 1 Fellowship Winners.

MFA Program: Johnson State College, in conjunction with the Vermont Studio Center, offers a low-residency Masters of Fine Arts program for visual artists. The MFA program combines the intensive studio experience of the Studio Center with supportive, ongoing professional contact from Johnson State College art faculty, making it one of the most unique and rewarding MFA programs available.

MFA program includes: A demanding yet flexible 3-year program. Six 4-week VSC Residencies (two each year) offer focused studio time, with access to the VSC Visiting Artists program and the VSC community. Structured contact and critiques during and after the Residencies with Johnson State College faculty. A thesis exhibition in the Julian Scott Gallery at Johnson State College. Apply directly to Johnson State College, or contact VSC for an application by mail.

BCA Center - First Floor Gallery - Alisa Dworsky - Drawing Strength, January 7-March 5, 2011, Opening Reception & Artist Talk: Friday, January 14, 5:00-8:00 PM.

With ropes and bamboo, artist and architectural designer Alisa Dworsky transforms the east and west galleries into complex physi-

cal environments. In the installation *Surface Tension*, black hand-crocheted rope is used to build a landscape suggestive of topographical maps and computer-generated virtual worlds. Dramatic peaks, formed by an upward pull in the rope, are balanced by a series of suspended counterweights. *Points of View*, a complex network of bamboo tetrahedrons, fills the west gallery. Blue reflective tape on the structure suggests waterline horizon, which creates a shimmering, level plane when illuminated with provided headlamps. With the play of rigid and organic lines, as well as the projection of shadows on the gallery walls, Dworsky reinterprets two-dimensional drawing into three-dimensional form. **FIRST FLOOR GALLERY HOURS:** Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-5:00 PM; Sat NOON-5:00 PM; CLOSED SUNDAY.

TOWN CLERKS SPEAK FRANKLY ABOUT DEMOCRACY - WOMEN TOWN CLERKS OF VERMONT - REFLECTIONS ON DEMOCRACY will be exhibited at the Vermont Folklife Center in Middlebury from February 1 - March 31. This unique exhibition created by New York-based photographer, Sandra Elkin, combines portrait photography and the voices of 19 women clerks to create a fascinating glimpse of who they are and their concerns. Whether plainspoken or boldly provocative, the "Clerks" challenge us as they speak openly and frankly of democracy, town meetings, the obligations of citizenship, state government, and their towns.

Public programming for the exhibit will include sessions—organized by town clerks—on the Australian ballot and its impact on town meeting and the changes imposed on town government by state-level decisions. UVM political science professor Frank Bryan will also weigh in with a lecture titled "Town Meeting and Local Government: Focus on Women."

Essex Art League's on-going community exhibits: Members of the Essex Art League will be exhibiting their works through January and February at the following venues.

These Essex Art League members will be exhibiting their work at the Fletcher Allen Health Center at Blair Park, Williston through February. Patrick Kennedy of Burlington will be exhibiting his watercolor paintings, Lucy Wilcox of Jericho will be exhibiting her photographs and Diana Dunn of Jericho will be exhibiting her watercolor paintings.

Essex Art League member Jacquie Call of Burlington will be exhibiting her oil and watercolor painting at Essex Town Offices.

For more information on the Essex Art League's programs and exhibitions please visit the website at www.essexartleague.com.

Local artists are invited to participate in the **2011 Jericho Underhill Open Studio Tour**. The event is part of the statewide Vermont Craft Council Open Studio on Saturday and Sunday of Memorial Weekend, May 28 and 29, 2011. Deadline for the local tour is February 1. Please contact Grace Nelson for more information: 899 - 3051

MUSIC

Queen City Contrás regular dance on Friday February 11 at 8:00 PM at Edmunds Middle School, 299 Main Street, Burlington, VT. Nils Fredland will be the caller. Music will be provided by Owen Marshall and Ari and Mia Friedman. All are welcome, all dances taught, no partner or experience necessary. Beginners' session at 7:45 PM. Admission is \$8.00 adults. Under 12 free. Please bring clean, soft-soled shoes for dancing. Dance Info: 802-371-9492 or 802-343-7165

"Strings Attached" Concert to Benefit the KidSafe Collaborative, Burlington's College Street Congregational Church, Saturday February 12, 7:30 PM. "Strings Attached" is the latest in the innovative "90:10" Burlington Ensemble ("be") benefit chamber music series. To benefit the KidSafe Collaborative, suggested donation is just \$5. A special Valentine's dessert reception at Merchants Bank's College Street branch will follow the concert. For more information: www.kidsafevt.org and www.burlingtonensemble.com. Or call 863-9626.

Saint Michael's College presents pianist **Annemieke Spoelstra** in a concert titled, *Bach and the Piano*, Friday February 25, 7:30 PM in the McCarthy Arts Center with music of J.S. Bach. Ms. Spoelstra, first prize winner of the Dutch National competition for Young Music Talent, is accompanist for the Saint Michael's College Chorale and the Vermont Youth Orchestra.

Westford Music Series presents MUD SEASON, Sunday February 20, 4:00-5:00 PM, UCW White Church, 1 White Church Lane, Westford. Contact: Marjorie Hamrell at 802-879-4028.

An Evening of Celtic Music and Dance: traditional music of Scotland and Ireland on harp, bagpipes and drum presented by local troupes: Green Mt. Celts, Dominique Dodge, Tim Cummings and the St. Andrews Highland Dancers at Good Shepherd Church on Route 15 in Jericho. February 5, 7:00 PM. Tickets \$10, \$8 for students 13-18, 12 and under free. Reduced rate in advance at 878-3840.

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra's 2010/2011 Masterworks Series continues in the new year on Saturday January 22 as VSO Music Director Jaime Laredo conducts "Winter Warmth," a program of three colorful works to banish the mid-winter blues. The concert at the Flynn Center in Burlington begins at 8:00 PM.

Single tickets for the January 22 concert start at \$16. For additional information or tickets, please call the FlynnTix Regional Box Office at (802) 86-FLYNN (863-5966), the VSO office at 800-VSO-9293, extension 10, or visit the VSO website at www.vso.org.

The **Vermont Symphony Orchestra** will present its popular annual concert in the State House Legislative Chambers in Montpelier on Wednesday, January 19 at 7:30 PM. The traditional David M. Wilson Memorial Farmers' Night Concert features VSO Music Director Jaime Laredo, VSO concertmaster Katherine Winterstein, principal bassoonist Janet Polk, and cellist Dieuweke Davydov. The concert is free and open to the public, first-come, first-seated. The doors will open at 6:45 PM.

For additional information please visit the VSO website at www.vso.org.

Saturday and Sunday, February 5 and 6, 2011, **Vermont Philharmonic Orchestra Winter Concert**, "Beethoven, Brahms & Borowicz", Lou Kosma, Music Director, Lisa Jablow, Assistant Conductor, Elley-Long Music Center at St. Michael's College in Colchester, \$15 / \$12 seniors / \$5 students, 7:30 PM. Pre-concert talk at 7:10 PM (tickets at the door or on line at the VPO's web site www.vermontphilharmonic.org).

THEATER

Auditions for Shelburne Players' spring comedy *Beyond Therapy* by Christopher Durang will be held on Sunday, January 23 from 1:00-4:00 PM, Monday, January 24 and Tuesday, January 25 from 6:30-9:30 PM, at Shelburne Town Center, 5420 Shelburne Road, Shelburne. Performances take place on April 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, and 16. Please contact our director, Patrick Houle (phone 363-7643 or email spikefan79@yahoo.com) for further information. More details are available at www.shelburneplayers.com.

OBITUARIES

Mary Grace Pota Campi, age 44, of Westford, VT, formerly of Oceanport, N.J., died Monday January 24, 2011 in Burlington. Her parents, Maria and Tullio Pota, emigrated from Italy to provide a better life for their children. Born in Long Branch, N.J., she moved to Vermont eight years ago. She was predeceased by her father, Tullio. Surviving is her husband, John Campi of Westford, VT; her mother, Maria Pota of Oceanport, N.J.; her brother and sister-in-law, Louis and Christine Pota of Little Silver, N.J.; her father-in-law and mother-in-law, John and Carolyn Campi of Iselin, N.J.; a sister-in-law, Michele Campi of Flemington, N.J.; and also her two nephews, Sean and Eric Pota of Little Silver, N.J. Visitation was held at the Damiano Funeral Home, 191 Franklin Ave., Long Branch, N.J. The funeral was on Saturday January 29, 2011 at 9:30 AM from the funeral home with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 10:30 AM from Holy Trinity Church, Long Branch, N.J. Interment will follow at Woodbine Mausoleum, Oceanport, N.J. The family invites you to leave an online condolence at www.damianofuneralhome.com. Flowers will be accepted, or memorial donations can be made to the American Cancer Society, 801 Broad Street, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702.

Kristy Leigh Duprat, 32 of Cambridge, VT died unexpectedly Tuesday January 11, 2011 at the Copley Hospital Morrisville, VT. Kristy was born February 3, 1978 in Burlington, VT, the daughter of Susan Shatney. Kristy loved to make jewelry and she enjoyed writing and cooking. She was first and foremost a good and wonderful mother to her two boys, Ryan and Joshua. A kind, warm, and generous woman who had a big heart, Kristy would do anything for anyone. Her giving nature



will be missed by all. Kristy is survived by her two sons, Ryan and Joshua of Cambridge, VT; her stepfather Thomas Shatney and his wife Sharon of Richmond, VT; her sister Dawn Duprat and fiancé Jim Yandow of Colchester, VT and their two children Nicholas and Matthew; her grandmother Marie Bushey of Colchester, VT; her uncle and aunt David and Michelle Bushey of Colchester, VT and their daughter Michelle; her aunt and uncle Bonnie and Sean Crumb of Georgia, VT and their two children Cayla and Jason; her aunt and uncle Cheryl and Will Berkoff of St. Albans, VT; her uncle Paul Duprat of Middlebury, VT; her great-aunt Doloris LaFrance of Barre, VT; her aunts Sue Duprat and Amy Molina of Barre, VT; and her cousins Jessica Burnor and family of Colchester, VT; Katie O'Neil and family of Bristol, VT; Nykky Poquette and family of Bristol, VT. Special friends Lori McKee and Jimmy McKee of Cambridge, VT. She was predeceased by her mother Susan Shatney of Richmond, VT; her maternal grandfather Maynard Bushey; and her grandparents Ernest and Theresa Duprat. A funeral service was held Tuesday January 18, 2011 at 6:00 PM in the Minor Funeral Home, Route 7, Milton, VT. A burial will be held Tuesday January 18 at 11:00 AM at the Holy Cross Cemetery located on Fairfax Street, St. Albans, VT. Memorial contributions can be made to the family in care of Dawn Duprat, 91 Wildflower Lane, Colchester, VT 05446. Visiting hours were held on Tuesday January 18, 2011 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM in the Minor Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.minorfh.com.

Casino Night at Smugglers' Notch Resort

Viva Notch Vegas, that's what, happens when blackjack, roulette, craps and other fun games of chance are played at the 12th Annual Smugglers' Notch Ski & Snowboard Club Casino Night being held Saturday February 5 at Smugglers' Notch Resort.

The event, which is open to the public, is held from 7:00-11:00 PM at the Lower Level of the Meeting House in Smugglers' Notch village. Hors d'oeuvres, music and cash bar round out the night.

For more information call 644-1177.

LIBRARY NEWS

DEBORAH RAWSON LIBRARY, UNDERHILL

Art for February will feature oil paintings by Kate Kotulak and Desiree jewelry in the display case.

Music Sunday February 6 at 2:00 PM. Come join us in the warm and cozy reading room at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library at 2:00 PM on February 6. Our featured performers, John Penoyar and Friends cover a wide variety of music from blues to swing jazz and beyond. John Penoyar sings, plays guitar, and is one of Vermont's major proponents of one of the most miscellaneous of instruments - the ukulele. He will be joined by Todd Sagar on fiddle and chromatic harmonica (a rival of the ukulele for most miscellaneous instrument), and the incomparable Andrew Albright on string bass.

Join George Till and Bill Frank on Thursday February 3 at 6:30 PM for a legislative update and discussion.

Game night for adults is Wednesday February 9 at 6:30 PM. Do you love to play board games or card games? Please join us for an evening of game fun. There will be a variety of games to choose from. If you have a favorite game, bring it and a friend. If you are new to the area this is a great way to meet people also.

The mystery book group will meet Tuesday February 15 at 7:00 PM to discuss *Death in a strange country* by Donna Leon. Everyone is welcome.

The Board of Trustees will meet Thursday February 17 at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.

Italian Movie night will be Friday February 18 at 6:30 PM. The movie will be shown in Italian with English subtitles. Call the library for the title. The Movie is co-sponsored with the Vermont Italian Cultural Association.

You wrote a book, now what?

Gain an insider's view of book publishing. Understand how to find and lure the right literary agent. Learn to work with all of the departments within a publishing company. Master book proposal and query letter writing skills. Understand subsidiary right sales as well as special and premium right sales. Explore effective Internet marketing and promotion. Even learn how to research the competition before you write your book. Saturday February 19, 2:00-4:00 PM. Please call the library to register 899-4962. This workshop will be led by Jan Kardys. Jan is the president of Black Hawk Literary Agency LLC and has 30 years of diversified publishing experience for nine major publishing corporations. Beginning a career in editorial, Jan also worked in art and production in School publishing. Jan held various executive positions in subsidiary rights, licensing, database design, imaging, royalty conversions, contracts, copyrights and permissions departments. In addition to her work as a literary agent, she created Unicorn Writers' Conference which will host the second conference on April 9, 2011 in Portland, CT.

The silent auction item is currently a large pizza a month for a year from Mt. High Pizza. Bids will be taken until 8:00 PM on February 17. Stop by the library to bid.

The library will be closed February 20, 21, 22 and 23. The entryway and bathrooms are being painted. The book drop will be available.

Evening Story Time for Families - Parents with older preschoolers and children in kindergarten through second grade are invited to join us for Valentine's Day stories, craft and light refreshments. Thursday February 3 at 6:30 pm. Registration required. Call: 899-4962.

Baby Time - Join Leah Rowe for board books, lap rhymes and songs appropriate for babies 18 months and younger. This is a wonderful time for parents and childcare providers to connect with one another and to share ideas. Siblings welcome. Thursday February 10 at 10:30 AM. Drop in, no registration needed.

Special Preschool Valentine's Day Story Time - Valentine stories, songs, fingerplays, snack and craft for preschoolers and their caregiver. Drop in, no registration needed: Wednesday February 16 at 11:00 AM; Thursday February 17 at 10:00 AM.

Library hours: Tuesday 12:00 - 8:00 PM, Wednesday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Thursday 12:00 - 8:00 PM, Friday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 PM, closed Monday. For information on any of the library's programs, call 899-4962.

FAIRFAX LIBRARY, FAIRFAX

The library is located at 75 Hunt Street Fairfax VT 05454. Library Hours Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:00 AM-3:15 PM, Tuesday, and Thursday 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM. <<http://www.bfafairfax.com/pages/communitylibrarynews.html>. 802-849-2420.>

JERICHO CENTER, LIBRARY

The following is the latest news and events for the Jericho Town

Bolton continued from page 1

of the Notch Road project which began in spring and was completed by the end of the summer. The town has \$45,000 left over from the project which is being held in a reserve fund. They hope to use that money to pay down the bond and offset the tax rate, but that can't be done this year. "The bond repayment is a big chunk of money," said Vallie, noting that it makes up 17% of general fund expenses. Without the bond repayment, the budget would be very close to being level funded from last year.

Vallie predicted that there will be one major topic of conversation at Town Meeting. Richmond Rescue, the only company servicing Bolton, hopes to move to a paramedicine system and would propose an increase in Bolton's rates to accomplish this. Richmond Rescue had planned a meeting with voters to discuss the proposed change but cancelled it when similar meetings in Richmond and Huntington failed to generate much of an audience. They will have representatives at Town Meeting, but Vallie wishes there had been an earlier meeting so members of the public could learn the pros and cons of the system. Even if they don't add a paramedic to their staff, Richmond will probably ask for a rate increase. Vallie, a volunteer ski patroller notes that paramedicine "is the best case scenario" for a rescue service but there is a question as to how much the town can afford.

Bolton voters generally approve their town budgets and Vallie hopes this year will follow that pattern. "I'm very hopeful it passes," he said, "because we've cut to the bone in other areas."

Smilie School Budget

School Board Chair Andrew Pond knows the town of Bolton has always been very supportive of the school budget and he hopes that trend will continue. The budget for Smilie School comes in at \$1,323,000, up 1.7% from last year.

Pond said the largest increase is due to changes in health insurance. While he was unsure exactly how this came about, he noted that having just one employee switch from their partner's insurance to the school's can have a major impact on the budget. Enrollment is expected to stay steady in contrast to some swings over the past few years. At one point there were two Kindergartens and first grade

Library

American Girl Family Movie Night - Grab your American Girl doll and join us for family movie night at the library on Saturday February 12 at 6:30 PM. The movie tells the tale of an American Girl and her life in Depression-era Cincinnati. Come as your favorite American Girl character, come in your pajamas or just come as you are.

Writers' Club - The writers club continues with meetings every other Monday night, 6:30 - 8 PM. The next meetings are scheduled for February 7 and 21. All ages are welcome. For more information please contact Jill Avey at jill.avey@gmail.com.

Summer Reading Program - Now that we are in the middle of winter, it is time to start thinking about the Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is "One World, Many Stories", with a focus on multiculturalism and travel. If you have any ideas for programs you would like to lead or see, contact Donna at the library.

Story Time - Story time including craft and snack is held every Wednesday upstairs at 10:00 AM. Come share the joy of books, finger plays, and music.

Volunteer Opportunities - High School students needing to fulfill community service may volunteer at the library when your schedule permits. Your help is really appreciated. Call or stop by.

General information - The board of trustees meets regularly on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the library and the public is always welcome to attend. The next meeting is February 3.

Library hours are Monday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Wednesday 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM, Friday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM, and Saturday 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. For more information, call the library at 899-4686, email Jerichotownlibrary@gmail.com, or visit the library website at www.jerichotownlibrary.org.

VARNUM MEMORIAL LIBRARY, JEFFERSONVILLE

The Varnum Memorial Library is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 1:00-8:00 PM and Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:00 AM - 12 noon. There are programs for children and adults, free WiFi access, and of course books and materials to check out including the ECHO Center pass. Call 644-2117 if you have any questions.

WESTFORD LIBRARY, WESTFORD

Upcoming Events:

Thursday February 3, 11:00 AM - Early Literacy Storytime. Stories and activities utilizing early literacy concepts for ages birth-preschool. Theme: Print Awareness.

Thursday February 3, 1:00-3:00 PM - Homeschool Gamers. Bring your own games or enjoy the library's selection. Hosted by Matt Taylor.

Thursday February 3, 5:30-6:15 PM - Beginning with Mother Goose. This session meets in the Library. Led by Kendra Dibble, Westford Preschool Teacher, and Victoria Tibbits, Librarian.

Friday February 4, 12:00-1:30 PM - Free Individualized Computer Tutoring for Ages 50+. Offered in collaboration with Champlain Valley Agency on Aging. Americorps member Colin Hunt offers personalized help with all your computer questions...everything from "How do I turn this thing on?" to "How do I use the Internet and email?" and more. Call Victoria at 878-5639 to setup an appointment.

Wednesday February 9, 6:00-7:00 PM - Book Discussion: The Monsters of Templeton (Groff).

Thursday February 10, 11:00 AM - Early Literacy Storytime. Stories and activities utilizing early literacy concepts for ages birth-preschool. Theme: Love and Friendship.

Thursday February 10, 6:00-7:00 PM - Listening to C.S.Lewis Talk About Love. C.S.Lewis used the four ancient Greek concepts of love- Eros, Storge, Philia and Agape - to engage and expand our understanding of the complexity of love. Come and discover for yourself the meanings of these Greek terms when translated and taken to heart. Presented by Westford resident Cathy Paparella. Cathy has an MA in Pastoral Ministry, has been married for 51 years, has been a fan of Lewis for more than 30 years, and has presented several talks on him and this topic over the years.

Saturday February 12, 11:00 AM - Saturday Storytime. Ages birth-6. Theme: Presidents.

Thursday February 17, 11:00 AM - Early Literacy Storytime. Stories and activities utilizing early literacy concepts for ages birth-preschool. Theme: The Mitten.

Thursday February 17, 1:00-3:00 PM - Homeschool Gamers. Bring your own games or enjoy the library's selection. Hosted by Matt Taylor.

Friday February 18, 12:00-1:30 PM - Free Individualized Computer Tutoring for Ages 50+. Offered in collaboration with

Champlain Valley Agency on Aging. Americorps member Colin Hunt offers personalized help with all your computer questions...everything from "How do I turn this thing on?" to "How do I use the Internet and email?" and more. Call Victoria at 878-5639 to setup an appointment.

Friday February 18, 6:30 PM - Family Movie Night. While competing for the title "World's Greatest Villain". Gru and his minions plot to steal the moon....He's despicable. Rated PG. Free popcorn. Call Victoria for the movie title.

Thursday February 24, 11:00 AM - Early Literacy Storytime. Stories and activities utilizing early literacy concepts for ages birth-preschool. Theme: Parents' Favorites. Note: This storytime will be parent-led.

Friday February 25, 12:00-1:30 PM - Free Individualized Computer Tutoring for Ages 50+. Offered in collaboration with Champlain Valley Agency on Aging. Americorps member Colin Hunt offers personalized help with all your computer questions...everything from "How do I turn this thing on?" to "How do I use the Internet and email?" and more. Call Victoria at 878-5639 to setup an appointment.

Friday February 25, 6:00 PM - Strategy and Board Games for Teens and Adults. Hosted by Matt Taylor. ***Plan Ahead*** Seated Yoga for Ages 55+ Begins Friday, 3/4, 11:00 - 12:00 PM. Seated Yoga is for first-timers as well as experienced practitioners. This 8-week program offers breathing and stretching exercises. It helps reduce stress and strengthen balance. Led by CVAA Americorps member Colin Hunt. Call Colin at 865-0360 if you have questions and call Victoria at 878-5639 to register.

New Additions to the Collection: Adult Fiction: *The Finkler Question* (Jacobsen), *Let the Great World Spin* (McCann), *A Reliable Wife* (Goolrick). Adult Nonfiction: *Cleopatra* (Schiff), *Emperor of All Maladies* (Mukherjee), *How to Live a Life of Montaigne* (Bakewell), *Peace and Plenty* (Ban Breathnach), *The Town that Food Saved* (Hewitt). Teen: *Behemoth* (Westerfeld), *Ink Exchange* (Marr), *World War Z - An Oral History of the Zombie Wars* (Brooks), *Tears of a Tiger* (Draper), *Awakened - House of Night* (Cast), *The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin* (Berk), *The Sky is Everywhere* (Nelson).Juv: Picture Book: *Learning to Ski with Mr. Magee* (Van Dusen), *Mirror* (Baker), *A Pig Parade is a Terrible Idea* (Black), Fiction: *Tales from the Hood* (Buckley). Nonfiction: *Eyewitness Knight* (Gravett), *Guinness World Records 2011, I'm Getting a Checkup* (Singer), *National Geographic World Atlas for Young Explorers*. Graphic Novel: *The Odyssey* (Hinds).

Seeking presenters and volunteers to Bring the World to Westford this summer. Have you lived or worked abroad? Are you willing to present a travelogue? Do you have artwork or photos from other countries that you could display in the library? Would you like to create an International Night with food, music, and costumes? Do you play cricket, Chinese jump rope, mancala, Go or other games, sports and pastimes? Do you speak another language? Would you be willing to host a bilingual storytime, teach simple phrases or songs to children and families? Other ideas to bring an international flavor home to Westford? Help us explore *One World, Many Stories*. This year, most Summer Reading Program events will take place Wednesday - Friday later afternoon or early evening. We hope this will better fit families' busy schedules. Please contact Victoria at 878-5639. Your ideas are needed to make this a great summer.

The Westford Library is open Wednesday 1:00-7:00 PM, Thursday 10:00 AM-6:00 PM, Friday 12:00-6:00 PM, and Saturday 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. We can be reached at 878-5639, westford_pl@vals.state.vt.us, and www.westford.lib.vt.us.

Stone wall workshop now available

A series of stone wall building workshops is being held this winter in Hinesburg. Participants in the one-day workshop learn the basic techniques for building dry-laid stone walls, with a special focus on stone native to Vermont. The hands-on workshops are held in warm greenhouses and led by Vermont stonemasons trained through Britain's Dry Stone Walling Association. The workshops are organized by Charley MacMartin of Queen City Soil & Stone.

Participants in previous workshops included homeowners and area landscapers looking to strengthen their stone work skills. Upcoming workshop dates include Saturday, February 12, with additional dates through March 2011. The price for the one day workshop is \$100, and space is limited. For the complete schedule and registration information, contact Charley MacMartin at (802) 318-2411 or click on the workshop link at www.queencitysoilandstone.com.



LEGAL NOTICE

**TOWN OF JERICHO - DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Jericho Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, February 24, 2011 at 7:00 PM** in the Jericho Town Hall to consider the following:

- A request by Lindsay and Charlie Prezzano for conditional use approval for a home occupation. The property is currently owned by Frank and Margaret McCourt and located at 67 Old Pump Road in the Agricultural Zoning District.
- A request by the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for sketch plan review of a sign. The property is located at 195 Vermont Route 15 and is in the Village District.

All interested persons may appear and be heard. Written materials may be viewed in the Zoning Office during regular business hours. Seth Jensen, Town Planner, Town of Jericho.

Plan to advertise your business in March 17, 2011 Home Improvement

Notes from Montpelier

By Rep. Bill Frank

I was pleased that Speaker Smith appointed me to serve on the Human Services committee again. The committee has seven members returning from last session and four freshman members. The first couple of weeks in all committees are a time for agency secretaries and department commissioners to meet the committees and talk about their priorities. With a new administration there are many new people to meet. This is also a time for committees to prioritize what the members want to accomplish for the session.

We received a report from the Health Department on a program we established my first term in the Legislature, the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System. I was especially interested in this report because I reported the bill to the full House and followed the creation of the data base of all prescriptions of controlled drugs dispensed by Vermont pharmacies. The database is for medical purposes to help doctors determine if patients are asking or receiving too many habit forming drugs. We heard from emergency room doctors that this tool has been invaluable in determining when people are asking for drugs other than to control their real pain. In 2½ years more than 2 million entries have been entered into the database. This is a real success story.

The Vermont Ethics Network presented the annual report of the Palliative Care and Pain Management Task Force. They recommend creating a standardize form for out-of-hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) orders and DNR identification and expanding simultaneous eligibility for Choices for Care and Hospice Services. I introduced a bill for these recommendations. I continue to work to achieve access to palliative care and hospice services to children with life-threatening illnesses while they continue to receive curative care. I am hopeful I can report success for this before we adjourn in May.

Thursday evening, February 3 from 6:30-8:00 PM, Rep. Till and I will be at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library to discuss these and any other items under consideration in the current session. Please join us for an informal discussion. We will be having this type of discussion about every 5 weeks alternating between Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

As always I like to hear from you, either by email:

Bill@RepBillFrank.com, phone: 899-3136, mail: 19 Poker Hill Rd, Underhill, 05489 or February 3 at the Library.

WELCOME HOME

JEFFERSONVILLE

(Rondeau) Amanda (Wagner) and Christopher Rondeau's son, Arjay Rojer, was born on Saturday December 25, 2010 at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT.

JERICO

(Lavigne) Georgia (Anderson) and Shawn Lavigne had a son, Graden Bay, on Monday December 13, 2010 at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT.

(Percy-Blowers) Crystal Marie and Andrew Scot Percy-Blowers had a son, Brayden Steven, on Monday January 10, 2011 at Northwestern Medical Center in St. Albans, VT.

Westford continued from page 1

and \$5,000 is being cut from the Information Technology budget.

Since the Legislature has not yet set a tax rate, the Board has provided a best and worst case scenario for tax implications. According to Heath, under the best case scenario, those who pay based on income sensitivity would actually see a decrease in taxes of \$5 for every \$50,000 and those who pay based on property taxes would see no change. Under the worst case scenario, those paying based on income sensitivity would see a \$5 increase for every \$50,000 and those paying based on property taxes would see an increase of \$25 for every \$100,000.

The Board is proposing three additional articles, only one of which has budgetary implications. The first two are for the creation of fund reserve balances: \$45,000 to cover anticipated increases in high school tuition costs and \$5,000 for roof repairs. The third article would add \$15,000 to the budget to teach world languages to students in K-4. Last year the Board hoped to launch the world language program but it was axed after the budget was voted down.

Conrad Racine, one of the Westford residents who led the petition for last year's budget revote will not raise any formal opposition this year. "How do you oppose a budget that's down over \$150,000?" he asked rhetorically. Racine said he is troubled that most of the decrease comes from a decline in high school students and bothered by the fact that there are no concessions from the teachers' union. He said he has also been told there is a \$60,000 surplus from last year which surprises him given the fact that the board claimed no further cuts could be made from that budget.

Grant Geisler, Executive Director of Operations and CFO for the Chittenden Central School District said the surplus comes from FY '10, not FY '11. He explained that since expenditures can vary, schools tend to finish the year with either a surplus or a deficit. As is always the case, the FY '11 budget was prepared before the FY '10 year was completed so the money goes toward the FY '12 budget. Similarly, a \$27,000 surplus from FY '09 was used in FY '11. The surplus is actually \$120,000, but the budget articles being presented to the voters pertain to uses for \$50,000 with \$70,000 being added to the FY '12 numbers. Geisler explained that increases in the fund balance have the same tax implications as a decrease in expenses. By using \$70,000 rather than \$120,000, there is a lesser likelihood of a significant drop in the FY '13 fund balance. Geisler said there is no single reason for the size of the fund balance but he believes a large portion of it came from the variation in the way the district is charged for those attending the high school versus those attending the technical school.

Heath hopes the voters will see that the Board worked hard to keep down costs and meet the Challenges for Change target. "We're bringing in a budget 3% below the previous year," she said, "and I hope they will vote in favor of it."

UNDERHILL GRADED SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Board Mission & Strategic Vision:

The mission of the Underhill I.D. School Board is to provide the school with the human and financial resources it requires to carry out its educational role. The Board will strive to promote the highest quality educational program in the most fiscally responsible way, building broad-based support in the community for the school. The Underhill I.D. School Board will strive to improve the educational outputs of the school by increasing public support for the school and its budget. The Board will be a leader in advocating for streamlined governance in the CESU district and for bringing to the public's attention the I.D. school's strengths and achievements.

The FY 2012 Budget

As it worked on developing the budget for the coming fiscal year, one of the main issues the Underhill ID (UID) Board faced was reacting to Act 146, the Challenges for Change program passed by the Vermont legislature in the spring of 2010. A key part of Act 146 was a series of "suggested" reductions in educational spending for each Supervisory Union in the state in order to cut about \$23 million from education spending statewide for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. The UID Board worked closely with Principal Mackin to ensure that these reductions would have the least impact on the excellent educational product our school has been able to offer. Achieving the targeted reduction at UID was complicated by the collection of approximately \$68,000 in delinquent taxes, which had the effect of significantly increasing the education spending reduction target. The proposed 2011-2012 UID budget represents a 0.25% decrease, however, because of a reduction in non-tax revenues – primarily from the reduction in the surplus carry forward – education spending increases 4.9%. The homestead tax rate is a function of education spending per pupil. Although the total education spending is increasing, UID's enrollment increased, consequently reducing the education spending on a per pupil basis by 3.3%. We estimate that the effect of this reduction, along with increases to each town's common level of appraisal, will reduce the homestead tax rate between 1.75% and 3.75% for Jericho ID and Underhill ID residents.

CESU Governance

In December, 2009, the eight boards that comprise CESU voted to begin a comprehensive study of the CESU governance structure. The ultimate goal of this study is to have a ballot question some time in 2011 addressing the idea of a single school board for CESU consisting of representatives from each of the districts currently forming the supervisory union.

If the ideas presented in the current study are approved by the voters, then CESU would change from a supervisory union to a Regional Education District (RED), governed by a single school board. To get to the point where a ballot question can actually be placed in front of voters, CESU has had to follow a number of legally mandated steps, the first being the formation of an exploratory committee composed of board members and the public. The committee, known as the Voluntary Merger Planning Committee, was formed last summer. Its charge is to review the range of issues related to creating a single board, to decide if a single board structure for CESU is feasible, and produce articles of agreement and a report describing the new governance structure, how it will operate, tax implications, and academic benefits. These articles and the report must be reviewed by each of the CESU boards, then approved by the State Board of Education, and ultimately, approved the voters of each community involved.

The VMPC held its first meeting in early August, 2010 and has been meeting regularly ever since. The committee has been assisted in its work by Mr. Dave Ford, a consultant hired through the Vermont School Boards Association. The UID Board is represented on the VMPC by Robert Letovsky, who also chairs the committee. As of the date of this report, the articles for formation of the RED and accompanying report have been written, reviewed by all eight CESU boards and have been forwarded to the Commissioner of Education for his approval. Assuming the Commissioner approves the articles and report, the VMPC will begin working with each of the CESU boards to hold a series of public information meetings. We anticipate holding the vote on creation of the RED some time in May or June, 2011. If approved by voters in all participating towns, the new RED and board would begin operations on July 1, 2012.

Minutes of all VMPC meetings and the articles of incorporation and report submitted to the Department of Education can be viewed on the CESU website under the School Boards tab (<http://www.cesu.k12.vt.us/>).

Contract Negotiations

UID board members assisted in the negotiations with two bargaining units of the Green Mountain NEA: the teachers union and the educational support professionals. Robert Letovsky was the UID board's representative on the committee, serving as its chair and spokesperson, while Jessica Dion participated as an alternate. We are pleased to report that over the course of the past few months the Negotiations Committee was able to arrive at multi-year settlements with both bargaining units. These agreements allow CESU to continue offering fair compensation packages to our employees, while responding to taxpayer expectations that the boards continue to operate our schools in a way that reflects current economic realities. A complete description of the agreements, as well as press releases and minutes of all negotiating sessions can be accessed at the CESU web site (<http://www.cesu.k12.vt.us/negotiations>).

Annual Meeting and Budget Vote

The UID School annual meeting will be held on **Monday, February 28, 2011** at 7:00 PM at the Underhill I.D. School. The agenda includes electing three board members as well as providing an overview of the school's educational accomplishments, the proposed budget and other issues affecting education in Vermont.

Please remember to vote on the UID school budget on **Tuesday, March 1, 2011**. Polling stations will be at Browns River Middle School (for Underhill residents of the I.D. school district) and at Jericho Elementary School (for Jericho residents).

Underhill ID School Directors

Robert Letovsky, Chair Valerie Bansbach Jessica Dion
Leslie Kanat Andrea Sandy

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Your gift of \$25 will enable cancer
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daffodil bouquets.

Donate Today!



1.800.227.2345
cancer.org/daffodils

Did You Know...?

100% of VCS students in the Class of 2010 were admitted to their 1st or 2nd choice of colleges AND the Class received a total of more than \$900,000 in merit-based scholarships.

No wonder this year's seniors are smiling!



Vermont Commons is an independent day school in South Burlington offering a rigorous, college preparatory curriculum for students in grades 7-12.

Recent VCS graduates are attending a long list of colleges and universities including:
Arizona State • Bates • Bowdoin • Carleton • Carnegie Mellon • Champlain • Cornell • Dartmouth • Duke • Lewis and Clark • Mount Holyoke • NYU • Parsons • RISD • Saint Michael's • Swarthmore • Williams • University of Pennsylvania • UVM • Whitman •



VERMONT
COMMONS
SCHOOL

SAT SCORES*	CRITICAL READING	MATHEMATICS	WRITING
VERMONT COMMONS CLASS OF 2011	612	541	615
STATE OF VERMONT CLASS OF 2010	519	521	506

*Source: www.collegeboard.com

OPEN HOUSE: Feb. 12th @ 10am
To preregister, please call 802-865-8084

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VCS student wins State of the Union Essay Contest

Congratulations Keenan Villani-Holland of Richmond

As President Obama was preparing to deliver his State of the Union Address, Senator Bernie Sanders thought it would be interesting to hear what students had to say on the subject. To that end, Senator Sanders invited high school students throughout Vermont to share their thoughts on the state of our nation by entering an essay contest. The winning essay was submitted by Keenan Villani-Holland from Richmond. Susannah Johnson from Charlotte was selected as one of 12 finalists. Both students are seniors at Vermont Commons School in South Burlington.

To promote the essay contest and get students thinking, Senator Sanders posted a series of questions on his website: "How are families coping with the most severe recession since the Great De-

pression? How is the United States doing on issues of concern to young people? What is your view on the current condition of the United States? What should the president define as short-term and long-term goals?" As added incentive, Senator Sanders promised to visit the school submitting the winning essay and publish the winning essay in the Congressional Record. Mark Cline Lucey, a social studies instructor at Vermont Commons School, took the bait and brought the assignment to his senior social studies class.

"I'm so proud of Keenan, Susannah and all of my students," notes Cline Lucey, "and of course we're thrilled that Senator Sanders will be coming to Vermont Commons to meet with student and run a town meeting." The exact date of Sanders' visit has not been set.



Keenan Villani-Holland from Richmond. Susannah Johnson from Charlotte were selected as finalists in Senator Sander's essay contest.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Fundraiser to benefit Project Graduation

Annual MMU Outback Steakhouse Project Graduation Fundraiser Luncheon will be held on March 17, 2011 at the Outback Steakhouse in South Burlington. There will be a buffet and two seatings at 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM. Contact Chris Haskins to purchase your tickets before they are sold out. 434-4967

This is an annual event where MMU and the Outback team up to put on and raise money for Project Graduation. The Class of 2011 would love to see you there.

CESU meetings

Thursday February 3 - CESU Voluntary Merger Planning Committee meeting, 4:30 PM, Central Office.

Wednesday February 9 - Jericho School Board meeting, 7:00 PM, Jericho Elementary School.

Thursday February 10 - MMU Facilities Committee meeting, 6:30 PM, BRMS

Thursday February 10 - MMU School Board meeting, 7:30 PM, BRMS.

Monday February 14 - CESU Policy Committee meeting, 6:30 PM, Central Office.

Tuesday February 15 - MMU Community Forum regarding the Strategic Plan, 6:00 PM, MMUHS.

Thursday February 17 - Mt. Mansfield Union School District Annual Meeting, 7:30 PM, MMUHS.

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LEGAL NOTICE

OFFICIAL WARNING

MOUNT MANSFIELD UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #17

February 17, 2011 and March 1, 2011

The legal voters of the Mount Mansfield Union School District #17 consisting of the town school districts of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, Underhill Town and Underhill Incorporated School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Mount Mansfield Union High School on **Thursday, February 17, 2011, at 7:30 p.m.** to transact any of the following business not involving Australian Ballot, the meeting is to be adjourned and reconvened in the respective polling places hereinafter named for each of the above-referenced town school districts on **Tuesday, March 1, 2011** at 7:00 a.m. (Huntington at 6:30 am) at which time the polls will open, until 7:00 p.m. at which time the polls will close, to transact any business involving voting by Australian Ballot.

- Article 1: To elect the following officers:
 a Moderator for one year,
 a Clerk for one year,
 a Treasurer for one year, and
 an Auditor for three years.
 - Article 2: To hear and act upon the written reports of the District Officers.
 - Article 3: This time serves as a public information hearing for public review of the 2011-12 proposed budget—for discussion purposes only.
 - Article 4: Shall the voters of the Mount Mansfield Union School District authorize the school board under 16 V.S.A. 562 (9) to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year?
 - Article 5: To transact any other school business thought proper when met.
- March 1, 2011 — Australian Ballot Questions**
- Article 6: Shall the Mount Mansfield Union School District #17 adopt a budget of \$25,398,820 for the school year 2011-12?
 - Article 7: Shall the Mount Mansfield Union School District #17 apply \$75,000 of the fund balance existing on June 30, 2010 to help reduced taxation in the 2012-13 budget year?

Upon closing of the polls, the ballot boxes will be sealed, re-opened at Jericho Elementary School in the Town of Jericho, the ballots commingled and publicly counted by representatives of the Boards of Civil Authority of the Towns of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, Underhill under the supervision of the Clerk of Mt. Mansfield Union School District #17.

The legal voters of Mt. Mansfield Union School District #17 are further warned and notified that an **informational meeting will be held at Mt. Mansfield Union High School in the Town of Jericho on February 17, 2011 commencing at 7:30 p.m., and on February 24, 2011 at Mt. Mansfield Union High School in the Town of Jericho, commencing at 7:30 p.m., for the purpose of explaining the 2011-12 proposed budget.**

The legal voters of Mt. Mansfield Union School District #17 are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said special meeting shall be as provided in Section 706u-706w of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51, and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Said voters and persons warned, are further notified that voter qualification, registration, absentee voting, and voter procedures shall be in accordance with Chapters 43 and 51 of Title 17 Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Polling Places

The voters residing in each member district will cast their ballots in the polling places designated for their town as follows:

Bolton	*	Smilie Memorial School
Huntington	*	Brewster-Pierce Memorial School
Jericho	*	Jericho Elementary School
Richmond	*	Camels Hump Middle School
Underhill	*	Browns River Middle School

Dated this 6th day of January, 2011

George Till	Michael Marks	Jeffrey Forward
Lucinda Preston	Clifford Peterson	Yasmine Ziesler
Judith Jones	P. Geiss	Kenneth Wyman
Kenneth Remsen	Jerome Mendicino	
Diane Kirson-Glitman	Robert Robbins	

SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Received for record this 6th day of January 2011, A.D.

Nancy C. Bradford, Clerk, MMUSD #17

Budget Informational Meeting: Thursday, February 24, 2011, 7:30 p.m., Mt. Mansfield Union High School

SPORTS

Backcountry skiers brave near zero temperatures to learn new skills

Temperatures hovering near 0° F didn't deter over 70 participants from sharpening their backcountry skills at the 3rd Annual Get Out and Backcountry Ski Festival held at Bolton Valley on January 23.



PHOTO BY JIM FREDERICKS

The sold out event, organized by the Catamount Trail Association (CTA), attracted skiers from 25 to 65 years old with three primary goals: to try out some of the latest in backcountry ski equipment, to learn skills to be safe and proficient skiing in a wilderness setting, and to have fun.

With over 100 km of backcountry trails and an abundance of new powder, Bolton Valley Resort provided an ideal setting for the 3rd Annual Get Out and Backcountry Ski Festival. The enthusiastic skiers were broken up into groups based on ability and matched with instructors who shared and practiced skills appropriate for each group. From simple wedge and stem turns in powder to linked telemark turns on steep wooded terrain, everyone was able to boost their proficiency and confidence throughout the day. While the outdoor sessions were the main attraction, the workshop also included indoor talks on dressing and packing for backcountry excursions, and selecting proper backcountry ski equipment for one's individual skiing goals. Culminating a perfect day, skiers were treated to a social gathering with beverages, light food, and an abundance of raffle prizes.

According to Snowsports Industries America (SIA) backcountry skiing is the fastest growing winter sliding sport. In their March 2010 Executive Market Summary, the SIA reports Nordic ski sales were up 18% in 2009/2010 over the previous year, and Randonee/AT sales were up 16%. This resurgence of growth can be attributed to modern equipment and the numerous opportunities to explore backcountry throughout the country. Vermont's own Catamount Trail is a natural and recreational asset that attracts thousands of skiers from the Eastern US and beyond. The 300-mile trail meanders the length of Vermont from the Massachusetts border to Quebec, offering a diversity of terrain from the gentle rolling hills of southern Vermont to the steeper hardwood forests of the northern Green Mountains. The CTA is at the forefront of backcountry skiing in Vermont and offers many Nordic skiing events including over 50 free, guided tours each winter. To learn more about this unique and beautiful sport and the many opportunities it has to offer, visit www.CatamountTrail.org.

Snowboarder starts title defense in Bolton Valley's Night Rider Series

Bolton Valley Resort's Night Rider competition for freestyle skiers and snowboarders kicked off for the seventh season on Wednesday, January 19. In the opening night Rail Jam, local competitors accounted for an impressive one-third of the medal positions - seven of the 21. Forty-two competitors representing 15 Vermont towns and three additional states participated in the opener.

On Jan 26, the second of seven events were held under the lights in the Resort's Butterscotch Terrain Park, the hometown heroes claimed five of the 21 spots in the Slope Style competition. An impressive 58 competitors from 19 Vermont communities and six northeastern states filled the roster in the four-hit event through the park.

The seven Night Rider events encompass various disciplines (rail jams, slope style, team competition, S.K.A.T.E and more), while the final, set for Wednesday March 9 will be a Park Jam which could incorporate several different genres. Age groups for both skiers and snowboarders include 12 & under, 13-17 and 18+ as well as Women's. A movement is currently underway to introduce a 12 & under category for the girls.

Event #1 of 7 - Free Style - January 19

Skiers (showing competitor, age and hometown): 12-and-under: 1. Trevor Grab, 9, Underhill, VT 2. Oliver Ogden, 7, Hyde Park, VT 3. Zion Farrell, 11, Bolton Valley, V; 13-17: 1. Taggart Francis, 16, Williston, VT 2. Ellis Farrell, 13, Bolton Valley, VT 3. Andrew Morin, 13, Essex, VT; 18-and-over: 1. Paolo Rossi, 18, Richmond, VT 2. Josh Talbert, 31, Burlington, VT 3. Andy Coryea, 20, Lee, NH.

Snowboarders (showing competitor, age, and hometown): 12-and-under: 1. Douglas Fay, 12, Richmond, VT 2. Jonathon Twombly, 11, Shelburne, VT 3. Kai Chmura, 12, Waterbury Center, VT; 13-17: 1. Gabe Cohn, 15, Richmond, VT 2. Tyler Jenkins, 16, Richmond, VT 3. Quinn Lumsden, 13, St. Albans, VT; 18-and-over: 1. Andrew Boczar, 22, Essex, VT 2. Sam Whitney, 18, Montpelier, VT 3. Jeff Snyder, 25, Stowe, VT; Women: 1. Britt Horowitz, 20, East Quogue, NY 2. Sheila Leary, Spring Lake, NJ 3. Eliza Audet, 20, Montpelier, VT.

Event #2 of 7 - Slope Style - January 26

Skiers (showing competitor, age and hometown): 12-and-under: 1. Jacob Pratt, 11, Richmond, VT 2. Zion Farrell, 11, Bolton Valley, VT 3. Jay Chandler, 12, Huntington, VT; 13-17: 1. Taggart Francis, 16, Williston, VT 2. Austin Kemp, 14, Richmond, VT 3. Max Erickson, 16, Williston, VT; 18-and-over: 1. Sam Putnam, 18, Burlington, VT 2. Kevin McClory, 21, Buffalo, NY, 3. Ben Zackin, 19, Sudbury, MA

Snowboarders (showing competitor, age, and hometown): 12-and-under: 1. Jonathon Twombly, 11, Shelburne, VT 2. Kirk Teare, 12, Essex Jct, VT 3. Aidan Chmura, 11, Waterbury Center, VT; 13-17: 1. Gabe Cohn, 15, Richmond, VT 2. Jesse Wells, 16, Morrisville, VT 3. Tyler Jenkins, 16, Richmond, VT; 18-and-over: 1. Andrew Boczar, 22, Essex, VT 2. Matt Stillman, 22, Burlington, VT 3. Sam Whitney, 18, Montpelier, VT; Women: 1. Maggie Eschbaugh, 21, Elliottville 2. Britt Horowitz, 20, East Quogue, NY 3. Gretchen Stokes, 39, Burlington, VT.

Around the Hump annual trek to benefit Alzheimer's Association

The 23rd annual Camel's Hump Challenge (CHC) in Huntington, Vermont on Sunday, February 13, 2011 (Alternative weather date will be February 20). The CHC is a demanding back-country ski event around the Camel's Hump, Vermont's iconic mountain. After 23 years the event has gained recognition within the region as a unique fundraiser supporting education and family support programs for the Alzheimer's Association, Vermont Chapter. Experienced backcountry skiers are invited to gather at 7:30 AM at the Camel's Hump Skiers' Association center in Huntington.

Participants in the CHC raise money by asking as many people as possible to support their "Round the Hump" trek with contributions. All skiers are asked to collect a minimum of \$125.00. Each participant raising \$125 or more will receive an event t-shirt, warm food and drinks and a fire await the returning skiers, giving them a chance to relax, reflect on the tour, and warm up. Amazing gear incentives are provided for skiers that raise more than the minimum amount including: a \$500 gift card to Mount Snow, MRS snowshoes, Black Diamond trekking poles, Mount Snow day passes and much, much more! Pledges and registration will be accepted at the event or before the event date participants can register and collect pledges on the website at <http://www.camelshumpchallenge.com>.

If you want to contribute, please send your contributions directly to a fundraising skier or please mail donation checks made out to: The Alzheimer's Association, Vermont Chapter at 300 Cornerstone Drive, Suite 128, Williston, Vermont 05495 or you can also give through the secure website.

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