



# the Chronicle

THE WEEKLY JOURNAL OF ORLEANS COUNTY

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VOLUME 44, NUMBER 17

APRIL 26, 2017

ONE DOLLAR

## Trade case could lead to more jobs at Columbia

by Joseph Gresser

NEWPORT — Columbia Forest Products, along with several other manufacturers of hardwood plywood, scored a preliminary victory in an international trade case that could mean as many as 70 new jobs at the company's Newport veneer mill.

The Coalition for Fair Trade in Hardwood Plywood, which includes Columbia and five other producers, filed complaints with the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) and the Department of Commerce Enforcement and Compliance arm, in November.

The group complained that Chinese manufacturers have been dumping their products in the U.S. and get unfair support from the Chinese government.

The coalition tried to get the commerce department to slap penalties on Chinese plywood in 2012. That effort ended in failure when the ITC ruled against the domestic producers.

Dumping can mean either that an imported product sells in the U.S. for less than it does in the producer's home country, or that it is sold for less than it costs to make the product.

Gary Gillespie, Columbia's executive vice-president for Canadian Plywood and Decorative Veneer Operations, spoke about the case in an interview on April 22.

"We're just looking for a level playing field," Mr. Gillespie said, explaining the goals of the complaint.

Chinese imports currently make up 60 percent of the hardwood plywood sold in the U.S., he said.

U.S. companies have steadily been losing market share since the recession of 2008, Mr. Gillespie said. The market has recovered and grown since the recession, but U.S. plywood makers have not enjoyed the benefit of that growth, he said.

The plywood business rebounded somewhat in 2015, but it

(Continued on page twenty-four.)

## Steelheads on the move



April showers have the Clyde River roaring, but the steelhead trout are undeterred. This fish was seen Monday as it leapt through the torrent on the way to its spawning grounds upstream. Unlike most fish, these steelheads head back down to Lake Memphremagog afterwards and will make the arduous swim again next year.  
Photo by Joseph Gresser

Act 46

## Few options for districts that don't merge

by Elizabeth Trail

About 50 people were at Lake Region Union High School Tuesday night to hear a presentation by Nicole Mace of the Vermont School Board Association about Act 46, the school district consolidation law the Legislature passed two years ago.

Since Act 46 went into effect, districts around the state have been struggling to understand the

implications of the law.

"I have no personal position on this law," Ms. Mace said.

Her job, she said, was simply to explain what Act 46 means for residents of the Orleans Central Supervisory Union (OCSU).

But the bottom line of Ms. Mace's presentation is that Act 46 is now the law, and there are few options for districts that don't consolidate.

The biggest change in the law is that it will no longer be necessary for all towns in a proposed consolidated district to vote to approve it. A majority vote will do it.

The ones that vote for consolidation will be allowed to form a district, even if it's smaller than the 900 students otherwise required under the latest Act 46 rules.

The districts that reject a merger will be

(Continued on page twenty-six.)

## Beware of costly Facebook pop-up scam

by Elizabeth Trail

BARTON — Sharon Bickford of Barton was on Facebook one evening last week when her computer screen suddenly froze. A window popped up, flashing an ominous warning — her computer was under a virus attack, and had been frozen to protect her files.

That's the first step in a scam

that's been happening to a lot of people lately. It happened to me twice in the week before Ms. Bickford called *the Chronicle* with her story.

In fact, it's happened so often lately that the State Police put out a bulletin last week warning people about tech support scams.

The popup message on Ms. Bickford's computer told her to call a toll-free number immediately so that a technician could remove the infected files and restore her computer.

"It was completely frozen," Ms.

(Continued on page twenty-two.)

## Fund-raiser would revive fairgrounds ball fields

by Tena Starr

BARTON — Some may not remember when there were fierce competitions at the ball fields at the Orleans County Fairgrounds, or knew there were ball fields there at all. But years ago, they were busy places. In fact, according to old *Orleans County Monitors*, ballgames were a regular feature of the fair, as well as a lively summertime occupation between organized teams.

Now there's an effort to revive and recondition those fields, which are more than 100 years old, adding backstops, dugouts, plus lights on

one of them for night games.

Dan Perron is a fair director; he's also vice-president of the Orleans County Cal Ripkin chapter, a man who is deeply immersed in youth baseball, as well as softball. He's spearheading the effort to rejuvenate the fields and has helped to start a fund-raising drive to pay for upcoming improvements.

Over the next weeks, expect to see "baseball cards" in local stores. They can be bought for a dollar each, and the money will go to finishing the fields.

Mr. Perron has done

(Continued on page thirty-two.)





## the Chronicle INDEX

Crossword Puzzle .....15  
 Kids' Corner .....12B  
 Kingdom Calendar .....8B-13B  
 Letters to the Editor .....4-7  
 Obituaries .....4B-6B  
 Perimeter .....3B  
 Ruminations .....2B  
 Sports .....16  
 Sudoku Puzzle .....7

### Advertising Sections

Auctions.....26  
 Auto.....28-31  
 Building Trades .....8C-9C  
 Classified Ads .....14B-15B  
 Gardening.....19  
 Hair.....22  
 Jobs .....24-25  
 Pets.....23  
 Real Estate.....Section C  
 Restaurants & Entertainment.....9B-11B

## It moose be spring



Friday, April 14, was a lovely day in Jay, and this moose apparently found it an ideal afternoon for a stroll along Route 242 just east of the village. Photo by Joseph Gresser

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 Sat. & Sun. Matinees: 12:30 & 3:15
- *Going in Style* (PG13) - 6:20 & 9:00\*
- *Smurfs: The Lost Village* (PG) -  
 Sat. & Sun. Matinees: 1:00 & 3:30

Special pre-screening of *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2* (PG13) on Thurs., May 4, at 7 p.m.

\*Late shows on Friday & Saturday only.

## Lake Region to host choral concert

The Lake Region Union High School music department will host its annual spring choral concert on Thursday, April 27, at 7 p.m., at the Barton United Church.

Lake Region's chorus, select chorus, baritone ensemble, and treble ensemble will be performing, as well as duets and soloists. Selections include several madrigals: "All Ye Who Music Love," "The Lark," "O Mistress Mine," as well as folk music selections from Bosnia, Newfoundland, Ireland, Bolivia, and Scotland.

Mozart's "Ricevete," and "Kyrie" (theme by Antonin Dvorak) and the popular gospel song, "River in Judea," will also be performed. Sara Doncaster is the musical director, and the accompanist will be Mark Violette. Senior April Streeter and junior Emma Strange will also each conduct one piece. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted to benefit the music activities fund. For more information, call 754-2500, extension 219. — submitted by Sara Doncaster.

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# Card of Thanks

The Orleans Snowstormers trail system is **CLOSED** for the season. We wish to **THANK** all landowners for their generosity and understanding in allowing us to maintain this section of VAST trails. We wish to remind everyone that these trails are for snowmobiling **ONLY**, and the use by ATV or other wheeled vehicles without landowner's consent, is a violation of state law and subject to fines and penalties. **PLEASE** help us protect our trails for future use by respecting our landowners!  
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# March jobless rate was 6.9 percent

March State Department of Labor figures for the Derby labor market area show fewer people were in the workforce and not as many jobs last month than there were a year earlier.

Nevertheless, the unemployment rate showed a slight dip, from 7 percent in March of 2016 to 6.9 this March.

In March of 2017 12,700 people were available to work, and 11,800 folks had jobs, leaving 900 people unemployed. A year earlier, the area's labor force comprised 12,850. Of these, 11,950 had work and 900 did not.

The job picture this February showed 12,750 people ready and able to work with 11,850 employed and 900 jobless. February's unemployment rate was 7.2 percent.

State economists do not adjust local employment figures for seasonal factors. The unadjusted statewide rates show a 3.5 percent unemployment rate for this March, 3.6 percent for March 2016, and 3.4 percent for February.

When adjusted for seasonal factors the statewide figure shows the unemployment rate steady at 3 percent in February and March. The rate for March 2016 was 3.3 percent.

For purposes of comparison, the national rate for March was 4.5 percent.

The Derby area's 6.9 percent rate was again the highest among the state's 19 labor market areas. The next highest rate belonged to the Vermont portion of the Colebrook, New Hampshire, area, which posted a 6 percent rate.

The Vermont part of the Littleton, New Hampshire, area was in third place with a 5.5 percent rate, followed at 5.1 percent by the Morristown-Waterbury area.

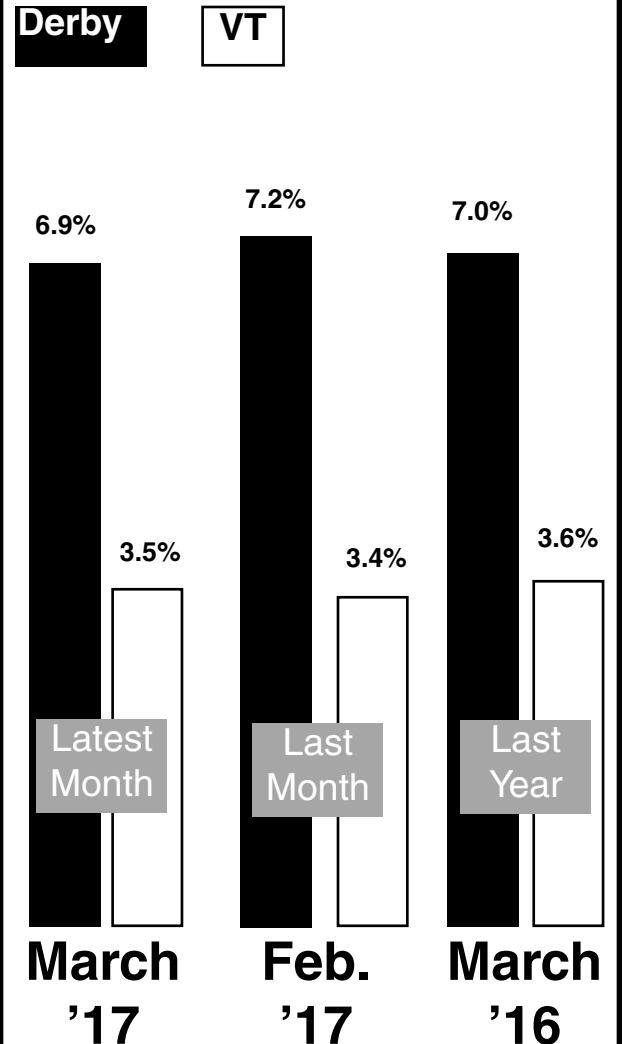
The St. Johnsbury area held fifth place with a 4.9 percent rate.

Elsewhere in northern Vermont, Highgate was in a three-way tie for seventh place with Bennington and Randolph. All three areas had rates of 4.1 percent.

Barre-Montpelier's rate of 3.6 percent was enough to earn it a tie with Rutland for eleventh place.

The Burlington-South Burlington area once again held honors for the lowest unemployment rate, but it had to share its laurels with the White River Junction area. Both regions boasted 2.6 percent jobless rates.

## The jobless rate Derby & Vermont



These unemployment rates for Vermont and the Derby labor market area are from the Vermont Department of Labor. They are not seasonally adjusted.

### Police report

## Several burglaries reported

SeState Police have reported recent burglaries in Barton and Derby, as well as an attempted break-in in Troy, and vandalism in Craftsbury.

Earlier this month, multiple cottages on the Pageant Park Road near Crystal Lake in Barton were broken into and goods were stolen, Trooper Mark Pohlman said in a press release. He said an initial report of a burglary was made on April 11, but investigation revealed that more than one camp had been entered.

The items stolen included fishing poles, tackle boxes, and assorted sporting goods, Trooper Pohlman said.

Last week, Craig Willis of Derby told State Police that someone had come into his garage and stolen his Honda 2000 generator. Mr. Willis told Trooper Joshua Mikkola that the generator is red and about ten years old.

On Saturday morning at about 8 a.m. State Police responded to a report of vandalism and attempted entry at the Junction 101 Restaurant in Troy Village.

The offender couldn't get into the building, but did damage the property, Trooper Calvin Burns said in a press release. He said that photos were taken, and DNA evidence was obtained from the scene.

On April 19, Everett Demeritt of Craftsbury told State Police about a damaged farm field. It appeared that a vehicle had done several doughnuts in the field at the corner of Demeritt Road and the Hatch Brook Road on the night of

April 17, Trooper Mikkola said in a press release.

Anyone with information about the above incidents is asked to call State Police in Derby at 334-8881.

### Willoughby incident put to rest

Although State Police and the Orleans County Sheriff's Department say they have received several recent complaints of suspicious or lewd behavior in the area of Willoughby Lake's South Beach in Westmore, at least one of those incidents appears to have been put to rest.

On April 18, State Police issued a press release saying they were seeking information about a man who had asked a juvenile a series of questions, "then approached her with his pants off, exposing himself." "The juvenile ran and hid, and the male appeared to check around the area for a period of time," the State Police press release says.

A subsequent press release, issued April 21 by Trooper Daniel Lynch, says, "All parties involved have been interviewed and the case has been reviewed. No charges have been filed, and no criminal conduct or activity has been found. This case is now closed and is no longer under investigation.

"No danger to the public has been found in relation to this incident, and this incident does not appear to be related to any others which may have been reported in the area."

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## Opinion

## O'Reilly's journalistic demise and the future of a free press

by Chris Braithwaite

I have a "Bernie in 2016" sticker on my car and will leave it there until Mr. Sanders gets elected or hell freezes over, though I worry that the latter is the more likely outcome.

That's one of the perks of retirement. No longer a working journalist, I am free to wear my political opinions on my sleeve, or at least on my back bumper.

So it should come as no surprise that I was pleased to read that one of my most financially successful fellow publishers, Rupert Murdoch, had fired Bill O'Reilly from his enormously influential position at *Fox News*. Mr. O'Reilly sounds like a nasty piece of work, when it comes to his female co-workers. Reading about the sexual harassment endured by the talented journalists who had climbed pretty close to the top of their profession left me wondering what the hell this country has been doing for the last five decades. It was way back in the late 1960s when the women who worked for *Newsweek* magazine took on the men who felt free to exploit their talents, but refused to acknowledge — or pay — them as journalists.

But in the middle of my celebration a shadow passed across the grave of Mr. O'Reilly's career in journalism. And the more I think about that shadow, the more it bothers me.

Here's why: Mr. O'Reilly wasn't fired because he sexually harassed his female co-workers. He wasn't fired because it cost *Fox News* millions of

dollars to settle the legal complaints those women brought against him.

He was fired because his major advertisers pulled their ads from his show.

This is going to get repetitive: The major advertisers, led by Mercedes, didn't pull their ads because Mr. O'Reilly harassed women, or because he could no longer sell their cars. His ratings were still strong and advertisers, in the normal course of events, place their ads on shows that have a big audience.

Mercedes pulled its ads because a lot of people told the company they wouldn't buy its cars if they continued to support Mr. O'Reilly by advertising on his show. Mercedes, and other major advertisers, caved in to the pressure.

So what?

When I started *the Chronicle* in 1974, I'm told, some people referred to it as "that hippie newspaper." Fair enough. I'd come to Vermont four years earlier as part of the counterculture. I'd let my hair grow long and worked with horses instead of tractors (except the tractors we borrowed from neighbors) and grew a bunch of organic carrots.

I started the paper in the hope that if we provided fair, accurate, and well-crafted coverage of what was going on in southern Orleans County, people would read it. A secondary assumption was that, if people read the paper, the community's businessmen would advertise in it.

They did, and *the Chronicle* scraped through a few pretty marginal years to become a reasonably well regarded community weekly newspaper.

More than two decades later I had a chance to go to former Yugoslavia to work with small newspapers that were struggling to establish themselves in a cluster of new nation states, all emerging from a polity, and an economy, that had been run on Communist principles since the end of the Second World War.

I thought I knew a few things about making small newspapers that might be helpful. What I discovered was that my colleagues in Serbia, Bosnia, Montenegro, and Macedonia were facing problems I'd never imagined, let alone figured out how to overcome.

Some were left free to publish what they wanted, but faced a state-run circulation company that, oddly, didn't seem to sell many of the papers that challenged the government.

Other publishers spent a lot of their time finding paper, because the government controlled the supply of newsprint, and didn't have any left over for the independent press.

But the real problem was advertising. Before I went overseas, I naively believed that some key features of American journalism were revealed truths, some sort of natural phenomena that I'd find wherever the International Center for Journalists decided to send me.

Prominent among them was the fact that advertisers, when they decide where to spend their money, pay a lot of attention to a medium's audience and very little attention to its content.

An important corollary to this "fact" is that consumers, when they decide whether to spend their money with a particular advertiser, aren't influenced by the editorial content of the medium that carries the ad.

What that meant to a struggling new newspaper was that this county's merchants, being sound and sensible businesspeople, advertised in *the Chronicle* if it reached enough potential customers to improve their business, even if they found the publisher, his opinions, or his choice of news subjects a little dodgy.

And a reader whose favorite institution had been molested that week in an editorial on page four wouldn't threaten to stop shopping at a store whose ad appeared on page five.

What I discovered in ex-Yugoslavia, where free markets, a free press, and commercial advertising were still novelties, is that these revealed truths were nothing of the kind. They were conventions peculiar to the media of North America — cultural norms that had been established over a couple of centuries, and didn't export worth a damn.

The papers I worked with over there were little upstart journals, generally founded in opposition to the heavy-handed policies of nationalist leaders like Slobodan Milosevic.

Some of the businesses that refused to advertise with them liked Mr. Milosevic well enough, and didn't like the newspapers who opposed him. Others feared that an ad in an "opposition" newspaper would amount to an endorsement of its views. Prudent businessmen, applying sensible business principles, opted not to endorse opposition newspapers. That pretty much crippled the effort to establish free and independent media across much of former Yugoslavia.

The *New York Times* reported Friday that *Fox News* fired Bill O'Reilly because of the enormous pressure that social media campaigns like Color of Change and Sleeping Giants put on the companies that advertised on his show.

I applaud their motives. I am happy that Mr. O'Reilly is off the air.

But the sword has two edges. I can't help wondering if the *Times* itself could survive such a campaign, inspired and financed from the right and designed to punish the newspaper for its relentless focus on the political and personal foibles of Donald Trump.

I can't help wondering what would have happened a few years ago if the very powerful — and perfectly well motivated — environmental lobby had organized such a boycott against a small weekly newspaper that editorially opposed a wind power project on Lowell Mountain.

Like so many things in this country that we took for granted until a few months ago, the clear line that Americans have drawn between the advertising and editorial content of our media is only a matter of convention.

But it is a convention critical to the survival of a free press in a capitalist society. And this old publisher would hate to see it go.

## the Chronicle

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### April 18-24, 2017

		High	Low	Prec.	Snow	Snow on Ground
T	4/18	51	32	T	T	T
W	4/19	45	31	0.00"	0.00"	T
Th	4/20	47	34	0.41"	0.00"	T
F	4/21	48	39	0.21"	0.00"	T
S	4/22	44	36	0.37"	0.00"	T
S	4/23	43	35	0.14"	0.00"	T
M	4/24	61	36	0.00"	0.00"	0.00"

T = Trace

High and low temperatures, precipitation, snowfall, and snow depth are for 24-hour period ending 7 a.m. of the day listed.

Site is in Sutton, elevation 1,500 feet.

## Chronicle office hours

We are open for business:

Monday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday, closed.

Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Come by our office located on Water Street in Barton or phone us at (802) 525-3531.



Opinion

# What Vermont can't afford

by Steven Gold

Every year, Vermont gives away tens of millions of dollars to high-income taxpayers while cutting services for Vermonters who are struggling the most to make ends meet. Yet it is clear that Vermonters, as shown by their votes for national officeholders, don't support this kind of approach to revenue generation and budgeting.

We regularly hear about what our elected leaders wish they could do if only the state could afford it — clean up Lake Champlain, increase the child care subsidy, invest in higher education or mental health care or job training. There's widespread agreement that these investments would move the state forward.

Why are we not making these critical investments in our state's future? Money, or more accurately, the perceived lack of it.

The Legislature has done a good job over the years in finding funds that don't require broad-based tax increases for Vermonters — drawing down federal funds whenever possible, thinking creatively about how to get the most out of funds they have, and reviewing and updating fees regularly.

But there is one big rock they haven't looked under: tax expenditures.

Tax expenditures, as the name suggests, are state expenditures made through the tax system rather than by legislative appropriation. They have the same effect, however, on the state budget as appropriations: They reduce the amount of money the state has available to spend. But unlike appropriations, these expenditures are not scrutinized every year. Income tax expenditures, as a prime example, give away tens of millions of dollars mainly to upper-income Vermonters year after year.

Meanwhile, the Reach Up program, which is intended to help the most vulnerable Vermonters and their children with a hand up out of poverty, has been scrutinized and cut back over the years. Today, Reach Up families receive less than 50 percent of what the state calculates is the minimum amount needed for basic costs of living. In 2015, the state reduced Reach Up assistance for families who also receive disability benefits. This is not only harsh, but also counterproductive. Vermont currently has a major problem, labeled the "achievement gap," as children who grow up traumatized by poverty enter our schools unable to learn and needing services the system doesn't provide. One result is overflowing prisons. If we

don't make needed investments now, the situation will continue to get worse.

It's a question of priorities. Cutting tax expenditures for upper income people would give Vermont the resources to make smart investments that will improve the lives of all Vermonters. Some have said that we can't afford to make these investments, but the fact is that we can't afford not to.

Recently the One Vermont coalition (onevt.org), a group of concerned citizens and organizations committed to a state that works for all Vermonters, proposed a plan that would balance the state budget and use savings from eliminating income tax giveaways to invest in Vermont's future. These are the right priorities for the state. Our lawmakers should act this year to capture the income tax expenditure savings so they can make some strategic investments, including those in early care and learning and higher education that the governor proposed, in the fiscal 2018 state budget.

*Steven Gold was director of the Reach Up Program from 1993-1999; Vermont Commissioner of Employment and Training (now Labor) from 1999-2002; and Commissioner of Corrections from 2003-2004. He lives in Montpelier.*

## Death notice

### Ruth Marie White Whitcomb

Ruth Whitcomb, 100, formerly of Morgan, died peacefully on April 23, 2017, at the Woodridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Berlin. The family will share plans for a funeral service at a later date. Online condolences may be shared at [www.pruneapollifuneralhome.com](http://www.pruneapollifuneralhome.com).

## About letters, editorials, and opinions

The Chronicle welcomes letters from our readers from all points on the political spectrum.

The deadline is Tuesday at noon. Letters on paper must be signed, and all letters must include a telephone number for confirmation. All letters must include the writer's town.

We will not publish a letter that has been sent anonymously. In rare and extreme

circumstances, we will publish a letter without the writer's name. Please keep your letters brief. Length aside, we reserve the right to edit letters for content.

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# Letter to the editor

## Westmore roads should not be opened to ATVs

Dear editor,

As an extended family that has owned property and paid taxes in Westmore for 100 years, we oppose the proposal to open town roads to ATVs as it will likely lead to abuses of private lands by extending access to private roads and likely lead to increased trail erosion (and therefore impacts to water quality), vandalism/ littering, and theft.

As we have seen with unauthorized use of ATVs on state lands in the Willoughby State Forest, there was significant trail erosion on the trails up the backside of Mount Hor, littering, and disregard for the hikers along the trail (my family and I had to jump off the trail to avoid being hit by two ATVs that came flying down the mountain one spring). To think that there would be respect for private lands that would be accessible by ATVs is shortsighted and misguided. This would not be the same dynamic as the VAST (Vermont Association of Snow Travelers) trail network where snow machines and trail use needs to respect private lands and abide by traffic laws. Even then there are always a few folks who disregard these policies and make a bad name for most of the VAST network of users. There would be no checks and balances in place with a blanket policy of ATV use on the public road network. We pay taxes to maintain these roads, and in our opinion we should not be paying to fix likely increased road erosion due to ATV use.

Furthermore, ATVs are not designed to be operated on public roads. The town could be liable for accidents that happen on public roads if sanctioned. The high center of gravity, narrow wheelbase, and low pressure tires that are designed to handle off-road conditions are a major safety concern on-road, even on dirt roads. A high center of gravity and narrow wheelbase leads ATVs to be prone to rollovers when negotiating turns. In fact, a December 2013 Insurance Institute of Highway Safety (IIHS) analysis of Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) data indicated that 56 percent of fatal single-vehicle ATV incidents on public roads involved a rollover. Knobby low pressure ATV tires are explicitly designed for off-road use and may not interact properly with a road surface, even if it's not paved. These design factors "increase the risk of operators losing control of the vehicle on roadway surfaces, particularly at roadway speeds, and/or when making right angle traffic turns."

ATV manufacturers themselves explicitly warn against allowing ATVs on public roads. Here are just a few examples from ATV owners manuals:

Honda TRX420TM:

"Your ATV is designed and manufactured for off-road use only. The ATV does not have turn signals and other features required for use on public roads. If you need to cross a paved or

public road, get off and walk your ATV across," and "you should never ride your ATV on public streets, roads or highways, even if they are not paved. Drivers of street vehicles may have difficulty seeing and avoiding you, which could lead to a collision."

Polaris Sportsman 570:

The manual warns against ever operating on public streets due to the risk of collisions: "Never operate the ATV on any public street, road or highway, including dirt and gravel roads."

Kawasaki KFX90:

"Never operate an ATV on any public street, road or highway, even a dirt or gravel one."

Yamaha Raptor 350:

"Never operate an ATV on any public street, road or highway, even a dirt or gravel one."

For the reasons articulated, we strongly oppose this proposal. This is not a matter that the select board should be making on their own volition. It should be an issue for the residents, voters, and for the folks who pay the taxes in this town to determine.

One of the primary reasons that the Vermont Water Resources Board chose to ban the use of personal watercraft on Willoughby Lake was because the operation of these vessels has created, and increased, conflicts (safety and noise because of the lake's and surrounding mountains' topography, and behavior) with other normal uses of the lake [In re: Lake Willoughby (Westmore), No. UPW 04-01, Rule (effective Feb. 14, 2005)].

We request that the select board act to protect and preserve the quiet enjoyment of the many part- and full-time residents who live on gravel roads around Lake Willoughby and throughout the town of Westmore.

Sincerely,  
Ethan Swift  
Westmore

## Dailey library seeks crafters

The Dailey Memorial Library is seeking crafters to participate in its Summer Craft Show to be held on the Derby Green on Saturday, August 5, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Anyone who would like to have a booth is asked to contact the library at 766-5063, or e-mail daileylibrary@gmail.com for information or an application. The deadline for applying is June 1. — from the Dailey Memorial Library.

**ROBERT DEWEES**



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I have worked with electric utilities for most of my professional career and have a deep knowledge of the electric industry.

I have a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University and a law degree from the University of New Hampshire School of Law.


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Thank you,  
Tom Bailey

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# Letters to the editor

When did Westmore turn into a members-only country club?

Dear editor,

When did the town of Westmore turn into a members-only country club? It seems that the people there are very nice when they need something done on their property, but are not very nice when their neighbors are having something done.

It is very hard for local people to survive the economic depression in the Northeast Kingdom. Any time someone wants to start a business or make the area a destination for people who do not want to buy 100 acres or a lake home, the people who already have made their living try to push them away. Not wanting parking and restrooms make visitors park in the road and use the woods to go to the bathroom, which runs into the lake.

Wheeler Mountain road will *not* be a road to nowhere — there is a private landowner at the other end willing to open his property to ATVs that will then connect to Sheffield — which is the big hub to all open trails.

And for those who do not want ATVs — it will lead them out of town. But the public roads and even state forest roads should be open to ATVs,

bikes, horses, and motorized vehicles. I am not saying all of them, but some. For everything taken away for conservation, an equal part, or some part, should be opened for use. This would give a balance and help and make the public land accessible to everybody. We pay taxes, too.

Most people would like to get to stores for service, but prefer to trail ride off road. It is hard for an older person, or someone who is not athletic, to get five miles into the woods to see some of the natural beauty that is out there. Maybe if some of the people who own hundreds of acres (for example, on Long Pond Road), would give a 12-foot path through the back woods, so people could get to the store, everybody would be happy. Where there are people, there is money. Let some of the local people make some money and stay open, or you might have to bring a summer's worth of food, fuel, and other supplies up from Massachusetts, and bring your garbage and septic waste back with you when you leave.

A struggling local,  
Richard LaClair Jr.  
Glover

More on Clair Bailey

To the editor,

I just want to say that Bruce M. Farnham was right when he wrote that Clair Bailey lived in North Troy. His brother Philip told me a while back that his family did live on the West Road. I didn't ask him about the Orleans part. I got a snapshot and citation from Phil to frame and put in our Barton Post #76 Legion room to honor Clair's memory. The citation did say Clair Bailey of Orleans. I don't know if they lived there later, or if it meant that he was from Orleans County. The first I knew of the Bailey family was after they came to Barton and that was after the war, so I didn't know Clair personally.

Clair Bailey was in Korea with the 24th Infantry Division and reported MIA on July 20, 1950, and declared KIA in December 1953. General Dean, commander of the 24th Division, was captured in the same battle as Clair was reported missing.

I was with the 1st Calvary Division and landed on July 18 of 1950, so I know what they were going through.

Ad Taylor  
Barton

## Learn about One Health Day

Wednesday, April 26, at 6:30 p.m., Jones Memorial Library will present Dr. Eileen Wolf speaking about One Health. This talk is part of the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association's ongoing recognition of One Health Day. One Health is the concept recognizing that human health, animal health, and health of the environment, are closely interrelated and thus should often be considered as a whole. One Health Day is an international campaign aimed at bringing attention to the need for a One Health approach to tackle many of today's pressing health challenges. This program is free. Light refreshments will be served. — from Jones Memorial Library.

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All horizontal rows of nine, all vertical columns of nine, and all the heavily outlined boxes of nine squares must contain all the numbers from one to nine.

Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

The answer is on page 2B.

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# Judge encourages communication in Diaz case

by Elizabeth Trail

NEWPORT — The Coventry Select Board was back in court Tuesday morning for a status conference on its civil case against Town Clerk and Treasurer Cynthia Diaz.

The town has sued Ms. Diaz for her failure to provide financial documents requested by auditor Jeff Graham. In February, Judge Howard VanBenthuyzen issued a preliminary injunction ordering Ms. Diaz to turn over the documents and to keep proper financial records on an ongoing basis.

According to the town's attorney, Paul Gillies, neither has happened.

Judge Robert Bent, who hadn't heard the case before, was on the bench.

He asked questions to familiarize himself with the case before giving each side a list of things to do before coming back to court.

In three weeks, Judge Bent said, he'd like to see lists of the documents that each side has in its possession, preferably date stamped and numbered.

The town has asked the court to appoint a "special master," a financial overseer who would supervise the town's finances.

"Having lists to compare is the only way a special master is ever going to make any sense of all of this," Judge Bent said.

It's a very complicated case, he said. On top of the number of documents, "there's the long time period involved, plus the overarching possibility of a criminal complaint."

He said he was making no judgment on that, but it does complicate the civil case.

"We need a getting ready period when documents need to be assembled," he said.

The judge suggested that the two sides need to work harder on communicating in the interim.

"We need a master list of documents in a notebook so we can all be talking about the same thing," he said. "If everyone stays on opposite sides of the fence, if this stays an adversarial process, it will be hard to make that list."

Judge Bent also directed Mr. Gillies to amend the town's complaint and update any motions where circumstances have changed since the original paperwork was filed in December.

Chief among the changes is the estimate of how much money could be missing in the town.

In December, the town's auditor, Jeff Graham, said he had documented \$33,000 in property taxes that were collected over a two-year period and never deposited.

Mr. Graham estimated at that time that another \$5,000 in dog tags, marriage licenses, and other fees might be missing.

Those were the numbers that found their way into the initial complaint, Mr. Gillies said.

Since then, Mr. Graham has told the select board that he has documented additional missing money over the two-year period covered by the

Graham and Graham audit.

He also expanded his estimates to encompass all ten years that Ms. Diaz has been in office, in part by using figures for missing money found by previous auditors, and in part by comparing bank deposit totals to amounts that Ms. Diaz herself says she collected.

In court on Tuesday, Mr. Gillies said he didn't have the exact current number of how much money is suspected missing, but thought the total is around \$500,000.

He also mentioned a figure of \$870,000, but later explained to Judge Bent that the higher figure includes audit costs and uncollected taxes and fees.

"There's three numbers," Ms. Diaz said. "It started with an audit for two years and it was \$37,000. Now it's grown to \$870,000 and then we have the \$500,000. It's hard for me to know what number I'm supposed to be defending myself for."

The numbers have been progressive as the understanding of the situation has grown, Mr. Gillies said.

"It's all been informed by Mr. Graham's work," he said.

Judge Bent said he understands the town's analysis of the situation is evolving.

But he zeroed in on the question of how much money is suspected missing.

"Are you saying that the money went into her pocket, or into the town funds in a way that's not been accounted for?" the judge asked.

"There seems to be money that never made it into the town's accounts," Mr. Gillies replied.

Mr. Graham has demonstrated to the select board that a number of cash tax payments were made in years in which there was no cash deposited into the bank.

"I can comfortably state \$876,000 in collections billed and paid by taxpayers were not deposited in the Community National Bank account during the years 2010 to 2016," he wrote in an e-mail to *the Chronicle* in February, "and Cynthia Diaz confirms this in her annual report filings."

"Let's take two weeks, three weeks, a month, and exchange all of the documents," Judge Bent said.

Mr. Gillies asked the judge for a decision at the next court appearance on whether the court is going to appoint a special master to oversee the town's finances.

Judge Bent described a special master as a "referee in cases like this."

The task of analyzing numbers like the ones involved in the Coventry case is beyond a judge's capabilities, he said.

But the question arose of who pays for the special master, who is typically an accountant or auditor.

Both Mr. Gillies and Judge Bent believe that the state pays when a special master is appointed.

But Judge Bent had a caveat.

"The department is facing budget constraints, just like everyone else," he said. "In practical terms, sometimes there's no room at the inn."

Mr. Gillies also said that he will prepare a list of requests and orders for ongoing recordkeeping that haven't been followed.

"There are orders that are being ignored, and records that aren't being kept," he said.

Ms. Diaz said that she's supplied all of the records the select board has asked for.

"It's not the way they want it, but it's the procedure of this office," she said.

She also said that recent changes imposed by the select board have made it impossible to comply with their requests.

"I don't get bank statements, I've been stripped of the right to move money from one account to another," she said.

Judge Bent explained that there are best practices for keeping records.

"Does the Secretary of State's office have any recommendations or guidelines about best practices?" he asked Mr. Gillies.

"It may not be good enough to say this is how we do it," he told Ms. Diaz.

Ms. Diaz, representing herself, said that she'd given stacks of documents to the auditor in January that hadn't been returned to her, although she did make herself copies.

Mr. Graham said after his last court appearance in February that the documents he was asking for, if printed out, would fill a six-foot cube.

The documents that Ms. Diaz turned over would amount to about a single one-foot high stack, he said then.

In court on Tuesday, Ms. Diaz also said that in January she turned over a key to the upstairs closet in the Coventry Community Center, which contained many of her records.

"The select board has had access to those documents," she said. "I don't know what they've done with them."

When the select board opened the door to the locked upstairs closet, there was little of value left, they said at the time.

Judge Bent also pressed Ms. Diaz to get an attorney.


She failed to answer a set of questions served on January 20, Mr. Gillies said.

"I'm not sure what he's talking about," Ms. Diaz said. "It's hard for me to answer questions. The select board has been in my office, taken my software, and been in my records."

"You folks have an awkward situation to say the least," Judge Bent said at the end of the hearing. "The select board can't tell another elected official what to do. I'm going to expect some dialogue between all of you."

contact Elizabeth Trail at [elizabeth@bartonchronicle.com](mailto:elizabeth@bartonchronicle.com)

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In Brownington

# Dogs must be confined to kennel, board says

by Elizabeth Trail

BROWNINGTON — Axel and Rosy, two dogs belonging to a family on the Pepin Road, will have to be confined in a kennel when they're not in their owner's house, or face being taken away.

The Brownington Select Board held a vicious dog hearing at 9 a.m. Saturday to investigate an incident in late March when an elderly neighbor claimed she was injured after the two dogs rushed at her while she was out walking.

According to a complaint filed by Cathy Allen several weeks ago, she was walking her son's dog Bullet on a leash and had just gotten to the bottom of her driveway when Axel and Rosy began barking and circling them.

Ms. Allen, who is 79 years old, said she was injured when Bullet, in an effort to put himself between her and the barking dogs, pulled on a nylon leash that she had wrapped around her wrist, tearing the skin off her hand and pulling her over. The injury to her hand was serious enough that her son had to drive her to the emergency room, she said.

"I've stopped walking," she said on Saturday morning. "I'm afraid to go out of the house."

Since then, her son has taken Bullet to his house and won't let her walk the dog anymore.

"It was easier to take him than to risk a broken hip," Ms. Allen said.

A vicious dog hearing is conducted much like a trial, with the select board acting as the hearing officers. Witnesses are sworn before testifying.

The owner of the dogs, Natt Prue, was served with papers but didn't appear at the hearing.

So Ms. Allen's complaint was read, and she answered questions posed by select board members.

"The neighbor's dogs are not leashed at all," she said. "They're always coming over to the house."

Brownington doesn't have a leash law per se, Selectman Terry Curtis said, but owners are required to have their dogs under control at all times when off their own property.

Kaleigh Nutting and Chance Humphrey were called as witnesses. They said they were driving by and saw the incident. Mr. Humphrey said he shouted at the dogs, then left when they headed home, assuming that the owner would take the dogs inside.

Instead, Axel and Rosie came back after Mr. Humphrey left, Ms. Allen said.

As they barked and circled, Bullet kept trying to keep himself between her and the other dogs,

she said. His leash again tore her hand, pulling the skin about a third of the way off, she said in the complaint.

Then she stepped in a rut, she said, and went down.

"I kept screaming for the dogs to go home and after more than five minutes, the owner finally called the dogs," Ms. Allen said.

Mr. Humphrey's younger brother Casey Humphrey submitted written testimony in which he described a separate incident. Riding his bike, he said, he has had to put his bike between himself and the dogs to keep from being bitten.

Another member of the Humphrey family, Candy Humphrey, also spoke up at the hearing, although she was not sworn.

"My uncle can't even go to his mailbox," she said. "He has to carry a club."

Brownington Animal Control Officer Geoff Falconer said he got the first complaint about the Prue dogs on January 30.

"I went and talked to Mr. Prue, and told him he had to keep them on the property and get them licensed," Mr. Falconer said. "They still aren't licensed."

He said that when he knocked on the Prues' door that first time, the owner opened the door a crack but was having to hold Axel, a large pit bull type dog, back by force.

Town Clerk Val Faust said she sent Mr. Prue an official notice to appear at the hearing, but he hasn't acknowledged it.

And Mr. Falconer said that no one has answered the door at the Prues' house when he has tried to talk to them since Ms. Allen was injured on April 2.

Ms. Allen said she doesn't particularly want to see the dogs taken away or harmed.

"I agree, the owner just hasn't trained them," she said.

But she does want to feel safe, she added. And she'd like to be able to take walks again.

Given the size and strength of the pit bull type dog, Mr. Falconer and the select board agreed that a cable run or tie out wouldn't be sufficient to be sure he doesn't get loose.

The board decided to give the Prues a week to put up a kennel with a covered top to confine the dogs safely when they're not at the house.

A notice was to be mailed on Monday.

If the notice is ignored, the dogs will be picked up and taken to the Oasis boarding kennel in Newport. The owner will have a set period of time to comply with the order or lose his dogs.

If the dogs are loose off the owner's property,

they can be picked up at any time, said Orleans County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Phil Brooks.

But to take a dog from inside a house, the deputy said, Mr. Falconer would have to ask the Sheriff's Department to apply for a search warrant through the court.

"Even for an animal control officer it's a gray area, to take a dog," Mr. Brooks said. "And the only person who can apply for a search warrant is a law enforcement officer."

In the meantime, Ms. Allen said she's coping, even though the neighbor's dogs regularly come into her yard.

"Generally, if just one of them is out, it's okay," she said. "I lower my voice and try to sound like my son, and they leave."

What really bothers her, she said, is that the dogs' owners didn't come over to see how she was after the incident.

"They never even called," she said.

contact Elizabeth Trail at [elizabeth@bartonchronicle.com](mailto:elizabeth@bartonchronicle.com)

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- Donald Piette, Newport Center, April 28
- Georgia Young, Glover, April 29
- Wyona Horskins, North Troy, April 30
- Steve Fraser, April 30
- Sabrina True, Port Wentworth, GA, May 1
- Richard A. Colburn Sr., Charleston, May 3
- Kitty McIntyre, Newport, May 3
- Denise Wright, Barton, May 4
- Darren Pion, Lowell, May 4
- Jack Lazor, Westfield, May 4
- Kendall Locke, Irasburg, May 4
- Bonnie Locke, Irasburg, May 4
- Arthur Young, West Glover, May 5
- Jacob Baker, Holland, May 5

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# Barton Village Trustees New policies set for Memorial Building use

by Elizabeth Trail

BARTON — One goal of Monday night's village trustees meeting, announced before the meeting even opened, was to adopt a set of policies for public use of the Barton Memorial Building.

After almost tabling the matter several times, the trustees pressed forward and passed a whole set of rates and policies, covering not only the theater, kitchen, and social hall spaces in the Memorial Building, but also Pageant Park and the ball field behind Kinney Drugs, which also belongs to the village.

For a long time, there have been tensions between the management of the Barton Senior Center and other renters of the downstairs social hall and kitchen space.

At one meeting reported by *the Chronicle* last year, a representative of the American Legion complained to the trustees about finding kitchen equipment locked up and unavailable, hot water turned off, and not being allowed to use a mop and bucket to clean up after use.

"There seems to be a perception, and it's fairly widespread, that there's a lot of stress involved," Trustee Cathy Swain said. "People are avoiding using the building."

That represents a loss to Barton Village, she said. "Orleans is making about \$7,000 a year from renting their municipal building."

In fact, the Barton library holds a major fundraiser every year in the Orleans Municipal Building.

"That should be illegal," Barton Electric Department Manager Evan Riordan joked.

Ms. Swain met with Brenda Lowther, director of the senior center, for over an hour last week.

"I had a very long conversation with Brenda, ending with these problems are solvable," she said. "I told Brenda the trustees have had it. I'm here to give you that heads up. I didn't raise my voice; she didn't either. We talked for maybe an hour."

But, she added that, during the course of the meeting, Ms. Lowther's husband, Frank Lowther, a member of the senior center board, became upset, shouted at her, and left.

"He literally screamed at me," Ms. Swain said. "I told them it had to stop."

Mr. Lowther has subsequently been removed from the Barton Memorial Building Advisory Committee.

Ms. Lowther had complaints of her own, including missing soup ladles, pranksters putting

pepper in the sugar bowls, and unsupervised children running upstairs during rentals of the downstairs hall, Ms. Swain said.

"A key part of this is that we start managing the space," she said. "We need to manage what's going on there."

And she thought it would reduce a lot of tension if the regular users of the downstairs space got together and raised enough money to buy additional kitchen equipment.

"We need to fund-raise for the hall so we can equip the kitchen and there's no doubt that renters are entitled to use things," Ms. Swain said.

Chair Nate Sicard balked at buying duplicate sets of everything in the kitchen. He suggested that a certain amount of money be set aside each year to replace lost or damaged dishes, serving pieces, or equipment.

A lot of the equipment currently in the kitchen and social hall was purchased with grant money.

"All those grants are ten years old," Mr. Sicard said. "The dishwasher is ten years old."

The senior meal site has been using the space free, and the village pays the utilities, including hot water and the electricity.

But the trustees agreed that anyone who uses the hall and kitchen should be required to leave the place exactly as they found it.

"Hopefully, we can get reasonable people to agree," Ms. Swain said.

She called the policies an overview, likening them to the view of the landscape when flying at 30,000 feet.

A cleaning deposit will be charged to all users, including those who fall under the free use guidelines. That money would be used to pay someone to clean or straighten the place if it's not left in pristine condition. The trustees agreed on a need to create a complete manual to cover the details of building use.

Trustee Tin Barton-Caplin suggested including drawings of where furniture and equipment should be after use.

Under the new plan, village residents and nonprofits would be able to use either the upstairs or downstairs space free for periods of less than three hours.

There would be a charge for nonresident and commercial use.

The trustees decided against sending a written warning to the senior center at this time.

"Just continue with the dialogue," Mr. Sicard said.

The trustees also set rates for Pageant Park for the summer.

Barton Village residents and taxpayers get in free. Non-residents over 14 years old will be charged \$2. Children under 14 will pay \$1, and under three will be free. That's half the rate charged by the state park.

Very few people buy season passes, but the trustees decided to create a family pass to cover parents and any number of children.

Nightly camping rates were set, but it's pretty much a moot point since all but one site is taken up by seasonal rentals.

The trustees debated raising the seasonal camping rate to \$1,800 and including electricity in the up-front charge, to prevent people skipping out at the end of the season with unpaid power bills. However, there was some concern that charging a flat rate for electricity might encourage users to run their air conditioners round the clock.

The trustees tabled that discussion for a later meeting.

But overdue utility bills were the next item on the docket anyway.

Mr. Riordan presented a list of addresses with past due utility bills.

Auditor Jeff Graham had suggested that the oldest bills be written off to get them off the books.

Uncollected bills are also a problem when it comes to balancing the books and avoiding rate increases, Mr. Riordan said.

The village has about \$23,000 in bills over 120 days old. Mr. Riordan had flagged a little over \$6,600 in really old bills to write off and send to a collection agency.

He's also pursuing a more aggressive policy of calling and disconnections to keep future past due bills from getting so high.

"One customer regularly floats between \$4,000 and \$10,000," he said.

One issue is that power can't be disconnected during the winter months.

"There are certain times of the year and temperatures we have to watch," Mr. Riordan said.

Another tool for dealing with extremely past due utility bills is attaching liens to properties.

The trustees approved 16 liens, including \$7,985 for extremely past due water and sewer bills, and \$18,424 for properties with extremely big and old electric bills.

contact Elizabeth Trail at [elizabeth@bartonchronicle.com](mailto:elizabeth@bartonchronicle.com)



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# Derby Select Board More policing approved

by Joseph Gresser

DERBY — The Derby Select Board signed a new contract with the Orleans County Sheriff that will increase the cost of law enforcement for the town, but not by much. Voters gave their approval to almost doubling the \$46,700 spent on law enforcement last year to \$90,000.

Derby has been under pressure from the State Police to pay more for public safety in light of the new Walmart's arrival in town. Select board members have been resistant to that idea, and at their meeting Monday evening, they voted to spend only \$50,750 on policing.

They signed a contract with the Sheriff's Department that will give the town 20 hours and 45 minutes of police patrol each week. The department charges \$47.03 an hour for its services.

Afterward they turned their attention to other issues, including bridge work on the Eagle Point Road. The project is to be paid for in part with money from the Federal Lands Access program. Matching funds on the project, estimated to cost around \$700,000, will be provided by the state and the town.

Grant Spates, who chairs the Derby Select Board, told his colleagues the project is being delayed while state and federal officials pass paper back and forth.

"It wouldn't be good, if it went along into August and then they said 'go ahead,'" board member Brian Smith said.

Mr. Spates said his concerns have more to do with the possibility of a flood causing the culvert to collapse. That culvert is scheduled to be replaced with a precast concrete box culvert.

Should it collapse, Mr. Spates said, the town could haul a temporary bridge to the site to span the culvert until work can begin.

He said the Eagle Point project ought to be combined with similar work on the John's River Road when the project is put out to bid. Both projects will be paid for using the same type of funding, and contractors are likely to put in lower bids if they don't have to move and set up equipment more than once.

Derby Zoning Administrator Robert Kelley, who also takes care

of business for the select board, said the town has received a \$15,000 state grant for engineering on the Eagle Point project. He proposed asking for another to pay for plans for the John's River bridge.

In other business, Mr. Smith told his fellow board members that the crew at the recycling center thinks it might be easier to keep things orderly in the yard if the center changes its hours from Saturday and Wednesday to Saturday, Tuesday, and Thursday. He said those hours would allow time to ship recycled goods out so the bins aren't always overflowing.

The recycling workers want to poll users to see if the change would work for them. Board member W. Perry Hunt pointed out that the current budget only provides money to run the center two days a week. If a poll shows that people want to keep the center open more days, voters will have to approve higher spending at Town Meeting, he said.

People continue to slip into the yard when the center is closed and leave their recycling, Mr. Smith said. He asked what happened to proposals to install video cameras on the recycling shed.

Mr. Kelley said the town solicited bids. One came in at around \$1,200, but a second, which was closer to \$1,900, included a license plate reader.

Mr. Smith suggested that the chosen company be asked to set up a demonstration so the select board can see what kind of information the cameras will provide.

Mr. Spates said the town should post a sign warning people that they will be photographed, pursued, and billed if they try to leave recycling after hours. He said it would be unfair to go after people if they don't know they are being observed.

Mr. Kelley asked the board to consider revising the zoning ordinance to create a design review board to replace the current zoning board.

He said the planning commission likes it the way it is, but things don't get done as quickly as they would if the board making permit decisions was separate from the one that creates the town plan and zoning bylaws.

Mr. Spates asked Mr. Kelley to provide information about his plan at the next select board meeting.

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Instructor: Scott Snelgrove

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Instructor: Harry Mueller

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Instructor: Carol Castle

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Instructor: Rachel Wasilewski

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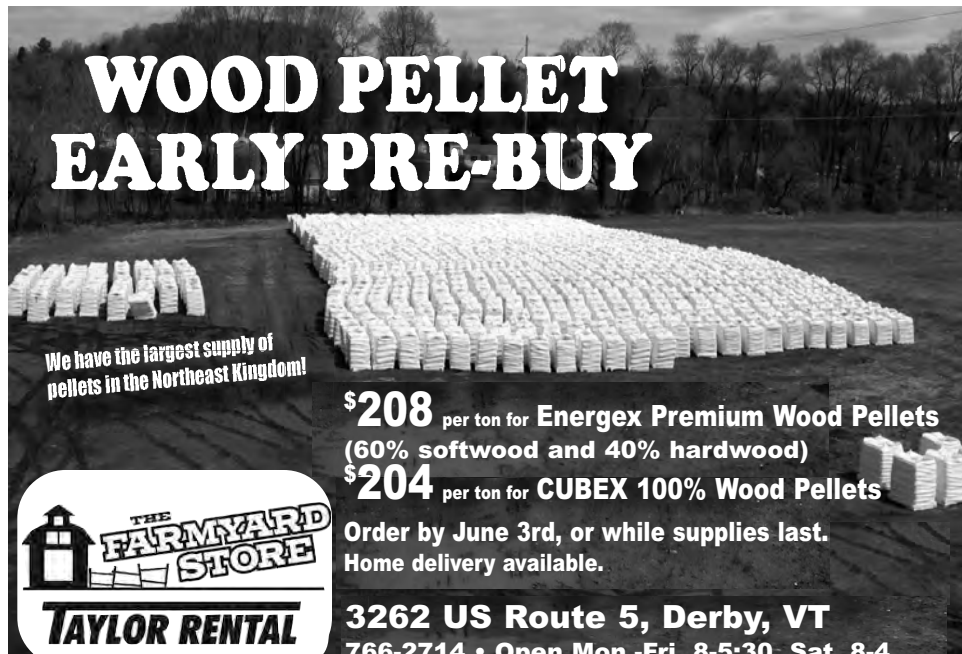
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# Congressman Welch tours the Kingdom

by Joseph Gresser

NEWPORT — U.S. Representative Peter Welch brought his spring recess tour of the state to the Northeast Kingdom on April 20 with a visit to Derby and Newport.

The state's only Congressional member asked local leaders what they need from the federal government, but the news he offered in exchange was not particularly good.

Mr. Welch said the budget President Donald Trump proposed completely eliminates two programs that have provided a great deal of benefit to the region in past years. They are the community development block grant program and the Northern Border Regional Commission.

Both have brought millions of dollars to Vermont for infrastructure, housing, and other community projects.

Newport City Manager Laura Dolgin, Derby Zoning Administrator Robert Kelley, who serves as de facto town manager, Derby Select Board member Beula-Jean Shattuck, and Newport City Council President John Wilson were among those who greeted the congressman.

Tom Bernier, Newport's director of public works, said he believes his city will need to spend \$16-million in coming years to repair roads and replace aging water and sewer lines.

Newport is also waiting to hear if the Agency of Natural Resources will require the city to treat stormwater runoff before discharging it into Lake Memphremagog. About ten years ago the city separated its sanitary sewer system from the stormwater lines at the state's request.

Should the state require Newport to change back, it will greatly restrict the amount of sewage treatment capacity available to serve new

Board, said his town is looking at similar issues, although water and sewer services are handled by the town's two villages, Derby Center and Derby Line.

Mr. Spates told Mr. Welch that Derby Line is served by the International Water Company, which pumps water back and forth across the border from wells in Canada to a reservoir in the U.S. and back again.

He said the company's lines along Canusa Avenue date from the early part of the twentieth century and need replacing. Derby Line is responsible for the lines on the U.S. side of the border, Mr. Spates said.

Marcel Caron, who was introduced as being the entire Derby Village Water Company, admitted that he has more to do than a person can handle. He recalled a recent vacation out west during which he spent five whole days instructing contract workers on how to repair problems in the water system.

Like the others at the meeting, Mr. Caron said his lines are aging and will need replacement.

After hearing from the municipal leaders, Mr. Welch visited the Veterans Administration (VA) clinic on Crawford Road in Newport.

The clinic opened almost seven years ago at North Country Hospital. It was open only one day a week then. Today it has its own offices and operates five days a week, Alfred Montoya Jr., the director of the White River Junction VA Medical Center, told Mr. Welch.

He said about 700 veterans currently use the Newport clinic, about as many as are seen at the VA's Brattleboro clinic.

Nurse Rachael Pelletier said patients like the convenience of getting basic medical care without having to drive to White River Junction. And the clinic staff is well acquainted with the patients and can ask about their spouses and children.

It's like family, Ms. Pelletier said.

Mr. Montoya said the Vermont VA facilities offer same-day appointments for veterans who need care.

Ms. Pelletier said many of the vets suffer from conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

"We have a lot of smokers," Ms. Pelletier said. "They smoked in the service and have a hard time getting off cigarettes."

Although many suffer from diseases that could be eased, Ms. Pelletier said, her patients don't like to change their lifestyle.

She explained to Mr. Welch why many find it difficult to do so, even if they want to change.

"There's not much money up here," Ms. Pelletier said. "People eat a lot of simple carbohydrates because they're inexpensive."

Ms. Pelletier showed Mr. Welch the examining rooms, pointing out terminals that allow doctors elsewhere in the state to examine patients over the Internet.

(Continued on page thirteen.)



Peter Welch (center) talks with Karen Geraghty of the Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) during his visit with local business leaders at the Goodrich Memorial Library in Newport. Others at the table included Diane Peel back to camera, Gary Gillespie (left), Claudio Fort (right), and Stephen Marsh.

Photos by Joseph Gresser

Mr. Welch said both programs are especially important in rural states, noting that a number of his Republican colleagues represent such areas. The Congressman said he thinks it possible that a bipartisan coalition will keep the proposed cuts from going into effect.

He held his first meeting of the day in Derby, where officials from Derby, Newport, and Derby Center came together to tell Mr. Welch the kind of work they will need to do over the next few years to maintain basic services.

businesses in Newport and Derby. That could mean the current plant will need to be expanded.

Derby Center owns some of the treatment capacity in the Newport plant, but if businesses come to the area in the wake of the new Walmart, it may not be able to serve their needs.

Mr. Bernier said Newport needs to rebuild a number of its streets. The state does not pay for the upkeep of highways that are within Newport's borders, he said.

Grant Spates, the chair of the Derby Select



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# Welch braces leaders for austere federal budget

(Continued from page twelve.)

Mr. Montoya said inadequate broadband service can make it hard to use that technology.

Many patients need help with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and psychologists and psychiatrists visit the clinic to see patients. Some are getting counseling using the telemedicine system, Ms. Pelletier said.

Mr. Welch headed off for his next appointment, a visit to Columbia Forest Products veneer mill in Newport. There he was greeted by a group of administrators with whom he ate lunch.

The Congressman expressed his pleasure at the spread put before him.

"I'm not used to being treated so well," he said. "This is great for someone from an institution with a 7 percent approval rating."

Gary Gillespie, a company vice-president, welcomed Mr. Welch and thanked him for helping with a tariff case now before the International Trade Commission. The remaining members of the group introduced themselves, and Mr. Welch questioned them about their careers with Columbia.

One asked Mr. Welch about a report that said he had started a caucus made up of members of Congress who want to get things done.

"Congress is broken. If we don't pass policies, your job gets harder," Mr. Welch responded. "I've helped start the problem solvers caucus with 30 Democrats and 30 Republicans. Our political views differ, but what we share is a belief in the need to work."

"We don't see eye to eye," Mr. Welch went on, "but we want to make progress. I'll settle for progress. The basic job of a Legislature is to pass budgets, we haven't passed a budget in three or four years."

He said Congress has been on autopilot since the sequester agreement limiting what can be spent on domestic and military programs was put in place. Mr. Welch said it has to get back to doing its job.

He was given a quick tour of the mill before heading off for his final stop in Newport, a visit with local business leaders at the Goodrich Memorial Library.

There he sat with Stephen Marsh, the former president of Community National Bank, Claudio Fort, CEO of North Country Hospital, Mike Welch, senior project manager for Northern Community Investment Corporation (NCIC), Diane Peel, Tracy Zschau, of the Vermont Land Trust, Kathryn Austin, president and CEO of Community National Bank, and Mr. Gillespie.

Representative Welch again outlined what he sees as problems with the budget proposed by President Trump. He then asked what business needs in the Newport area.

Mr. Welch of NCIC said the community development block grant program has been essential to development in the Northeast Kingdom. Although the actual dollar amounts provided are often small, they generate a large amount of economic activity, he said.

Ms. Austin said the Newport City Renaissance Committee has taken advantage of community development block grant money to promote development in the city's downtown.

Ms. Zschau showed a map of the Scott Farm, which her organization bought last year. She outlined plans to develop an extended walking and biking trail stretching from Newport's downtown to the border.

She said her family recently biked into Canada, where they had lunch in a restaurant that was filled with other cyclists. Cycling trails run all the way to Montreal, she said.

Representative Welch asked if border crossing continues to be problem for businesses in the area.

All agreed that it does. Among other difficulties, they cited the unwillingness of Customs officials to inspect planes at Northeast Kingdom International Airport in Coventry. Flights from Canada are diverted to Burlington before they



Rachael Pelletier shows off the Newport VA clinic to Representative Peter Welch.

are allowed to land in Coventry, Mr. Welch heard.

Mr. Marsh said he is concerned by provisions of the Dodd-Frank act, which was passed to rein in abuses by banks and corporations. The law's regulations are too hard and expensive for smaller banks to handle, he said.

He noted the loss of locally based banks around the state, saying that it made doing business in Vermont towns much more difficult.

Representative Welch said he generally supports Dodd-Frank, but has been persuaded by Mr. Marsh that regulation on small banks needs to be loosened.

Ms. Peel said she is working to set up wireless Internet for Newport residents who cannot afford services from the commercial broadband providers. She said she financed

many of her community activities out of her salary as a nurse, but cannot continue to do so now that she is retired.

Mr. Fort said his organization ran into Internet problems when a radiologist moved into the area. The hospital went to great lengths to set up a wireless link to the doctor's house so he could be notified in case of emergencies.

Representative Welch said rural areas continue to lag behind other parts of the country when it comes to their communication infrastructure.

He said he would do what he could to make sure the budget includes programs that are essential to the needs of the Kingdom. Congressman Welch then headed down to Lyndon State College to meet with students.

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# Former Newberry building to become apartments

by Joseph Gresser

NEWPORT — Burlington developer Rick Bove, the new owner of the old J.J. Newberry's building, plans to convert the vacant store to a five-story apartment building. The plan was recently unveiled by Ernie Pomerleau, the owner of Waterfront Plaza, the former owner of the building, and a Chittenden County developer.

According to Newport Zoning Administrator Charles Elliott, Mr. Bove has yet to ask for a building permit. Mr. Elliott said he has a couple of questions about the building, most notably, whether its parking garage will have enough spaces to meet the requirements of the city's zoning ordinance.

Plans for the building show 26 apartments but only 21 parking spaces. Zoning regulations call for four spaces for every dwelling unit.

Mr. Elliott said he understands that the building is designed to accommodate younger workers. He suggested nurses or teachers who are just starting out might find



A drawing of the proposed redevelopment of Newport's old J.J. Newberry's building show the four-story addition sitting atop the old store. In the drawing the building is depicted as it would be seen from Main Street. Plans call for two storefronts with the entrance to the apartment complex between them.

Drawing courtesy of Ernie Pomerleau

suitable housing in the new building. Plans show a mixture of one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments.

In addition to city permits, Mr.

Bove will need an Act 250 permit. He should have little trouble getting state approval.

Recent law lessens permit requirements in designated

downtowns. New buildings only require sign-offs stating that construction won't disturb a valuable archaeological site and that the building isn't located in a brownfield. They also need a letter from the state Division of Historic Preservation saying the design accords with the character of the city.

Mr. Bove plans to divide the store into two smaller retail spaces. They will not be as deep as the present store because some of the space is needed for the parking garage, which will be located on the first and second floors of the building.

Mr. Pomerleau also announced that his new tenant at Waterfront Plaza will be a Dollar Tree store. Workers have spent all winter remodeling the space and, according to Mr. Elliott, Dollar Tree employees will soon be installing coolers and other equipment to get it ready to open sometime in May or early June.

## Nominations sought for Zetterstrom Environmental Award

Seeking to recognize a leading Vermont environmentalist and honor the legacy of a legendary wildlife advocate, Green Mountain Power is seeking nominations for the 2017 GMP-Zetterstrom Environmental Award.

Presented annually and named for famed osprey advocate Meeri Zetterstrom of Milton, the award is given to one person, business, group or non-profit who has made a significant contribution to Vermont's environment. The award is accompanied by a \$2,500 donation to the winner's environmental cause.

"Meeri's legacy continues to be visible in the dozens of ospreys that now make Vermont home, and the Vermonters who emulate her passion and perseverance," GMP President and CEO Mary Powell said. "We have been thrilled with the quality of applicants over the years, and hope for some inspiring nominees for the 2017 award."

Ms. Zetterstrom, a passionate wildlife advocate unafraid of making waves, began what became a statewide initiative to restore endangered ospreys in Vermont in the late 1980s. Despite people annoying the birds accidentally and intentionally, and repeated nest failures, Ms. Zetterstrom was a passionate advocate who remained focused on her goal.

She lived in a small cabin with a bird's-eye

view of Lake Arrowhead in Milton, and was among the first to notice when a couple of ospreys returned to fish the lake's waters after their near extinction in Vermont in the 1940s.

Her vision, collaboration, and leadership prompted utilities, the state, and private landowners to work together, and ultimately led to the resurgence of ospreys over the next 20 years.

The birds were removed from the endangered species list in 2005, and plans for the Zetterstrom Award were announced shortly before Ms. Zetterstrom died in 2010.

GMP Vice President Steve Costello worked closely with Ms. Zetterstrom, and came to view her as a grandmotherly figure — with attitude.

"Meeri was warm and charming but she was also direct and forceful when she wanted to get a specific thing done in her quest," Mr. Costello said. "She had a singular focus on bringing ospreys back, and it permeated virtually every aspect of her life. She was also one of the most caring, gentle, and thoughtful people I've ever met."

Past award recipients include Sally Laughlin, a leading wildlife advocate and scientist whose work was instrumental in restoring three species of endangered birds in Vermont; Michael Smith,

the founder of Rutland's Pine Hill Park; Margaret Fowle, who led Vermont's peregrine falcon restoration program; Kelly Stettner, who founded the Black River Action Team in southern Vermont; and Lake Champlain International, a nonprofit working to protect, restore and revitalize Lake Champlain and its communities.

Nominations for the GMP-Zetterstrom Environmental Award will be accepted through May 31, and the winner will be announced this summer. The winner will be chosen by a panel of GMP employees with responsibilities related to land management, resource protection, community relations, and education, and environmental compliance.

Nominations may be made by the nominee or by any other entity and should demonstrate a commitment of the nominee to benefit Vermont, its land, air or water, wildlife or the enjoyment of the outdoors by others. This may be through educational efforts, environmental stewardship, resource rehabilitation, protection, preservation or conservation.

Vermonters of any age may be nominated. For a nomination application and more information, visit [www.greenmountainpower.com](http://www.greenmountainpower.com). — from GMP.

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# \$150-million settlement gets preliminary approval

by Joseph Gresser

U.S. District Court Judge Darrin Gayles gave preliminary approval to a \$150-million settlement that could mean repayment of millions of dollars Jay Peak and Burke Mountain owe to contractors and tradespeople.

Michael Goldberg, the court-appointed receiver of property owned by Ariel Quiros, spent nearly ten months negotiating the agreement with Raymond James & Associates, the company that handled the financial transactions on which federal and state fraud charges against Mr. Quiros are based.

Judge Gayles must give his final approval and issue an order shutting down several class action lawsuits filed against the financial services firm and barring further suits before the settlement is complete and any funds are paid.

The agreement calls for Raymond James to hand over \$91.7-million to Mr. Goldberg within 20 days of the date Judge Gayles signs the settlement and bars further lawsuits against the company. Raymond James will pay out the remaining \$53.8-million within 20 days of the order becoming final.

Judge Gayles scheduled a hearing for June 30 to allow investors who are not satisfied with the proposed deal to explain their objections.

If and when the judge accepts the settlement, there are a lot of people who will have reason to be pleased.

Among them are contractors who worked on the Hotel Burke and are still owed \$3.6-million and those at Jay Peak's Stateside project, who have been waiting for \$2.2-million that is due to them. Those contractors will get all of the money that is due them, Mr. Goldberg said in a recent interview.

He will use another \$17.5-million to complete the projects originally planned for the Stateside portion of the ski area.

Tradespeople who did business with Jay Peak and were left with some \$5.1-million in unpaid bills last April when the receiver took over the resort, will also see their money if the deal is ratified. The settlement will also be used to clear those debts.

Another \$3-million will go to Burke Mountain Academy to take care of money it is owed.

A limited number of the EB-5 investors will also have the \$500,000 they put into some projects returned to them.

Those include investors who put up the money to build the Tram Haus Lodge, the first of the visa-funded projects at the hotel. All of the projects were set up as limited partnerships, but only the Tram Haus project had its partnership dissolved.

The Tram Haus investors have been holding promissory notes, which Mr. Goldberg will

redeem using a total of \$15.3-million in settlement funds.

He will also pay back all remaining investors in the AnC Bio biomedical facility. That project ran out of money well before any significant work was done, and there is nothing of value that the investors can sell to get their money back.

Mr. Quiros sold the land on which the facility was to be built for \$6-million, which the SEC filing said was a highly inflated price.

Mr. Goldberg will distribute \$67-million to repay that group of investors. He also will pay \$1-million to Burke investors who were denied visas by the federal government because the hotel did not create as many jobs as projected.

EB-5 visas are granted to people who put at least \$500,000 into a project that creates ten or more jobs. Without the jobs, the investors do not get visas.

It is possible that more Burke investors may wind up in the same situation, so Mr. Goldberg will have an additional \$10-million to deal with that contingency.

The remaining investors in projects at Jay and in the Hotel Burke will be repaid when the two ski areas are sold. Mr. Goldberg said they will share in the profits if the resorts are sold for more than their investments, but if the sale price is lower than what they put into the resort they will have to take a hit.

He promised to do whatever he can to make the pot of money left at the end of the day as big as possible.

One group that will have its own pot to divide

is made up of the lawyers who represented investors in the class action suits against Raymond James. The settlement sets aside \$25-million to handle their claims.

Judge Gayles will be the one to determine how much each group of lawyers gets. He will hold a separate hearing before making that decision.

Raymond James and Joel Burstein, the manager of one of its southern Florida branches, were sued by Mr. Goldberg and investors because of their role in alleged fraud by Mr. Quiros.

According to civil charges filed by the federal Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the state Department of Financial Regulation, Mr. Quiros mishandled or misused about \$200-million of the \$350-million he raised for EB-5 projects. He has also been accused of taking \$50-million of that money for his own use.

Mr. Quiros continues to deny those charges.

In their charges, the government says Mr. Quiros purchased Jay Peak using EB-5 money passed through Raymond James accounts, even though the financial company had been notified that he was not permitted to use the cash in that way.

The company also allowed Mr. Quiros to borrow against investors' money and helped him to hide that fact, the SEC says.

Raymond James did not admit any wrongdoing when it signed the settlement with Mr. Goldberg.



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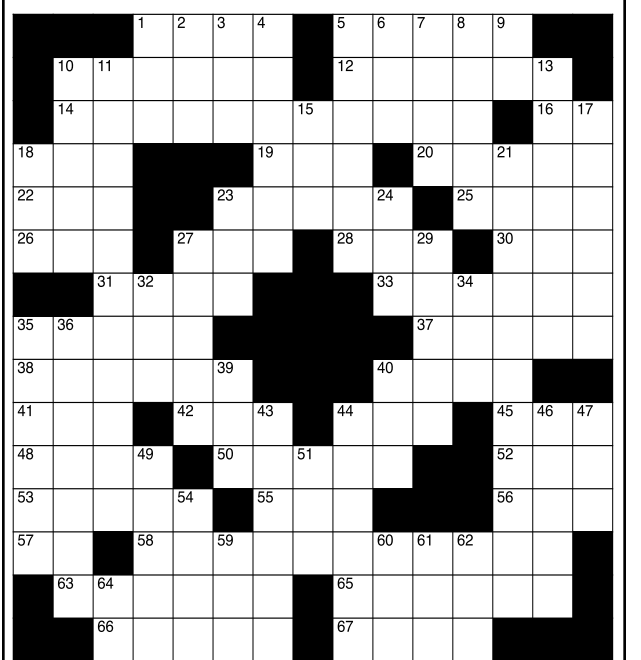


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### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Hot meal
- 5. Razor clams
- 10. Blood-sucking African fly
- 12. Chauvinists
- 14. Windy City football player
- 16. An alternative
- 18. Federal Housing Administration
- 19. Styles hair
- 20. Arabic female name
- 22. Paddle
- 23. Area once separated from Germany
- 25. Marketplace
- 26. Gode Airport
- 27. Upset
- 28. Where wrestlers sweat
- 30. Garland
- 31. Robert \_\_, poet
- 33. An iPad is one
- 35. Fruit of the oak tree
- 37. Della \_\_, singer
- 38. Women's clothing retailer
- 40. Mailed
- 41. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 42. Pouch
- 44. Radioactivity unit
- 45. Month
- 48. Nanosecond
- 50. Domestic
- 52. What a boy becomes
- 53. Breezes (anc. Greek)
- 55. Jogged
- 56. At the stern
- 57. Lawrencium
- 58. Destructive to both sides
- 63. Arterias
- 65. Removes
- 66. Pretentious people
- 67. Tropical Asian plant

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Type of whale
- 2. Type of medication
- 3. Land of the free
- 4. Formed an opinion of
- 5. Logo
- 6. No (Scottish)
- 7. Leaves tissue
- 8. Sacred state to Muslims
- 9. Thus
- 10. African nation
- 11. Someone who has a stake in
- 13. Parties
- 15. Subsystem producers
- 17. Large, flightless birds
- 18. Compromises visibility
- 21. A ballet enthusiast
- 23. More (Spanish)
- 24. Skeletal muscle
- 27. Hands (Span.)
- 29. Weighed
- 32. Businessman
- 34. Famous clock Big \_\_
- 35. Unkeyed
- 36. Break between words
- 39. Ink (slang)
- 40. Disappointed
- 43. Stroke
- 44. Curdled milk
- 46. Restaurants
- 47. Explosive
- 49. Type of terrier
- 51. Disfigure
- 54. Innermost cell layers
- 59. Bar bill
- 60. Distinct period of history
- 61. Mode of transportation
- 62. Equal (prefix)
- 64. Operating system

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# Two Falcons named to Vermont Sports Hall of Fame

by Brad Usatch

Two North Country Union High School graduates were among the honorees on Saturday night at the DoubleTree hotel in South Burlington as the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame held an induction ceremony for its class of 2017.

Former high school track and field champion and amateur boxing champion Tony Robitaille, and North Country and Norwich University hockey and soccer standout Guy Gaudreau were enshrined in a class of 13 inductees that included Olympic skier Lindy Cochran Kelley, equestrian gold medalist Tad Coffin, and distance running pioneer and seven-time Boston Marathon winner Clarence DeMar.

Mr. Robitaille graduated from North Country in 1975. A state champion in two track and field throwing events, he really made his mark on the sports world when he took up boxing about two years after high school.

"I was still living at home, I was working at Butterfield's in Derby Line, and I needed some direction, some competition," Mr. Robitaille said.

He said he approached Donald Veburst, a Derby Line veterinarian with a history of boxing and coaching. He trained with Dr. Veburst in his gym on the second floor of his barn.

Mr. Robitaille won his first fight in St. Johnsbury in 1977 and went on to an amateur career that included four straight heavyweight titles in both the Vermont and New England Golden Gloves tournaments.

Mr. Robitaille said it was 1981 when he lost a split decision to a young Mike Tyson.

"It was close," Mr. Robitaille said. "I was backing up and moving sideways and counterpunching. I kept countering and he was just a comer. He was a tough customer and a good fighter."

Mr. Robitaille called the induction ceremony "a fantastic, well-organized" event and said he plans to return in future years just to enjoy it as a spectator.

"When I got the call, I just started thinking about the whole thing and it came over me like a flood of memories," he said.

Looking back he said he has no regrets. He said he would have had a strong shot to make the 1980 Olympic team, but that was the year the U.S. boycotted the summer games. As for turning pro, he said it crossed his mind, but he felt he made the right decision walking away when he did.

"My gut feeling was to call it quits," he said. "I had three concussions through my career. You hear stories about boxers' brains turning to mush. I just thought it was time to hang it up."

Mr. Robitaille now lives in Williston. He said he has a wonderful family and is nearing the end of a career with UPS. He called boxing "a great chapter in his life," and said that, for the most part, he wouldn't change a thing.

Mr. Robitaille said he was nervous about addressing the crowd before he arrived at the ceremony, but the nerves melted away when he bumped into so many old friends at the event. He did get a little choked up while giving his speech and said he wished he had made more of a point to thank his big brother Robin, a Barton resident who Mr. Robitaille said was always there to support him.

"He was instrumental in helping me along," Mr. Robitaille said of his brother. "He was always sports minded. When he saw I was going to pursue boxing, he got behind me, sparred with me, traveled with me and my trainer Mike Armstrong, he even helped me through my track and field days. He is the kind of guy who learned things as he went along, and it wasn't just me, he was always willing to help other people, too."

One of the friends Mr. Robitaille bumped into at the ceremony was his "old buddy" Guy Gaudreau. Mr. Gaudreau graduated from North Country in 1976, just a year behind Mr. Robitaille. Mr. Gaudreau was one of the most prolific scorers in both hockey and soccer in Vermont high school history, and he continued to find the net in both sports at Norwich University.

Mr. Gaudreau led the Falcons to Division I soccer titles in 1974 and 1975, finishing his varsity career with 63 goals and 36 assists.

He was part of the group that built the North Country hockey program, taking it from a club team in his freshman year, to Division II varsity as a sophomore, and D-I in his final two years. He finished with 118 career goals in three varsity years, including 51 goals as a senior when the Falcons took a perfect 15-0 record into the championship game before being upended 5 to 3 by BFA-St. Albans.

"We progressed pretty quickly," said Mr. Gaudreau. "We were pretty fortunate to have a strong group of kids."

Even now, 40 years later, he was able to rattle off the names of just about every one on those soccer and hockey rosters, many of the kids playing on both teams, as he did.

In college he was no less prolific. A four-year starter in soccer, he had 30 career goals for the Cadets and was an All-New England pick in his senior year.

He led the hockey team in scoring three of his four seasons, finishing with 88 goals and 56 assists.

After graduating Norwich in 1980, he coached hockey and taught at North Country. A business opportunity eventually took him to New Jersey where for years he has operated ice rinks and continued to coach.

Guy Gaudreau is perhaps best known as the father of "Johnny Hockey."

Mr. Gaudreau's son Johnny earned the moniker for his career at Boston College. In 2014, he won the Hobey Baker award as the best player in college hockey. He went on to the NHL and has just completed his third season with the Calgary Flames where he has tallied 73 goals and 131 assists. Johnny Hockey's proud grandparents, John and Denise, still live in Guy's boyhood home in Beebe Plain.

Guy Gaudreau said he thought about trying to go pro, but he wasn't being recruited by any professional teams, and, more to the point, he'd just had enough of hockey by the end of his run at Norwich.

"My dad gave me some good advice," Mr. Gaudreau said. "He said whether it's sneakers, cleats, or skates, when you bend over to tie them, if you're not enjoying it, you shouldn't be doing it."

Governor Phil Scott was on hand to present each of the inductees a green granite plaque carved in the the shape of Vermont.

"It's a great honor," said Mr. Gaudreau. "It's amazing how many people came up to me and told me they remembered me playing hockey and soccer. It's been such a long time and it was pretty exciting."

A portion of the proceeds raised by the \$75-a-plate awards dinner will benefit the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame's designated charity, Prevent Child Abuse Vermont (PCAV). The event has raised over \$10,000 for PCAV since its inception in 2012.

## Lake Region track and field kicks off season

The Lake Region Union High School track and field team had its first meet of the season on April 19 at North Country Union High School. They had many great performances, despite steady rain and cold temperatures.

Freshman Joslyn Hinton placed third in shot put, sixth in the 100m dash, and was part of the team's second place 4-by-100m relay team along with senior Margo Foster, freshman Annie Doucet, and sophomore Emma Downs. Other top finishes for Lake Region came from junior Catherine Close, who won the javelin throw, senior Margo Foster, who was third in the 300m hurdles, and senior Emily Klar, who was fourth in the 800m run.

Top finishes for the boys included junior Chad Royer taking sixth in the 200m dash and freshman Andrew Hicks, sixth in the 400m dash. Freshmen Cole Royer and Jordan Prue finished fourth and sixth, respectively, in the 800m run.

The team's next meet will be Wednesday, May 3, at 3:30 p.m. at Lyndon Institute. — submitted by Liz Chichester.

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# Rural Vermont to host talk on land use, livelihood, food

Rural Vermont will conclude Groundswell, a statewide community conversation tour on Wednesday, April 26, at Sterling College, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The event, in Simpson 3 at 16 Sterling Drive is free and open to the public. People can apply for farmer or childcare stipends by calling (802) 223-7222.

Rural Vermont's Community Conversation Tour is meant to engage communities in dialogue about land use, livelihood, food, and the future of Vermont. At each of the tour stops, Rural Vermont farmer-leaders and staff will present a vision for an agricultural economy in Vermont that delivers health and vitality to farmer, eater, soil, environment, and community alike.

Attendees will be invited to identify priorities,

barriers, and pathways to systemic change at the individual, community, and statewide levels. Rural Vermont will use the results from all tour events to shape its plan for moving Vermont towards this shared vision for a just agriculture and economy which serve all Vermonters and the land we inhabit.

At the Craftsbury gathering, local host Meghan Stotko of Heartwood Farm in South Albany will welcome attendees and offer Groundswell as "an opportunity to continue to listen, relate, and create vitality and justice in our local food system." The community conversation will be punctuated by a light dinner, along with live music by Jeanne and Jim with Fishhead during the breaks. Farmer and

childcare stipends are available on a limited basis, to make it easier for farmers and families to participate.

Rural Vermont recognizes the urgency of the crises we face and envisions a future where Vermont farmers thrive while nourishing their communities with nutrient-dense food grown from healthy animals and living soils, where profits stay local and support small businesses, where farmers are incentivized to adopt regenerative practices that sequester carbon and fight climate change, and where every Vermonter can determine what food is best for their family to eat.

For more information about Groundswell and to RSVP, call (802) 223-7222 or visit [www.ruralvermont.org](http://www.ruralvermont.org). — from Rural Vermont.

# VAST launches rail trail campaign

The Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST), is launching a \$3-million capital campaign for the continued redevelopment of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT). When completed, the trail, extending 93 miles from St. Johnsbury to Swanton, will be the longest rail trail in New England. As a year-round recreational corridor, it serves walkers and runners, bicyclists, snowmobilers, horseback riders, cross-country skiers, and mushers. VAST Executive Director Cindy Locke believes that the trail is going to be the top four-season recreation destination in Vermont when it is completed. In addition to its recreational amenities, the LVRT will be a powerful economic engine for the 18 towns along its route.

Since 1997, VAST has partnered with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) in using the abandoned railroad right-of-way as a

snowmobile trail. In 2005, federal funding was secured to begin construction of a multi-purpose trail. About a third of the trail has been completed with a 15-mile section from St. Johnsbury to West Danville and a 17-mile stretch from Morrisville to Jeffersonville in the town of Cambridge now open. Response to the new trail is overwhelmingly positive both by users and businesses along the corridor.

Four more sections of the trail remain to be completed at an estimated cost of \$10- to \$15-million. This year, a dilapidated railroad bridge over the Lamoille River in Cambridge will be replaced. In addition, a one-mile section of the Cambridge Greenway will be reworked to be aligned with the LVRT and extend the trail from its current terminus to the new bridge.

This past winter, VTrans and VAST renewed their partnership agreement under which VAST

leases the rail corridor, oversees construction activities and maintains the completed portions of the LVRT. VTrans has committed to seeking up to 80 percent of the funding needed to finish the LVRT: the 18.4 mile stretch from Sheldon to Cambridge; 19.5 miles from Morrisville to Greensboro; and the 10.9 miles from Greensboro to West Danville.

The new capital campaign will seek funding from individuals, local businesses, foundations, and municipalities. Most of the money will be for construction, but some will be allocated for ongoing trail maintenance. The campaign is scheduled to last until the end of 2018. If sufficient funds are secured, the entire trail will be completed two or three years later.

For more information, please contact Mr. Balcom at (802) 498-8356, or by e-mail at [don@vtvast.org](mailto:don@vtvast.org). — from VAST.

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Photo submitted by Lynne Berard.

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In Superior Court

# Pair arrested on heroin charges

by Brad Usatch

NEWPORT — Thanks to a tip from the public, Orleans County Deputy Sheriff Tyler Jacobs and State Police Trooper Steven Fauteux were lying in wait for a pair of men traveling north on I-91, allegedly with the intention of selling a stash of heroin they had just scored in Connecticut.

According to court records, Dylan Cote, 22, of Orleans, and Trevor Letourneau, 22, of Irasburg,

were arrested on April 14 in Barton after police uncovered what they suspected was heroin during a traffic stop of Mr. Letourneau's truck. Both men pled innocent at their arraignments on April 18 to identical charges of trafficking heroin and conspiracy to sell heroin, both felonies, as well as a misdemeanor possession charge.

Deputy Jacobs stated in his affidavit that he and Trooper Fauteux positioned themselves at a U-turn on I-91 south of exit 25 in

Barton based on information passed on from a source through another law enforcement officer. He said it was 10:18 p.m. when the officers spotted Mr. Letourneau's silver Toyota Tacoma heading northbound on the highway. Police followed the vehicle as it exited the highway in Barton and pulled up to the gas pumps at Circle K. Deputy Jacobs said he spoke with Mr. Letourneau outside of the vehicle, while Trooper Fauteux spoke with Mr. Cote as he sat in the truck. Both men allegedly appeared nervous, though Mr. Letourneau denied having any heroin when asked. Trooper Fauteux reported in his affidavit the Mr. Cote's legs appeared to be

shaking uncontrollably.

At the gas station, Mr. Letourneau allegedly granted permission to search his person and his vehicle, but then retracted that permission. After Deputy Jacobs told Mr. Letourneau he was not being detained, he got back in his truck and exited the parking lot, turning left on Main Street.

According to Trooper Fauteux's affidavit, he pulled Mr. Letourneau over on Duck Pond Road for failure to signal his turn out of Circle K, and for lack of rear wheel flaps.

Court records show that while Trooper Fauteux conducted the

(Continued on page nineteen.)

## 2017 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
SATURDAY, MAY 6	8 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Danville Stump Dump
SATURDAY, MAY 27	8 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Bloomfield Town Clerks
SATURDAY, JUNE 3	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Derby Recycling Center
SATURDAY, JUNE 10	8 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Newbury Town Garage
SATURDAY, JUNE 17	8 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Peacham Transfer Station
SATURDAY, JULY 1	8 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Westfield Transfer Station
SATURDAY, JULY 22	8 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Albany Transfer Station
SATURDAY, AUGUST 19	8 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Waterford Transfer Station
SATURDAY, AUGUST 26	8 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Charleston Town Garage
SATURDAY, SEPT. 23	8 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Lyndon Recycling Center

Not going to be able to make any of these dates? NOT A PROBLEM! The NEKWMD will be accepting these materials by appointment at our Lyndonville facility from May 1, 2017 to October 7, 2017. Due to regulatory handling requirements, hazardous wastes will not be accepted without an appointment. Scheduling ahead ensures that a qualified individual will be on-site ready to accept your hazardous waste.

**\*\*HHW Collections are free and open to residents of all DISTRICT TOWNS\*\***

What are *Household Hazardous Products*? They are consumer products that contain ingredients that may be:

- Toxic**- poisonous if eaten, breathed, or absorbed through the skin
- Corrosive**- can burn or destroy living tissue if spilled on skin
- Reactive**- creates fumes, heat, or explosion hazards if mixed with certain materials such as water
- Explosive**- can explode with exposure to heat or pressure
- Flammable/Ignitable**- can easily be set on fire

To determine if a product in your home is hazardous, check the label for the following words: **Danger** indicates that the substance is extremely flammable, corrosive, or toxic. **Poison** means that the substance is highly toxic. **Caution/Warning** is put on all other hazardous substances that are a somewhat lesser hazard, but are still dangerous if the directions are not followed closely. Conditionally Exempt Generator businesses can also use the Lyndonville collections for the actual cost of the disposal of their materials. Please call ahead for pricing and an appointment

**CONTACT THE NEKWMD IF YOU HAVE ITEMS YOU CANNOT IDENTIFY  
802-626-3532 or 800-734-4602 or www.nekwmd.org**

The NEKWMD hazardous waste collection program is made possible in part by a grant from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. This year's grant totaled \$55279.00

### Acceptable HHW Materials

**HOUSEHOLD ITEMS**

- AEROSOLS
- AIR FRESHENERS
- AMMONIA
- ARTS AND CRAFTS SUPPLIES
- BLEACH
- CLEANERS (INCLUDES: DRAIN, OVEN, FLOOR, WINDOW, TOILET, RUG, ETC.)
- DISINFECTANTS
- METAL & FURNITURE POLISH
- MOTHBALLS
- MERCURY THERMOMETERS
- NAIL POLISH & REMOVER
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# Drugs allegedly hidden in gum

(Continued from page eighteen.)

traffic stop and issued a written warning, Deputy Jacobs deployed his narcotics dog Jonah. After Jonah allegedly alerted on the driver's side door, Trooper Fauteux asked for consent to search the vehicle and its occupants. Trooper Fauteux said both individuals were read their rights and each gave both verbal and written consent to a search.

Trooper Fauteux said that while searching Mr. Cote, he discovered in his wallet two small bags of brownish powder suspected of being heroin. Deputy Jacobs said he then discovered a duffel bag behind the passenger seat of the truck containing empty plastic bags, a sealed container with a loose white powdery substance in it, a metal spoon, a hypodermic needle, and other suspected drug paraphernalia.

Trooper Fauteux said he examined a resealed bag of gum found on the floor, and after dumping out some of the gum, found a small block wrapped in aluminum foil. Inside the foil, he said he found nine bundles of ten bags each of suspected heroin.

Court records show that both men were arrested and transported to the State Police barracks in Derby. Both waived their Miranda rights and allegedly told police that they had traveled to Hartford, Connecticut, to buy 100 bags of heroin with the intent of returning to Vermont to sell it. Mr. Letourneau allegedly told police they paid \$300 for the heroin. Mr. Cote indicated that the white powdery substance was powdered sugar they intended to use to cut the heroin.

Both are being held at the Northern State Correctional Facility in Newport for lack of \$25,000 bail.

### Resisting arrest

A Morgan teenager will serve 40 hours of community service for resisting arrest after police caught up with him following a chase in Derby.

At a hearing before Judge Howard VanBenthuyzen on April 18, Matthew Paul, 18, pled guilty to one felony charge of eluding a police officer and one misdemeanor charge of resisting arrest. In exchange, he received a deferred sentence on the felony charge and will serve nine to ten months on probation, complete the community service requirement, and pay \$147 in surcharges for the misdemeanor.

Trooper Fauteux said in his affidavit that he was traveling west on Route 111 in Derby on the night of October 13, 2016, when he saw a Dodge truck approaching from the opposite direction at what appeared to be a high rate of speed. He said he activated his radar and received a reading of 63 miles per hour in the 50-mile-per-hour zone. He said that, as he neared the vehicle, he activated his blue lights, but rather than pull over, the vehicle appeared to speed away and turn left up Bates Hill Road. Trooper Fauteux said he initially lost sight of the truck, but located it in a grassy field after spotting fresh tire tracks.

With his weapon drawn, Trooper Fauteux said he ordered the driver, Mr. Paul, out of the truck, but once out, Mr. Paul was not responsive to his commands. He said Mr. Paul resisted attempts to be handcuffed. Trooper Fauteux said Trooper Daniel Lynch had arrived at the scene and helped to physically restrain Mr. Paul.

### Misdemeanor arraignments

Jason Willey, 33, of Derby Line, pled innocent to one misdemeanor charge of violating an abuse prevention order on February 10 in Derby; and

Lemueal E. Chaffee, 24, of Newport pled innocent to domestic assault and interference with access to emergency services on April 21 in Newport.

contact Brad Usatch at [brad@bartonchronicle.com](mailto:brad@bartonchronicle.com)

# VEC offers bill credits for energy saving measures

In 2017, Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC) launched the Energy Transformation Program to help members transition from fossil fuels. Current opportunities include:

- Drive clean and earn up to \$250 back on electric bills. Because transportation contributes about 50 percent of Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions, VEC is offering a bill credit to members who purchase or lease a plug-in vehicle in 2017.

- Install a cold-climate heat pump and get a \$150 bill credit on top of Efficiency Vermont's existing incentive. Heating contributes about a third of Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions, and

cold-climate heat pumps can be part of the solution by helping to cut down on the use of oil or propane.

- Explore Clean Air Program (CAP) cost-sharing if you are off-grid or under-served. The CAP program can help replace fossil fuel usage, and carbon emissions, by electric service upgrades or line-extensions. Each project is customized to meet the needs of the member and the VEC.

Visit the VEC energy transformation website at [vermontelectric.coop/programs-services/energy-transformation-programs](http://vermontelectric.coop/programs-services/energy-transformation-programs), or call (800) 832-2667 for more information. — from VEC.

# Gardening

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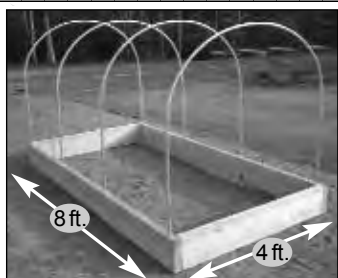
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# Gardening



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In Superior Court

# Man involved in meth operation gets two to seven

by Joseph Gresser

NEWPORT — A man involved in making and selling methamphetamine in Newport will spend between two to seven years in prison for his role in the operation.

Twenty-five-year-old Damion P. Gage, a Brownington resident, pled guilty Tuesday to felony charges of selling methamphetamine and manufacturing a regulated drug. Mr. Gage also pled guilty to possessing pseudoephedrine, a chemical needed to produce the drug.

As part of a plea agreement, the state dismissed three charges of possession of pseudoephedrine, and three felony conspiracy charges.

Judge Howard VanBenthuyzen, sitting in the Criminal Division of Orleans County Superior Court, imposed the two-to-seven-year sentence. He gave Mr. Gage credit for time he has served in jail since his arrest last June.

In his affidavit, Newport Police Detective Aaron Lefebvre, who has been assigned to the state Drug Task Force, said Mr. Gage allowed Terry A. Parson and his family to stay at his house.

Mr. Parson pled innocent to charges of being the “chemist” who made the drug, using chemicals supplied by associates, including Mr. Gage.

A witness said he saw Mr. Gage help Mr. Parson mix ingredients in a Powerade bottle that was used to contain the chemical reaction that produces meth, the affidavit says.

Mr. Gage’s name was listed on a registry that keeps track of people buying medications that contain pseudoephedrine. He bought such drugs

three times within a couple of weeks in April and May of 2016.

According to a second affidavit from Detective Lefebvre, Mr. Gage took a call from a police informant called “Blue” on May 20. He arranged for Blue to meet Mr. Parson to buy a gram of methamphetamine and was in the car when the deal was done, Detective Lefebvre said.

**Dog wards off police, but not for long**

Shane M. Goodell, 20, of Derby was sentenced to spend between nine months and ten years behind bars after he pled guilty to drug charges. He was given credit for time served, including nine months spent under a 24-hour curfew.

He pled guilty to possession of a pound or more of marijuana, manufacturing hash oil, careless or negligent driving, and violating conditions of release.

State Police Trooper Callie Field’s affidavit says police were tipped off that Mr. Goodell was involved in drug activity on July 9, 2016. Five days later Trooper Field along with State Police Sergeants Larry Smith and Andrew Jensen went to Mr. Goodell’s house with a search warrant.

They knocked on the door, but only succeeded in rousing a large dog that barked at them. The officers were sure Mr. Goodell was home because they saw three cars in the driveway, but he never came to the door. Ten minutes after they left, Trooper Cassandra Herbes saw Mr. Goodell drive off in a silver Honda. She tried to stop him, but he sped off doing 100 miles an hour on the Hinman Settler Road, which is posted for 35 miles per hour.

The police got into the house later in the day and found 2.87 pounds of marijuana and evidence of equipment used to manufacture hash oil. Mr. Goodell gave himself up to police later that day.

On October 31 Trooper Abigail Drew pulled Mr. Goodell over for a less extreme form of speeding on the Alderbrook Road in Coventry. She discovered that he was supposed to be under a 24-hour curfew.

An accident that left four people injured was caused by a driver who may have been under the influence of heroin, according to an affidavit from Callie Field, now a State Police corporal.

The driver, Dennis P. Magoon, 19, of Northfield, pled innocent to a felony charge of grossly negligent driving resulting in serious injury.

Judge VanBenthuyzen set bail at \$5,000 and sent Mr. Magoon to Northern State Correctional Facility when he couldn’t come up with the money.

On the afternoon of April 21 Corporal Field investigated a three-car crash at the intersection of Route 111 and Route 105 in Derby.

Two cars were in the northbound lane, one facing north, the other, Mr. Magoon’s, facing south, the affidavit says. A third vehicle was pulled over on the right side of Route 105 and facing south.

Mr. Magoon repeatedly said he was going too fast, according to Corporal Field. She said his eyes were “constricted to the size of a pinpoint.”

Corporal Field said he couldn’t tell her much about the accident. His passenger, who suffered a broken arm, broken ankle, and possible damage to her knee, said she was on her cell phone and didn’t see anything until the crash.

The driver of one of the other vehicles in the accident said he was about to take a left turn onto Route 111 when Mr. Magoon came “out of nowhere” and rear-ended him, the affidavit says.

Neither that driver nor his passenger was injured. The same was not true of the three people in the vehicle Mr. Magoon collided with after trying to take his own left-hand turn onto Route 111, Corporal Field said.

Mr. Magoon turned left in front of that car, the affidavit says. It says the driver suffered minor injuries to her knee and back; her husband, who was in the passenger seat, was in pain on the left side of his body from the chest to ankle, and a child who had been riding in a booster seat had scrapes on her neck and chest.

Mr. Magoon admitted being a heroin user, but said he had not taken any of the drug that day, Corporal Field said. Hospital technicians took a blood sample, which will be sent for analysis, the affidavit says.

Judge VanBenthuyzen sentenced Jason D. Watson, 27, of Newport to serve between three and six years for domestic assault.

Mr. Watson pled guilty to first degree aggravated domestic assault by one who has a prior conviction for the same offense.

The state dismissed a second charge of first-degree aggravated domestic assault.

Newport City Police Patrolman Corey Marcoux got a call from a man who said he was taking a woman to North Country Hospital and that she had been assaulted by Mr. Watson earlier that day, May 28, 2016.

Patrolman Marcoux met the woman at the hospital and saw her face was bruised and scratched.

The woman said Mr. Watson “sucker punched” her, causing a lump on the side of her head.

She said that later that day Mr. Watson again punched her, and when she went to bed to lie down, Mr. Watson got on top of her and choked her before head-butting her in the face.

(Continued on page twenty-one.)

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# Domestic assault brings jail time for offenders

(Continued from page twenty.)

Scott R. Lane, 40, of Barton narrowly avoided being sentenced as a habitual offender when the state dismissed felony charges of unlawful restraint and first degree aggravated domestic assault.

He did receive an 18-month-to-four-year jail sentence after pleading guilty to one felony and a clutch of misdemeanors.

Mr. Lane pled guilty to a felony charge of second degree aggravated domestic assault in violation of a criminal court order, a misdemeanor charge of domestic assault, and four charges of violating conditions of release.

A woman called police on February 8, 2016, and told them Mr. Lane had been drunk when he called her names and shut her hand in a door. Trooper Robert Helm said the woman's thumb was bleeding when he saw it.

Corporal Amy LeClair's affidavit says North Country Hospital called the State Police barracks and said a patient wanted to report an assault.

The woman said Mr. Lane had been living at her house in violation of his conditions of release. He also had started drinking, another violation of his conditions.

On January 31 Mr. Lane went into the woman's room and began calling her names, shoving her, and punching her.

The woman said he was "smacking her head off the wall," which made her black out.

Mr. Lane also violated his conditions by trying to get the woman to lie for him in the earlier court case.

Nicholas M. Montgomery, 28, of Derby Line pled guilty to domestic assault and drew a suspended nine-to-18-month sentence.

Trooper Helm said a woman was headed for the Newport Police Department on May 22, 2016, and spotted Border Patrol Agent Alex Blau in North Troy. She stopped and told him that Mr. Montgomery had assaulted her.

Agent Blau put the woman in touch with the State Police.

She told them that Mr. Montgomery had been drunk and was yelling at her. When she asked him why he was acting that way, Mr. Montgomery punched her in the head and shoved her into a door frame and clothes drying rack.

On February 16, 2016, Mr. Montgomery head-butted her and gave her a bloody nose, and in November 2015 he woke the woman and punched her in the head.

Francis E. Griffin, 55, of Derby was released on conditions after he pled innocent to a felony charge of first degree aggravated domestic assault.

A man came to police on April 20 and said Mr. Griffin had been at his house in Holland two nights earlier. The two were drinking and talking, but Mr. Griffin refused to leave when asked to do so, an affidavit says.

In his affidavit, Trooper Calvin Burns said Mr. Griffin threw the man to the floor of his house and began hitting him. The man said he remembered being hit only once before blacking out, according to the affidavit. When he recovered consciousness his mouth and nose were bleeding and he had a severe headache, he told police.

Joshua J. Waterman, 31, of Newport will serve between six and 30 months in jail after pleading guilty to driving with a suspended license (DLS) and failure to comply with the sex offender registry.

Orleans County Sheriff's Deputy Jonathan MacFarlane said he saw Mr. Waterman driving through Newport on May 17. Deputy MacFarlane knew him by sight and quickly checked Mr. Waterman's driving status.

When he found that his license had been suspended, Deputy MacFarlane pulled him over.

On July 7, 2016, there was an active arrest warrant out for Mr. Waterman, according to Detective Trooper Clark Lombardi's affidavit.

A driver police thought was Mr. Waterman tried to elude police on the East Albany Road in Barton that day. He abandoned the car on the Stevens Road in West Glover and ran into the woods, leaving a woman in the car.

The woman told police that Mr. Waterman had not been driving and

said he was not living at her house.

According to the sex offender residency, Mr. Waterman was supposed to be living on Willoughby Avenue in Barton, but when Detective Sergeant Darren Annis and Trooper Lombardi went to the house, they were told he had not been there for three or four days.

On August 3 a woman who lives at the Barton house told police that she had not seen Mr. Waterman for a couple of weeks.

The two State Police detectives checked other locations but could not find Mr. Waterman. Trooper Lombardi said Mr. Waterman is required to report his whereabouts whenever he changes his address.

Dana E. Davis, 33, of Glover received a suspended six-to-12-month sentence and was ordered to pay \$213 in restitution after he pled no contest to selling stolen property. The charge, originally a felony, was amended down to a misdemeanor as part of a plea agreement.

Trooper Field was called by Michael Vanasse on August 3, 2014, who said he believed Mr. Davis had stolen eight log bunks and 16 posts that were for his tractor-trailer. He was also missing a tractor-trailer radiator.

She called Wright's Recycling and learned the missing items were there and had been brought in by Mr. Davis.

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# Vicious scam prompts State Police bulletin

(Continued from page one.)

Bickford said. "I had to use control-alt-delete to get out of my browser. And then when I reopened the browser, it was back."

Ms. Bickford called the number.

The man on the other end of the line said he needed remote access to her computer to fix the problem.

He told her it would cost \$300 to remove the virus and install three years' worth of anti-virus protection.

Ms. Bickford gave the man her debit card number — and access to her computer. Within a few minutes, her computer unfroze, and the man said her computer was fixed.

She hung up, grateful to have avoided more serious trouble.

But it didn't end there.

The tech support scam is classified as a "phishing scam" because, like as not, victims' computers don't actually have viruses — at least not until they call the number on the screen.

Instead, scammers insert malicious code into vulnerable websites. When people click on links to the infected sites, they get a popup window with an urgent message to call a tech support site.

It used to be that viruses were more likely to be hidden in high risk types of websites like porn, gaming, or loan sites.

Now it can be any site. I got a popup trying to visit a page about tiny houses. Ms. Bickford probably just moused over a bad link on Facebook.

Once the window has come up, neither it nor the browser can be closed.

The only way to navigate away from the popup is to hold down the control-alt-delete keys to get to the Windows task manager, then shut down the browser.

When restarting the browser, it's important to tell it not to reopen previous windows. And even before going back to browsing, it's not a bad idea to run a virus scan on the whole system.

But faced with an apparently frozen screen, a certain percentage of people will call the number on the popup for help.

Some scammers are happy with collecting a hefty fee to install phony software to fight a virus that never existed.

But in Ms. Bickford's case, the game didn't end with her \$300 payment.

The man called back.

"He said there was a new version of the software that would give me better protection," Ms. Bickford said. "To install it, he had to remove the old software from my machine, and then I had to open my bank account so he could put the money for the original software back in."

Then, the man told her, he'd charge her account for the new software.

Following his directions, Ms. Bickford gave the caller access to her computer.

At that point, according to the State Police, the scammer may install a real virus, or rummage around the hard drive collecting passwords and credit card numbers.

Or the scammer may try to extort more money from the victim.

Ms. Bickford's computer screen went black.

On the phone, the man was asking anxiously if she could see the money he'd just put into her account.

"No," she said. "I can't see anything."

"Oh no!" he exclaimed. "I just accidentally deposited \$3,000 instead of \$300 into your account. This is a big mistake. I could lose my job."

He told Ms. Bickford to go to Walmart as fast as she could and wire him the extra money that

he'd supposedly put into her account.

That, too, is a common con, the State Police say.

But Ms. Bickford smelled a rat. She refused to go to Walmart in the night to send money.

Her caller argued that according to his map, she only lived 12 miles from the Walmart in Derby. She stood firm.

"We got into quite a fight," she said.

He called off and on all night.

"I told him I'd checked my account and I could see the \$300 charge, but nothing for \$3,000," Ms. Bickford said. "He told me he did, and he wanted it back."

At one point the man said he had gone in and "wiped out" all the numbers in her account.

She finally told him that if he had really put extra money in her account, it was his mistake, and she'd be happy to call his boss in the morning to straighten things out.

It turns out that Ms. Bickford was lucky. She caught onto the scam pretty early in the game. And her scammer wasn't a computer whiz.

A serious hacker might have actually gotten into her bank account and cleaned it out instead of just making her screen go black.

As it happened, though, when she checked her account in the morning, she found that the \$300 charge still showed as "pending."

So she called the bank and stopped payment on the charge.

She also called the State Police.

And after she was through telling *the Chronicle* her scam story, Ms. Bickford said she planned to take her computer to a reputable brick and mortar computer shop to have it checked for viruses.

contact Elizabeth Trail at [elizabeth@bartonchronicle.com](mailto:elizabeth@bartonchronicle.com)

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The Outside Story

# Drumroll, please

by Bryan Pfeiffer

Trees speak many languages, their leaves whooshing in summer and trunks creaking in winter. At the onset of spring, trees become sounding boards for courtship. Before the thrushes and warblers and sparrows arrive to sing from branches and boughs, woodpeckers kick off the spring chorus with a drumroll.

Although woodpeckers certainly vocalize, usually with sharp calls or harsh chattering, drumming is one of the most reliable early signs of spring — a proclamation of territoriality and an advertisement to the opposite sex.

Drumming is not to be confused with the arrhythmic tapping we hear from woodpeckers (and other cavity nesters like chickadees and nuthatches) as they excavate nest sites or forage for insects in bark. No, the drumroll, performed by males and females alike, is a force of nature — and fairly diagnostic to species. With a little practice, you can identify woodpeckers just by their drumming patterns.

An easy parlor trick, sure to impress your pals in the sugarbush this spring, is to identify a distant yellow-bellied sapsucker. Now returning in migration, sapsuckers drum like no other woodpecker — not really a roll, but more like Morse code: a stuttered opening, and then steady tapping that slows in cadence. Sapsuckers begin with bravado and end with reticence: *Ta-tapity-tap... tap-tap-tap... tap... tap...*

There is no such reserve in the drum of a pileated woodpecker, our biggest head-banger, the one with the flaming crest. Pileateds drum with power, and that makes their drumroll relatively easy to distinguish. They often pound away high on a snag or big tree, producing a deep, resonant roll that lasts for three seconds or so. In a pileated's drum, you often *feel* a hollow tree's girth and age. From here, the identification gets a bit more difficult. Your first real test in drumming class is to discern the drumrolls of the most widespread and abundant woodpeckers on the continent: downy and hairy. They look alike and they drum alike: a classic rapid roll.

But the bigger of the two species, the hairy woodpecker, drums faster and longer. A hairy's drum lasts on average for a full second, and includes about 26 beats (plus or minus a few) in each rendition. The taps roll by so fast that you can just barely discern each one.

The downy's drumroll last about three-



quarters of a second, but with half as many beats — about 13 on average. Yes, it's still a drumroll, still fast. But in the downy's performance (a staccato) you can pick out each tap and sense a pause in between.

One other way to tell the two apart is that the downy seems more enterprising. It generally offers

you nine to 16 drumrolls per minute during breeding season, pausing only a few seconds between each rendition. From the hairy woodpecker, you might only hear half the drumrolls per minute — about four to nine. I tend to lump our other common woodpeckers — the red-bellied woodpecker and northern flicker — into an “average drummers” category, not particularly fast or slow or distinctive. This makes them tougher to identify, but once you learn the easier drums, you'll start to recognize that these two rolls are somewhat recognizable. Our two boreal woodpeckers — American three-toed and black-backed — tend to drum at an average pace, as well. But they sometimes prefer dead softwoods for their broadcasts, so their drums often sound a bit hollow.

These are all subtle distinctions. But woodpeckers, like the trees on which they tap, have distinctive voices. They shout their identities year-round. If only the trees, in their rustling and creaking, were as distinctive.

*Bryan Pfeiffer is an author, wildlife photographer, and consulting naturalist who specializes in birds and insects. The illustration for this column was drawn by Adelaide Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine, and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, wellborn@nhcf.org.*

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# Chinese imports make up 60 percent of market

(Continued from page one.)

has basically stayed static for the past few years, Mr. Gillespie said

As a result, U.S. manufacturers are running at about half of their capacity, he said.

“Between 2000 and 2015 the Chinese swallowed 50 percent of the market,” Mr. Gillespie said.

During the lean years, Columbia saw its overall employment numbers drop from a high of 2,800 people to 1,700. Those figures have recovered somewhat to 2,200 employees, he said.

At its peak, the Newport plant employed around 300 people. It currently runs two shifts and has 170 workers, Mr. Gillespie said.

If the complaint is successful and tariffs are put in place to raise the price of Chinese imports, the company could put on a third shift. That would mean hiring another 70 or 75 workers, he said.

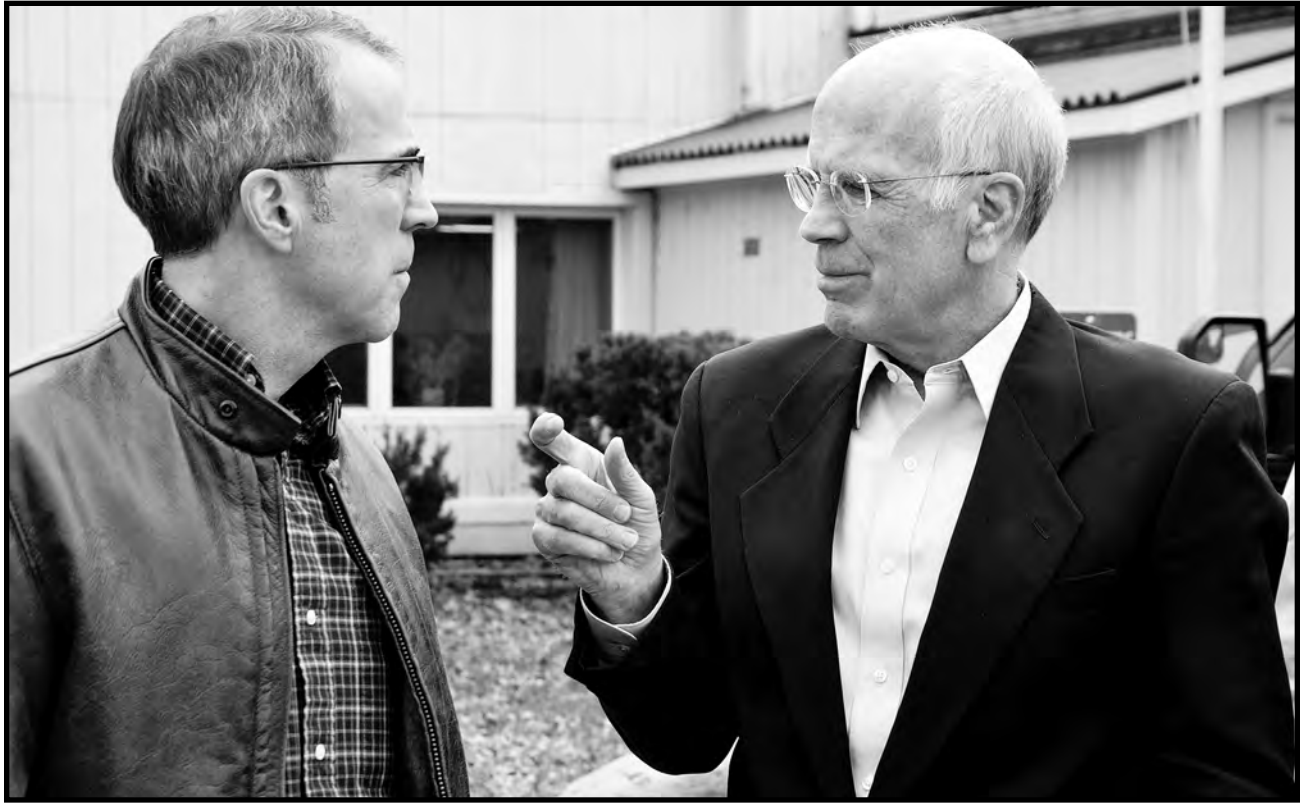
The Department of Commerce has the power to set tariffs to compensate for the advantage importing companies get from subsidies from their national or local governments.

Both the ITC, which investigates the effects of trade on domestic industry, and the Department of Commerce have to accept the validity of a complaint from U.S. manufacturers.

The ITC looked at a wide range of factors, including how much plywood the U.S. producers made, how much they sold, their market share, how much profit they made, and how many people they employed.

The commission also had to create a definition of what products are, and are not, included under the heading of hardwood plywood. Its definition goes on for a couple of pages, carefully detailing what is included in the category.

It also had to determine what it costs to make hardwood plywood in an economy similar to



Gary Gillespie of Columbia Forest Products (left) talks with U.S. Representative Peter Welch during the congressman's visit to the Newport veneer mill on April 20. Mr. Gillespie used the opportunity to thank Mr. Welch for testifying on his company's behalf in the tariff case before the International Trade Commission.

Photo by Joseph Gresser

China's in order to see if imports are being dumped on the U.S. market. China, as a communist country, does not have a free market economy, so the investigation centered on manufacturing in countries such as Thailand.

So far, the Department of Commerce has set a preliminary tariff rate that is meant to deal with the problem of government subsidies. One manufacturer, which the department determined

had provided inaccurate information in answer to a required questionnaire, was hit with a 111 percent tariff, more than doubling the price of its products in the U.S. market.

Another group of manufactures did not bother completing the questionnaire and must pay a similar duty on their imports.

(Continued on page twenty-five.)

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 The successful candidate will provide nursing services to patients within a busy medical office. Applicants must be comfortable working with patients of all ages, Pediatrics experience is ideal. Familiarity with electronic medical records and previous experience in a health center is preferred. The successful candidate must possess a Vermont RN or LPN license or be a Certified Medical Assistant. ACLS & PALS preferred.

**Health Center Staff Nurse – (34 hrs/wk) Island Pond Health Center**  
 The position is offered at 34 hours/week. The successful candidate will provide nursing services to patients within a busy medical office. Applicants must be comfortable working with patients of all ages, Pediatrics experience is ideal. Familiarity with electronic medical records and previous experience in a health center is preferred. Vermont RN or LPN license is required and ACLS and PALS certification preferred. Competitive benefits package including health, dental, vision, LTD, Life, 403b and generous Earned Time.

**Health Center Staff Nurse – (36 hrs/wk) St. Johnsbury Community Health Center**  
 The successful candidate will provide nursing services to patients within a busy medical office. Applicants must be comfortable working with patients of all ages, Pediatrics experience is ideal. Familiarity with electronic medical records and previous experience in a health center is preferred. The successful candidate must possess a Vermont RN or LPN license and ACLS & PALS preferred.

Visit [www.nchcvt.org](http://www.nchcvt.org) for more information or to apply online.

**BEAN'S HOMES**

As we gear up for the busy year we are now accepting applications for full- and part-time positions for sales, general laborers, experienced finish carpenters and drywallers, truck drivers and ground maintenance personnel.

We are only looking for hardworking, conscientious, dependable individuals with strong attention to detail who want to come to work every day and be part of an award-winning team who values quality and excellent service. Valid driver's license is required. Compensation based on experience. Benefit packages available.

Please apply in person only at Bean's Homes, located at the junction of Routes 5 & 114, Lyndonville, VT 05851. (NO PHONE CALLS)

**REWARD \$500**

To anyone who can help us find an experienced **CARPENTER** who is motivated (has a need or desire), wants to work, willing to work, and must not be afraid of rain, heat, cold, snow, and long hours. Top dollar paid to the right person. Hurry, as we only have one position to fill! If you know someone, or you may be this person, please call **802-673-9768, between 5-7 p.m.** If no answer, please leave a message. Reward paid upon completion of three month review period.

**Northern State Correctional Facility  
 Temporary Correctional Officer**

Temporary Officer positions are available at the Newport Facility. Temporary appointments have the potential to become permanent classified state employees. Starting pay is \$16.61, with 8 weeks of paid on-the-job training. Minimum qualifications are high school degree or equivalent, and at least 2 years of full-time work experience. Duties involve the supervision, custody, treatment, and training of inmates confined in a correctional facility. Extensive background checks are required. Previous applicants need to reapply to be considered. If you have questions, please contact Karen at 802-334-8906, or [Karen.Marchant@vermont.gov](mailto:Karen.Marchant@vermont.gov).

You must apply online to be considered: [www.careers.vermont.gov](http://www.careers.vermont.gov), reference Job ID #620939.  
**Application deadline: April 30, 2017.**

**Northern State Correctional Facility  
 Correctional Officer I**

Correctional Officer I positions are available at the Newport Facility. This is a permanent, classified state employee position. Benefits include generous health care package, free dental, pension and union membership in the Vermont State Employees Association (VSEA), vacation, personal, sick, and compensatory time off. Starting pay is \$17.20, with 8 weeks paid on-the-job training. Minimum qualifications are high school degree or equivalent, and at least 2 years of full-time work experience. Duties involve the supervision, custody, and training of inmates confined in a correctional facility. Extensive background checks are required. Previous applicants need to reapply to be considered. If you have questions, please contact Karen at: 802-334-8906, or [Karen.Marchant@vermont.gov](mailto:Karen.Marchant@vermont.gov).

You must apply online to be considered: [www.careers.vermont.gov](http://www.careers.vermont.gov), reference Job ID #620916.  
**Application deadline: April 30, 2017.**

# Enforced tariffs may add third shift at Columbia

(Continued from page twenty-four.)

The commerce department put a much lower duty on imports from one company, Linyi Sanfortune Wood, which will have to pay a 9.89 percent duty on its imports.

According to Department of Commerce documents, the U.S. producers are suggesting a 105 percent tariff rate.

Once a proposed tariff is announced, importers must put up a bond to cover the potential duties they will owe if the tariff is finalized. The penalties will be assessed on all imports since January as a way to make sure that no one tries to evade the tariffs by bringing large quantities of plywood into the U.S. before they are put in place.

Mr. Gillespie said he already has seen a reduction in the amount of Chinese plywood entering the country. Many importers are small companies that cannot afford to put up the money to cover the expected tariff, he said.

While the Coalition for Fair Trade in Hardwood is pressing its case, importers and cabinet manufacturers have submitted information intended to keep the ITC and Department of Commerce from putting the proposed penalties into place.

One of the organizations, called The American Alliance for Hardwood Plywood, heads its press releases with a colorful logo that includes a bald eagle and the American flag. It claims that

cabinetmakers will lose jobs if the supply of Chinese plywood is restricted.

Much hardwood plywood does go into cabinets, Mr. Gillespie said. He said American suppliers can handle the demand, although they may need a little time to ramp up productions.

Columbia's Newport plant is a veneer mill. Giant lathes peel logs into the long strips of very

oak, black birch, yellow birch, boxwood, black and red oak, and tulip poplar. Mr. Gillespie said the area around Newport has a more diverse array of species than the locales of the other mills.

Most of the veneer produced in Newport is sold to the Columbia Forest Products plants that manufacture finished plywood panels.

Some of the plywood is the type seen on the exposed ends of cabinets, he said. The company also makes another grade that is used for the cabinets' interior and shelves. Mr. Gillespie said cabinet doors are usually made of solid wood.

He said Columbia has had to adapt as the path to consumers has changed in recent years. Today, Mr. Gillespie said, much hardwood plywood is sold by Home Depot and Lowe's.

Columbia does not do business with Lowe's, but is a major supplier to Home Depot, he said. The company is able to keep up with the retailer's demand for product and also offers some other advantages, Mr. Gillespie said.

He said Columbia developed a way of bonding plywood that did not use formaldehyde, a toxic chemical that can harm workers and people living in homes contaminated with vapors. Columbia also gets its wood from legitimate suppliers who do not harvest endangered species.

Home Depot's buyers "can sleep nights knowing they're not going to have a problem with formaldehyde or illegal wood," Mr. Gillespie said.

*"We're just looking for a level playing field."* —

*Columbia Forest Products Executive Vice-President Gary Gillespie*

thin hardwood that will become the face of the plywood used in cabinetry. It is one of five such mills Columbia runs and the one that uses the widest variety of woods in the process.

The other mills turn out maple and birch veneers, while the Newport plant also produces

## EMPLOYMENT

### WANTED:

Experienced **carpenter** with the minimum of 6 years experience, references required.  
Also looking for a **Laborer** with minimum of 2 years experience in the work field, references required.  
Will consider training the right candidate.  
Call for an interview, **802-525-4022**.

### LAKE REGION UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Position Opening

### EVENING CUSTODIAN (3-11 p.m.)

Please submit letter of interest, resumé and 3 current references to:

Lake Region Union High School  
Attention: Patrick Chandler  
317 Lake Region Road  
Orleans, VT 05860

E.O.E./Background Check required.  
Position open until filled.

### WANTED: EXPERIENCED LANDSCAPER

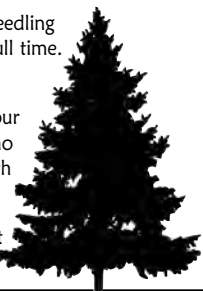
for full-time, seasonal job starting immediately. 40+ hours weekly. Send resumé to: Doug Spates, 83 Third St., Newport, VT 05855

### Asack & Son Tree Farm

Asack & Son Tree Farm is hiring for spring seedling harvest. Smoke-free environment, part time, full time. No experience needed, will train.

Starting pay for new employees is \$11 per hour including bonus. For previous employees who have successfully completed a work season with us pay is \$12 per hour including bonus.

To apply, call Bill, evenings from 6-8 p.m., at 754-6934. Please call first before you come.



1823 VT RTE. 16  
EAST HARDWICK, VT

Immediate opening for an experienced **AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN**. Must have own tools, be dependable, and able to work independently. Mon.-Fri. Pay based on experience.

### Full-time Service Writer Position:

Requirements:

- Motivated • Computer skills
- Mechanical Knowledge • Team Player
- Pay Based on Knowledge & Experience



Northeast Farm Sales & Service  
4501 Route 5, Coventry Road, Irasburg, VT 05845  
Contact Keeno via phone at (802) 754-8863  
or e-mail: kchilafoux@nefsvt.com

### Community National Bank

Information Systems Manager - Derby Office

Community National Bank is seeking an IS Manager. This full-time position will be responsible for overseeing and managing the bank's information systems department and infrastructure. Acts as a liaison between the department, staff, vendors, and consultants. Requirements include 5+ years of experience with a Windows and networked environment; 3+ years working experience as an IS manager or relevant experience; 3+ years supervision experience; leadership qualities that inspire and embrace our mission, vision, and values, and demonstrated ability to multi-task and meet tight deadlines on a regular basis. Banking experience or knowledge of Jack Henry Silverlake is a plus. Excellent salary and benefit package. Salary commensurate with experience.

Letter of interest and resumé may be mailed to:  
Human Resources, Community National Bank  
4811 U.S. Route 5  
Newport, VT 05855

Or you may submit your letter of interest and resumé online at: [www.communitynationalbank.com](http://www.communitynationalbank.com).

Equal Opportunity Employer.

### Lake Region Union High School

Lake Region Union High School is accepting applications for 2017-2018

Spanish Teacher

French Teacher

Math Teacher

.5 FTE English Teacher

Refer to: [www.schoolspring.com](http://www.schoolspring.com) for applications and job details.

Submit letter of interest, resumé, certifications, and three current letters of reference to:

Andre Messier  
317 Lake Region Road  
Orleans, VT 05860

Background check is required  
E.O.E.

Open until filled.

### the Chronicle Help Wanted

We're looking for a personable and creative **marketing assistant** to sell ads for new digital and print products, work with website, and develop new accounts. The position requires thinking out of the box, knowledge of website technology, and eagerness to meet potential clients face-to-face. This is a part-time position with commission-based salary. Experience in sales or related area is a must for this position. The successful candidate will be a dynamic people person, a team player and original thinker able to enthusiastically promote, develop, and sell media products. Please submit resumé and cover letter, which includes qualifications, experience and/or what you could bring to the position. E-mail [thechronicleinc@gmail.com](mailto:thechronicleinc@gmail.com) or send to *the Chronicle*, P.O. Box 660, Barton, VT 05822, attn: Tracy.



# The outcome of mergers is unknown

(Continued from page one.)

allowed to participate in the high school district but won't be eligible for any of the other benefits of consolidation, Ms. Mace said.

For districts that do consolidate, there will be four years of tax rate reductions starting at eight cents per hundred dollars of value and declining by two cents per hundred dollars each year.

Merged districts will keep the small schools grants that each of their former school districts had, and will be eligible for a \$150,000 transition grant, Ms. Mace said. They also get some protection from a jump in taxes if school enrollment drops. And if they sell a school that was built with a state construction grant, they don't have to pay it back.

Districts that don't merge aren't eligible for anything.

And although there is mention of "approved alternate structures" — such as supervisory unions — in the Act 46 language, districts that opt to form one don't get any of the benefits offered to the ones that merge into a single district.

On top of that, any supervisory union or district that doesn't merge into a consolidated district that meets the state's requirements has to demonstrate with hard data how its plan meets all of the state requirements for cost-cutting and greater equity of opportunity.

Schools that merge into a single approved district don't have to show how they fit into what's called the state plan, although they have to supply most of the same data to get their merger plans approved, Ms. Mace said.

The overall reaction to Ms. Mace's presentation from OCSU residents seemed to be skeptical.

"There are a whole lot of factors that affect tax rates," said Nick Ecker-Racz of Glover. And even if schools are a major driver of tax rates, 80

percent of budgets go to teacher salaries. Unless teachers are fired and schools are closed, it's unlikely that costs are going to drop significantly, he said.

Several people criticized the lack of studies showing that district consolidation actually reduces taxes.

"You're right," Ms. Mace said. "Changing governance structures in and of itself saves nothing."

*"You're right," Ms. Mace said. "Changing governance structures in and of itself saves nothing." But it changes the conversation, she said.*

But it changes the conversation, she said. Later in the meeting she referred several times to "bending the curve" on school costs.

Ms. Mace said that she prefers to focus on eliminating what she called "fundamental differences of opportunity."

And she urged people to focus on what their community visions are for their children, rather than on the structural changes involved — even though that is the focus of the law.

"You quickly get to I don't want to lose this, I don't want to lose that," she said.

But several speakers rejected the idea that merging into a single district actually would create equal opportunities.

What does equity actually mean? Evan Gentler, a teacher, asked.

"Does it mean teaching the same program in each school? Does it mean the same number of hours of math or science in every school every week?"

That's not the Vermont way, Ms. Mace said. Every community still has the right to choose education that reflects its community values.

Struggling to put the idea into words, she said that if a community chooses certain educational goals that reflect its values, that's valid. But if a community cuts or restricts certain educational opportunities because it just doesn't have the money to carry them out, that's where the concept of inequity fits in.

The outcomes the state is hoping to achieve include not just equity, but being sure that schools meet or exceed educational quality standards and maximize operating efficiency, Ms. Mace said.

The state based its goals on a study of school mergers, she said.

But the conclusion of that study is that "we don't know the outcomes of mergers," said former teacher and principal Carole Young. "No one has studied what happens after a merger."

She and several others in the audience appealed for more time for the state to study the effect of mergers on the districts that consolidated early.

The districts that merged early are required to provide data, Ms. Mace said. "And there were a lot of calls for pushing the pause button in Montpelier this year, but it's not going to happen."

(Continued on page twenty-seven.)

## STORAGE WARS

APRIL 29, 2017 @ 9 a.m.  
21 UNITS

Notice of Public Auction under the Vermont Self Storage Facility Act. Notice is hereby given that Affordable Self Storage/Derby Self Storage will conduct a sale of the contents located within the following spaces:

**NEWPORT**  
419A VT Route 105 — 9 a.m.

Unit #46-B	Content rented by: Brandon Staples
Unit #60-B	Content rented by: Steven Ferland
Unit #64-B	Content rented by: Gordon Farrar
Unit #72-B	Content rented by: Gordon Farrar
Unit #82-B	Content rented by: Adrian Archambault
Unit #482-Q	Content rented by: Thomas Farrow
Unit #521-R	Content rented by: Kayla Delzio

**COVENTRY**  
299 Main St.  
Unit #263-H Content rented by: Booth & Ross Naramore, Jane

**DERBY SELF STORAGE**  
5059 U.S. Route 5

Unit #17-34-AA	Content rented by: Abandoned
Unit #116-135-DD	Content rented by: Jeremy Prue
Unit #148-DD	Content rented by: Chelsie Blais
Unit #227-FF	Content rented by: Phil Poutre
Unit #239-FF	Content rented by: Abandoned

**BEEBE ROAD**  
150 Beebe Road

Unit #281-I	Content rented by: Jamie Sink
Unit #285-I	Content rented by: Florence Robbins
Unit #291-I	Content rented by: Abandoned
Unit #309-I	Content rented by: Matt Farnsworth
Unit #329-J	Content rented by: Margaret Bunce
Unit #351-J	Content rented by: Heather Sergent
Unit #378-K	Content rented by: Diebre Stone

**ISLAND POND**  
280 Meadow Street

Unit #147D	Content rented by: Jamie Bone
Unit #184-E	Content rented by: Hope Pray

Tenant may pay up the day before Sale, before 2 p.m. So as, some units may be removed from Sale. Terms of Sale: By Ron Wright, Auctioneer — Cash or Good Check. Winning bidder must remove all contents from the facility on the day of the auction. Legal information: Above units to be sold per Vermont Self-Storage Facility Act Sec. 2.9 V.S.A. and Sec. 3954.

# AUCTIONS



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### Complete Head Dispersal for Simon Homestead Farm at the farm

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Orleans, VT 05860

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## Friday, April 28th, 11 a.m.

75 Head of Cattle (Conventional Herd)  
42 cows - 4 Heifers due soon - 9 shortbred  
20 open Heifers and Calves  
70# Ave Mostly Holsteins with 3 Jerseys and a few crosses  
Test 3.98 SCC 115,000 Average  
28 Firsts Calf 12 Second Calf  
Everything Bred A.I.

The Simons sold their cows 2 years ago.  
Everything is First or Second Calf few  
fresh cows, balance due year round  
Cattle are inoculated and vet check

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For information call: Jim Young 525 - 4774

Terms: Cash or good check sale day  
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# Courses are cut to reduce costs

(Continued from page twenty-six.)

She recommended that the supervisory union's study committee try to get together with representatives of early merging districts and ask how things are going.

She offered a list of names of those districts, but wasn't able to offer a similar list of districts that had opted for alternative structures.

"Is it even possible to create an acceptable alternate structure?" Brian Carroll of West Glover asked.

He described himself as a strong proponent of equity.

"I think it's a travesty that kids living ten miles apart could have different opportunities," he said.

The biggest obstacle to OCSU being approved for an alternate structure would be that the state still requires districts to consolidate into the "fewest practicable number of districts," Ms. Mace said.

When neighboring districts have completely different structures — when one district tuitions its elementary students, its neighbor only offers pre-kindergarten through sixth-grade, and another neighboring district offers pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, there may be barriers to merging as a single district.

Earlier in the evening, she described what she called a spiral in which courses are being cut to reduce costs but tax rates are still going up.

"It's a cycle — offer less, spend more," she said. "It's pervasive around the state."

But several people criticized the rush to change things without an adequate understanding of what the consequences might be.

"I'd like people to take a breath before we change things that maybe don't need to be changed," said Vicki Gentler, a retired teacher.

In her 30 years experience, she said, she's seen a lot of quality education coming out of very small schools.

Several people mentioned that even though people complain about property taxes, voters pass their school budgets year after year.

Last year, all but one of the towns in the OCSU rejected a merger plan developed by its Act 46 Study Committee.

And this year, the school boards that make up the neighboring North Country Supervisory Union opposed even studying consolidation.

A new OCSU Act 46 committee convened this year, but decided not to move forward until the group had more answers to its questions about exactly what the downside would be if voters are still opposed to any form of consolidation.

OCSU is a supervisory union, which means that it's made up of six small school districts plus Lake Region.

It already shares a central office, group purchasing, and contract negotiations, and some personnel — the cost-saving measures that the state says would be the source of savings if schools consolidated into a single district.

contact Elizabeth Trail at [elizabeth@bartonchronicle.com](mailto:elizabeth@bartonchronicle.com)



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The City of Newport is seeking proposals from qualified painters to paint the Gateway Center in downtown Newport. Project information can be found at: [www.NewportRecreation.org](http://www.NewportRecreation.org). For more information, contact Jessica Booth, Parks & Recreation Director, at (802) 334-6345, or [JBooth@newportrecreation.org](mailto:JBooth@newportrecreation.org). A facility walk-through is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, May 3. The deadline for proposals is 4:30 p.m., May 12, 2017.

## LAKE REGION UNION HIGH SCHOOL NOTICE

Lake Region Union High School is seeking bids from qualified contractors for a roof replacement project.

Sealed bids will be received on or before 1 p.m. (EST) Friday, April 28, 2017, and sealed bids will be opened at an open to the public Operations Committee meeting at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, May 1, 2017, at Lake Region Union High School. Site work on the project will begin no sooner than Monday, June 26, 2017, and must be completed by Friday, August 18, 2017.

A mandatory walk through is scheduled for 8 a.m. (EST) on Monday, April 17, 2017. RFP: Specification and General Condition documents will be available at the walk through or in advance by contacting:

Robert BJ Judd  
Lake Region Union High School  
(802) 754-6521, x221

Contractors must have proven experience with similar-sized school projects and provide a Performance Bond and insurance covering the performance of said work.

STATE OF VERMONT DISTRICT OF ORLEANS, SS. IN RE: THE ESTATE OF: ANDREW J. MERCERI LATE OF: ALBANY, VERMONT	PROBATE COURT DOCKET NO.: 272-8-16 Ospr
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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

To the creditors of the estate of ANDREW J. MERCERI, late of ALBANY, VERMONT.

We have been appointed personal representatives of the above named estate. All creditors having claims against the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the publication of the first publication of this notice. **The claim must be presented to us at the address listed below with a copy filed with the register of the Probate Court. The claim will be forever barred if it is not presented as described above within the four (4) month deadline.**

Dated: April 20, 2017

Signed  
Kim Merceri  
449 Garden St.  
Feeding Hills, MA 01030  
(413) 636-2805

Dated: April 20, 2017

Signed  
Darrell Merceri  
107 Coolidge Ave.  
Ludlow, MA 01056  
(413) 378-3871

Name of Publication: *the Chronicle*  
First Publication Date: April 26, 2017  
Second Publication Date: May 3, 2017  
Address of Probate Court:  
Orleans County Probate Court  
247 Main Street  
Newport, VT 05855

## Town of Brownington Green Up Day Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

- Green up bags will be distributed at the school (1 bag/family), additional bags will be available at the Brownington Town Clerk's office.
- We would like to see families pick up trash in the vicinity of their homes.
- Do not pick up needles or hazardous waste, report it to the Coordinator at the Town Garage.
- Bags can be dropped off at the Brownington Town Garage from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., or you can leave them along the road for pickup. Eight tires/household will be accepted.
- Children dropping off bags at the Brownington Town Garage will receive a coupon for a free ice cream at Tim & Doug's.

**Let's make it a family affair!!!!**

### ACT 250 NOTICE MINOR APPLICATION #7R1377 10 V.S.A. §§ 6001 – 6093

On March 30, 2017, Boardwalk, LLC c/o Jeff Hutchins, [88 Rogers Road, Richmond, VT 05477] filed application #7R1377 for a project generally described as expansion of the existing Northeast Sand and Gravel operations, including a new ±11 acre stone quarry; portable crushing and portable asphalt plant; limited night operations; consolidated access from VT 58E and new access road; stormwater treatment ponds; 4800 SF storage building with exterior lighting; reclamation plan; water recycling; new restrictions on hours of operation and trucking limits; maximum annual extraction rate of 200,000 cubic yards per year and total stone extraction of ± 1,000,000 cubic yards; permit expiration at year 50; landscaping; and relocated signage. The project is located at 928 VT Route 58E in Irasburg, Vermont. No hearing will be held and a permit will be issued unless, on or before **May 9, 2017**, a party notifies the District #7 Commission in writing at the address below of an issue requiring a hearing or the Commission sets the matter for hearing on its own motion. Such hearing request must include a petition for party status. The application and proposed permit may also be viewed on the Natural Resources Board's website ([www.nrb.state.vt.us/lup](http://www.nrb.state.vt.us/lup)) by clicking "Act 250 Database" and entering the project number **7R1377**. For more information, contact Kirsten Sultan at the address or telephone number below.

Dated at St Johnsbury, Vermont this 19th day April, 2017.  
Kirsten Sultan, P.E., Coordinator  
District #7 Environmental Commission  
374 Emerson Falls Road, Suite 4  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
802-751-0126  
[kirsten.sultan@vermont.gov](mailto:kirsten.sultan@vermont.gov)

### TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT WARNING

The legal voters of the Westmore Town School District are hereby warned to meet at the Municipal Office in said Town on Thursday, the 4th of May, 2017 A.D., at seven o'clock in the evening to transact the following business namely:

- To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.
- To receive and act upon the reports of the District Officers.
- To elect the following District Officers as provided by statute:
  - One school director for a term of three years (Jami Blair, whose appointment expires).
  - One school director for Lake Region Union High School District for a three-year term (Konnie Perkins, whose term expires).
- To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money to pay indebtedness and current expenses of the District.
- To see what salary the voters will authorize for payment of School Directors.
- Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$380,583, which is the amount the school board has determined necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$12,463.71 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 9.17% higher than spending for the current year.
- To act on any other business, which may legally come before said meeting.
- To adjourn.

Dated at Westmore, Vermont, this 16th day of March 2017.

MarK Perkins  
Megan Valley  
WESTMORE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I hereby certify the above warning was duly recorded in the records of the Town of Westmore previous to the posting and publication thereof.

Melissa Zebrowski  
WESTMORE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK



### PUBLIC NOTICE

Vermont Heritage Spring Water Company, located at 3662 North Derby Rd., bottles water from springs in Beebe Plain, Vermont 05823. The company has an existing permit (WSID 20110) to operate a Public Community Water System issued in accordance with 10 V.S.A. Chapter 56 and The Water Supply Rule. To comply with new Groundwater Withdrawal Reporting and Permitting Rules (Chapter 24), Vermont Heritage has submitted a Groundwater Withdrawal Permit Application to the VTDEC Drinking Water and Protection Division, dated April 25, 2017. The requested withdrawal is 5.25 GPM.

Copies of the application are available for viewing at the Town of Derby clerks office and the zoning office. Comments referencing this application should be directed to: the Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection Division, 1 National Life Dr., Main 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3521.

# Customs to host recruitment event in South Burlington

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in all six New England states is hosting several recruitment events, looking for hard-working, dedicated men and women to protect the homeland.

“CBP offers opportunities for those looking for a challenging and rewarding career, protecting America,” said regional CBP Recruiter Sean Maher. “Whether on the frontline or behind the scenes, CBP needs eligible applicants to fill positions in both domestic, and in some cases, international roles.”

CBP is the sole organization responsible for securing the nation’s borders and takes a comprehensive approach to border management

and control, combining customs, immigration, border security, and agricultural protection into one coordinated and supportive activity.

A recruitment event for work at the CBP area port of St. Albans will be held on Tuesday, May 23, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the fourth annual Vermont Career Connections career show held at the Sheraton Burlington Hotel, 870 Williston Road, South Burlington.

The primary responsibility of a CBP officer is to protect the nation by detecting and preventing terrorists and their weapons from entering the U.S. while facilitating the orderly flow of legitimate trade and travel. CBP officers perform a wide variety of duties, including, but not limited to: conveyance and traveler inspection, passenger and cargo analysis, examination and law enforcement activities relating to revenue and trade, seizure of contraband, interdiction of agricultural pests and diseases and admissibility of persons at 328 ports of entry located at airports, sea ports and land borders.

The CBP officer position is a full-time, uniformed position that requires regular qualification and carrying of a firearm, and

includes paid training at CBP’s Field Operations Academy, located at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen and resident for the last three years, have a valid driver’s license, and pass a medical examination, fitness and drug tests, as well as a thorough background investigation and polygraph examination used to determine suitability for the position. In general, eligible candidates must be referred for selection prior to reaching 40 years of age (limited exceptions apply, such as age exemptions available based on Veterans’ preference eligibility). In addition to the CBP officer position, employees work in a variety of areas of expertise, including trade, agriculture, intelligence, information technology, finance and human resources.

Information on available positions and CBP Careers is also available on the CBP website. Go to [www.cbp.gov/careers/apply-now](http://www.cbp.gov/careers/apply-now) to apply for the CBP officer position, or other available positions, or stop by a recruitment event to talk one-on-one with a CBP representative. — from CBP.

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for our annual Summer Events in the Kingdom Supplement coming out on May 24th.

Does your organization\* have an event or events coming up this summer? Let our readers and tourists know!

Please e-mail events to [ads@bartonchronicle.com](mailto:ads@bartonchronicle.com) by May 9th with the subject “summer events,” fax to (802) 525-3200, or mail to:

**the Chronicle**  
P.O. Box 660  
Barton, VT 05822  
“ATTN: SUMMER EVENTS”

\*Events must be one of the following:  
A nonprofit organization, a free event, or a benefit. Events from Memorial Day to Labor Day will be published in this supplement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any events. No phone events accepted.

the Chronicle

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# Look for fund-raising cards in local stores

(Continued from page one.)

considerable research on the history of the ball fields and baseball in Barton in general. Among other things, he ran across the story of Heimie Stafford of Orleans, who made it to the bigs, the majors, for a single game in October of 1916.

Mr. Perron said the goal is to raise between \$20,000 and \$25,000 to finish refurbishing the fields. These days, teams want a good field to play on, and they don't want to play on just grass, he said.

The ball fields are intended to benefit the community, but will be used for organized games rather than casual pickup games like a town-owned ball field might be.

"There will be some structure, and there will be paid events," he said. "A lot of folks around here want to revitalize the men's league as well."

Mr. Perron said the plan is that the fields will be ready by the end of the summer, but that depends on the donations and sponsors.

There were a lot of divots in them, and the idea is to smoothen the fields out so there's a better playing surface and redo the base paths, as well as adding amenities.

Mr. Perron said one thing he knows is that the community, though it may lack the amenities of bigger towns, will do a lot for its kids.

"If there is one thing I know about our town,

it's that our kids come first and foremost, and that we will rise to the occasion in support of this project, which will certainly be appreciated for years to come," Mr. Perron said.

The fields didn't fall into total disuse, he said, although they have not been used regularly for quite some time. His recollection is that there was a tournament held there seven or eight years ago.

There's no evidence that Heimie Stafford, the area ballplayer who briefly made it to the major leagues, ever played ball in Barton, but he might have.

According to Wikipedia, Mr. Stafford went to Tufts University on scholarship and was chosen senior class president. He was a sprinter and captain of the school's baseball team.

"In 1916, the Tufts baseball team went 18-1 but lost to Harvard for the college championship of the East," Wikipedia says.

It goes on to say that Mr. Stafford had earned the right to be called the fastest base runner in college baseball with a record of 22 stolen bases. He ended up batting .404 and leading the nation with 30 runs scored and 24 stolen bases.

When he graduated from Tufts, he signed a contract with the New York Giants, and after a stint in the minors, where he played left field and shortstop, the Giants called him up to the big leagues. He sat on the bench until October 5,



Money from the purchase of one of these cards, which will be at many local stores, will help pay for rejuvenating the ball fields at the fairgrounds in Barton.

1916, the last day of the season.

"With two outs in the top of the ninth inning, the Giants trailing by two runs, and the bases empty, the rookie from Vermont was sent in as a pinch hitter for the Giants' pitcher," Wikipedia says. "Stafford hit into a game- and season-ending out for the Giants, as the Brooklyn Dodgers won the pennant."

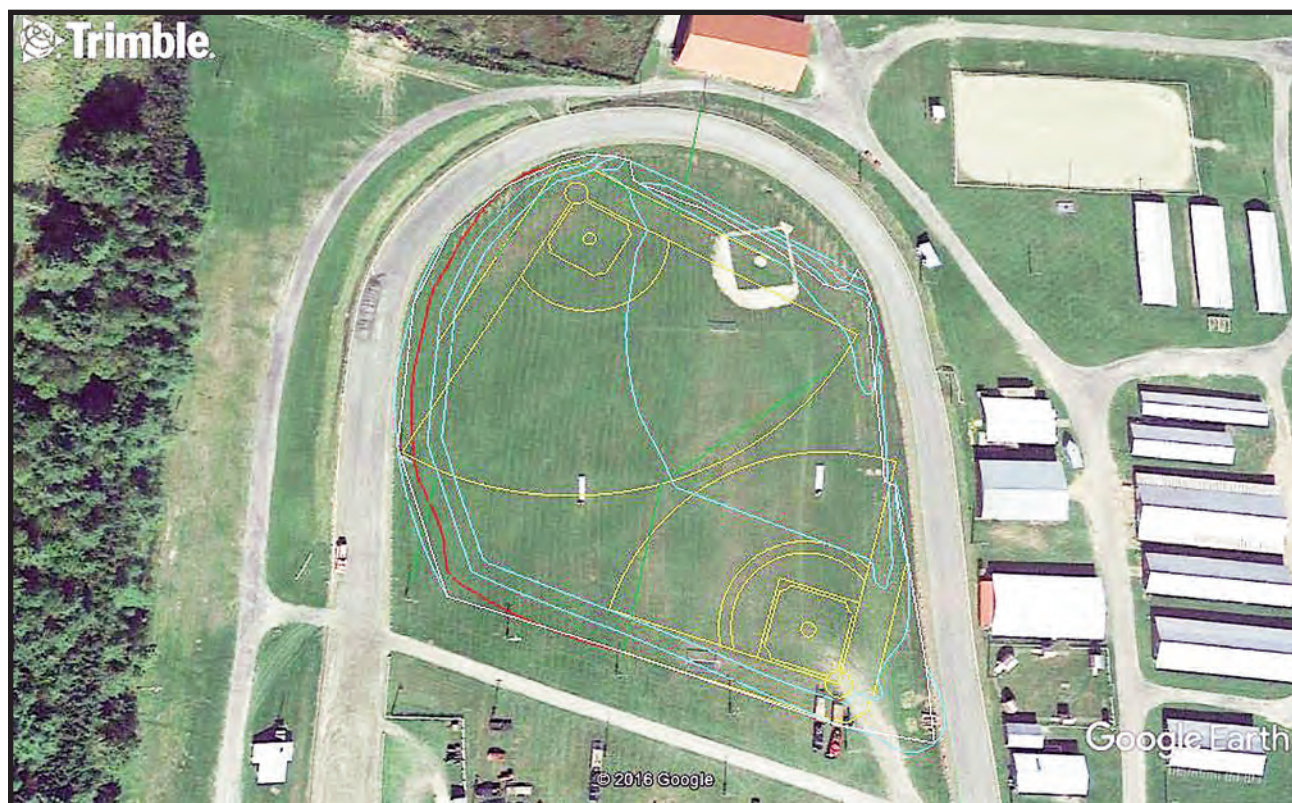
Despite that inauspicious start, Mr. Stafford was deemed to have ample talent and encouraged to stay in baseball. However, when he was offered a job as a research chemist, he took it, returning to baseball just briefly during World War I when he played in what was called the "industrial leagues."

He retired in 1941 and bought a dairy farm in Vermont. He was later elected to the Vermont General Assembly from Bethel.

He died in Florida in 1972 when he was 80.

The Orleans County Fair Association is the main sponsor of the ball field revitalization project, but there are other patrons as well, Mr. Perron said. Donations, both big and small, are welcome to complete the project.

"Baseball cards" are available at Currier's Quality Market, C&C Supermarket, Evansville Trading Post, Orleans One Stop, Lanoue's General Store, Thibault's Market, Bob's Quick Stop, Barton Maple Company, and The GAP.



The plans for rejuvenating two ball fields at the Orleans County Fairgrounds.

## Sterling College offers class in working draft animals

Tractors may offer an easier way to plow a field, but they guzzle fossil fuels and are hard to pat on the head. In contrast, ecologically friendly and economically viable draft animal-powered agriculture is experiencing a surge in popularity.

The School of the New American Farmstead at Sterling College is offering the course "Introduction to Teamster Skills: Working Horses and Cattle," for those interested in exploring the advantages of draft animals.

This five-day course, held August 6 to 11, will have students exploring the opportunities and constraints that working cattle and horses bring to a modern farming or logging enterprise. There will be a chance to learn by doing meaningful work with draft animals, skill sessions in hand tool use and maintenance, and a chance to experience the daily rhythm of working on an animal-powered farm.

The class will be led by instructor Rick Thomas.

"The teamster's craft focuses on the

relationship between the work and the animal," he says. "Before you can learn how to handle the animal, you need to learn how draft horses and cattle think, work, and communicate."

Mr. Thomas is a faculty member at Sterling College as well as the draft horse manager. His teaching connects him to those things he values — hard work, living a farmer's life, continued learning through experiential challenge, and building lasting relationships with students.

"Draft power is experiencing a resurgence in popularity in modern agriculture," he says. "Mindful farmers and loggers are realizing the potential draft animals have to create resilient and profitable working landscapes. The partnership between teamsters and their animals is special."

Other instructors include Kaleigh Hamel and Tom Jenkins.

Ms. Hamel has been involved with large animals since her childhood and is now running her own small business of training, educating,

and performing with her oxen and horses.

Ms. Hamel has taught a week-long oxen basics course at Tiller's International, has been the guest presenter and teacher for the annual Midwest Ox Drover's Association meeting, and taught an advanced training and psychology class at the 2015 Draft Animal Power Field Days.

Mr. Jenkins has been a consulting forester for 20 years, and runs the ox teamsters challenge at the Three County Fair in Northampton, MA. He got his first team of oxen at age five and showed at New England fairs through 4-H for about 10 years. Logging with his team of seven-year-old Holstein/shorthorns is now an important part of his forestry business.

Online registration is now open, but spaces are limited. Students are encouraged to apply as early as possible. Academic credit is available for all courses. For more information about this course and to register, visit [www.sterlingcollege.edu/teamsters](http://www.sterlingcollege.edu/teamsters). — from Sterling College.