The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON
The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington
Volume 36 **April 2019 Issue** Number 3

Richmond Hires New Police Chief

The Town of Richmond has recently announced that Larry Muldoon has been hired as the next Richmond Police Chief. Muldoon is scheduled to start with the Richmond Police Department on April 8.

Muldoon was born and raised in northern California and obtained a bachelor's degree in management from St. Mary's College in California.

He spent 10 years as a Manager/Director of Human Resources for a few different retail companies. His focus in HR was employee relations, diversity and management training and development.

Muldoon started his law enforcement career 16 years ago with the Rocklin California Police Department. While at Rocklin PD, he was part of the Hostage Negotiation and Crisis Intervention team, the mountain bike team, and served as a School Resource Officer.

Quality of life brought him to New England 12 years ago. He has worked as a police officer in Windsor County for the past 10 years. During his time in Windsor County, he became a Field Training Officer, Peer Support Counselor and obtained his National, Vermont and Wilderness EMT certificate.

Giroux State Wrestling Champion

Colby Giroux of Richmond with Coach Harley Brown

MMU Senior Colby Giroux wrestled his way to become the Vermont State Wrestling Champion at 170 pounds. Colby has been on the MMU wrestling team for four years under the guidance of Coach Harley Brown and his sons, Glenn and Jonny. Giroux participated in youth wrestling, which also practices at MMU, since he was four years old.

After losing in the second round at the New England Wrestling Championships in Providence, Rhode Island on March 1, he was determined to place and won his next six tough matches, with three pins along the way. Giroux took third place and was on the podium with Massachusetts 1, Rhode Island 1 and New Hampshire 1. His goals this year were to win the state title, place at New Englands, and win his last high school match at New Englands. He accomplished them all.

Giroux said, "Wrestling is a great sport, teaching self-discipline, fitness, nutrition, sportsmanship, and the values of working hard."

For information on how to join the teams, contact Harley Brown at harleybrown@madriver.com.

From Montpelier to Eritrea to the Galápagos Islands

Richmond Elementary School fourth grader Elise Cournoyer has been notified by the National Geographic Society that she is one of the semifinalists eligible to compete in the 2019 National Geographic GeoBee Vermont State Competition. The contest will be held at on Friday, March 29, 2019.

This is the second level of the National Geographic GeoBee competition, which is now in its 31st year. School GeoBees were held in schools with fourth- through eighth-grade students throughout the state to determine each school champion. School champions then took an online qualifying test, which they submitted to the National Geographic Society. The National Geographic Society has invited up to 100 of the top-scoring students in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense Dependents Schools and U.S. territories to compete in the State GeoBees.

This year, National Geographic increased the prize money for all State GeoBees. State champions will receive a medal, $1,000 in cash, and other prizes, as well as a trip to Washington, D.C., to represent their state in the National Championship to be held at National Geographic Society headquarters, May 19-22, 2019. Students that come in second and third place will receive cash awards of $300 and $100, respectively.

Each State Champion will advance to the National Championship and compete for cash awards and college scholarships. In 2019, the national champion will receive a $25,000 college scholarship, $1,000 in cash, a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society, and an all-expenses-paid Lindblad expedition to the Galápagos Islands aboard the National Geographic Endeavour ll; second

continue to page 9

RES student Elise Cournoyer proudly shows her certificate. She is the daughter of Michelle Cournoyer and Dennis Delay

Maple Season Underway

Sugarhouses are up and running in Huntington and Richmond. Watch for the billowing steam and know that your neighbors are cooking up some Vermont gold. If you stop in, you might even get to sample some fresh warm syrup.

Photo: Purinton Sugarhouse, Huntington

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The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

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Letters

New Home for Online Videos

MMCTV recently changed the platform where you can watch our videos online. All our new and old videos are no longer found at Vimeo, but now are located at the Internet Archive (Archive.org) website. Here's the shortlink: https://bitly.com/MmctvVideos. To find a video, just type in "MMCTV" and keywords like "Richmond Selectboard." For more help on this, feel free to reach out to us at mmctv15@gmail.com. Internet Archive is a non-profit based in San Francisco that provides public access centers like us free, unlimited space; we produce about a terabyte of programming each year.

On Town Meeting Day 2019, MMCTV created over 10 hours of video content! MMCTV would like to thank all three towns for supporting our work in all their budgets, due to declines in cable revenue in 2018. Support from Comcast cable TV subscribers in our three towns makes up 99% of our income. MMCTV is involved in efforts at the state level to support public access in Vermont, including a Legislative Day at the Statehouse on February 20 and an upcoming Public Utilities Commission workshop.

Media education is a big part of what we do. February 25-27, MMCTV and Richmond Free Library held a middle school workshop focusing on the Vermont Reads book March, a graphic novel about Civil Rights leader John Lewis. Students produced a short "advertisement" about the book and conducted an interview with Civil Rights veterans Neil and Micki Richardson. Their work is now playing on MMCTV, as well as other Vermont and New England public access channels.

Finally, enjoy a new display of artwork by MMU students at MMCTV that runs through late April.

We welcome all feedback about our work and programming at mmctv15@gmail.com or at 434-2550. MtMansfieldCtv.org

—*Angelike Contis*, MMCTV Executive Director.

Vermont Senate Update

I'd like to briefly update you on three important issues before the Vermont Senate.

First, we voted to fund testing for lead in the drinking water at every school and child care facility in Vermont within the year. A recent Department of Health pilot program found that every one of the sixteen schools tested for lead in drinking water tested positive, sometimes at alarmingly high levels. The corrective action is usually very inexpensive, so we also voted to provide financial support to fix the problem faucets. Getting the lead out of Vermont kids' water is an important public health measure.

Second, the Senate passed a bill to break up the six seat Chittenden Senate district during the next redistricting process. The district is the only Senate district in the United States with more than three members! I've proudly served Chittenden County for a decade in the Senate, but I believe the district is just too big for each senator to do the best job possible, and that is a disservice to the people who matter most - the voters. This change will be in place for the 2022 elections when all districts are redrawn with new census figures.

Third, the Senate will be debating an increase to the minimum wage this week. A Senate committee has recommended an increase of about $4.50 over a five year period. This is a more aggressive schedule than current law, which raises the wage by annual inflation. Contrary to popular myth, most low-wage workers are not part timers or teenagers. In fact, 55% of all Vermont workers earning less than $12.50/hr earn more than half of their family's income, and 65% of these workers are older than 30. The problem of income inequality affects all other areas of public life, and this bill helps those left behind by the national economy.

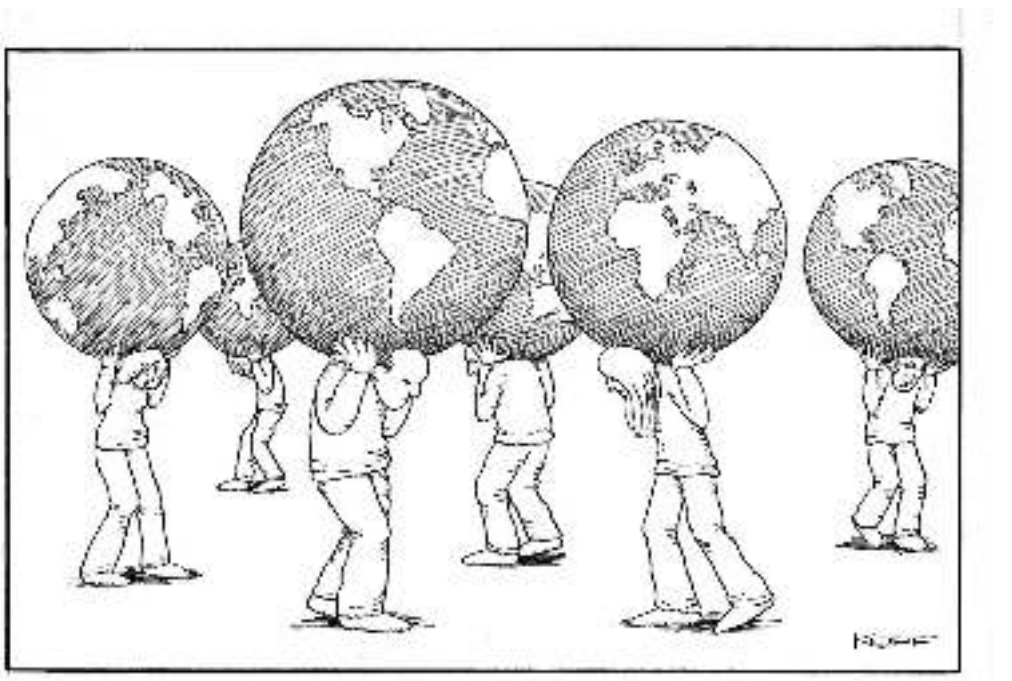
As always, feel free to contact me at timashe@burlingtontelecom.net with any ideas or questions.

—*Tim Ashe*, State Senator Chittenden County

Local Blood Drive

Celebrate National Volunteer Month (April) by being a blood donor! The the next local Red Cross blood drive is being held at the Richmond Congregational Church on April 10 from noon to 6 pm. Eligible donors can call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go online to redcrossblood.org for more information and to make a blood donation appointment. Those with appointments are able to help minimize the time it takes to donate. To further reduce your wait time, consider using RAPIDPASS (http://www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass), a pre-donation & health history questionnaire. Complete it on line on April 10 before you arrive to donate.

We are blessed to have loyal regular donors, but are in need of attracting new folks to this vital life saving experience. Won't you please consider being a first time donor?



Richmond Senior Foot Clinics

Richmond Foot Clinics for Seniors are off and running for fall. Mark your calendar. Call to see where the clinics will be held.

Next dates for 2018-2019:

April 2 May 14 June 25

Don't wait to make an appointment or get on the waiting list. Call for an appointment: Sally Singer (434-3480) or Catherine Coggio (434-3572).

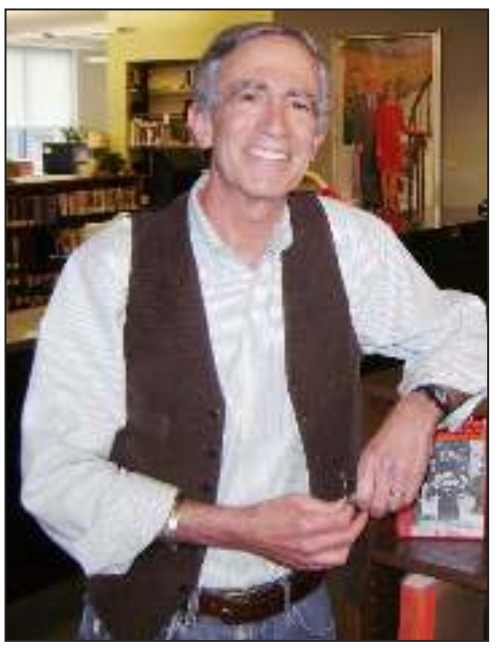
Bring a towel and enter through the back door of the building. The clinic is sponsored by UVM Medical Center. More information can be obtained at singersallydan@yahoo com.

Life in a Jar

Saving 2,500 Warsaw Ghetto Children from the Holocaust

Dr. Jack Mayer Recounts Irene Sendler's Heroism Uncovered by Three Kansas School Girls

Jack Mayer tells the extraordinary and little known story of Irena Sendler, a Polish Catholic social worker who organized a rescue network



that saved 2,500 Jewish children from certain death in the Warsaw ghetto and Nazi death camps.

She and her group of 30 volunteers convinced Jewish families to turn over those 2,500 children to them, then risked their own lives smuggling them out of the Warsaw ghetto. The children were placed with Christian families, orphanages and convents and given Christian names. To preserve their Jewish identities and the hope of re-uniting them with their families, her group kept lists of the newly-given and original names and buried them in jars they could recover after the war.

Mayer's Life in a Jar: The Irene Sendler Project tells story of this heroism. It is also a story that was suppressed by Poland's Communist regime and remained virtually unknown for 60 years until three high school girls in rural Kansas stumbled upon a reference to Sendler's rescues.

These "girls from Kansas," working on a history project, discovered Irene Sendler's story and transformed it into a National History Day play called Life in a Jar, bringing recognition to her heroism and helping to open dialogue about the Holocaust in Poland. They continue to champion Sendler's legacy and exemplify the power of individuals to change the world.

This Vermont Humanities Council event is co-sponsored by the Community Senior Center and the Richmond Historical Society.

Jack Mayer is a Vermont writer and pediatrician. In 1991, he established Rainbow Pediatrics in Middlebury, where he continues to practice. He is an instructor in Pediatrics at the University of Vermont School of Medicine and an adjunct faculty member for pre-medical students at Middlebury College.

Mayer has written short stories, poems, and essays for the past forty years, and participated in the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference for three years. He is the author of two award-winning books: the non-fiction Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project, and the historical fiction Before the Court of Heaven.

An Evening to Celebrate Richmond's Landscape

The Richmond Land Trust is inviting the public as well as supporters and members of other conservation and outdoor recreation groups across Richmond to a pot-luck supper.

The event will take place on Saturday, April 6, from 5 pm to 8 pm, in the lodge at Cochran's Ski Area. RLT members and anyone else interested will be asked to stay a while longer for RLT's Annual Meeting.

"The evening will help anyone who cares about conservation and the outdoors to learn more about the groups and people involved in protecting, stewarding, and enjoying Richmond's natural resources, and making outdoor recreational opportunities available to our community," says Jeremy Hoff, RLT's Acting Chair.

"It will be a great chance to find a group or activity to support or become part of, and also for Richmond's conservation and outdoor recreation groups to learn more about each other and foster more collaboration."

Brief presentations will be made by representatives of organizations that include the Richmond Conservation Commission, Richmond Trails Committee, Richmond Master Naturalist Program, Andrews Community Forest Committee, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, Community Senior Center, Vermont Land Trust, Cochran's Ski Area and others.

RLT asks those attending to bring a dish to share as well as plates and utensils. RLT will furnish soft drinks; BYOB otherwise.

MMU's Spring Musical: April 5 & 6

Logan Mohn plays Mitch Mahoney, the comfort counselor in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee *His job is to comfort the losing spellers and offer them a juice box. Photo credit: Eleanor Workman*

Joya Corr, plays contestant Maxine Mongrelle, who is assisted in the competition by her comfort dog, Comfort. Maxine whispers the spelling of a word into Comfort's ear before she dares spell it out loud to the judges.

The Theatre Department at Mount Mansfield Union High School presents the hilarious musical, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. The competition heats up as unusual characters clash at this spelling bee, and all kinds of pandemonium ensues. Join the fun on Friday and Saturday, April 5 and 6, at 7:30; and Sunday, April 7, at 2 pm. Tickets are $7 for students and children, and $9 for General Admission. Tickets will be available at the door on show nights, or can be reserved by calling 899-4690 x 1715

Rusty DeWees to Perform at RFL

Rusty DeWees (The Logger) will perform comedy, music, and stories, for two nights at Richmond Free Library on April 12 and 13 at 7:30 pm for your family's pleasure.

Actor/Comedian Rusty DeWees is known for his The Logger persona— full-on comedian, burgeoning musician, — his one-man comedy shows are best described as Blue Collar Comedy meets Prairie Home Companion. "Easy to love the core Vermont areas: I've played them deferentially, and with great affection dozens of times - area audiences feel like old friends at this point … "

Rusty DeWees's The Logger Tour has been referred to as a very uniquely modern, yet old-tyme traditional evening of entertainment, for all ages, longtime fans, and first timers.

The Boston Globe says, The Logger is "inventive, entertaining, exceptional."

Tickets are $22 and can be purchased locally at the Crimson Poppy, located in Richmond village or online at thelogger.com. Reservations: 802-888-8838.

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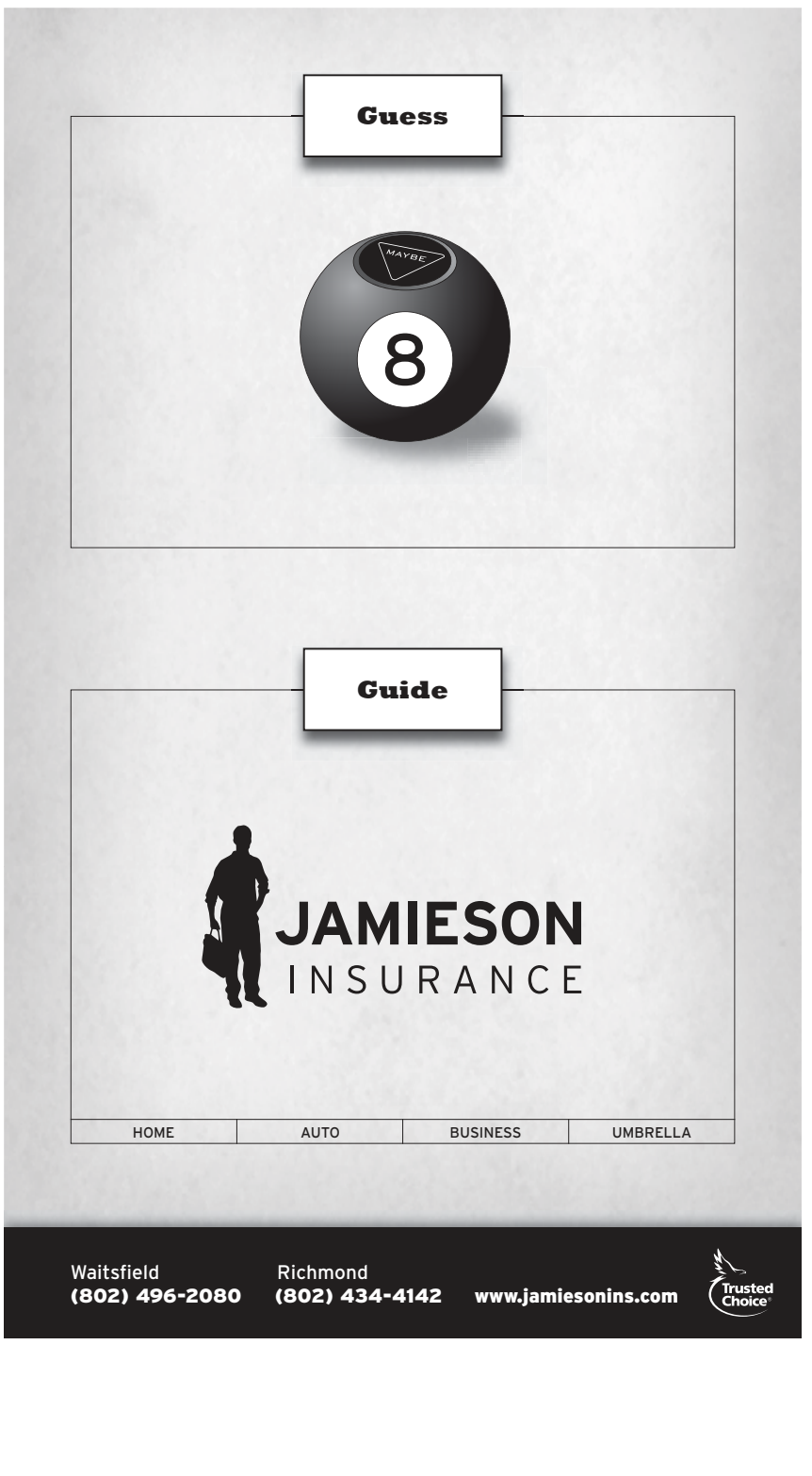

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Woof! Workshop Sunday, April 7, at 5 pm - 6:30 pm This popular, dog communication and safety lecture is a multimedia extravaganza of fun where the audience also gets to test their "dog reading" skills (sorry, dogs are not invited). We'll demystify dog communication, reveal some common dog-human misunderstandings, and explore how we can all live safely and happily together. At the end of the presentation, the audience has a chance to engage in several fun, interactive exercises to practice reading dog body language.

Celebrate Arbor Day Art Exhibit Coming up in April is Earth Day and Arbor Day! The Huntington Public Library and the Huntington Conservation Commission will be collaborating on featuring a multi-media art exhibit (including poetry) in celebration of trees and forests. The exhibit is open to entries that can be hung on the exhibit walls as we don't have horizontal exhibit space. We encourage artists of all ages with work featuring trees and forests and the beauty, utility and wonder of the environment they gift to our community.

The deadline for receiving work is April 18. Details and guidelines are available at the Library or by emailing a request to: hpl@gmavt.net. We are pleased to be able to offer a tree seedling to each family who enters the exhibit.

Arbor Day Celebration Saturday, April 27, 9:30 am to 2 pm. The morning hours will feature three walks: The Huntington Town Forest – What's There?, with Aaron Worthley, The Hinesburg Town Forest – Managing Forests, with Ethan Tapper and The Birds of Vermont Museum – Which Birds, Which Habitat, with Erin Talmage. A diversity of creative educational activities for children will take place at the Library in the morning, as well. During the afternoon there will be two power point talks: Megan Gordon on Elm tree restoration in Vermont and Ethan Tapper on Managed and Unmanaged Forests Over Time. Throughout the day you are are welcome to view the art work on this first day of the Celebrate Arbor Day Art Exhibit. Refreshments will be available but bringing a bag lunch is suggested. Carpooling to the walks is encouraged. More details forthcoming at the Library and on FPF. Save the date and watch for registration details, schedules and further information.

Friend of the Huntington Public Library A new Friends of the Huntington Public Library group is forming. They are in the process of establishing a nonprofit organization. Their mission is to support the library's special programs and purchases through fundraising and advocacy. They hope to get the community involved, and will need as much help as you are willing to give! Watch for updates on the library's website www.huntingtonlibraryvt.org. If you are interested in helping out, or would like some more information, feel free to email the Friends at vtfriendsofhpl@gmail.com.

New Adult Fiction Fidelity – Five Stories and Watch With Me and Six Other Stories of the Yet Remembered Ptolemy Proudfoot and His Wife, Miss Minnie, Nee Quich by Wendell Berry; The Chef by James Patterson; The Stranger Diaries by Elly Griffiths; The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See; Murder in Just Cause by Anne Cleeland; A Sea of Troubles by Donna Leon.

Adult Non-Fiction Listening Point by Sigurd F. Olsen; Air – The Restless Shaper of the World by William Bryant Logan; The World Ending Fire, Sex, Economy, Freedom and Community, and Farming – A Handbook; Poems by Wendell Berry; Straw Bale Gardens Complete by Joel Karsten; Silvopasture – A Guide to Managing Grazing Animals, Forage Crops and Trees in a Temperate Farm Ecosystem by Steve Gabriel; The Traveling Feast – On the Road and At the Table With My Heros by Rick Bass; Under Pressure – Confronting the Epidemic of Stress and Anxiety in Girls by Lisa Damour, Ph.D.; Rewilding North America by Dave Foreman; Big, Wild and Connected by John Davis; Sweet Laurel- Recipes for Whole Food, Grain-Free Desserts by Laurel Gallucci and Claire Thomas; Weapons of Math Destruction – How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy by Cathy O'Neil; Doctored by Sandeep Jauhar.

Adult Audio The Golden Tresses of the Dead by Alan Bradley; At Blackwater Pond – Mary Oliver Reads Mary Oliver; The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes 1 by Sir Conan Doyle.

Adult DVD Green Fire – Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethis for Our Time; Poldark – Season 4; Circle of Poison; Look and See – A Portrait of Wendell Berry.

Picture Books Potato Pants by Lauie Keller; Sally Goes to Heaven by Stephen Huneck; A First Book of the Sea by Nicola Davies.

Junior Fiction The War I Finally Won by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley; Grenade by Alan Gratz; Dork Diaries, #s 3 1/2 and 5 by Rachel Renee Russell.

ListenUp!Vermont/LIBBY Electronic books and audiobooks are available online with your library card at www.listenupvermont.org or meet.libbyapp.com Thousands of digital titles are supported through this website. All you need is a valid Huntington Public Library card! Ask your librarian if you have any questions.

Library Playgroup & Story Time Fridays, 10 am – noon. The playgroup aims to provide a welcoming, fun, and social environment for babies and toddlers with their caregivers. Join for pre-literacy skills with books, singing, rhyming, counting, and crafts at 10:45 am!

First Friday of the Month Movie Night Friday, April 5 , at 7 pm. This month's movie is Ralph Wrecks the Internet. Bring a cozy blanket, wear your pajamas, and meet your best friends here at the Library!

Huntington Road Fatal Accident

A single-car accident on March 11, 2019, claimed the life of Wayne Elias, 20. The accident occurred on the Huntington Road, about a half mile north of the town border. Elias was travelling south when he hit a telephone pole and two trees. He was declared dead at the scene.

The accident was in the early evening, closing the road. On the scene were the Richmond Police Department, Vermont State Police, Huntington Fire Department, Richmond Rescue and Huntington First Response.

Elias was a resident of Williston and had lived in Huntington.

Richmond Free Library

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The Richmond Free Library has participated in the Vermont Humanities Council program Vermont Reads for the past three years with great success, bringing people of all ages together to read, discuss, learn and create. The 2019 book is the graphic novel March: Book One, the first in a trilogy by civil rights icon John Lewis in collaboration with co-writer Andrew Ayden and graphic artist Nate Powell. It tells the story of Lewis's coming of age in rural Alabama and early life of civic activism. Lewis, who was greatly inspired and influenced by Martin Luther King Jr., is considered one of the big six leaders of the civil rights movement and an early adopter of the nonviolent protest tactics that were instrumental in the desegregation of the South. Lewis has served in the US Congress since 1987.

Copies of March Thanks to a grant from the Vermont Humanities Council we have many copies of the graphic novel March: Book One on hand available to the community. Stop by and check out a copy.

Learning Nonviolence: Lunch Counter Sit-In This interactive theatrical event is a simulation of the year 1960. An African American college student is conducting a training session for people interested in joining a sit-in to protest racial segregation. The student speaks about protests and coaches members of the audience in the philosophy and tactics of nonviolent action. This unique program, led by staff from the Peace and Justice Center is appropriate for age ten through adult. Join us on Thursday, April 11, 7- 8 pm in the community room.

Student Work Inspired by the Vermont Reads book, March Mansfield Cooperative School students have been studying the theme of power and non-violent resistance. They will be demonstrating their learning through a variety of creative presentations throughout the Library. Stop by to wander through the exhibits students have created to share their thinking about this important topic. Join them on April 17 from 6:30 to 7:30 at the Richmond Free Library.

Learning Nonviolence: Activism 101 Participants in this workshop offered by staff from the Peace and Justice Center will learn aspects of Kingian Nonviolence, build knowledge of successful nonviolent campaigns, explore how their own identities impact this work, and engage in role play. This workshop is appropriate for age fourteen through adult. Join us on Tuesday, May 7, 7- 9 pm in the Community Room.

Welcome New Babies We will greet our youngest Richmond residents at our annual baby brunch and book dedication on Sunday, March 31. If you welcomed a new baby to your household in 2018 and you will miss the brunch, stop by to see what special book has been placed in the library collection in honor of your child.

Soup to Nuts: An Eccentric History of Food The history of what and how we eat encompasses everything from the prehistoric mammoth luau to the medieval banquet to the modern three squares a day. Presented by writer Rebecca Rupp, this talk let attendees find out about the rocky evolution of table manners, the not-so-welcome invention of the fork, the awful advent of portable soup, and the surprising benefits of family dinners - plus some catchy info on seasonal foods. What's the story of chocolate? Why do the Irish eat corned beef and cabbage on St. Patrick's Day? Who invented lemonade? Why are turkeys called turkeys? And what are sugarplums anyway? Tuesday, April 30, 6:30 pm. A Vermont Humanities presentation. Free.

Rick Norcross Concert Rick Norcross (of Rick and the Ramblers) will offer an up close and personal concert celebrating over 50 years of writing and performing Vermont story songs. Friday, April 19, 7 pm. Free.

Apprenticeships in Vermont Allison Richards, of the Vermont Department of Labor, will offer an informational program describing the many different apprentice programs available via the Department of Labor and employer sponsors. This is an excellent way to learn about beginning a career or changing direction. The Apprenticeship Department currently has over 800 Vermonters registered in more than 30 trades. All are employed in the crafts of their choice and, when they complete the program, enjoy continued employment at a higher, skilled rate of pay. These programs include electrical, plumbing, surveying, sheet metal, HVAC and others. Wednesday, May 22, 6:30 pm.

Weekly Children's Programs

Storytime We offer three weekly programs for young children. Choose the one that's right for your child and schedule. While the programs are planned with the ages listed in mind, older and younger children are always welcome. No registration is required. Programs run from September through May and follow the CESU school district schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

Baby Laptime This 30-minute program is for our youngest visitors. Adults interact with their little person through simple stories, songs, rhymes, bounces and wiggles that are sure to bring out the smiles and giggles. Baby Laptime is designed for infants through age 2. Join us on Mondays at 10:30 am.

Playgroup with Stories and Music The morning begins at 10 am with songs, stories and a simple snack (bring your own) on the alphabet rug. Around 10:30 am we'll get out the toys for free play with friends in the library's sunny and spacious community room. We have gross motor and fine motor toys, puzzles and activities for infants through preschool age children. Join us on Wednesdays for storytime and playgroup.

Movers and Shakers Storytime Frequent exposure to picture books not only entertain and delight children but also strengthens their vocabulary and their ability to make sense of the world. We'll share fantastic new and classic picture books and work some early literacy magic into a child's day. We'll couple stories with simple songs and activities for some interactive moving and shaking. Toddlers and preschoolers and their caregivers are welcome on Fridays at 10:30 am.

April Foyer Display We will be showing a collection of unique, wooden incense burners or "smokers" belonging to Richmond resident Barbara Ryan.

April Art Show During the month of March we will feature the work of Kathryn Wysockey Johnson.

Book Discussions Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys. In 1945, World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom, almost all of them with something to hide. Tuesday, April 9, 6 pm

Blackhouse by Peter May. A suspense thriller, the action takes place mostly on the remote and weather-beaten Isle of Lewis off the coast of northern Scotland. Thursday, April 18, 7 pm.

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OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

2019 Schedule

January 10 deadline
January 24 issue

Town Meeting Preview

February 7 deadline
February 21 issue

March 14 deadline
March 28 issue

April 11 deadline
April 25 issue

May 9 deadline
May 23 issue

June 13 deadline
June 27 issue

August 1 deadline
August 15 issue

September 5 deadline
September 19 issue

October 10 deadline
October 24 issue

Holiday Issues

November 7 deadline
November 21 issue

December 5 deadline
December 19 issue

Richmond Selectboard

The Times Ink community sends it deepest sympathy to reporter Greg Elias and his family.

Local Talent in Mamma Mia!

Some of the local talent onstage and behind the scenes for Lyric Theatre's production of Mamma Mia! From left, Anna Rossi, Laurie Dana, Kelley Lane, Maria Morse, Lyn Feinson. Not in the photo: Rich Dana and Liz Dana (scenery), Heidi Racht (costumes)

Mamma Mia! will be presented on the Flynn MainStage, April 11 - 14, 2019. The production is Lyric Theatre Company's spring musical.

Woven around the music of ABBA, and including such hits as Dancing Queen, Super Trouper, and The Winner Takes it All, Mamma Mia! tells the hilarious and touching story of a young woman's quest to identify her birth father from three possible candidates from her mother's past. Set against the backdrop of a Greek Island paradise, she invites them all to her wedding on the island they last came to twenty years ago. Mamma Mia!, with music and lyrics by Benny Anderson and Bjorn Ulvaeus and book by Catherine Johnson, opened in 1999 in the West End and then transferred to Broadway in 2001, where it ran for 14 years and 5,758 performances. It is one of the top ten longest-running musicals both on Broadway (8th) and in the West End (7th) and it remains one of the top-five highest grossing musical theater franchises of all time. Its various productions around the world span over 50 countries and have been seen by over 60 million people.

The 46-member cast of this local production come from fourteen Vermont communities. Cast members from Richmond are Maria Morse and Rebecca Sprano.

While the cast is rehearsing, many volunteers are working behind the scenes, building and painting sets, designing props, sewing costumes, marking lighting cues, preparing hair and make-up designs, and doing other tasks necessary to mount the $100,000+ production. Richmond resident Lyn Feinson is the costume designer.

Tickets for Mamma Mia! are on sale through the Flynn Center Regional Box Office in Burlington; by telephone: 86FLYNN; or online: www.flynntix.org. Tickets are $24 to $42 with student, senior, and group discounts available. Mamma Mia! will have six performances including matinees at 1 pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Curtain time is 7:30pm Thursday through Saturday, and 6:00 pm Sunday. The matinee performance on Saturday, April 13, will be audio-described for the blind/visually impaired.

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Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

The Huntington Selectboard Meeting February 18, 2019 began with the Highway report from Road Foreman Clinton "Yogi" Alger. Alger gave a budget update, stating, "Right now over in sand for the year and in salt. The worst part is we have to find a place to get more sand or gravel. Been dealing with this the last two or three years, other towns having the same problem." Board Chair Dori Barton advised Alger to "keep us posted on the sand situation."

On March 18, Alger provided Highway Department budget and general updates, "Not looking well at all," Alger said about the budget,"after the last order of winter sand." Livak asked, "Should we consider deficit spending so we can get spring work done?" Alger proposed changes to the department's project schedule.

Road Erosion Inventory Town Administrator Barbara Elliott shared that the 2019 MRGP (Municipal Roads General Permit) report stating the CCRPC (Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission) completed a Road Erosion Inventory in August 2016, was ready to file. The Town's MRGP (Municipal Roads General Permit) filing fees and dues add up to $1,990.

On February 18, the Board conducted Town Meeting Preparation with Town Moderator Dana Cummings and Town Clerk Heidi Racht. The Board discussed with Cummings how to amend a warned article during the meeting. The Board planned which Selectboard member would introduce each article.

Municipal Solar Huntington Energy Committee (HEC) Chair Miranda Keir visited the Board along with other HEC members to talk about Municipal Solar. "We've gone back to the research drawing board," Keir said, "We really do not want the taxpayers to be financially liable for this project. We want to make this as large a project as possible; we could sell off additional production. HEC and the State have the goal of meeting emissions standards. Picking a vendor would be the next step. Nick [Allgaier] put together a package for interviewing vendors. We want a vendor who will look at all the buildings." Barton asked, "You are envisioning some sort of outreach to the top three telling them what we want to see?" HEC member Duncan Keir responded, "We have reached the stage where we want to turn this over to the Selectboard." Barton continued, "We had questions about different prices from vendors. My anticipation is that we will meet again with HEC to see what you think of designs." Duncan Keir commented, "Usually you go out to the lowest bidders, but in a system like this it is virtually impossible to put it out to bid. The goal of the Selectboard and the HEC is deciding which are the companies that are good, creative, and most importantly, who the Selectboard can work with, a team that can be flexible." Barton told the HEC, "We will do interviews after we see the proposals." The HEC provided a draft RFP (request for proposal) letter for Elliott to edit and email to three HEC recommended vendors, with a deadline of March 15 for proposals. Board members aimed to read the information from each vendor and provide comments.

At the March 18 meeting, an update on the Municipal Solar project, reported that two of the three vendors contacted declined to submit a proposal. The third vendor requested a deadline extension. Barton commented, "We did our due diligence to get three quotes, and were declined by two, what would our next step be?" Board member Nancy Mead suggested, "Should we ask Aegis what approach they usually take with a project this size?" Board member Roman Livak said, "We are trying to meet the July deadline so an investor gets more money per kilowatt, but it's not costing Huntington anything." Board member Landel Cochran countered, "Meeting the deadline will make it more attractive, after July 1, the playing field is not going to get any better." Livak proposed, "If we went slowly, incentives might get better if the State hasn't made their goals for renewable energy." Barton offered, "We accepted the Energy Committee's list, but should we broaden our search?" Elliott suggested looking at what other municipalities have done, and pick the vendor based on other towns' experience with vendors. Livak questioned, "Why are we doing this a different way than our usual process?" The Board granted an extension to a vendor for its proposal. Elliott will contact Aegis and ask specific questions.

Town Plan Adoption The Board looked at the revised schedule for adopting the Town Plan and Land Use Regulations shared by Huntington Planning Commission (HPC) Clerk Heidi Racht. It showed a Selectboard vote on the final document October 7. The Town Plan expires on September 8.

Camels Hump State Park Management Plan The Stewardship Forester reported that Huntington's concerns about increased park usage causing problems for Camels Hump Road residents have been noted in the plan. Detailed solutions may be lacking in the plan, said Elliott.

The Board held a brief meeting on March 4. In addition to the Board preparing for the following day's annual Town Meeting, it looked at the Regional Bridge Prioritizing List. These bridges are on the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP): Bridge #32 (Camels Hump Road), Bridge #10 (Main Road at Beane Road) , Bridge #39H (Main Road by Texas Hill) and Bridge #14 (Main Road at Brace Farm).

Crew Opening The Board discussed Road crew member Les Tracy's retirement on May 3. Alger will review the job description before posting the job.

Board Reorganization The Selectboard Meeting March 18 began with Town Clerk Heidi Racht swearing in new Board member Larry Haskins Jr., who read the Oath of Office. Livak nominated himself for Chair, yet Barton was also nominated and prevailed. Mead was unanimously voted in for Vice Chair. Elliott was unanimously voted in as Selectboard Clerk/Recorder.

Annual Alcohol License Renewal Acting as the Liquor Control Board, the Board approved renewal of alchohol licenses for Beaudry's Store and Huntington River Vineyard, as presented by the Town Clerk.

Fire Department Report Fire Chief Tate Jeffrey made his annual visit to update the Selectboard on emergency services. Jeffrey explained the response process, starting through the Shelburne Communications Center, often referred to as "Shelburne Dispatch," a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). If there is no acknowledgement by a member of the Huntington Fire Department of a call within 90 seconds, then a call is made to the next closest agency. A structure fire during the day warrants an automatic call for mutual aid, Jeffrey stated. He reported that most calls last year were non-fire related.

Jeffrey said the part-time employee is taking on a lot of tasks the department never had time to do, and is also available during the day to respond to calls. He spoke about new technology being used by the department, along with challenges using the technology because of Huntington's limited cell service. Community events the Fire Department helps with were mentioned. "PR events," Jeffrey called them. Jeffrey said 24 members were currently on the Fire Department roster, yet he is "still uneasy about daytime calls." The Highway Department is trained to drive fire trucks to a scene and can work hoses from outside a structure. Jeffrey said a new air bottle filling station is coming in July, a vast improvement over the old, potentially dangerous filling station presently being used.

Site Visits to Three Roads Trapp (Town Highway #26), Stagecoach (THW#15) and THW#9, were planned. The Town Attorney suggested three separate meetings for discussion of plans for these three roads and their classifications.

Many appointments and reappoints were made after Town Meeting, including positions on the Development Review Board (DRB), Conservation Commission, HERO, Recreation Committee, Town Hall Committee

Also, Emergency Management Coordinator, Health Officer, Town Service Officer, Tree Warden, Americans with Disabilities Coordinator and other statutory offices.

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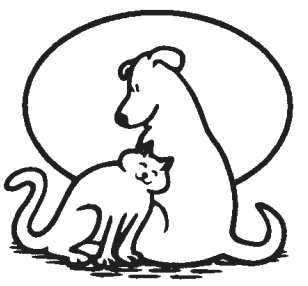

Drs. Virginia Clarke,
Daniel Hament & Cori Weiner

Life in a Jar:
The Irena Sendler Project
When: Thursday April 18
Where: Richmond Public Library
When: 1:30pm

Dr. Jack Mayer tells the story of Irena Sendler, a holocaust hero who rescued 2,500 children from the Warsaw Ghetto. Sendler's story remained unknown after the war -- until three Kansas teens uncovered a reference to her heroism 60 years later.

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Easter Services

Richmond Congregational Church
HOLY WEEK
Palm Sunday, April 14. 10 am
Worship with Brunch following
Maundy Thursday, April 18, at 7 pm
at Williston Federated Church
Good Friday Ecumenical Service, April 19, 7 pm worship
at Richmond Congregational Church
Easter Sunrise Service at Volunteers Green
April 21 at 7 am
Followed by a light breakfast served at RCC
Worship Service 10 am at RCC

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary
HOLY WEEK
Holy Thursday Service, April 18, at 7 pm
at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston
Good Friday Service, April 19, at 3 pm
at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Richmond
Easter Vigil Mass, Saturday, April 20, 7:30 pm
at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston
Easter Sunday Masses
8:30 (Richmond) & 10:30 (Williston)

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MMMUSD Board

Reported by Diane Wester-

Meeting March 18, 2019

Background: The State of Vermont is trying to force the Huntington School District (Brewster-Pierce) to merge with the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District in accordance with Act 46. Huntington has voted four times against the merger. Huntington is suing the State to avoid this merger, and, coincidently, was forced to sue MMMUSD as well. (See Huntington Annual School Meeting discussion page 10.) MMMUSD has engaged legal counsel to protect itself from any liability associated with thwarting the wishes of the State. One step would be to reorganize itself with the state from "Modified Union" to School District, which would require a vote from the members of the public.

In an attempt to smooth the waters, Huntington passed a non-binding motion at the Huntington School District Town Meeting on March 5, 2019 which reads: "In order to demonstrate a desire to maintain good relations with the MMMUSD Board, we call upon the Huntington School Board, if the MMUSD Board agrees not to warn the commingled vote on the merger until after the conclusion in the court proceedings in the multi-district lawsuit, to drop the MMMUSD Board from the suit, unless advised otherwise by Legal counsel."

Several Board members commented they wanted to "see it in writing" from the Huntington School Board. Chair Andrew Pond (B) commented it was the "First time it's been discussed in open session." Edye Graning (J) commented it was a "Positive gesture in good faith." Chuck Lacy (J) commented that Huntington was saying "Agree with us and we won't sue you."

Pond said the attorney would be consulted. The attorney will be present at the April 15 board meeting.

In the meantime – the Vermont House has passed one deadline to comply with Act 46, the Senate another. The VSBA (Vermont School Board Association) is expending all of its time dealing with the acrimony surrounding implementation of Act 46 throughout the state, as 33 districts are suing the state. VSBA representative Diane Kirson Glitman (J) noted "our district looks good compared to the others."

Jeremy Rector was appointed the 2019/2020 Richmond Elementary School Principal. (See article on page 9.)

MMM Budget Approved The school budget of $39,196,230 was approved 1913 yes to 738 no.

Superintendent John Alberghini reported the North End transition (UID school closure and transition to other CESU uses) continues, with the first choice request for school choice by families within the district being met. Cost estimates for renovation of the UID are expected in May. Phase I will be to make sure the classrooms are ready for the children this fall. Phase II will enable the Central Office to move into the building by January, 2020. Phase III, renovating existing space to meet the laws governing child care from birth to 3 years, is hoped to be ready by fall of 2020. Grant money is being pursued to help with this renovation, and it is hoped private funds from potential tenants will be available also. Lacy commented this facility could be a model for small elementary schools that are closing around the state. He also noted it will be a great draw to bring young families to the area.

Alberghini thanked Jon St.Armour of Browns River Little League for leading the project to upgrade the dugouts at UCS. The new ones will be similar to those of JES. "It is a significant upgrade to the UCS playing fields and the outdoors facilities." wrote Alberghini In his March, 2019 monthly report.

The Spanish Immersion Program continues to be a success, with 18 students drawn by lottery from a pool of 33. Alberghini expressed the hope this program can be expanded to the "south end" in the future.

MMUHS student Alexander Barnes, Eli Kline, Colby McLaughlin and Ethan Osgood were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society.

Housekeeping Andrew Pond was re-elected Board Chair and Diane Kirson Glitman was re-elected Clerk. Edye Graning replaced Kevin Campbell as Vice-Chair. The Board welcomed new members Tom Cheney and Chuck Lacy. (J) Pond described the functions and time commitments of each of the committees and most committees were filled. Lists will be published soon on the website. Campbell remains Chair of the Finance committee, Graning as Chair of Community Engagement, and Pond as Chair of Negotiations. Pond was also appointed the voting delegate to the state wide health insurance initiative.

Some items on the agenda were tabled, as revisions/corrections are needed: the CESU Bylaws; the Board Meeting and Work Calendar; Policy Governance Work Plan; and the Superintendent Evaluation Process.

In the future, the Board may have to address people parking at Smilie School to walk to the Bolton Potholes, as the Vermont River Conservancy has purchased some adjoining land and is planning some improvements to access (more visitor traffic). The grounds surrounding Smile have experienced some incidents of littering and vandalism to the vegetable garden.

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New Principal Appointed for Richmond Elementary School

The Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District recently appointed of Jeremy Rector as the Principal of Richmond Elementary School.

Rector completed both his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees at Northern Vermont University-Johnson (formerly Johnson State College). He began his teaching career as a high school science teacher and was nominated as a teacher of the year in 2009. Rector moved into administration in 2017 and he is currently the Assistant Principal at the Danville School in Danville, Vermont.

In the announcement sent out by Richmond Elementary School, Rector was decribed as "a collaborative educational leader who recognizes and appreciates the strengths of others, and who seeks out growth opportunities for all. He strongly believes in equity and inclusion; in promoting a safe, accepting, and inspiring learning environment; and in making relationships a priority so that all members of the learning community feel respected, valued, and empowered."

Rector said he is "excited and honored to inspire kindness, resiliency, curiosity, and self-awareness" in his role as the Principal of Richmond Elementary School.

Pi at CHMS

March 14, 2009 marked the modern celebration of Pi, when Congress supported the designation of Pi Day, although the earliest known Pi Day celebration was in 1988 in San Francisco. March 14, 2015 (3/14/15) was a Pi Day that only comes once a century.

Pi is the 16th letter of the Greek alphabet and the symbol for the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. Pi is an irrational number and cannot be expressed as a common fraction (equivalently, its decimal representation never ends and never settles into a permanently repeating pattern). The number has been figured to approximately one million decimal places.

It is traditionally written 3.14159 or shortened to a symbol: π.

In these photos, Camels Hump Middle School students enjoy a sample of Pi.

GeoBee Finalist

continued from page 1

place will receive at $10,000 college scholarship and $1,000 in cash; third place will receive a $5,000 college scholarship and $1,000 in cash; and seven runners-up will receive $1,000 in cash each. Visit www.natgeobee.org for more information on the National Geographic GeoBee.

Follow the National competition at National Geographic Headquarters in Washington, D.C., on May 19-22 at natgeoed.org/experiences.

How would you fare as a National Geographic GeoBee contestant? At the school GeoBees this year, students had to answer questions like these:

At more than 100 miles in length, Long Island is the longest barrier island in which state—Kentucky or New York? New York

Which state is closer to the Gulf of Mexico—Virginia or Arkansas? Arkansas

It takes about 90 days for a drop of water to travel the length of the Mississippi River. The Mississippi River starts in Minnesota and flows 2,340 miles south to its outlet in which state—Louisiana or South Carolina? Louisiana

The Magdalena River, the principal river of Colombia, flows through the city of Barranquilla near the Caribbean Sea on which continent? South America

Which animal famous for its tusk spends most of the winter months under the sea ice in Baffin Bay between Canada and Greenland—emperor penguin or narwhal? narwhal

Which country does not include part of the Kalahari Desert—Namibia, Botswana, or Eritrea? Eritrea

Commercial flower bulb production is an important economic activity in what country just north of Belgium? Netherlands

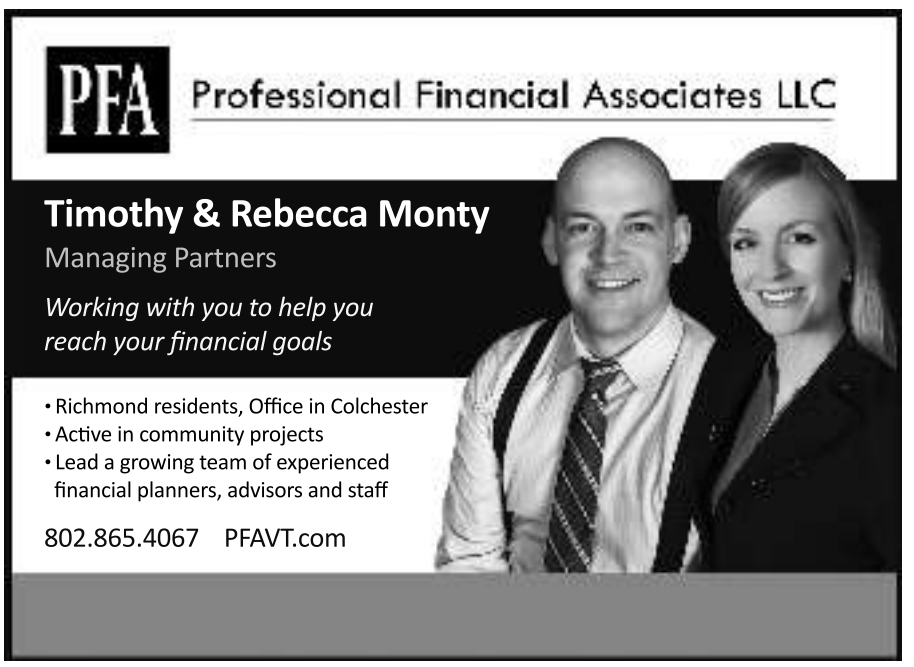
Located near the Green Mountains, Montpelier is the capital of which state? Vermont

Constructed during the reign of Ivan the Terrible, St. Basil's Cathedral is located in Moscow in which country? Russia

The Alboran Sea and the Ionian Sea are both part of which larger sea? Mediterranean Sea

The GeoBee was developed by the National Geographic Society in 1988 to promote geographic knowledge among young people in the United States, the National Geographic GeoBee is an academic competition for public schools, private schools, and homeschools in the United States and its territories, as well as the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS). Students in grades 4-8 from nearly 10,000 schools participate annually for a chance to win college scholarships and the glory of being the National Geographic GeoBee Champion. Over more than three decades, 120 million students have learned about the world through participation in the GeoBee.

About the National Geographic Society The National Geographic Society is an impact-driven global nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C. Since 1888, National Geographic has been pushing the boundaries of exploration, investing in bold people and transformative ideas to increase understanding of our world and generate solutions for a healthy, more sustainable future for generations to come. Our ultimate vision: a planet in balance. To learn more about the Society and its programs, visit www.nationalgeographic.org.



pointed about that the "end game" is arguable. In the Cambridge-Lamoille North vote, the status quo has been maintained.

Shayne Jaquith offered an amendment, which was then amended slightly later in the meeting.

Breck Knauft said that he was not supportive of the amendment and there needs to be accepting of the fact that the other side wins. "Do we want to retreat and do it alone or do we want to be partners with the best darn school district in the state?" He offered to take Huntington's position to the next MMM meeting.

After noon, the meeting recessed for lunch until 1:15 pm.

Back to discussion of Article 4. Dori Barton asked about MMM's recent resolutions to grant Huntington "freedom" from the CESU at a recent meeting, indicating that this was an escalation of divisiveness because Huntington had never requested this. Susen: "There is no legal response on our part." Board member Jordan Davies added the Huntington Board had recently voted on nine resolutions and one was to remain part of CESU.

In order to demonstrate a desire to maintain good relations with the MMMUSD Board, we call upon the Huntington School Board, if the MMM Board agrees not to warn the commingled vote on the merger until after the conclusion in the court proceedings in the multi-district lawsuit, to drop the MMM Board from the suit, unless advised otherwise by legal counsel.

The amendment to the amendment passed on a voice vote. And then the amendment passed on a voice vote.

Ethan Maurer, MMM Board member, talked about a third possible outcome. Gail Conley, MMM Board member, said he abstained from the recent MMM vote and that "kicking out [of CESU] is not authorized." The status quo would be maintained. Kristin Bair-Cummings pointed out that the Huntington kids "merge with other schools." Huntington teachers are not guaranteed retention by the school district now.

Jim Couture said "the divisiveness is coming from MMM. We should feel good about protecting the Constitution."

Resolution of nonbinding, amended motion: Passed on Hand Count, 71-9.

Stacey Symanowicz was recognized for her years on the Board; she is not seeking re-election.

The meeting adjourned at 2:22 pm.

*—Submiited by Heidi Rach*t

Huntington Annual Town Meeting

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

The Huntington Town Meeting 2019 began on March 5 at 2:35 pm, after the conclusion of the School Board Meeting. The Olga Hallock Community Service Award was presented before lunch. Ted Sergeant accepted the award on behalf of his late wife Joan Sergeant, who passed away on October 11, 2018 at the age of 83.

Ted Sargeant accepts the Olga Hallock Award which was given to his late wife Joan Sargeant. His response to the award brought many attendees to tears.

All nine articles passed, many not as warned, but in amended form.

Article 1, which states all Town Officers will be elected by Australian ballot, as required by law, had no floor vote.

Article 2, (To hear the Reports of Town Officers and Committees), passed after Town Clerk Heidi Racht said typographical errors in the newsprint copies of the Town Report were corrected in the book version and Selectboard member Andrew Hendrickson pointed out changes in the presentation of the buildings and grounds budget. Aaron Worthley commented he "enjoys the annual report narratives, I know every year we try to reduce costs, but appreciate the efforts of the Clerk and Auditors."

Article 3, which authorized the Town Treasurer to collect current town and school district taxes carried without comment from the floor.

Article 4, asking the voters to authorize payment of real property taxes in four installments on specific dates, was introduced by Selectboard member Landel Cochran, who clarified the legal requirement to present dates at Town Meeting or else taxes are due in one lump sum 30 days after issuance of tax bills. There were no comments from the floor.

Article 5 asked voters to allow a Selectboard expenditure of up to $80,000 from the Highway Reserve Fund for a tractor/ mower, replacing the current 1975 tractor/mower. Selectboard member Nancy Mead introduced the article and amended the warned article. Mead provided background for the change in the Board's request, telling voters the Road Foreman had recently found a different mower which is slightly more expensive, and had decided to sell the old mower rather than trade it in. The amended article asked voters, "Shall the Selectboard spend up to 85,000 from the Highway Reserve Fund, replacing the current 1975 tractor /mower?"

Don Sheldon, asked for more clarity of the process, "What is the issue with the current piece of equipment?" Mead told voters that repair costs keep going up, and the Board had designated replacement of this tractor/mower in the 2012 Capital Plan. Duncan Keir commented, "This [replacement] tractor is a used tractor, good for the Town but it is a used tractor. I was wondering if there is room for negotiation." Road Foreman Yogi Alger responded, "I tried to already, [this tractor] has 800 hours on it, is well maintained. A John Deere sells new for $135,000, this tractor should last at least 20 years. " The amendment passed.

Jim Couture asked, "Would money from the sale of the tractor go back to the Reserve Fund?" Board Chair Dori Barton responded, "Whatever we get will offset what we pay."

Sheri Lynn asked, "Will the new mower help keep up with mowing of wild parsnip, as is a goal of the Conservation Commission?" Alger commented, "The tractor broke down last year and we did get a little behind." The motion to authorize the purchase of a newer tractor passed.

Town Meeting lunch, a highlight of the day, in Huntington.

Article 6, addressing paving, was also introduced by Mead who proposed an amendment to the warned article. The warned article asked to authorize the expenditure of $140,00 from the General Fund Fund Balance and $175,000 from the Paving Reserve Fund for paving on East Street and the Main Road from the Richmond Town line to 1000 Main Road. "Winter has been very hard on the roads, " said Mead ,"and paving priorities have shifted. After the last frost, we will determine paving priorities after analysis." Mead proposed amending Article 6 to say, "Shall the voters authorize a transfer of $140,000 from the General Fund Fund balance to the Paving Reserve Fund to meet critical paving needs?"

Diane Gallagher asked if this was more money than the original article. Mead stated, "No we are looking at priorities, same amount of money." The voters approved the amendment. The amended article 6 passed.

Article 7 asked citizens to approve the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 General Fund expenditure of $1,979, 282. Barton explained, "This is a one-year plan, in context with long range Capital Plans. We start this challenge in the fall to balance the needs and the wants after talking with our committees and boards. Sometimes we have to shift things around, our capital planning is never meant to be static. We look forward to hearing how we are doing. At the start of this process we were at a 17% year over year increase, now we are down to about 5.3%. Big drivers of the increase are: reserve funding for paving, aging buildings, a new item related to road fabric maintenance, we increased our budget for sand and salt, and addressed deficiencies in safety equipment for the Fire Department. We are happy to address other budget increases and decreases. The State is legislating improvements to our gravel roads for water quality. We will be developing a new capital plan related to the MRGP (Municipal Roads General Permit).

Dave Clark asked about spending for the Town Garage, "Is it security issues?" Barton answered, "Yes, fencing."

Article 8 asked voters if the Selectboard should explore options for the Old Fire Station. Cochran showed an aerial view photo showing the location of the building and a street view photo of the building. The Town commissioned a report in 2006 to consider restoration needs for the post and beam structure, Cochran explained, yet very little has been done and the building continues to deteriorate. Terry Boyle, of the Huntington Historical & Community Trust (HHCT), said the building, which dates to 1841, was designated as an historic structure in 1979. Rosie Chase, of the HHCT, said the Freewill Baptists built the structure for its congregation. "The historical significance of this building should not be overlooked," Chase added.

Sheri Lynn asked, "Does this mean you will explore selling it to someone to restore it?" Cochran confirmed this possibility.

An amendment was proposed to clarify language in the article. The original article asked if the Selectboard should "explore options for the ownership and/ or restoration and future use of the Old Fire Station, to be funded, at least in part, with taxpayer funds raised through property taxes", the amendment changed the word "ownership" to "sell".

Duncan Keir asked "Would this give the Selectboard authority to sell this without coming to voters?" Cochran responded, "We want to provide options, a list of what it needs." Barton added, "It's not our practice to sell things without discussion, this is step one." Public hearings would be held.

Jim Couture asked, "How much taxpayers funding do you need?" Cochran replied, "No cost for exploring, just staff time." Bonnie Gordon proposed an substitute amendment, which eliminated the section about using taxpayer funds. Aaron Worthley commented, "We are spending a lot of time talking about administrative language to an article that addresses something you could just do and bring findings to the public." Barton responded, "There has been discussion of uses for the building that didn't pan out. There is renewed interest in the building and we are looking for feedback on what to do with the building. Are people interested in taking on another building?"

Hendrickson elaborated, "We have to put some money into it to take care of the building." Worthley continued, "I would encourage us to not waste a lot of time nitpicking the language." The motion to accept the substitute amendment as the main article passed.

Barbara Felitti proposed, "I think a group of people who care about the building should form a committee to do this exploration." Dave Clark said,"My feedback is to just sell it." Ross Ogilvie asked. "As a historical building, would it be restored as a garage or as a worship building?" Cochran suggested. "[It's] something we would have to explore."

Duncan Keir continued, "Some people care deeply about history of place. The Town has owned it for over 150 years." Megs Keir agreed, "Most historic buildings are treasures for certain groups throughout the State. I think there are resources outside of the Town of Huntington [for restoration funds]."

Article 9 asked voters to recommend incorporating funds for paid video recording of all municipal meetings into the FY 2020-2021 General Fund Budget. Hendrickson gave an estimate of up to $4,000 a year for the videotaping, adding that the Board would need to find this money from other places in the budget. Immediately, an amendment to strike the word "municipal" and add "Selectboard" to the article was proposed. The article was further amended to include "warned hearings by Selectboard and Planning Commission and the DRB by request of DRB (Development Review Board Chair."

continue to page 12

Town Meeting

continued from page 11

Helen Keith said the original intent behind suggesting videotaping meetings was to have more access for people who cant' go to meetings, adding, "The School Board pays for filming and I feel it's been very helpful."

Aaron Worthley commented, "Filming public hearings might discourage people from attending public hearings and defeat purpose of hearings." Barton emphasized, "This would not take affect until next year, not included in current budget that passed." School Board Chair Paul Susen spoke favorably about filming School Board meetings, yet recommended limiting the filming to Selectboard meetings. Duncan Keir added, "I think it may increase public participation if people can see what goes on."

Substitute amendment was defeated. The original amendment passed, as did the amended Article 9.

Article 10 allowed the discussion or transaction of other nonbinding Town business thought proper. Everett Marshall, Huntington Planning Commission Chair, who is not seeking reelection, was recognized for 15 years of service on the HPC. Andrew Hendrickson was recognized for his Selecboard service. Hendrickson did not seek reelection after his second term.

The Town Meeting adjourned at 5:18 pm.

Friendly faces at the Richmond Town Meeting lunch line. Photo Jared Katz

Richmond Annual Town Meeting

The legal voters of the Town of Richmond met at Camels Hump Middle School at 9 am to transact business. Moderator Clinton Buxton called the meeting to order. An honor guard from Boy Scout Troop #23 presented the Flags of our Country and of the State of Vermont. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Buxton observed a moment of silence for the members of the military who serve to protect the freedoms we have today. Roberts Rules of Order were reviewed. Buxton stated the house rules and procedures.

Bard Hill, Selecboard chair, announced the dedication of the 224th annual town report to Brigadier General Michael T. Heston. His wife, June Heston accepted on behalf of she and her family.

Linda M. Parent, Town Clerk read the warning for the meeting.

Article 1. To elect school and town officers for terms posted on the ballot. (To be voted by Australian ballot)

Under Article 2, to hear and accept the reports of the Town Officers, Town Clerk Linda Parent announced a few changes to the published town report.

Article 3 saw the voters enjoy a lively discussion and then approved the proposed budget of $3,970,813, as warned.

Old friends John Cohn and Marshall Paulsen. Photo taken by another old friend, Jake Levison

Joshua Arneson, Richmond Town Manager, presented a power point of the proposed town budget. There were several questions with regard to the presentation. Several questions were asked regarding the present role of the Police Department. Paco Aumand, Director of Police Services answered these questions.

Linda Parent answered questions regarding the funding and spending of the Cemetery Funds. Jeffrey Edwards asked how many incidents the Fire Department responded to on I-89 and if the Town is reimbursed in any way. Parent answered 51 calls to I-89 (from Fire Department report) and the town does not charge for those

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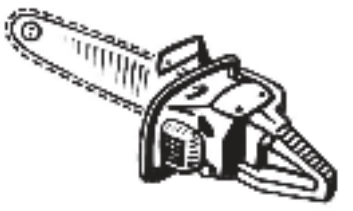

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Alicia DiCocco juggles the Richmond Town Report and The Hungry Caterpillar, *after voting on Town Meeting Day at the Camels Hump Middle School in Richmond on Tuesday, March 5, 2019.*

calls. James Belaski questioned the reasons for the changes in the health insurance premiums and the opt out option, and then thanked the Highway Department for its excellent work.

David Root inquired if the town was responsible for any added liability insurance for the Andrews Forest. Arneson: any liability insurance was included in the policy that the town now has with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

Earl Wester stated that the town needs to consider many issues before a decision might be made on the possibility of dissolution of the Police Department, which might include coverage and response time, not only the budget of the Police Department.

Terry Moultroup inquired about the proposed electric filling station: would it be free to users or will they be charged for the electricity? Arneson reported that the town is trying to obtain a grant for the project. The electric fee would be subsidized after the first year by the town.

Jeffrey Edwards asked why the annual Town Report, being such an important document for the citizens, was not mailed to every house. Parent responded that the public asked several years ago to discontinue the mass mailing in order to save money and paper. Parent added that anyone wanting a report mailed directly to them, was welcome to let her know.

Marshall Paulsen asked if there was a new reappraisal scheduled in the near future. Arneson reported that town sales figures are still reported to be high with the State and no reappraisal is planned for the near future.

Cameron Thomas asked why the Winooski River rip-rap project was scheduled and completed before the funding was available and would the trees be replaced that were removed from the riverbank.

Hill reported that the Selectboard voted unanimously to go ahead with the proposed project to deter the erosion of the river bank and the bridge abutment. Hill also stated that the Selectboard would look into replacement of trees in that area of the park.

After approval of the budget, the meeting was then adjourned for lunch.

Under Article 4, other Town business was discussed. More praise for the Highway Department. A straw poll was taken of those present to determine if a change in the opening time of the annual meeting to 10 am would be acceptable. The decision was to remain at the 9 am opening. There was also discussion on parking in the downtown district, morning traffic problems and the Route 2 / East Main resurfacing project. by those present by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm.

Approximately 156 voters attended this annual meeting.

—Written by Heidi Racht from minutes provided by Richmond Town Clerk Linda Parent

Paco Aumand, serving as interim chief of police in Richmond, responds to a Town Meeting Day question about emergency services responding to incidents on the interstate. He responded that yes, our response is without reimbursement, and that the Vermont State Police have provided significant coverage to the town of Richmond during the months the town was short staffed. Photos, this page: Jared Katz

Treasure Hunt in Richmond

Peter and I went away on vacation to get away from the cold. We headed for warmer weather and the ocean. We found both! We wanted to bring you back some sunshine. Unfortunately, we are not having much luck! So, we are bringing back something from the sea shore for you. SEA SHELLS! We have hidden SEA SHELLS all over our wonderful community of Richmond. If you find one there is a gift from MANN& MACHINE. Happy treasure hunting!

—Heidi & Peter Bormann

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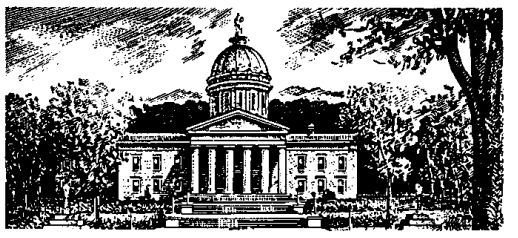

State House News

Rep. Marcia L. Gardner

Friday, March 15, was this year's Crossover Day. That is the crossover deadline for legislative bills, other than those sponsored by an entire committee, and the point in the session after which each house only considers legislation sent to it by the other house. So, if a bill is to pass this year, it had to be voted out of the committee of jurisdiction by this date, otherwise it must wait until the next year of the session. It is an incredibly hectic time, with numerous bills being reviewed by each committee, and many of them coming to the House floor for a vote.

The committee on which I serve, the House Committee on Government Operations (HGO), voted out a number of bills to be considered by the entire House. One bill is an act relating to Town Clerk recording fees, and town restoration and preservation reserve funds. This bill was crafted at the request of the Vermont Municipal Clerks' and Treasurers' Association. It would allow the clerks to increase their recording fees (for the first time in nearly a decade), and require towns that do not already have restoration and preservation reserve funds, to establish them. These funds are for the restoration, preservation, digitization, and conservation of municipal records.

HGO also worked on a bill which makes miscellaneous changes to the State's retirement systems. Most of the changes were to clean up legislative language. This bill does, however, create a Law Enforcement Retirement Benefit Study Committee to evaluate the requirements for, and make recommendations on, membership in Group C of the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System. Group C includes State law enforcement officers, such as the State Police and others who are, for the most part, required to retire at age 55. As this is more expensive to operate than retirement funds for other state employees and teachers, the study group will determine if all those jobs currently eligible for Group C, indeed qualify for it, and if there are other jobs within state government which should qualify.

HGO unanimously supported a bill directing the Office of Professional Regulation to create a uniform process to assess a license applicant's professional credentials earned outside the United States, and how those credentials compare to the requirements for licensure in professions attached to their office (such as nursing, accounting and cosmetology.) The bill, if passed into law, would allow those trained outside this country to practice their profession in the U.S., if their credentials are comparable to those educated and trained here. Currently, someone trained outside the country is often required to go back to school in the U.S. in order to gain licensure, even if they are already fully qualified to practice.

From this point on, it is a sprint to the finish line for bills. They will need to be voted on by the full chamber. Then, they need to be considered by the other chamber of the legislature and brought to their full membership for a vote. If that chamber makes amendments, and the originating chamber does not agree, then a committee of conference is assigned to try to work out a compromise between the House and Senate versions. If the committee comes to an agreement, the bill goes to the Governor. If the committee cannot agree, the bill dies. Once a bill is received by the Governor, she or he may sign it (sometimes with a ceremony), veto it, or allow it to pass into law without a signature. It is a detailed process that must happen in a relatively short time. Because of the limited schedule, committees must decide early in the session which bills they feel are essential to pass this year, vet them thoroughly, and hope that they make it through the process to become law.

Rep. Theresa Wood

Childcare is an investment in families, businesses, the economy and most importantly in our youngest citizens. Yet for so many families access to high quality, affordable child care and early learning is out of reach. For many families, the cost of child care meets or exceeds the cost of their monthly mortgage payment, often exceeding 40% of the family's income.

Ensuring parents can access high quality, affordable child care in our communities is critical to giving all of Vermont's children a fair chance at a bright future. Vermont maintains a mixed delivery system made up of 1,246 public and private regulated center-based programs, family child care homes, and afterschool programs serving 32,432 Vermont infants, toddlers, preschool, and school-age children. Statistics from the last three years show available child care slots have decreased. This dip has resulted in efforts by the Department for Children and Families and private philanthropy coupled with the work of advocates and the legislature to create new capacity, particularly for infants and toddlers. Although it should be noted that the quality of programs is on the rise with more providers participating in the STARS program, the State's quality recognition program.

Childcare providers are also experiencing difficulty finding and retaining qualified workers due to Vermont's record unemployment rate and the low rate of pay for workers in this field. The median hourly wage for child care workers is $12.17/hour. Some families are making the choice not to return to the workplace due to the high cost of child care or lack of available care altogether. This puts a strain on employers all over the State. Investment in child care is not only good for children and families, it's good for the Vermont economy.

The House Human Services Committee has worked over the past month to pass a bill out of committee that puts in place the framework to increase the affordability of high quality child care; improve the opportunities for a successful career in the field with less debt; and improve the payment rates to child care providers, which in some cases are more than 10 years old. It also provides the groundwork to completely redesign the Child Care Financial Assistance Program to bring it into compliance with federal regulations and simplify access for families and child care providers, as well as reinstating critical services for children with intensive needs. The proposed bill provides an $8.5 million investment as part of a multi-year strategy to improve access and affordability for working families.

Additionally, through the Permanent Fund for Vermont's Children and Let's Grow Kids private investment of approximately $900,000 in 2018-2019 will result in the expansion of critical capacity, adding 460 new slots and improving the quality of 563 additional slots by this time next year. This is a statewide initiative financed completely through private philanthropy.

Reps. Theresa Wood, Tom Stevens, Marcia Lawrence Gardner

This issue is nonpartisan – bringing together all political parties and the Governor's office to work on a solution. The Governor included child care as one of his budget priorities. The Legislature also has had child care on its priority list – working to create a Vermont that works for all of us.

Rep. Tom Stevens

It was a treat to visit with you on Town Meeting Day — I was impressed with the quality of the discussion of the ongoing difficulty with the requirements of Act 46. To see over 200 people peacefully talking about the ins and outs of this issue before, and then after, lunch, reflects your dedication to your school.

As it always happens, the week after Town Meeting Break lead right into "crossover," the day we have to pass bills out of our committee in order to have it considered by the Senate this session. Our committee focussed on passing several bills, and all of them passed unanimously. Given the perception that members of the several political parties don't get along enough to pass anything unanimously, it was a treat to work on issues that brought our similarities together to create some legislation that, should it become law, will make a difference for Vermonters who need it.

H.394 will allow funeral homes the ability to release custody of the remains of an eligible veteran who has yet to be interred to the Vermont Veteran's Cemetery in Randolph. We were unable to ascertain exactly how many veterans are being stored in funeral homes when families haven't claimed them, or if they had no family to claim them. This legislation will give funeral home directors direction and permission to move the remains to the cemetary so the veteran's remains can find a final resting spot. The Vermont Veteran's Cemetery was recently enlarged, so there is room for them, and the VA provides any markers needed. This is the kind of bill that addresses a very specific but elemental niche in our lives — no one wants a veteran (or anyone, really) to be left behind. It happens, infrequently, and in this case, it was worth our time for consideration.

H.132 will provide protections for individuals suffering sexual assault or domestic violence with regards to housing. In other words, landlords won't be able to discriminate against victims of domestic violence or sexual assault, and they will work together with these survivors to make sure their home is secure and safe, to the best of their abilities. There are protections for landlords so that they are not expected to shoulder the whole financial burden of having their rental property occupied and with rent flowing in. The work on this bill was an instance of tenants and landlords working together to make sure neither suffered because of the perpetrator of the violence.

H.13 will be our annual bill for matters relating to alcohol or enforcement from the Department of Liquor and Lottery. This bill increases penalties for selling cigarettes to minors, changes the rules and fixes conflicts in our law for holders of liquor licenses who need to travel to their home country to reinstitute a work visa. It will hold several other changes after it visits the Senate, and as of now, they are minor.

Our final bill proposes to change elements of the way Vermont selects its Adjutant General for the Vermont National Guard. We have retained the unique notion that the representatives and senators that make up the General Assembly vote for the candidates who have chosen to run for the position, but have added what we hope will be robust changes to the vetting and nomination of the candidates. We have proposed to change the year of election so that when we do vote for an Adjutant General, the newest legislators will have had a year of experience, and will be able to join the rest of the legislators in understanding the process in front of them. We also propose that the candidates for the Adjutant General achieve a level of experience and qualities that will provide them with the best tools to lead this important organization.

As of this writing, the bills still have to pass through the House, and will then head to the Senate. This week represents a halfway point in the session. With policy bills having achieved crossover, we will now wait for the budget, tax, capital and transportation bills next week.

As always, please stay in touch.

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Area Residents Honored

Jake M. Eriksson of Richmond has been selected for membership in the St. Lawrence University (Canton, New York) chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon, the national mathematics honorary society.

Eriksson is a member of the Class of 2020 and is majoring in statistics and economics. Eriksson attended Mount Mansfield Union High School.

Membership eligibility for Pi Mu Epsilon varies by class year, but all students must have taken a qualifying number of mathematics courses and have achieved minimum grade-point averages in those courses, as well as overall, depending upon one's seniority.

Dean's List, Fall 2018

Melissa Floersch, Richmond, Vermont Technical College, Floersch is in the Practical Nursing (CT). Dean's List honorees must achieve a minimum 3.5 GPA for the semester.

Jacob Wechsler, Jericho, Roger Williams University, in Bristol, Rhode Island. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher.

Rice Memorial High School Honor Roll

Quarter 2 Second Honors: Emma Petralia, Richmond

Into the Woods

The Deer Dilemma

Submitted by Ethan Tapper

In walking the woods of Chittenden County, landscape-level trends become increasingly apparent. One surprise has been evidence of an over-abundance of white-tailed deer on the landscape, and the negative influence of deer on young trees ("regeneration") in the forest. In winter, a deer eats, or "browses," 6-8% of its body weight, about 10 -15 pounds of buds and twigs, per day. The damage from this browsing can easily kill young seedlings and saplings or lend them the appearance of stunted "bonsai" trees. Where the deer population is dense, browsing can have a huge impact on the composition of regeneration in the forest --- they prefer to eat certain species like oak, sugar maple, ash, and yellow birch, and are much less likely to browse beech, black birch and invasive exotic plants (among others). This discourages the growth of a diversity of native species (always our goal) and promotes a less diverse forest. Ironically, by ignoring the species they don't like to eat deer also encourage these species, providing lower-quality browse for future generations of deer and lowering populations of mast-producing species that deer rely on like oak.

Deer were not always prominent here. In pre-settlement Vermont deer were uncommon, small herds restricted mostly to the Connecticut River and Champlain Valleys. Along with Caribou, elk, turkey, beaver, moose, bear, otters, fishers, marten, Canada geese and others, they were extirpated from Vermont in the 1800s due to over-hunting and habitat loss. Catamounts and wolves, subject to a 1787 bounty in Vermont, were eliminated from the state during that time as well.

Following the re-introduction of 17 deer near Rutland in 1878, Vermont's deer population recovered and exploded in the 1940s-1960s. The recovery of Vermont's forested habitat after the sheep craze of the 1800s was one reason for this, as was a lack of predation. Coyotes, not known to exist in Vermont before the 1940s, moved into the state, but can't fully fill the niche vacated by our extirpated top predators. Since the 1960s, deer populations have decreased, but are still high in many areas. Hunting helps, but less and less Vermonters hunt, and deer are well-adapted to our increasingly developed landscape. They are a "generalist," able to thrive in a wide array of habitat conditions, relatively unfazed by forest fragmentation and development.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's 2018 Antlerless Recommendation states that deer are above carrying capacity state-wide, too many deer for the amount of habitat we have. This is not just a problem for our forests: when deer are overpopulated they become less healthy. In the 1960s, when deer populations were very high, the size, condition, health, and reproductive rates of Vermont's deer plummeted.

Because of the way that deer breed (one buck can mate with several does), hunting only, or mostly, male deer usually doesn't lead to a meaningful reduction in deer populations. The best way to lower populations is to hunt does ("antlerless" deer). For a variety of reasons, but largely due to tradition (dating back to the first managed deer hunting season in Vermont in 1897) Vermont is the only state in the country that does not allow the hunting of antlerless deer with a rifle.

So what can we do? Advocating for more hunting of antlerless deer is a start. However, there are some other steps you can take to mitigate this problem on your own woodlot. Firstly, allow hunting on your land. While we can't bring back our top predators, we can try to keep populations at a healthy level. If you can't stomach having your land totally open to hunting, consider giving permission one or two trusted friends or neighbors. Consider offering up the opportunity to hunt on your land by visiting Vermont Fish and Wildlife's Landowner-Hunter Connection website (https://anrweb.vt.gov/FWD/FW/LandOwnerRegistration.aspx).

Secondly, thoughtful forest management can "overwhelm" the deer --- creating an abundance of regeneration that exceeds your deer herd's ability to browse. Careful harvesting can also create a more diverse forest, which will be healthier and more resilient in the long term, and provide better wildlife habitat for more species. Contact myself or a licensed consulting forester or visit VTCutWithConfidence.com for more details on timber harvesting.

Finally, when you do engage in active forest management, leave the tops of trees and brush "un-lopped." While leaving brush "high" may seem messy, this provides a structural barrier, making it harder for deer to browse your regeneration.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester. He can be reached at ethan.tapper@vermont.gov, (802)-585-9099, or at his office at 111 West Street, Essex Junction.

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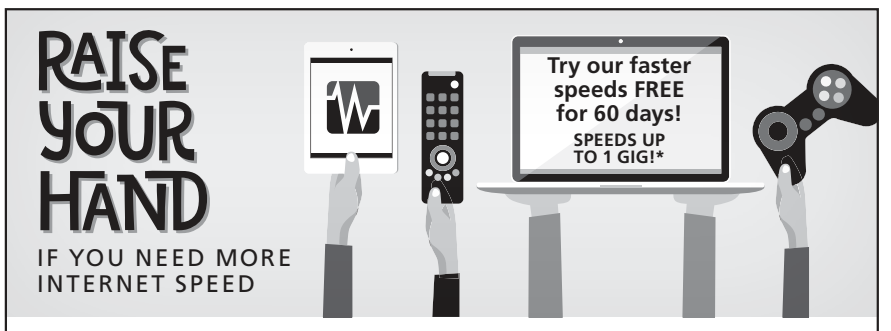

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News from Area Churches

Richmond Congregational Church

Rev. Katelyn Macrae, 434-2053

"Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly now. Love mercy now. Walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it."

– The Talmud

This quote comes from the Talmud, a primary source of Jewish religious law and theology. In it we hear the Prophet Micah's words echoed – "What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God," Micah 6:8. I find these words resonating with my heart, in light of the most recent news about an attack on two mosques in Christchurch, New Z.ealand My heart breaks for the victims who lost their lives while praying, and for the families who mourn their deaths. People should not have to practice their religion in fear. Our call as global citizens, whatever our flavor of faith, is to work for a world filled with goodness, peace, and mercy and work against the spread of dangerous ideologies like white supremacy and religious extremism. We might not be able to change the whole system, but we can do something. We can learn about the diversity of our neighbors, even here in idyllic Richmond, Vermont. We can stand up against intolerance and hatred. We can show that another way is possible. This is how, step by step, the world becomes a better place!

Upcoming Events

Holy Week Services

- Palm Sunday, April 14, Worship Service 10 am, with brunch following at RCC
- Maundy Thursday, April 18, Ecumenical Worship Service 7 pm at Williston Federated Church
- Good Friday, April 19, Ecumenical Worship Service 7 pm at RCC
- Easter Sunday, April 21, Sunrise Service 7 am at Volunteer's Green; Easter Breakfast 8 am at RCC; Worship Service 10 am at RCC

Spring Rummage Sale at Richmond Congregational Church. Friday May 3, 9 am-7 pm, and Saturday, May 4, 9 am-1 pm

We gladly accept clean and resale-able clothing and household items. Spring and Summer clothing preferred. We accept children's books only. Please no large furniture, electronics, TVs, or ski equipment.

Donations may be dropped off Monday April 29, and Wednesday, May 1, 1 pm to 7 pm, and Thursday, May 2, 9 am to noon. We look forward to seeing you at the sale.

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Your donation of the cost of the free subscription you receive will help offset costs of producing our community newspaper and help keep us financially strong as we look to increase the number of pages.

The Times Ink is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

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Calendar of Events

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS: Tech Help with Clif - Offering one on one technology help, noon & 1pm, Brownell Library, Essex Junction. Reservation required. call 878-6955 at least 24 hours in advance.

FIRST & THIRD TUESDAY: Free car seat inspections, Richmond Rescue, 216 Railroad St., 9 am to noon. Call Mike Chiarella: 434-2394.

TUESDAYS: Men's yoga basics. Lengthen, strengthen and breathe. No experience necessary, 7:15 pm. www. balanceyogavt.com

FRIDAYS: Volleyball during school year, CHMS, 7 pm to 9 pm. looking for new players, $10 per year. Just show up. Richmond McCauley, 434-3798.

3RD THURSDAY: Shelburne Vineyard Unfiltered Wine and Poetry Series, begins at 6 pm. Opportunity for poets and poetry lovers to gather to read and listen. All poets, genres and topics welcome. Wine available in the Tasting Room. Free, no reservations necessary. Information: shelburnevineyard.com or Shelburne Vineyard on Facebook, 985-8222.

1ST THURSDAY: Essex Art League meeting, 9 to 11, Essex Junction Congregational Church, Rt. 15. Business and social time, and features a guest artist presentation. Calendar: www.essexartleague.com

FIRST FRIDAY: Free yoga class. 7 pm to 8pm www.balanceyogavt.com

SUNDAYS: KarmaYoga class time has changed. 10:30 am to 11:30 am, Balance Yoga. $5 plus a non-perishable, non-expired item or two for Richmond Food Shelf (or $10 without food item). www.balanceyoga.com

SATURDAYS: Story Time, Phoenix Books, Burlington, 11 am, 191 Bank Street, downtown Burlington. Free. Information: www.phoenixbooks.biz or 448-3350

2ND TUESDAY: Champlain Valley Prostate Cancer Support Group, 6 pm to 8 pm, Hope Lodge, 237 East Ave, Burlington. Mary L. Guyette RN, MS, ACNS-BC, 802-274-4990

APRIL 6: Central Vermont Trout Unlimited (CVTU) 48th Annual Conservation Banquet. Sunset Ballroom, 1712 Shelburne Road, South Burlington, 6 pm. Conservation fundraising banquet open to the public, and all proceeds go to conserving and protecting Vermont cold water fisheries. Tickets: $45 each, or two for $80. Humorist and best-selling Vermont author Megan Price is keynote speaker. Price's Vermont Wild, Adventures of Fish and Game Wardens six-book series was recently optioned by Hollywood for television. The wardens' encounters with anglers, angry moose, hungry bears and endless clever poachers have proven to be a hit with readers, since its introduction nearly a decade ago. Tickets and information: https://vttu.org or call Janie McKenzie (802-233-0426).

APRIL 6 &7: Made in Vermont Marketplace, Champlain Valley Expo, Essex Jct. All Vermont Made Products. Exhibitors from throughout Vermont, Including: spirits, crafts, furniture, specialty foods and much more. Vermont Specialty Food Market, Spirits Pavilion, Hourly Raffles. $6 Adults; $5 Seniors; Children Under 12 free. Saturday, 9 am - 6 pm; Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm. Free parking.

APRIL 7: Cochran's Ski Area Annual Nordic Cross. A fun, festive and competitive Nordic cross. Kids race, 11 am; adults race 12:30 pm. Register: CochranSkiArea.com Information: PEnnie Rand, (mrand@gmavt.net or 373-7204.

APRIL 18: Dr. Jack Mayer Presents Life in a Jar: The Irene Sendler Project, Richmond Free Library Community Room, starting at 1:30 pm. Admission is free, and open to the public.

APRIL 17: Brain Health: What's The Heart Got to do With it? Presentation by Michael LaMantia, MD, followed by a Q&A, 6 pm to 7:30 pm, Dealer.com, 1 Howard Street, Burlington. Howard Center Community Education Series.

MAY 1 - OCTOBER 31: Pollinate This!, art inspiring seeds of conservation, Birds of Vermont Museum, Huntington. Artworks that explore, examine, and express pollination, Information: Kir Talmage or Allison Gergely: 434-2167 or museum@birdsofvermont.org.

MAY 9: God Knows Why I'm Here, a documentary film on mental health followed by a panel discussion moderated by Sandra Steingard, MD, 6 pm to 9 pm, Main Street Landing Film House, 60 Lake Street, Burlington. Howard Center Community Education Series.

Regular Meetings

SELECTBOARD:
Huntington: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7 pm, Town Office (downstairs).
Richmond: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 6:30 pm, Town Center

SCHOOL BOARD:
Huntington: 2nd Tues, 6:30 pm, Brewster-Pierce School.

MMMUSD: 1st & 3rd Monday of the Month, 6:30 pm, Meetings will rotate amoung the MMMUSD schools. Check the website for specifics: www.cesu.k12.vt.us.

PLANNING COMMISSION
Huntington: 2nd & 4th Mon., 7 pm, Town Clerk's Office.
Richmond: 1st & 3rd Wed, 7 pm, Town Center

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD
Huntington: 2nd Tues., 7 pm, Town Office
Richmond: 2nd & 4th Wed., 7 pm, Town Center.

WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
Richmond: 1st Mon., Town Center

SCOUTS
Richmond: Cub Scout Pack 646 meets 7-8 pm, last Wednesday of the month, CHMS music room pit.
Huntington: Cub Scout Pack 645, Sundays, Brewster-Pierce School, Matt Plumer (chewiecbr@gmail.com).

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Richmond: 2nd Tues, 7 pm, Town Ctr
Huntington: 2nd Thursday, 7 pm, Huntington Public Library.

RECREATION COMMITTEE
Richmond: 1st Tues, 7-9 pm, Town Center Mtg Room

Huntington: 1st Tues, even months, 7 pm, Town Clerk's Office.

RICHMOND TRAILS COMMITTEE
Richmond: 3rd Tues, 7 pm, Town Center Meeting Room

RICHMOND LAND TRUST First Thursday . Monitor Barn Annex. All are welcome. Dan Martin, (4231).

CSWD **Richmond Drop-Off Center**
Open all year Tuesday, 8-3:30; Thursday, 9:30-5; Saturday, 8-3:30. Located on Route 117 (80 Roger's Lane). 872-8111.

TOWN HALL COMMITTEE
Huntington: 4th Thursday, 7 pm, Huntington Town Hall.

LIBRARY
Richmond: Trustees, 1st Thursday in January, March, April, June, September & November, 6:30 pm. 434-3036.

Huntington: Library Board, 4th Tues, 6:30 pm, Huntington Public Library, 434-4583

HUNTINGTON ENERGY COMMITTEE
3rd Tues, 5:30 pm, Town Office (downstairs)

COMMUNITY GROUPS
Beacon Light Grange: For information, call Master Darceline Lewis-Wedge at 482-2532.

Hale and Hearty Seniors Club: 2nd Wed. Holy Rosary Parish Hall, 6 pm., Sept.-May.

HHCT (Huntington Historic and Community Trust): 1st Thurs, Huntington Public Library, 7:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Howl Women's Land Monthly Business Meeting, 2nd Sunday of each month. 10 am. All women welcome 434-3953.

Prostate Cancer Support Group: Meeting Location: Hope Lodge, 237 East Ave, Burlington, second Tues each month, 6 pm to 8 pm.General discussion and sharing among survivors and those beginning or rejoining the battle. Mary L. Guyette RN, MS, ACNS-BC. 802-274-4990.

Richmond Community Band (RCB) Richmond Community Band rehearsals 7 pm to 9 pm. Mondays at Camels Hump Middle School. All band instruments are sought. Info: 434 2972.

Huntington Playgroup Fridays, 10 am, newborn through preschool (with older siblings welcome) Residents from any town are welcome.

Worship

Community Church of Huntington: Sunday morning Worship 9 am. Communion:1st Sunday. Senior Luncheon 3rd Tuesday (434-3155). Pastor Larry Detweiler (revdets@gmail.com or 989-2679).

Richmond Congregational Church, United Church of Christ: 20 Church Street., 434-2053. Sunday Worship with Sunday School, 10 am.

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church: Religious Education Classes: Sat. 9-10:15 am, CHMS, Richmond. Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat. 3:15 pm. Masses: Sat.4 pm,Sun.8:30 am.

Community Alliance Church: 190 Pond Road (overlooking CVU), Hinesburg. Sunday, 9 am, Sunday school for all ages, with adults and teen electives; Scott Mansfield, 482-2132, www.hinesburgcma.org

Jericho United Methodist Church: Rte. 15 in Jericho Corners. Sunday Worship and Church School 9 am winter and summer; Bible/Prayer Study Tues 7:30 pm. Rev. Kirk Thompson, 899-4288.

Jericho Congregational Church: on the green in Jericho Center. Pastor David Coons. Youth Pastor Glenn Carter. Sunday services: 8 am & 11am. Nursery care provided; Sunday school for all ages, 9:30 am. Fellowship, 10:30 am. Sunday Youth Group: 6:15 pm. 899-4911; www.jccvt.org

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church: 273 VT Rte 15 (near Browns Trace Rd) Jericho, 899-3932, Rev. Arnold Thomas, pastor. Worship Service: 9 am (nursery care provided), Sunday School & Bible Study: 10:30 am. www.goodshepherdjericho.org

Mount Mansfield Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship: 195 Vermont Route 15, Jericho, (the red barn across from Packard Road) 9:30 am services second and fourth Sunday (September to June). All are welcome.

Episcopal Gathering in the Jerusalem Schoolhouse (behind the Jerusalem Country Store, South Starksboro, Rte 17). Holy Communion Service 9:30 am first and thirds Sundays. Rev. Molly Bidwell, 453-5537.

Calvary Episcopal Church 370 Vermont Route 15,Underhill Flats. Worship service 9:30 am. Sunday morning Eucharist with supply priests or Morning Prayer at Calvary, followed by a coffee hour. Handicapped accessible. information: www.calvarychurchvt.weebly.com or 899-2326.

BOLTON • RICHMOND • HUNTINGTON
Community Senior Center

Giving CSC a Whirl

The Community Senior Center of Richmond, Huntington and Bolton (CSC) facilitates about 40 activities for over 400 seniors, averaging 20 per week each season. We chatted with Richmond resident **Bryce Jones** about his experience with the CSC.

How did you learn about the CSC and the activities it has to offer? I live in Richmond and I like to run. I met up with Kathy Gruber and her husband, Ike Patch, on my running route. We stopped and chatted. She mentioned the CSC had organized some senior activities. They spoke of pickleball. I'd heard about pickleball, that it's growing fast and is popular with seniors. My brother-in-law in the Vancouver area plays almost every day. Maybe this was an opportunity for me to give it a whirl. They play Wednesday evenings at Richmond elementary school. It lasts a couple of hours and it's a good workout.

Was it hard to learn? Had you played tennis? No…just maybe lobbing balls over the net for the kids. I didn't really have any racket sports in my background. I'm not very good but I enjoy it. I've only been playing for a few months, since November. There are some very good players. But playing is how you get better. My son got me a couple of rackets for Xmas. So now I have my own gear. And I get to play. We always try to mix it up.

Do you do any of the other activities? Kathy and Ike also mentioned bridge. It's fun and keeps you sharp. I used to play duplicate bridge Monday nights in Ottawa, Ontario. So I told Ike "Well if you ever need a fourth, I'm available." I last played about 30 years ago. So now, of course, I'm rusty but it came back pretty quickly. Now I play with the Tuesday group. I was able to share time with one of the other players.

Those are great activities. Anything else you might do? I haven't yet done hiking. I used to like hiking with my son.

Do you get the weekly email newsletter about all the events and activities? I do. I think Ike forwarded the email newsletter to me and I signed up. Everybody's been very friendly.

What do you think about having these opportunities? The bridge and pickleball have been great. They get me out of the house. I'm retired just over a year. I'm socializing a bit now. Pickleball is so convenient. I don't have to drive 40 minutes. It's right in my backyard. Playing bridge is a good mental challenge. I've played online but having someone actually across the table from you is more fun. My retirement has been enhanced just a little bit, you know, just enough. My wife is still in the workforce. I have a bit of retirement guilt. She seems fine with it.

See all CSC events and activities at cscvt.org and click on Calendar or sign up to receive them in our Weekly Activities Newsletter.

—Diane Reynolds

Rising Stars Competition

Advance Music Center and Williston's Brick Church Music Series are teaming up to find local rising star performers. On May 10, 2019, eight performers/groups will entertain and compete at the historic Old Brick Church for a $500 Award and a spot as an opening act in the 2019/2020 series.

Musicians who perform all styles, instruments and genres are encouraged to apply: Jazz, vocals, classical, rock, bluegrass, hip-hop, soul. There are important judging guidelines. All performances must be suitable for a youth audience, the performance space is modest limiting the size of the performing group, and applicants must be non-professional performers and not performing regularly in public.

Application deadline is April 19, 2019.

Applicants will need to submit a written description of talent and provide two online performance samples.

To apply visit: http://www.advancemusicvt.com/fun-stuff/events/229-local-rising-stars-contest

About the Brick Church Music Series Now in its eleventh season, the Brick Church Music Series was created to promote community involvement by bringing a variety of musical performances to Williston at an affordable price. An important part of the mission is to engage the Williston community by showcasing local and regional musical talent while providing fund raising opportunities to community based non-profit groups. For more information visit: http://town.williston.vt.us/brickchurchmusic.

Annual Art Swap

Love art but feel like you can't afford it?

This is your opportunity to score an affordable, second-hand gem to add to or kick-start your blossoming art collection!

Or... Have you grown tired of a piece of art you own or perhaps were gifted a piece that doesn't quite suit you? Bring it to the ART SWAP and sell it! You may even find something you can't live without!

Axel's third Annual Art Swap is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 10 am-4 pm.

Simple Sellers Rules:

• Maximum three submissions per person.

• Artwork must have been made by someone other than the Seller.

• Sale Price must be marked at $200 and lower.

• Artwork must be in good condition. That means no rips, tears, holes, broken frames, broken glass, mold, or water stains. Axel's reserves the right to reject items based on the condition of the piece.

• Get 100% of sale price in store credit or 75% in cash

• Artwork Drop off: Tuesday, April 9 – Friday, April 12 between 10 am and 6 pm

• Artwork Pickup (for unsold items) Saturday, April 13, between 4 pm and 6 pm

This is a single day event – mark your calendars!

Axel's Gallery and Frame Shop, 5 Stowe Street, Waterbury.

Service Directory

Automotive

Beef

GRASS FED BEEF Our freezers are full of many cuts of Black Angus Grass-fed beef. Roasts, Steaks, Ground, Stew beef and more. See us at moultroupvalleyfarm.com or contact Jeff or Debbie at 434-3720. [9/19]

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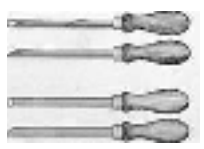

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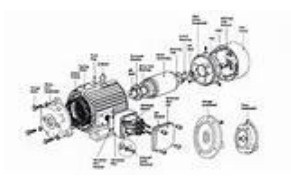

Sewing

Dental

Excavating / Mowing

BILL ATWOOD EXCAVATING LLC & Forestry Access Work, 244-7495 Bolton VT [5/19]

Cleaning

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PENNIE RAND PHOTOGRAPHY Outdoor portraits (family, individual, children), Weddings, Special Events, Sporting Events, Art Projects. 434-6047

Weddings

ROUND CHURCH WEDDING? Visit the Richmond Historical Society website or contact Mary Ann Barnes 434-3220. 2019 dates available!

HAVE YOUR DREAM WEDDING at the Sleepy Hollow Round Barn in Huntington. A beautiful 17-sided barn that can seat up to 165. Let your family and friends enjoy over 800 acres of true Vermont. Two nights in our Eight bedroom Inn is included. Dates still available for next summer and fall. Please visit www.skisleepyhollow.com for more information or call 434-2283. [12/16]

FLOWERS FOR YOUR WEDDING Natural-looking, graceful wedding flowers: bouquets, table arrangements; planted arrangements in urns and pots. Colorful Vermont-grown flowers also used in season. Pleasant Mount Farm, Huntington. 434-2690 [11/18]

Classified

Wellness

ADVANCEDWELLNESSVT.COM to schedule: Medical, shiatsu and therapeutic massage, craniosacral,acupressure, chinese medicine, cupping. Heather Chadwick and Kate Bentley. 65 Huntington Rd., Richmond. 318-1423

INTERFAITH SPIRITUAL DIRECTION with a certified spiritual director. Enjoy the benefits of a deepened connection between faith and everyday life. Sliding scale. Call Tess Starecheski, 434-7005, or e-mail at tessstar@gmavt.net to arrange free introductory session.

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LOON SONG HEALING Reiki sessions for children, teens, adults and those in hospice. Jackie Pichette, Reiki Practitioner 802-734-2479 / loonsonghealing@gmail.com / loonsonghealing.com [12/18]

PSYCHOTHERAPIST Are you confused and out of balance? Are you looking for meaning instead of stuff? Over 30 years experience. Demaris Tisdale, M.S.W. H: 434-3941 O: 229-2770

Pizza

Arts Update

Jean Rohe Appearing at RCC on April 7

Jean Rohe writes one-of-a-kind narrative songs, concerned as much with the internal world as with the external. Her songs, which range from fantastical riffs on old folktales to autobiographical sojourns, to "phonojournalism," a genre of her own invention, have won recognition from the ASCAP Foundation and the New York Songwriters Circle. She can be found fronting her large ensemble, collaborating as one half of the duo Robinson & Rohe, or playing intimate solo sets in the US and abroad. She'll be performing with a quartet for this show in support of her recent release Sisterly.

A true citizen artist, she gracefully approaches matters of social concern with artistry and heart. Her 2013 video release, National Anthem: Arise! Arise! is an aspirational alternative national anthem for the United States, which has now been performed by choirs and bands across the country and was published last year in the second edition of the popular songbook Rise Up Singing (Rise Again).

No Depression wrote, "Not only does she make astoundingly beautiful music but she is thoughtful, reflective, and courageous."

"There are plenty of talented artists out there, but what sets Jean Rohe apart are the suppleness of her voice, the integrity of her vision, and the grace she shows in her wide-ranging journeys across the musical landscape." –John Platt, WFUV New York

Rusty DeWees Performance

Rusty DeWees (The Logger) will perform comedy, music, and stories, for two nights at Richmond Free Library on April 12 and 13 at 7:30 pm for your family's pleasure.

See details on page 3.

Questions about your hearing?
Hearing aids? Tinnitus? Call:
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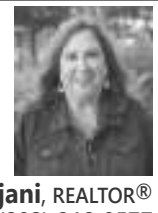

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Business Beat
by Gina Haddock

Snipe Ireland Soaps: Natural Skin Products Made for Vermont Weather

While we can't change the harshness of a Vermont winter or the toll it can take on our skin, Pam Brouard decided that there was something she could do about it. Her in-home business, on Snipe Ireland Road, was created in response to her desire to find a way to make her skin feel good during the long cold winter months. She had been searching for ways to deal with dry and itchy skin but many of the commercial products she tried didn't help and the smell was not pleasant.

About eight years ago she came across a soap maker at a craft fair and on impulse she bought a bar of this soap. After about two weeks using this soap, she noticed that the itchiness and dryness disappeared and her skin felt great. "Until that day, I didn't even know what handmade soap was. I always thought of soap making as something that was just done in colonial days. I didn't realize that people were actually doing it now." Pam explained.

She got inspired to try her hand at this craft so she could make some for her family. She researched soap making on YouTube, read lots of books and even found a local soap maker who walked her through the process.

Just what is soap anyway? Well, according to the FDA, true soap is created through a chemical process known as saponification. It is the result of a chemical reaction between vegetable or animal fats, water and lye. When they are combined, they create soap and glycerin with no lye remaining. It's interesting to note that glycerin is worth more pound for pound than actual soap, and prized for its hydrating qualities of attracting and retaining moisture on your skin but many commercial manufacturers often remove the glycerin from their formulations and sell it separately because it is more profitable. Instead they replace it with a synthetic lathering ingredient. Because the commercial products are not "soap" in the true sense of the word, you'll see that most commercial bars are labeled as a "beauty bar", a "cleansing bar", a "body bar" or some other euphemism that makes us think that we are using "soap". In reality most of us are washing up with a synthetically formulate detergent. As Pam noted so practically, "Making soap without lye is like knitting without yarn."

Once Pam got into the soap making practice and shared her creations with family and friends, she started to see a demand for the product. While Pam is a nurse by profession, she eventually became an entrepreneur developing a small business which she named "Snipe Ireland Soaps" after one of Richmond's prettiest roads and the road she actually lives on. For Pam, Snipe Ireland Road is "quintessential Vermont" with its brook, waterfall, cliffs and vistas. "Besides when I researched any 'soapy names' available for my business, they were already taken", she said with a big smile. After 8 years in the business and earning her certification, as a soap maker from the Handcrafted Soap and Cosmetic Guild, Pam now carries three skin products; Snipe Ireland soap, Snipe Ireland Skin cream and Snipe Ireland lip balm.

Pam makes her soap in small batches using no preservatives, parabens or petroleum products and she uses only the highest quality products. She uses 100% pure essential oils and premium pthalate free fragrance oils so scented soaps are not overpowering. Making soap is a labor intensive process. Soaps are cured for 4 to 6 weeks which make the soaps harder and milder. The result is a soap that both lathers well and leaves skin feeling soft and moisturized.

Viewing all of Pam's soaps on display is a bit like walking into an art gallery—each bar with its own descriptive name, special ingredients, scents and coloring. They are visually as beautiful as they feel. "Gritty Garden" soap is made up of swirls of green and light blue reminiscent of a beautiful seascape while just looking at the mix of blended greens in the" Spearmint Eucalyptus" makes you feel cool and refreshed. The "Morning Sun" soap was created when Pam felt that winter had gone on too long and she needed some sunlight. And for those who want a simple pure no scent bar, Pam offers that too along with a special olive oil bar which is excellent for people with highly sensitive skin. Olive oil soap is also known to provide relief to skin conditions such as eczema and rashes. Because the curing process takes 6 months for this particular soap, it is only offered twice a year. Snipe Ireland Soaps also has a version of "craft beer soap". Beer is supposedly good for skin but also there is the fun factor and it has an appeal to the male audience.

Pam's skin cream venture came in response to a family member who was dealing with the effects of radiation from breast cancer. Pam did lots of research and found a very soothing formula that worked well on skin that was very dry and treated by the effects of radiation.

Pam's lip balm was developed as a way to help the chapped lips that her kids constantly had.

Unlike the commercial brands that contain petroleum, Pam's products are made from beeswax, coconut oil and shea butter which is especially good for dry skin. Her versions sound good enough to eat with names like buttercream, orange cream, mint julip and root beer.

Pam enthusiastically explained to the Beat why she enjoys the process of soap making. " Each bar of soap is unique. You never really know how it will turn out until you slice it into bars and see the beautiful design that emerges. It's always a surprise so it's a wonderfully creative process."

In addition to providing a natural quality product that she can be proud of, Pam is committed to helping her community and so each year she donates 10% of all the proceeds she earns to charities for victims of domestic violence. " I want to live in a world where peace is not just a buzzword and violence is not tolerated, a place where we can embrace our differences and each other."

Nice to know that doing good for the community can happen one bar of soap at a time.

Pam's products can be purchased on line at www.snipeirelandsoaps.com. She also sells at various craft shows and in April she'll be at the Made in Vermont Marketplace Expo at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex and the Vermont Maple Festival in St. Albans.

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TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

NOTICE OF EXAMINATIONS & PUBLIC HEARINGS REGARDING THE RECLASSIFICATION AND REQUESTS TO PLOW AND IMPROVE TH #9 AND TH #15 AND A PORTION OF TH #26:

The Town of Huntington Selectboard hereby gives notice pursuant to 19 V.S.A. §709 and 19 V.S.A. §310(d) of public hearings to consider the reclassification of Town Highways (TH) and requests to plow and improve Town highways as hereinafter stated:

1. The 0.06 mile length (316.8 feet) of TOWN HIGHWAY #9 (located off Happy Hollow Road) from Class 3 to Class 4 or legal trail, or to improve TH #9 to Class 3 highway standards. For in excess of twenty (20) years, TH #9 has routinely not been provided with winter maintenance or otherwise made negotiable to Class 3 standards for the full 0.06 mile length of TH #9. With the washout of an old boiler tube that served as a culvert and crossing over Johns Brook during the FEMA declared disaster of 2013, a portion of TH #9 has been inaccessible by vehicular traffic.

2. The 0.33 mile length (1,742.4 feet) of TOWN HIGHWAY #15 (also known as Stagecoach Road, located off upper Bert White Road) from Class 3 to Class 4 or legal trail or to improve TH #15 to Class 3 standards. For in excess of twenty (20) years, the entire length of TH #15 has not been routinely provided with winter maintenance or made negotiable to Class 3 standards.

3. A 0.75 mile portion TOWN HIGHWAY #26 (also known as Trapp Road, located off of Main Road) from Class 3 to Class 4 or legal trail or to improve TH #26 to Class 3 standards. For in excess of twenty (20) years, the first 1.1 miles (5,808 feet) of TH #26 (from the Main Road to E-911 #1130, the last residence on Trapp Road) has been maintained by the Town as a Class 3 road. The remaining 0.75 miles (3,960 feet) has, for in excess of twenty (20) years, routinely not been provided with winter maintenance or made negotiable to Class 3 standards by the Town.

The Public Hearings for the proposed reclassifications and improvement requests will be held on the following dates at the Community Church of Huntington Annex (Huntington Center) according to the following schedule:

1. TH #9: 6:30 pm on Monday, May 13, 2019
2. TH #15 Stagecoach Road: 6:30 pm on Tuesday, May 14, 2019
3. TH #26 Trapp Road: 6:30 pm on Thursday, May 16, 2019

Further notice is hereby given that on Saturday, May 11, 2019 the Selectboard shall conduct site examinations according to the following schedule:

1. TH #9: 8:30 am, meeting at the intersection of Happy Hollow Road and TH #9
2. TH #15 Stagecoach Road: 9:15 am (or at the conclusion of the TH #9 site inspection, whichever comes later), meeting at the intersection of Bert White Road and Stagecoach Road
3. TH #26 Trapp Road: 10:30 am (or at the conclusion of the TH #15 site inspection, whichever comes later), meeting at #1130 Trapp Road

For more information, please contact Barbara Elliott, Huntington Town Administrator, at 434-4779 or townhunt@gmavt.net.

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All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale

Denial of Reality

"Let us endeavor to see things as they are, and then enquire whether we ought to complain. Whether to see life as it is will give us much consolation, I know not; but the consolation that is drawn from truth, if any there be, is solid and durable: that which may be derived from errour must be, like its original, fallacious and fugitive."

—Samuel Johnson,
In a letter to Bennet Langton, 21 September 1758

Joan is a 52-year-old woman who sat stiffly in my waiting room. She was obviously distressed and her tear-stained face revealed her emotional pain and hurt. She seemed shy and very sad. Tearfully she revealed that her husband was having affairs with several other women. Having learned about this accidentally on the internet, she realized that she had been ignoring the many signs of her husband's infidelity for several years.

How is it that Joan was able to deny the many indications of her husband's betrayal? What enabled her to pretend that things were not as she wished them to be and that what she wanted to believe wasn't true?

An only child, Joan's parents lacked the warmth and attentions the small child needed. Her limited recall of her early years suggested that she had received little attention and was often left alone to amuse herself. She remembered entertaining herself with her plastic horses and barnyard animals, and she would make up stories about them as she played with them under the piano. Her world consisted of the fantasies she invented as she engaged in her daydreams and fairy tales.

The consequences of this early situation were that Joan was unable to develop a strong connection between her internal and external realities. Though she was recognized as a talented singer, the external acknowledgement did not change the internal feelings. She was profoundly lonely and unhappy. She felt discontented, did not eat or sleep well, and felt physically and emotionally deprived. Dependent on others for feelings of worth, she had distorted views of her own capabilities.

In short, Joan lacked a strong sense of reality and was able to ignore facts of her external world. In psychological terms she evidenced a weak ego and poor ego strength. She tended to distort the facts of external reality, shifting her attention and focus when she became uncomfortable. These efforts to avoid internal discomfort caused her to avoid using her senses to understand things. Instead she diverted her attention away from situations that created mental discomfort.

In contrast, someone with a well integrated sense of self has an innate understanding of who they are. Let's discard that well-worn phrase, "Leave your ego at the door," because it is precisely what we don't want people to do. The ego is that part of our mental structure which is the system of integrated and adaptive functions. It is the function that establishes a connection with internal and external realities, between our inner world and the external reality. The normal ego controls our perception and our thinking and preserves a normal balance in our emotional world.

Joan worked diligently in long-term therapy as she developed the ability to accept reality and develop her own ego strength. She improved her relationships and pursued her career goals. Facing reality and truth enabled her to grow and develop the health and well-being she had long sought.

Boomer Funk

Submitted by Scott Funk

Big Ears

Saw this old guy with big ears, real flappers. Not natural, definitely old guy ears. Got to thinking, does he know about this? Was he aware as they began to grow? Couldn't stop wondering.

Later, at home, in front of the mirror, checking out the ears. How would we know? Who would tell us? Grandkids would let on, "Grandpa, why are your ears getting so big?" But not a wife. A wife wouldn't say. A loving wife would be too kind and a harsh one wouldn't care. Friends? No, they'd be silent and watch in amazement.

What to do? Measure them, of course, create a base line, then record monthly measurements to monitor changes. How to do it? A ruler: bad idea. Turns out ears are more fragile than you'd expect and the metal straight edge on a ruler is sharper than it looks. Besides, the numbers are impossible to read accurately in a mirror.

A tape measure! Perfect, but where do we keep the tape measures? Note the plural. We have at least three. Ever notice even though tools go in a specific place you can never find what you are looking for? We have a draw in the kitchen for house tools: hammer, vice grip, slotted & Phillips screwdrivers, tape measures. Everything was in there, except the tape measure. Finally found it up in my study sitting on a book shelf. Why did my wife leave it there?

You can use a tape measure to measure your ears because you can lock the tape. However, be careful about adjusting the tape while it is against your ear; it is far easier than you'd think to catch your earlobe as the tape retracts. That can really hurt. It also slows down the project, as you can't get an accurate measure if your earlobe is bandaged.

Yes, you could measure just the other ear, but what if they grow at different rates? For accuracy, both ears need to be measured. So, once the band-aid is off you can start recording ear sizes. Here's a tip, just write the numbers on a piece of paper. Graphing it can be discouraging because it is pretty much a flat line for a long, long time. Ears aren't fast growers. Also, put your Ear Growth Paper somewhere you can find it, but your wife can't. Kind of sad to think how someone who loves you can be so insensitive to such an important subject.

Feeling much better about this now. At least there will be no surprises. Unless, what is actually happening is that we shrink while aging and our ears stay the same size. How could that be measured?

(Former Richmond resident Scott Funk writes and speaks around the state on issues of concern to retirees and their families. His Boomer Funk columns are available at www.VermontFunk.com, as are his blogs and archived Aging in Place columns.)

GIVE BLOOD TODAY

American Red Cross

Town Meeting 2019

The residents of Huntington met at Brewster-Pierce Memorial School in Huntington Center, Vermont, on Tuesday, March 5, to discuss and vote on the town and local school budget. It was a long day, although not the longest, ending after 5:15 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led Huntington resident Col. Greg Knight, recently appointed Adjutant general of the Vermont National Guard, joined by members of Huntington Cub Pack 645.

Moderator Dana Cummings explained details of the conduct of the meeting. The assemblage agreed to hear from non-residents CESU Superintendent John Alberghini, CESU Director of Finance and Operation Christine Sumner and BPMS Principal Sally Hayes.

Huntington Annual School Meeting

The 2018 Huntington School District Meeting began at 9:05 am. Articles 1 and 2, to hear the reports of officer and to authorize the school board under 16 V.S.A. 562 (9) to borrow money, passed without discussion.

Article 3, which passed as warned, asked the voters of the Huntington Town School District approve the School Board budget of $2,109,274.

Board Chair Paul Susen explained the budget, which will have some changes in it now due to "the way the money flows from the state to the school district." Funds that had come directly to the Huntington School District now go to CESU and are dispersed from there. He pointed out that the budget is less than last year; it shows a 9.17% increase.

Dave Clark asked about the teacher who was added, subsequent to last Town Meeting. What prompted the Board to make this decision? Susen responded, that the goal is to keep class sizes no larger than 20 students; kindergarten had 25 students. The Board "judged this to be too many for one teacher." Do you add a teacher without a paraeducator or no additional teacher, but have the paraeducator? Susen said the decision was to "maintain teaching staff we had last year." Student numbers are expected to increase in years to come and the Board tries not to bring teachers in and out every year. The Board decided to "take a risk" this year to hold on to this position.

There then followed a discussion throughout the morning about what was the true percentage increase. Shayne Jaquith pointed out the Summary and Comparison (page 59), which shows 7.34% increase in spending between FY 2019 and 2020. Does the FY 2019 budget show $70,000? If not, the increase should be 4.4%. Chris Sumner replied, "The teacher is not in this budget." Jaquith asked her to clarify the actual budget percentage change is 4% to 5%. Sumner responded that the budget to budget is correct. Back to the budget increase. Ethan Maurer said that it is a 7.5% increase because it [the teacher] was not in the budget. Susen pointed out that the budget increase last year was under $10,000. The tax rate increase is just under five cents.

Jaquith (page 59) said the calculation involved a lot of numbers for which the HSB has no control. The actual increase is 4.5% - "think of it in terms of inflation. The number is responsible." The factors are private legal student matter; retain teacher; gym floor – he then told a story about a student injury on the floor

The discussion then turned to the gym floor. Susen said this had been discussed every year since he has been on the Board. Hayes added that it was deferred maintenance and had been discussed for the last 15 years. The new floor is a rubberized surface, although it can't completely reduce risk. School Board member Tara Fowler added, "We have been talking about this for years and have wanted it for a long time." Andrea Ogilvie pointed out the gym floor in Bolton is rubberized and that MMU just put this in the cafeteria. An added benefit is noise reduction. She asked about bond versus budget item. Susen said the $60,000 was discussed and it was speculative that by July 1, the Huntington budget will be consolidated.

After a question about whether the money would actually be used in Huntington should the consolidation happen, John Alberghini said the floor could be deferred if there is a change in governance, but he would "advocate to use the money for the floor [BPMS]."

Legal expenses were a hot topic. There followed a long discussion about current legal expenses (line 115 – negotiations; line 123 – other legal) that the taxpayers will pay and the costs for Huntington's lawsuit around forced merger and the legal counsel in Montpelier. Susen said that the merger's legal costs were paid for by the Huntington Education Coalition (HEC), which is a separate group because the MMMUSD is a defendant and Huntington cannot access the district attorney. These MMMUSD legal costs have a $5000 deductible; the HSD also pays a portion. Heidi Racht asked if the $5000 deductible was an umbrella expense or case-by-case. Alberghini answered $5000 deductible per case.

Huntington School Board chair Paul Susen.

Breck Knauft talked about the voters not being assured "any level of transparency" because who is funding this [HEC]? Susen responded that Huntington School Board did not have any access to the MMM legal counsel for the purpose of challenging the merger. The Board "looked at options to have third parties pay for legal expenses and this group came forward. HEC pays the expenses; the bills come to Susen who then forwards them for payment. He said, "We try to hold costs to the extent possible." Joanne Conley spoke about the group, as its secretary, and explained it is a non-profit organization, following those regulations.

Col. Greg Knight, recently appointed Adjutant General of the Vermont National Guard, leads the Pledge of Allegiance with Huntington Cub Pack Scouts Molly Hart, Macks Wyatt and Colin Hart. Huntington photos: Heidi Racht

Jim Couture said, there was "no relevancy for transparency [to Article 3]. He questioned the germaneness.

In Article 4, under other school business, the discussion was mainly about school merger and the lawsuit.

Joanne Conley got discussion off and running with her comments about HEC as a temporary organization; she explained the structure, read from a document and talked about "voluntary" mergers and forced mergers. Tara Fowler responded that the Board had investigated legal counsel "even before we found out we could not use MMM's lawyer." She said that missives from the state often state that "the lawyers say…" and the Board felt it needed its own counsel.

Breck Knauft said he could "live with a lawsuit against the Agency of Education," but was unhappy with the lawsuit against the MMM Board because MMM "has never forced Huntington to vote [on merger]. This lawsuit is "creating stress. It's not about conspiracy, but transparency."

Knauft; then made a motion that the Brewster-Pierce School Board cease all legal action against the MMMUSB.

Dori Barton asked, "Why is MMM Board listed?" Susen responded, the State Board of Education issued a state plan for the MMMUSD to "invite" Huntington to join in a vote with the other CESU towns; ballots would be commingled before counting; vote to take place before July 1, 2019. MMM was to handle the merger. The Secretary of Education was not directing Huntington to merge, but gave MMM the responsibility to warn a vote. This has only occurred in five districts in Vermont where there is a non-member elementary school district. MMMUSD has filed a petition to have itself removed as defendant.

CESU Superintendent John Alberghini answers a question at Huntington Town Meeting.

Nowell Strite added, "We gave MMM an opportunity to delay a vote until the verdict in May. We offered to drop [the suit] if the MMM waited." Susen: There was an initial petition to MMM to drop were MMM to wait to warn a vote. A couple of filings have been made – the state invited Huntington to have a voluntary stay pending the reading of the judge on the multi-district cases. MMM was asked to hold and declined.

Susen said, "Huntington took the position that "once you begin the merger process, it is hard to roll it back. You would not just void the election and budgets would be merged. We'll take appropriate legal actions based on legal counsel."

Gail Conley talked about Cambridge and the Lamoille North vote to not merge. Cambridge will continue as a separate school district similar in manner to Huntington's position with MMM.

Jim Couture talked about Huntington's four votes – "more than one is at the MMM request." It is virtually impossible to separate.

Susen outlined the votes, again stating that it would be a majority of the voters in all the towns with commingled votes, if held before July 1. A forced merger dissolves the Huntington School Board. Huntington would not vote separately; the Australian ballot would be for the entire MMM membership. Huntington "tried to find a way to remedy MMM as a defendant. The judge's decision is due at the end of May."

Mark Smith said, "The best decider about local matters are local people who hold local responsibility for decisions. No charge is more important than our school. It is the doorway to our future." He went on, about local participation where there is a strong and sustained interest. Dave Clark talked about his 15 years on the MMU Board and how he was initially opposed to merger, but over time his opinion changed. The merger has reduced costs, provided more opportunities and Huntington has missed out on opportunities. "It is time to set aside differences." Residents will have an opportunity to have access to School Board members. Duncan Keir pointed out the best example for non-merger is [the discussion] "in this room today." Bigger is not always better.

Helen Keith talked about the background for the report that MMM was going to warn a vote to occur just before the Agency of Education issued its decision.

Jennifer Esser asked about the consequences of the vote on Knauft's motion. Response: it is nonbinding and the Board had based its decision on the "principle of democracy." The State Board has asked for a fifth, commingled vote.

Eric Krull acknowledged that this is a "locally divisive issue" and there is a need to view all our town. He asked about the "end game." Susen

☛