

LIFE AT 43 MAIN STREET

Black River Middle and High School
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FOLIAGE IN VERMONT

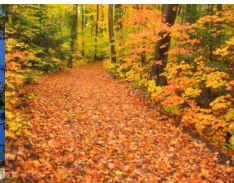
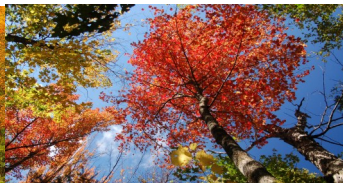
By: Alexis Parker

Every year, all year long Vermont changes its beauty. But the most beautiful time of the year is the foliage; many people such as tourist come to visit Vermont to take pictures and record information about the foliage. According to Marji Graf, the head of the Okemo Valley Chamber of Commerce said that “the governor believes that it will be the best foliage season this year because of all the rain”.

But, according to www.accuweather.com rain causes leaves to fall before they have fully changed color. Another website, www.weather.thefuntimesguide.com states that moist soil can cause a delay in the foliage season. I definitely believe that with all the rain we got this year will not have a great foliage season.

Because of the hurricane many people posted videos, images ect of the damage that was occurring before, during, and after the storm on the internet and many other public places, Which made a lot of people cancel their plans to come see the foliage so the Okemo Valley Chamber of Commerce had to create a video stating that our roads and businesses are open, and people came to see the foliage based on what they saw in the video.

Our towns like tourist because of all the money they bring, every year we have foliage and we welcome tourist to come and stay in our towns. While they are here they spend a lot of money at our local businesses, which is what all businesses want.



SCHOOL NEWS

Student Questions

By: Amber Euber

What activities do you think the high school and middle school should do together?

Katie Cloutier- “The schedule should be together so when the bell rings then they have to leave their class at the same time we do. We could have some classes with some of the middle schoolers; they could come up here to the 2nd or 3rd floor with their teacher and have a class or two with us.

Sierra Willard- She thought that we should do something like dodge ball, because everybody likes dodge ball and it would give us time to spend with each other.

Alexis Parker- Soccer, because we have a lot of athletic people in our school and there’s a lot of boys and girls so we could make a team in no time to play.

Mariah Gray-“I think the schedules should be together also so that when the bell rings we all leave at the same time, and we can have some of our classes with the middle school.”

Charlie Berry-“Skateboard, because most the high schoolers and some of the middle schoolers skateboard so it would be a good thing for some of the high schoolers to hang with the middle schooler that they don’t hang out with.”

Interview with Ms.Shug

By:Shaena B

Ms. Bela Shug is our new Community-school liaison. Her office is located in the new Community center, near the main entrance to the building. She describes her job as being a “Social worker for the school.” She also describes that she works with student’s problems at home and school, however it always the students choice whether or not to visit with her.

Ms. Shug feels as though she is fitting in with the students and teachers nicely, because she knows that it always takes time. The students she has met are friendly and the teachers are welcoming and easy to work with.

Ms. Shug has previously worked at Barstow Memorial School as a guidance counselor as a “filler” while the other counselor was out on maternity leave. She has also worked at Lothrop School and Otter Valley as a guidance counselor.

Bela states “I have attended college at Antioch College in Ohio for degree in social sciences, followed by graduate school at the Center for humanistic Studies in Detroit, and Castleton State for a degree in special education.

While as many as 1500 Vermonters were devastated by the August 28th flood caused by Tropical Storm Irene, Ms. Shug says that she wasn’t. However she did feel the devastation as she watched the homes of people she knew and loved being destroyed by Irene.

On a lighter note, Ms. Shug enjoys dancing, cooking, and painting the faces of the hundreds of people who dress as skeletons each year at the Rutland Halloween Parade.

SCHOOL NEWS CONT.

Ms. Gagner, New teacher at Black River

By: Tyler Briere

Mrs. Gagner is a new teacher here at Black River. She is a teacher for 7th, 8th, and 9th grade. Her room is in the middle school and it is room #11. Mrs. Gagner said "I love working here with all my students and other staff members." Before this job Mrs. Gagner had worked for the school to help students and families but this is the first time that she has worked in a classroom here at Black River but it is her second time being a teacher. "I plan on working for another 17 years" Mrs. Gagner said "before I retire".

She went to college at Lesley College in Cambridge Massachusetts. "I like to walk and I like skiing" she said. She also likes to garden and she likes doing yoga. She just likes to be active and always be working or doing something. She grew up in a town called Simsbury and that is in Connecticut. "If I was to coach a sport here, I would probably do Girls On the Run for the middle school" Gagner said. She has done this before and it is a thing for girls and what they do is run for exercise but they are racing other people at the same time.

STATE NEWS

I AM VERMONT STRONG!

By: Josh Olmstead

"I Am Vermont Strong" is a campaign developed to raise funds, awareness and spirits as a result of Hurricane Irene. A young couple by the names of Erick Mallette and Lyz Tomsuden that live in Rutland Vermont created "I Am Vermont Strong."

"We really just wanted to see if we could help show the world that we Vermonters are a unified front in the battle against the devastating losses suffered by our state in the recent hurricane." commented Eric Mallette. "From there, it kind of went crazy!" added, Lyz Tomsuden. It didn't take long for "I Am Vermont Strong" to be well known and soon hundreds of t-shirt requests were being made. So Lyz Tomsuden and Erick Mallette teamed up with Vermont's Awesome Graphics and are selling t-shirts \$25 a piece. So far over 3,500 t-shirts have been sold. The money raised by "I Am Vermont Strong" will be given to food banks, which will in turn distribute it to families in need.

LOCAL NEWS

Sam's Steak house restoration

By: Charlie Berry

Sam's Steak House was damaged by flooding from Irene. The whole restaurant was under five feet of water. The restaurant had to be gutted, all insulation removed, floor torn up, beams replaced, and electrical redone. In the north side of the building sewer pipes broke in the crawl space so they had to pump water and sewage out of the crawl space. The other problem is the smell from the flood water. There is so much damage but work to fix the damage is underway.

The day after flooding all the tables, chairs, stoves, racks, plates, and all food in the freezers had to be removed and thrown out. Some of the chairs and tables were salvageable. After everything was removed the carpet was torn up and the floor inspected for rot. The rest of the building was gutted to the studs. Most of the floor had to be removed and the beams holding up the floor had to be replaced because they were rotted out even before the flood. Under the floor was a mess there was water that had to be pumped out of the crawl space and drainage was put in shortly after. Wally the owner decide to put a slab in the crawl space to make everything cleaner and this could help with the smell. The floor has been put in and now things are getting better and the work in Sam's is ahead of schedule.

On October 11 the floor was done and all the plumbing and electrical was done so the insulation came a week early a hired group put the insulation in in a day and the next day October 12 the dry wall came in and putt all the dry wall up will take about a week and then all that will be needed is to put new floors in and other bits and pieces and Sam's will be up and running again wally the owner is pushing as hard as possible to get Sam's up and running again by thanksgiving.

TIMBER RIPPER

By: Eli Tucker

The Timber Ripper is a mountain coaster attraction that was built on Jackson Gore last winter. Okemo worked with Alpine Recreation Ventures to put in the roller-coaster that was manufactured by the german company called Wiegand. The Timber Ripper came in two shipping containers and took three months to build. When Okemo was asked how much it cost to build, they said "that is not information that we usually give out to the public."

The coaster also goes through woods and open slopes. When going down the track, the timber ripper can reach speeds of up to 25 mph. The cars are sort of like the ones used by the alpine slide at Bromley Mt. The only difference is that they have a back and can hold up to two people. The coaster travels down almost 3100 feet of track including loops and waves. The timber ripper runs in all types of weather. The tickets are \$13 a ride for drivers and \$9 for passengers.



LOCAL NEWS CONT.

LUDLOW POLICE

By: Katie Cloutier

The town of Ludlow lies between the large city of Rutland and the town of Springfield. This often brings crime to smaller towns in the area. With a popular ski resort that brings thousands of people to Ludlow in a weekend, you would think that there would be non-stop crime. Ludlow Police Chief Jeffery Billings says, "If you did the math there is the same amount of people in the town in the summer as in the winter." You would think that there would be fewer people in the summer because the traffic is not as bad. Chief Billings states, "There are a few more people in town after 4:00 PM, because everyone is coming off the mountain, and into town." There are about the same amount of people in the day time, on a winter month as in a summer, because people come home from college to visit their families. People who have second homes on the mountain also come up and stay in Ludlow during the summer. The Timber Ripper, a new attraction on Okemo Mountain brings a lot of people up in the summer as well.

In with the Vermont weather, snow is also a factor and there are a lot more accidents from the road conditions. The traffic is slower, and people are more careful driving. In the summer there are a lot more drug and alcohol related calls. Chief Billings says, "There will always be active crime, no matter what the weather is." In the summer the town sees second homes being burglarized and traffic stops. In addition, during the winter months the town of Ludlow hires a few more officers to keep up with the calls, because other officers can't be on call. Over all it was a quiet summer with only a few burglaries and traffic violations.

NORTH FORK BAGEL CO.

By: Mariah Gray

Recently a popular local business in Ludlow, Vermont closed down. North Fork Bagels was not only popular with the locals, but visitors to the ski town also enjoyed the local bagel shop. With extremely reasonable prices, and an inviting environment, the bagel shop was a great place to enjoy any kind of bagel you prefer. As you can imagine the community was very disappointed about the closing of North Fork Bagels. The previously retired owner, Paul Grattan had decided to close the restaurant after the rent was raised. North Fork Bagels had very positive reviews and had a definite impact on the community in a positive way while it was open. Many people visited the bagel shop on the last day it was opened as a sign of support and showing how disappointing it was to see the shop close down. Being so close to Okemo Mountain supplied North Fork Bagels a lot of business in the winter, during ski season. It came as a surprise to the community when the rent got raised and Paul decided it was time to close down. Even though it was very disappointing the community still showed support on the last day that North Fork Bagels was opened. Paul was having trouble paying the rent before it was raised. Once it got raised he was trying very hard to pay the raised rent, but in the end he just couldn't afford it. "It was like a ripple effect" A local teen that worked at the shop said. "It closed, which cut down on the business in Lamere Square." This teen lost her job working at North Fork Bagels.

The closing of the local business had an effect on the community. The Ludlow area was very disappointed and shocked. North Fork Bagels brought a lot of business to the place it was located and pleased almost all of their customers.