

Glover
Museum comes
clean.
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Charleston
School marks 50
years.
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the Chronicle

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LRUEMSD — Teachers leave, parents worry

by Trisha Ingalls

BROWNINGTON - Glover resident Davi Bock used the privilege of the floor at Monday’s meeting of the Lake Region Union Elementary and Middle School District to bring up the topic that was at the top of many people’s mind — teacher shortages, and the recent resignations of middle school teachers from Glover Community School.

“All of the middle school teachers have left, the principal is leaving,” Mr. Bock said. “There’s a lot of money around chasing scarce talent, but I urge you to think about the fact that this time may not be like other times. Maybe start thinking about some contingencies. I don’t know the answers, and there may not be any, but it’s a serious concern. I know that when you dig to the bottom of the barrel, the kids aren’t well served.”

Fellow parent Molly Veysey joined via Google Meet to concur with Mr. Bock. Ms. Veysey prepared a spreadsheet comparing salaries of neighboring supervisory unions. It showed that Orleans Central Supervisory Union’s (OCSU)

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Council pauses rate rises

by Joseph Gresser

NEWPORT—After hearing sometimes heated objections to planned water and sewer rate increases the city council left the matter alone. When Mayor Paul Monette asked for a motion on rate rises proposed by City Manager Laura Dolgin at Monday’s meeting, council members remained silent.

With no motion to act on, there would be no decision and rate remained at the level set when rates last rose, in 2016.

Mr. Monette said he will not put the matter on the council agenda again until next year’s budget discussions begin in November.

“One of the few things I can do is not put things on the agenda,” the mayor said.

Increases to the water and sewer rates have been on the council’s menu for the past few meetings, and at each, members of the public have asked for more information about the need for changes.

Some citizens wanted the city auditor to weigh in on the need for a rate hike, but Ms. Dolgin said

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Becalmed in Crystal Lake



The wind isn’t blowing, but Sayg St. Onge is laughing. She and her eighth-grade classmates from Barton Graded School built boats from cardboard and duct tape and brought them to Crystal Lake on June 1 to test them. Most floated. To see some more fancy designs please turn to page eighteen. Photo by Joseph Gresser

Author tells veterans they can heal the nation

by Tena Starr

LYNDON — How do we experience war? For the most part, we don’t. “The vaunted military divide is real,” said best-selling author and filmmaker Sebastian Junger at Friday’s veterans conference at Northern Vermont University–Lyndon.

He went on to remedy that for himself by, among other things, spending a total of 15 months, over five trips, imbedded with a platoon of U.S. soldiers in the dangerous Korengal Valley of Afghanistan during the war there. That led to

the books *War* and *Tribe* as well as the documentaries *Restrepo* and *Korengal*, the first of which was an Academy Award nominee and winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival.

Both movies are apolitical — they simply record the alternately boring and harrowing lives of soldiers.

Mr. Junger has clearly given considerable thought to how the men and women who fight them are affected by wars. And as a journalist, as the rare civilian who’s spent time living with

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Act 250 changes? Next year maybe

by Trisha Ingalls

Governor Phil Scott recently vetoed a bill that would have made significant changes to Act 250 regulations.

In a letter to the Legislature the Governor wrote, “From my perspective, this bill makes Act 250 even more cumbersome than it is today and it will make it harder to build the housing we desperately need. These concerns were raised by elected leaders on both sides of the aisle, though were not addressed by the Legislature.”

In Orleans County, legislators were mostly supportive of the veto. Orleans-Lamoille Representative Mark Higley, of Lowell, said, “I think it was a bad bill and I appreciated that the

Governor vetoed it. They knew he was going to veto the bill, that’s why they took the pieces out of it and put them in another bill that they knew he liked.”

The pieces referred to by Mr. Higley allow some downtown housing development to be exempt from the Act 250 process. The Governor said he was looking in particular to reduce the burden on housing developers to meet the demand for housing across the state.

RuralEdge, the Northeast Kingdom’s affordable housing provider, does not foresee significant impacts from the veto of the Act 250 bill.

“We were most concerned with the housing components of the bill that were transferred into

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Cleanliness is next to Route 16

by Joseph Gresser

GLOVER — Saturday’s weather report called for a chance of showers in Orleans County. At the Museum of Everyday Life on Route 16 in Glover, that chance rose to a certainty.

That’s because a new show, called “Coming Clean,” opened in the museum’s new downstairs gallery, a show that focuses on the varied ways people have found over the centuries to keep themselves well scrubbed.

One of the first things that visitors encountered as they walked down the slope to the show’s entrance was a working shower supplied by solar heated water. Since Chief Operating Philosopher Clare Dolan, the presiding spirit of the museum, had suggested that those planning to attend the opening bring a bathing suit and a towel, there were many who took advantage of the opportunity for a moment of cleanliness.

The shower was not the only interactive part of the show. Guests were also invited to soak themselves in a cold tub and a hot tub.

Inside the new gallery, once the milking parlor of the barn that houses the museum, and at one point a makeshift bowling alley, visitors found themselves in a spacious room with white walls and hanging panels on which exhibits hung.

Anyone who was ever in the space in its earlier life, gaped to see the new, bright pine-board flooring which, along with a bevy of well-placed lights, made the newest addition to the museum a bright, welcoming place.

The older portion of the museum, upstairs, now is home to an exhibit from the museum’s permanent collection. That means those who missed earlier shows covering, among other topics, locks and keys, dust, matches, safety pins, scissors, toothbrushes, bells, pencils, and knots, can catch up on Ms. Dolan’s unique view of some of the most commonplace articles populating the human environment.

“Coming Clean,” like the museum’s other offerings, includes some obvious items—for instance several shelves of bar soap and a bathtub.

(By the way, the bathtub is a working model and signs warn of the danger of overflowing water, while a mop stands nearby ready to deal with the results of over eager visitors.)

There are also surprising iterations of familiar articles. Several cases are filled with wet wipes packaged to promote everything from Star Trek, to Michelin Tires, with many oddball variations in between.

A section of ritual baths includes information about the mikveh, a bath used by Jewish women after they have a menstrual period.

A tsukubai, or traditional Buddhist cleansing basin — the museum’s version is a plastic animal trough, not a stone basis — offers visitors a chance to pour water over themselves before entering the gallery.

There are nifty little items such as a classic rubber ducky, rows and rows of loofahs and western scrub brushes. And no exhibit would be complete without contributions from the many artists who provide their own view of the subject



Adam Cook and Tomas Majcherski perform “I’m Forever Blowing Bubbles” with appropriate visual aids. They were among the many performers who entertained visitors to the Museum of Everyday Life on Saturday, its official kickoff to the exhibit year.
Photos by Joseph Gresser



The new gallery at the museum is lighter and more open than the old exhibit space upstairs. Though today it looks like a regular display space, the room was once a dark and dank ex-milking parlor.

at hand.




Ashley Brockington is a Brooklyn, New York, bath aficionado who documents time spent in her tub by means of cellphone selfies and text.

A group of students from the Riverside School in Lyndonville made their contribution in the form of replicas of metal scrapers of the type Romans used in their public baths.

Although not every one of Ms. Dolan’s artistic collaborators has a credited item, the museum depends on a large group of creative people who come together each year to assist the chief philosopher in the task of viewing the year’s chosen subject through a lens that is both clear and slightly warped.

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Museum is washed up, but keeps on going

(Continued from page fourteen.)

That aesthetic was matched on Saturday, the museum’s opening event. Performers provided their takes on the subject at hand. Adam Cook and Tomas Majcherski played and sang “I’m Forever Blowing Bubbles,” as a machine filled the air with them.

A crew from the Bread and Puppet Theater presented a *cantastoria* — a short recitation illustrated with a banner for a backdrop — about water, and Maria Schumann and her son Ira Karp drew spectators into the stream running behind the museum for a Slavic water ritual, she said would banish war profiteers.

The ritual which concluded with a song by Ms. Schumann and her husband, Josh Karp, drew its viewers in, but its real-world effectiveness is yet to be determined.

Maura Gahan, heavily disguised, offered to cleanse visitors of their sins. When she undertook to perform the rite on Ms. Dolan, it was successful enough that the museum’s founder ended up under a halo, provided by Ms. Gahan’s hands.

The museum, although nothing in its literature suggests this is its intent, manages to remove the items on which it focuses its gaze from the realm of the ordinary and exalts them, as examples of everyday wonders.

This may be a type of miracle, but the museum is always ahead of the viewer. One of the many amazing examples of cleanliness presented to people’s wondering eyes is a small site devoted to the Grotto of the Apparitions in Lourdes, France, where pilgrims go to bathe in



Clare Dolan, center, in a dark shirt, is surrounded by floating bubbles as she enjoys a performance by friends at the 2022 opening day of the Museum of Everyday Life.

the waters of a holy spring.

No need to travel. The Museum of Everyday Life has brought Lourdes water to Glover.



Maria Schumann, right, watches as the spirits of earth (Johanna Rose on the double bass), wind (Jennifer Miller and her fan), and fire (Ira Karp in red robes and a blazing concertina), cavort. Those elements and the essential one of water, represented by a nearby stream were part of a Slavic ritual Ms. Schumann conducted in an attempt to rid the world of war profiteers and, thus, war.



Fionna Bock, of Glover, played her fiddle while seated in a bubble bath. After her performance Clare Dolan showed the bath was real and exclaimed, “Now, that’s commitment.”

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