Alburgh rejects school budget; Savage and Latimer defeated; Two more quit school board

By MIKE DONOGHUE AND MICHAEL FRETT Islander Staff Writers

ALBURGH – The Alburgh School District is facing a major overhaul after local voters booted two school board members, rejected the proposed budget,

and saw two more school board members quit.

Longtime School
Board Chairman
Michael Savage
and School Director
Ryan Latimer were
both ousted by 2-1
margins on Town
Meeting Day.

During a special board meeting on Monday, the public was told Vice Chair Stacey Gould and board member Tara Bessette had quit that afternoon.



Marlon Maylor, the Alburgh Community Education Center's principal, presents his school's proposed budget during Alburgh's town meeting the night before last week's elections. Photo by Michael Frett.

Gould and Bessette both asked that their resignation letters be read into the record at the meeting. Gould and Bessette both cited the ongoing battle over special education in the district and the direction the board was headed.

School Director Whitney Maxham, the senior member, was elected unanimously as the new chair during the reorganization meeting.

On Town Meeting Day Jennifer Fenn defeated Savage, the chairman, in his re-election bid 361-172 for a 3-year term.

See "ALBURGH TOWN MEETING RESULTS" Page 2





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Alburgh - New listing! Gorgeous three bedroom, three bath contemporary with 160' direct west facing Lake Champlain frontage, \$895,000

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Alburgh - Custom built three bedroom contemporary with attached three car garage, approximately 190' direct Lake Champlain frontage, \$849,000

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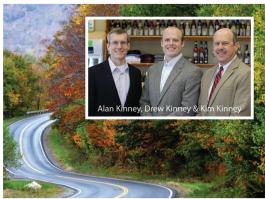
Alburgh

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Kindergarten registration

By Sue McNayr, Administrative Assistant, Folsom Education and Community Center

SOUTH HERO - Do you live in South Hero and have a child who will be five years old on or before Sept. 1? Are you planning to enroll your child in Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year? If you answered yes to both questions, please call Sue McNayr at Folsom School at 802-372-6600, extension 1, or send an email to smcnayr@gisu.org. The school is in the process of collecting names and information about potential Kindergarten students for the next school year. No child shall be admitted unless he/she is five years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2024.



ALBURGH TOWN MEETING RESULTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Luke Richter beat board member Latimer 312-153 for a 2-year term.

The board voted unanimously to elect Fenn as the vice chair and Richter as the clerk. Maxham, was re-elected and Fenn and Richter elected to serve as Alburgh's representatives on the Grand Isle Supervisory

Voters also rejected a proposed \$8,877,243 school budget 330-229.

The board could not take any official action on the last-minute vacancies because the resignations were not on the posted agenda.

Superintendent Michael J. Clark said he would start to spread the word that taxpayers interested in serving on the school board should be ready to apply.

He said the school board at its next regular meeting on Monday night should establish the formal procedure for residents to apply, the deadline and other details.

The new board did approve two steps during the reorganization meeting to improve public transparency going forward.



Michael Clark, the superintendent for the Grand Isle Supervisory Union, speaks with Alburgh voters during the town's annual meeting last week. Photo by Michael Frett.

The board voted 3-0 to start their meetings at 6 p.m. to allow more local residents to attend. Regular meetings will continue to be the first and third Mondays of each month.

Some taxpayers have complained through the years that the 5:30 p.m. start was difficult for them to attend after getting out of work, especially those working out of town.

The School Board also voted unanimously to restore *The Islander* as the newspaper of record for official

public notices, legal warnings and other business.

Maxham said *The Islander* is the local newspaper and has total saturation for residents in the town due to free distribution.

A year ago, the school board, without public discussion, voted to move public notices to the St. Albans Messenger, which is in Franklin County and has limited sales in Alburgh. Some board

members were upset at *The Islander* for covering a brawl by fans at a junior high basketball game that later led to the fatal heart attack of a man and



Alburgh's town moderator, Terry Tatro, right, oversees Alburgh's annual informational meeting the night before local elections last week. Photo by Michael Frett.

the subsequent national media coverage Alburgh received.

The rejected school budget was expected to increase local education taxes to roughly \$1.87 for every \$100 of assessed property value. It will be up to the new board to develop a more acceptable budget to bring back to voters.

While recent efforts to try to reform Vermont's education funding formula were expected to benefit Alburgh in the long run, a ratio used in that formula weighing assessed property values was set to surge education taxes in Alburgh this year. It was the likely result of a hot real estate market and ongoing housing shortage helping spike property prices well above their assessed values.

Town results

Alburgh voters also narrowly elected Alex McCracken, a newcomer who served on the town's American Rescue Plan Act committee in the race against incumbent Jim Hokenberg, 274-249.

Damien Henry, meanwhile, defeated Jayson Martin 389-125 to replace Selectboard member Donna Boumil. Boumil, who opted against seeking reelection to the selectboard, was elected with 468 votes as a new lister and will still serve on the town's planning commission.

The general town budget of \$947,084, with \$770,884 to be raised by local taxes was approved 356-204.

The town highway budget of \$1,107,453, with \$967,453 to be raised by local taxes was approved 377-184.

Voters approved 362-197 a proposed \$300,000 annual budget for the new Alburgh Rescue Inc.

Two Alburgh Volunteer Fire Department ballot items, covering \$70,000 for general operation and \$25,000 for equipment also were overwhelmingly approved.

Several veteran officials will continue in office. Among them was Town Clerk Danielle James Choiniere, who tallied 529 votes in her unopposed race. Long-time moderator Terry Tatro won re-election as a write-in with 74 votes. Constable Jerid Creller tallied 475 votes to keep his post. Kayla Patnode tallied 473 votes for auditor.





Sweet Kali lost her one and only person when she moved into assisted living. She has been recovering from CCL knee surgery. She is a very shy girl. However, it didn't take her long to adjust to her foster

family, including 4 dogs, several cats and two teenage boys. She does warm up to women faster than men. She will need an understanding family that will give her time to adjust to new surroundings. Kali is listed as a 4-5 year old, 40 lb. boxer mix. She is potty and crate trained, knows sit, sit and stay and leave it. She will need leash walk only for potty until she is completely healed in another couple.

healed in another couple weeks. Kali loves to go for car rides.

Fill out an application at www.pottersangelsrescue.org



Milton returns Adams to selectboard helm, to continue with *Islander*

By MICHAEL FRETT Islander Staff Writer

MILTON – Milton's selectboard once again elected to have Darren Adams serve as the selectboard's chair during a swift reorganizational meeting following Milton's Town Meeting Day elections last week.

Adams, who has served on Milton's selectboard for more than a decade and has spent most of his tenure at the board's helm, was reelected unanimously as the board's chair during a special reorganizational meet-

ing held by the board on Wednesday last week.

The selectboard also unanimously reelected

The selectboard also unanimously reelected Michael Morgan, another returning selectperson and one of two legislators representing specifically West Milton and Grand Isle County in the Vermont House of Representatives, to serve as the board's vice chair.

The two were reelected alongside Leland Morgan during Milton's Town Meeting Day elections last week, having won in a set of competitive races for two one-year terms on the town's selectboard and, in Michael Morgan's case, a three-year term on the board.

Milton officials also agreed last week to retain *The Islander* as Milton's paper of record, satisfying a legal requirement in Vermont mandating that towns post certain notices and announcements, like warnings for public meetings and va-

Michael Morgan

Milton selectperson and state representative Michael Morgan was reelected to Milton's selectboard last week after a competitive election. File photo by Michael Frett.

cancies, in a print newspaper circulating locally. *The Islander* has been Milton's newspaper for printing legal notices since 2022.

Incumbent selectperson Brenda Steady was again elected to serve as the board's clerk.

The selectboard similarly agreed to continue meeting every first and third Monday of the month for its regular meetings, with eventual exceptions to be made for holidays. The board will continue starting its meetings at 6 p.m. and looking to end its meetings by 9 p.m., with the board allowed to continue its meetings past the 9 p.m. mark only after a formal motion to do so from a board member.

Vermont seeks federal disaster declaration for January storms

By MICHAEL FRETT Islander Staff Writer

MILTON – State officials are seeking a federal disaster declaration to help mainland communities manage recovery costs after several days of winter storms racked parts of the state in January this year.

According to a recent news release from Gov. Phil Scott's office, the state was now seeking federal support to help communities in several mainland counties afford repairs to public infrastructure after a series of winter storms buffeted the state in early January and temporarily left thousands without power.

If approved, the disaster declaration would earmark federal funding allocated through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reimburse municipalities and utility companies for around 75% of what they spent responding to the January storms.

In the Champlain Valley, according to the Scott administration's announcement, both Chittenden and Franklin counties qualified for the state's pending disaster declaration.

According to state officials, between Jan. 9 and Jan. 13, winter storms bombarding mainland Vermont left somewhere around \$2.3 million worth of damage in their wake. News reports at the time noted the storm



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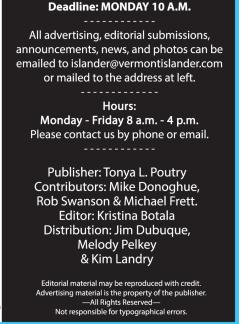
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The Islander is published weekly and circulated in South Hero, Grand Isle, North Hero, Isle La Motte, Alburgh, Milton, Georgia, Colchester and Swanton in Vermont and Rouses Point, Champlain, Chazy and Mooers in New York.



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had temporarily knocked out power for thousands of Vermonters and strewn debris across a number of local roadways.

Lakeside communities like Colchester and Milton saw windspeeds pushing well past 50 miles per hour, according to the National Weather Service, and a blend of high winds and wet snow caused temporary outages around the valley, including an induced outage affecting 2,000 near Milton that, according to Green Mountain Power, had been needed for crews to safely repair storm damage.

The request for federal aid, announced by the Scott administration last week, would be the latest of several recent federal disaster requests. Throughout the past year, at least three federal disasters had been declared in Vermont in the wake of major flooding, including heavy flooding in July last summer officials described as "historic" for the Green Mountain State.

"There's no doubt Vermonters have faced a lot this year due to heavy rain starting last summer, and we've appreciated the federal government's much-needed support in our recovery efforts," Scott said in a statement. "We'll continue working with our local, state and federal partners to respond to and recover from these events, and make our communities more resilient in the future."

Alongside Chittenden and Franklin counties, the governor's requested disaster declaration would also cover inland communities in Essex, Lamoille and Orleans counties.



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The Transfer Station is located at 22 Hanson Lane in Grand Isle. Hours: Thursdays 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM and Saturdays 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Isle La Motte finalizes plans for second ARPA committee

By MICHAEL FRETT, Islander Staff Writer

ISLE LA MOTTE - Town officials in Isle La Motte are hoping to staff a second commission charged with reviewing recommendations for the town's use of American Rescue Plan Act funds in the coming weeks.

The town's selectboard finalized last week officials' plans to coalesce a committee around more detailed requirements than those guiding Isle La Motte's first American Rescue Plan Act committee, with the hopes of having a more detailed plan for the town's onetime federal pandemic funds.

"The first ARPA committee did a good job getting the pulse of what people are interested in," the selectboard's chair, Mary-Catherine Graziano, said during the board's meeting last week. "Right now, we need more actionable plans for us to move forward on."

Isle La Motte had initially formed a committee for exploring how to best use the town's American Rescue Plan Act funding in 2023, with that first committee recommending that the town use its federal funding to continue an ongoing technology and records digitization project, and earmark the remaining funds to cover future unidentified grant matches potentially needed by Isle La Motte.

Doing so, the committee asserted in a written report it shared with Isle La Motte's selectboard, would allow the town to better defray future tax increases, something prioritized by residents in a townwide survey overseen by Isle La Motte's planning commission last year.

The town's selectboard had initially expressed some disappointment with recommendations from Isle La Motte's first American Rescue Plan Act committee, however, with board members stating they had hoped for the committee to more directly source ideas from the community beyond a single townwide survey and better entertain specific proposals for using the town's onetime pandemic funds.

While Graziano restated last week that the town was grateful for the initial commission's work, she said she hoped this next commission would bring more details about possible pandemic funding-supported projects in Isle La Motte and what state and federal grants Isle La Motte officials might want to match with its share of federal funds.

"We'll take what the previous ARPA committee started," Graziano said, "and flesh it out into something we can use more concretely."

According to town officials, Isle La Motte was awarded roughly \$142,000 under the American Rescue Plan Act, a federal stimulus bill passed in early 2021 to help states, counties and municipalities weather the economic fallout expected in the immediate aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The town has already committed around \$69,000 in American Rescue Plan Act dollars after having allocated around \$50,000 to a records digitization project and another \$19,000 to afford the maintenance and upkeep of Isle La Motte's former school building and current town center.

> The selectboard unanimously approved its new guidelines for Isle La Motte's second American Rescue Plan Act commission last week pending some final edits from Graziano and, according to local officials, the town will begin courting possible volunteers for its new ARPA commission.



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Islands back Haley, Milton backs **Trump in Republican primary**

By MICHAEL FRETT, Islander Staff Writer

SOUTH HERO - In a state presidential primary that gave South Carolina's former Republican governor Nikki Haley her only primary win in the U.S., the reliably purple Grand Isle County narrowly backed the governor against former president Donald Trump.

According to results posted by the Vermont Secretary of State's office, the county's Republican presidential primary saw islanders narrowly back Haley over Trump, with 739 voters favoring the former governor and 697 islanders backing the former president.

That support fell across notable geographic lines, however, with more voters in the Republican primary falling behind Trump in northern communities like Alburgh and Isle La Motte, and voters instead favoring Haley in Grand Isle, North Hero and South Hero.

Nearby mainland towns like Milton, Swanton and Highgate, meanwhile, similarly backed the former president in his bid to return to office.

Despite sharing some views on issues like border security and the economy, Haley had been viewed as a more moderate alternative to Trump, prompting other Republican moderates, like Vermont's governor Phil Scott, to endorse his former South Carolina counterpart and encourage independent and Democratic voters to take advantage of Vermont's open primaries and defeat the more

Vermont was the only state during last week's Super Tuesday primaries to swing behind Haley, giving the former governor and United Nations ambassador her second of only two wins after she came out ahead in Washington, D.C.'s Republican primary two days before. Republicans in nearby New England states like Massachusetts, meanwhile, readily backed the former president.

By Wednesday, Haley, the first woman to win a Republican state presidential primary, had dropped out of the presidential race.

Democrats in Grand Isle County, meanwhile, handily backed President Joe Biden in a presidential primary that saw no major competitors.

As South Hero board reorganizes, attention returns to town offices

By MICHAEL FRETT Islander Staff Writer

SOUTH HERO – South Hero's selectboard reorganized Monday evening, unanimously reelecting David Carter to continue serving as the board's chair before segueing into an ongoing conversation around replacing the town's aging town office.

As of Monday evening, town officials said they were hoping to finalize plans for a new committee intended to oversee planning for replacing the town's offices. The committee, according to officials, would reexamine whether to situate South Hero's offices on their current property or across the street near the Old White Meeting House, as well as explore designs and costs for developing new offices.

The committee, Carter said Monday, would "look at all the aspects of replacing the town hall, including replacement and design, and costs, of course," and tap a municipal planning grant previously awarded to South Hero to afford the architectural planning underlying an office building's eventual construction.

This would be the second committee formed by South Hero to explore replacing the town's offices, an almost century-old building that, according to an architectural assessment conducted for the town a little less than a year ago, was plagued with significant structural issues relating to rot and mold.

While a subsequent air test in the building found few signs that mold found in the building's foundation had seeped into the air above, officials have more recently said some parts of the town's offices seemed like they might be infested. According to South Hero's town clerk Naomi King, South Hero's office staff felt the building's problems with mold had already started impacting employees' health.

"We feel like it's more of an issue than a lot of people do and that it's making us sick," King, who said she spoke for the rest of South Hero's office employees, told the town's selectboard Monday. "Our goal is to get into a new building as quickly as we can."

Though officials seem to largely agree that rebuilding South Hero's offices was a necessity, South Hero officials have struggled to agree to where, exactly, a new building should be located.

South Hero's first office committee, formed by a Town Meeting Day vote to study whether to move its municipal offices into South Hero's historic meeting house, concluded South Hero would best be served by moving its offices near the meeting house, a move allowing South Hero to sidestep the costs of finding an interim site for its offices should South Hero rebuild at its offices' current address.

A move across the street, according to the committee's final report, would also allow South Hero to anchor a new town hall to a community park planned for the property behind the Old White Meeting House, contributing to what the committee saw as a "vital hub" for South Hero's historic village center framed by the new park, a new town hall and a restored meeting house.

The selectboard initially backed the committee's recommendations, voting earlier this year to move forward with planning to build new offices near a former fire department garage now occupied by the charity thrift shop Granny's Attic. The selectboard later rescinded that vote after noting a tentative selectboard vote had not been included in the warning for that February meeting.

During the board's meeting Monday, however, the town's clerk King urged the selectboard to reconsider building near the offices' current locale, arguing it might be easier for the town to build on property it already owned and that the town's office staff was increasingly concerned about the mold found in the building's crawlspace during last year's architectural assessment.

While local developer Nathan Hayward has promised to donate around two acres of land to the town for a community park and recently signed a letter of intent reaffirming his plans to eventually grant land to the town, South Hero's government has yet to officially take on the park property. Officials have said a new office building would involve at least some part of the park parcel.

When speaking with the board, King advocated for a plan that would see a new office building take the place of the former town-owned rescue station currently leased to the Island Craft Shop. In the meantime, the town could continue operating out of its current offices and, once the new building was completed and the town's office moved, its existing offices could be razed to make room for parking.

"We feel like the site across the road has so many different moving parts that it's going to take a long time," King told the town's selectboard. "We think it's going to be a lot faster and, in the long run, a lot better fit for all of us."

Carter, the selectboard's chair, encouraged town officials and the eventual town office committee to take King's recommendations into consideration, and while the selectboard no longer has an official consensus on where to build South Hero's new office building, there at least seemed to be an agreement Monday that the town should prioritize its offices' eventual move.

"It's prudent to move as fast as possible," selectperson Ross Brown, one of the original town office committee's members and likely its most vocal supporter for a move across the street, said. "We could have a catastrophic failure tomorrow."

Board members agreed Monday to begin working on a formal description of the town offices committee's charges, with the goal of having something ready for the board's next regular meeting.

In the meantime, South Hero officials seemingly admitted to the bizarre optics of having another town office committee formed after dissolving a preceding committee and appearing to endorse that first committee's argument to

build near South Hero's historic meeting house.

According to Carter, the new committee would consider its predecessor's work, and even if the town's new municipal offices committee came to a different conclusion, he said Monday that first committee had still delivered important information for South Hero officials.

"[That committee] came up with several realities about this building," Carter told the rest of the board, "including two engineering studies that came to the conclusion that this building is reaching the end of its functional life."





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Milton man denies armed robbery

By MIKE DONOGHUE **Islander Staff Writer**

MILTON - An eagle-eyed teen-age store clerk was able to quickly identify a masked man as he committed an armed robbery at a Milton convenience store, Milton Police said.

Nathan T. White, 39, of Milton pleaded not guilty in Vermont Superior Court on Monday to a felony charge of assault and robbery with a weapon at the Frey Family Deli on U.S. 7 near Lake Road in Milton, records show.

White, a six-time convicted felon who told police he was on probation, was found hiding in the attic of his home on Deer Run Drive on Friday during a court-ordered search, court records show.

Milton Police, along with members of the Chittenden County Violent Crime Task Force under the direction of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives conducted the raid about 3:30 p.m.

Investigators recovered about \$91 on White. Police said early estimates indicated between \$300 and \$500 was stolen.

Also recovered at the house were a red plaid coat and camo baseball cap that matched what the robber had on. Two air style pistols were found in a bedroom, police said.

White began to cry when Noel explained the clerk that had the gun pointed at her was only 16 years-old, police said.

Police jailed White over the weekend at the Northwest State Correctional Facility in St. Albans Town.

Judge Navah Spero ordered White on Monday held until he can be placed in the custody of a responsible adult. Spero also ordered that he remain at an approved residence for 24 hours a day once authorized by the court, except for daytime work and legal appointments. He also is to remain away from both Frey's Family Deli and his residence in Milton.

In preparation to close the business, the 16-year-old store clerk said she was mopping the deli a few minutes before 8 p.m. Thursday. She said she was alerted by the bells on the door that somebody had entered the store and noticed he was wearing camo with his face covered by a black mask, Milton Police said.



Feb. - March 2024

COLCHESTER

- •Barbara & Gerard Doody transferred property at 121 Bay Meadow Estates, Unit 4, to Meaghan Reynolds & Brandon Diaz, \$293,000.
- •Jan & Hendrika J. Maltby transferred property at 128 Indian Circle, Unit 2 to Nicholas Gagne, \$379,000.
- •Daniel Tajbl transferred property at 46 Thayer Bay Circle to 46 Thayer Bay Associates LLC, \$N/A.
- •Frank Merola & Mary T. Wheatley transferred property at 314 Bluebird Dr., 0.38 ac., to Louis Merola, \$N/A.
- •The Claire A. Boisvert Revocable Living Trust transferred property at 182 Greenwood Dr., 0.37 ac., to Benjamin Lawrence, \$210,000.
- Daniel Mangan & Jessica Ewald transferred property at 190 Bonanza Park, 0.35 ac., to Melissa Whalen, \$500,000.
- •Mark Kruger transferred property at 169 Beach Rd, 0.21 ac., to M. Eric Kruger Revocable Trust, \$N/A.
- Newton Garland & Nancy R. Smith transferred property at 33

- Naomi's Way, Unit 101 to Nicholas Krywka, \$280,000.
- •David & Fatima Ospina transferred property at 19 Midship Way to John & Kathy Corbin, \$280,000.

ISLE LA MOTTE

- •Diane Deschenes transferred property at 174 Westerly Views Rd, 1.3 ac., to Judy McCawley, \$380,000.
- Andrea Yansow transferred property at 221 Bruley Rd, 2.3 ac., to Jeffrey Barney & Andrea J. Yandow, \$N/A.

MILTON

- •Virginia, Leroy W. & Jeffrey L. Turner transferred property at 27 Watkins Rd, 1.21 ac., to Laura Turner, \$105,000.
- Clearview Properties LLC transferred property at 287 Horseshoe Circle, 0.38 ac., to Ryann Guayasamin & Kyle Craven, \$668,672.89.
- James Mitiguy transferred property at 27 Sampsonville Way, 2.17 ac., to James M. Mitiguy Trust, \$N/A.
- James Mitiguy transferred property at 29 Sampsonville Way, 2.1 ac., to James M. Mitiguy Trust, \$N/A.
- James Mitiguy transferred prop-

- erty at 31 Sampsonville Way, 2.06 ac., to James M. Mitiguy Trust, \$N/A.
- Elizabeth Jones transferred property at 121 Westford Rd, 0.85 ac., to Shannon Luzzatto, Alanna J. Bouffard, Aubrey T. & Sean M. Jones, \$N/A.
- Clearview Properties LLC transferred property at Horseshoe Circle, 1.93 ac., to Town of Milton, \$N/A.

SOUTH HERO

 Madeleine Kunin transferred property at 19 Providence Island, 5.12 ac., to Madeleine May Kunin Trust, \$N/A.

<u>SWANTON</u>

- •Bonk Family Trust transferred property at 423 Lot 5 4000 Maguam Shore Rd, 1.92 ac., to Michael & Kelley A. Lane, \$125,000.
- Dale & Randy-Kay Lavalley transferred property at 7 Shetland Ln, 1 ac., to Lavalley Family Trust,
- •Christine Unwin & Urhandus Hall transferred property at 500 Bushey Rd, 1 ac., to Geoffrey Swanson, \$245,000.
- transferred property at 96 Acres +/- to Longway Brothers, LLC, \$N/A.

When he got to the cash register for the store, which was previously known as the Dam Store, the bandit pulled a handgun from the middle of his body and pointed it at the clerk, Detective Sam Noel said in court papers.

The clerk said she was in fear for her life as the robber's hands were shaking and thought she might get shot, Noel said. The bandit demanded the money from the cash register, and she obeyed, Noel said.

As the man fled, the clerk called police and can be overheard reporting she thought it was "Nate White," Noel said. He added that police showed her a picture from Facebook that confirmed the identity.

The clerk appeared to be a trained observer that gave police plenty of clues to help identify the robber.

Milton Patrol Sgt. Gordon LaFountain, the first officer to respond, said the clerk reported she thought the robber was White, Noel said. She reported White was well known to her, that he shopped at the store daily and had been in the business about an hour before the robbery. She also said the eye area that showed in the mask appeared to be White and the bandit's voice sounded like him.

She also reported the bandit had the same mannerism as White, who had an outstanding tab owed to the store, police said. The clerk also said she knew White because he had a relative in her class at school.

LaFountain and Officer Matthew McQueen combed the area for the robber, but came up empty handed. Cpl. Noi Jones and his department K-9 headed west on Lake Road, but lost the scent, Noel said.

The store owners obtained the security video for the day from the three cameras and compared the earlier visit by White with the video of the robber, Noel said.

By the next day the police had enough to get the search warrant.

If convicted, White could be jailed for up to 15 years, according to Deputy State's Attorney Susan G. Hardin in court papers.

He could face up to life in prison if charged as a •R.J. Fournier and Sons Farm, Inc. Habitual Offender. His past six felony convictions include, burglary, grand larceny and possession of stolen property, records show.

With expansion coming, ILM board reelects Graziano as chair

By MICHAEL FRETT **Islander Staff Writer**

ISLE LA MOTTE - Mary-Catherine Graziano will continue chairing Isle La Motte's selectboard as officials begin planning another election to fill out the board's ranks after a Town Meeting Day vote found Isle La

Motte residents in favor of expanding the town's selectboard from three members to five.

According to town officials, a special election would likely take place sometime this coming spring to guarantee enough time for locals interested in serving on Isle La Motte's selectboard to declare their candidacy and gather enough signatures for a petition to appear on an Isle La Motte ballot.

In the interim, board members said they would be looking to potentially coordinate with the Champlain Islands Unified Union School District (CIUUSD) as the latter organization plans its own special midyear election to once again bring a budget proposal before voters after locals in Grand Isle, Isle La Motte and North Hero defeated the district's proposed education budget last week.



Isle La Motte selectperson Joseph Deller is sworn in by the town's clerk Vickie Buswell after Deller was reelected by Isle La Motte voters last week. Photo by Michael Frett.

According to Graziano, the selectboard would consider timing its special election with CIUUSD's eventual budget vote to make it easier for Isle La Motte residents to participate in both elections, but ultimately Isle La Motte officials conceded last week that the timing might make coordination difficult given how quickly Isle La Motte leaders hoped to have their special selectboard election come before voters.

"I want to have this as soon as possible," Graziano told the rest of the selectboard when meeting last week, later adding that the selectboard had "statutory obligations we have to abide by."

Isle La Motte officials brought an item related to selectboard expansion before Town Meeting Day voters last week, arguing a five-person selectboard would align Isle La Motte with neighboring communities and make it easier for the board's members to manage an increasingly complex set of charges falling to Isle La Motte's town government without having to bring on any new municipal staff.

The item narrowly passed during last week's Town Meeting Day election, with 109 Isle La Motte residents favoring the selectboard's proposed expansion and 84 opposed.

According to Isle La Motte officials, the town would be beholden to a legal requirement allowing for six Mondays between the deadline for candidates to file their petition with Isle La Motte's local government and the town's special election. Officials also suggested last week they wanted to allot several weeks for candidates to circulate their petitions and get enough signatures to qualify for a local ballot.

"They need time to get signatures... and also to get word out that they're interested in the position," selectperson Cary Sandvig said last week.

Whether Isle La Motte's special election could eventually overlap or conflict with the local school district's was still an open question as of press time on Tuesday morning, as CIUUSD's school board had yet to reorganize after last week's elections and school officials would still need time to make adjustments to CIUUSD's defeated education budget before warning a new vote.

CIUUSD's proposed budget was one of nearly 30 in Vermont defeated on Town Meeting Day this year after a blend of issues relating to the state's school funding formula and climbing education costs threatened to surge tax rates across the state.

CIUUSD, which oversees public education for children in Grand Isle, Isle La Motte and North Hero, had a regular meeting warned for after The Islander's press time Tuesday evening. According to a meeting agenda, CIUUSD's school board planned to reorganize and discuss last week's elections.

While the selectboard was still holding off on scheduling a date for its pending election, Isle La Motte officials said last week they hoped to begin advertising the selectboard's two vacancies over the coming weeks in order to court possible candidates at a time when, according to officials, finding people open to volunteering for local government was a challenge.

Graziano has helmed Isle La Motte's selectboard since the immediate aftermath of last year's Town Meeting Day elections in early 2023.

The selectboard's third member, Joseph Deller, was reelected on Tuesday last week in an uncontested Town Meeting Day election.





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Underwater Archaeology and History for Love the Lake Series

By Madeline Reilly, LCBP

GRAND ISLE — The Patrick Leahy Lake Champlain Basin Program will host Chris Sabick, Executive Director of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, on Thursday, March 14 for the final presentation of the Love the Lake speaker series. He will present *Underwater Archaeology of the Revolution: Current and Future Research on Lake Champlain*. In anticipation of the 250th commemoration of 1776, Chris will highlight current research efforts on the American Revolution in the Champlain Valley. Topics include the Battle of Valcour Bay, ongoing archaeological work at Arnold's Bay, the gunboat *Spitfire*, and where Revolutionary War research efforts in the area are headed next.

This free public program begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Lake Champlain Basin Program Office. Homemade desserts will be served.

Those that wish to join virtually can join with this Zoom link (pre-registration through the link is required for Zoom only): https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89945534893?pwd=M2xvRzd5OHNzQ0xTSUN2c2ZQYUhoZz09.

Location: 54 West Shore Road, Grand Isle

Information: Madeline Reilly, mreilly@lcbp.org or 802-372-3213

North Hero reelects selectboard members, approves all items

By MICHAEL FRETT Islander Staff Writer

NORTH HERO — North Hero voters hitting the polls during Tuesday's elections swung behind incumbent selectboard members and approved each of the funding requests meeting voters on a Town Meeting Day ballot, according to preliminary results shared Tuesday.

Three members of North Hero's selectboard – Tim Bourne, Joe Latimer and Harry Parker – each staved off challengers during Tuesday's Town Meeting Day elections to remain on the board.

Parker, the selectboard's chair until a mid-year reorganization last year, won after facing a challenge Tuesday from Jim Martin, the town's former highway foreman and himself a former selectperson.

Bourne, meanwhile, staved off a challenge Tuesday from North Hero planning commissioner and former selectperson Andre Quintin, while Latimer, the selectboard's current vice chair, was reelected after facing a write-in campaign from Rose Cheeseman.

Voters also approved all articles and spending requests included on North Hero's Town Meeting Day ballots, including the town's proposed \$722,000 municipal budget and its \$411,000 public works budget, capital funding designated for both North Hero's library and the town's cemetery commission, and the allocation of surplus funding to a capital budget for supporting the construction of a new town garage.

Notably, Corinn Julow, the town's clerk and treasurer before Tuesday, ran





only to serve as clerk this year after North Hero officials approved budgeting for more robust clerk and treasurer's roles in an attempt to better organize North Hero's town offices. Lisa Keyworth, previously the town's assistant clerk and treasurer, will take over as North Hero's town treasurer after running unopposed Tuesdav.

According to preliminary results shared with *The Islander*, 452 of North Hero's 922 registered voters participated in Tuesday's Town Meeting Day elections.

All articles pass during Grand Isle elections

By MICHAEL FRETT Islander Staff Writer

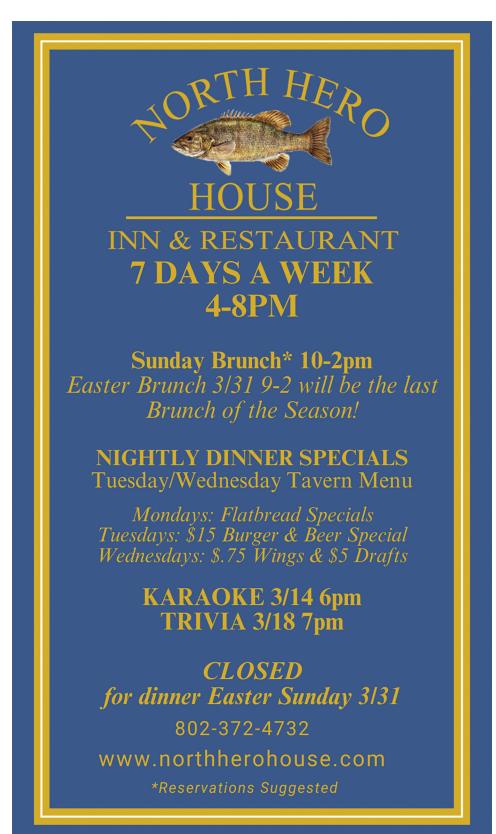
GRAND ISLE – In local elections that saw little in the way of contested elections, Grand Isle voters approved all items that came before them on the town's Town Meeting Day ballot Tuesday.

According to preliminary results shared with *The Islander*, Susan Lawrence was reelected to Grand Isle's cemetery commission in what was one of only two contested elections in the Champlain Islands town. In the day's only other contested race, Suzanne Sauvé was also elected to the town's cemetery commission.

Lawrence and Sauvé defeated Jake St. Pierre and David Leake, respectively.

Notably, the makeup of the town's selectboard and school board was set to change after Town Meeting Day, with former selectboard chair Ronnie Bushway set to return to Grand Isle's selectboard following an uncontested race and Deborah Lang elected to represent Grand Isle on the Champlain Islands Unified Union School District (CIUUSD)'s governing school board.

All other articles passed in Grand Isle on Tuesday, including the town's proposed \$1.1 million operating budget, funding for the town's highway department, its recreation commission and its library, and a suite of individual articles totaling to around \$270,000 in proposed funding for the Grand Isle Volunteer Fire Department and Grand Isle Rescue.



Milton defeats school budget, adds Duquette, O'Brien to school board

By MICHAEL FRETT Islander Staff Writer

MILTON – Newcomers Allison Duquette and Scott O'Brien will be joining Milton's school board alongside a returning Karen Stout after the two won a pair of contested races during Town Meeting Day elections that also saw three Milton selectpersons reelected and the town's school budget fail.

Stout, the Milton school trustees' current vice chair, was narrowly reelected to the school board Tuesday, fending off a challenge from Nathan Steady for a three-year seat that, until Tuesday, had been held by outgoing trustee Jennifer Wilson, according to preliminary results shared Tuesday evening.

Voters also defeated the Milton school district's proposed budget, according to preliminary Town Meeting Day results, adding Milton to a growing list of Vermont communities where voters, discouraged by climbing property taxes spurred largely by inflated education costs and nuances in how local education taxes are calculated in Vermont, turned down their local public school systems' budgets.

According to the Milton Town School District, the district's proposed school budget would have roughly totaled \$37.2 million and was projected to likely increase the town's education tax rate by around 15.4% following recent updates to a Vermont law reforming how local education taxes are calculated in the Green Mountain State.

Duquette, according to Tuesday's results, will be taking a two-year seat on the town's school board previously held by Stout after defeating both fellow challenger Ember Nova Quinn and incumbent school trustee Melinda Young who, until Tuesday, had held a one-year seat on the Milton school board.

The one-year school board term previously occupied by Young, meanwhile, now falls to O'Brien, who, according to Tuesday's results, defeated challenger and former school trustee Emily Hecker in a contested race after Young opted instead to run for the school board's two-year seat.

Milton selectpersons Darren Adams, Leland Morgan and Michael Morgan were each reelected to the



town's selectboard. Adams and Leland Morgan were both elected to one-year seats also contested by Lonnie Poland and Nova Quinn, and Michael Morgan defeated challenger Lauren Blume to guarantee his reelection to a three-year term on the board.

Voters in Milton also narrowly approved the town's \$10 million municipal budget and, in a contested race, elected Jennifer Taylor over Willow Longo to replace outgoing trustee Tracy Hughes on the Milton Public Library's board of trustees.

Nearly 3,000 people voted in Milton's municipal and school elections this year, according to preliminary results shared with *The Islander*.



More than \$15 million earmarked in Vt. for manufactured homes' water needs

By ISLANDER STAFF

GRAND ISLE – More than \$15 million has been earmarked for mobile home parks in Vermont to address issues related to drinking and wastewater infrastructure, and stormwater management, state officials announced through a news release late last week

According to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, roughly \$15.5 million in funding awarded to Vermont under the American Rescue Plan Act would be earmarked to manufactured home communities and mobile home parks for managing stormwater demands and upgrade water infrastructure.

Forty-six communities in all were expected to receive funding according to the state's announcement, including the Cooper's Bay Mobile Home Park in Grand Isle and the Milton Mobile Home Cooperative in Milton, with awards ranging from tens of thousands of dollars for helping afford permitting and technical assistance to, in the case of the Milton cooperative, more than \$1 million for construction.

Mobile home communities in nearby towns like Colchester, Highgate, Swanton and St. Albans were also slated to receive funding for drinking and wastewater systems, and stormwater management, according to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' recent announcement.

Statewide, the recently announced funding was expected to support more than 5,600 Vermonters, according to Vermont's Dept. of Environmental Conservation, with the majority of funding intended to support developing wastewater and drinking water infrastructure, as well as help communities manage local issues with pollution-tinged stormwater runoff and erosion.

In all, more than \$28 million in ARPA funding have been awarded by the Agency of Natural Resources to Vermont mobile home parks since the federal law's passage in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2021, according to an agency statement.

ACADEMIC KUDOS

Fall 2023 Dean's List

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE – KNOXVILLE, TN

Elaina M. Ross, Summa Cum Laude, of Grand Isle.

To qualify for this academic honor, undergraduate students must have completed at least 12 credit hours and have an overall term grade point average of 3.9-4.0.

SUNY – PURCHASE, NY

Joshua Armell of Milton.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must carry a semester GPA of 3.5.

Island voters defeat CIUUSD school budget

By MICHAEL FRETT Islander Staff Writer

GRAND ISLE — Voters in the consolidated Champlain Islands Unified Union School District (CIUUSD) rejected their school district's \$10.4 million education budget during Town Meeting Day's elections Tuesday, according to preliminary results posted by the school district.

According to the school district's election officials, 735 ballots had been cast between CIUUSD's three member towns against the district's proposed budget, while only 562 ballots cast during Tuesday's Town Meeting Day elections supported the district's budget proposal.

Voters from CIUUSD's three towns also only narrowly approved a measure allowing the district's school board to borrow funding in anticipation of taxes, an item that, once approved, allows local school officials to legally afford operations while awaiting eventual tax revenue that is typically approved with little issue by Town Meeting Day voters.

That measure, according to CIUUSD's preliminary results, passed by only 55 votes on Tuesday.

CIUUSD, which oversees public education for children from Grand Isle, Isle La Motte and North Hero, is far from the only school district in Vermont to see its proposed school budget fail.

Neighboring districts in the Champlain Islands also saw proposed school budgets fail Tuesday amid an expected surge in local property taxes prompted as school districts wrestle with inflated education costs and reforms to state programs for determining local tax rates and administering special education funds.

According to the Grand Isle Supervisory Union, the common level of appraisal, a ratio weighing assessed and real property values in a given town used by state officials to determine local education taxes in Vermont, was also expected to surge local education taxes in each of CIUUSD's three communities.

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In Grand Isle on Tuesday, voters agreed to elect newcomer Deborah Lang in an uncontested election to represent the town on CIUUSD's school board.

According to preliminary results shared with The Islander, 1,311 ballots in all were cast during CI-UUSD's Town Meeting Day elections.

South Hero voters reject local school budget, reelect Brown

By MICHAEL FRETT Islander Staff Writer

SOUTH HERO – Voters in Grand Isle County's southernmost town sunk their school district's proposed budget Tuesday, joining a number of nearby communities in opposing local school budgets expected to swell education taxes for reasons ranging from inflated education costs to local property values.

According to preliminary results shared with The Islander, South Hero voters defeated their school district's nearly \$5.4 million education budget during Tuesday's Town Meeting Day elections.

According to the Grand Isle Supervisory Union, South Hero's education taxes, like those in a number of Champlain Valley communities, were set to swell this year due largely to what state officials call a "common level of appraisal," a ratio used to determine local education taxes that compares assessed property values to their actual sales price.

The district was also absorbing a greater amount of special education costs following reforms in how special education is funded statewide, and, according to school officials, South Hero had to also contend with other challenges like inflated health insurance costs and climbing tuition rates paid to send South Hero students to high schools outside of the Champlain Islands.

In a contested race to decide who would serve as the South Hero school district's treasurer, Jonathan Shaw defeated local farmer Bob Fireovid, according to results shared Tuesday. Shaw was also elected Tuesday to serve as the school district's clerk, taking the role from incumbent school district clerk and current South Hero town clerk Naomi King in an uncontested election.

Outside of the town's school district, a contested race for the South Hero selectboard saw Ross Brown, the board's incumbent vice chair, reelected after facing a challenge from local farmer Joan Falcao.

David Lane, the co-owner of South Hero's Snow Farm Vineyard and Winery, will join South Hero's selectboard after Tuesday's elections, having been elected to the board in an uncontested race to replace selectperson Chuck Hulse after the latter opted against seeking reelection.

All other Town Meeting Day items warned between the school district and town government, including South Hero's \$1.5 million municipal budget and its nearly \$1 million highway department budget, passed Tuesday, according to results shared by the town clerk's office.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters are accepted by mail to: PO Box 225, South Hero, VT 05486, or by Email - islander@vermontislander.com

Please include your name, town of residence and a phone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be printed.

To the Editor, Citizens of Alburgh, Alburgh School Board and Superintendent Clark,

I have served on the Alburgh School Board for the last four years. It has been rewarding and challenging. Recent events, however, have me questioning whether or not this is the kind of organization I want to be associated with.

The special education crisis that began in the Fall of 2022 affected families, students and staff in profound and different ways. During the recent campaign for school board, Grand Isle Supervisory Union Employees and School Board candidates made public statements downplaying and even suggesting the crisis never existed. As a school board member who has been in contact with affected families and staff throughout this ordeal, it absolutely broke my heart to read Facebook posts belittling these families and claiming lies by the school board for bringing the issue to light and standing up for the students and staff. When I found out that the Superintendent had reached out to the school's attorney immediately after the election results were announced on Tuesday evening without authorization, I knew the quest to bury the truth was in full swing.

It has become very clear to me the Grand Isle Supervisory Union fosters a culture in which integrity and ethics are optional. It appears that they have managed to recruit new board members of a similar mindset. This does not align with my core values. As a person whose Indian culture was all but erased by people with similar motivation, I cannot be part of a board that seeks to bury the truth about the families and staff that have suffered under the incompetence of the Grand Isle Supervisory Union administration. I have been proud to serve my community and my school. For my own peace of mind and health, it is with heavy heart that I announce my resignation from the AlburghSchool Board, effective immediately. I request that this letter be read aloud and be recorded as part of the minutes for this evening's meeting.

> Sincerely, Stacey Gould Alburgh

To the Editor,

It's Time to G.E.T. R.E.A.L. about Vermont's Future Our state is facing multiple crises, mostly self-inflicted, the result of policies enacted by a Democrat supermajority made up of activists who are either out of touch with the real needs of Vermonters or too wrapped up in their own ideology to care. But we all need to get real about putting positive solutions in place – now -- or we are doomed as citizens individually and as a state collectively.

This is the reality:

We cannot afford the crushing tax burden the majority is placing on our household incomes. State spending is both out of control and, despite such unprecedented amounts of money flowing into programs, not working to solve the real problems Ver-

monters are dealing with every day.

On top of the \$200 million plus property tax increase ushered in by Act 127 etc., since obtaining their veto-proof supermajority in 2022, Vermont Democrats have rammed through in just 2023 a new \$120 million payroll tax that will take effect this July. They imposed \$20 million in higher DMV fees for drivers' licenses and vehicle registration. They passed the Clean Heat Carbon Tax, which is estimated to add 70 cents to every gallon of home heating fuel Vermonters need to buy to keep warm in winter over an unprecedented outcry of citizens. They didn't care.

This year, 2024, they are poised to pass a Renewable Energy Standard bill estimated to add \$1 billion to the cost of our electricity bills. They are looking at increasing the sales tax by as much as \$271 million by including groceries, medical products, residential energy, clothing and footwear, and/or expanding coverage to include services. They are looking at a \$15-\$30 million sweetened beverage tax. New taxes on downloaded software: \$20 million. A new 5 percent gross receipts tax on television streaming services on top of the sales tax: \$7-8 million. And a Clean Transportation Carbon Tax on gasoline and diesel on par with the one on heating fuels.

Despite all this taxing and spending, misplaced priorities left many of our homes and businesses vulnerable to extreme weather events, such as the July and December flooding, because Vermont Democrats diverted hundreds of millions of dollars away from investing in preventative adaptation measures and into unrealistic – and unbearably expensive --schemes to change the weather by "lowering our carbon footprint."

Crime in our once uniquely safe state is now a top issue because the supermajority's unrealistic belief that defunding our police, allowing criminals to shoplift and commit other crimes without consequence, and fostering a permissive drug culture would somehow make our communities safer. The opposite is true.

Housing is unaffordable because the supermajority piles regulation upon regulation making it literally impossible to build new housing at an affordable price.

Our schools, despite record spending on a declining student population and an ever-increasing property tax burden, are failing to educate our children. Test scores are dropping, classroom safety is suffering, mental health issues are rising because of the supermajority's proclivity to adopt every progressive educational fad and to use our classrooms as indoctrination camps instead of focusing on real skills like reading, writing, math, science, and critical thinking.

These are just a few of the biggest issues we face – and must solve. To do so we must "G.E.T. R.E.A.L" about what's happening, who is responsible, and who is really willing to do what needs to be done to keep our ship of state afloat.

G.E.T. R.E.A.L. is a solemn promise and a positive path forward for our state by Vermont Republicans focused on improving the quality of life of our people. It is a prescription of policy proposals that includes: Global Warming Solutions Act reform, recalibrating the law to reflect realistic and affordable goals; Education reform, refocusing our schools' mission back to excellence in core subjects; Transportation and infrastructure with a priority for fixing our roads; Regulatory reform to lower the cost of housing; Environmental protection initiatives focused on protecting and preserving our natural resources and landscapes; Affordability and tax reform to lower costs for working Vermonters; and restoring L.aw and order in our communities.

We encourage Vermonters who see the need for

a new and more affordable direction for our state to learn more about the G.E.T. R.E.A.L program and the candidates who support it in the months between now and November 5. It's time to get involved. The future of Vermont – and your future in it – is at stake.

South Hero

GI County Republican Committee chair



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Serving the churches of Alburgh, Grand Isle, Isle La Motte & South Hero

MASS SCHEDULE

St. Rose of Lima, South Hero-Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

St. Joseph, Grand Isle-Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

St. Amadeus Parish, Alburgh-Sunday: 11:00 a.m.

Fr. Joseph Sanderson
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Tel: St. Rose of Lima Office 802-372-4092
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Rev. Mathew J. Enzler "Pastor Matt" Jacqueline Hughes, Lay Leader ChamplainIslandsUMCWorship@gmail.com Emergency Contact: 406-531-5985

Congregational Church of South Hero, U.C.C. Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

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11

The Spats





by Jeff Pickering



TITLES, 2004-2021 1. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

BEST-SELLING

2. Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince 3. Fifty Shades of Grey

> 4. Oh, the Places You'll Go! 5. Twilight 6. Strengthsfinder 2.0

7. Goodnight Moon 8. The Hunger Games

9. The Shack 10. The Very Hungry

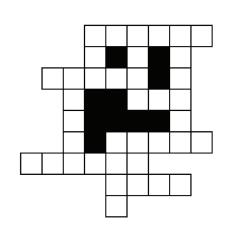
Caterpillar

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18

Publishers Weekly

EFE ROANCE ♥ DEGOL ♥ NEOC MEFIAN OSL TECL FAFLO **♥**NOE PELSIC ELMGA ♥ EDLA



Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥ RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

- 1. TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom featured a father figure named Philip Banks?
- 2. LANGUAGE: How many letters are in the Greek alphabet?

 3. MOVIES: Which movie features
- the line, "To be honest, when I found out the patriarchy wasn't just about horses, I lost interest"?
- 4. SCIENCE: How long is an eon?
- 5. GEOGRAPHY: In which country is most of the Kalahari Desert located? 6. MUSIC: Which singer once was called the Material Girl?
 7. FOOD & DRINK: What is injera?
- 8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of cockroaches called?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which large U.S. city is nicknamed Emerald City?
 10. GAMES: How many blocks are

in a Jenga tower?

- 1. "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air."
- 2. 24.3. "Barbie."

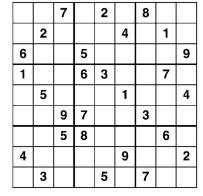
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- 4. 1 billion years. 5. Botswana, Africa.
- 6. Madonna.
- 7. Fermented flatbread.
- 8. An intrusion.
- 9. Seattle, Washington.

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"Our car has been recalled to the factory that's been closed!" Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

16

50

ACROSS

- 1 Egg on Science room
- 8 Arm bone
- 12 Actress Gilpin
- 13 Hosp. area 14 Wedding
- cake layer 15 Bridge position
- 16 Not "agin" "Snap out
- 18 Monet or
- Debussy 20 Wards off 22 "- Poetica"
- 23 Be sick 24 Healthy
- 27 Embeds 32 Comic Philips
- 33 Menagerie 34 Trio after M 35 Fish lover's
- deli order 38 Group of quail
- Trans 40 Parched
- 42 Oracle setting 45 "Brigadoon"
- 49 Buffalo's county 50 Miss Piggy's
- pronoun 52 French waterway
- 53 Romeo
- **DOWN** lyricist 1 Detail, briefly
 - 2 Bell sound

card

- 3 Major
- Ceremony

6 Tennis feat

"Ironside" star

5 Not enlarged or reduced

54 Canine greet-

56 Ogler's look

– -haw!"

Monopoly

ing 55 Summit

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- 25 Ostrich's kin 44 Noncommittal 26 Palmist's prediction
 - 28 Neither mate 47 Salinger girl 29 Hit song by

 - OneRepublic 51 Tram load 30 Calendar abbr.

- 8 Perfect place 31 Covert agent 9 Game show 36 Seem Taunting
- aid 10 Astronaut 38 Secondary Armstrong (cowgirl's cry) 11 Sciences
 - route Conce 19 AMA member 42 Bargain
 - 21 Hearing thing 43 Perry's cre-24 Drenched
 - answer 46 Pleasing
 - 48 Marsh plant

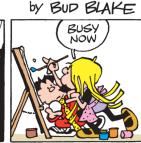
laugh

GO AWAY I'M BUSY



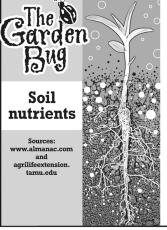








Answers on Page 14



Carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus and potassium are the primary nutrients needed in the soil for healthy and productive plant growth. Calcium, magnesium, and sulfur are needed in lesser amounts. Boron, chlorine, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, and zinc are needed in trace amounts. Some plants may also need cobalt, nickel, silicon, sodium, and vanadium. – Brenda Weaver

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NORTH HERO LISTERS TO BEGIN INSPECTIONS

As required by law, 32 V.S.A. 3431 (a), Listers shall reassess all properties with open building permits. All outside work will be inspected, weather permitting, without an appointment beginning on or after March 5, 2024. A resident may request an appointment, if they prefer, by calling or emailing the Lister's office. All interior inspections will be done by appointment only. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the Lister's office at 802-372-8503 and leaving a voicemail message or by emailing the Lister's office at listers@northherovt.com. If you have questions, please contact the North Hero Board of Listers - Dave Davis, Kathy Finch and Jim Kilbride.

REQUEST FOR BIDS SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION BIDS GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

The Grand Isle Supervisory Union, on behalf of the School Districts of Alburgh, Champlain Islands Unified Union and South Hero are seeking qualified bidders interested in providing "School Transportation Services" for FY25-27 (from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027) with a two-year extension option. Interested bidders should contact Megan DeVinny, Business Manager via e-mail at mdevinny@gisu.org or phone (802) 372-6921 or visit the GISU website: https://www.gisu.org/page/business to obtain bid specifications and bid forms. Sealed Bid envelopes are to be clearly labeled: "School Transportation Bids - BID – March 25, 2024". Bids are due no later than 12:00 PM on Monday, March 25, 2024. Submit Bids to:

Megan DeVinny Business Manager Grand Isle Supervisory Union P.O. Box 54 Grand Isle, VT 05458

PUBLIC WARNING OF DEVELOPMENT HEARING(S)

The Milton Development Review Board will conduct a hearing on the following applications at their meeting on **March 28, 2024 at 6:00 PM** in the Community Room at 43 Bombardier Road, Milton or via Zoom:

A. Duie Pyle, Inc, applicant, and Milton Commons LLC, owner, are requesting Major Site Plan and Subdivision Amendment approval at 0 Route 7 South (Lot 3 of the Interstate Commerce Subdivision), described as Parcel ID 207006-000000, SPAN 396-123-12658,c. The proposal is to construct a 34,767 square foot building with loading docks and office and an 8,716 square foot maintenance building to commence a "truck or freight transportation" use. The subject property contains a total of 22.37 acres and is located in the General Industrial (I2) zoning district and the Catamount planning area.

A meeting link will be included with the meeting Agenda. Interested members of the public are encouraged to attend the hearing. Participation in the local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. To determine if you may qualify as an interested person, please contact the number below. Plans of the proposed project and staff notes are available from the Department of Planning & Economic Development, 43 Bombardier Road, Milton, Vermont during regular business hours and posted online at least two days prior to the meeting at https://miltonvt.gov/agendacenter. Please note that these materials will NOT be handed out to the public at the meeting. Please contact (802) 893-1186 if you have any questions or comments.

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TERRENCE ("TERRY") J. MARTIN

NORTH HERO -Terrence ("Terry") J. Martin of North Hero passed away unexpectedly at home on March 3, 2024. He was 67 years old.

Terry was born in Newport, VT on Dec. 29, 1956. He was the youngest of 5 children born to Wendell and Marion (Shal-



low) Martin. Terry attended South Burlington High School, where he also played football, and graduated in 1974. After graduation Terry moved to South Carolina where he tried his hand in the hospitality business, but the lure of Vermont pulled him back and he eventually found employment in the commercial roofing industry, first as a roofer, then as a foreman and ultimately being a Project Manager for the largest commercial roofing company, A.C. Hathorne, in the state of Vermont. Terry also enjoyed playing softball and flag football in Burlington area leagues against some of the best teams and players in the state, where winning was important, but secondary to the life long friendships he would forge. In addition to being a NASCAR fan, Terry loved seeing his favorite teams, the Patriots and Red Sox play in Boston. But his favorite yearly sporting event was attending a Boston Bruins game in the Hospitality Suite with his family and friends, where he once had the opportunity to meet and converse with his favorite NHL player - Bobby Orr. Terry also had a special love for being on Lake Champlain, whether he was cruising on his own boat or sharing time with friends on theirs.

Terry is survived by his sister, Wendy Martin, his brother Bruce and his wife Jeanne, and his brother Brian and his wife Diane. Terry also leaves his nephews and niece, Brad and his wife Emily, Eric and his wife Laura, Bryan and his wife Kara, and Erin and her significant other Travis. He also had a special place in his heart for his twin grand nieces, Abigail and Katherine Martin. Terry was predeceased by his parents, Wendell and Marion Martin and his brother Jim.

The family would also like to express their gratitude and appreciation to Michaelanne Rowen, whose help with Terry and his medical challenges was invaluable.

Terry's service will be held at the United Methodist Church in Grand Isle at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 10, 2024. After the grave side service is concluded, A Celebration of Life event will follow at a venue to be determined by the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the McClure Miller Respite House at www.uvmhome-health.org/donate/make-an-online-donation or by calling 802-860-4499 ext. 3812.

www.minorfh.comm

To place an obituary contact The Islander at 802-372-5600 or email islander@vermontislander.com

PAUL R. PHILBROOK

VENICE, FL -Paul R. Philbrook, born on Nov. 6, 1931 in Norwich, peacefully passed away on March 3, 2024. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Sarah Cobb Philbrook.



Paul's life was

marked by remarkable service and achievements. He bravely served in the Korean War as a radio operator in the ASA branch, a chapter of his life that he rarely discussed. Paul pursued his education diligently, earning a Master's degree from Indiana University following his undergraduate studies at Indiana State Teachers College.

For three decades, Paul dedicated his career to the State of Vermont, holding numerous prestigious positions. He served as Commissioner of the State Police, Department of Public Safety, Commissioner of the Department of Employment Security, Director of Judicial Administrative Services, and Commissioner of the Department of Social Welfare where he started his career with various positions. He also held several interim jobs prior to his retirement.

In his leisure time, Paul enjoyed sailing and indulged in his passion for reading mysteries, biographies, and always kept abreast of current events through the daily newspaper. He explored the world alongside his beloved wife, Sarah. Together, they traveled to all 50 states and over 25 foreign countries, creating cherished memories along the way.

Paul's commitment to community extended beyond his professional life. Together with Sarah, they volunteered for C.I.D.E.R. in South Hero offering over 288 transportation rides to neighbors in need. After retirement, they volunteered for the National Park Service in sunny spots to escape Vermont winters. Venice, Florida was also known as their home for several years and where he currently resided.

Paul is survived by his daughter, Sherry, his son Alan and his wife, along with five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Contributions can be made to C.I.D.E.R., P.O. Box 13, South Hero, Vermont. (cidervt.org) For further information and to leave contact details for Paul's future Celebration of Life to be held in Vermont, please email r5links@comcast.net. The obituary can also be viewed on Legacy.com, where memories and condolences can be shared in honor of Paul's life.



Cash or Check Only | Prepayment Required | Deadline: Mon. 10 a.m. Ads accepted by Mail, Email and in person

islander@vermontislander.com Phone: 802-372-5600 Office: 7 Ferry Rd, South Hero MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 225, South Hero, VT 05486

1.	Circle	Category
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Wanted Garage Sales For Rent Employment For Sale Services Offered Thanks Misc. Lost & Found Real Estate

2. Write Your Ad

(Instructions: 1 word per line. Towns and phone #'s are one word. Please Use Pen)

3. Calculate Your Rate!

Private: \$3 for 1st ten words, \$.10/per word after Business: \$9 for 1st ten words, \$.25/per word after

To Determine Which Rate Applies:

For Sale-Personal Items/Private Rate; All others/Business Rate; Employment Wanted- Business Rate; For Rent- Business Rate; Garage Sales—1 per month at private rate; Business rate for more. Wanted- Private Rate; Services Offered- Business Rate Miscellaneous & Card of Thanks—\$3.00 1st 10 words, \$.10 per word; Real Estate- Business Rate;

FREE or Lost & Found-1st ten words Free, \$.10 each additional word.

Total:	×	(# of weeks) = \$	



All Private Classified ads are FREE if placed 8 am to 4 pm every FRIDAY! *Max of 30 words *1 free ad per month *No phone calls please! For Sale Wanted Garage Sales Thank You's Free Lost & Found

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HOUSE LIFTING FULL REMODELS BARN RESTORATION **CAMP TO HOME FOUNDATION REPAIR ADDITIONS SHEDS** 20 Years in the Islands BILL MILLER - 802-355-0313

'HANK YOU=

Partners in Bay Restoration Association would like to thank everyone in North Hero who voted in favor of funding harvesting milfoil along the lake shore of North Hero. PBRA is a nonprofit organization with many volunteers who put in countless hours trying to help improve water quality. Weed harvesting helps maintain values of lakeshore properties located around these bays, which in turn will benefit all Town of North Hero taxpayers. We thank you again for your support.

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Grand Isle: Share comfortable home with educator in her 50s who enjoys taking classes, listening to music, sharing time with her family. Semi-private bath and spacious bedroom, with shared common areas. Reduced rent of \$500/month in exchange for help with occasional projects around the house. 30-minutes to Burlington. No pets, no smoking. Washer/ dryer available. 3/21



King Crossword -Answers Solution time: 25 mins.

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— Weekly SUDOKU _

Answer								
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4	8	6	3	7	9	1	5	2
2	3	1	4	5	6	7	9	8

-EMPLOYMENT-







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- Edging Weeding Planting . General garden maintenance

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lot of fun doing it. Applicants must be able to lift 50 lbs. The ability to work independently is key. 802-598-7617 mamasgardens@gmail.com



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

- Winter Wednesdays: Handmade Fresh Pasta at Worthen Library, 28 Community Lane, South Hero; 5 p.m. Space is limited - RSVP at SHLT. org/events

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

- Rabies Clinic at the South Hero Fire and Rescue Station, 131 Community Ln, South Hero; 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. \$20, pre-registration required.
- Underwater Archaeology of the Revolution: Current and Future Research on Lake Champlain at the Lake Champlain Basin Program Office and Vermont Fish and Wildlife Training Facility, 54 West Shore Road, Grand Isle; 6:30 p.m. Free

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

- Rabies Clinic at Grand Isle Fire Department, 17 Hyde Rd, Grand Isle; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$20, cash or credit only. Dog license, cash or check only.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

- Rec Park Restoration Project - Tour & Volunteer Work Party at South Hero Rec Park, 75 South Street South Hero; 1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

- Winter Wednesdays: Natural Dyes at Worthen Library, 28 Community Lane, South Hero; 6 p.m. Space is limited - RSVP at SHLT.org/events

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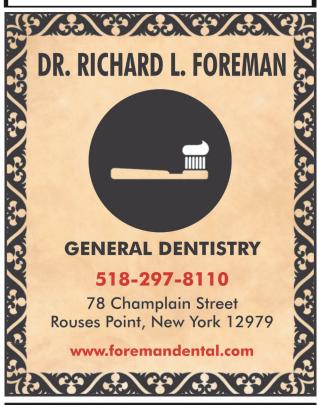
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The Islander March 13 - March 20, 2024



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