

MOUNTAIN GAZETTE

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MMU's Sara Till makes 43 saves

Freshman goalie Sara Till's efforts took the game into overtime, but MMU lost to Burlington, 3-2, in the Wednesday, January 30 game.

PHOTO BY DEB BRODEUR

MMU school budget way up

By Ted Tedford
Special to the Mountain Gazette

Chittenden East School Supervisory Union residents may get sticker shock when they see the proposed Mount Mansfield Union High School budget increase.

But wait: while the MMU budget has gone up, budgets for CESU's six elementary schools are showing a corresponding decrease. At least on paper.

The \$2.8 million, 12.6% increase for MMU over the present budget will be explained at two public informational meetings before the Tuesday, March 4 Town Meeting, when it will be voted on by residents in the six towns making up the supervisory union. The meetings are Thursdays, February 21 and 28 at the high school at 7:30 PM.

The MMU budget of \$25.4 million is higher than usual because state law required switches of some items usually seen in the six elementary school districts to the MMU district budget, which supports the high school and two middle schools in Jericho and Richmond.

Residents of the six elementary school districts will see the "paper" decreases in their budgets because the legislature required shifts of some items from the elementary budgets to the MMU budget. However, at least two elementary schools, Jericho and Underhill I.D., report they will show a small, but "real" increase. Without the shift from the elementary budgets to the MMU budget, the latter school budget increase would have been 6.8%.

Changes in the law mean that MMU and the elementary school districts will now have separate tax rates. Up until this year, the MMU budget was assessed back to the town school districts and a single tax rate was calculated for educating children from kindergarten to grade 12, according to Jim Massingham, CESU superintendent. Massingham has included details of the changes in his Superintendent's Report, printed in each town's Annual Report for the upcoming Town and School Meetings.

The major changes, he said, are in special education and how the CESU central office funds are spent. "The proposed changes will more accurately reflect where CESU costs are distributed, where the school spends money and align them with state funding," he wrote.

The changes for those two items will reflect the assessment of Equalized Pupils in each district, Massingham explained. Since it costs more to educate most children in grades 6-12, each older child is considered, in education parlance, 1.13 Equalized Students, and each of those in the lower grades is 1 Equalized Student.

The special education assessment to the MMU School District has until now been 50% of expenses. It will increase to 67%, with a corresponding decrease in the elementary school budgets, Massingham said. The MMU School District assessment for the Central Office last year was 64% of costs. It increases to 67%.

Starting in July, MMU will need to borrow more in anticipation of taxes, while the local schools will no longer have to borrow money to pay an assessment to MMU in the future.

Because of the legislated changes, MMU will no longer be funded through assessments to the towns in the district. Instead, MMU will be funded through tax collections, just like the elementary districts. Massingham said that once the school district budgets are approved, the state will calculate the Home-Steak tax rates for each district and combine the elementary and MMU tax rates, taking into account the number of Equalized Students in each district.

School officials point out that the accounting changes account for 5.8% of the proposed budget. Without the change the increase would be 6.8% instead of 12.6%.

CESU comprises nine schools in Bolton, Huntington, Richmond, Underhill and Jericho.

Jericho Elementary

Jericho voters will see a 4.4% increase in their elementary school budget at March Town Meeting. The budget's bottom line for running the elementary school is \$3,666,961. The budget will show a reduction of \$259,204, attributed to the accounting change that shifts certain budgetary items from the district's budget to the MMUHS budget, for a "paper" decrease of 6.6%.

Board Chairman Karen Glitman said the School Board decided to present the budget with a 4.4% increase, rather than the "paper" decrease, because "it compares dollars to dollars and apples to apples. This has been difficult for us to get our heads around," Glitman said of the accounting change.

Glitman said most of the budget increase is at-

tributed to salary and health insurance increases. "What we try to do in our budget is link it to our vision - why we are here, what we are doing and how does the budget as a policy document point to the way we are headed," she said. The Board has added more books for the classrooms and the library. "They feed into the curriculum created with the community and the staff," she said.

She said voters will be asked to spend up to \$40,000 from funds left from a 1989 bond issue to make bathrooms outside the gymnasium accessible to the handicapped. Residents use the school for events and the new bathrooms would comply with Americans With Disabilities Act.

She said the introduction of Spanish in the school has been successful. It is not only used in all classrooms, but for social and civic events at the school.

Glitman also said the new roof, for which the town had spent \$71,000 as of last June, is nearly completed.

The school expects its student population will remain steady at about 262 next fall.

Jericho residents vote on the their school budget from the floor in the afternoon Tuesday, March 4, following the morning's annual Town Meeting starting at 9:00 AM.

Underhill I.D. Elementary

Like the Jericho School Board, trustees of the I.D. School Board decided to exclude the MMU accounting change and report a proposed 2008-09 budget of \$1,511,317, an increase of \$35,462, or 2.13% over the present school budget. The school serves children living in the area close to the town line between Underhill and Jericho.

The budget will still reflect the accounting change, by showing a \$150,096 decrease. As Supt. Jim Massingham states in his superintendent's report, the budget will show a decrease of \$150,096, which will be picked up under the MMUHS budget.

"We thought that it would be less misleading to tell voters theirs is a large decrease in the budget when actually there's a small increase," Board Chairwoman Valerie Bansbach said in an interview. "We wanted to present it in its fairest light."

Bansbach said estimates now are that there will be five more students attending the I.D. than the 96 that were enrolled as of the end of January. In recent years, Board members and I.D. residents have been concerned about a decrease in enrollment. That set off studies by an ad hoc committee of board members of the I.D., Jericho, and Underhill Town school districts to see if all three schools would remain open in the future.

She said the school's switch to a multi-grade system is working well. Two second and third grades were combined last year, and then last fall, all the classes except the kindergarten were reconfigured. There are now three Grades 1-2 and two Grades 3-4 combined. There remain six full time teachers.

She said the new budget reflects extra costs in health and dental insurance and additional nursing services.

Bansbach urged voters to attend an informational meeting Monday night, March 3, at 7:00 PM at the I.D. School. At that time, she said, fellow Board member Peter Booth will discuss the budget and the mandated accounting changes. Voters will cast secret ballots - Jericho residents vote in Jericho and Underhill at Browns River Middle School.

Underhill Central Elementary

Voters in the Underhill Town School District will face a budget of \$1,824,161 at Town Meeting Tuesday, March 4. The amount reflects a \$142,554 decrease because of the supervisory union-wide change in accounting that moves certain costs to the MMUHS budget.

Voters also will be asked to approve a bond issue not exceeding \$190,000 to redo insulation in about two-thirds of the building, according to Board Chairman John LaRue. He said icicles are forming in some areas inside the building. Other areas have had poor air circulation, also leading to icing problems and inadequate classroom heat.

"We need repairs to insulation and roof ventilation in the 1986 and 1994 additions, as well as in the kitchen, office area of the 1980 addition," LaRue said.

He said the district will have to bear the full cost of the repairs because there is no construction aid available from the state.

LaRue said the Board will explain the new accounting changes, with as "straightforward and honest presentation as we can." The budget is voted by secret or Australian ballot on Town Meeting Day, Tuesday, March 4, at Browns River Middle School. There will be an informational meeting on the budget at BRMS the night before at 7:00 PM.

CESU - teacher negotiations

On January 14, the Chittenden East Supervisory Union Negotiation Committee held its first negotiation session with the Green Mountain-NEA, the labor union that represents the teachers, for a new collective bargaining agreement covering teachers in the CESU. The current contract expires June 30, 2008 and covers all teachers in Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill including Camel's Hump Middle School, Browns River Middle School, and Mount Mansfield Union High School.

The CESU Negotiation Committee and the NEA agreed on ground rules governing the negotiations. The parties will exchange initial proposals prior to the next negotiation session on Monday, February 11 at 4:00 PM at the CESU offices in Richmond. The public may attend the open session. At 6:00 PM, the CESU Negotiation Committee will hold a meeting and take public comment.

For more information or to provide input to the CESU Negotiation Committee, the public can attend meetings of the Negotiation Committee, local school board meetings, or contact members of the CESU Negotiation Committee:

Chair Robert Letovsky, 899-3392, Underhill I.D., rletovsky@smcvt.edu; vice chair Phil Graff, 434-5431, Bolton, graffp@yahoo.com; Molly Dugan, 434-3044, Richmond, frolyss@comcast.net; Peter Geiss, 899-3610, Underhill Town, pgeiss@copper.net; Lisanne Hegman, 434-4759, Huntington, bhegman@gmavt.net; Beth Hopwood, 899-2322, Jericho, beth_hopwood@comcast.net; Judie Jones, 899-3918, MMU (Underhill), Jonesis61@msn.com; Michael Marks, 434-3789, MMU (Richmond), mmarkslaw@comcast.net; Steve Znamierowski, 434-3698, Richmond, sznam@gmavt.net.

Construction bond for Town Garage on Cambridge Town Meeting ballot

By Katherine Quimby Johnson
Special to the Mountain Gazette

When Cambridge voters go to the ballot box on Town Meeting Day, they will be voting on two local issues. The first will be the Cambridge Elementary School budget. The second will be a \$1 million construction bond to finance the cost of a new Town Garage.

The proposed garage would be built on the current site and would consist of a six-bay garage, constructed according to state-supplied plans that are available at no cost to the town. The garage will look like the State Agency of Transportation's garage, located on VT Rt. 15 between Jeffersonville and Johnson.

As the Selectboard explained to the Town Road Crew at their meeting on January 28, this garage would have radiant heat in the floors and two bays would be used as maintenance bays. In addition, a three-bay cold barn, enclosed on three sides, would be built to house equipment such as the excavator. A salt shed, which will be funded by a \$40,000 grant from the state, will also be built on the site.

An informational meeting will be held at the Cambridge Elementary School gymnasium at 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 21. A second hearing is currently scheduled for Monday, March 3 at 7:00 PM, the same date as the Cambridge Elementary School Board's informational meeting.

Cambridge voters defeat FD bond

By Katherine Quimby Johnson
Special to the Mountain Gazette

Seventy-eight more voters turned out in January to vote on a fire station construction bond than had in December for a combined bond, but the result was the same: defeat. The 506 ballots included one blank, 226 yes and 279 no votes. The Town of Cambridge has approximately 2400 registered voters.

Representatives of the Fire Department met with the Selectboard on January 28 for a frank discussion about next steps. "Discouraged" and "disappointed" were words that recurred throughout the discussion, but those present were also puzzled about the reasons for the defeat. "We're at a loss," said Fire Chief Alan Cary. "What do we need to do to educate taxpayers that this problem isn't going to go away?"

Although it might seem that the stock markets' precipitous fall in the days immediately preceding the vote played a role, Cary said that after talking to a number of people, he's reached one conclusion: "I don't think it's the dollars." Dan St. Cyr, Second Assistant Chief, agreed. As Dana Sweet, Selectboard member, said, "The reason why we went for the combination vote in December is the interest rates." Board chair Bernie Juskiewicz added, "The reasons were all economic." Juskiewicz and Sweet cited not only the low interest rates, but the desire to get into the construction cycle early to attract the most favorable bids.

Those present at the Selectboard meeting discussed several issues that were raised at the informational meetings and in discussions around town. All those present agreed that the current buildings cannot be incorporated into a new building because of their condition. They also noted that while the topic of a combined facility with the Rescue Squad was raised at one of the informational meetings, the Rescue Squad both now has a building and has become a separate non-profit organization. Combining the two entities under one roof is no longer viable.

The representatives of the Fire Department said that they wanted to find out what people's concerns are. It is likely that they will distribute a survey at Town Meeting. However, "November is the soonest we're saying we'll come back," Cary said, meaning that a construction bond for the Fire Department might be on the ballot at Election Day. Juskiewicz assured the department of the Board's support, saying, "We've worked as a team and we've got to continue to work as a team so that this thing can happen."

Underhill forms new energy, trails committees

By Ted Tedford
Special to the Mountain Gazette

The Underhill Selectboard has established two new committees and is seeking residents to serve on them, according to Town Administrator Chris Murphy. They are an Energy Committee and a Trails Committee.

The Energy Committee will consist of seven members; the Trails Committee will include members from the Planning Commission, Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee, and two members of the public. Murphy will assist the committees initially.

Murphy said the Energy Committee will be asked to develop and recommend an energy policy for the Town. She said other communities have done inno-

New committees continued on page 5

COURT REPORT

January 7, 2008, Trevor E. Nadeau, 24, Underhill, VT, charged with vehicle operation – license suspended in Williston, VT on June 18, 2007; pleaded guilty; fined \$300.

January 24, 2008, the office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Vermont announced that **Ashley Penniman, 23,** currently incarcerated at Dale Correctional Facility in Waterbury, VT, was sentenced January 24 in U.S. District Court in Burlington, VT to 27 months of imprisonment for her role in the so-called “Backward Bandit” convenience store robberies in 2005-2006. Chief U.S. District Judge William K. Sessions III ordered that Penniman serve three years of supervised release following completion of her prison term and pay restitution totaling \$4663. In the past several months, Penniman, Gerald LaFlam, Christopher Adams, and Matthew Maskell have all pleaded guilty to federal conspiracy and robbery charges based on their involvement in gun-point robberies that included the January 29, 2007 robbery of the Chittenden Mills Beverage Store in Jericho, VT. Under the federal Hobbs Act, it is a violation of federal law for an individual to engage in a robbery which delays, obstructs, or affects interstate commerce, or to conspire to do so. Penniman admitted that she participated in each of the 2007 robberies. A part of her cooperation with law enforcement authorities, Penniman also disclosed her involvement and the involvement of others in a series of store robberies the preceding year, which have only recently been solved. Adams has already been sentenced to 30 months of imprisonment and LaFlam to 41 months. Maskell is scheduled to be sentenced in February.

POLICE REPORT

Saturday, December 22, 2007 at 11:32 AM, an employee of the Deer Run Motor Inn on VT Rt. 15, Cambridge, telephoned VSP/Lamoille dispatch to report an out-of-control female at the Inn, identified as **Cynthia Burke, 37,** of Troy, NY. Sgt. Gregory Campbell reports that Burke was subsequently taken into custody, evaluated by Lamoille County Mental Health personnel, and lodged at the correctional center in St. Johnsbury. Burke was to appear in Lamoille District Court to answer a charge of disorderly conduct. (Case #07A105650)

Wednesday, December 26, 2007, at approximately 7:02 PM, Trooper Rolandini of VSP/St. Albans received a report of a larceny of kerosene from the Fletcher General Store. A witness provided a vehicle description and registration plate of the vehicle. The vehicle was stopped by police on VT Rt. 36 in East Fairfield, VT. **Dana Blow, 28,** Cambridge, VT was in the vehicle, with a male operator and her three children. Blow later admitted that she did not pay for the fuel. Four five-gallon fuel jugs containing \$74.78 worth of kerosene were recovered from the vehicle. Blow is suspected of being involved in similar incidents in Franklin and Chittenden Counties. She is to appear in Franklin District Court on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 to answer charges of theft/larceny. (Case #07A206985)

Sunday, December 30, 2007 at approximately 5:02 PM, **John Stevenson, 21,** of Burlington VT, was operating a motor vehicle on VT Rt. 104 in Cambridge, VT and was pulled over for a motor vehicle law violation. As a result of the traffic stop an odor of marijuana was noticed coming from within the vehicle and a small amount of marijuana was seized from Stevenson. Stevenson was issued a citation to appear in the Lamoille County Court for Possession of Marijuana on Tuesday, February 12, 2008. (Case #07A105782)

Tuesday, January 1, 2008, Trooper Matthew Hill, VSP/St. Albans, reports that **Timothy Hanson, 47,** of Jericho, VT was arrested after he was found to be in violation of a Final Relief from Abuse Order. Hanson was lodged at the Northwest Regional Correctional Center for lack of \$5000 bail. He was to be arraigned on January 2, 2008. (Case #08A200015)

Tuesday, January 1, 2008 at 3:30 PM, Trooper Benjamin Katz, VSP/Williston responded to Huntington, VT for a domestic assault in progress. After investigation **Gary O'Brien, 55,** was arrested for assaulting Cathy Miller, 54, both of Huntington, VT. Gary O'Brien was lodged at the Chittenden County Correctional Facility with bail set at \$1000. (Case #08A100008)

Friday, January 4, 2008 at approximately 2:26 PM, **Christopher L. Payeur, 29,** of Colchester, VT was stopped by Sgt. Brian Penders, VSP/Williston, for an inspection violation on Browns Trace in Jericho, VT. Payeur was subsequently arrested for driving with a suspended license, processed at the Williston Barracks, and released with a citation to appear Tuesday, January 29, 2008 in Chittenden Court. (Case #08A100090)

Friday, January 11, 2008 between 6:00 – 10:00 PM, one or more unknown persons broke into a vehicle owned by Nancy Knapp of Underhill, VT parked at the Cambridge Park & Ride near the intersection of VT Rts. 15 and 104 in Cambridge, VT. Many items were stolen from the vehicle, including electronics, clothing, and more. Anyone who witnessed suspicious activity or persons in the area are asked to call the Vermont State Police/Lamoille at 888-2031.

Friday, January 11, 2008 at approximately 11:21 PM, officers from the Williston Police Department responded to a hotel for a report of an underage drinking party. Inside the room, officers located five intoxicated juveniles. Of that group, **Kayla Barup, 18,** of Underhill, VT was arrested and charged with Possession of Alcohol by a Minor.

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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.

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Alterations & Tailoring



A Valentine's Concert Friday, February 15 at 6:30 PM will feature the Jericho Road Crew at Covenant Community Church, VT Rt. 15, Essex, with Christian and secular music from several genres: gospel, bluegrass, Celtic, folk, and rock. All proceeds benefit the Jericho-Underhill Food Shelf. Tickets: \$5 at door, \$4 with food donation; under 12 free. For information or to reserve tickets: www.jerichocovenantchurch.org or 899-1139.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Underhill-Jericho Fire Department news

By Kitty Clark

EMERGENCY CALLS

- Thursday, January 10, 6:05 PM – Responded to 23 Foothills Dr., Jericho, for a possible carbon monoxide problem.
- Saturday, January 12, 8:10 AM – Responded to 20 Sunnyview Dr., Jericho, for a carbon monoxide alarm.
- Sunday, January 13, 7:07 PM – Responded to 45 Poker Hill Rd., Underhill, for a chimney fire.
- Sunday, January 13, 7:48 PM – Responded to 7 Maple Ridge Rd., Underhill, for a chimney fire.
- Monday, January 14, 10:37 AM – Responded to BRMS, 20 River Rd., Jericho, for fire alarm activated.
- Monday, January 14, 4:22 PM – Responded to the area of Cilley Hill Rd. and VT Rt. 15, Jericho, for an accident.
- Monday, January 14, 5:50 PM – Responded to the intersection of VT Rt. 117 and Barber Farm Rd., Jericho, for an accident.
- Monday, January 14, 6:54 PM – Responded to Skunk Hollow Rd. near VT Rt. 117, Jericho, for an accident.
- Thursday, January 17, 12:10 PM – Responded to Lee River Rd., Jericho, for a two-vehicle accident.
- Friday, January 18, 7:30 PM – Responded to VT Rt. 117 and Barber Farm Rd., Jericho, for an accident.
- Friday, January 18, 8:27 PM – Responded to Browns Trace and Nashville, Jericho, for a one-vehicle accident.
- Saturday, January 19, 6:00 PM – Responded to 20 River Rd., Underhill, for a two-vehicle accident.

UJFD news continued on page 3

AREA WORSHIP SERVICES

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
“Little white church with the red door”
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
Special Worship Sunday School: K-6, 10:15 AM
Youth Group, Small Groups for Adults, Family Events,
Opportunities for Service; 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

JERICO CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
On the Green in Jericho Center, VT
Pastor Peter Anderson and Youth Pastor Glenn Carter
Sunday Services at 8:00 and 11:00 AM – Nursery care provided
Sunday School for everyone at 9:30 AM
Fellowship at 10:30 AM - Youth Group at 7:00 PM
899-4911; officejcc@comcast.net; www.jccvt.org

JERICO 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, 10:30 AM;
Children's Sunday School, age 0 to grade 4, 9:30 AM
Adult Sunday School, 9:30 AM; Youth Group, Saturday 6:00 PM
United Methodist Men's breakfast, 3rd Sunday 7:30 AM
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 899-5335 Website www.mmuuf.org
We gather at 9:30 AM at the Jericho Elementary School on the second and fourth Sundays of September-June for worship, reflection, growth, and support.
All are welcome.

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Youth Fellowship Sunday nights, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Area Home Fellowships, Thursdays, 7:00 PM
uca.secretary1@verizon.net
www.unitedchristianassembly.org

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UJFD continued from page 2

Monday, January 21, 6:37 PM – Responded to 32 Pinehurst Dr., Jericho, for a chimney fire.
Tuesday, January 22, 9:40 AM – Responded to Maple Leaf Farm, Underhill, for a fire alarm.
Friday, January 25, 10:40 AM – Responded to 20 South Hill Dr., Underhill, good intent call.
Monday, January 28, 7:40 PM – Responded to 119 Seymour Rd., Westford, to assist rescue.
Tuesday, January 29, 4:44 PM – Responded to 296 Browns Trace, Jericho, for a gas tank leaking on a vehicle.

Tuesday, January 15, a business meeting was held at the fire station. Committee elections took place along with other regular business.
Tuesday, January 22, weekly drill was held with in-house class on safe driving, and standard operating guidelines of the department.
Tuesday, January 29, weekly drill consisted of ice rescue training held on Burgess Pond.

SAFETY MESSAGE: Clothes Dryers – You could be heating up more than clothes in your laundry room. The most frequent causes of dryer fires are improper ventilation and or poor maintenance, which allows lint to accumulate. Avoid leaving the dryer running when away from your home. Clean the lint trap after every use. Do not dry oil rags in your dryer.
Do not operate the dryer without a lint filter. Ensure that the dryer is plugged into an outlet suitable for its electrical needs. Keep the dryer area free of combustibles such as clothing and boxes.
Practice fire safety every day!

Cambridge Fire Department
By Jason Luneau

EMERGENCY CALLS January 10-30
Thursday, January 10, 8:45 AM – Responded to the Highlander at Notch Glen for a reported automatic fire alarm.
Friday, January 11, 12:20 PM – Automatic fire alarm, Smugglers’ Notch Resort, Liftside Condominiums.
Saturday, January 12, 9:26 AM – Automatic fire alarm, Smugglers’ Notch Resort, Sycamore Condominiums.
Tuesday, January 15, 7:24 PM – Automatic fire alarm, Smugglers’ Notch Resort, North Hill Aquatics Center.
Wednesday, January 16, 11:25 AM – Responded to Riverview Life Skills for a reported automatic fire alarm.
Thursday, January 17, 1:00 PM – Automatic fire alarm, Smugglers’ Notch Resort, Meeting House.
Thursday, January 17, 4:00 PM – Automatic fire alarm- Smugglers’ Notch Resort, Meeting House.
Sunday, January 20, 12:04 PM – Responded to 801 VT Rt. 108 South, Jeffersonville, for a reported freon leak.
Sunday, January 20, 3:35 PM – Automatic fire alarm, Smugglers’ Notch Resort, Tamarack Condominiums.
Monday, January 21, 6:00 AM – Automatic fire alarm, Smugglers’ Notch Resort, Administration Building.
Tuesday, January 22, 8:57 PM – Responded to the intersection of Upper and Lower Pleasant Valley Road for a reported motor vehicle accident.
Wednesday, January 23, 9:05 AM – Automatic fire alarm, Smugglers’ Notch Resort, Administration Building.
Wednesday, January 23, 8:30 PM – Automatic fire alarm, Smugglers’ Notch Resort, Administration Building.
Thursday, January 24, 2:17 AM – Responded to Smugglers’ Notch Inn, Jeffersonville, for a reported automatic fire alarm.
Thursday, January 24, 3:07 AM – Responded to Brookside Condominiums, off VT Rt. 108 South, Jeffersonville, for a reported automatic fire alarm.
Thursday, January 24, 9:13 AM – Responded to 155 Manns Meadow, Jeffersonville, for a reported automatic fire alarm.
Thursday, January 24, 8:04 AM – Automatic fire alarm, Smugglers’ Notch Resort, Administration Building.
Thursday, January 24, 11:19 AM – Responded to St. Mary’s Church, Cambridge, for a reported automatic fire alarm.
Friday, January 25, 5:03 AM – Automatic fire alarm, Smugglers’ Notch Resort, Oaks Condominium.
Saturday, January 26, 2:53 AM – Responded to 3522 VT Rt. 108 South, Jeffersonville, for a reported motor vehicle accident.
Saturday, January 26, 8:42 PM – Responded to 6908 VT Rt. 15, Jeffersonville, for a reported motor vehicle accident.
Saturday, January 26, 10:56 AM – Responded to Upper Valley Rd., Jeffersonville, for a reported one-car motor vehicle accident.
Sunday, January 27, 2:14 PM – Automatic fire alarm, Smugglers’ Notch Resort, North Hill Pump House.

WEEKLY TRAINING AND ACTIVITIES
Thursday January 10, CFD conducted winter training on the ATV/Rescue Sled operation.
Thursday January 17, CFD along with adjoining fire departments conducted training on Haz-Mat Decon.
CFD urges all who want to learn more about the CFD to visit their website at www.cfdvt.org.

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REGGAE

A look around town

By Brenda Boutin and Sara Riley
Mountain Gazette staff
It happened here – *again*. Last issue we took note of a brother and sister in Derby who perished in an automobile accident. We are saddened as yet another MMU student, Brandon Kilburn, was killed when his vehicle hit another head on Lee River Road in Jericho.

We hear that another one of our local convenience stores is haunted. Jon St. Amour reported in one of his columns about the happenings at the Jericho Center Country Store. Now there is another one with a ghost that scares the help. I am not allowed to tell you the name to protect the staff but keep your senses alert.

Sara Riley has joined Barry at the Underhill Center Post Office. She is there part-time. Stop in and hassle her. (*Hey!*) Chortle.

Speaking of ghost and chortle, while I (Brenda) was driving up Browns Trace the other night a car horn honked at me. I quickly looked around and there wasn't a single car in sight. Then Shad popped into my head and I heard – not my word – **CHORTLE**. Do you believe?

The Bolton Town offices are gorgeous. Their vault is huge, almost as large as one-half of their old office. The girls, Deb LaRivière and Tina Atwood will proudly show you around; and the kicker – it came in on time and budget. Can that really happen?

We recently heard that the Jericho-Underhill Fire Department honored former chief Randy Clark by renumbering Engine No. 5. They gave it 11, Clark's number when he was a regular fireman.

On politics, the *Mountain Gazette* will likely not endorse any candidate, or party. But we will say this: if you're going to dislike a candidate, do so for substantive reasons. There's a rumor going 'round the net saying that Barak Obama is a Moslem with a secret agenda to deceive America, and cites the story as having been verified on Snopes. Problems: one – the story just ain't true; and two – *Snopes says it's wrong! Always check Snopes directly.* The link is www.snopes.com/politics/obama/muslim.asp. In fact, if you go to www.snopes.com/politics you will find links for George W. Bush, Mitt Romney, Bill and Hillary Clinton, John Kerry, Mike Huckabee, and a list of topics from *The Arts to War/Anti-War*.

Town Meeting is coming up fast, on Tuesday, March 4. Are you planning to go? to vote? Have an opinion? Write and send us a letter to the editor – keep it to 400 words, and mail or email it to us.
Buckle up for safety. I (Brenda) recently observed a woman picking up a child from a school bus stop. As she drove away on River Road, the child was in the back seat unbuckled and jumping around. *Shame on you!*

Why haven't we been mailing the *Mountain Gazette* to Underhill and Jericho? Two words: cash flow... the lack thereof. To those of you who have faithfully picked up the paper – thank you for your support. One gentleman told us he didn't have the time to pick it up. Can't he frequents any local businesses or the bank, town halls, libraries, or schools.
What's coming up in the next few papers? The February 21 issue will feature more pre-Town Meeting coverage and Bridal information; Camping information March through June; look for Home and Garden in April.
We are also working on our *Northwestern Vermont Animal Resources Guide* and the *2008-2009 Jericho Underhill Community Directory*. If you need to add, delete, or change a listing, contact us: 899-4431 or mtgazette@earthlink.net.

Do you need to advertise in any of these publications or special pages? Call Brenda at 899-4431 for the entire scoop.
Underhill is forming an Energy Committee to advise the town on conserving and, they say, on possible wind and solar projects. Could Underhill take advantage of one of its high-elevation, sunny-and-windy spots to generate power to reverse-meter back to the utility? We've done wind and solar at Wulfden and I'm here to tell you: in Underhill, if the sun ain't shining, the wind is blowing.



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A View from the Center

By J. Harrison L. Heidi
Special to the Mountain Gazette
Davy died the day after Christmas 2007. She was 18 years old. I didn't expect her death to trouble me as much as it did. While she was alive we only just tolerated each other. It's not that we didn't really care for each other. She would sit on my lap if her favorite lap were not available. I would often fix her breakfast before I made coffee in the morning. That's a pretty big deal. She could look fairly pitiful sitting next to her empty bowl.

But I'm more of a dog person, and I came into Davy's life at a time when she was used to giving her total devotion and unconditional love to one person, my wife and a quintessential cat person. Davy was a large, black, fuzzy, often persnickety, and very old cat; and I loved her.

Thirty-four years ago, I landed my first real job after college. It was with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in a large city in the South. I was thrilled to go to work there, not so much because of the "graduate from college and get a job" dream, but because I cared so much about animals. But I learned far more about caring for people during my tenure there than I did about animals. Every animal that came into our care had some sort of a relationship with a human being, which often made for a compelling story.

While attending college in the same city as the SPCA, I lived in a room in a boarding house. Francis Smith had lived in that house all her life; she was born there. She was proud to call herself a "Southern spinster." Her home was a grand, multi-roomed 1800s antebellum house complete with a shrouded painting of General Robert E. Lee hanging in the entrance foyer. She housed a half-dozen or so young men from the college, carefully giving us "Smith names" so she would not have to pay a landlord tax for renting rooms. We were all "distant relatives" living with her while attending school, and we were carefully instructed to use our Smith name if a "stranger" at the door should ask us who we were. Francis drove a 1942 Hudson Hornet (in 1970) that she claimed still had the original green paint. She also had a house full of Pekinese dogs.

I caught up with Francis a few years after I graduated from college and left the Smith family. One of her little dogs had died, and was to be buried in the SPCA's pet cemetery in a plot near where she had a couple other dogs buried. One of my responsibilities at the shelter was oversight of the cemetery, which included digging the graves. Yes, my parents loved to tell folks, "This son went to college and now digs graves." I knew from the shelter's records that Francis owned a few plots in the cemetery, and I would someday hear from her. She did not know I had gone to work at the shelter and was delighted to catch up with me and have a "familial" connection at the shelter.
As she arrived at the cemetery for the burial, still driving the Hornet, she could hardly contain her excitement over how happy she was to know I was working at the shelter. "I have something I want you to tell the shelter's director, she said. "I have written in my will that I wish to be buried here in



This felted llama fiber rug is being raffled off at Snowflake Bentley's 143rd birthday celebration Saturday, February 9. Tickets on sale around the area. For information, call 899-3853.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

the pet cemetery next to my dogs, and I will leave a large sum of money to the shelter if they will do so."

I explained the whole story to the shelter's director, and she decided this was one for the board of directors to take care of, expecting a "higher authority" could convince her that her request was out of the question, while also doubting the mention of her will. The director called on a board member who was also the vice-president of public relations at a large pharmaceutical company that had been going through years of litigation over one of its premier products. If anyone could handle Francis Smith, he could.

"We have to make this happen," he said after meeting with Francis. I never heard exactly how much money she would give the shelter, but two years after I had moved on the director called me one day to invite me to Francis' interment at the cemetery, the pet cemetery. The "higher authority" was able to secure permission to have her ashes scattered at her pet's gravesites, to which she agreed, making those instructions part of her will. The SPCA underwent a major kennel renovation, complete with heated floors in the dog runs. She also left enough money to provide for a caretaker in her home until her last pet died a few years later. I don't know what happened to her home or the Hornet after that, but they were not left to any of the "Smith boys."

Our pets are precious members of our families. They and we will make whatever accommodations we feel necessary to provide mutual love, care, and respect for each other. Ours is an amazing relationship.

Davy and I approached each other somewhat wearily and respectfully for quite a number of years, making our peace through our shared relationship with another person. I was always a little jealous when she would go to the front door in the evening to sit and wait for Marcie to come home. I don't recall her ever doing that for me, but just before she died she did, several times. There were occasions, however, when she would choose my lap over Marcie's. We would look at each other, smile, and shrug our shoulders.

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

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Community Columns

continued from page 3

From the Country Store

By Jon St. Amour

Special to the Mountain Gazette

Like many a New England Patriots fan, this Monday morning I feel like I've been squashed by a freight train. The gloriously perfect season the Patriots were so close to completing is now for naught, flushed down the toilet like my daughter's first goldfish. All that precious time and hard work we put in watching the Pats this season is now reduced to an utter waste of time. Their undefeated regular season simply doesn't matter now - it becomes *the* footnote of all footnotes. They had to win the big one. It was the only game that mattered, yet those dastardly New York Giants turned themselves into the '85 Bears and pummeled the Pats and the hearts of Patriots Nation.

After the game ended, my mom turned to me and asked solemnly, "Are you going to be okay?" My emotions boiled over and I uttered maybe the second F-bomb I've ever let slip in front of my mom. "I can't believe they *&^#!ing lost," I said.

But I'm okay. I think the worst part of all this is facing the many NY Giants fans that come into the store. For two weeks I listened to their harebrained predictions of a Giants victory. I listened to them calmly, all the while thinking how foolish they sounded. They now come in here beaming shamelessly, the happiest Monday morning crowd I've ever seen. Customer after customer, I must listen to their analysis of the game and act like it is the first time I've heard their point. After two hours I am officially sick of it all, and when I see John O'Brien, our Frito-Lay salesman and a rabid Giants fan, pull into the driveway, I put a sign on our door that said NO GIANTS FANS ALLOWED and locked him out.

I let him in eventually, and all kidding aside, I do

love talking sports with everyone. Even though my beloved Patriots lost, I know life *will* go on. Somehow, it must. And of course, I will always have my Red Sox, my pride and joy. So until then, fellow Pats fans, there's always next year. Yet deep down inside, this loss will remain a heavy burden upon our shoulders for a long, long time. Every time we see the highlight of that incredible fourth quarter catch by the Giants' David Tyree, which we will be seeing for years and years, we will all be reminded of what could have - what *should* have - been.

Jericho Center news: Please come to Snowflake Bentley's Birthday Celebration this Saturday, February 9 at the Community Center. It starts at 9:00 AM and there will be a host of exciting activities for everyone. We're selling raffle tickets here at the store for some great prizes, including a beautiful felted snowflake rug, a framed snowflake photograph, a gift certificate to Snowflake Chocolates, and maple syrup. Ticket proceeds go toward the Community Center.

Also, the family and friends of John McNulty wish to thank everyone for their generous contributions towards John's care. Thank you all for the outpouring of support. Those who wish may still stop by the store and make donations.

ARTS / MUSIC / THEATER

ART

Travels with Ben, watercolors by Ben Stein, will be on display at the Emile Gruppe Gallery in Jericho through March 23. There will be a reception for the artist on Sunday, February 17 at the Gallery from 1:00 - 3:00 PM. The Emile Gruppe Gallery, 22 Barber Farm Rd., Jericho, 899-3211, emilegruppegallery.com. Open Thursday-Sunday, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM or by appointment.

Essex Art League presents a new exhibit at Phoenix Books in the Essex Shoppes and Cinema plaza. Enjoy the cozy atmosphere of the bookstore and cafe with a cup of coffee and a good book amongst 100+ works of art by the Essex Art League members.

All work is available for purchase and will be on display throughout February. For more information, contact 899-6757 or go to www.essexartleague.com. Also, Essex Art League artists **Clair Aimi, Sarah Drown, Jennifer Fay, Mary Krause, Jane Sandberg, and Lynn Sullivan** are displaying their fine art at the Given Health Center in Williston, Blair Park Rd. near Taft Corner, throughout February. All work is available for purchase. For more information, contact 899-6757 or go to www.essexartleague.com. International artists **Christo-**



After the Market Provence, a painting by S. Abbott, is at Bryan Memorial Gallery as part of the exhibit Objects of Desire: Still Life Paintings running through April.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

pher Griffin and Danilo Gonzalez open an exhibition of new paintings at a reception at 6:00 PM Saturday, February 16 at the West Branch Gallery & Sculpture Park, Stowe, with an artists' talk at 6:45 PM. The Temperature of Color combines the colorful cultures of North America and Latin America. Griffin and Gonzalez are interested in the human condition, the experiences that color human history and current events alike. West Branch Gallery & Sculpture Park, art@westbranchgallery.com or 253-8943, open Wednesday-Sunday, 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM and by appointment.

Objects of Desire: Still Life Paintings at Bryan Memorial Gallery. Reception in honor of the artists Sunday, April 20, 3:00 - 5:00 PM. Bryan Memorial Gallery, Jeffersonville, hours through April 12: Friday and Saturday, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM and by appointment. April 17 - May 11: Thursday - Sunday, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM and by appointment. 644-5100, www.bryangallery.org. Free admission.

On display at the Flour Shop, VT Rt. 15, Underhill, art by **Poker Hill Arts students**, whose card creations are also being offered for sale - this year, to benefit the Jericho Underhill Park District.

Ancient Beings at Helen Day Art Center in Stowe. A joint exhibit by painter Marina Epstein and painter/sculptor Benjamin Davis with the theme of Greek, Byzantine, Hebrew, and Biblical mythical figures. Through March 22. Helen Day Art Center, School Street, Stowe, 253-8358, www.helenday.com.

MUSIC

Concert for Clancy - An important Vermont music educator, Matt Clancy, passed away on October 25, 2007. Matt Clancy was an exceptional teacher, musician, composer, arranger, husband, and father of two young children. A concert Saturday, February 9 will honor his legacy. All proceeds will go directly to Matt's family. The concert will be at 7:30 PM at Crossett Brook Middle School in Waterbury. For information, call Rich, 899-1869.

Jazz, the Spirit Lives, 4:00 PM, McCarthy Arts Center, St. Michael's College, Colchester. Josselyn Price, percussionist, and the Akoma Drummers; St. Michael's Jazz Band; St. Michael's Chorale and Chamber Singers; Jerome Monachino and the ravel Jazz Ensemble.

English Country Dance, 7:00 - 9:30 PM, Elley-Long Music Center, Colchester. First, third, and fifth Fridays through mid-June. Live music on third Fridays. Contact Val Medve 899-2378 or valandtom@together.net.

Community dance at the Waterville Town Hall, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, April 12. Contrasts, squares, circles, play parties, and singing games are featured, and all dances are taught. Bring a partner, your entire family, or come alone. Everyone welcome, including absolute beginners. Mark Sustic, calling and dance instruction. Music by Frank Heyburn and Michele Lajoie with a variety of youth fiddlers, including members of Fiddleheads. Musicians with acoustic instruments are welcome to join in with the

band. Donation of \$5 per person and \$10 for families is suggested at the door. Sponsored by the Cambridge Arts Council. For information, 849-696 or mrksustic@together.net.

Sunday, February 10: Community Dance with Mark Sustic (caller) and Sarah Hotchkiss and John Mowad (musicians), 2:00 - 4:00 PM, Browns River Middle School, Jericho; sponsored by the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship; contact mrksustic@together.net.

Tuesdays - Open Mic, 9:00 - 11:00 PM, Smugglers' Notch Inn, Jeffersonville. Contact 644-6765.

Wednesdays - **NIPs-West** Open Potluck and Songs/Dance Tunes Session, Moshe's house, Essex, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, contact Moshe, 879-0876 or www.groups.yahoo.com/NIPs-West. **Grind! Open Mic** Coffee House (evening). Fireplace Lounge, Champlain College, Burlington. **Open Mic**, 8:00 PM, Overtime Saloon, St. Albans. www.overtimesaloon.com.

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

Saturdays - **Acoustic music session**, 1:00 - 4:00 PM, Foothills Bakery, Fairfax; contact mrksustic@together.net.

THEATRE

Bread and Puppet Circus, 7:00 PM, McCarthy Arts Center, St. Michael's College, Colchester. Information: 654-2536.

Fairfax Community Theatre Company will present four plays for the 2008 season's three regular slots: Spring: *A Murder is Announced: A Miss Marple Mystery* by Leslie Darbon, adapted from Agatha Christie's novel; summer: *A Cry of Players* by William Gibson; and fall: *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* by Don Zolidis, and *Translations* by Brian Friel. For more information, please visit www.fctcv.org or email info@fctcv.org.

Saint Michael's Playhouse has announced its summer 2008 season productions: June 17-28, *Barnum*, a Broadway musical based on the life of P.T. Barnum. July 1-12, *Moonlight And Magnolias*, a madcap comedy about the making of *Gone with the Wind*. July 15-26, *Almost, Maine*, a romantic comedy set in the far northern town of Almost, Maine. July 29-August 9, *Pump Boys And Dinettes*, a Broadway musical that celebrates life's simple pleasures. For information, call the St. Michael's box office, 654-2281.

MOVIE REVIEW

Cinematic Wanderings

By Luke Mindell
Special to the Mountain Gazette
**Twenty Aught Seven,
Year In Review (parts 1-6)**

I generally try to avoid the conventions of film writing, but today, I just can't help but throw my voice into the growing chorus of top ten lists featured in every periodical in the civilized world. This won't be a classic top ten list, however. First, there are eleven items on it, and technically, not all of them are from 2007. Technically, not all of them are movies, and not all of them are the "best." So let's just call this... an account of the most interesting things I saw in 2007. Boy, that's catchy!

1) *Paprika* - Everyone knows that *Ratatouille* was the smash cartoon hit of the year, but another animated film hit theatres in '07 and it was an example of just how exciting the medium can be. *Paprika* is a Japanese film that tells a complex story about a device that allows people see into, and even influence, the dreams of others. The animation is top notch, the story is compelling, and the dream sequences are unparalleled. When in the film the entire world falls asleep, and all of humanity's collective dreams merge into one surreal, mind-bending spectacle, it's impossible not to be blown away. (Available on DVD)

2) *Crazy Love* - There were plenty of great documentaries this year. Most of them were political and involved the war in Iraq. That's why I thought I'd tell you about another documentary, one that is both horrifying and bizarrely funny. The story of *Crazy Love* is classic: boy meets girl, boy pursues girl, girl falls for boy, boy fools around, boy loses girl, boy hires thugs to throw acid in girl's face and blind her, boy goes to jail, boy gets out of jail, boy marries girl he blinded. Actually, I don't think I've heard that one before. This may sound very upsetting, and parts are, but through use of archival footage, photographs, great music from the 50s and 60s, and absolutely insane interviews with the couple and their friends, *Crazy Love* managed to keep a smile on my face. (Available on DVD)

3) *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*: Seasons 1 and 2 - I haven't liked a sitcom (other than a few pseudo-

Cinematic Wanderings
continued on page 5

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- 2 (14-ounce) cans water-packed artichokes, well drained
- 2 generous handfuls fresh spinach sautéed quickly in a little olive oil
- 4 ounces organic silken tofu (don't use firm or extra firm here!)
- 3 large cloves garlic
- 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese, freshly grated
- 2/3 cup plain (or Greek) yogurt
- 1/4 teaspoon fine grain sea salt, or more to taste
- pinch of cayenne pepper
- more Parmesan to sprinkle on top



Preheat oven to 350F degrees. In a blender or food processor puree the artichokes, spinach, tofu, and garlic. In a separate medium bowl whisk together the parmesan cheese, yogurt, salt, and cayenne. Stir in the artichoke puree and pour mixture into a medium-sized baking dish (or multiple smaller dishes). Sprinkle the top with more Parmesan. Bake uncovered until heated through and the cheese on the top starts to brown, about 45 minutes.

Makes 2-3 cups of artichoke dip. Serve with a crusty baguette or savory crackers.



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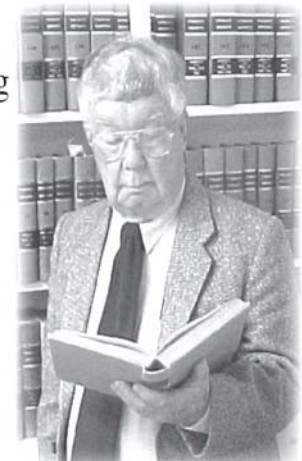
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Cinematic Wanderings continued from page 4—

sitcoms that air on HBO) since *Seinfeld* went off the air. But FX's nihilistic series about four 20-30-something sleazebags who own a failing Irish pub in Philly is just about the funniest thing on TV. The best way to describe this super low budget show is simply to list a few of the episode titles because they alone will either intrigue you, or deeply offend you! Either way, you'll know if this show is for you. Here are some of my favorites: *Gun Fever*, *The Gang Gets Racist*, *Charlie Has Cancer*, *The Gang Finds a Dead Guy*, *Dennis and Dee Go On Welfare*, and *Dennis Looks Like a Registered Sex Offender*.... Superb! (Available on DVD)

4) Steven King's *The Mist*—I love Steven King adaptations. When I saw ads for *The Mist*, I never imagined that it would trump almost every other movie based on his work. Leave it to King to write a siege story about a group of people in a supermarket seeking refuge from a thick, hanging mist that hides an entire ecosystem of horrible monsters, and have the real threat take the form of religious fervor. Not only is *The Mist* scary, exciting, and utterly satisfying on the level of a monster movie, it also manages to end on a note of emotional complexity. While most melodramas pretend to be more thoughtful than they are while spoon feeding you every emotion, *The Mist* manages to be emotionally challenging, while pretending to be a simple creature feature. (Estimated February DVD release)

5) *No Country For Old Men*—After two truly bad movies (the only two in a prolific career), the Brothers Coen were in danger of losing their status as top filmmakers. But with their latest film they stopped the bleeding metaphorically, even if cinematically the blood is flying, spattering, and smearing. The story of *No Country For Old Men* isn't a new one. A man finds a sack of money, takes it, and a horrible killer chases him. The thing that makes this film stand out is that the technique, the execution of the story telling, is glorious. All of the performances are top notch, but Javier Bardem as the horrible killer will stand in the annals of villains alongside Norman Bates and Hannibal Lecter. (Estimated March DVD release)

6) *Eastern Promises*—Speaking of bloody violence, no one does it better than filmmaker David Cronenberg and he is in top form with this Russian gangster picture. Viggo Mortensen solidifies his status as a great actor (and total bad-ass) in this bloody tale of moral ambiguity. (Available on DVD)

Sanders to host brunch meeting at MMU

Vermont's Independent Senator Bernie Sanders will host a brunch and town meeting in Jericho on the morning of Sunday, February 10 at Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho. Brunch will be served at 10:00 AM, followed by the meeting at 10:30 AM. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, call (800) 339-9834.

Snowflake Bentley birthday celebration

Sled dogs! Snow angels! Birthday cake! Snowshoeing! And much more—Saturday morning, February 9, the Community Center in Jericho is sponsoring a celebration honoring Snowflake Bentley's 143rd birthday. From 9:00 AM—12:00 noon, the Jericho Center Community Center and areas near the Green will be in the center of activities for all ages to enjoy a fun winter party.

Five great prizes will be raffled off to lucky winners. 1: a handmade, felted snowflake rug 24"x38" (llama fiber—see photograph at sites selling raffle tickets). 2: a beautiful 5"x5" print of a snowflake photograph in an 8"x8" frame, by Jericho's current snowflake-photographer Stu Hall (see his photographs at twotownsonline.com). 3: a yummy gift certificate to Snowflake Chocolates. 4 and 5: a half gallon of maple syrup.

Raffle tickets can be bought prior to February 9 at the Old Red Mill, Jericho Center Country Store, The Flour Shop, The Village Cup, Wells Corner Market in Underhill Center, and Richmond Corner Market. All proceeds go to support the old Community Center building and activities there.

The schedule, rain, shine, or snow, is as follows:

9:00 AM: Snowshoers of all ages and abilities are invited on a fun trek to set the trail for the sled dogs—in field near the green. Meet at community Center.

9:30—11:00 AM: A demonstration by trained sled dogs, and a limited number of rides for children (please don't bring any unleashed dogs)—field near the green.

10:00—11:00 AM: Crafts for children—back room of the Community Center.

10:00 AM: Presentation on Snowflake Bentley's life, Elaine Salisbury—front room of Community Center.

10:30 AM: Presentation on photographing snowflakes, Stu Hall—upstairs in the library.

11:00 AM: Snow Angel Flop—as many people as possible making simultaneous snow angels (maybe setting a Vermont record!)—meet at Community Center.

11:30 AM: Birthday celebration, including Snowflake Bentley look-alike contest! What do you think Bentley should or might have looked like?! Let your imagination run wild! Music (fiddling!), birthday cupcakes, and raffle drawing!

All ages are welcome. All activities are free and aimed at bringing community members together in a fun way. Come join the celebration! For more information, call Orelyn Emerson at 899-3853, and don't forget the raffle tickets!

New committees continued from page 1—

vative energy projects, such as light-bulb exchange and wind and hydro projects. This new committee will work with and make recommendations to the Planning and Conservation Commissions on any proposed project.

The Trails Committee will be asked to gather information from state regulatory agencies and interest groups and create a policy that balances a desire by townspeople to use town land but at the same time protect the environment. The committee might later explore the possibility of establishing a town trail system in cooperation with other Town boards, commissions, and the public if there is community support, she said.

Its membership will consist of two members each from the Planning Commission, the Conservation Commission, the Recreation Committee and two members of the public, with Murphy assisting initially.

Any Underhill resident who would like to serve on either committee should send a letter of interest to Chris Murphy, Town Administrator, P.O. Box 32, Underhill Center, VT 05490 or underhillvt@comcast.net by March 31, 2008. The Selectboard will review the letters late next month with appointments by April.

The town is also accepting applications from community members interested in filling vacancies on the Conservation Commission. To apply, send a letter of interest and resume to Murphy by February 28, for Selectboard action by the end of March.



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Richmond Area**CAMPUS HONORS**

Jared Richardson of Richmond, VT has been named to the Lyndon State College Dean's List for the fall semester. Richardson, the son of John and Cecelia Richardson of Richmond, is majoring in Television Studies. He graduated from Mount Mansfield Union High School in 2007. For inclusion on the Dean's List, a student must have completed at least 12 graded credits with no incomplete or failing grades and a minimum grade-point average of 3.50.

POLICE REPORT

Thursday, January 17, 2008, Officer Erica Moore of the Richmond Police Department reports the investigation of a burglary at the home of **Steven Stockwell**, 51, of Richmond, VT during the day of January 17. Stockwell came home and found his house had been broken into. Money was taken from the residence; no other valuables were stolen. (Case #RM00043)

OBITUARIES

Willard L. "Uncle Bill" Conant of Richmond, VT was born on Riverside Farm in Richmond on May 24, 1925, the son of the late Leverette and Myrtle (Martin) Conant. Bill was of the fifth generation to live in Richmond, and a sixth generation descendant of Thomas Chittenden, the first governor of Vermont. He was married first to Gloria Phelps on December 25, 1948, which ended in divorce. He married Dorothy (Galaher) Murray in Richmond on November 20, 1963. She predeceased him on November 11, 2001. He married Marie (DeCoursey) Spaulding in Richmond on July 5, 2003. He graduated from Richmond High School in the class of 1944, and served as president of the Richmond Alumni Association for a number of years. He served as selectman for the town of Richmond for 16 years and chairman of the board for many years, and later as a justice of the peace. He was a 60-year member of North Star Lodge 12 Masonic Lodge, a member of Mt. Sinai Temple of the Shrine, Valley of Burlington Scottish Rite Bodies and The Green Mt. Shrine Club. In his early years, he was a member of the first glider club in the state of Vermont. Bill worked at many occupations during his life: he worked on the family farm as a young man, operated Art's Service Station and W.L. Conant Construction Company, was a shop teacher at Edmunds Middle School in Burlington, and was Superintendent of the Richmond Water and Sewer Department. He also worked with his wife and daughter at Bud's and Roses Flower Shop. He and his daughter Veronica raised and exhibited registered polled Hereford cattle for many years and he served as a director and was a past president of the Vermont Beef Producers Association. His love for farming and agriculture continued throughout his life. Bill enjoyed helping his nephews rake hay at Riverside Farm after he retired. He is survived by his wife Marie (Spaulding) Conant; sister June Cercone of Sherbourne, MA; sister-in-law Gloria Conant of Williston; his daughters and their spouses: Peggy (Conant) and Derrick Shadel of South Jordan, Utah, and their children Timothy and Jennifer Shadel of Phoenix, AZ; Andrew and Jennifer Shadel and son Ammon of Utah; Kara (Shadel) and Dale Murri of Utah; Veronica Conant and her fiancé Greg Cassetta of Centerville, VA; a stepdaughter, Daphne (Murray) and Russell Meagher of Lawrenceville, GA. He is also survived by his step-children and spouses: Coleen (Spaulding) and Roger Stevens and family of California; Lynn (Spaulding) and Lyle St. Jean and family of Ferrisburgh, VT; and Bruce Spaulding of Petaluma, CA; many nieces and nephews including David, Kim, Jay, and Chris Conant and "The Boys From Chicago:" Bill, Joe, and John Schaffer, who helped him rebuild his home after a 1988 fire. He was predeceased by a brother, Ransom Conant, in 1969; his sisters Constance (Conant) Schmidt in 1983, and Virginia (Conant) Stambaugh in 1998; and a very special nephew, Richard Stambaugh, in 1996. Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 15 in the Richmond Congregational Church. A Masonic funeral service was held at the funeral home. Memorial gifts may be made to Vermont Respite House, Cystic Fibrosis, or the charity of choice.

**RICHMOND LIBRARY**

Display case: Once again we have the Richmond Cub Scouts' Derby cars this year. Please come take a look at the originality and ingenuity of these creations.

Reminder: Your Richmond Free Library card will get you a 10% discount at all Vermont museums and galleries. You must present it at the time of your visit.

Upcoming programs: On Saturday, February 10 at 4:00 PM, *Minor Key*, a children's musical presentation group, will have a concert in the library community room. Open to the public; suggested donation \$5/person or \$12/family.

Book Sale: Unfortunately the annual book sale hosted by the Friends of the Richmond Free Library will not be held this year due to lack of storage space for donations in the Town Center basement during construction.

Book Discussion: In February, the book group will be discussing the book *Tales From Margaritaville* by Jimmy Buffet. Please call the library, 434-3036, for more information.

New titles: *Greening Your Home: Sustainable Options for Every System in Your House* by Clayton Bennett, *Sword Song: the Battle for London* by Bernard Cornwell, *Lord John and the Hand of Devils* by Diana Gabaldon, *The Last Well Person: How to Stay Well Despite the Health-care System* by Nortin M. Hadler, *The Invention of Everything Else* by Samantha Hunt, *My Lady Judge: A Mystery of Medieval Ireland* by Cora Harrison, *The Age of American Unreason* by Susan Jacoby, *Sizzle and Burn* by Jayne Ann Krentz, *Troubled Waters: An Alan Lewrie Naval Adventure* by Dewey Lambdin, *The Book of Old Houses* by Sarah Graves, *Last Call* by James Grippando, *Dreamsongs* by George R. R. Martin, *Murder Melts in Your Mouth: A Blackbird Sisters Mystery*, *The Careful Use of Compliments* by Alexander McCall Smith, *Blonde Faith* by Walter Mosley, *Starburst* by Robin Pilcher, *A Life of Picasso* by John Richardson, *The Rest is Noise: Listening to the Twentieth Century* by Alex Ross, *The Sunrise Lands* by S. M. Stirling, *One-way Ticket* by William G. Tapply, *The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court* by Jeffrey Toobin, *Touch and Go: A Memoir* by Studs Terkel, *500 Ideas for Small Spaces* by Kimberley Seldon, *Now and Then* by Robert B. Parker, *Dirty Diplomacy* by Craig Murray, *Independents Day: Awakening the American Spirit* by Lou Dobbs.

WELCOME HOME

(Lee) Kate (Jensina) and Willie Lee had a son, Otis Red, on Sunday, December 22, 2007 at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT.

RICHMOND PEOPLE

David Banks of Richmond was named 2007 salesperson of the year at Otter Creek Awnings, Sunrooms, and Custom Closets of Williston for achieving the highest growth percentage over the previous year. Banks joined Otter Creek in 2002.

Sarah Spencer of Richmond has joined the Women

Business Owners Network. Her business is *Got Clicks?*

Erik Filkorn has returned to private practice in Richmond after working for two years at Spike Advertising in Burlington. He will continue to work on projects with Spike while developing his own clientele.



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Recipes By Marian Tobin

Molasses Doughnuts



- 2 eggs
- ½ cup molasses
- ½ cup white sugar (*)
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 4½ to 5 cups flour
- 1½ tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. ginger
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 3 Tbsp. melted shortening

(*) can use additional 1 cup molasses in place of sugar

Mix as usual for doughnuts. (Combine dry ingredients. Mix wet ingredients together, then stir quickly into dry.)

Not too much flour or they will be tough.

Fry in deep fat. Drain on paper towels.

Flu reported in Vermont

The Dept. of Health reported the first confirmed case of flu in Vermont January 18. Vermonters should take precautions to avoid getting or spreading the flu. And it is not too late to get a flu shot.

If you have not had a flu shot and wish to get one, call Marge St. Cyr at Lamoille Home Health, (802) 888-4651.

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CVAA Meals

The Champlain Valley Agency on Aging offers an ongoing series of special meals for groups of seniors at a variety of restaurants in the area. The schedule is listed below. All seniors are welcome to join the group and enjoy lunch with neighbors and friends. Participating seniors must be at least 60 years old, or the spouse of someone at least 60 years old. Suggested donation for meals is \$3 at Covenant Church and United Church; for meals at other sites, \$5. Transportation may be available if needed. Reservations are required for these meals and may be arranged ahead of time by calling 865-0360.

- Thursday, February 7 – Bridge Street Café, Richmond, 11:00 AM. Roast pork dinner.
- Friday, February 8 – United Church, Hinesburg, 12:00 noon.
- Monday, February 11 – Covenant Church, Essex Ctr., 12:00 noon.
- Tuesday, February 12 – Pizza Hut, Susie Wil-

son Rd., Essex Jct., 11:00 AM. All you can eat pizza buffet.

Wednesday, February 13 – Dutch Mill, Shelburne Rd., Shelburne, 11:00 AM. Baked stuffed chicken.

Thursday, February 14 – Ponderosa, Williston, 11:00 AM check-in, 11:15 lunch. All you can eat buffet.

Friday, February 15 – United Church, Hinesburg, 12:00 noon.

Monday, February 18 – Holiday – no meal.

Tuesday, February 19 – T-Bones, Hampton Inn, Colchester, 11:00 AM check-in, 11:30 lunch. Roast turkey dinner.

Wednesday, February 20 – Euro Restaurant, Essex Jct., 10:30 AM check-in, 11:00 AM lunch. Chicken marsala.

Thursday, February 21 – Ponderosa, Williston, 11:00 AM check-in, 11:15 lunch. All you can eat buffet.

Friday, February 22 – United Church, Hinesburg, 12:00 noon.

COMING EVENTS

Thursday, February 7
Collecting Vermont Antiques, 7:30 PM, Blair Williams Room, Old Red Mill, Jericho. Part of Jericho Historical Society Winter Lecture Program by Duane E. Merrill.

Saturday, February 9
Snowflake Bentley Birthday Celebration, 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon, Jericho Center Green. Sled dogs! Snow angels! Birthday cake! Snowshoeing! And much more - the Community Center in Jericho is sponsoring a celebration of Snowflake Bentley's 143rd birthday. Raffle prizes: a handmade, felted snowflake rug (llama fiber) – see photo at Country Store and Old Mill; a 5"x5" print of a snowflake photograph in an 8"x8" frame, by Jericho's current snowflake-photographer (Stu Hall, twotownsonline.com); gift certificate to Snowflake Chocolates. Raffle tickets available at the Old Red Mill and Jericho Center Country Store. All proceeds support the old Community Center building and activities there. Rain, shine, or snow. All ages welcome. All activities free. Information: Orelyn Emerson, 899-3853.

Winter Walk at Kikas, 10:00 AM, Kikas Valley Farm, Jericho. Sponsored by Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT). John Koier, JULT land stewardship committee, will introduce GPS technology and its use on JULT properties. Cross country ski or snowshoe looking for tracks and wildlife sign. Meet at Kikas Valley Farm parking lot, Tyler Place, off of Skunk Hollow Rd. For information, call John, 899-1830, or Livy, 899-2693.

Hoepfner Hop Snowshoe Event, 8:25 AM check-

in, 9:00 AM start, Sleepy Hollow Inn, Huntington. Fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. For information including cost, 862-4760.

Sunday, February 10
Italian Night Pasta Buffet, 4:00 – 7:00 PM, St. Thomas Church, Underhill Center. Served buffet style. No reservations necessary, but please call the rectory with the number attending to help with the planning. Take out dinners available. Cost by donation. Menu: antipasto/pastas with special sauces, Italian bread, dessert, and beverages. For information, call the rectory, 899-4632.

Community Dance in Jericho, 2:00 – 4:00 PM, Browns River Middle School, Jericho. Contrasts, squares, circles, play parties, singing games; all dances taught. Caller Mark Sustic. Sarah Hotchkiss and John Mowad provide the music. \$5 donation/person, \$10/family suggested at door. Sponsored by the Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Information: Lynne Robbins, 899-2436.

Tuesday, February 12
Book Discussion Series: The Ties That Bind, 6:30 PM, Fairfax Community Library, Fairfax. John Updike's *The Centaur*. Led by Cheryl Heneveld. National Book Award books re-examine notions of family. A VT Humanities Council event hosted by Fairfax Community Library. Information: Lauren Cady, 849-2420.

A Woman, Ain't I?, 7:00 PM, Helen Cay Art Center, Stowe. Born a slave in New Paltz, NY, Isabella Baumfree walked away from slavery and in her travels evolved into Sojourner Truth: maid, laundress, evangelist, abolitionist, and suffragist. Program presented by Kathryn Woods tells Truth's story in her

Coming Events continued on page 7

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ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS

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- VCS Basketball team
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Coming Events continued from page 6

own words, speeches, and songs. A VT Humanities Council event hosted by Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Information: Nancy Merz, 253-8291.

Saturday, February 16

Lions Annual Pancake Breakfast, 7:30 AM – 12:00 noon, United Church of Underhill, Underhill Flats. Sponsored by the Jericho Underhill Lions Club. Menu: all you can eat pancakes with local syrup, ham, sausage and drinks. Adults, \$5; seniors, \$4; under 10, \$3; and a family eats for \$20!

Tuesday, February 19

Children and Nutrition – Natural Family Health lecture series, On the Rise Bakery, Richmond. Call for time. Speakers and discussion on how foods make a difference in wellness and behavior; teaching children to eat healthy foods; and how to determine which foods are best suited for a child's individual needs. Free. 434-5437.

ONGOING EVENTS

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

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

Women's volleyball, Brown's River Middle School, Mondays, 7:00 – 9:00 PM. All age levels and skills welcome. Follows school calendar: no volleyball when there is no school. For information, contact Cathy Leatherstitch, 899-1395 or cleather@us.ibm.com.

Basketball – open gym in Westford, Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7:00 PM, and Saturdays, 10:30 AM – 12:00 noon, until Jr. High practice begins. \$1 donation at door. For information, call Rich Staab, 879-4745.

HEALTH GROUPS

Overeaters Anonymous meets 6:00 – 7:00 PM, Wednesdays at the Jericho United Methodist Church, VT Rt. 15, Jericho. Questions – please call 899-2355.

Healthy Weight Support Group, Mondays, 12:00 – 12:30 PM and Wednesdays, 3:45 – 4:15 PM. Weekly support group for those working on weight management combines behavioral and nutritional strategies to increase physical activity and decrease calorie intake. Northwestern Medical Center, Cobblestone Building, Classroom A. Speakers: Kay Tran, Registered Dietitian, MS, CDE; and Leslie Gardzina, Registered Dietitian, Northwestern Medical Center. Free; pre-registration required, 524-1234 or cchw@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.

ADULT ACTIVITIES

Handbell ringers, Tuesday evenings, United Church of Underhill. All are welcome at rehearsals. Two ensembles; opportunity for small groups/shorter time periods. Beginners welcome! Call Roger, 899-3106 for information.

French Canadian Genealogy Research, Tuesday evenings, 7:00 – 9:30 PM, Dupont Building, Fort Ethan Allen, Colchester. For information, 864-6037 or mail@vt-fcgs.org.

SENIORS

Jeri-Hill XYZ Seniors meet at the Town Hall in Underhill Center on the first and third Wednesday of each month (February 20). 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.

Connections @ CCC Internet Café, – a community Internet Café for those 60+, Thursdays, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Covenant Community Church, VT Rt. 15, between Essex Center and Jericho. Computer/Internet instruction, presentations, lunch. Use a Connections computer or bring your own. For more information and to make lunch reservations (\$4 suggested donation), call 879-4313.

KIDS

Open Gym at the Westford School Gym, Sundays, 2:00 – 4:00 PM. Ongoing through March (except March 2). Open to all children aged 0-6 and their families. Bring bikes, trikes, cars, etc. Balls, scooters, jump ropes, and other equipment provided. For information, call Julie, 872-2641. Sponsored by the Westford Early Childhood Connection.

Chittenden East Early Childhood Connection playgroup programs – both follow the school calendar; ages birth-5 years; everyone welcome; contact Abby for information, 899-3727. Jericho Playgroup, 9:30 – 11:00 AM at the Jericho Community Center; meets Mondays. Underhill Playgroup, 9:30 – 11:00 AM at the Underhill Central School; meets Fridays.

Westford Playgroup, Wednesdays, 10:00 AM – 12:00 noon, children's section, Westford Town Library. Free and open to all children 5 and under and their families – drop in! Open play till 11:20 AM, cleanup and circle time of story and/or songs, followed by a snack of crackers and extras brought from home to share.

TOWN GOVERNMENT AND ORGANIZATIONS

Tim Nulty, Jericho Selectboard member, at the Village Cup, first and third Wednesdays (February 20), 8:00 – 9:00 AM, and at the Flour Shop, second and fourth Wednesdays (February 13, 27), 8:00 – 9:00 AM. Anyone wishing to discuss any issue is welcome.

Westford Fire Department, Mondays, 7:00 PM, at the fire station next to the Town Garage. You are welcome and encouraged to join. For information, email John Quinn, jquinninv@aol.com.

Board of Water Commissioners of the Village of Jericho, Inc. – monthly, 7:00 PM at the Old Red Mill on 4B Red Mill Dr., Jericho. For information, 899-2938.

Jericho Historical Society, second Thursday (February 14), 7:30 PM, Old Red Mill, Jericho.

Jericho Underhill Park District Board meeting, first and third Wednesdays (February 20), 7:00 PM, Deborah Rawson Memorial Library project room, Jericho. 899-2693 for information.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Alzheimer's support group, third Wednesday (February 20 – Communication with The Cognitively Impaired), 9:30 – 11:30 AM, the Arbors, 687 Harbor Rd., Shelburne. 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 (February 17), 3:00 – 5:00 PM, Second Congregational Church of Jeffersonville Community Room, Jeffersonville. Special topics, guest speakers, resource information; playroom for kids, fenced side yard for outdoor play. For information, Terry Holden, 644-2759 (Jeffersonville) or Tina Karl, 888-3430 (Hyde Park).

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

Lamoille Valley Kin as Parents, second and fourth Thursdays (February 14, 28), 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 (February 20), 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.

Grandparents as Parents – Mondays, Milton Family Community Center. Childcare provided. For information, Charlotte, 893-1457.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

De Ruyck resigns from JES board

To the Editor,
My name is Diane De Ruyck, four years ago, I was elated when you elected me to serve on the Jericho School Board.

New board member are provided with the Vermont School Board Association handbook which outlines the responsibility of board member and provides guidelines for the board to follow in directing the administration. Since I have been on the board this handbook has rarely been followed. There are ample resources available to board members so they may better understand what their role on the board is. I take my position on the board very seriously, spending countless hours attending meetings and training sessions to educate myself on the role of the school board as outlined by the Vermont School Board Association.

It is my opinion based on what I have learned that the board of directors of this nine school district is not being held accountable for their decisions and since it is the job of the directors to direct the administration there is no accountability there either. I believe there

needs to be checks and balances to insure that the stakeholders monies are not being spent frivolously under the guise of education. It is my hope that the community will start to ask questions and hold the directors accountable to make sure the budgets and schools are run effectively, efficiently and the most economically to insure the most educational dollars are being spent on the children for their education.

I have never hesitated to address any issue – popular or not, regardless of peer pressure. I have worked very hard and fought tirelessly to improve school conditions and transportation and a fight it has been because of the word "change" does not appear to be in the vocabulary of board members whom oversee the administration in this district.

For instance – the budget being proposed this year I believe is unsound. I had question on several money issues I felt were excessive and at a time when the economy nation wide is a crisis, I refused to sign and approve this budget. I am not a status quo person – if I do not understand something, I question it. As with the budget, many other questions/problems I have raised have gone unanswered/unresolved.

Being a board member is much more than attending one meeting a month and saying yes to everything. I cannot do that in good conscience so it is with great sadness I am resigning my position.

It has been a privilege to serve and I thank you for giving me the opportunity.

Diane De Ruyck, Jericho

Bartlett is wrong on campaign finance bill
To the Editor,

It is infuriating that on the same day headlines in Vermont are blaring news of a \$14 million

Letters continued on page 8

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Letters continued from page 7

state government budget shortfall that will mean cuts in programs for needy Vermonters, Senator Susan Bartlett (D-Lamoille) voted "yes" to a campaign finance bill (S.278) that will likely waste, literally throw away, \$2 million tax dollars.

The ACLU testified that the bill Bartlett voted for is unconstitutional, robbing Vermonters of our precious First Amendment rights in addition to our money, and they should know. The last such bill passed by this legislature was thrown out by the U.S. Supreme Court, and, just last fall, we, the taxpayers, had to pay the ACLU and other attorneys \$1.4 million in losers' legal fees for the privilege. This was real money we could have used this winter to help low income Vermonters with their heating bills, or for any number of worthy causes. For Susan Bartlett to vote to make the same wasteful mistake again defies all common sense. But, then again, she's not gambling with her own money. It's ours.

These pet-crusades of the far left are a total waste of money we don't have. And, this is an issue that, quite frankly, is only of interest to incumbent politicians like Bartlett, the Attorney General, and the special interest groups who stand to personally benefit from jiggering the laws that govern our elections.

Vermonters have real problems we need our legislators to deal with. Rising taxes, health care costs, rising crime rates, and shrinking budgets to name a few. With all this going on, to see incumbent politicians like Susan Bartlett choose to make shoving a know-unconstitutional campaign finance bill down our throats their first priority for the 2008 legislative session, it's clear that they have become severely out of touch with the voters who sent them to Montpelier. Bartlett and the other Senators who voted in favor of this bad and costly bill are clearly not looking out for us.

Travis Spaulding, Stowe

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What is Seasonal Affective Disorder?

Seasonal Affective Disorder is also known as winter depression or SAD. Symptoms include depression, anxiety, irritability, excessive tiredness, social withdrawal, difficulty concentrating, and general loss of interest in usual activities. A craving for carbohydrates can be part of the symptom complex, causing weight gain.

These symptoms first appear in the fall, become most severe between December and February, and fade by the start of spring. A pattern of consecutive years is another diagnostic criterion.

Like most depression, SAD is three to four times more common in women. It tends to run in families and is more common in families experiencing other forms of depression or alcoholism.

Because SAD is unusual in southern latitudes and occurs during the "dark months," lack of sunlight and/or darkness, are thought to be triggers for SAD. The theories about its cause are: too little serotonin (a "feel good" hormone); too much melatonin (a hormone produced in darkness that controls sleep/wake cycles); or a decreased sensitivity

to light changes by the eye, causing a disruption of the biological clock.

Because SAD can become a serious problem if left untreated, possibly leading to hospitalization and even suicide, proper management is important.

Other possible causes such as hypothyroidism, hypoglycemia, or mononucleosis must be ruled out first. Light therapy with specialized light boxes is used. These boxes emit a wavelength similar to sunlight. The SAD sufferer sits 30-60 cm from the light box for 30-60 minutes a day.

Diet makes a difference. Avoid simple carbohydrates (white flour and sugar.) Increase Vitamin D to 2000 IU per day. St. John's Wort can be helpful – and is an anti viral!

Get regular exercise, especially, if possible, outdoors. Aim to go to bed and arise at the same time each day.

Be sure to relax as much as possible. Yoga appears to benefit SAD. If necessary, seek professional psychological help. Chiropractic care balances the nervous system and helps the hormonal system function optimally.

Why be SAD? Simple steps can help you live happily during the winter months!

Mary Kintner, D.C., R.N. is a chiropractor and nutritional counselor practicing Jericho

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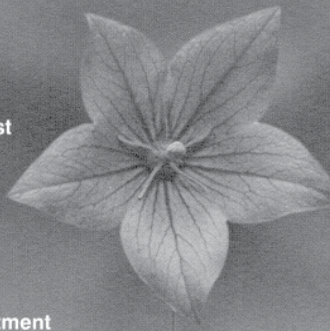
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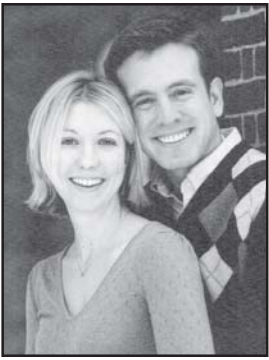
ENGAGEMENTS

WARD-PEDROTTY

John and Mary Ellen Ward of Ballston Spa, NY and Timothy and Georgann Pedrotty of Underhill, VT happily announce the engagement of Rachel Lauri Ward to S. Peter Pedrotty. Rachel and Peter met through a mutual friend while attending school in Albany, New York. Peter proposed to Rachel at a lovely ocean-side resort town last March.

Rachel is completing her last year as a student at Albany College of Pharmacy in Albany, NY. Peter is employed as an Associate at the law firm of Clifford Chance in New York City. Rachel graduated from Spa Catholic High School and the University of Connecticut; Peter graduated from Mount Mansfield Union High School, St. Michael's College, and from Albany Law School.

A June wedding celebration in the Saratoga Springs, NY area is planned.



CLARKE-CONANT

C. Kirk and Karin Clarke of Shelburne, VT announce the engagement of their daughter, Aubree Robin Clarke of Richmond, VT to Ransom Martin Conant, son of David and Deb Conant of Richmond. An August 9, 2008 wedding is planned.

GINGERELLI-JABOUR

Nicole M. Gingerelli, daughter of David and Maryanne Gingerelli of Budd Lake, NJ, and Nicholas William Jabour, son of Bruce and Jeanne Hutchins of Cambridge, VT and Joe and Denise Jabour of South Burlington, VT, announce their engagement. An October 9, 2008 wedding is planned.

JUST MARRIED

KELLEY-GREENIA

Jennifer Lynn Greenia, daughter of James and Rita-Marie Greenia of Underhill, VT, and Shane R. Kelley, son of Kevin and Sue Kelley, were united in marriage Saturday, December 22, 2008.

The Rev. Daniel Jordan officiated at the double-ring ceremony in St. Thomas Catholic Church in Underhill Center, VT.

Julie Greenia, sister of the bride, was maid of honor. Jennifer Brunell was matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Jessica Adams, Danielle Danaher, Meghan Kelley, Clarissa Gottshall, and Lan Nguyen. Meghan Adams and Maggie Nadeau were flower girls.

Justin Kelley, brother of the groom, was best man. Ushers were Michael French, Sven Eklof, Daneyand Singley, Russell Baslow, Joseph Hamel, and Brian Corasaniti. Derek Nadeau was ring bearer.

A reception was held at the Sunset Ballroom in South Burlington, VT, after which the couple left on a Western Caribbean cruise and a week at Disney World.

Mrs. Kelley graduated from Mount Mansfield Union High School and Champlain College. She is employed by Merchants Bank. Her husband graduated from Mount Mansfield Union High School. HE is employed by Carteret Mortgage and Freedom Nissan. They reside in Essex Junction.



WELCOME HOME

BOLTON

(Blow) Tiffany (Fahl) and Jeromey Blow had a daughter, Alexus Salin, on Sunday, December 29, 2007 at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT.

(May, Burritt) Jodi May and Ryan Burritt had a son, Jacob Tyler Burritt, on Tuesday, January 1, 2008 at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT.

(Rup) Skylar Erin Rup was welcomed into the world on Thursday, January 3, 2008 at 12:31 PM by her proud parents Sean and Mary Rup at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT. Skylar Erin Rup weighed seven pounds, eleven ounces and was 20 inches long. Skylar's proud big sister Anastasia Rup welcomed her little sister with open arms. Grandparents include John and Pauline Truax and Ronald and Mary Jane Rup. Skylar's great-grandparents include Joseph and Mary Rup and Charlene Truax.



CAMBRIDGE

(Bouffard) Jennifer (Abbott) and Wayne Bouffard's daughter, Brooke Abigail, was born Friday, January 11, 2008 at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT.

(D'Amico) Melanie (James) and Bo Daniel D'Amico had a daughter, Jenaya Terese, on Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT.

(White) A daughter, Rhiannon Jane White was born on Friday, November 30, 2007 at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT. Her parents are Talia (Rotblum) and Kevin White of North Cambridge, VT. Talia is a teacher at Mount Mansfield Union High School.



JEFFERSONVILLE

(Adams, Currier) Kimberly Adams and Adam Currier had a daughter, Kyra Paige Currier, on Sunday, December 30, 2007 at Copley Hospital in Morrisville, VT.

(Foster) Jennifer (Smith) and Joel Foster's son, Oliver Chase, was born Thursday, December 27, 2007 at Copley Hospital in Morrisville, VT.

JERICHO

(Lorenzini) Greta (Playful) and Mark C. Lorenzini had a son, Jack Carlo, Friday, January 4, 2008 at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT.

(Muller) A daughter, Anya Bell Muller, was born to Gretchen (Price) and Kurt Muller on Friday, January 18, 2008 at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT.

(Scott) Alicia M. (Lavanway) and Michael G. Scott's son, Tyler Michael, was born Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT.

(Wood) Senyah Fay Wood was brought home by her parents Hannah Deene (Schwartz) and David Wood of Jericho, VT to her big sister Adah Jane and her loving grandparents Bernice and Michael Schwartz and Bill and Judy Wood. She was born on Monday, December 24, 2007 at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT. Senyah was named after Samuel Mariano Cohn of Richmond, VT. Sam was killed in a tragic accident in Florida in 2006, and lives on through the community that loves him. Senyah's middle name is from her great-grandmother Fay Schwartz. We are all very happy and healthy.



OBITUARIES

Lorraine Eleanor Champney Lacaille of Bolton, VT died unexpectedly Saturday, January 12, 2008 in the comfort of her home. She was born September 13, 1924 in Jonesville, VT. She was the 13th of 15 children born to John and Josephine Pecor. Lorraine married Cleveland Champney on July 31, 1941, starting 26 years of a very happy marriage and the birth of nine children. Lorraine's life was all about people and caring for people in need. While she was bringing up her own nine children, she opened her home and heart to many foster children who also thought of her as their "Ma." She later worked at the Vermont State Hospital as a psychiatric technician until she opened one of the first community care homes in the State of Vermont, where she provided a home for up to eleven community patients. She operated this community home until her final retirement in 1988. Throughout her life, Lorraine enjoyed watching wrestling, playing board games with her grandchildren, and running her snow blower. Lorraine is survived by her children: Bernard Champney and wife Ginny of Waterbury, VT; Charlene Hayford and husband Ellis of Williston, VT; Mildred Barup and husband Ray; Gary Champney and wife Linda of Holland, VT; Geraldine Germaine and husband Arnie of Richmond, VT; Doreen Dion and friend Bill of Anna Marie Island, FL; Maureen McIntyre and husband Michael of Bolton; and Lorraine's surrogate daughter Mary Archer. She is also survived by 16 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Eunice Rivers of Norwich, CT and Francis Miller of Essex Center, VT; and many nieces and nephews. Lorraine was predeceased by her beloved husband Cleveland Champney in 1967; two sons, Roger Champney in 1962 and Joe Champney in 1993. She was also predeceased by eight sisters: Sally, Sophronia, Janet, Lillian, Agnes, Verna, Theresa, and Gladys; and four brothers: Jim, Kenneth, Virgil, and Delbert. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday, January 16 in Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church in Richmond. In lieu of flowers, contributions should be sent to the Richmond Rescue Squad in Richmond.



Leonard T. Kelly Jr. (Kel), 84, of Jericho, VT passed away unexpectedly but peacefully at his home in Jericho on Monday, January 14, 2008.



Leonard was born in Philadelphia, PA on December 26, 1923, the son of Kathryn (McGinley) and Leonard T. Kelly. He was raised in Philadelphia and graduated from West Catholic High School for Boys. He was employed with Baldwin Locomotive prior to proudly serving his country in the U.S. Navy as a Gunner's Mate Third Class during World War II. After

World War II, he returned to Baldwin Locomotive before again serving his country in the Korean War. After the Korean War, Leonard was employed with the U.S. Postal Service as a mail carrier and clerk for 30 years until his retirement in 1982. On May 20, 1961, Leonard married Mary Veronica Meehan in St. James Catholic Church in Philadelphia. Together they raised five children, whom Leonard affectionately referred to as "the five Ks." His family was his most proud accomplishment. In February 1977, Leonard and Mary moved their family from Ridley Park, PA to an old farmhouse in Newbury, VT where he saw all five of his children graduate from college. His years in Newbury were some of the happiest times of his life, as he thoroughly enjoyed exploring the rural back roads and all the beauty of Vermont with his family. Leonard was actively involved in the Catholic Church during his life, and served as a lector at his parishes in Ridley Park, Bradford, Woodsville, NH, and Underhill, VT. Leonard lived his life to the fullest and enjoyed each and every day. He brought happiness to all who had the pleasure to know and love him. His legacy is that he was the model for a son, Navy sailor, husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Leonard is survived by his wife of 46 years, Mary; his five children: Mary A. (Kelly) Martineau and husband Larry Martineau of Jericho, Patrick J. Kelly and wife Jane Ann Kelly of Venice, FL, Thomas P. Kelly and wife Carolyn Kelly of Queensbury, NY, Sean J. Kelly and wife Meghan Kelly of Dover, NH, and Ann K. Kelly of Dover. He is also survived by six grandchildren: Megan and Marikate Martineau, Nicholas and Liam Kelly, and Ava and Gavin Kelly; as well as his sister Gloria Kelly Cooke, Folcroft, PA; and his niece Kathy Cooke, Collingdale, PA. Leonard was predeceased by both his parents; his brother-in-law Harry Cooke, Folcroft, PA; and his nephew Edward Cooke, Ridley Park, PA. A Mass celebrating Leonard's life was held on Thursday, January 17 St. Thomas Church in Underhill. The burial will be held in the spring in Newbury. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf, 228 North Winoski Ave., Burlington, VT 05401 or to the St. Ignatius Nursing Home, 4401 Haverford Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19104. The family wishes to thank Essex Rescue and the staff at Fletcher Allen Health Care for their kindness and compassion.

Brandon Wade Kilburn, 17, of Jericho, VT died on Thursday, January 17, 2008, as the result of an auto accident. He was born in Burlington, VT on May 4, 1990, the son of Brian W. and Lori (West) Kilburn. Brandon was a senior at Mount Mansfield Union High School. He enjoyed all sports and was involved in Little League Baseball and played Junior Varsity Baseball at MMU. He also enjoyed football, golf, hunting and fishing, and was an avid Boston Red Sox and Jacksonville Jaguars fan. Brandon was a cancer survivor and enjoyed many years at Camp Ta-Kum-Ta. Brandon is survived by his parents, Brian and Lori Kilburn of Jericho; two sisters, Erin Kilburn of Jericho and Kristen and husband Wesley Carpenter of Richmond, VT; a brother, Nathan Holcomb and Dawn Crandall of Milton, VT; his paternal grandparents, Lee and Joanne Kilburn of Westford, VT; his maternal grandmother, Vera West of Richmond; his maternal grandfather Louis and wife Maggie West of Virginia; two nieces, Elizabeth Crandall and Calleigh Carpenter; two nephews, Aiden Carpenter and Riley Carpenter, who was also his godson; also several aunts, uncles, and cousins. He also leaves his companion, his dog Paco. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, January 22 in the Jericho Congregational Church on the green in Jericho Center. Burial will be in the spring in Jericho Center Cemetery. Those who wish may make contributions in his memory to Camp Ta-Kum-Ta, Box 576, Waterbury, VT 05676. To send online condolences please visit www.readyfuneral.com.



Bernard Albert "Frenchie" Perreault, 71, of West Bolton, VT died unexpectedly at his home on Friday, January 18, 2008. Born in Burlington December 15, 1936, he was the son of the late Joseph P. and Bertha (Granger) Perreault. He attended schools in Charlotte. On May 21, 1966, he married Phyllis Streeter in Essex Junction. "Frenchie" was a truck driver for Densmore Brick and more recently Stevens Gas Supply. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and especially golf. He built a sugarhouse and had his own sugarbush that he worked. He loved watching the birds and squirrels and made numerous birdhouses for them. He derived great joy in driving his tractor in the yard and pulling his two great-grandchildren in a boat behind the tractor. It was fun for all. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Phyllis of West Bolton; their children Marion Bixby and husband Jim of Washington, VT; Dorothy Murray and friend Cliff Owen of Colchester, VT; Penny Tinker and friend Bob Blair of Hinesburg, VT; Bernard A. Perreault Jr. of Williston, VT; Eugene Perreault and wife Marie of Washington; his eight grandchildren: Bill, Dawn, Kimberly, Heidi, Bryon, Jessie, Phillip, Lee; and two great-grandchildren, Emily and Isabella; his brothers Robert Perreault and friend Marilyn of Colchester, and Joseph Perreault of West Bolton; his sister, Rachel Bell of Burlington, VT; numerous nieces and nephews; and his good friend Larry Stevens. He was predeceased by his daughter, Linda Perreault; grandson, Raymond Murray III; three brothers and a sister. A memorial service was held at Gifford Funeral Home in Richmond on Wednesday, January 23. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Richmond Rescue, P.O. Box 404, Richmond, VT 05477.



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DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY, JERICHO
February's Art in the Library: Alan Morse with *Vermont Scapes – Acres of Art*.

On Thursday, February 7 at 6:30 PM, Linda Irish will present a program on Heirloom and Hybrid Tomatoes. The library will be selling these tomato plants as a fundraiser, so come learn about them and order some for your garden! Plants will be ready Memorial Day Weekend.

Financial Peace University is a financial literacy workshop designed by Dave Ramsey (author of *The Total Money Makeover* and host of *The Dave Ramsey Show*) for a broad range of participants – from those who want to learn more about personal finance to those who are struggling to get control of their financial future. Participants meet once a week for 13 weeks. Topics include super saving, relating with money, dumping debt, strategies for getting the best bargain on purchases, types of insurance, investing for college and retirement, and charitable giving. Two workshop previews will be offered: Thursday, February 14 at 7:00 PM, and Sunday, February 17 at 2:00 PM. The workshop will be held Sundays from 2:00 – 4:00 PM beginning March 2. Participants must purchase the required course materials in advance of the first meeting. Information: Shelley Jurkiewicz, 899-1982.

Knit night will be Tuesday February 19 at 6:30 PM.

Wednesday, February 20 at 6:30 PM, Fred Kent will be showing slides and discussing the migration of polar bears through Churchill Manitoba.

The Board of Trustees will meet Thursday, February 21 at 7:00 PM. All are welcome!

Movie Night! Friday, February 22 at 7:00 PM, join us to watch a movie on the oil depletion and the collapse of the American dream. Is it the end of suburbia?

Children's events:

Join the monthly parent book group at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, 6:00 PM, February 12 to discuss David Elkind's *The Power of Play*. March 11, Susan Linn's *Consuming Kids* will be discussed. Phoenix Books in Essex is stocking the books for our book group, with a 20% discount if you are buying the book for the DRML parent book group.

Call the library, 899-4962, to borrow a book and register for the discussion. Information: Peter Duval, 899-1132, drmlpbg@gmail.com.

Wednesday Story Time, 11:00 AM, February 13. Stories, songs, refreshments, snack, and craft.

Thursday Story Time, 10:00 AM, February 14. Stories, songs, refreshments, snack, and craft.

Family Story Times, 6:30 PM, February 14. Children are invited to wear their pajamas and join us for stories and light refreshments. Recommended for families with children preschool-grade 2.

Especially For Dads – This workshop is for fathers, uncles or other interested males who have babies, toddlers or preschool children in their lives. Participants will learn about fun activities relating to books that they may use with young children. Attendees will receive an activity guide filled with tips and 12 wonderful picture books for your home library. Sunday, February 10 and 24, 2:00 – 4:00 PM. To register, call 899-4962.

Welcome Baby – Parents and infants, one year and younger, are invited to join 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. Friday, February 15, 10:30 AM. Co-sponsored by the Early Childhood Connection of Chittenden County.

Homeschool Project Day – Homeschooling children are invited to come and present on a topic they have been studying. Those wishing to present may register by calling the library at 899-4962. Mia Groff will coordinate the event. Wednesday, February 20 at 1:00 PM.

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, JERICHO CENTER

Thank you to everyone that helped make our Contra Dance a success. A special thank you to the *Fiddleheads* and all the talented musicians from MMU High School!

Saturday, February 9 at 10:00 AM, in celebration of the Snowflake Festival Elaine Salsbury from the Historical Society will present a slide show of Snowflake Bentley upstairs at the library.

Friday, February 22, 3:30 – 4:30 PM, TAB (Teen Advisory Board – grades 7-12) meeting. New members are welcome to join this great group of teens! Refreshments served.

Monday, February 25, 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, bead jewelry, rug hooking, even fish net making, etc.

Our annual book and media sale fundraiser will be held Saturday, March 22 at the Community Center in Jericho. We are accepting books, books on tape, DVDs, CDs, and software donations. Please do not donate textbooks, Readers' Digest condensed books, encyclopedias, or magazines. Thanks to everyone who has already donated!

Come celebrate National Poetry month during April with us! "Caring for Planet Earth" – This is the theme for our fifth annual poetry workshop with retired UVM Professor Mary Jane Dickerson, sponsored by the Jericho Town Library and the Deborah Rawson Library. The working sessions will meet Mondays March 31, April 7 and 14, from 6:30 – 8:00 PM at the Jericho Town Library, and conclude for a final evening of sharing at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library on Monday, April 30 from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. Poets of all ages are encouraged to participate. Attendance in the past has been a mix of middle and high school students and adults. Registration is required; please call JTL at 899-4686 to sign up. A \$5 donation for materials would be appreciated.

Feeling shut in? If you are snowed in, 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 at the library when your schedule permits. Call or stop by!

Interested in volunteering or offering a program to the community? Please call the library.

Story time, including craft and snack, is every Wednesday upstairs at 10:00 AM.

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 February 7 meeting.

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 Jerichtownlibrary@gmail.com.

WESTFORD TOWN LIBRARY, WESTFORD

Friday, February 8, 5:00 – 5:30 PM: Pokemon Club. For ages 6-9. For more information, contact Thayer Nichols at 879-4093.

Thursday, February 14, 11:00 AM: Storytime. Stories and activities

for preschoolers. Theme: Valentine's Day.

Friday, February 15, 5:00 – 6:00 PM, Kids and Westford's Great Outdoors Reception. Where do nine- and ten-year-olds like to play? What are their favorite places in town? How do Westford kids create their own outdoor places? During the winter of 2007 students from UVM's Geography Department partnered with nine Westford children to answer these questions. Using interview data, maps that Westford children drew of their outdoor hang-outs, and photographs, UVM students created visual displays to demonstrate the results of their study. The posters were presented to the Westford children at a special Reception at UVM, and were displayed at the Vermont Geography Fair in Burlington. Now it's Westford's turn! These works will be on display in the Westford Library through March. Please join us for a public reception of this project. UVM students, Westford children, and UVM Geography faculty members Dr Meghan Cope and Dr Cherie Morse Dunkley will explain the project and share what we learned about Kids and Westford's Great Outdoors. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday, February 16, 2:00 – 4:00 PM: Westford Knitters Group. All needle-crafters welcome. Enjoy conversation with neighbors and friends while you work on your current project. For more information, contact Julie Nelson, 343-0165 or julie@coolmoonyoga.com.

Saturday, February 16, 6:30 PM – Women's Game Night. Join this fun and friendly group for food, laughter, and board games. For information, contact Kara Bolton, 879-2513.

Wednesday, February 20, 6:30 – 7:00 PM: Pajama Story Time! Climb into your PJs and join us for bedtime stories and a simple craft. Special Guest: Postmaster Randie Fontaine reading stories about letters and mail.

Thursday, February 21, 11:00 AM: Storytime. Stories and activities for preschoolers. Theme: Teddy Bear Picnic. Bring your bears!

New additions to the collection include:

Adult fiction and nonfiction: *Pillars of the Earth* (Follett), *Compact Houses* (Broto), *The Art of Field Sketching* (Leslie), *Playhouses You Can Build* (Stiles), *Low Carbon Diet* (Gershon), *Fishes of Vermont* (Langdon), *Conserving Vermont's Natural Heritage, Guide to Wildlife Management Areas of Vermont*.

Juvenile fiction and nonfiction: *How to be a Baby by Me The Big Sister* (Lloyd-Jones), *The Sisters Grimm Book 1: The Fairy Tale Detectives* (Buckley), *Now & Ben* (Barretta).

Audio books: *I Heard that Song Before* (Clark), *The Rule of Four* (Caldwell), *Fresh Air: Writers Speak* (Gross).

DVDs: *Key Constitutional Concepts, Mandate: The President and the People, Our Constitution: A Conversation*

Thanks to a very generous donation, we are the proud owners of a second public access computer! Use our computers or your own and enjoy free wireless high-speed Internet access.

Wish List: Swivel- and height-adjustable computer chair, and sturdy child-friendly cassette players. Please call Victoria at 878-5639 if you have either item to donate.

Visit our recently updated website for upcoming events and new books, CDs, and DVDs: www.westford.lib.vt.us. Our hours are Wednesday 1:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Friday 12:00 – 6:00 PM, and Saturday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. We can be reached at 878-5639 or westford_pl@vals.state.vt.us. Check us out!

VARNUM LIBRARY, JEFFERSONVILLE

The Crescendo Club, along with the VT Humanities Council and the Cambridge Arts Council is sponsoring again this year a book discussion group meeting at the library once a month through March. The theme this season is Pulitzer Prize winners. Meetings are on Saturdays, 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Books can be reserved at the library and refreshments and lively discussion will be served. February 9, *A Confederacy of Dunces*; March 8, *Angle of Repose*. For more information, please contact the library, 644-2117, or April Tuck, 644-6632.

New additions to the large print book shelves: Michael Connelly's *Echo Park*, *Someone to Love* by Jude Deveraux, and Jeffery Archer's *False Impression*. For those who enjoy books on tape, check out David Halberstam's *The Coldest Winter*. And also on the new arrival shelf is Lee Child's *Bad Luck and Trouble*, along with Orson Scott Card's *Magic Street*.

The Varnum Library is open Mondays and Tuesdays, 1:00 – 8:00 PM, and Thursdays and Saturdays, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. The library is located at 194 Main Street, Jeffersonville.

Notes from Montpelier

By Rep. Bill Frank

The first bill voted out of the Human Services Committee this year was rather straightforward: it was to change the date members are appointed to the Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board. I reported this bill and used the opportunity to remind House members of the proceeds Vermont receives annually from the Tobacco Settlement Fund. The Board works with the Agency of Human Services and the Department of Health in establishing an annual budget, program criteria, and review and evaluation of Vermont's comprehensive tobacco control program. Vermont has received \$25 million a year from the settlement fund. This money has been used exclusively for programs for tobacco prevention and to improve the health of Vermonters. We spend \$5.2 million a year on smoking cessation programs in all of Vermont's 14 counties. Tobacco companies spend five times that amount in marketing tobacco products in Vermont. The Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board has recommended increasing the \$5.2 million to \$8.4 million for 2009. Gov. Douglas' budget calls for level funding. In 2008, we will receive an additional \$10-13 million from another provision of the Tobacco Settlement Fund. As with any new money there are many suggestions of how best to use it. The legislature stood firm in using it for only health-related projects.

Another responsibility of the Board is to review and score applications for Community Grants and to make recommendations to the Commissioner of Health about which grants should be funded. There are currently 19 community coalition grants across the state totaling over \$1 million. The grants range from \$20,000-65,000 per coalition.

Legislative reports continued on page 11

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| Session IA: M, W, F | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm | Ages 3-6 | Cost: \$335 |
| Dates: May 28, 30, June 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13 | | | |
| Session IB: T, TH | 9:00 am - 1:00 pm | Ages 3-6 | Cost: \$170 |
| Dates: May 27, 29, June 3, 5, 10, 12 | | | |
| Session IIA: M, W, F | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm | Ages 4-9 | Cost: \$210 |
| Dates: June 20, 23, 25, 27, 30 | | | |
| Session IIB: T, TH | 9:00 am - 1:00 pm | Ages 3-7 | Cost: \$112 |
| Dates: June 19, 24, 26, July 1 | | | |
| Session IIIA: M, W, F | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm | Ages 4-9 | Cost: \$250 |
| Dates: July 14, 16, 18, 21, 23, 25 | | | |
| Session IIIB: T, TH | 9:00 am - 1:00 pm | Ages 3-7 | Cost: \$112 |
| Dates: July 15, 17, 22, 24 | | | |

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Legislative Reports

continued from page 10

More than 330 student members of Vermont Kids Against Tobacco held their 13th annual rally at the Statehouse on January 23. I was pleased to be present when they heard from Speaker Symington, Representative Pugh, Chair of the Human Services Committee, and Governor Douglas. I enjoyed having lunch with Browns River and Camels Hump Middle School students and their advisor Lynn Butler-Dube. The students told me smoking rates for Vermont youths have been cut in half during the past decade.

On Tuesday, March 4, voters in the Jericho Elementary School district will be voting for two new school directors. The incumbents, Beth Hopwood and Sarah Ward, will not be seeking re-election. Only one resident has filed for a position, leaving no candidate for a three-year term. I served on a school board for 15 years and recommend it to everyone. I think it is extremely important to have a balance of board members with children in school with those who do not currently have children in the school system. If you have any questions about Jericho Elementary Board membership, contact any Board members or the chair Karen Glitman (899-1877 or kglitman@comcast.net).

On our way to the United Church of Underhill Sunday morning my wife and I were surprised to see a flock of pink flamingos on the front lawn of the parsonage on Park Street. Our new minister Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen was more surprised when he viewed the flock but found a note on his door with a number to call for "Pink Flamingo Removal." This is a very clever and creative fundraiser by our Youth Group to raise money for a mission trip to Providence, RI in a couple of months. So be on the lookout for where the flock of flamingos may land next. Youth Group members were offering "Pink Flamingo Insurance" to church members after the service to assure they would not migrate to their lawn.

I enjoy hearing from you; contact me at Rep.BillFrank@verizon.net, 899-3136, or 19 Poker Hill Rd., Underhill, VT 05489.

Fiscal choices for the coming year

By Rep. Gaye Symington

Now that the Governor has presented his FY2009 budget proposal to the legislature, the work to balance the state's needs with more slowly increasing revenues is underway. There is a lot yet to learn about the budget, but it is clear that we have many difficult choices ahead.

On the expense side of the picture, the budget relies on several challenging assumptions. For one, the budget entirely leaves out any expenditure for holding elections this fall! Somehow, I believe Vermonters are looking forward to the prospect of the coming presidential election and would want ballots printed and election officials on hand.

Of larger impact, the proposal raids housing and conservation funds to pay for health care for low income Vermonters.

The budget also relies in part on one-time revenues from a long-term lease of the state's lottery to a private firm, using the resulting advance to pay down the overdue bills for school construction. The legislature is very dubious of this proposal for several reasons. Now Vermonters lose enough on the lottery to create \$23 million in annual profits for the Education Fund, after paying for all those radio and TV ads. For anyone to make more money on the lottery requires Vermonters lose more money on it. I don't think it is good public policy to rely more heavily on gambling revenues to support state government.

In his State of the Union address, Governor Douglas proposed to close a tax loophole that, in his words, "penalizes working Vermonters." Capital gains earnings are taxed at a lower rate than wages and salaries. In the Governor's words, "what this means is that a working man or woman in Vermont making \$50,000 a year pays nearly 50% more tax than someone who does not work and simply lives off... capital gains income in the same amount."

In concept, I agree that the Vermont tax laws should be changed to largely eliminate the tax loophole that treats earned income differently than capital gains income. However, the Governor proposes to use the resulting \$21.4 million of new revenue to decrease income taxes. I think property tax relief is more important. I have proposed:

- To direct an additional \$8 million to town roads

and bridges over what has been proposed in the Governor's budget. (The Governor's budget level-funded town roads and cut town highway bridges by 19%.)

- To allocate \$7 million to pay off the already-incurred obligation to local communities for school construction assistance.
- To provide property tax relief for Vermonters whose incomes are just above the current income sensitivity level, and to Vermonters who own more than two acres.
- To establish a cost containment initiative fund to assist municipalities and schools in making short-term investments that would lead to long term cost containment.

I would also slightly adjust the capital gains proposal itself. The Governor proposes to exempt the first \$2500 of long term investment income and to exempt the capital gains earnings of Vermonters 65 years and older. I agree there should be a flat exemption. But, rather than an age-based exemption, I prefer an exemption for investments in hard assets based in Vermont such as a small company, herd of cows, or a family-owned inn.

All in all, there's lots of work ahead to balance a responsible budget for Vermonters. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns about the budget or other state policy. You can reach me at 899-3324 or gsym@together.net.

From the Statehouse

By Martha Heath

Affordable Heat

Last year the legislature contracted with the Regulatory Assistance Project to make recommendations on how to extend our highly successful efficiency program for electricity to fuels we use to heat our homes and businesses. The consultants delivered their report the second week of the session and the Natural Resources and Energy Committee has been crafting a bill they hope to finish next week.

Vermont spends over \$800M each year on fossil fuels (oil, propane, gas) to heat our homes and businesses. The cost of these fuels has gone up \$340M since 2004, a staggering increase that shows no sign of abating. The legislature feels it is important to address a cost driver that places an increasing burden on Vermonters and Vermont's businesses.

The report suggests addressing the problem in three ways. First, by doubling our efforts in the state's weatherization program; second, by providing advice, technical assistance, and financial assistance to homeowners and businesses; and third, by improving the energy efficiency of new homes and buildings.

The weatherization program is available to low income Vermonters at no cost. The program was started in the early 1990s and presently weatherizes about 1400 units per year. Vermonters who qualify for LIHEAP (low income heating assistance) are automatically signed up for the program. Reducing the cost of heating these homes will save all of us money as Vermont this year will spend \$6.5M in state funds to supplement this federal program.

For other Vermont homes and businesses the report suggests expanding our present efficiency program that provides outreach, and technical and financial assistance only for electricity to focus on a whole building/all fuels approach. The program would conduct audits and make concrete suggestions. Financing would be available through an easy-to-access loan program, possibly with reduced interest rates. Research has shown that people are more likely to make these improvements to their homes and businesses if they can receive the technical assistance without a charge.

New construction requires improvement in building codes, equipment standards, and permit reviews to make certain new homes and buildings will achieve maximum fuel efficiency. The report suggests coupling these changes with ongoing training for designers, engineers, and contractors.

The report suggests that if we adopt these recommendations, Vermont can save \$100M in fuel bills each year. Benefits of these programs exceed costs by over 2.6 times. Furthermore, well-paying jobs for Vermonters will be created as these efforts are implemented.

Initially the cost of the program will be paid for from a combination of sources. Increases in the cost of fuels have generated more revenue for the Weatherization Trust Fund that will be used to ramp up efforts in that program. \$2.5M a year will be available from the sale of carbon credits under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). \$1.5M in revenue will come from Efficiency Vermont's participation in the New England Forward Capacity

Market (FCM). The governor has suggested putting general fund dollars into the program as well. It isn't clear at this time whether it will be necessary to do so in the beginning years of the program.

Extending energy efficiency measures beyond our present focus on electricity to include fossil fuels makes good sense. Vermonters and Vermont businesses will save money and we will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, which will lead to increased economic security and greater fuel independence in the future. I am pleased that the governor and the legislature seem to be coming to an agreement on the importance of this issue and on how to address it. I'm very hopeful that we will be able to pass legislation this year.

If you have comments or questions on this issue or any other legislatively related matter, please contact me at mpheath@aol.com or 893-1291.

Jericho man skis Camel's Hump Challenge

The Camel's Hump Challenge, Saturday, February 10, Huntington. 25km all-day backcountry ski benefits Alzheimer's Assoc. of VT. For information, go online to www.beekenparsons.com/camelshumpchallenge.

Jericho Resident Yurij Bihun cross-country skis in the Camel's Hump Challenge, one of New England's premier backcountry skiing events. The Camel's Hump Challenge (CHC) is a high country traverse around Camel's Hump, at 4083' the second highest peak in Vermont's Green Mountains. Dr. Warren Beeken, the founder and organizer who passed away in 2003, conceived the CHC as a fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association of Vermont, and the event continues to raise money for support and educational programs of that organization.

Bihun, a forester by trade, enjoys the trek around the Hump. "The trail passes through some rugged terrain, including a variety of forest types including northern hardwoods, glades of spruce/fir and some of the most beautiful park-like stands of paper birch in New England," Yurij explained. "Although

the crowns of these trees have suffered severe damage from wind throw and ice storms in the past decade, their beauty remains and in itself is worth the price of admission."

Forests around the world are his passion; he graduated from the University of Maine and Oregon State and worked in Europe, Latin America, and throughout the United States. "I was a field forester—in the bush marking wood and fighting fires," he says. "In my thirties, I thought I was getting too old for trekking through the forests, fighting bugs and the wet."

Bihun, a first-generation American, was born and raised in New Jersey. "My parents immigrated here in the 1940s," he said. "They left the Ukraine, spent

Bihun continued on page 12

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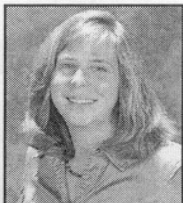
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Bihun continued from page 11

six years in camps before making their way to the United States." Today Yurij is working with a group of foresters in the Ukraine, and will bring them here in the spring.

The outdoors draws Yurij like a magnet; he came to Underhill 1980s and purchased land on Harvey Road. He worked throughout Lamoille, Orleans, and Caledonia counties helping manage private forests and wood lots. "There wasn't much work in Chittenden County," Buhin stated. "It's hard to manage 50 or less acres."

"I cross-country skied on the trails around Mount Mansfield be-

fore I met Bruce Beeken in 1994." With a look of true admiration, Yurij continued. "Bruce took over running the challenge after his father died. I'm trying to get some diehard skiers from Underhill and Jericho to take on the challenge. They used to ski from Bolton Valley to Mount Mansfield."

Buhin works on the committee that directs the challenge. He and others on the committee mark the trail, send out press releases, and correspond with participants.

The CHC is not a race, but rather a demanding cross-country ski that circumnavigates the entire mountain, ranging in elevation from 2500-3500 feet. Participants in the CHC raise money by asking as many people as possible to support the "Round the Hump" trek with contributions. All participants must collect at least 10 pledges or a total of \$125. Although skiers are advised to register in advance, participants can register and submit checks or cash and pledge forms at the event. The average number of participants is usually 70-80 skiers; there is a cap on the number of skiers, primarily for safety reasons.

Bihun continued on page13

LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF JERICO DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Jericho Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, February 28, 2008 at 7:00 PM** in the Jericho Municipal Building to consider the following

- A request by Kittell Brothers for Sketch Plan Review to subdivide a 79.8 acre parcel into a 7 lot PRD and two common lots. Said property is located at 249 Plains Road in the Agricultural and River Districts.

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

**Town of Underhill
Development Review Board (DRB) Hearing**
Monday, February 18, 2008 at 6:30 PM
Hearing to be Held
at the Underhill Town Hall, Underhill Center VT

The DRB will hold a combined preliminary and final hearing on the 2-lot subdivision application for property owned by David and Janet Ely located at 14 Moose Run in Underhill, Vermont. This property is located in the Scenic Preservation zoning district.

A copy of this DRB application and additional information may be obtained at the Underhill Town Hall. This hearing is open to the public. Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a) (1) (C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. If you can not attend the hearing but would still like to exercise your right to be heard, comments may be made in writing prior to the hearing and mailed to: Zoning Administrator, P.O. Box 32 Underhill Center, VT 05490 or to underhillzoning@comcast.net.

JERICO TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS INFORMATIONAL MEETING

To Be Held as Part of the Jericho DRB Meeting
Thursday, February 14, 2008
7:00 P.M.
Jericho Town Hall

The Town Administrator, David Spitz, requests on behalf of the Town of Jericho Selectboard, an informational meeting with the Town of Jericho Development Review Board to discuss the status of the Town Hall renovation project.

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Bihun continued from page 12

Skiers will gather at 7:30 AM at the Camel's Hump Skiers Association Center in Huntington on February 10, where pledges and registration are accepted and after a short introduction to the event, the skiers are off. The trail is generally broken by a vanguard of skiers, and a team of sweepers including a certified EMT patrols the tail end of the CHC trail as the skiers snake around the mountain. Following the event, warm food and drinks and a fire await the returning skiers, giving them a chance to relax, rehash the tour, and warm up.

The CHC is not a lightweight kick and glide in the woods; the fundraising event will require long-distance cross-country, Nordic skiing in a remote wilderness environment, which demands a high de-

gree of physical conditioning and competence in backcountry skiing. Participation is at your own risk and all skiers will be required to sign a waiver of liability. Skiers must be properly prepared and equipped for this backcountry tour with backcountry boots, skis, and the appropriate clothing. For seasoned backcountry skiers familiar with Vermont's backcountry, the loop is comparable to the backcountry tour from Bolton Ski area's cross country trails to the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe. The approximately 25 km route takes 5-8 hours depending on conditions and the ability of the skier.

Underhill residents may recognize Yuriy as a former member of the Conservation Committee, and he is a member of the Jericho Underhill Land Trust. He now resides in Jericho.



The Essex Youth Hockey Bantam A travel team. From left: first row: Pat Campbell, Spencer Leggett; second row: Matt Porter, Kurt Simendinger, Josh Ward, Andrew Lamos, Ben Adams, Eli Hogan, JT Begnoche, Alex LeClaire; back row: Coach Dave Simendinger, Ben Nelson, Clay Benson, Nick Vespa, Steve Jurkiewicz, Taylor Lovely, Andy Cryan, Kyle Tanghe, Coach Dave Adams.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Left: the Essex U-14 Girls Take Gold from Stowe Tournament – they were undefeated January 25-27. Friday night, they beat Stowe 5-2, then tied MAHA Saturday 2-2, then beat CVSA 5-2 Sunday, then beat MAHA 3-2 in the championship game Sunday night. Back row: Pat Burke (head coach), Paul Wintersteen (A. coach), Monica Keithcart, Taylor Hallowell, Mikaela Osler, Rachel Elliott, Kim Dvorak, Pavel Dvorak (A. coach), Taylor Drake, Mike Drake (A. coach). Front row: Nicole Beaudoin, Molly Burke, Charlotte Adams, Abby Wintersteen, Erin Murray. Front: Katie Leblanc.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Westford School 10th Annual Winterjam Tournament was held on Saturday, January 26, and the Westford Girls' 7/8 Basketball Team, which won first place, are pictured with their trophy. Sitting, from left: Chelsey Anderson, Kayla Baczewski. Standing: Samantha Brown, Miranda Gwinn, Katelyn Jewell, Robyn Kendrew, Britany Knight, Alexis Perry, Karsen Woods, and Anna Pidgeon.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Lady Cougars' record: 13-3-2

The Mount Mansfield Union High School Cougars met the Burlington Seahorses in girls' ice hockey Wednesday, January 30 at Essex. MMU senior Laura Till scored in the second period, assisted by junior Danielle Fortin and senior Marisse Lorenz, giving the Cougars a 1-0 lead. Burlington scored twice in the third period; then Lorenz sent the game to overtime with the tying goal in the third, with senior Elise Corriveau's assist. Burlington's winning goal came two minutes into OT, overcoming freshman Sara Till's formidable 43-save performance.

February 2, Essex scored with 55 seconds left in OT to beat MMU 2-1. MMU's Cathleen Loughlin scored with an unassisted goal in the second period. Essex tied in the second on an unassisted power-play goal. MMU's Sara Till made 32 saves.

With two games remaining in the regular season including Saturday, February 9 at Northfield, MMU's record stands at 13-3-2.

Snowshoe races and family festival

The 7th Annual Northern Vermont Snowshoe Races and Family Snowshoe Festival will be held on Sunday, February 10 at the Smugglers' Notch Nordic Ski & Snowshoe Adventure Center in Jeffersonville.

Events include a 45-minute guided Family Snowshoe Trek at 9:30 AM; a .5K Kids Fun Run/Walk at 10:30 AM, and at 11:00 AM, both a 4K Fun Run/Walk on friendly terrain with spectacular views, and an 8K race on a challenging loop course. Registration on February 10 begins at 9:00 AM. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own snowshoes, though a limited number of snowshoes will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, courtesy of the resort and TSL Snowshoes. Refreshments will be available for all snowshoers and a post race raffle will include a pair of snowshoes.

To register or for more information and directions, please contact 644-1173 or zzucker@smuggs.com.

CLASIFIEDS

COMPUTER SERVICES

Are computer problems getting you down? The Browns River PC Doctor, Tom McGonegal, can help. Visit <http://brpcdoc.com> or call 899-5209. 03/18

EMPLOYMENT

Church pianist/organist needed. Second Congregational UCC Church in Jeffersonville, "the small church with a big heart." Sunday mornings 9:30 – 11:00 AM plus special services. Eager amateur choir. We need someone to play basic hymns, anthems, and other service musical elements. Stipend negotiable. Please contact Joan at 644-2297. 02/07

Part-time Church Administrator – Mount Mansfield Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, a small liberal religious congregation in Jericho, seeks a home-based part-time Administrator to handle routine administrative functions. The administrator works closely with the MMUUF Steering Committee an average of 10 hours per week. Job duties include mail handling, document management (typing, editing, printing, copying), and basic bookkeeping. The administrator will be expected to attend the monthly steering committee meetings (two hours/month). The position requires basic computer proficiency, strong organizational and communication skills, and attention to detail. Send resume to

Dana Baron, 141 Brigham Hill Rd., Essex Jct., VT or email dk.baron@comcast.net. 02/07

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Jericho: Country setting, Room for rent, \$100 per week, open February 1, shared living, private room and bath. Call 899-3500 for more information. 02/07

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I buy old books – also letters, documents, ledgers, diaries, etc. Marie Tedford, (802) 899-4447, or email reverie@comcast.net.

LEGAL NOTICES

**OFFICIAL WARNING
MOUNT MANSFIELD UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #17**

February 21, 2008 and March 4, 2008

The legal voters of the Mount Mansfield Union School District #17 consisting of the town school districts of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, Underhill Town and Underhill Incorporated School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Mount Mansfield Union High School on **Thursday, February 21, 2008, at 7:30 p.m.** to transact any of the following business not involving Australian Ballot, the meeting is to be adjourned and reconvened in the respective polling places hereinafter named for each of the above-referenced town school districts on **Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 7:00 a.m.** (Huntington at 6:30 am) at which time the polls will open, until 7:00 p.m. at which time the polls will close, to transact any business involving voting by Australian Ballot.

- Article 1: To elect the following officers:
a Moderator for one year,
a Clerk for one year,
a Treasurer for one year, and
an Auditor for three years.
- Article 2: To hear and act upon the written reports of the District Officers.
- Article 3: Shall the voters of the Mount Mansfield Union School District authorize the school board under 16 V.S.A. 562 (9) to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year?
- Article 4: Shall the Mount Mansfield Union School District hold its Annual Meeting on the Monday prior to the first Tuesday in March, commencing in 2009 as authorized in VSA Title 16, Sec 422?
- Article 5: To transact any other school business thought proper when met.

March 4, 2008 — Australian Ballot Questions

- Article 6: Shall the Mount Mansfield Union School District #17 adopt a budget of \$25,413,872 for the school year 2008-09?

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

The legal voters of Mt. Mansfield Union School District #17 are further warned and notified that informational meetings will be held at Mt. Mansfield Union High School in the Town of Jericho on February 21, 2008 and February 28, 2008, commencing at 7:30 p.m., for the purpose of explaining the 2008-09 proposed budget.

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

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

Polling Places

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

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

Dated this 3rd day of January, 2008

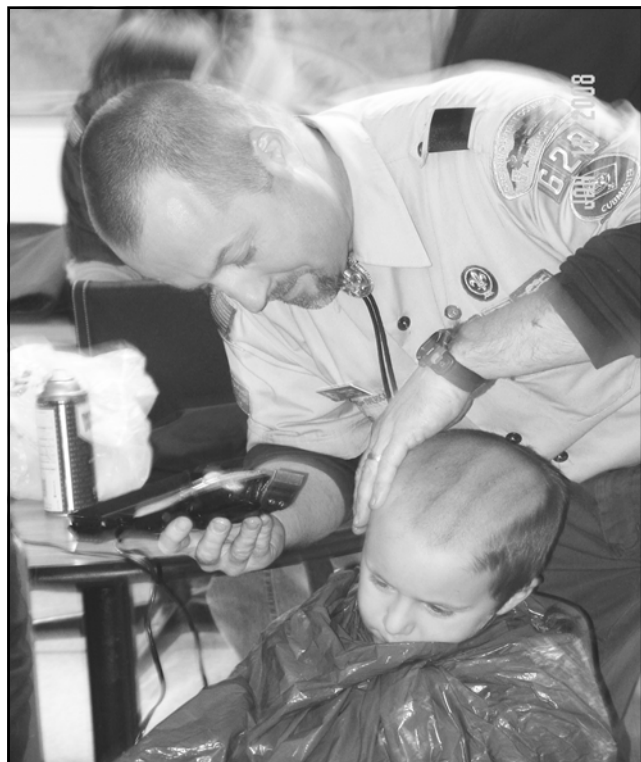
| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Jeffrey Forward | Michael Marks | Linda Willmott |
| | Richard R. Reid | Marsha Faryniarz |
| Diane Kirson-Glitzman | David Clark | |
| Jerome Mendicino | Clifford Peterson | Douglas Racine |
| Brett Norman | | Judith T. Jones |
| Lynn Ann Reynolds | Carol Shallow | |

SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Received for record this 4th day of January 2008, A.D.
Irene Linde, Clerk, Mt. Mansfield Union School District #17

**** Budget Informational Meetings ****

Thursday, February 28, 2008, 7:30 p.m., Camels Hump Middle School



Over a dozen scouts, siblings, and parents of Cub Scout Pack 620 in Jericho/Underhill shaved their heads (and some beards) to show their support for fellow Cub Scout Ross Perri, who was recently diagnosed with leukemia and is undergoing chemotherapy.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Cub Scouts are Change Bandits for Vermont Children's Hospital

Cub Scout Pack 620 and Pack 621 of Jericho and Underhill, VT are teaming up to be "Change Bandits" as part in 98.9 WOKO's annual Big Change Roundup to support the Vermont Children's Hospital at Fletcher Allen Healthcare in Burlington. In addition to donations from family and friends, the Cub Scouts have also put canisters in area stores in an attempt to collect donations throughout the month of February. Look for the various canisters specifically marked for this event.

100% of the proceeds from this effort will be donated to our local Vermont Children's Hospital. If you would like to assist the Cub Scouts in this effort, please make your donation in the area collection canisters or visit www.Pack620.com for a link on donating directly to the Cub Scout Packs for the roundup.

For more information about WOKO's annual event, visit their website at www.WOKO.com or visit the Vermont Children's Hospital website at www.fahc.org/childrens_hospital/.

4-H Super Science Saturdays in March

The University of Vermont Extension's 4-H program is offering Super Science Saturdays this March to youth ages 8-12. Super Science Saturdays will engage youth in active investigative science experiences. Most important – they will be having fun.

The activities will be held at the University of Vermont Extension Office in Morrisville from 9:30 – 11:30 AM on March 8, 15, and 22. There is no cost to register but space is limited – so sign up today! To register, please contact the 4-H Office at 888-4972 or lauren.traister@uvm.edu.

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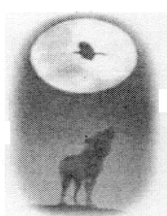
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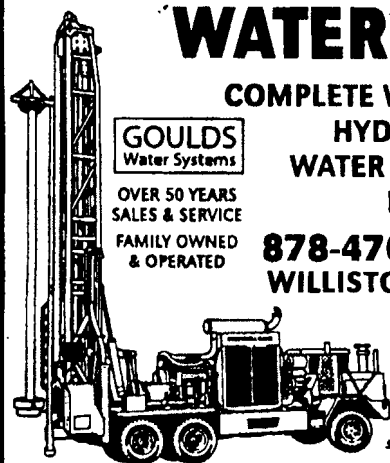
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4th Annual International Festival at BRMS

Browns River Middle School is hosting the 4th annual International Festival at the school on Saturday, March 15 from 2:00 – 4:30 PM. The evening will be a celebration of different nations and cultures, with international foods, music, dancing, and country booths hosted by members of our community. This year, Burlington's Brazilian Samba Street band *Sambatuca* will play at the Festival.

Community members who would like to share their culture or experiences in a foreign country are invited to host a country booth by displaying pictures, artifacts, clothing, currency, or other interesting educational materials. Donations of dishes for the International Buffet are also needed. If interested, please call Anne Wright-Shank at 899-1767.

Burlington Tech honor roll

Luke Moultrou, an Aviation Technology I student from Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho, earned an A- or better in his Burlington Technical Center program, placing him on the Burlington Technical Center Honor Roll for the first semester. Moultrou is a senior at MMU.

CESU meetings

Monday, February 11 – Chittenden East Supervisory Union Negotiations Committee meeting, 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM, Central Office, Richmond Town Center, Richmond.

Wednesday, February 13 – Jericho School Board meeting, 7:00 PM, Jericho Elementary School, Jericho.

Thursday, February 14 – Mount Mansfield Union Facilities meeting, 6:30 PM, Browns River Middle School, Jericho.

Thursday, February 14 – Mt. Mansfield Union School Board meeting, 7:30 PM, Browns River Middle School, Jericho.

Monday, February 18 – CESU Executive Committee meeting, 7:00 PM, Central Office, Richmond Town Center, Richmond.

Thursday, February 21 – Mount Mansfield Union School District annual meeting, 7:30 PM, MMUHS, Jericho.

MMU student scores in math talent search

Mount Mansfield Union High School has received results from the second Vermont State Mathematics Coalition Talent Search this year, and Jonathan Martin scored a perfect 8! He was one of 11 who did from among 194 students statewide who participated. His total of 15/16 over the first two tests places him in a tie for 10th place. Congratulations to Jon and the math department at MMU (and K-8 teachers) for continued excellence.



Harry Bliss and JES first grader Kyra Dissinger at work creating illustrations. Local children's book illustrator and New Yorker magazine cartoonist Harry Bliss visited Jericho Elementary School on January 25. Students drew squiggly lines and Harry created pictures from them! Jericho P.I.E. provided the funding to bring Harry Bliss to the school.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Browns River Middle School news

The Penguin Plunge fundraiser is nearing completion. As of January 29, 64 plungers had pledged to raise at least \$175 each for the privilege of jumping into Lake Champlain on Saturday, February 9 to raise money for Special Olympics. An all-school assembly is scheduled for Friday, February 8 at 1:25 PM to celebrate the Plunge effort as well as watch a student/faculty basketball game. Congratulations to the following students and staff for reaching the minimum threshold of \$175: Sara Ahlers, Caroline Anderson, Sadie Broderick, Riley Carbone, Oonagh Cavanagh, Bridgitte Charlebois, Anna Dunphy, Kyle Dumphy, Hailey Garrison, Angela Kleptz, Maddie Light, Elena Newbrough, Ellie Penfield-Cyr, Alec Peyton, Bryant Pless, Kira Sevy, Carter Smith, Addy Stricker, Luke Taylor, Shelbe Van Winkle.

Girls on Track at BRMS. Last year we had seventeen 5th graders from BRMS participate in Girls on the Run. This year we want to include more girls and so we are expanding the program to include 5th and 6th graders. GOTR/GOT is a national program whose goal is to empower 5th-8th grade girls through fun team-building activities and improved fitness. The program seeks to build life skills and self-esteem through running. Practices will be from Tues-

day, April 8 through early June, with a culminating 5K run/walk on Sunday, June 8.

We are also looking for additional coaching assistance. No running or previous coaching experience required! Please contact Louise Sivak (LSivak121@earthlink.net) or Tina Gallagher at BRMS (Tina.Gallagher@cesu.k12.vt.us) if you'd like to volunteer, ask questions, or wish to register your daughter.

Student Assistance Program news and notes: The 5th-8th grade Vermont Kids Against Tobacco (VKAT) group at BRMS has been very busy attending a team building training and Statehouse rally. On January 16, nineteen 5th-8th graders participated in an after-school team building training. Marc Goudreau, a VT National Guard Drug and Alcohol Reduction Officer, coordinated the group activities. The agenda included developing guidelines/rules, small group problem-solving activities/games, tobacco information, media influence presentation, and dinner. Three VKAT group members from BRMS participated in the January 23 Statehouse rally in Montpelier. Bill Frank, Underhill/Jericho legislative representative, joined the students for lunch. Students who attended were: Ethan Spier, Spencer Griggs, and Shalyn Bouffard.

News from the art room: Our student teacher, Ms. Miranda Keir, has finished her student teaching experience and has moved on to work in our Options program. We are happy she is still with us. We welcome into the art room our new student teaching intern, Mr. Swanson.

Edible Car Contest: Teams of 5th graders from the Everest and Supernova classrooms are busy designing and constructing "edible" cars for the Edible Car contest on Saturday, February 15 at the Air National Guard. Students are applying what they have learned about forces, wheel, axels, and mass to create the fastest car.

Yearbook news: Congratulations to Adrienne Moran for her winning illustration for the yearbook art contest. Her work was selected for her originality and school spirit. Many thanks to Emily Alexander of the Emile Gruppe Art Gallery for sponsoring this year's yearbook art contest. Another thanks goes out to Nimmie Huber of the Sinclair Inn for judging and sponsoring the yearbook poetry contest. Congratulations to Elizabeth Armstrong and Julia Dunn for their poems which were selected for their creative ideas, voice and theme.

BRAG notes: The January Brag meeting was cancelled due to illness and the February Brag meeting was held on Tuesday, February 5. A reminder that this group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the BRMS consumer science room at 7:00 PM and is a great way to get to know other parents, stay informed, and become involved in the life of the school. Check out their new link on the Browns River website for more information.

Grand reopening of the UCS Library

On January 16 the Underhill Central School held a celebration to recognize the fantastic improvements that were made in the library this year. Through the hard work of Sheila Aiken (librarian) and countless volunteers, the UCS library is now fully automated. That means that students and staff can search the catalog online, keep track of which books they have out or have read, and even create book lists of books they would like to check out in the future. One of the favorite features amongst the students is that you can search the card catalog easily by the use of symbols. So if a student wanted a book on animals they could simply click on the animal symbol. This has already proven to be an asset to our classrooms. You can even search our new system from home at our website www.underhill.k12.vt.us. In addition to the automation, the Underhill Central School library has undergone a cosmetic transformation, with new carpet and wonderful original artwork donated by some

Always busy at Westford Elementary

By Principal David Wells

The Westford School is always a very busy place. In addition to all of our daily classes, there are a large variety of additional activities for our students. Of course our basketball season is in high gear, with school and recreation department teams playing on most evenings. Many students in grades 1-8 are participating in our ski program at Smugglers' Notch thanks to the many volunteers who organize this event and join our students on the mountain. A number of students are also participating in the recreation department's cross country skiing program. For students who love video games, Mr. Sherman is running his ever-popular Myst club after school. Guitar players and drummers are taking advantage of the lunchtime practice sessions run by Mr. Goss. Mr. Goss also runs our school's Shutterbug Society for our budding photographers. These activities play an important role as they serve our students' broad interests and keep them engaged in the whole school day. I want to take this opportunity to thank the many caring adults in our community who volunteer their time to enrich the lives of our students.

Winter happenings at Poker Hill School

Finally, winter is back at Poker Hill School. Children will be looking forward to getting back out in the snow and enjoying winter activities. To celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, children will be learning about the Golden Rule, as well as learning about diversity in our community and around the world. Students continue to celebrate each other's differences and learn about friendships and getting along.

Mark your calendars! The popular Community Dinner is back this year at the Underhill Town Hall on Saturday, March 15. It will be catered by *It's Arthur's Fault*, with entertainment by renowned magician Christopher McBride. This is an adults-only evening, so get your babysitters now! Other upcoming events at Poker Hill include the Golf Tournament at West Bolton on June 13 and a plant sale. Cave Moose Farm of Cambridge will be offering organic bedding plants and vegetables for our gardens when spring finally arrives. Orders will need to be placed by early March for delivery in mid-May. Stay tuned to this column for more information about this opportunity and other upcoming events.

Jon Gailmor coming to UCS

Jon Gailmor will be the Artist in Residence at Underhill Central School from February 14-21. On the February 21 there will be a concert held at BRMS at 6:30 PM.

well-known artists! We invite you to check it out! A sincere thank you goes out to all who helped make this possible!



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Returning to MMU in March 2008 on the following Monday evenings:

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