

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE

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Garrett wins Noble Invitational



Travis Garrett, Vermont State Champ, wins at Noble Invitational, defeating 3-time Maine State Champion Joey Eon. Story on page 13. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A closer look at Sergeant Alex Sargent

By David Rocchio

Special to the Mountain Gazette

Great things are done when men and mountains meet.

These words of a long-dead Englishman (Blake)

remain true, especially for Sergeant Alex Sargent of Vermont's Army Mountain Warfare School. Sergeant Sargent serves as a full-time instructor at the school. After four years with the Navy right out of high school, Sargent joined the Guard to help pay for college. He started full-time upon graduation.

The school was founded in 1983 to train the men and women in Vermont's guard units on everything from rappelling to complex military maneuvers. Over the years the school's mission has expanded. It now trains soldiers from throughout the U.S. military as well as troops from other nations. The school moves roughly 600 students through its mountains in any given year.

In 2007 Alex began a year in Afghanistan with the 1st Infantry Division. Alex and his small team of twelve (three from the school) were sent to Northern Afghanistan to train Afghani National Policemen.

Well, they were in the mountains, but they were training the police, not conducting mountain warfare. As Alex said when we talked, "In the army we are all soldiers first; specialties comes second." He told me, "At first I thought 'what do I know about police work?' but then I realized the ANP didn't need to learn how to pull over a car. The skills of operating in a combat environment were pretty valuable to them."

The team's operating base was at 9,000 feet and they worked in villages at up to 14,000 feet.

As Alex put it, "we worked off the community" and with the tribal leaders. It took them a while to build any trust; it never got to the point where the team could let down its guard. "The mother-ship was the Humvee, and we didn't leave it for very long," said Sargent, as dismounted patrols "were unwise." Alex Sargent is prone to understatement.

Despite the hardships, the team did good works and made inroads with the police and the population. Alex's wife, Elizabeth Sargent, organized a drive for clothes and school supplies. The team distributed them, helping to build trust. Coming home in January 2008, you'd think the Sergeant had had enough of being in big mountains. You would be wrong.

This past summer Sargent jumped at a chance to join an expedition to Aba Dablam, a 22,500 foot mountain lurking in the shadow of Everest. The mountain (which looks like the one in the Paramount logo) challenges world-class climbers.

Alex pulled together a team of three other soldiers. They bought a share of the very expensive expedition permit through a Colorado outfit, Alpenglow Expeditions. The Alpenglow website points out that the climb includes "sustained pitches of steep ice and mixed terrain." The final section, into Camp 3, is described as "a mostly

horizontal traverse across cornices tenuously stuck to a knife-edge ridge." The last bit, from Camp 3 to the summit, is "climbing straightforward 50-70 degree ice and snow around the hanging glacier" to the top.

In addition to securing time off and explaining to his wife why he was going away again after just getting home, Alex needed to find the money to buy his share of the permit, which involved selling gear, raiding the family's renovation fund (new bathroom must wait), bulking up credit cards and getting some new gear from manufacturers – socks from DarnTuff and a vapor jet stove from MSR.

It was a difficult time to be on Aba Dablam. At base camp the team learned all other groups on the mountain were turning back. The weather was bad and avalanches and rock slides had wiped out the highest camp on the route to the summit – Camp 3.

None of this fazed Sergeant Sargent and the other three in the Army group. The soldiers jumped in. From Camp 2 the soldiers "ran up," as Sargent said, and then corrected by saying, "Well, it was slow going, actually" to a place they could build a new Camp 3, which they dubbed "Camp 2.75." This camp was "pretty primitive" and "not 100% protected," both comments I took to mean scary, cold and uncomfortable beyond bearing.

On the morning of Halloween, the four soldiers and three others headed out to try to summit. Alex

summitted at noon; two others from the Army group followed. After an hour or so on the summit the group returned to Camp 2.75 and then pushed all the way to Camp 1, arriving in the dark.

Back at the warfare school after the climb, the Commander, Lt. Col. Jeff Abeling, went to bat for the team and secured funding for about half of the cost of the trip. "The colonel realizes the instructors learn on these trips and the knowledge gets passed on to the students. It was terrific that he and command supported this. We didn't expect it and we appreciate it."

I met Alex through his brother Nick. The words Nick used to describe Alex were less important than what I saw in his face, which as a brother he will now never live down, as he talked about his brother. What I saw was awe, pride, and respect.

Alex, his wife Elizabeth and their two children, Jackson, 7 and Anna, 4, live in Fletcher. Alex works wherever the Army sends him, and on his time off he climbs mountains over 4 miles high. He is helping to train Vermont's soldiers to deploy possibly to Afghanistan in 2010, to do great things where men and mountains meet, to borrow from Blake. I'd say they are in good hands.

David Rocchio lives, works, writes, is raising a family and ski patrols in Stowe, Vermont. He is a regular columnist for the Stowe Reporter. He will be writing about the Vermont Guard, the people in it and the work they do, from now through their potential deployment to Afghanistan in 2010.

MMU schoolboard approved budget of \$26,184,467

By Ted Tedford

Special to the Mountain Gazette

The Mount Mansfield Union School District Board has approved a \$26,184,467 budget for 2009-2010, a 3.03 percent increase over the district's present budget.

Dr. George Till, the board's budget expert, said the Board adopted its budget without knowing several important factors, including what the state-wide property tax figure will be, the cost of a contract for the Chittenden East Supervisory Union teachers and support staff. The teachers' contract expired June 30 and the support staff contract expires at the end of next June.

Till said the proposed budget increase is the lowest he has seen in his 12 years as a member of the MMU Board. Despite that, he said, the towns in the supervisory union most likely will see a tax increase.

Voters in the supervisory union's five towns will cast ballots on the MMU budget along with their six elementary school budgets at March Town meeting.

The Board is using a 3.75 percent increase in teacher salaries in its budget even though the Board and the teachers union, the Green Mountain Chap-

ter of the Vermont Education Association, are still deadlocked over salaries and health care premiums. Chittenden East's three-year contract which covers all the teachers in the Chittenden East Supervisory Union expired June 30.

Till said the budget reflects no new programs at Mount Mansfield Union High School or the two middle schools, Camels Hump in Richmond and Browns River in Jericho, the schools in the MMU school district. The district has added a technical person because the schools have doubled the number of computers.

Till cited increases in the cost of Vocational Education because of a 10 percent increase in the number of high school students taking VocEd and Burlington is increasing its tuition for MMU students by 88 percent. Costs are also increasing for utilities in the three schools, as well as the first \$95,000 payment on a bond issue for the high school athletic fields. There also will be an increase in transportation costs because school buses are not allowed over the Winooski River Bridge in Richmond, forcing them to make long detours.

There are presently 1,781 students in the three schools, 12 fewer than last year. The largest decrease, 10, was in the high school.

CESU teacher negotiations far apart on health insurance

By Ted Tedford

Special to the Mountain Gazette

Negotiators for the Chittenden East Supervisory Union and the teachers remain far apart over a proposed change in the Union's health insurance package.

Jon Harris, chief negotiator for the Green Mountain Chapter of the Vermont Education Association, the teachers' union, said this week he remains adamantly against changing the present health care program proposed by the board to a Blue Cross/Blue Shield program called Comp 1000.

The Chittenden East School Board wants to change its present Blue Cross/BlueShield health care program to BC/BS Comp 1000 program with a higher deductible the Board says will save the teachers and the district as much as \$400,000 a year.

"I don't see a need for the Comp 1000 proposal," Harris said. Since Blue Cross/Blue Shield has announced there will be no increase in premiums for the present health care insurance in the next year the Board should abandon its proposal to adopt BC/BS's new plan, Harris said.

The two sides became deadlocked in September mainly over the health care issue as well as salaries and called for mediation. Veteran mediator Ira Lobell of Albany, NY, filed a report with the two sides that said the Board should offer Comp 1000 as an option for teachers, not a wholesale change.

This week, Harris reasserted his belief that teachers seeing a doctor could be required to pay out of their own pockets for medical service from \$1,500 to \$3,000 before being reimbursed.

"My understanding is that a doctor's office does

Negotiations continued on page 16

Westford Town Center Committee work on plans to improve quality of life

By Phyl Newbeck

Special to the Mountain Gazette

The Westford Noise Ordinance is dead, but that doesn't mean the Westford Town Center Committee isn't busy working on other plans to improve the quality of life for those living in that zoning district.

Back in October, the committee unveiled a proposed noise ordinance which would have banned the use of Jake brakes in the Town Center. Westford truck drivers, arriving at the meeting en masse, protested the proposed ordinance so the Selectboard decided to follow the lead of other municipalities like Swanton and Vergennes in posting signs which only request that truckers not use their compression brakes. After further review, the compromise plan fizzled. Town Planner Melissa Manko said the Vermont Agency of Transportation told her they consider such signs dangerous since truckers with heavy loads rely on compression brakes to prevent wearing out their brake pads. Sue Adams, a member of the Town Center Committee, said the group accepted the state's view and moved on. "It's a non-issue," she said. "Nobody dug their heels in." While Manko still believes it would be nice if the town

could minimize the use of the brakes, Adams noted the proposed ordinance served the purpose of raising awareness of the issue.

The Town Center Committee, not to be confused with the Town Common Committee, has been in existence for roughly two years. Manko said that when several residents came to the Selectboard with their concerns regarding that section of town, they were instantly deputized as a committee. Adams joined the group shortly thereafter. Three members of the committee are residents of the Town Center and the fourth is a member of the Town Common Committee. The Town Common Committee pre-dates the Town Center Committee, having been established in the mid 1990s to make recommendations to the Selectboard regarding the use of funds designated for the Common.

The Town Center Committee is not the first group to deal with Town Center issues. An earlier committee, since disbanded, explored safety issues and came up with a list of priorities, chosen in part from comments at public forums and a survey which was taken in 2003. The new committee has taken that priority list as their starting point. Their

Westford continued on page 16

Mountain Gazette to close office

By Brenda Boutin

Mountain Gazette Staff

The Mountain Gazette will no longer maintain a physical office in Underhill. Since the staff has dwindled to one person there is no need to keep a four person office.

Economic factors have also played into this decision.

There is a need for to be on the road more, meeting new people. Advertising is about personal relationships and will be seeking more.

This does not mean that the paper will stop being printed. Our schedule will remain the same.

We will be at the Park Street address until the end of January. Our phone numbers will remain the same.

In February, Brenda will be at the Village Cup on Wednesday morning from 10:00 to 12:00 AM. Please come and see her there.

She will be changing where she am each month. If you need an appointment call her at 899-4431 or email her at mtgazette@earthlink.net.

Pond hockey at Mills Riverside Park



What's the best way to take advantage of these Northeast thaw and freeze cycles? Take advantage of the great ice for some pond hockey action at Mill's Riverside Park w/kids from 7-50+ yrs old playing. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

POLICE REPORT

On Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at approximately 5:46 AM, officers of the Williston Police Department stopped a vehicle on Mountain View Rd. traveling 74 m.p.h. in a posted 40 m.p.h. zone. Investigation revealed the operator, **Aaron Lafountain**, 25, of Jericho, was driving on a suspended license. He was arrested and charged with driving on suspended license. Arresting Officer: Ptl. Greg Shelley.

On December 18, 2008 at 6:52 PM, **Kevin Youngman**, 19, of Jericho contacted the Vermont State Police and advised he had been assaulted and threatened with a rifle.

Investigation revealed Youngman had gone to the residence of Krystal Williams, 19, of Jericho and **Diane Davis**, 57, of Jericho, and after a brief verbal altercation Youngman was assaulted by Williams. In retaliation, Youngman destroyed several items that belonged to Williams. In turn, Davis pointed a .22 caliber rifle at Youngman, who then left the residence.

Williams was issued a citation to appear in Chittenden District Court on February, 10, 2009 for Domestic Assault. Davis was issued a citation to appear in Chittenden District Court on February, 10, 2009 for Reckless Endangerment. Youngman was issued a citation to appear in Chittenden District Court on January, 27, 2009 for Unlawful Mischief. Case #: 08A105693. Arresting officer: S/T Paul Ravelin, VSP - Williston.

The Vermont State Police are investigating a single-vehicle crash at approximately 5:27 PM on December 16, 2008. The accident occurred on VT Route 109 in Cambridge. The sole occupant of the vehicle, **Richard Fowler**, 72, of Cambridge, was processed for suspicion of DUI and cited to appear in Lamoille District Court on January 6, 2008. Fowler sustained only minor cuts and scrapes in the crash. He was evaluated by Cambridge Rescue. Fowler's 1999 Chevy Venture minivan sustained damage to the hood, windshield, roof, and side panels. Investigating officer: Trooper Purdy, VSP Lamoille. Case #: 08A105656.

On January 1, 2009 at approximately 11:15 PM a motor vehicle stop was initiated on Rollin Irish Road in Milton. The operator, **Brendan Mitchell**, 34, of Westford, was determined to be under the influence of alcohol. He was transported to the barracks where he was processed for DUI and released. Mitchell was cited to appear in Chittenden County District Court on January, 20, 2009.

AREA WORSHIP SERVICES

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A loving, caring Christian community, living and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with our neighbors.
VT Rt. 15 Jericho
Sunday Worship Service 9:30 AM
Reverend J. Harrison L. Heidel, Rector
Karen Floyd, Parish Administrator, 899-2326
www.calvarychurchvt.org

COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH

"Come as You Are"
VT Rt. 15 between Jericho and Essex Center
Pastor Peter Norland, 879-4313
Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 AM; Adult Sunday School 8:45 - 9:45AM
Children's Worship/Sunday School: K-6, 10:00 AM
Opportunities for Community Service, Family Events,
Youth and Adult Groups; Handicapped Accessible
pastor@jerichocovenantchurch.org - www.jerichocovenantchurch.org

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

273 VT Rt. 15 - between Jericho and Underhill
Rev. Dagmar Rosenberg, Pastor - 899-3932
Sunday Worship 9:00 AM - Nursery provided
Sunday School for all ages - 10:30 AM
gslcvt@verizon.net www.GoodShepherdJericho.org

JERICHO CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

On the Green in Jericho Center
Pastor Peter Anderson and Youth Pastor Glenn Carter
Worship Services at 8:00 and 11:00 AM - Nursery care provided
Sunday school for all 9:30 AM
Youth 6:15 PM Sundays in Sunday school building
Signing for the deaf upon request
899-4911; officejcc@comcast.net, www.jccvt.org

JERICHO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"
VT Rt. 15, Jericho (next to Town Hall)
Rev. Charlie Yang, Pastor, 899-4288, cyang@troyconference.org.
Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 AM;
Children's Sunday School, 9:00 AM
Youth Group, Saturday 6:00 PM; Bible Study, Tuesdays, 7:00 PM
www.troyconference.org/jumc or JerichoUMC@troyconference.org

MOUNT MANSFIELD

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

A Liberal Spiritual Community
P.O. Box 150, Jericho, VT 05465
phone 899-5219 - website www.mmuuf.org
We gather at 9:30 AM at the Jericho Elementary School
on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of September-June
beginning Sunday, September 14, 2008
for worship, reflection, growth, and support.
All are welcome.

UNITED CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY FULL GOSPEL CHURCH

100 Raceway Rd., Jericho, VT 05465
Pastor Mike Murray - 899-2949, Monday-Friday
Sunday Worship 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Nursery and Sunday School available
Youth Fellowship Sunday nights 5:00 PM
Area Home Fellowships, Thursdays, 7:00 PM
secretary@ucavt.org
www.ucavt.org

UNITED CHURCH OF UNDERHILL

"Welcoming, Worshiping, Working for God"
At the Green on Route 15 - Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen - 899-1722
www.unitedchurchofunderhill.com
Sunday Worship and Sunday School: 10:30 AM
Micah's Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM third Saturday

CASE #: 09A100012. Arresting officer: Trooper Sgt. Maurice Lamothe, VSP Williston.

Christopher Coughlin, 28, of Cambridge was arrested for 2 counts of Possession of Stolen Property, 2 counts of Petit Larceny, and 4 counts of Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card after State Police were notified of a theft that had occurred at Smugglers' Notch Resort between January 3 and 4, 2009. A joint effort by State Police and Morristown Police revealed that Coughlin had entered two vehicles belonging to David Wiener of Sandy Hook, CT and took several items including a Burton snowboard and a credit card. The credit card was used at several retailers in Lamoille County including Price Chopper in Morrisville, as well as stores in Littleton, NH. State Police located the majority of the stolen items at Coughlin's residence on Railroad Street in Cambridge. He was lodged at the St. Johnsbury Correctional Center for lack of \$2,500 bail. Coughlin was cited to appear in Lamoille District Court. Case #: 09A100058. Arresting officer: Trooper Shaffer, VSP Williston.

MacDowell releases first CD

By Katherine Quimby Johnson
Special to the Mountain Gazette



In the year since she retired from a long career as a radio announcer, Nancy MacDowell has discovered what it's like to be the musician on the other side of the microphone. Her new CD, "Giving Back," is her solo recording debut. Its twelve tracks represent a blend familiar to those who listened to MacDowell's weekly program on WLVB. "Sunday Morning Sampler" featured a mix of bluegrass, classic country, and inspirational music, and appearances by many Vermont artists. The disc opens with "Top of the World," which MacDowell gives a more country feeling than the Carpenters ever did, and includes such familiar titles as "Could I have This Dance" and "In the Garden."

This may be MacDowell's first solo recording, but she has been involved with music all her life and that experience shows, says Colin McCaffrey, who produced the album in The Greenroom, his East Montpelier studio. "Nancy can sing in tune, knows what she can and can't do with her voice, and has an incredible ear for harmony," says McCaffrey, who also provided harmony and accompaniment on the album. "Nancy was a blast to work with partly because she was so excited about the whole process. She had been waiting for years to do this and when the time finally came, she gave it 110 percent." MacDowell reciprocates, saying, "I give Colin so much credit. He's so wonderful to work with."

MacDowell's musical roots run as deep as her Vermont roots. Her paternal grandmother, who lived in the Northeast Kingdom, played piano for silent movies. "Giving Back" is dedicated to the memory of MacDowell's father, Karl Brown, who played fiddle, guitar, and accordion, called square dances in the Randolph, Vermont area, and composed inspirational music. "Man of Galilee," the album's third track, is the first recording of one of his works. MacDowell reports that several churches asked about using the song during Sunday services and she says she's happy about that and would travel to hear it sung.

The album features two of MacDowell's own compositions, including the title track. "Giving Back" sets the tone for the whole production. Not only is the album a tribute to the soprano's friends, family, and listeners—her way of saying "thank you"—but MacDowell will donate a portion of the proceeds from sales to her alma mater, Johnson State College, for the benefit of its scholarship fund.

MacDowell also paid tribute to a number of the fine musicians she welcomed to her Sunday morning show. In addition to McCaffrey, Patti Casey, Jim Pitman, Richard Farrar, and Albert Warner provide various vocal and instrumental back-up. Wayne Warner's role goes beyond the guitar and bass accompaniment he provides on the medley of "Amazing Grace" and "I Saw the Light." "Wayne was one of the first Vermont artists I had on the air in 1993, when I started at WLVB," MacDowell says. "There was an instant connection between us, because of our musical interests." When MacDowell expressed an interest in performing, Warner put together a band for her in 1996. "We played three or four dances around Lowell," MacDowell recalls. That's when she first sang such classics as "For the Good Times" and "It Wasn't God Who Made Honkytonk Angels."

The second original work on the album is "Connie's Song," dedicated to MacDowell's best friend since high school, Connie Pettingell. Inspired by Pettingell's return to Vermont in 1974, the song celebrates the importance both of venturing out and of returning. The enduring nature of their friendship finds further expression in the album art. A watercolor by Pettingell graces the front and a pencil sketch the back of the album. "She used to send me pictures and sketches and I kept them all," says MacDowell. MacDowell, who is also a talented photographer, provided a visual surprise behind the CD.

Selections from "Giving Back" have enjoyed air time on WLVB. Program Director Roland Lajoie, MacDowell's former colleague, says it is being well received. "The album is a reflection of her musical choices at WLVB and of her years at the station. People enjoyed her when she was here and now they can enjoy her when she's not here. The listeners are very supportive of her."

Samples of "Giving Back" can be heard at www.myspace.com/nancymacdowell. The CD is available at the following locations: Brown & Jenkins in Cambridge, Bear Pond Books in Stowe, Stowe Street Emporium and Vincent's Drug and Variety in Waterbury, and Floyd's Store in Randolph. It can also be purchased through eBay and copies are also available directly from MacDowell at 644-5750 or by sending an email to lairdnan@verizon.net. As McCaffrey says, "Buy the record, it is great local music!"

With the album out in the world, MacDowell is focusing her performing interests elsewhere. This last holiday season she sang with the Cambridge Classic Chorale and she is also a member of the handbell choir that meets at the Puffer Methodist Church in Morrisville.

The Mountain Gazette

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Letters: maximum 400 words; one letter per writer, per calendar month. Must be signed for attribution, with writer's address and phone.

Letters accepted by mail or email.

Jim Carter was selected to ride on "Stars of Life" float in Rose Parade in Pasadena, California on New Years Day.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ride of a lifetime

On November 4, 1990 Andrea Carter, daughter of Jim and Sue Carter was killed in an automobile crash. She was a multiple organ donor, donating corneas, her kidneys, liver, and heart.

Over the past 9 years Jim has made over a thousand presentations to schools, Rotary Clubs, church groups and others on the importance of wearing a seat belt and the meaning of being an organ donor.

In September of 2008 Jim was notified by the Center for Donation and Transplant that because of his commitment to the organ donation cause, he was selected to ride on "Stars of Life" float in Rose Parade in Pasadena, California on New Years Day.

Upon returning to Underhill, Jim called it the ride of a lifetime. Over a million people watch this parade. There were 26 people on the float from all over the country, all with the connection of organ or tissue donation; through being donor parents, living donors or recipients. "The spirit and bonding on the float was incredible," Carter said. "Over the 4 days there were tears of joy, sadness and gratefulness. We all realized what a gift of life organ and tissue donation is to so many people. In talking to the other float riders I was inspired and amazed by the generosity of the donors and the immense gratitude of the recipients."

"One story that intrigued me was of a man whose wife had received a kidney from their daughter. He was so grateful to see his wife recovering that he decided to donate one of his kidneys to an unknown co-worker that he had heard was on the waiting list for a kidney. The transplant was a success. The donor happened to be a Muslim from Iran, the recipient a Catholic immigrant from Cuba."

Carter in talking to the donor who was very humble about his generosity and mentioned "it did not matter what race, religion, gender or country of origin my recipient was from. It only matter that he needed help and I could help him." They have since become best of friends and rode side by side on the Donate Life float.

"There were many stories like this", Carter says. "I was humbled and honored to represent Andrea, other donor parents, and the Center for Donation and Transplant. As I tell the students and audience I speak to about organ donation I always leave them with one bit of advice, tell your loved ones about your thoughts regarding organ donation."

UNDERHILL JERICHO FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

By Kitty Clark

EMERGENCY CALLS:

- December 15 6:40 PM Responded to 198 River Road, Underhill for a structure fire
- December 17 10:51 AM Responded to Lee River Road, Jericho for a report of a one-vehicle accident, unfounded.
- December 18 1:44 PM EMS call on Meadow Lane, Underhill
- December 18 2:33 AM Responded to a one-vehicle rollover on Nashville Road, Jericho
- December 19 9:01 AM Responded to 2 Pine Ridge Rd., Underhill for a chimney fire
- December 20 10:41 AM Responded to an accident near the intersection of VT 117 and Skunk Hollow Road, Jericho
- December 21 7:23 AM Responded to a one-vehicle rollover in the area of 253 Pleasant Valley Road, Underhill
- December 21 3:45 PM Responded to 10 Marion Way, Jericho for a carbon monoxide alarm
- December 22 11:00 AM Responded to Browns River Middle School for smoke in the building
- December 23 3:15 PM EMS call to Jeri Hill Apartments, Jericho
- December 24 8:32 AM Responded to a vehicle off the roadway near 59 Pleasant Valley Road, Underhill
- December 24 8:51 PM Responded to the Cambridge Fire Station for standby duty while they were in Fairfax at a structure fire

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Think Winter Tires!

Foreign & Domestic Auto Repair

- Wrecker Service • Brakes
- Exhaust • Shocks & Struts
- Lifetime Muffler • Maintenance Service
- Vermont State Inspection
- Windshields Replaced

Village Service & Auto Repair

Nokia, Hakkapeliitta & Bridgestone Tire

Ted & Jeff Alexander
Rt 15, Underhill
899-2056

Visa
Citgo
Discover
Mastercard
American Express

Underhill's Family Owned Locally Operated Automotive Center For 27 Years

A View from the Center

By J. Harrison L. Heidel
Special to the Mountain Gazette

I daydream about making a living as a writer, but that would require the courage to go hungry, stave off angry creditors, dodge my landlord, and watch a stack of rejection letters grow on my desk. So far, I write for free. I once sent an essay to *The New Yorker* magazine, knowing I would proudly display a rejection letter from the folks there. I also imagined they actually read my essay. The rejection notice was printed in a four-inch square block, smack in the middle of an eight and a half by eleven-inch sheet of paper. I fear it's a "special" rejection notice; I lacked the courage to write them and ask, but I'm brave enough to show the rejection, written on *The New Yorker* letterhead stationery, to fellow writers who understand.

Each year about this time I attempt to be more diligent about keeping a journal, an urge I find hard to resist, yet hard to keep up. I've several journals stuck among some great literary classics on my bookshelves with the first several pages filled with "well thought out" prose, perhaps an occasional poem, but most end abruptly with sentences like this one from my 1999 journal: "There was a flock of jays at the birdfeeder today...who cares?" The rest of the journal remains blank, and begs for attention. I can only imagine what I might accomplish if I put my impulse to write and be a writer into something more useful, say investing in the stock market...nah, that requires a great deal of courage these days also.

Wandering downtown Burlington this past Christmas Eve, I picked up a little Christmas gift for myself...yep, a pocket-size journal. But this one is very special, just begging to have my thoughts, the ink from my favorite pen, pouring over its lined pages. I was enchanted by its handsome, yet simple appeal. This journal has its own history; it is a "Moleskine." An information card comes with, and it tells its story: "Moleskine is the legendary notebook used by European artists and thinkers for the past two centuries, from Van Gogh to Picasso, from Ernest Hemingway to Bruce Chatwin (I began searching in my coat pocket where I always keep a pen...clicking it ready to write). This trusty, pocket-size travel companion held sketches, notes, stories (stories!), and ideas (ideas!!!), before they were turned in to famous (famous!!!!) images or pages of beloved books (I suddenly realized I was standing in the middle of the store, among a number of people, reading with my mouth wide open.) Originally produced by small French bookbinders who supplied the Parisian stationery shops frequented by the international avant-garde, (Oh, how I wished I had worn my beret today) by the end of the twentieth century the Moleskine notebook was no longer available ("How could they?" I thought.) In 1986, the last manufacturer of Moleskine, a family operation in Tours, closed its shutters forever. In 1998, a small Milanese publisher brought Moleskine back again (May God bless and keep him!) As the self-effacing keeper of an extraordinary tradition, Moleskine once again began to travel the globe ("I should buy more than one," I thought. "I wonder if anyone would miss me if I went straight to a travel agent and booked a passage on the Orient Express.") Every notebook is handmade and it has been carefully checked for quality (certainly my writing

on its pages could be of the same fine quality!) *The legendary black notebook is once again being passed from one pocket to the next (perfect for my vests!); the adventure of the Moleskine continuing, and its now blank pages will tell the rest.*" I began to breathe again.

My love for history and my desire to write most likely mesh together to become my attempt to be a sort of natural historian of my own life; it has been an interesting one. So at the start of this new year, I've given in to more journaling. If nothing else, my Moleskine does fit nicely in my vest pockets, and it is handy when I wish to "make a note." So far, I've noted the days it has snowed, how much has fallen, and the high and low temperature for the day. I've written a few odd reminders, which may cause some future reader of my Moleskine to wonder, "What in the world was he up to?" On an afternoon walk in the Center one day last week, I stopped and thanked our town snowplow drivers, who were working along the roadside, for being out there early each morning and late at night. I made note of that conversation as well. I've jotted down some quotes from the books I'm reading these days, like this one: "Johann Tetzel wrote, 'Sin? No problem; just buy an indulgence!'" Phone me and I'll explain that one. And Christmas Eve, the day I purchased my Moleskine, I went straightaway to a coffee shop, ordered a double espresso, and jotted down the notes for this essay. It's for me and you, not those folks at *The New Yorker*.

J. Harrison L. Heidel is an Episcopal priest in Underhill, lives in Underhill Center, and writes about rural life.

Temple Sinai to hold classes

What is the Bible? A 6-week course taught by Rabbi Shana Margolin. The Bible, the Tanach — Torah, Prophets, and Writings — is our great inheritance as Jews, and a gift we have given the world. It incites many reactions: reverence, awe, puzzlement, skepticism...even, sometimes, anger. Where did the Tanach originate? What can we learn from it? Why, after all these centuries, is the Tanach still the center of our beliefs, actions, and values? This class will look at the Tanach, the Jewish Bible, from a liberal perspective. Our basic text, alongside the Tanach itself, will be "Who Wrote the Bible?" by Richard E. Friedman. Weekly, from January 14-February 18 at 7:00 PM. <https://templesinaivt.wufoo.com/forms/adult-education-what-is-the-bible/>

Saturday Morning Worship/Learning Service at 10:00 AM. Learn about Jewish worship while worshipping. What do the prayers mean? Why are they in the order they're in? Where do they come from? How have they changed over the years and how do they differ from other denominations of Judaism? Weekly from January 10-February 14. No fee.

Hebrew Level 2: For those who have taken Level 1 or those with basic Hebrew reading skills who would like to improve their skills, this 5-week session begins January 21st and runs on Wednesdays from 4:30-6:00 through February 18th. No fee.

Classes are at Temple Sinai, 500 Swift St., South Burlington, VT. For more information contact Judy Alexander, 802-862-5125.

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Volunteers needed for Daffodils Day

As the first flower of spring, daffodils symbolize hope. To the American Cancer Society they represent hope for a future where cancer no longer threatens Vermonters. Join the Society's fight against cancer by volunteering for Daffodil Days now through March 16, 2009.



Volunteers are needed in every community. Individuals, groups and businesses take orders, prepare bouquets, pack and deliver flowers ... while having fun! With more than two million volunteers nationwide, the American Cancer Society is one of the oldest and largest voluntary health agencies in the United States. To find out how you can help in your community, contact Amy Deavitt at the American Cancer Society at 802-872-6316 or amy.deavitt@cancer.org.

UJFD continued from page 2

- December 27 12:24 AM Responded to 74 No. Underhill Station Road, Underhill for a carbon monoxide alarm
- December 27 10:39 AM Responded to the area of 193 Skunk Hollow Road, Jericho for an accident
- December 27 5:08 PM Responded to 722 VT RT 15, Underhill for an electrical fire
- December 28 9:18 AM Responded to 89 Raceway Road, Jericho for a possible carbon monoxide problem
- December 29 10:02 PM Responded to 2992 Notch Road, W. Bolton for a carbon monoxide alarm
- December 31 10:17 AM Responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of VT 117 and Skunk Hollow Road, Jericho
- December 31 4:10 PM Responded to 67 Old Pump Road, Jericho for an oven fire
- January 4 9:38 PM Responded to 29 Waughbrook Lane, Underhill for a carbon monoxide alarm
- January 6 12:55 PM EMS call to Cilley Hill in Jericho

NOTE: Our full-time firefighter answers all EMS calls with Essex Rescue when he is on duty at the fire station, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

December 23, The regular Tuesday night drill was not held due to the Christmas holiday.

December 30, A pot luck dinner was held at the fire station for all members and their families.

SAFETY MESSAGE: 2009 is here; this is a good time to check our homes for fire hazards and make sure our heating systems are in good working condition.

ALSO: Be sure your residence is properly marked with your address; if your number is on your mailbox, be sure it is big enough to be seen and that it is clear of snow. If your number is on your house, be sure it can be clearly seen from the road. If you share a driveway, be sure it is properly marked. Many times our responding crews have a difficult time finding the right residence.

Tops to hold meeting

Come to the TOPS open house in Monday, January 26 at 6:00 PM at the Essex Alliance Church, Essex. TOPS is the weight loss choice group of thousands. There's no obligation or charge.

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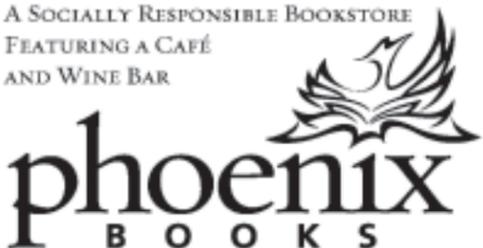
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JUST MARRIED



THOMPSON – RAYMOND

Nichole Raymond of Essex Junction, daughter of Danny and Christine Raymond of Richmond, and Jarrod Thompson of Essex, son of Charles H. and Mary M. Thompson of Burlington, were united in marriage November 8, 2008.

Christian DeBaca officiated at the double-ring ceremony at the Sunset Ballroom.

Michelle Ashford, sister of the bride, was matron of honor. Alison DaBica and Cathy Forcier were the bridesmaids.

Justin Steady was the

best man. Trevor Day and Scott Ashford were the ushers.

A reception was held at the Sunset Ballroom.

Mrs. Thompson is a graduate of Mount Mansfield Union High School and her husband is a graduate of Burlington High School. They both work at the Offset House and reside in Essex Junction.

ENGAGEMENTS

WYMAN – BARAL

Theodore and Barbara Wyman of Richmond announce the engagement of their daughter, Joy Mee Yun Wyman of Plattsburgh, to Jason Richard Baral of Plattsburgh, son of Lauralee Baral of Georgia and Richard Baral of Colchester. A September 2010 wedding is planned.

FOLINO – TRONO

Cynthia Langley of Bristol announces the engagement of her daughter, Genevieve Folino of Richmond, to Lucas Trono of Richmond, son of Mia Callahan of Burlington and Peter Trono of Charlotte. A September 19 wedding is planned.

RICHMOND FREE LIBRARY

Please come and see our colorful new walls! First grade art students from Richmond Elementary School are displaying their primary and secondary color flower paintings.

In our display cabinet Jim Cleary is sharing his collection of historical model airplanes until about mid-February.

The book discussion group is reading *Fields of Gold* by Marie Bostwick. The time and date of the meeting will be announced sometime later. Multiple copies of the book are already available at the circulation desk.

Have you recently applied for a new library card or have you recently had yours updated and need to pick it up? Please do so. Also, if you notice the expiration date has come and gone on the card you currently have, please bring it in and have it updated. Other libraries in the home card system will not honor your card unless its date is current.

A new service at the library is that we are acquiring two new large print books each month from Center Point Press.

We have some newly added DVDs in our collection: *Pushing Daisies* (TV series), *MI-5 volume 5*, History Channel's *Brooklyn Bridge*, and the *Fall 2008 UVM Community Medical School* series, among others.

New audiobook titles include *Shakespeare: The World as Stage* by Bill Bryson, *The Attack* by Yasmina Khadra, *Testimony* by Anita Shreve, and *This Land is Their Land* by Cassandra Campbell.

New book titles include *Knitspeak* by Andrea Berman Price, *The Treehouse* by Naomi Wolf, *New England Past*, *Reading the Mountains of Home* by John Elder, *Summer Guest* by Justin Cronin, *Mindfulness in Plain English* by Bhante Henepola Gunaratana, *Hell Bent* by William Tapply, *Wicked City* by Ace Atkins, *The Autoimmune Epidemic* by Donna Jackson Nakazawa, *Snake Oil Science* by R. Barker Bausell, and *The Dark Side* by Jane Mayer.

Exciting news from ListenUp! Vermont, the service that brings us the downloadable audio books! Now you can download mp3 selections onto your iPod. Some selections are now available for iPod. The ListenUp! Vermont website has also been redesigned to help you navigate through it and also to see what titles are available as what kind of downloads. As always, if you have any questions just ask or call one of the staff at the library.

COURT REPORT

November 26

Michael Mullen, 17, Richmond, charged with aggravated vehicle operation without owner consent, felony, in Williston on January 28; amended to vehicle operation without owner consent, misdemeanor; pleaded guilty; sentence deferred for 18 months; charged with unlawful mischief greater than \$250 in Burlington on July 9; pleaded guilty; sentenced to 18 months.

POLICE REPORT

On December 10, 2008 at approximately 10:22AM a passing motorist noticed a fire at a mobile home at 1610 Huntington Road in Richmond. The motorist called 911 and then rendered assistance to the residents prior to the Fire Department's arrival.

Richmond Fire Chief Tom Levesque advised upon arrival the central part of the trailer was completely engulfed in flames and the residents were being treated by rescue personnel for burns. The Chief advised Fire Departments from Huntington, Hinesburg, Bolton, and Williston which responded to assist with fire suppression efforts.

The Vermont State Police were contacted to request assistance with conducting an origin and cause investigation. Fire Investigators from the Division of Fire Safety and the Vermont State Police responded to the scene and worked in conjunction with the Richmond Police Department to complete the investigation. The investigation showed the cause of this fire was Accidental.

Sandra Chaplin, 66, and her grandson **Peter Chaplin**, 24, suffered first and second degree burns while escaping the residence. The mobile home was a total loss. Estimated value, \$30,000.

On December 26, 2008 at approximately 8:24 PM, **James H. Kilpeck**, 25, of Richmond was arrested for suspicion of DUI following a traffic stop by Officer Rick Greenough of the Richmond Police Department. Kilpeck was processed and released with a citation to appear in Chittenden District Court on January 17, 2009 at 8:15 AM. Case #: 08A105569.

On December 18, 2008 at 7:43 PM, **James Hilderbran** contacted the VT State Police and advised that Juvenile SL of Huntington was out of control. During the course of the investigation it was learned Juvenile SL had committed the offense of domestic assault. He was subsequently taken into custody, processed at the Williston barracks and then lodged at the Woodside Juvenile Detention Facility. Arresting officer: Sgt. Gregory Campbell, Vermont State Police.

On December 31, 2008 at approximately 10:15 AM a two-vehicle crash occurred on Route 117 in the town of Jericho. **Diana Hansen**, 24, of Richmond was reported to be traveling at a normal rate of speed when she lost control of her 2000 Buick Century and collided with the 1997 Ford Explorer driven by **Katherine Buxton**, 17, of Williston. All persons involved in the accident were transported to Fletcher Allen Health Center for evaluation. Route 117 was closed and was reduced to one lane of traffic for approximately one and a half hours while emergency personnel evaluated both operators. The crash is still under investigation. Both vehicles were a total loss. Case#: 08A105934. Trooper: Corporal Kevin Scott, Trooper Paul Badger, VSP Williston.

January 5, 2009 at 4:20 PM, Trooper Kamerling observed a suspicious vehicle pull into the driveway of a residence on Hillview Road, Richmond. Trooper Kamerling approached the male operator who was standing outside his vehicle. The male subsequently identified himself as **William A. Little III**, 42, of Huntington. Little advised the trooper that his license was suspended for DUI. Little was subsequently arrested for operating after suspension. He was transported to the Williston State Police Barracks for processing then released. The registration plates on his truck were removed and it was towed from the scene. Little was cited to appear in Chittenden District Court on February 17, 2009 for operation of a motor vehicle on a public highway while license criminally suspended for DUI. Case #: 09A100070. Arresting officer: Trooper Michael Kamerling, VSP Williston.

Nicholas Young, 21, of Richmond and **Brian Pinsky**, 21, of Southampton, MA were both cited into Lamoille District Court for Enabling the Consumption of Alcohol by Minors on January 6, 2009 at 1:30 AM. State Police were called to the Slopeside Condominiums at Smugglers' Notch by resort security. The two were found to have provided alcohol and a place for underage individuals to drink. A total of 13 underage individuals were found to have been drinking alcohol and were subsequently issued underage drinking tickets. Young and Pinsky are to appear in Lamoille District Court on February 24, 2009. Case #: 09A100074. Trooper Shaffer, VSP Williston.

SPORTS



Congratulations to MMU cross-country runners Owen Rachampbell and Hannah Marshall, both of Huntington, who each received a certificate for a new pair of running shoes from Fleet Feet in Essex Junction, awarded to the two team runners having the highest grade point average for the first marking period. Owen is a junior. Hannah is a freshman.

PHOTO BY BILL ESCHHOLZ

SCOUTING



Mason, Abbott and Owen Rachampbell of Huntington Boy Scout Troop 645, all of whom are now Eagle Scouts.

PHOTO BY JOHN COHN

Owen Rachampbell makes Eagle Scout

Owen Rachampbell of Huntington Troop 645 became an Eagle Scout on December 22, when he passed his Board of Review. He is the fourth Eagle Scout in the troop in 2008, a troop of seven boys. Other Eagles in the troop are Abbott Rachampbell, Atticus Cullinan of Hanksville and Devon Mendicino of Jericho.

The Town of Huntington has benefited from the efforts of the boys, who have created benches and landscaping near the town offices and library, a gazebo on the town green, a nature path behind the elementary school that is the daily outing route for the school's preschoolers, and finally, a pet cemetery as part of Maplewood Cemetery, complete with fencing, entrance arbor and bench.

Owen, 16, is the third Rachampbell brother to become an Eagle in two years, joining his brothers Mason and Abbott, both of whom are now freshmen in college. Owen is a junior at MMU. All three boys were lucky to have their grandfather, Willis Racht of Essex Junction, as their project advisor.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for your support

Letter to the Editor,

We would like to thank all the family, friends, and community for the outpouring of support you have shown us since the tragic death of our son, Brandon Kilburn on January 17, 2008. This past year has been one of unimaginable pain and loss, but we have been blessed with the love and support of so many. We thank you for all that has been done and continues to be done to help us honor Brandon's life.

Sincerely, Brian and Lori Kilburn

OBITUARIES



Terence (Terry) O'Donnell, 46, of Richmond died on Sunday, December 21 surrounded by his loving family at his home. He was born on January 2, 1962 in Laredo, Texas. He leaves his devoted wife Carmen and children Jordan, Kirsten and Zoey. He also leaves his parents, Linda and Tom O'Donnell of Reunion, Ga. He will be greatly missed by his special sisters Kathy and Margaret, his brother Sean, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and a niece and nephew. Terry graduated from Essex Junction High School in

1981, where he loved playing football and was a Vermont champion wrestler. After high school, he and his friends ventured off to Alaska for the summers. He attended college in both Massachusetts and Arizona. Terry had a great 20 year career at UPS where he made many special friendships and received unwavering support from his coworkers during his illness. He will be remembered most by his family and friends for being a loving and devoted husband and father, and for his ability to make everyone feel special. Terry loved being with his friends, traveling and visiting many countries. He was very creative and loved woodworking. Terry touched many lives, and his charisma and charm were evident to everyone but Terry. Terry's genuine soul will always be a part of us. Special thanks to Dr. Paul Unger, Christine Suratt, Bill Perrin and Dr. Thomas and staff at Vermont Cancer Center Medicine. Thanks also to all his friends at UPS, his family, his high school buddies and our neighbors. The family held a special celebration of Terry's life on Saturday, January 3 at The Pond at Bolton Valley.

Vera Millham, 94, passed away on December 16, 2008. Born in Huntington on September 10, 1914, she was the daughter of Ernest and Ila (Williams) Bates. A lifelong resident of Vermont, Vera graduated from Richmond High School and attended Burlington Business College. She worked in Springfield, Mass. for Albert Mills, in Puerto Rico for the U.S. Corps of Engineers, as Town Clerk in Richmond and for many years at General Electric, retiring in 1979. She was active in the Burlington Business and Professional Women's Club and the Altrusa Club, serving as president and treasurer of both organizations. She was a member of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Society of Mayflower Descendants. Vera spent her retirement years volunteering at various organizations including the Red Cross, COTS and Ethan Allen Homestead. She was preceded in death by her husband J. Arthur Millham, her son James Millham, and her sister Leila Bates Griswold. Vera is survived by her niece Anna Wheeler; Anna's husband Roy of Monument, Colo.; a grandnephew, Steven, his wife Courtney, and their daughters Alyssa and Kristin of Colorado Springs, Colo.; and several cousins. Vera is also survived by her guardian angels Bernard and Sandy Denton of South Burlington. Her family wishes to acknowledge their devotion, friendship and the loving care they gave Vera. At Vera's request, there will be no memorial service. Contributions in Vera's memory may be made to the Salvation Army or the charity of one's choice.



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LIBRARIES / LEGISLATIVE REPORT

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

It is cold now, but soon spring will arrive and we will be tilling in the cover crops and planting the garden. Now is the time to order seeds. January 22, the DRML Parent Book Group is easing into the 2009 season by reading seed, tree, and bulb catalogs. Seed catalogs often contain rich descriptive prose, drawings and photographs. At the DRMLPBG's first meeting of the year, we will share favorite catalog passages and gardening advice. It will be a good opportunity to swap seeds and combine orders.

We will organize the readings for the rest of the season, too. *Raising an Emotionally Intelligent Child* by John Gottman has been selected for discussion in February. Some copies will be available for borrowing. Dates for future book discussions are February 10, March 10, and April 14, in the fireplace reading room at 6:30 PM.

Bring your catalogs, seeds, and reading suggestions to the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library meeting room at 6:30 PM, Thursday, January 22. For more information, google DRMLPBG or call 899-1132.

Art for January is Ukrainian Eggs and paintings by Theresa Somerset.

The annual meeting for the library is Thursday, January 15 at 7:00 PM. Please come vote on the library budget and ask questions! The budget was mailed out in December to each household. If you did not get one or can't find it, stop by the library for a copy.

The library is having a Memorable Memoir Writing Workshop. This workshop will show you how memoir writing can be easy and fun. Author Linda Bland will lead the workshop on two Mondays: January 19 and 26 from 6:30-8:30 PM. The workshop is free and space is limited so call now to register: 899-4962. This workshop is sponsored by The Friends of the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library.

Italian Movie Night - Friday January 30, 2008 at 6:30 PM.

Vermont Italian Cultural Association (VICA) is co-sponsoring a film with the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library. The film is shown in Italian with English subtitles. Please call the library for the title.

The library would like to hear from you! Has the library helped you or your family in these tough economic times? If so please tell us about it. Send an email to drawsonmemlib@yahoo.com.

If your material incurs damage while you have it checked out, please return it to the library instead of trying to repair it yourself. Scotch tape actually damages the books more. We have special tape and glue that we use to make repairs. If we can fix it then there is no charge to you. If it is damaged beyond repair we will ask you to pay for it and we will order a replacement if we can. We order material specially processed to withstand heavy use. That processing can't be purchased from bookstores.

Welcome Baby - Friday, January 16 at 10:30 AM.

Parents and infants one year and younger are invited to attend our welcome baby group. Participants will receive a welcome baby bag with gifts and information about community resources and have the opportunity to chat with other new parents. Cosponsored with Building Bright Futures. Facilitator: Eliza Kramer.

Sing-a-long with Lynne Robbins - Thursday, January 22 at 6:30 PM.

Lynne's music will be featuring many songs familiar to families with children preschool age through grade three. Children may come in their pajamas ready for bed. Funded by the Winnie Bell Learned Grant.

Family Yoga - Tuesday, January 27 at 6:30 PM.

Take a break from winter as Jen King leads us on a tropical adventure where we will learn new yoga poses along the way. For children in grade 1 to adults. Advance registration required. Call: 899-4962. Funded by the Winnie Bell Learned Grant.

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.

JERICHO TOWN LIBRARY

A great BIG thank you to the TABbers (Teen Advisory Board) for the 24-hour automation domination event in which the entire collection became barcoded.

If anyone wants to volunteer to be a part of this automation project the barcodes still need to be scanned into the system. So, if you have even an extra hour or two it would be greatly appreciated if you can share your time to help. Please call the library for more information.

Saturday, January 17 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, the Jericho Town Library will be holding its third annual Contra Dance at the Jericho Community Center. You can bring a partner, your entire family, or come alone. Everyone is welcome, including absolute beginners. No prior experience is needed. Mark Sustic will do the calling and instruction of all dances. The music will be provided by the Fiddleheads. Other musicians with acoustic instruments are welcome to join in with the band. A donation of \$5 per person and \$10 for families is suggested at the door.

Saturday, January 24, 9:00-10:30 AM, TAB (Teen Advisory Board-grades 7-12) Meeting. Join and have fun with the fabulous TABbers. Refreshments served. Please support the upcoming TAB Snowflake Chocolates fudge fundraiser.

Monday, January 26 from 10:30-11:00 AM the library will provide an outreach story time at the Jericho Community Center for the Chittenden East Early Childhood Connection play group. Parents and children ages birth - 5 years and siblings are welcome to join the fun. The theme is bears.

Monday, January 26, from 6:30-8:00 PM. *String Fling* continues. Get together to work, chat, encourage others, and laugh. Stay for all or part of the night. (All skill levels welcome.) Bring everything string—knit, crochet, embroider, quilt, sew, mend, hemp, beaded jewelry, rug hooking, etc.

Feeling shut in? If you are sick or having a hard time getting around call us so we can bring you a good book (large print also available) at 899-4686.

High school students needing to fulfill community service please consider volunteering when your schedule permits at the library. Your help is really appreciated. Call or stop by.

Story time including craft and snack is held every Wednesday upstairs at 10:00 AM. Come share the joy of books, finger plays, flannel board, and songs with guitar music led by Derek! Upcoming themes: Wednesday, January 21, 10:00 AM - Pets; Wednesday, January 28, 10:00 AM - Mittens; Wednesday, February 4, 10:00 AM - Snowflake Bentley.

The Board of Trustees meets regularly the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at the library. The public is welcome so join us at our upcoming meetings on and February 5th and March 5th. The hours for the Jericho Town Library on the Green are Monday and Friday 1:00-5:00 PM, Wednesday 10:00 AM-12:00 PM and 2:00-6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM-1:00 PM. For more information call 899-4686 or email us at Jerichotownlibrary@gmail.com.

WESTFORD TOWN LIBRARY, WESTFORD

Upcoming Events: Vermont Earth Institute Discussion Course: Menu for the Future. A six-session discussion course exploring the connection between food and sustainability. The group will meet on Tuesday, January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 10, and 17 from 6:45 - 8:15 PM. This class is full, but we are accepting names for a waitlist. Wednesday, January 15, 11:00 AM: Storytime. Stories and activities for preschoolers. Theme: Penguins

Saturday, January 17, 6:30 PM: Women's Game Night. Join this fun and welcoming group for games, food and laughter. Contact Kara Bolton at 879-2513.

Wednesday, January 21, 6:30 to 7:00 PM: PJ Storytime. Jump into your pj's and head to the library for stories, crafts and activities led by Lynn

Finn. Theme: Chinese New Year.

Thursday, January 22, 11:00 AM: Storytime. Stories and activities for preschoolers. Theme: Fairness.

Saturday, January 28, 6:00 to 7:00 PM: Book Discussion. Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. Join us and many other Vermonters in Vermont's Big Read Program! Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts through the Vermont Art Council, the program is designed to restore reading to the center of American culture and address the national decline in reading. In one of literature's most haunting denunciations of censorship, Bradbury takes the materials of pulp fiction and transforms them into a visionary parable of a society gone awry, in which firemen are forced to burn books and the state suppresses learning. Meanwhile, the citizenry sits by in drug-induced and media-saturated indifference. Written in 1953 and more relevant than ever, Fahrenheit 451 has achieved the rare distinction of being both a literary classic and a perennial bestseller. (Vermont Arts Council).

Thursday, January 29, 11:00 AM: Storytime. Stories and activities for preschoolers. Theme: The Moon.

New Additions to the Collection: Adult Fiction: *Sea of Poppies* (Ghosh). Adult Nonfiction: *American Lion* (Meacham), *Harald Harb's Essentials of Skiing* (Harb), *Winewise: Your Complete Guide to Understanding, Selecting and Enjoying Wine* (Koplan). DVDs: *The Dark Knight*, *Wall-E*.

Westford Public Library is open Wednesday 1:00-7:00 PM, Thursday 10:00 AM-6:00 PM, Friday 12 noon-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.

VARNUM LIBRARY, JEFFERSONVILLE

The Varnum Memorial Library in Jeffersonville is busy this winter! All ages can find something interesting at the library to take part in. There are programs for children and adults, free WiFi access, and of course books and materials to check out, including the ECHO Center pass.

We have programs for children and adults. We continue to host a popular story hour on Tuesdays at 2:30 PM for school-aged children. Come take part!

The Varnum Memorial Library is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 1:00 to 8:00 PM and Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon. The library is a Home Card member, so your card here gains you access to almost all of the libraries in Chittenden County. Call 644-2117 if you have any questions.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Notes from Montpelier

By Rep. Bill Frank

The 2009 Legislature session began with all the usual pomp and circumstance on Wednesday, January 7 and Shap Smith of Morrisville was elected Speaker. In his address to the members of the House, Speaker Smith talked about the work that needed to get done and it was time to get started. In an unexpected move he announced committee assignments during his address. I was very pleased when I heard I was assigned to the Human Services Committee. This will give me the opportunity to complete the work of the End-of-Life Care, Palliative Care, and Pain Management Legislative committee I co-chaired during the summer. Later in the day committee members elected me as Clerk of the committee. There are nine returning members on the committee and two members who moved from the Health Care Committee. It was a full first day of the session.

The second day Governor Douglas delivered his Inaugural Address and shared what we all agree with: "Voters have again returned a legislature controlled by one party balanced by an executive of another and

they expect us to work together. Whether you sit as a Democrat, Republican, Progressive or Independent, we are all Vermonters first. We have been entrusted with a monumental task - to steer our state through rocky shoals. Together, we shall not fail." I know we will work together and not fail but I do have some thoughts on Gov. Douglas's address. First it is important that we work with Washington and President-elect Obama to make sure we access our share of the economic recovery package. I feel Gov. Douglas downplayed how this package will help Vermont.

Using property taxes to pay for education has maxed out our ability to pay our property taxes. Gov. Douglas spent a major part of his address talking about education funding while offering no proposal of how to fix it. The options he did propose will only pass more expenses back to local property taxes. This is not the leadership I was looking for.

Too often when talking about education we only talk about cost and funding. While this is important, I feel outcomes are very important to talk about as well. Many of you have the opportunity to see the excitement children have in learning and witness how great our school system is. Others, like me, hear about this excitement at the dinner table as my wife shares with me the joy of teaching our wonderful young children. Our schools do a wonderful job of preparing our children for the future.

We already have a great way of controlling education spending; it is called "Town Meeting." Let us all make an extra effort this year to attend our school board budget-building meetings, attend Town Meeting and vote on Town Meeting day.

The opportunity for new jobs as we move toward new renewable energy systems, the need for universal access to health care for all Vermonters and the need to rebuild our roads and bridges were three topics I expected to hear about in the Governor's address, but all were missing. These are three areas many of you have talked to me about so I know they are important to you.

Please continue sharing your concerns and ideas with me through e-mail, mail or by telephone. Also Rep. Till and I will have meetings where you can share your concerns and discuss them with your neighbors and us. We have scheduled the following meetings:

Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, Tuesday, February 3, Thursday, April 2, and Tuesday, May 5 all from 6:30-8:00 PM.

Smilie Elementary School in Bolton, Thursday, February 5, 6:30-8:00 PM.

These meetings will be video recorded by Mount Mansfield Community Television and broadcasted on Comcast channel 15. We are open to scheduling meeting at other times.

You can contact me at Rep.BillFrank@verizon.net, 899-3136 or 19 Poker Hill Rd, Underhill 05489.

The session begins

By Rep. Martha Heath

On Wednesday January 7 the gavel fell signaling the beginning of the 2009-2010 legislative session. The first order of business in the House was to elect a Speaker to lead the body. Shap Smith of Morrisville was chosen by a unanimous vote. The newly elected members of the House took their oaths of office and we were ready to begin the work of the session.

In his speech following his election, the new Speaker talked about preparing Vermont for the future in a time of unprecedented financial chal-

Heath continued on page 16



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ART / MUSIC / THEATER / COMING EVENTS

ART

The Shape of Things: Johnny Swing and the Best of Vermont Design 2009 exhibit opens January 23 at **Helen Day Art Center** in Stowe, for those who associate Vermont only with traditional artisans and crafts, Helen Day Art Center begs to differ. Exhibition Director, Idoline Duke has taken another look and found a remarkable group of Vermont artists whose paths have all converged with the creative results teetering on the edge of sculpture and function. Each artist looks beyond accepted forms and really explores the shape of the thing. Anyone can make a fork, but these artists would make forks that may just threaten the meaning and use of the utensil.



Rootbottlegood is part of The Shape of Things exhibit at the Helen Day Art Center which opens January 23.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

a tenuous hold on function. Laurie Peters, a fine metals artist, mates so many geometric shapes in some of her jewelry pieces that it takes a daring and careful person to wear them in public, but to dramatic effect. Glass artist, John Chiles makes vases, bottles and other vessels that invert the thrust of their stoppers and the form is so sensuous, that you probably would never consider displaying flowers in them. The fine glass design is its own reward.

The Shape of Things doesn't constrain itself to the domestic, at least not in the way you would think. Duke has included two prominent Architects in the group: David Sellers, instructor at Yestermorrow Design and Build School, named one of the foremost architects in the world by Architectural Digest, and a singular revolutionary in the sustainable design movement is here with details of his Gesundheit Institute Project in West Virginia, a two decade work-in-progress with doctor and humanitarian, Patch Adams. Also adding architectural weight to the show are brothers, Kevin and Jon Racek of Stew Design who contribute concepts like a sustainable community built over an abandoned water-filled quarry and a concept model of a sculptural tower built to harvest both solar and wind energy.

The Shape of Things exhibit runs from January 23 through March 21. The opening reception is on the 23rd from 5:30 to 7:30 PM, preceded by an artist tour of the galleries at 4:30 PM. Public programs include a sustainable design charrette on February 21 and a 3D paper-sculpting workshop on March 7. Admission to the exhibition is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and seniors.

Veiled Lineage – through February 14, 2009. *Veiled Lineage* features two Vermont artists investigating concepts of ancestry, heritage and tradition, using sculpture, painting, and installation. Jerry Geier's assembly of sculptures, or

totems, features carved faces of wood and clay derived from indigenous and modern societies. The totems are hollowed and act as functional drums. Terry Hauptman's Songline Scrolls feature colorful multi-cultural processions on wall-sized scrolls of paper. These scrolls are a metaphor for life, representing a continual unfolding revelation of change and celebration. In this 400th anniversary of European arrival in the Champlain Valley, this exhibit highlights our evolving notions of cultural and spiritual identity, and exposes the paradox of searching for meaning in the very same cultures that were supplanted by our own colonialist history. Gallery hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Saturday 12 noon to 5:00 PM, closed Sunday, The Firehouse Gallery, 135 Church Street, Burlington.

Hugh Townley-Against the Grain - January 13 - March 22, 2009. Hugh Townley: *Against the Grain* highlights the career of one of the most original sculptors of the twentieth century, who spent the last eleven years of his life in Bethel, Vermont. His imaginative, often whimsical, forms, made of common and exotic varieties of wood, communicate through a personal vocabulary drawn from nature, Native American culture, and Eastern spiritualism. Townley's independent spirit, love of his material, and tremendous skill combine to delight viewers of all ages. Fleming Museum.

More than Bilingual: William Cordova/Major Jackson - Wolcott Gallery January 27 - May 10, 2009. Although Peruvian-born visual artist William Cordova and African-American poet and UVM faculty member Major Jackson come from divergent backgrounds, both artists find inspiration and common ground in music, literature, and the urban aesthetic. *More than Bilingual* includes mixed media drawings, sculpture, and video by William Cordova and poetry by Major Jackson in response. The two artists have long admired one another's work and the Fleming Museum is pleased to bring them together for the first time in a collaborative venture.

The Essex Art League will be showing work at several venues during the months of January and February. "Bright and Bold" is the colorful theme for the show at Phoenix Books, 21A Essex Way, Essex. Meanwhile Kay Webb, Doug Hoppes, Betty Borah and Clair Aimi will show their work at the Fletcher Allen Health Care Center at 353 Blair Park in Williston. Jennifer Fay will display her art at the Essex Town Offices, 81 Main St. Essex Jct. For further information call 862-3014 or visit www.essexartleague.com.

Village Cup, Jericho, painting by Mike Smith, mirrors by David Gale.

Flour Shop, Underhill, Chris White, photography; Tim Durbrow, photography; Pam Fiaschetti, paintings; Donna Owens, photography; Lee Corder, photography; Chris Gluck's student art from Poker Hill Arts.

Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, art for January is Ukrainian Eggs and paintings by Theresa Somerset.

MUSIC

Romance is the theme of the **Vermont Symphony Orchestra Masterworks Series Concert**, the third season performance featuring *Music of Our Time*, to be held on Saturday, January 24 at the Flynn Theater in Burlington at 8:00 PM. World renowned violinist, and VSO music director, Jaime Laredo and cellist Sharon Robinson will perform with dynamic young conductor, Sarah Hicks, on the podium.

A pre-concert discussion, *Musically Speaking*, moderated by Walter Parker will be held at 7:00 PM. at the Flynn Center, free for members of the audience. The discussion will feature Sarah Hicks, David Ludwig and Jorge Martín, providing entertaining insight into the music, composers and musicians themselves.

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 on line at www.vso.org.

"MUSIC WITH MIA" weekly musical storytime at University Mall. Kids can enjoy music, stories, and singalongs with local singer/songwriter Mia Adams. Located in the JCPenney Court every Monday at 10:30 AM. Free. Mondays, January 5 - March 23, 2009. For more information, please call 863-1066 x11.

January 16 - Ed and Marie's All-Folk Revue at 7:30 PM, Bee's Knees in Morrisville. Contact www.thebeesknees-vt.com.

January 17 - North Star Amblers at 10:00 AM at the Burlington Farmer's Market in Burlington. Contact everythingthatsgreen@gmail.com.

Benefit Family Dance with Mark Sustic (caller) and members of Fiddleheads, students from MMU High School and other young musicians at 7:00 PM at the Community Center in Jericho Center. Contact mrksustic@together.net.

January 21 - Winter Season Traditional Fiddle Classes with Pete Sutherland from 7:00 to 8:15 PM in the Grace Coolidge Room (501) in the Waterman Building at the University of Vermont in Burlington. Intermediate level, various styles. Wednesday evenings. Contact 453-3795 and epact@gmavt.net.

January 22 - The Swing Peepers (John Hadden and Matthew Witten) at 10:00 AM at the Brownell Memorial Library in Essex Junction. Contact mwitten@gmavt.net.

Latin Dance Party with DJ Hector 'El Salsero' at 10:00 PM at the Monkey House in Winooski. Contact 862-5082 or www.hermanosproductions.com.

Tuesdays - Open Mic, 9:00 - 11:00 PM, Smuggler's Notch Inn, Jeffersonville, 644-6765. Wednesdays - NIPS-West Open Potluck and Songs/Dance Tunes Session, Moshe's house, Essex, first and third Wednesdays; contact Moshe 879-0876 or www.groups.yahoo.com/NIPS-West. Open Mic, 8:00 PM, Overtime Saloon, St. Albans; www.overtimesaloon.com.

Open Mic Night, 6:30 PM on the first Wednesday of each month, Phoenix Books, Essex Shoppes and Cinema, Essex Center.

Thursdays - Open Mic, 8:00 PM - midnight, Village Tavern, Jeffersonville.

Saturdays - Acoustic music session, 1:00 - 4:00 PM, Foothills Bakery, Fairfax

THEATER

Kids' Drama classes starting February 2, ages 6-12, call The Well, 644-6700 to pre-register.

Volunteer opportunities

The **Deborah Rawson Memorial Library** in Jericho is in need of volunteers to shelve books, prepare materials for story hours, etc. Flexible weekday and evening scheduling.

Mobius, The Mentoring Movement helps direct adult volunteers in programs that ask them to spend at least an hour of quality time with a child

in school-based or community-based programs. Volunteers are asked for a minimum one-year commitment. Training provided. Flexible scheduling.

The Foster Grandparent Program seeks volunteers aged 60 and over to serve at preschools, child care centers, Head Starts and elementary schools 15 or more hours a week. Tasks include tutoring, mentoring, and self-esteem building; openings available in Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, and Washington Counties. Volunteers receive training and a small, non-taxable stipend.

Save the Greyhound Dogs is in need of a volunteer with a laptop computer to type dictated newsletter articles and e-mail them to the designer. Project should take 3 to 4 sessions (about 1½ hours each) at the Essex Junction office.

Women's Rape Crisis Center is looking for volunteers to answer their 24-hour hotline and provide emotional support, options and resources to callers. Opportunities are also available on the Social Change Committee which provides education and outreach in the community. Winter training for all volunteers takes place in February with an application deadline of January 21.

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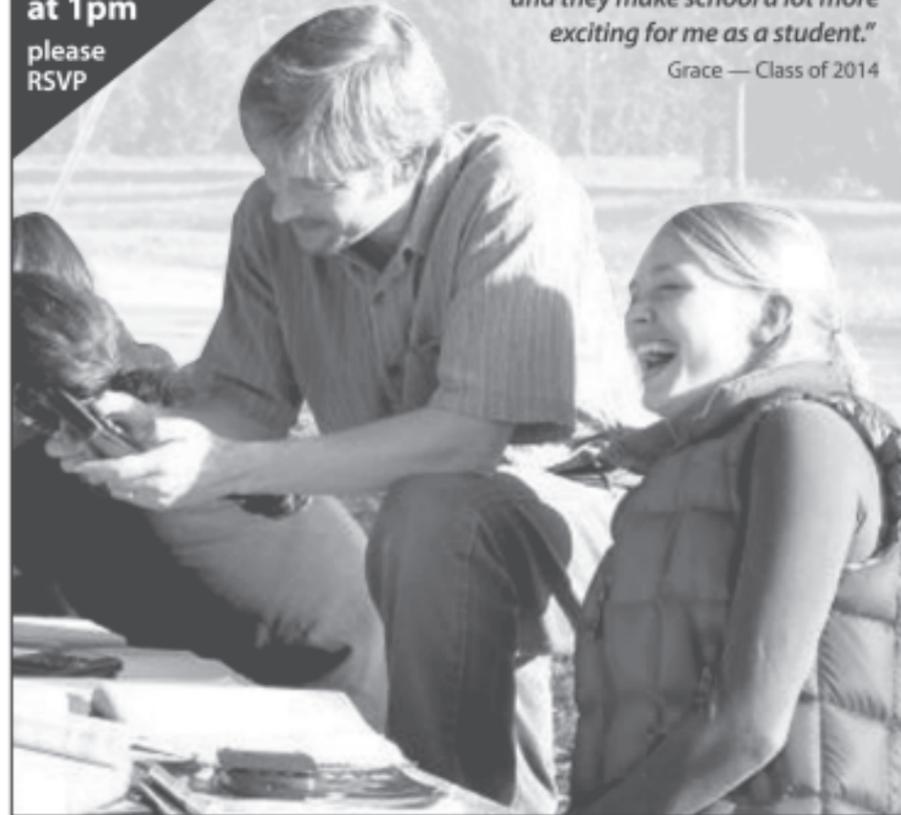
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Yule Fuel Rules:

- ❖ Remove all ornaments, garland, lights, tinsel, stands, etc., until all that's left is the tree itself.
- ❖ If you bagged the tree, you must remove it when adding your tree to the Yule Fuel pile.
- ❖ Bring your tree to CSWD Drop-Off Centers in Essex, Milton, Richmond, South Burlington & Williston, or the McNeil Wood & Yard Waste Depot in Burlington.

For hours, locations, and limits: Call 872-8111 Visit www.cswd.net • E-mail info@cswd.net

CSWD CHITTENDEN Solid Waste District (802) 872-8111 www.cswd.net



Lions Club "Tree of Light" committee members Dave Damkot, Bill McMains, and Dave Williamson strung the lights on the tree at GAR Park in Underhill Flats.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Thank You

Thank you for supporting the bottle cage. At the end of 2008 another installment was made to help buy a boat for the people of Haiti to travel between islands. Thank you for assisting with this worthwhile cause!

Jericho United Methodist Youth Group

Statements in Mountain Gazette did not accurately reflect board's proposal

To the Editor,

Your December 18 article on negotiations between the Chittenden East Supervisory Union and its teachers' union contained some statements by the union negotiator that did not accurately reflect the manner in which the board's insurance proposal would be implemented. According to the article, Jon Harris, chief negotiator for the union, claimed that the union had rejected CESU's current health insurance proposal because "teachers and family members with large hospital or doctor bills would have to put up from \$1500 to \$3000 to pay their bills and then file for reimbursement...." This is not really an accurate representation of how the board's proposal would work. In fact, health services providers are forbidden by terms of their contract with Blue Cross/Blue Shield from denying service pending payment. Therefore, teachers could not be forced to pay for covered services at the time they are provided.

Under the board's proposal, teachers would receive the service/treatment and then they would submit their doctor's or hospital's bill, along with an Explanation of Benefit (EOB) provided by Blue Cross/Blue Shield, to a specially designated Third Party Administrator (tentatively, Future Planning Associates of Williston, VT.) Future Planning would then send a check to the teacher, and the teacher would be able to pay the doctor/hospital from this check without having to disburse his/her own funds. Future Planning has assured the board that they make the process as convenient as possible for their clients. They accept FAX or e-mail attachments of all needed documentation and typically process reimbursement requests on a bi-weekly basis. This process is clearly outlined in the "Relevant Questions and Answers" section of our health insurance proposal, which is posted on the Chittenden East web site <http://www.cesu.k12.vt.us/negotiations>. All CESU taxpayers and teachers are encouraged to review this web site for details.

The board continues to maintain that our proposal tries to strike a fair balance between protecting the pocketbooks of taxpayers in the face of a very challenging economic climate, while continuing to provide high quality health insurance to our teachers.

The negotiations between Chittenden East and the teachers' union have been quite cordial and professional to date, and we have been able to resolve a large number of outstanding issues. It is the board's hope that this climate of mutual respect and shared goals - particularly that of maintaining public support for our school budgets - will be continued by both the boards and the union.

Hopefully this note will direct more of the public and teachers to the CESU web site where they can read an accurate description of our proposal.

Robert Letovsky, Chair

Chittenden East Supervisory Union negotiating committee

Thank You to Our Community!

To the Editor,

The Jericho Underhill Lions Club would like to thank all those in our community who helped "light a bulb" on our Tree of Lights for 2008. On December 13 at 6:30 PM, a small and hardy group of people braved the cold to hear King Lion Loreeen Teer give a brief introduction before the names of those honored, celebrated and remembered were read aloud and the tree lights lit. We hope all folks passing by the tree at night have enjoyed the lights of the season and take a moment to reflect not only on those who were recognized but also on those who affect our lives daily in a positive way. We also hope that if you did not have a chance to help fill our tree with lights this season that you will consider joining us next year to light up our community once again.

We **HONOR**: Eugene and Marie Beloin, Gabriel Beloin, Major Christopher Byler, Georgiana McKnight, Bob and Ginny Keniston. We **CELEBRATE**: Timothy Teer, Mary Chicoine, Bill McMains, Chester and Arlene Willey, Mike Randy, Virginia Tucker, Jean Grinnell, Elma Williamson, Bill Clap, Ernest and Shirley Baillargeon, Sue Ward, Janet Marriott. We **REMEMBER**: Wally Bolger, Bill Leblanc, Douglas Tobin, Wanda Mannings, Genevieve King, Homer and Sylvia Burnor, Ada Hemenway, Ruben Canepa, Ralph Tucker, Michael Tucker, Kevin Bernard, Albert and Dorothy Hunt, Earnest Earle, Clayton and Pearl Welch, Elisabeth Noyes, Floyd E. Jones, Mom and Dad Broughton, Gladys Hull, Giles Russin, Mom and Dad Shackett, Maurice Williamson Jr., Suzanne Carney, Helen Teer, Fr. Jon Bruder, Charles Martin, Bernard Severance, John and Betty Berg, Frederic Weston, Grandparents Hix, Ole and Ella Berg, Walter Center, Grandparents Wright, Bill and Ada Siebrasse, Ruth Weston, Walter Higgins, Winton and Elsie Smith, Esther Cota, Roger Clokey, Jeanne Crane, Grey Kitty, Elinor Merle, Maria Colerico, John and Marion McMains, Lockwood Merriman, Therese Dilg, Chuck Gregg,

Stearns Boyden Allen Sr., Fredrick Myers, Charles Gregg, Douglas Wright Allen, David Shenefiel, Jane Stygles, Carlos Lescieur, Larry Mayo, Phil Halsey, U.S. Military, Our Parents, Arnold Waller, Bill and Eileen Chinnock, Andrea Carter, Sherm Carter, Daniel Lipke, Theodore McKnight.

Lions Club, Underhill

Musings

To the Editor,

I am taking a break, sitting at my window and watching the Soft Snow...how beautifully those words fit together. Say them quietly and slowly; it has magic to it...each flake lazily twisting, but with the inevitability of reaching the ground. I see 'my' flock of crows go by...five of them that squawk at me when I go outside, a guard crow in the closest tree telling the others that the intrusive monster is out again...and with no cracked corn! They have a language; sometimes in spring I have heard them burbling and chuckling to teach other; sometimes they're all in a high aerial twist, flipping over, diving, seeming to have fun with voices that are high and sprightly then.

A flock of chickadees streams by another window, where the bird feeders are. But I shouldn't say "flock," since I seldom see more than one or two at a time, landing daintily at the feeder, grabbing a sunflower seed and flitting back to the spruce to gnaw through the husk. Now blue jays are another matter: very watchful, coming in groups, to sort out the assortment from the larger feeders, studiously flicking out the unwanted millet to get at the cracked corn. This delights the juncos who don't like to be up in a feeder: too exposed, too unstable. They gather in their sedate gray cloaks, delighted to pick up the jays' rejections. Some of their finch cousins are called snowbirds or snowflakes....a wonderfully obsolete, but accurate term: they tend to gather in snowstorms.

One downy woodpecker visits the suet, dangling in a used-oranges net. I have hung another one, which he never visits. What is the difference?

And lastly, my pair of doves, somehow they strike me as not too bright: maybe it's their small heads, or their bobbing around unconcernedly in the midst of the blue jays and the red squirrel who tries to chatter them out of his territory.

All of this, of course, is unabashedly anthropomorphic. But how else do we make friends/companions of so many small creatures? It is a quiet bond we form as the ragged gray clouds let loose more Soft Snow. Say it again...slowly...and then, back to what we euphemistically call the 'real world'...what Emerson labeled: "Duty. Stern Daughter of the Voice of God."

Suzanne Kusserow, Underhill

Free American Cancer Society programs help with New Year's resolutions

The American Cancer Society urges Vermonters to celebrate the new year with a resolution to live more healthily. Evidence shows that exercising, making smart food choices, and giving up tobacco products are great ways to save money, be healthy and increase your quality of life.

Obesity contributes to the development of chronic diseases like diabetes and cancer, but a regular program of exercise helps to cut this risk. The American Cancer Society recommends at least 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity (beyond your usual activities) on five or more days of the week. Examples of moderate and vigorous activities and simple tips on how to be more active can be found at www.cancer.org under *The Complete Guide—Nutrition and Physical Activity*.

One of the best things you can do for your health and the health of your family and friends is to quit smoking. Tobacco is responsible for a long list of chronic diseases, and secondhand smoke hurts the people you live and work with. Quitting smoking is a big step toward a healthier you and, rather than watching your money go up in smoke, you keep it in your wallet.

If you're a Vermonter who uses tobacco products, 2009 is the perfect time to quit! Call the American Cancer Society's free and confidential *Quitline*®, a clinically proven counseling program, at 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org/smokeout. Enjoy a healthier, happier new year!

Mountain Gazette will close it's Underhill Office at end of January. Call 899-4331 for more information.

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RECIPES

Editor's note: We are rerunning this recipe as one of the measurements was wrong. We apologize.

Spicy Ham Balls

By Marian Tobin

1 egg, beaten
1 cup soft bread crumbs
1/2 cup milk
1 tablespoon brown sugar
1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
1 pound ground cooked ham • canned peach halves, drained
Combine egg, bread crumbs, cloves, milk, sugar and ham, mixing well; shape into eight balls. Place peaches hollow side up in a buttered shallow baking pan. Place a ham ball in each peach half. Bake at 350 degrees for 1/2 hour.



Cookin' with Coffee Mocha Java Lava Cake

By Sandy Rigger

INGREDIENTS (4 people)
6 oz. semi-sweet baking chocolate or use your favorite 70% dark chocolate bar
6 oz. butter (diced, room temperature)
3 eggs
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/3 cup flour
1 Tablespoon of "COOKIN' WITH COFFEE" powder (optional, but takes this dessert to a new level)
Butter for the inside of each ramekin
DIRECTIONS: Preheat oven to 350° F. Melt chocolate on low flame in a double boiler. When melted, take off heat and. Stir in diced butter until it melts. In another bowl, beat eggs and sugar until mixture starts to whiten and sugar is dissolved. Stir in melted chocolate, flour, and "COOKIN' WITH COFFEE" powder. Butter 4 individual ramekins, and pour in chocolate batter. Bake for about 10 minutes. Tip ramekins upside down onto dessert plates and serve.



TIPS: You can prepare your chocolate Java Lava Cake recipe ahead of time, and then bake 10 minutes before serving. Easy and delicious!

Have a great day and a great cup of coffee! Sandy Rigger, Brown & Jenkins Trading Company, brownjenkins.com.

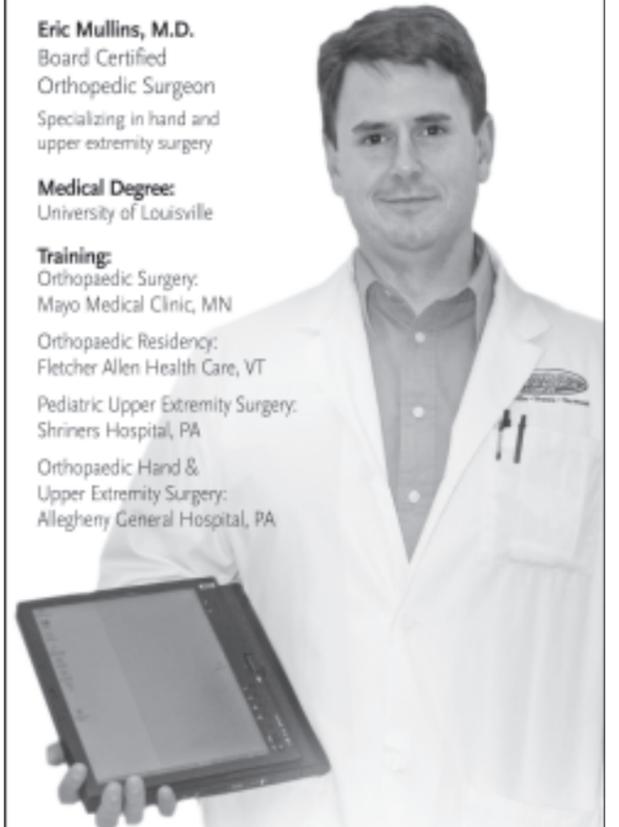
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Copley contest winner

In an ongoing effort to encourage women to get their yearly mammograms, Copley Hospital held a special mammography promotion. Everyone receiving a mammogram at Copley Hos-

pital in October was eligible to win a grand gift basket. Winner Caroline Stetson of Westfield is pictured with Radiology Technologist Donna Holbrook

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mansfield Orthopaedics introduces alternative to knee replacement surgery

Mansfield Orthopaedics is introducing a radically new alternative to knee replacement surgery. Orthopedic surgeon Bryan Huber, M.D. recently performed Vermont's first mini resurfacing of an arthritic knee at Copley Hospital. The procedure was performed on a patient suffering from chronic degenerative arthritis of the knee.

Dr. Huber employed a minimally invasive procedure to resurface only the damaged part of the patient's knee using a new patented surgical technology developed by medical device manufacturer ArthroSurface, Inc. called "surface replacement." This new approach is far less invasive and less expensive than traditional knee replacement surgery.

The new Mini Surface Replacement procedure avoids the bone and tissue removal associated with standard joint replacement surgery and leaves the existing ligaments and cartilage that support the knee in place. "This new procedure results in a faster recovery and preserves more mobility for the patient," said Dr. Huber. "Mini Surface Replacement can be done on an outpatient basis, meaning that the cost of the procedure is substantially less."

The new procedure is recommended for younger patients, typically between the ages of 40 and 60 years old, who suffer from the early stages of chronic degenerative arthritis of the knee.

At present, Mansfield Orthopaedics at Copley Hospital is the only practice in Vermont, New Hampshire or upstate New York to offer the procedure.

"Mansfield Orthopaedics continues to break new ground in providing leading technology and outstanding orthopedic care, and that is further strengthened by the friendly, personal care provided by this community hospital," says Mel Patashnick, President of Copley Hospital. "Both are extremely valuable resources located as we are in the best skiing area in the Northeast."

The new procedure marks the latest in a series of orthopedic resurfacing techniques, which previously included surface replacements for parts of the hip, shoulder, knee and great toe.

Blood donors receive gallon pins

Following are the names of donors who have recently received their gallon pins from American Red Cross Blood Services, New England Region: Thomas Woodard, Jericho, 34 gallons; Ramon Astillero, Jericho, 51 gallons; Rebekah Thomas, Jericho, 52 gallons; Louise Mathews, Underhill Center, 18 gallons; Timothy Durbrow, Underhill Center, 50 gallons; Frank Rheume, Jeffersonville, 33 gallons; John McCarthy, Jeffersonville, 49 gallons.

VNA welcomes four new members to board

The Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) of Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties welcomed four community leaders to the VNA Board of Directors at their Annual Meeting in November. Jericho Center resident Anne Doremus is one of the newly named board members.



Ms. Doremus is the Vice President and Portfolio Manager and Research Analyst for Hanson Investment Management. She has been involved with the Board of the Jericho Library and the Jericho/Underhill Youth League. Ms. Doremus also serves on the Investment Committee for the Society of St. Edmunds and the VNA Investment Subcommittee.

Joining Ms. Doremus in the freshman class of the VNA board are Mary Botter, Executive Director of the Vermont Board of Nursing; Melissa Dever, co-founder and Vice President of Engineering for Competitive Computing; and Jim Madison, a senior project manager at TestAmerica.

The VNA is a 102-year-old nonprofit home health agency caring for people of all ages – from critically ill children to vulnerable families to adults who need rehabilitation, long-term care, adult day services or end-of-life care. The VNA provides medically necessary home- and community-based care to individuals and families regardless of their ability to pay. The VNA serves upwards of 5,000 individuals and families each year. For more information, please contact the VNA at (802)658-1900 or www.vnacares.org.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Brian DeBrita receives BORTAC Agent of the Year award

Brian P. DeBrita, 39, of El Paso, Texas was given the BORTAC Agent of the Year 2008 award for meritorious service to the U.S. Border Patrol and the Tactical Unit.



DeBrita is a 1987 graduate of Mount Mansfield Union High School who served 4 years in the Marine Corps and graduated from Johnson State College with a bachelor's degree in Science. He joined I.N.S. in 1995 as a U.S. Border Patrol agent, where he was stationed on the Texas/Mexico border. He has also served in Iraq.

"My brother has always gone above and beyond the call of duty and I am proud to be his sister," stated Tracy DeBrita-Gamelin.

The U.S. Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC) is the global special response team for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)'s Bureau of Customs and Border Protection. Its mission is to respond to terrorist threats of all types anywhere in the world in order to protect our nation's homeland. Its agents are counted among the nation's most dedicated and highly trained special operators.

His parents, Albert and Sandra DeBrita of Jericho, are very proud of him, as are his sisters Tracy DeBrita-Gamelin and Valerie DeBrita.



Jim Cummings joins Essex Physical Therapy



Jim Cummings received his Physical Therapy degree from the University of Vermont in 1991 and has had the privilege of working primarily in private practice during his 17 year career. His emphasis has been focused on orthopedics and sports medicine. He has had the opportunity to expand on his physical therapy skills through extensive continuing education courses allowing for the most current rehabilitation approaches to orthopedic and musculoskeletal injuries. His knowledge and passion for orthopedics in combination with postural imbalances techniques have allowed him to work closely with his clients to have them achieve their personal goals. Cummings is highly regarded by local orthopedic and general physicians in the community for his approach and personal attention to his clients. He has been involved in clinical research with the University of Vermont on knee ACL rehabilitation.

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WELCOME HOME

Westford (Carpenter) Brent and Maureen Carpenter, 11 year residents of Westford, proudly announce the birth of their second child, Nathan Jeffrey Carpenter. On November 6th, 2008, Nathan was born prematurely at Fletcher Allen Hospital in Burlington, Vermont. Nathan weighed just 2 pounds and measured 14.5 inches. He is growing and healthy and will be released from Fletcher Allen NICU in early 2009. Nathan's older brother Brady is 2 years old and very eager to have him come home. He constantly boasts that Nathan is "his Nate-in" and "his brother." Paternal grandparents are Peter and Mary Carpenter of Barre, VT and great-grandmother is Ethel McKeage of Graniteville, VT. Maternal grandparents are Jean Kinney and Craig and Julie Stroud of Westfield, NJ.



(Jericho Center) (Loeffler) Jake and Kacie Loeffler announce the birth of their daughter, Blake Ellen Loeffler, born October 20, 2008 at the Fletcher Allen Medical Center in Burlington, VT. Blake is also welcomed by her big brother, Jackson.



ENGAGEMENTS

KELLER - PENNIMAN

Gregory and Elizabeth Keller of Plymouth, Mass., announce the engagement of their daughter, Moria Ann Keller, to Ian Robert Penniman, son of Robert and Linda Penniman of Jericho. An August 15 wedding is planned.

REID - DUBUQUE

Lenny and Laurie Dubuque of Jericho proudly announce the engagement of their daughter Rachel to Patrick Reid, son of Rich and Mary Ellen Reid of West Bolton. Rachel and Patrick both graduated from Mount Mansfield Union High School. Rachel graduated from UVM with an engineering degree in 2008. Patrick graduated from Clarkson with a degree in information technology in 2006. Rachel lives in Jericho and Patrick lives in South Burlington. They both work at Green Mountain Coffee Roasters in Waterbury. The wedding ceremony will be held at St. Thomas in Underhill and the reception will be at the Hilton in Burlington. We are all enjoying planning the Saturday, August 8, 2009 wedding.

DORTA - MCLLWAINE

Amy Lyn Dorta of Underhill, daughter of Margaret Rohrs Dorta of Underhill and Angelo James Dorta of Milano, Italy, and Richard Martin Mcllwaine of Cushendall County Antrim, Ireland, son of Mariam Hume Mcllwaine and the late Peter Mcllwaine, are engaged to be married. A June 27 wedding is planned.

HOWE - GAGNE

Peter and Katherine Howe of Jericho announce the engagement of their daughter Alexis Katherine Howe of North Andover, Mass., to Joseph Michael Gagne of North Andover, Mass., son of Jim Gagne of Lancaster, N.H. and Martha Scannell of Friendship, Maine. A June 20 wedding is planned.

TORREY - LACROIX

William and Karen Torrey of Jericho announce the engagement of their daughter Morgen Torrey of Essex Junction to Peter Lacroix of Essex Junction, son of the late James Lacroix and Barbara and Skip Constantine of Essex Junction. A June 20 wedding is planned.

BARBER - DINEEN

Andy and Jane Barber of Jericho announce the engagement of their daughter, Heather Katherine Barber, to Rory Daniel Dineen, son of Daniel and Bernedette Dineen of Carlisle, Pa. An October wedding is planned.

CAMPUS HONORS

Justin Labare of Underhill Center and **Nick Merlo** of Westford received scholarships at the fall Lyndon State College Rising Student ceremony.

Labare was awarded the Alumni Scholarship and the Faculty and Staff Scholarship. The son of Jay and Cindy Labare of Underhill and Carmel Quinn of Burlington, Labare is majoring in Exercise Science. He graduated from Mount Mansfield Union High School in 2005.

Merlo was awarded the Danny Gore Family Scholarship in memory of Barbara Whitney Lewis. Merlo is majoring in Television Studies. He is the son of Charles and Gail Merlo and graduated from Essex High School in 2007.

Kyle M. McDevitt, a resident of Underhill, was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2008 semester at Alfred University. He is a freshman in the Inamori School of Engineering. Students must earn at least a 3.3 grade point average to qualify for Dean's List.

McDevitt is a Ceramic Engineering major at Alfred University. A graduate of Mount Mansfield Union High School, McDevitt is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas L. McDevitt of Underhill, VT.

JUST MARRIED

STEARNS - PEYSER

Jenna Kathryn Stearns, daughter of Adrienne Stearns of Trumansburg, N.Y. and Paul Stearns of Ithaca, N.Y., and Daniel McKelvey Peyser, son of Janis and Fredrick M. Peyser of Underhill, were united in marriage July 5.

The Rev. Earl Kooperkamp officiated at the double-ring ceremony at St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

Audrey Southern was the maid of honor and Dr. Robert Torres was the best man.

A wedding brunch was held at Havana Central in New York, after which the couple left for Greece and Turkey.

Mrs. Peyser graduated from Charles O. Dickerson High School and St. Lawrence University. She works for Teach for America and is a graduate student at Pace University. Her husband is a graduate of Rice Memorial High School and St. Lawrence University. He is a graduate student at Columbia University. They reside in New York.



LITTLE - PELLITIER

Kristin Michelle Pellitier of Jericho, daughter of Michael and Shelley Pellitier of Jericho and Jason Alan Little of Bradford, Pa., were united in marriage September 20, 2008.

Sally Singer officiated at the double-ring ceremony at the Old Round Church in Richmond. Heather Hauck was the maid of honor. Brooke Smith, Kylee Little, and Erica Pascarella were the bridesmaids. The flower girl was Kelcie Little.

Brian Little was the best man. Jay Pellitier and Mark Pascarella were the ushers. The ring bearer was Adam Fontaine.

A reception was held at the Inn at Essex, after which the couple left for the Mayan Riviera.

Mrs. Little is a graduate of Mount Mansfield Union High School, Johnson State College, and the University at Buffalo Law School. She is Assistant District Attorney for Monroe County, N.Y. Her husband is a graduate of Bradford Area High School, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, and Buffalo Law School. He is an associate attorney for Christine Agola Attorneys and Counselors at Law in Rochester, N.Y. They reside in Rochester, N.Y.

OBITUARIES



Ronald R. Kilburn, Sr., 74, died on Tuesday, December 23, 2008 in Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, following a series of strokes. Ronald was born on October 16, 1934 in St. Albans, the son of Robert and Florence (Root) Kilburn. He enlisted into the Army, where he proudly served as a Ranger during the Korean Conflict. Ron was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart for his war valor. Ron spent most of his working career as a masonry contractor, owning RK Enterprises, spanning several years, building commercial properties including University Mall. His main love was being with his family,

whether it was sailing, four-wheeling, snowmobiling or riding his Goldwing. He enjoyed flying and owned his own planes and an airstrip in Westford. He and his family enjoyed many summers at camp in Maine. He also loved horses and riding and owned Paramount Farms in Ocala and the Last Chance Ranch in Westford. He will be dearly missed by his wife Carol (Franco) Kilburn of Ocala and Westford; by his children, Ronald Kilburn, Jr. and wife Christine of Fletcher, David Kilburn and wife Robin of Westford, Robert Kilburn of Bradenton, Fla., Melody Bezio of Westford, Melissa Roberge and husband Daniel of Colchester; by his 13 loving grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; by his brothers and sisters and spouses, Robert and Betty Kilburn, Norman and Donna Kilburn, Gail Kilburn and Carl Alger, Winston and Marie Kilburn, Albert and Jan Kilburn, Louie and Donna Kilburn, Roger and Paula Kilburn and Bruce and Doreen Kilburn; and by several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister Valetta Leduc. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Saturday, December 27 in St. Luke Catholic Church in Fairfax. Burial will be in the Pleasant

View Cemetery in Westford in the spring. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Assoc., Vermont Affiliate, 434 Hurricane Lane, Williston, VT 05495, or to a charity of your choice. Visiting hours were held on Friday, December 26, with prayers offered by Fr. Julien Asucan in the Minor Funeral Home in Milton. Online condolences may be made to www.minorfh.com.

Melynda Susan "Mindy" Cote, 53, of Cambridge passed away on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at her home in Cambridge surrounded by her loving family. Mindy was born on May 10, 1955 in Burlington, daughter of Margaret (Phelps) Bushey and the late Keith Bushey. Mindy had a love of the outdoors which included going to her camp with the "ol' man," riding around on scooters and kayaking. She took great joy in attending her grandson's soccer games and spending time with all three of her grandchildren. She enjoyed her travel adventures to new places that she took often with her "ol' man." Her hobby was crocheting and every new baby in the family received a special afghan from her. Mindy had an incredible loving relationship with her husband, Gary, a very special bond with her "T" and a very special place in her heart for both of her brothers as well as her sister, to whom she was as close as sisters could be. Although her mom lived many miles away, she looked forward to their many phone conversations. She also loved being with her two pups, Ulysses and Pepper. She worked for 25 years at IBM and made many lasting relationships during her time there. Mindy was a very special person and was loved by anybody who came in contact with her. She touched many lives with her smile and compassion for humankind. She will be missed immensely by many. She is survived by her loving husband of 35 years, Gary Cote of Cambridge; her daughter TariAnn Santor and friend Mike Luce of Jericho; her mother Margaret (Phelps) Bushey of Louisiana; three grandchildren, Nicholas, Amanda and Rand; two brothers, Keith Bushey and wife Darlene of Louisiana and Shannon Bushey and wife Michele of Essex Junction; her sister Dottie Cote and husband Joe of Missouri; and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. Visiting hours were held on Tuesday, December 16 at A. W. Rich Funeral Home - Fairfax Chapel. There was no public funeral service. Inurnment will be private and at the convenience of the family. Memorial contributions in Mindy's memory may be made to American Cancer Society, 121 Connor Way, P.O. Box 1460, Williston, VT 05495-1460. Those who wish may forward their online condolences and tributes to www.awrichfuneralhomes.com. Arrangements are by John D. Workman, A. W. Rich Funeral Home - Fairfax Chapel, 1176 Main St., Fairfax, VT 05454.

Patrick Henry Liberty, 78, of Westford, passed away on Wednesday, December 31, 2008 in Northwestern Medical Center Hospital in St. Albans following a courageous battle with cancer and heart disease. Patrick was born in Starksboro on April 18, 1930 to the late Earl and Mary (Wright) Liberty. He married Marguerite Culver on January 15, 1956 in Starksboro. He was an outdoorsman who loved horses and chickens, four-wheeling, hunting and snowmobiles. Patrick is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Marguerite; his two sons, Ricky and wife Brenda of Fair Haven and Ronald of Fair Haven; former daughter-in-law, Lisa; daughter Anne of Winooski; three grandchildren, Patrick of Westford, who was raised by his grandparents, Christine of Fair Haven and William of Winooski; a great-grandchild who will be born in July 2009; his brother Barnet of Huntington; his sister Elizabeth and husband Reginald Peno of Vergennes; his sister-in-law Nina Liberty of St. Albans; and many nieces, nephews and many friends. Many thanks to Nancy and Carl Cobb of Grand Isle. He was predeceased by his parents, sister Lillian, and two brothers, Elenzer and Harold. Many thanks to the many doctors and nurses who have taken care of Patrick over the years. Funeral arrangements are by

Obituaries continued on page 10

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Schedule your appointment for this event today, as space is limited. Please call Farrell Chiropractic Center at (802) 899-9991 to reserve your spot and receive more details. Our office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am through 6pm and Tuesdays from 2:30 pm through 6pm.

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Obituaries continued from page 9

Gifford Funeral Service, 22 Depot St., Richmond. Burial will be private. The family and friends will gather at the Red Brick Meeting Church in Westford at 12:00 PM on January 10, 2009. Donations may be sent to Mrs. Marguerite Liberty, 694 Woods Hollow Road, Westford, VT 05494.



Alberta Catherine "Cathy" Frappier, 87, went home to her beloved Lord on Tuesday, December 30, 2008, following several months of failing health. She was born on October 22, 1921 in Proctor, but lived in Jeffersonville for the past 50 years. Cathy attended the VT School of Cosmetology in Rutland and was employed as a hair stylist at the Sana-Bonn Beauty Shop in Jeffersonville. She will be deeply missed by all those who loved her dearly. Cathy was an active and faithful parishioner at St. Mary's Church in Cambridge, belonged to the Crescendo Club for many years, and was an avid crafter, making slippers and afghans for her family. Cathy also kept active by walking almost daily until the last several months, when weather and health kept her inside. She is survived by her adopted family: Ashton and Evelynne Edwards, whom she regarded as her "brother" and "sister;" her "nieces," Bonnie Adams and her husband Bernie Ste. Marie, and Sandy Albright and her husband, David, all of Jeffersonville; her "grandnieces," Ashley Adams of Burlington and Meg Albright-McRae and her husband Mike McRae of Chicago; and her "grandnephew," Hugh Albright, his wife Amy, and daughter Emma of Pinckney, Mich. Visiting hours were held at Ashton and Evelynne Edwards' home, 90 Church St., Jeffersonville, on Sunday, January 4, 2009, from 6:00 PM until the time of service at their home at 7:00 PM, with the Reverend Peggy Tooker officiating. Inurnment will be at the convenience of her family at South Cambridge Cemetery. Memorial contributions in Cathy's memory may be made to the charity of one's choice. Her family invites you to share your memories and online condolences by visiting Cathy's tribute at www.awrichfuneralhomes.com. Arrangements are by John D. Workman, A. W. Rich Funeral Home — Fairfax Chapel, 1176 Main St., Fairfax, VT 05454.

Harold S. Baker passed away peacefully at his home on December 23, 2008. He was born in Meredith, N.H., the son of Edward and Bertha (Smith) Baker. Harold grew up in Pleasant Valley in Jeffersonville and had fond memories of times spent with his neighbors and friends. He married June B. Wood in 1945 and lived in Enosburg Falls and Jeffersonville. He worked as Master Mechanic for many years at Blow

and Cote in Morrisville. He also worked for McNamara Construction and work with this company took him to Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. He later married Nora Westin in Sault Ste. Marie, where he was Superintendent of Equipment for the Soo Locks Project. Harold was an avid NASCAR fan and enjoyed discussing the races with family and friends. He was a loyal member of the Masonic Lodge in Enosburg Falls, and was proud of his employment with the City of Sault Ste. Marie Street Dept. He particularly loved visits with family and friends. One of his favorite pastimes was watching the freighters pass through the locks in the Saint Mary's River. Pictures and videos of grandchildren and great-grandchildren were very special to him. He faithfully read newspapers from his area and the *News & Citizen* from Morrisville to keep current with friends and loved ones from the past and present. Harold had devoted neighbors and friends in the Soo who touched his life in many ways. He regularly spoke of his gratitude for such wonderful people surrounding him. Harold leaves his son Bill Baker and wife Maylo of Waterville and stepson Eric Westin and wife Peggy of Sturgeon Bay, Wis. He leaves stepdaughters Patricia Bradley and husband Gary of Escanaba, Mich. and Joanne Fitzsimmons and husband Thomas of Apollo, Pa. He leaves a brother, Roy, and wife Dorothy of St. Albans. He also leaves eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, each holding a special place in his heart. Harold was predeceased by his parents; his first wife, June; his sister Shirley; and his brother Roger. He was predeceased by his second wife, Nora, in 1994. A memorial service will be held in the spring in Sault Ste. Marie. Contributions in his memory may be made to The American Heart Association. Arrangements are in the care of Hovie Funeral Home.

COMING EVENTS

January 25

The **Chittenden County Historical Society** will sponsor a program entitled *Early Chittenden County and Vermont* presented by Leon Emmons, a former history teacher in Colchester. Leon lives in an Underground Railroad home. The program will be at the South Burlington City Hall, 575 Dorset Street, from 2:00 until 4:00 PM. The program is free and the public is invited. For questions please call 425-2634.

February 4

Women Business Owners Network, Williston Chapter Meeting Breakfast, Wednesday, February 4, 8:30 -10:30 AM. RSVP to Jill Meyers at Jsmeyers1jewels@aol.com. Cost: \$7 for members, \$10 for guests. Light breakfast will be served. Location: Williston Fire Station, 645 Talcott Road (off of Route 2), Williston.

February 7

French Canadian Supper, Saturday, 5:00 PM, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church Hall, Richmond. Pea soup, meat pie, mashed potatoes, dessert, beverages, etc. Freewill donation to benefit the charities of Rosary Council of the Knights of Columbus. For info call 434-3526 – evenings.

ONGOING EVENTS

ADULTACTIVITIES

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

Westford Knitters Group meets the first Friday of each month, 6:00 – 8:30 PM at the Westford Library. All needle-crafters in Westford and surrounding communities are welcome. Enjoy conversation with neighbors and friends while you work on your current project. Come early or late; bring a brown bag dinner and drink if you like. For information: Julie Nelson, 343-0165 or Julie@coolmoonyoga.com.

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.

The **Vermont French Canadian Genealogy Society library** is open for research Tuesdays 7:00 to 9:30 PM and Saturdays 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We offer Vermont & Canadian Catholic Parish records, Vermont Vital Records on Microfilm, census records and other resources to assist with family history research.

Genealogy Workshops: January 24, *Beginning Genealogy*; February 14, *Acadian Genealogy*; February 18, *Using Computers & the*

Internet; more classes to be held in March and April.

The library is located at the Dupont Building, Hegeman Ave. across from the VT State Police building in Fort Ethan Allen, Colchester. For more information or appointment call 862-8082, 878-8081, or go online at www.vt-fcgs.org/library or email us at mail@vt-fcgs.org.

HEALTH GROUPS

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 5:30 – 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. Please 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.

Fit Kids Support Group, first Mondays, 4:15 – 5:00 PM. Program for kids 8-13 and their parents. Learn about nutrition, physical activity, ways to increase activity level safely, changing eating behavior, self-esteem, and obstacles that interfere with weight management success. Northwestern Medical Center, Cobblestone Building, Classroom A. Speaker: Kay Tran, Reg. Dietitian, MS, CDE. Free; pre-registration required: 524-1234 or cfhw@nmcinc.org.

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.

KIDS

Underhill Playgroup, kids ages 0-5 with their caregivers are always welcome to join us Fridays from 9:30 - 11:00 AM at Underhill Central School for playtime, crafts, stories, songs and fun! For additional information or questions, please contact Heather Lebeis at 899-4415 or Underhillplaygroup@yahoo.com.

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, classes pre-registering now for February. Toddler tumbling and new moms' groups. The Well, 644-6700.

SENIORS

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 Lenore Whitten, 878-8996, Bette Workman, 899-4446, or Loreen Teer, 899-1363.

Westford Senior lunches – Join Westford Seniors for lunch at the Red Brick Meeting House on the Common the second Monday of each month. 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.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Adult coed volleyball in Westford, 8:00 – 10:00 PM, Mondays, Westford Elementary School gym. Fun, casual volleyball. \$2 at the door. Call coordinators Jon and Tammy Brown, 872-8333, for information.

Bolton Men's Basketball, Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Smilie School Gym. For adults and young adults, age 16 and up. Contact Bill Newton, 434-3348.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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; playground 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.

Lamoille Valley Kin as Parents, second and fourth Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, Lamoille Family Center, Morrisville. Dinner and childcare provided. For more information, Imelda at 888-5229 ext. 152 or Rhonda Barr, 888-1376.

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 at 158 Restaurant, Main St., Jeffersonville. For information, call Anita Lotto, 793-0856, or Chuck Hogan, 644-8134.

Tim Nulty, Jericho Selectboard member, at the Village Cup, first and third Wednesdays, 8:00 – 9:00 AM, and at the Flour Shop, second and fourth Wednesdays, 8:00 – 9:00 AM.

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.

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.

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 Board of Water Commissioners will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Old Red Mill on 4B Red Mill Drive in Jericho.

Fairfax Food Shelf has moved to the United Church on the corner of Fletcher Road and River Road, near the Foothills Bakery. The Food Shelf is open the first two Wednesdays, 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon. Please use the downstairs entrance. Information, 849-6588.

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Miss Lina Emanuelsson portrayed St. Lucy delivering food and drink

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Covenant Community Church celebrates 20th Annual Sancta Lucia Festival

The Covenant Community Church of Jericho Road celebrated its 20th Annual Sancta Lucia Festival on December 13, 2008, the traditional date on the Julian calendar when Scandinavian countries observed winter solstice. The local Vermont festival, entitled "A Swedish Celebration of Light and the Coming of Christ," combines tales from Swedish folklore, the Christian celebration for Sancta Lucia (Saint Lucy) and a homemade meal of traditional Scandinavian foods. Two presentations of the pageant and meal were offered to provide sufficient seating for the popular family event.

At the 20th annual celebration Miss Lina Emanuelsson portrayed St. Lucy delivering food and drink in the finale of the Sancta Lucia pageant. Lucia was the daughter of a wealthy Italian family who became a 4th century Christian martyr. In one famous legend, St. Lucy constructed head gear crowned by candelabra so she could carry food in both hands while delivering relief supplies to Christians hiding in the catacombs. Her legendary exploits providing relief to the hungry and persecuted stood as an ideal for the Swedish immigrant founders of the Evangelical Covenant Church (1885) and she continues to inspire the church's mission of relief on five continents to the hungry and destitute.

After an initial introduction by Covenant Community's Pastor Peter Norland, the first and second grade Covenant children portrayed the tomtar, small gnomes who by legend live in the buildings and sheds of Swedish farms. Each year the farm's tomtar are presented with a bowl of food at Christmastime under the front steps of the home. If they accept the gift and the food is gone the next morning, all will be well on that farm for the next year. Our Vermont tomtar performed a traditional dance and sang a greeting to the audience in both English and Swedish. Older grade school children portrayed cunning and deceitful trolls (hobgoblins), night creatures who steal food and hoard goods for themselves to the detriment of others, and star children, angelic beings foretelling the coming. Covenant teenagers and friends performed a traditional Swedish dance of lights to celebrate the coming of light and Christ. Interspersed throughout the pageant were songs and music performed by members of the congregation, the Covenant Church having a longstanding tradition of music. Finally there was the procession of St. Lucy followed by the candlelight singing of 'Silent Night' by all.

Due to the ice storm in Maine that Thursday and Friday, our scheduled soloist, Covenant Pastor George Elia, could not get to Vermont for the pageant. One of our young star children, Olivia Wimble, age 10, volunteered to perform the solo "O Holy Night" with only a few hours' notice and did a wonderful job at both performances. Bravo to that young lady!

Following each presentation of the pageant, a sit-down homemade meal of traditional Swedish fruit soup, meatballs and gravy, cheese with Swedish breads and cookies was served by the congregation to the audience.

Is there anything good in this economy?: transfers

Stock and house prices are dropping. When this happens it is a good time to look at estate planning and business succession via transfers. There are four significant types of transfers people should know about.

People often forget that the IRS taxes gifts to your children and friends. There are exemptions – gifts to husband and wife, if U.S. citizens, are tax-free, but all other gifts are taxed. There is a lifetime exclusion for the gift tax of one million dollars, but estate planners like to use the annual exclusion. The gift tax annual exclusion is what you can give to people tax-free each year. The annual exclusion in 2008 was \$12,000. It has just been announced by the IRS that the gift tax annual exclusion in 2009 will be \$13,000; that is, \$13,000 to each donee. If a husband and wife join together and give a gift to a child, it becomes \$26,000, and if a husband and wife join together to give to a child and the child's spouse, it becomes \$52,000.

Moreover when stocks and property values are down, you can effectively transfer more to your children and grandchildren than at other times. It is a great time to transfer interest in family-owned businesses. When a business is worth less, you can effectively use the annual exclusion to transfer a greater interest in the business, then when the business valuation goes up, a child or grandchild gets a greater value. This can also be used to transfer undervalued stock. In a business it can be arranged for you to transfer ownership interest in a business but still keep control of the business.

You should also be aware that you can pay tuition and medical bills for children and grandchildren with no tax consequences. You just have to pay the college institution or the hospital directly.

Another way to pass money without paying taxes is family loans. The IRS permits relatives to lend money to one another at what is called the Applicable Federal Rate, which the government sets monthly. This rate is many times far less than at a bank. For example, an average 30-year mortgage could be 6.5%, while the federal rate could range from 2.5% to 4.5% depending on the loan's maturity. So parents could lend money to their children to buy a home at a lesser interest rate than the bank would charge. Also, each year the parents could gift the child \$13,000, or if both parents sign the loan, \$26,000, for reduction in principal of the mortgage.

This article is not intended to provide legal advice and does not create an attorney-client relationship. Readers should refrain from acting on information posted here without seeking specific legal advice from individually qualified counselors.

Stephen Unsworth is the senior partner of the Law firm of Unsworth & Barra PLC, located in Essex Jct., VT. He is a member of the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. He has been engaged in the practice of law for over 30 years.

MMU shares with others in need

Mt. Mansfield Union High School (MMU) helped others with its *Holiday Gift Bags* and other gifts donation drive. More than 55 bags filled with personal care items such as shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soaps, and lotions; breakfast items and goodies; and doggie bone treats were assembled and distributed to local food shelves and others in need Friday, December 19. In addition, many individuals and families will receive personalized gifts or shopping cards for food, gasoline or other personal care items. The holiday collection of items and fundraising was a school-wide project put together by MMU's Advisories, SHAPE (Students Helping Achieve Philanthropic Excellence) Club, a talent show and showing of a popular holiday movie, National Honor Society, and other groups and individuals at MMU.

MMU, through its advisories and service clubs, held its second annual food collection in November, The Food Chain Rally, and has plans for three more community service events in the spring.

For more information, please contact: Laurel Butler, Business/Entrepreneurship Faculty-Community Service Learning Liaison: Laurel.Butler@cesu.k12.vt.us or 899-4690, ext. 1638.

CES board sets additional budget meeting

By Katherine Quimby Johnson
Special to the Mountain Gazette

During their meeting on January 8 the Cambridge Elementary School Board decided to hold one more meeting before adopting a budget for the 2009-2010 school year. The meeting on January 15 at 6:00 PM will be dedicated to combing through the budget a final time. In response to a question from Principal Mary Anderson about what the board's goal is for the budget, Board Chair Jan Sander said, "I would like to keep the tax increase to a minimum. Just another set of eyes might come up with a couple things here or there."

Member Nanci Lepsic said, "I look at what's happening out in the community. We're functioning in a different world than last year. I think we need to ask, 'How can we do more with less? How do we get really, really creative?'" Anderson responded, "When we built the budget we were keeping that in mind. I want the public to know that we know they are living on less." Anderson explained that the budget for supplies, books and equipments has been reduced by 10 percent across the board. In addition, based on actual expenses and forecast, the budget for fuel oil was decreased. Anderson added that the only increases were in Special Education, where they are required in order to support Individual Education Plans, and in scheduled salary increases. The district is currently beginning the negotiation process for the next teachers' contract.

Anderson said that the school's equalized pupil count is up by ten students as of December. Sue Cano, LNSU Director of Support Services, noted a similar increase in students requiring special education services. "The fact you're bringing forth a budget that is essentially unchanged, while meeting the needs of students with special needs, speaks to the work this board has done," said Cano.

Staffing information provided to the board shows that the only increases in staffing for 2009-10 will come in Special Education, where a Language Pathology Assistant will increase from .8 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) to 1.3, and where the number of EEE instructional assistants will increase from .2 FTE to two .5 FTE. Another Pre-K-6 instructional assistant will be added, as will another behavioral interventionist, a contracted service. There is one staffing decrease, with the number of FTE bus drivers decreasing from 8.0 to 7.27.

According to Marilyn Frederick, Business Manager for Lamoille North Supervisory Union, Cambridge Elementary will not be subject to the two-vote provision of Act 82, which takes effect this year. That act applies to budgets that increase by more than a set percentage. As of the January 8 meeting, the Cambridge Elementary School budget, including the high school assessment, shows an increase in the 2.3 percent range. Frederick noted that the Lamoille Union High School (LUHS) Board created a conservative budget and was mindful of their budget's effect on the budgets of the elementary schools.

After Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) adjustments, Frederick said that the tax rate for combined elementary and secondary education, as the elementary budget now stands, is \$1.323, a minimal decrease from last year's \$1.324. Frederick added that that amount is based on the education tax rate announced by the state.

As it has since 2002, the Cambridge Elementary Board will request \$75,000 for its transportation fund in a separate article, to be voted on from the floor at Town Meeting.

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INFORMATIONAL MEETING

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to attend an informational session
at Poker Hill School. GMFS is a
value based educational program
for children ages 5 - 14.

For more information please contact Annie Galloway
at 734-1616 or vtquakerschool@gmail.com.
Visit our website www.vtquakerschool.org
or www.friendscouncil.org
to learn more about Quaker education.

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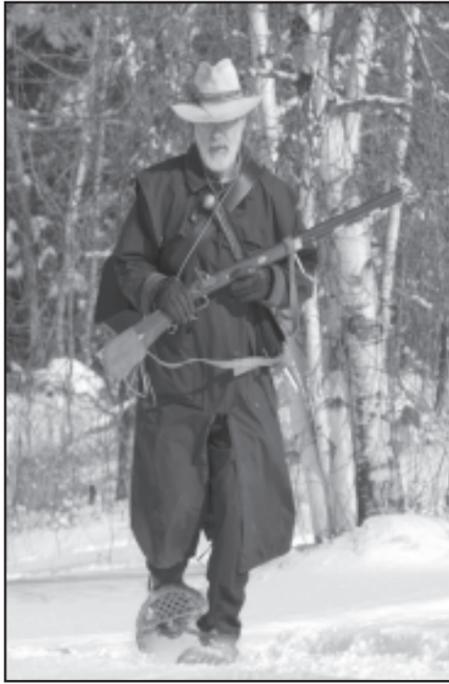
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2009 Smugglers' Notch Primitive Biathlon

The Fourteenth Annual Smugglers' Notch Primitive Biathlon, presented by the Smugglers' Notch Area Chamber of Commerce, and sponsored by the Vermont Trappers' Association, will be held Saturday and Sunday, January 24 and 25, 2009 on the grounds of the Sterling Ridge Inn and Log Cabins in Jeffersonville, Vermont.

This is the original Primitive Biathlon, and, with more than 200 entrants annually, the largest such event held. Rather than Olympic-style target rifles and cross-country skis, this rather unusual event involves the use of muzzleloading rifles and snowshoes. Eligibility for overall prizes is limited to single-barrel traditional style muzzleloaders - no in-lines or optical sights - and traditional wood-framed snowshoes, although modern equipment users are welcome to participate. In the primitive spirit of the event, and in the interest of fairness, the use of round-ball ammunition is requested. Period dress is definitely encouraged, though not required. While this is a competitive event, it's also about getting out in the fresh air and greeting old friends or making new ones. Spectators are welcome.

The beautiful, mostly wooded course is approximately 2 miles and can be enjoyed by the average sportsman - you needn't be an Olympic athlete. The route will be well-marked and will include four target stages with a total of nine shots.



A miss-fire is a miss (Keep your powder dry.), times will be adjusted based on shooting scores putting an emphasis on accuracy, and the final target stage will be in an open, spectator area where families of the entrants and anyone interested can watch. This event will be held regardless of the weather - remember the concept of 'Primitive'. In the event of insufficient snow for snowshoes, bring a good pair of woods boots.

The overall winner will be awarded the Marilyn Grice Memorial Trophy, to be held for the year. Event trophies will be awarded for First Rifle and First Smoothbore, Second and Third Overall, First Woman (any age), First 'Elder' (60 and over), and First Junior (under sixteen). A variety of merchandise prizes will be awarded by blind draw of the participants.

Traders of appropriate goods are welcome with the approval of the organizers. Fee is a merchandise prize for the blanket. For information, weekdays 802-644-8232, evenings and weekends 802-933-4880, e-mail: info@primitivebiathlon.com, internet: www.primitivebiathlon.com.

The hardy bicyclists of Bolton

By Phyl Newbeck
Special to the Mountain Gazette

The cyclists of Bolton are a hardy bunch. Some of the town's two-wheelers are so committed to the bicycle as a mode of transportation that they commute to work throughout the winter. Family obligations have prevented her from repeating the commute this year, but during the 2007-08 school year, Jennifer Botzjorns commuted daily to her job as Principal at Mount Mansfield Union High School, even when the temperature was 20 degrees below zero.

Steve Barner is another one of Bolton's hardy cyclists. Barner's commute is a longer one, 38 miles round trip to South Burlington High School, where he teaches in the technology department. Barner admits he has his limits. New-fallen snow and temperatures below ten degrees first thing in the morning have been known to keep him off the road, but not much else does. Barner estimates that even in the middle of winter he will commute three to four days a week.

Nothing keeps Art Herttua off the road. Herttua is a resident of Richmond, but should be familiar to Bolton residents since he works at the Bolton Valley Nordic Center. If Herttua's face isn't recognizable, his bicycle might be. When the temperatures are below freezing, Herttua rides from his home to the bottom of the Bolton Valley access road where he chains his bike and hitches a ride, easy enough since his colleagues are coming in around the same time he does. Herttua skips the access road under those conditions because "it's too crazy going down." However, he always does the rest of his commute by bike. "I haven't had a reason not to," he said. For four years he didn't even own a car, until he finally accepted a hand-me-down from his mother after his father's death.

Barner's ride begins on Stage Road, which he takes to Route 2. Although traffic on Stage Road is usually pleasantly light, the road can be dicey after it has thawed and refrozen. Barner refers to mud season as a disaster. "Getting back up the hill in mud can be quite an experience," he said. "You expend huge amounts of energy to go three miles an hour." Barner's trip to South Burlington is mostly downhill with the exception of French Hill. Unfortunately, that means his trip home is mostly uphill.

Barner's nemesis is fresh snow which creeps in from the side of the road. He notes that in Vermont, paved roads have often been laid over old concrete which creates a line of broken pavement at the edge. Cars stay away from that edge which means the snow stays in place, forcing cyclists to ride in the travel lane. Barner said that on the whole, drivers are quite considerate and are willing to slow down and wait before passing cyclists. "The percentage of jerks is going to be a few every day," he said, "but most are pretty considerate."

Barner uses two bikes for his winter commuting. One resembles a cyclocross bike and the other is an older mountain bike. Both are outfitted with studded tires and mud flaps. Barner said the studded tires are a necessity. They require greater energy and slow his speed down an average of three to four miles per hour but they make the trip a safer one since ice can appear where people shovel snow onto the roadway and also on sunny days when snow melts, runs across the road and refreezes. Since the highway department only salts roads immediately after a storm, these sections of black ice can be a problem, but the studded tires "really bite in" and help him negotiate the slippery terrain.

Herttua hasn't used studded tires in over four years, usually commuting on a road bike with high

quality racing tires. He used to conduct a test, going down his driveway and trying to slide as he entered Route 2. If he slid too much, he'd go back and switch bikes to one with studded tires, but lately he hasn't even bothered with that test since his regular tires hold well enough. Herttua has, however, considered the possibility of using cross-country kick wax on his road tires.

Barner generally gives himself 1½ hours to get to work, usually leaving at 6:30 AM, but sometimes earlier. He has mounted his bike as early as 5:45 for some morning meetings, suitably protected with a helmet-mounted light with a rechargeable battery in front, and a flashing light and lots of reflective material in back. Barner rarely leaves South Burlington before 5:00 so he may not get home until 7:00 PM, since the additional 1,000 foot elevation gain makes his trip home a longer one. The only issue with riding at night is motorists who feel compelled to turn on their high beams to make sure they see him properly, destroying his night vision.

On a typical 15 degree day, Barner will wear alpaca or wool socks, tights with a windproof front, winter shoes and neoprene toe covers. On top he'll wear a polypropylene liner, long-sleeved jersey, warmer long-sleeve overlayer and a wind vest or jacket. On a really cold day he'll wear a headband or ear muffs under his helmet, and insulated gloves. On a frigid day he might switch to lobster gloves which have two fingers instead of four. "You don't really get that cold," Barner said, noting he dresses pretty much the same way he would for cross-country skiing though perhaps with one extra layer. He considers warm feet the key to successful winter cycling. "If your toes get cold, they don't get warm again."

Herttua's bete noir is his hands, not his feet. He has very long fingers which touch the ends of most gloves, so in cold weather he usually dons mittens, retaining his lobster gloves for days above twenty degrees. Herttua doesn't believe neoprene is an effective material for shoe covers. He said the key is to wear shoes that are slightly too big and have very little ventilation. He has fashioned his own covers with an extra layer of material inside. In contrast to Barner, Herttua wears a balaclava under his helmet, which is covered with a Gore-Tex liner. Much of his clothing comes from Sportful, an Italian company which sponsored him many years ago because of his bicycle commuting.

Herttua sees nothing special about traveling to work by bicycle, something he has done for over twenty years, since his commute is only five miles each way. A more difficult ride is the one to visit his girlfriend in New Haven, a distance of thirty-five miles. Nevertheless, Herttua has made that journey in temperatures as low as fourteen degrees. One problem with that trip is the lack of more than one store at which he can stop, eat a Danish and warm his feet. Herttua commutes by bicycle purely for enjoyment. "It's so much nicer," he said. "After cycling you are wide awake and ready to go. You ride in a car and you need caffeine when you get in."

Barner commutes by bicycle for many reasons but he is blunt about one of them. "I love to eat," he said. "If I don't ride a few days a week, I'll be a blimp." Additionally, any time spent on the bicycle is time spent out of his F150, which gets 17 mpg. "That appeals to the cheapskate in me," he said. "My joy in working on cars is long gone. If I don't drive it, I don't have to work on it." Barner's truck, a 2002 model, has only 40,000 miles on it. "If I can get an extra five to ten years on that, it will pay for another bike," he said.

Barner also enjoys keeping track of his mileage. On the website mycyclinglog.com, he and some

colleagues track their so-called utility miles. The website translates mileage into other terms so Barner is able to calculate that in 2008 his 4,710 bicycle commuting miles saved 2.43 tons of CO2 and 277 gallons of gas. The truth, however, is Barner also loves to ride. His webpage has photos of his eighth riding of the 200 on 100: one day spent riding 200 miles, mostly on Route 100. He is looking forward to repeating that trip again this June. Barner is also the creator of maps for the Green Mountain Bicycle Club and an avid member of the touring section, frequently going to rides with his wife Jeanne on their tandem.

So if you're driving through Bolton and see cyclists on Route 2, tip your hat and give them a wide berth. Bolton breeds some hardy cyclists.



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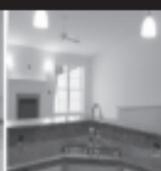
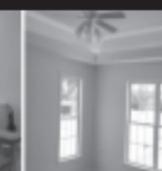


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MMU's Travis Garrett Named "Most Outstanding Wrestler" at Maine Tourney

Many Challenges for Cougar Wrestlers

By Richard Mindell
Special to the Mountain Gazette

It's difficult facing every season knowing you must live up to your past success when you've been among the elite high school wrestling programs in the state of Vermont over the past decade. The 2008-2009 MMU varsity wrestling team will face that challenge this year.

The Cougars finished the 2007-2008 season with a 15-2 record and the number two ranking among all high school wrestling programs in Vermont. This season, the Cougars figure to be in the hunt again, but it won't be as easy as in previous seasons.

"We're in a rebuilding year," Head Coach Harley Brown said. "We haven't been in this position for a few years, but I still expect good things from these kids. We're still a top-four or top five-team."

"It's different," MMU's top returning wrestler Travis Garrett said. "We have a lot of new kids." Besides Garrett, who is the defending state champ in the 145-lb weight class, there are only two other seniors on the squad, Kyle Beane, who finished last season ranked number two in Vermont in the 119-lb division, and Kia Ketchum-Harvey in the 162-lb division. There are six juniors on the squad, including Tom Francis (189-lb), who Coach Brown calls the most improved athlete on the team, Rick Sawyer (112-lb), who was all-state as a freshman, Thomas Cude (140-lb), Gavin Holt, Tony Barrows (135) and Paschel Perrotte. Unfortunately, both Tony Barrows and Paschel Perrotte have suffered shoulder injuries and won't be able to compete until mid-season. Two sophomores, Thadeus Bliss (125-lb) and Bryon Simmons and two freshmen, Trevor Morrill (103) and Tyler Raymond (215), round out the squad. Tyler Raymond is a Vermont Youth champion and is, according to Coach Brown, "the most experienced eighth grader coming up to the varsity in years."

Garrett Takes First Place in Noble, Maine

Knights of Columbus to hold free throw tourney

The Knights of Columbus councils for the towns of Underhill, Cambridge, Jericho, Richmond, Essex/Essex Junction, and Colchester are pleased to announce their 2009 combined Council and District basketball Free Throw Championship, open to all boys and girls 10 to 14 years old. The free throw shoot will be held at MMU on February 14. On-site registration begins at 2:15 PM, with the contest beginning at 2:30 PM. There are separate winners for boys and girls in each age category, with ten winners in all. Each winner will receive a basketball autographed by the UVM men's basketball team and an engraved plaque. Please visit www.KofC7810.org for more information and for entry forms. You can also contact Kristopher Boushie at BoushieK@gmail.com, 899-6576, for more information.

Tourney

So far, the Cougars have split their first six dual meets. "We should be 5-1," Coach Brown said, citing the team's problem with injuries. But while the team has struggled, one Cougar has had a great start. At a regional tournament in Noble, Maine, in which 33 teams from all over New England competed, MMU's Travis Garrett won the tournament's "Outstanding Wrestler Award," for winning the 145-lb division against Maine's state champion, Joe Eon. Garrett was down 3-2 in points entering the final period but reversed Eon with 30 seconds left in the match for two points and the 4-3 victory. Mount Mansfield finished fourteenth among the 33 teams at the tourney.

Hamlin Sparkles at Lehigh

MMU alum Robert Hamlin, class of '07, was named "Outstanding Wrestler" in the 170-lb division at the prestigious Wilkes Open last week, in Pennsylvania. Hamlin is a redshirt freshman at Lehigh University, in New York State. Hamlin was a four-time Vermont state champion and a three-time all-New England champion while at MMU.

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LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF JERICHO – PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Jericho Planning Commission hereby provides notice of a public hearing being held pursuant to Title 24 VSA Section 4442 for the purpose of hearing public comments concerning: **Proposed Jericho Land Use and Development Regulations.**

The public hearing is scheduled for February 3, 2009 at 7:00p.m. in the Jericho Town Hall, located at 67 Vermont Route 15.

The purpose of these regulations is to improve conformance with the Jericho Town Plan and to ensure compliance with the Vermont Planning and Development Act (Title 24 VSA Chapter 117) and other recently amended state statutes. If adopted, these regulations will replace the Jericho Zoning Regulations, adopted December 3, 2003 and the Jericho Subdivision Regulations, adopted July 8, 1985.

The proposed regulations shall apply in all areas of the Town of Jericho.

Summary of Proposed Regulations:

- Section 1 Authority and Purpose
- Section 2 Definitions
- Section 3 Zoning Districts
- Section 4 Zoning Uses
- Section 5 Dimensional Standards
- Section 6 Overlay Districts
- Section 7 General Provisions
- Section 8 Flood Hazard Regulations
- Section 9 Regulation of Telecommunication Towers and Facilities
- Section 10 Permit and Review Procedures
- Section 11 General Development Standards
- Section 12 Administration and Enforcement

Copies of the full text of the proposed bylaw are available at the Jericho Town Hall, located at 67 Vermont Route 15. A digital copy may be viewed on the Town of Jericho Website at www.jerichovt.gov.

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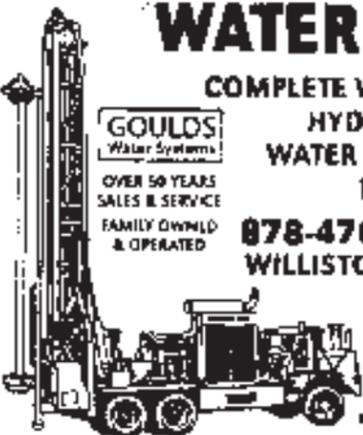
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Westford continued from page 1

major concerns are pedestrian safety, traffic calming, and the aesthetic maintenance of the Town Common and Town Center.

Adams believes preserving the Town Center is very important. "We have something quintessentially Vermont here. We have the Town Common, the community center, the church, the municipal building and private homes on the Town Common. Every building except the municipal building is over one hundred years old. We don't want to lose that feel as we modernize." The Town Common is the center of civic life in Westford. It is host to concerts, a weekly summer farmers' market, a winter ice rink, play groups, lunchtime gatherings, weddings, birthday parties, an annual broomball tournament, the holiday tree lighting and a Fourth of July party.

The new committee is also seeking public input. On Town Meeting Day in 2008, they had an informational table and solicited comments. They also use the town newsletter as a means of requesting input, and they placed a notice on the town website asking for additional comments from residents. The result of two years of work is a multi-phased plan with several major components:

1. Change the intersection of Common Road and Route 128 from a Y to a T, which is the intersection type favored by the State.
2. Upgrade the Town Common parking lots with regrading, better delineation, and storm water drainage. The committee's wish list includes paving one of the lots which, according to Adams, "gets pretty gnarly in mud season." The lot in question houses overflow from the

Community Center, as well as providing general parking for the Town Common. Unfortunately, the committee was not able to secure a grant for the work so it is not being pursued at the moment.

3. Upgrade the municipal parking lot by regrading and by reducing access to Route 128. The lot's handicapped space has already been moved to the east side of the building at the base of the ramp which was installed in late summer of 2008.

4. Create a new parking lot for the library consisting of eight spaces on the west side of the building.

5. Construct a sidewalk with curbing between the library and the Brick Meeting House.

6. Landscape the Town Common with deciduous trees and shrubs near the Town Office and library and replace the pressure-treated wood of the playground with new equipment. The latter project will cost between \$12,000 and \$15,000. Manko has already begun some fundraising for the playground, netting \$500 by selling calendars with photos of Westford. The calendar does not feature naked residents, although Manko noted that there are some nude cows.

At this point, the committee is still working on the project and has not presented all phases to the Selectboard in final form. Adams said they are hesitant to propose too much due to current financial pressures. This year they will focus on painting a center line and fog lines on the paved portion of Cambridge Road leading away from Route 128, as well as on creating a parking lot for the library. Items like the

sidewalk may fall to the bottom of the list because of the difficulties in finding space to install it, as well as the need to wait until landscaping plans are finalized.

The Town Center Committee hopes to continue its work for many years to come. Adams noted there has been a good deal of change in the area. First the library was revamped and soon the Brick Meeting House followed suit. There is ongoing work at the library with a new roof and new siding, and a capital campaign for the church. "There is a feeling of pride in the preservation and maintenance going on," she said.

Manko said there are occasional objections to the work the committee is doing, mostly out of fear of the fiscal ramifications. Additionally, residents enjoy the rural character of the town and worry that it might be altered. Adams added this was typical of the workings of a small town. "It's putting democracy to the test because we need to learn how to negotiate and compromise and still be friends." Adams hopes other Westford residents will approve of the committee's work. "My goal," she said, "is to have a Town Common that is welcoming to people and safe and beautiful. We live in a modern world. We have cars, and traffic just increases as the years go by. Having some foresight goes a long way."

Heath continued from page 5

Heath proposed an economic recovery package that would make strategic investments in Vermont's infrastructure putting Vermonters to work on public works projects. He's asked the committees of jurisdiction to work on a two year \$150M package. \$30M would come from the state's annual capital bonding program and would pay for improvements to state parks and buildings and for water quality projects. \$120M would come from revenue bonds for transportation projects. These projects would include maintenance and reconstruction projects for state and local roads and bridges, capital projects to strengthen the public transit system, and infrastructure projects to improve the state's rail system and possibly airport facilities. The Ways and Means Committee will look at Treasurer Spaulding's proposal to pay for the revenue bonds with a motor fuels assessment as well as investigating other possibilities for paying for these bonds. This proposal will provide jobs for Vermonters who have become unemployed while making much needed investments in Vermont's infrastructure. The proposal shows great promise for positioning Vermont to emerge from the economic downturn ready to move forward.

The Speaker also made a surprise announcement of committee assignments during his speech. It is critical in this difficult time for our state that the legislature gets to work immediately. I was honored to be chosen again to chair the House Appropriations Committee. Our committee has eight returning members and three new members all of whom are ready to roll up their sleeves to tackle the fiscal challenges the state faces.

On Thursday the state's constitutional officers were sworn in and Governor Douglas gave his Inaugural Address. The centerpieces of the address were proposals to change the system for funding K-12 education and to revamp Act 250. I was surprised that his speech spoke very little to how government should change at a time when

balancing the state's budget will be so difficult. I was expecting proposals, or at least a process, for looking at how government operates and the functions it serves. I was hoping for ideas about how to achieve efficiencies, how to look for duplication, how to examine the functions of government to decide whether there are services that are provided that we should eliminate or suspend in these challenging financial times. This should be an opportunity to put a clear focus on these issues. In fact the Governor has said over the past several weeks that the legislative and the executive branches should have this focus and yet his speech was far more about issues that have been ongoing areas of debate in Vermont and ones that I fear will distract us from the opportunity to think creatively and in a focused way about the operations and functions of state government. In addition I was looking for the governor's vision of what Vermont would do to emerge stronger from this economic downturn. He didn't talk about how he would get Vermonters back to work, how he would address our crumbling roads and bridges, and very little about what he thinks Vermont's economic future should be and what our plan should be for growing businesses in Vermont. He did speak about a public/private response team to work with businesses that might be looking to move out of Vermont. This idea may hold some promise if it's structured well. He did talk about some tax incentives. I was hoping for a bolder, more comprehensive vision for the future.

The specifics of the governor's proposals for changes in education funding and Act 250 will be subjects of future columns. For now, the session is off to a fast start. Legislators are eager to begin the work of addressing the problems facing our state. If you have questions or comments about the legislature's work please don't hesitate to contact me by calling 893-1291 or by e-mailing me at mpheath@aol.com I look forward to hearing your comments and ideas.

Negotiations continued from page 1

bill the patient directly for services and we would have to pay at the time of service," he said.

Not so, said Robert Letovsky, chair of the Chittenden East school board. "We checked with the Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust (VSBIT), the umbrella agency schools use to get health insurance, and they said that by the terms of our contract health care providers are forbidden from asking for payment up front," he said. "We also checked with Future Planning Associates of Williston, the agency that will administer the program if it is accepted by both sides, and they agreed with VSBIT," he said.

He said that when a teacher gets a bill for the deductible from his or her doctor or hospital, the teacher then files a form with Future Planning Associates which sends a check within two weeks, so teachers do not have to pay up front for health care.

Letovsky has a letter in this issue of the Gazette disputing Harris's claim and explaining the Board's position. (See letter, page 7.)

"Perhaps he (Harris) has not done the checking we have done. We have dotted the I's and crossed the T's," Letovsky said

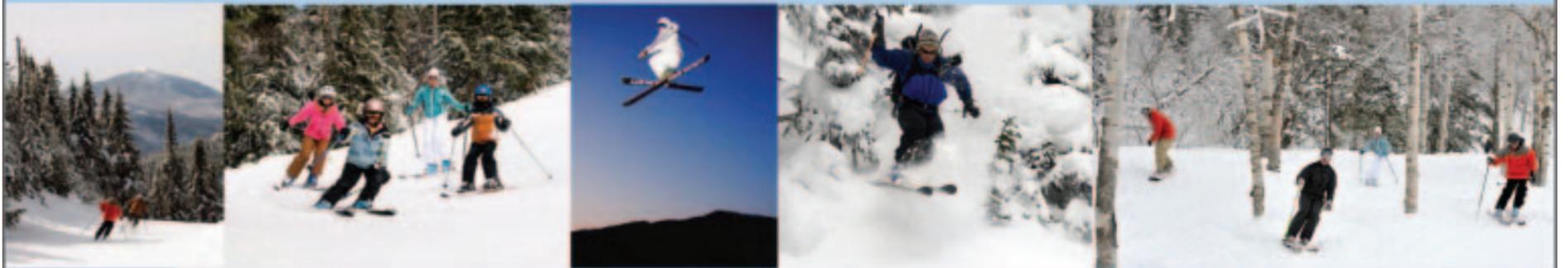
Letovsky said the board does not favor Lobell's option suggestion. "We are not at that point yet. We want to move this for all the people because this plan puts more money in practically every teacher's pocket and saves taxpayers money," he said.

Harris said he is against Comp 1000 because he wants the Supervisory Union to remain attractive to teachers to maintain the quality of education. There are only two other school districts in Vermont that have switched to Comp 1000, he said.

"If we have a lesser health care plan we could lose teachers," Harris said. Some could go to South Burlington and make \$1,000 more a year, he claimed. "The cost of the present health care program is not going up next year, so there is no reason to move cost shifting like this," he said. "I am against having that option at this point. When I see that we have the lowest cost-per-student in Chittenden and a zero percent increase in health care, we are getting a good bang for the buck in Chittenden County."

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