THE HAWKS' NEST

Halloween Issue

Volume II, Issue 1 OCTOBER 2025



Courtesy of: Peter Warrington
Pumpkins abound at Shelburne Orchards.

Letter from the Editor-in-chief

By Grace Warrington
Editor-in-chief

Hello Redhawks! Welcome to this year's first issue of *The Hawks' Nest*! Last year was a great success (if we do say so ourselves). We published six issues throughout the year, covering everything from sports and news to arts and opinions, and I couldn't be prouder of our staff. This year's staff is almost twice as big as last year's. We have introduced a business manager who will ensure that the costs of our publications are offset. Our sports section has doubled from last year, and we have a crop of new staff writers and editors.

If any students would like to get an opinion of theirs heard, please consider writing a piece to put in the paper! There is no need to be a member of the club or staff in order to write for us. We would love *The Nest* to be a place for students to share their thoughts on what's going on in school—even on controversial topics like the phone ban. We're always on the lookout for content, whether it be an article on an event, an opinion piece, photography, or even poetry.

Being seniors, the two managing editors and I will graduate at the end of this year. However, we have an excellent staff, who we hope will be able to take up the reins for many years to come.

Last year's adviser, **Justin Chapman**, has stepped down, and **Katie Willard** has taken his place. A big thank you to both for enabling the newspaper club to run. And, of course, thank you to the whole community for your continued support in appreciating the newspaper and I hope that you enjoy this issue!

Students React to New Phone Ban

By Willow Martin
Staff Writer

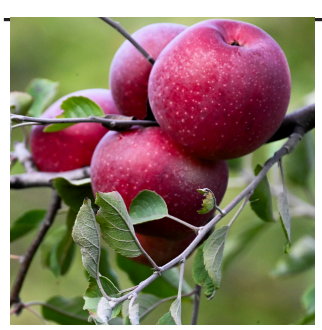
The recent phone ban implemented at CVU has sparked a wide range of reactions and conversations from both the student body and faculty.

Under new guidelines, teachers may confiscate a student's phone if it is seen out during school hours (8:45 a.m.-3:20 p.m.), returning it at the end of the day. While intended to reduce distractions, the policy has stirred frustration among students who feel it undermines their sense of safety and autonomy.

A survey conducted by *The Hawks' Nest* received over three hundred student responses with the highest percentage of 27.7% of students reporting that the phone ban affected their school day at a three on a scale of one to five. The value of one represented "the phone ban does not affect my school day at all," and a five "the phone ban efforts my daily life consistently." The high results mean that the policy has had a notable impact on a significant portion of the student body when it comes to everyday life.

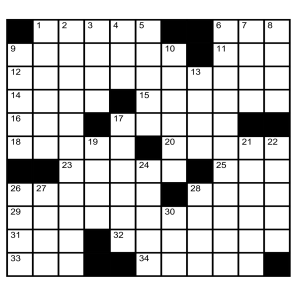
Many students expressed that the ban limits their ability to communicate in emergencies. One anonymous student said, "I am extremely upset with this level of disregard and I feel very unsafe knowing I can't text my family in case of an emergency. I have lost my whole sense of security in school." Another added, "I think this is disrespectful to our school and the students in it...We are treated like kindergarteners.

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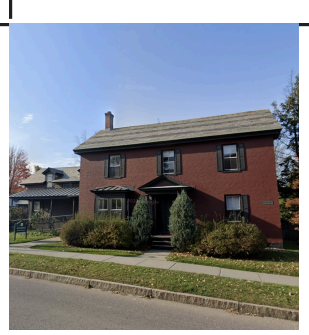
Fall Activities

Learn more about local orchards on page 4.



Puzzles

Complete a crossword during lunch on page 3.



Ghoulish Tours

Read about ghostly encounters on page 7.

New Phone Ban

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Some students pointed to specific incidents that highlighted the ban's rigidity. **Marin Bergeson '27** shared, "At 3:19 pm I witnessed a teacher taking the phone of someone walking past in the hallway. They had it in their back pocket and as the teacher walked away, the bell rang. This student now has to go through the painstaking process of getting their phone back because they had it on their person fifteen seconds before school technically ended."

Students' comments also reflect a desire to have more input in decisions that directly affects their daily lives. An anonymous student shared, "The majority of the student population and some faculty members were given no choice on the phone ban. I really am sad to see how this played out. And would have loved to have more of a voice."

Another student added, "The people who banned phones at CVU were out of touch. Phones are tools we need, just like books and pencils. By not adapting and banning them, the school is showing they don't trust us and are stuck in the past."

Despite the concerns, some students still support the phone ban, noting that it may benefit overall focus and classroom management. **Arthur Edwards '28** shared a more positive experience, explaining that the policy "has been structured much better than I thought. I haven't found it to give me any problems. Oddly enough, I might even say I like it knowing that there's less people mindlessly scrolling their lives away."

Edwards added that while he was initially worried about losing the ability to contact his parents, "since they're put in a pouch we still have them to contact people after school. My main concern was not having access to tell my parents if I needed to get picked up or if the bus was late."
One student pointed out, "They didn't think about the people who never abused their phones and were always respectful to their teachers." While the phone ban has stirred strong feelings at CVU, it isn't just a local decision.

According to the Vermont General Assembly, Vermont schools will be required by law to prohibit cellphone use during school hours as of the 2026-2027 school year.

CVU is among one of the earlier schools to fully implement the guidelines, which means both students and staff are adjusting earlier than some. Whether the change ultimately improves learning or remains a frustration among students, the issue has opened a larger conversation about safety, trust, and the role of technology in education.

Homecoming Dance 2025

By Lena Ingalls
Staff Writer

On September 20th, the Homecoming Dance was hosted at the CVU Cafeteria. Grades 9-12 were allowed to attend while a few select teachers volunteered to chaperone. Many students and teachers were filled with anticipation the day of and excitement was in the air. The 9th graders were eager to go, as it was their very first Homecoming Dance. The school day ended, and students went home with ecstatic energy buzzing around them. People started to arrive at 7:00 pm, and came in with groups of their friends.

CVU principal **Katherine Riley** and Latin teacher **Leanne Morton** greeted students at the door with warm smiles and enthusiasm. As they walked into the building a big light-up CVU sign brightly shined, and the snack bar was in full swing. The dance was very successful this year, earning around $300. Snacks and drinks each cost $1. There was a nice assortment of beverages and food for students to choose from.

Harrison Melo '28, one of the students running the snack bar, reflected on his perspective: "I just sold snacks for three hours, that's pretty much it," he said, in a very entertaining interview. He also mentioned that a very memorable moment for him at the dance was when he successfully filled three cups of juice simultaneously. Pretty impressive!

CVU English teacher **Henry Lang**, who coordinated the dance, shared, "This was our first year doing Homecoming tickets in advance, it was nice to know how many people were coming that way." Advanced ticket purchases were required and were available in the House offices. Both Lang and Morton are class advisors and shared that they enjoy chaperoning the dances. In an interview with *The Nest*, Lang and Morton both reflected on their memories of the evening and recent modifications to the event.

One of Morton's most memorable moments was seeing a student coming into the dance wearing a big smile and holding a present for his date, she relayed, "he had a beautiful bouquet of flowers, and I asked where the recipient was and he said she was already inside." Lang acknowledged that the cafeteria was a hard venue to host in, the dance could be hosted in the gym if they were able to obtain enough funds. Additional support would be needed because the gym floors would require protection.

A freshman, who preferred not to provide her name, reflected on what the dance committee and teachers could change about the dance to make it more enjoyable for students. She proposed that teachers or DJs put out a survey to all students asking their three favorite song suggestions, ideas, or preferences. "Songs for everybody, that all the students would want to listen to." She

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The Hawks' Nest

The student-run newspaper of Champlain Valley Union High School

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Homecoming Dance

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also shared that the dance was fun overall and she enjoyed it thoroughly. A memorable moment for this 9th grader was dancing to the Cotton Eye Joe with all of her friends: a dance that many students know and love.

Some shared complaints that a group of students appeared to be moshing. The chaperones stopped the music and gave a warning to the students to stop this activity. This happened two other times during the dance, while students slowly left exasperated and annoyed. While some students felt that it put a damper on the night, they also acknowledged that the chaperones were concerned about the safety of the students. The event kicked off the year with a thrill and was a memorable night on many levels.

The *Hawks' Nest* wants to recognize the teachers that chaperoned this event: **Nick Canaday**, **Arthur Chiaravalli**, **Cyndy Craft**, **Christina Daudelin**, **Ben Epstein**, **Juanita Galloway**, **Lena Krillova**, and **Jessica Hoskins**, along with Lang, Morton, and Riley.

A Debrief on Harkness

By Karmen Wilbur
Managing Editor

"Student-led" is the word used most to describe Harkness discussion. If you've ever sat in on or participated in a class discussion, this is clear. Contrary to a traditional class, students are the main speakers and teachers only chime in occasionally.

Harkness is a style of discussion pioneered at Phillips Exeter Academy, a private school in New Hampshire. It focuses on letting students come to their own conclusions by working together. At CVU, students are typically given a prompt or reading in preparation in order to brainstorm ideas and questions about the piece. They then come to the table to share, learn and debate with their classmates. The goal isn't to win or convince someone of your opinion but to experience new perspectives.

CVU teacher **Brad Miller** discovered Harkness at the Vermont Association of Social Studies Teachers Conference. **Kathy Cadwell**, at the time a Harwood teacher, presented her students using the Harkness method. Miller was drawn to this style of discussion. He began learning more about it, and during his interview for a position at CVU he said it would be a cornerstone of his practice.

Harkness at CVU may have started with Miller's introduction of it into the Core, but it has now grown into a staple in many classes. Students use it in humanities, math, and science classes. One anonymous student even says that science is the class they use Harkness in the most.

Harkness training starts in the Core. Freshmen begin learning soft skills like body language and eye contact in their humanities classes.

In many of the 10th grade Humanities classes, they continue to develop these skills and learn discussion strategies, how to guide conversations, and when to talk versus when to listen.

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Crossword

Grace Warrington
Editor-in-chief

Answers page 8

Across

1. Brother of 31-Across _____ Allen

6. Fireplace residue

9. Prepares to inflate a balloon

11. Extra charge

12. Hang decorations at Christmas

14. How long it may feel you've been in class

15. Fast forward in reverse?

16. Jan 19, 2026 honoree, familiarly

17. Golden

18. Economizes, with "down"

20. Tour de France stage

23. Wanderer

25. Night, in Latin

26. Monarch related

28. Word after video or alligator

29. "Non, non, mon ami"

31. Brother of 1-Across _____ Allen

32. "Why did you do that?!"

33. Cut (off)

34. Arterial support

Down

1. Sign up

2. Brainstorming headwear

3. Some smoked meats

4. Ctrl neighbor

5. Former Prime Minister of India

6. Sub-Saharan predator

7. Witnessed

8. Pay attention to

9. Checkout line things

10. Get really angry

13. Monty Python sketch, "Upper Class ____ of the Year"

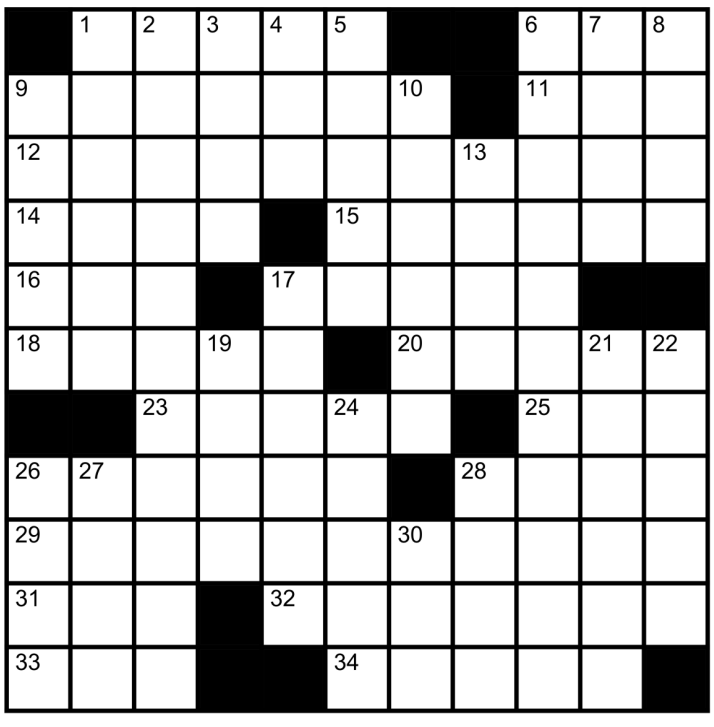
17. The same number

19. Stereo alternative?

21. Christie detective Hercule

22. Name for a Microsoft air pump?

24. Chorus section



26. Air alternative

27. Current Croatian currency

28. Good place for an espresso

30. Wagon track

Climate's Impact on Local Orchards

By Mamta Rimal
Staff Writer

As fall starts to roll in with its traditional activities, we can't forget the joys of apple picking and pumpkin carving. But how will it all look this year? After a wet spring followed by a summer marked by drought and dry soil, the concerning question is how the unusual weather has affected our crops.

According to the National Drought Mitigation Center, "Vermont apple orchards report 50% crop loss from drought, [and a] wet spring." For apples, many orchards are expecting smaller harvests. The heavy spring rains delayed pollination, and the subsequent drought made it harder for blossoms to set fruit. Some apples may be smaller than usual, but growers are hopeful the flavor will still be strong for fall pickers.

Not all orchards are facing setbacks, though. Adams Farm, for example, is seeing the opposite trend. Their apple varieties, such as Honeysuckles, are growing faster than expected. Pollination came through without issues, and the weather actually worked as a catalyst to speed up the growth process. As **Scott Adams** noted during an interview, "[Apples] sized up faster, and we were worried they might just fall off."

According to New Hampshire Public Radio, **Dean Miller** at Brattleboro's Cortland Hill Orchard related that the apple production is at a 60-year low.

According to the same report, **Lori Wyman** of Hunger Mountain Orchard in Waterbury stated, "Our later varieties, such as Cortlands, Macouns, Empires, Liberties, Sweet Sixteen trees, and Northern Spies, are all looking like it's going to be a decent crop."

The concern, however, is that the "you pick" tradition many families look forward to as part of their fall activities might end sooner than expected. Due to rapid growth this year, there's a high likelihood apples will drop faster as well. So the "you pick" season, a moment of peace, joy, and the fun of searching for the perfect apples to take home, may be shorter.

Shelburne Orchards has seen a similar issue with its apples. **Moriah Cowles**, co-owner of the orchard, explained that due to the summer drought, apple trees experienced a drop in nutrients—especially boron—a crucial element for flower development, strong cell structure, and division.

A deficiency in boron causes apple flowers to dry up and fall off, leading to fewer apples developing. The lack of water reduced the trees' ability to absorb boron compared to previous years.

While the weather challenged some farms, others have been able to turn it to their advantage. Adams' pumpkin crop has also thrived this year, with many pumpkins growing larger than average.

Even with the uncertainties, farms around the region are preparing to welcome families for their annual fall outings. If anything, this unpredictable growing season is a reminder of how closely local traditions are tied to the weather.

This year, apple picking and pumpkin carving may come with a story about resilience, and a little extra appreciation for every basket of fruit and every carved jack-o'-lantern!

Fall Festivities

By Lukas Maceyka
Staff Writer

With fall now in full swing, there are many local farms and orchards that host a variety of fun activities, including apple picking, hay rides, corn mazes, pumpkin picking ... you name it! The Hawks' Nest *has chosen to share some events at local events and orchards.*

Isham Family Farm, Williston, VT
This year, Isham Family Farm in Williston is offering their usual, fun-filled corn maze. The maze is completely re-designed every year, and offers riddles and signage which could be helpful, or could lead you right to a dead end. They do recommend that you wear comfortable clothing and shoes, and that you leave valuables such as wallets and phones in vehicles or at home. Additionally, they ask that patrons not cut through the standing corn or otherwise harm it, as they harvest it every year. Isham Family Farm also offers their usual large pumpkin patch with both pre-picked and pick-your-own pumpkins of all types and sizes. They offer Farm Festival days throughout the fall with hay rides, pumpkin picking/carving, vendors, food trucks, corn maze, and live music! Fall Festivals occur almost every evening on weekends, which started mid-September and continue through October.

Yates Family Orchard, Hinesburg, VT
On the other side of Hinesburg, a few popular apple orchards are holding similar events. One is Yates Family Orchard which is open every day from 9:30am to 5:30pm until the end of October. They have 25+ varieties of apples ripe for picking, and their snack stand offers fresh, hot apple cider doughnuts, creemees, and their signature Dreamee.

Full Belly Farm, Hinesburg, VT
Full Belly Farm, just down the road from Yates, has closed their creemee stand for the season, but they still have u-pick flowers available during normal hours (Tuesday-Friday 11:00am - 6:00pm, Saturday+Sunday 10:00am - 5:00pm), and they still have a large variety of fresh vegetables and berries available at the stand.

Stine Orchard, Monkton, VT
Stine Orchard features apples and pears available for picking and in-store, along with fresh cider doughnuts, apple cider, pies and other baked goods, local Vermont products of all varieties, and merch. There will be live music throughout October. They also offer Pizza Fridays, every Friday from 4:00-7:00pm. Normal day-to-day hours are 10:00am - 5:30pm every day. Happy Fall!



Courtesy of: Peter Warrington
Grey squirrel readying itself for winter.

High School Halloween

By Lou Turner and Vivien Nelson
Staff Writers

“To be honest, I didn’t truly fall in love with Halloween until I became principal at CVU,” said our superintendent, **Adam Bunting**. Halloween is coming up right around the corner, and there are many things to look forward to at CVU!

Halloween at CVU means that the Crystal Skull Parade is coming up. It’s a day where students at CVU can wear their costumes and relive their childhood.

“I always felt a little sad that so many teenagers seemed eager to rush into that adult world. Halloween, though, felt like permission and a portal back to that kid self… a day when we can be playful, to be creative, to be a little less self-serious, and to be together. Communities should never forget to be kids together,” said Bunting, as he talked about his time at CVU during Halloween.

A lot of the freshmen coming into CVU are coming from towns with beloved Halloween traditions from elementary and middle school, including trick-or-treating. *The Hawks’ Nest* talked to some freshmen about traditions from their towns, and how they feel about Halloween now that they’re in high school. From Williston, we interviewed **Lainey Campbell '29**. She told us about trick-or-treating on Ledgewood Drive and Brennon Woods. On whether she would go this year, she said, “Some people say that it's like really babyish and stuff, but I find it fun to go with close friends and get candy, so yes.”

Next, Charlotte has a tradition called ghosting, which is where kids dress up in all black and go to their friends houses to leave candy at their door, knock, and run away as they chase them. A lot of people from Charlotte go trick-or-treating every year on Greenbush Road. A 9th grader from Charlotte, who preferred not to be named, shared how they felt about Halloween and ghosting now being in high school. They said, "Sometimes I think I would rather stay at home and eat candy with friends, but ghosting will never get old.”

In the end, there are still many ways to celebrate. Whether it’s the Crystal Skull Parade, ghosting, dressing up in costume, or trick or treating. Halloween doesn’t end in high school, and like Bunting said, there are many things to look forward to at CVU!

A Debrief on Harkness

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Chittenden Core teacher **Molly Tonino** feels like a student when watching discussions: “It’s unpredictable, it’s engaging. … Kids will bring up things that I hadn’t really planned for or noticed.” She also feels that students who might not be interested otherwise are more engaged during the classes she has Harkness discussions.

Students like **Ethan St. Amour ‘27** enjoy the opportunity to learn from someone other than their teachers. St. Amour also believes that Harkness has helped him have “genuine conversations about a wide variety of things.”

Like most students, **Emma Jean Armstrong ’26** was nervous about Harkness at first. Armstrong relayed, "the moment I realized how much I enjoyed participating in Harkness discussions, were those moments when there was a little bit of a light bulb that went off and I was able to make really fascinating connections with my peers that maybe I wouldn’t have otherwise made.” She says she now regularly uses the skills she has learned from Harkness in her everyday life.

Despite the benefits of Harkness, there are drawbacks that CVU is working to mitigate. Harkness is an “in the moment” discussion. Students need to respond quickly while still understanding what their classmates are saying. “It can be hard to stay present in a discussion or keep up if you take a little bit more time to process,” Armstrong says. Teachers or students often try to slow discussions down by having students pause to write down ideas or turn and talk with a partner.

How to grade Harkness discussions is another conversation that students and teachers are having at CVU. Miller believes that some of the nervousness and anxiety that students have around Harkness discussions come from them being graded. He and other teachers have begun experimenting with a combination of graded and ungraded discussions.

Each year Harkness grows more prevalent at CVU. Foreign language classes have begun using it and Core teachers are experimenting with how to introduce it to students. All of this results in a student body that is better able to share their ideas and listen to others. As Miller reminds everyone: “All you need to bring is curiosity.”



Courtesy of: Brad Miller
Katherine Riley and **Malashie Tonoki '27** participating in a Harkness at the Socrates Cafe.

Sports

“The Rally Corner”

By Cordelia Thomas
Sports Editor

Girls Soccer:

With the hire of their new coach **Kelly Knudsen** at the start of this fall season, the girls soccer team is off to a strong start. Led by senior captains **Rachel Bialowoz '26** and **Reese Kingsbury '26**, the Hawks are looking to defend their 2024 state championship, with a current record of 10-0-1, and notable wins over Rice and Burlington. The tie was against Colchester.

Boys Soccer:

CVU boys soccer is rolling over many teams this fall season. The boys are looking to defend their state championship with a current record of 8-3-1. They have notable wins over Colchester and Rutland. A tie and loss were at the hands of South Burlington, who appear to be the Hawks’ leading competition for this season. They have also played against Mount Mansfield and Essex.

Field Hockey:

CVU field hockey is having a strong season so far. With a current record of 9-2, the girls are ranked second in the state. Their biggest competition is Rice, the defending champs. The Hawks have fallen to them twice this season. Field hockey had notable wins over South Burlington (who they beat away for the first time in seven years) and Burlington (5-0).

Football:

With new Head Coach **Frank Parisi**, CVU Football is gearing up to fight to defend their state championship title. With a current record of 2-4, the boys have two wins over Bellows Free Academy and Burlington/South Burlington High School. They suffered a big losses to Middlebury and Essex. They also played Colchester and Rutland.

By Annika Scott
Sports Editor

Girls Volleyball:

Girl varsity volleyball started off the season with a 6-5 record, and are currently in 4th overall, behind Bellows Free Academy, Mt. Mansfield Union, and Essex. The Hawks had a close loss to defending champions Essex on homecoming weekend. Led by head coach **Joey O'Brien** and captains **Maddy Frere '26** and **Deirdre Higgins '26**, they are hoping to have a strong season.

Boys Volleyball:

Boys varsity volleyball started off the season with four wins and eight losses and are currently ranked 5th. They are looking to dethrone last year's champions and take home a title for CVU. Head coach **Frank Distiller** and captains **Reid Sadler '27** and **Nate Stewart '26** are looking to help their team to have a successful 2025 season.

Golf:

The CVU boys golf team won the Division 1 State Championship last year and hoped to hang up another banner this year. CVU boys came in 1st for the Division 1 qualifier, **Cooper Guerriere '26** was a medalist for CVU with a round of 68.

Other top scorers for CVU were **Quinn Vincent '27**, **Jack Bryan '26**, **Camden Ayer**, and **Sam Nostrand '27.** The boys were runner-ups in the state championship this past week, and CVU’s Guerriere qualified for the New England Championship. The girls golf team led by captain **Stella Rackochy '26** and head coach **Troy Paradee** are looking to hang up a state championship banner for the third year in a row. The girls finished the regular season and are headed to states to defend their title.

Cross Country:

Girls cross country is coming off winning the New England championships two years in a row. Last year, as the winners of the New England championship, they got a chance to compete in Nationals in Portland, Oregon. Last year boys varsity came in third in the Division 1 State meet and they have hopes for a state championship this season. So far this season both teams have had a great start. Recently, at their meet in Manchester, girls placed 1st overall and boys placed 2nd overall. According to Dyestat, the girls are ranked No. 2 in the Northeast and No. 13 in the nation.

The team is led by top runners including **Lydia Donahue '26**, **Charlotte Crum '26**, **Audrey Neilson '26**, and **Isabella Gravina-Budis '26**. Boys varsity is led by top runners **Cole Hart '27**, **Benjamin Holoch '27** and **Treson McEnaney '27**.



Community Feature: Local Haunts

By Lily Gruber
Managing Editor

A woman and her dog walk through Red Rocks Park on an early October morning in 2007. The dog, a 105-pound Rottweiler named Zeus, begins to bolt down the path towards a man in the distance. The man, standing still, was not believed to exist moments before. He is dressed in what appears to be a Civil War Era uniform, with a cap and wool jacket. Then, as fast as he had appeared, the man vanishes. Evaporated —no noise, no plausible explanation. The dog stops, looking back to the woman.

This woman was **Thea Lewis**, and this experience was her first ghost encounter. Lewis is an Essex resident, founder of the award winning Queen City Ghostwalk and writer of many publications including Haunted Burlington, Ghosts and Legends of Lake Champlain, and Lakeview Cemetery of Burlington, Vermont.

Lewis grew up around the supernatural, with a great aunt who could predict misfortune by the tell-tale appearance of a “man in black,” and a sister gifted at forecasting the future from a young age. After a visit to Salem, Massachusetts, Lewis was struck by the fact that Burlington lacked a ghost tour, so she created one. After all, Burlington and the greater Vermont area does have its fair share of ghost tales.

There’s almost always a story behind hauntings. As for the mysterious war-era man, Lewis discovered that a hospital for these soldiers operated close to the site. Could this be the reason for Lewis’s strange experience? Sometimes, it’s hard to prove the inexplicable.

In a world where not everything can be taken at face value, Lewis developed a rule: generally, if five or more people told her about a haunt, she’d be able to put it in her ghost walk. While AI and access to piles of information changed the game of reliable evidence, people are still quick to believe what they see. Is this just bunk, or can we actually gather evidence?

Take the Vermont Spirits Detective Agency, founded by **Matt Borden** in 2008. Their catchphrase: “The Private Eye For Those Who’ve Died”. The agency uses tools such as cameras, digital recorders, and electromagnetic meters to capture ghostly phenomena.

These digital recorders proved useful on an investigation at the Richmond Victorian Inn. Thea Lewis accompanied the agency on this case. Lewis remembers walking around one of the bedrooms at the inn, trying to find a seat in order to comfortably observe the space. She moved to the bed, then thought better of it, not wanting to mess up its covers. Later, when Borden sent her the recording, a voice could be distinguished in the background, saying: “share my bed”. Terrifying. “I'm so glad I did not hear anyone say that while I was there,” Lewis said.

Within that same investigation, another peculiar voice was recorded. Lewis had been chatting with Borden’s partner, **Gloria DeSousa**, about a previous stakeout at Wilson Castle while their equipment was being set up.

“It was about twenty degrees outside, and the castle had no heat, yeah, so inside, this big building was so cold,” Lewis had been describing. Her last sentence: “it was the coldest investigation–” was interrupted as Borden called out that they were “up and running again.” What no one else heard, discovered on tape after the fact, was what could be described as an irritated, male voice finishing Lewis’s thought: “ever”.

This isn’t Vermont’s only ghost with a dry sense of humor. **Margaret Smith**, also known as Daisy, was a longtime resident of Bittersweet House in Burlington (formerly attached to UVM) from 1928 to 1961, according to an article published by the Vermont Cynic.

Lewis visited the site with Borden and DeSousa, which had been converted into office spaces. DeSousa addressed Daisy, asking her if she liked what they’d done to the place. In the recording, a woman’s voice, as if from under water, may be distinguished saying: “well, it’s not very comfortable.”

So, what keeps these ghosts around? Lewis believes there may be many reasons why the dead don’t always leave. “Just about every culture you can think of has a ghostly theory,” she described. Spirituality is often associated with the paranormal, along with science, which interests Lewis. Dimensions? Warped time? It’s all theories. “I think that one of the things that keeps them around is interest,” Lewis described. “If they're busy-bodies now, they would be busy-bodies in the afterlife.”

And busy-bodies there certainly are at Winooski High School. Faculty, staff, and students have reported lockers slamming unexplainably, balls moving on the basketball court without visible aid, and squeaking sounds. The running theory? In 1960, a tragic car crash killed seven Winooski High School students, according to the New York Times press coverage of the event. At the time, the legal drinking age in New York state was eighteen, while twenty-one in Vermont. A group of seven boys crossed state lines and likely drove home drunk—hitting a maple tree, according to Lewis, which resulted in their deaths. Five of their bodies were memorialized in Winooski High’s gym. The unexplained squeaking sounds? Lewis thinks that may have something to do with the wheels on their casket gurneys.

For anyone who finds ghostly encounters chilling, Lewis’s outlook may help: “Anybody that you're going to encounter as a ghost is going to be pretty benign, they're going to be what they were when they were alive.”

And for the skeptics? As Lewis puts it: “a little bit of cynicism is a good thing but everybody’s gotta believe in something."



Courtesy of: Thea Lewis
Thea Lewis, founder of Queen City Ghostwalk

Dear Amber

Dear Amber receives and responds to questions as submitted in advance of publication. If you have questions for Amber, please email them to cvuhawksnest@cvsdvt.org or submit them via the QR code below. The questions (Q) and answers (A) are posed anonymously.

Q: My mom has been pressuring me to get a part-time job after school. I don't really think it's a money thing. As far as I can tell, we're fine. I think she just wants me out of the house.

What she doesn't seem to realize is that school is EXHAUSTING! Between all day at school and all of my homework, I just don't see how I could fit it in. Any advice?

A: Based on what you've told me, I think your mom wants you to make the best of your youth. Now it's very easy to sit at home, especially with how cold it can get up here, but try to shake things up! Go for a walk, or study at your local library.

There are plenty of clubs at our school that meet after hours, joining one of those may provide the activity your mom thinks you need. Off the top of my head, there's rowing team in the fall and spring, dance team in the winter and robotics all year 'round. The newspaper club would also love to have you!

There's plenty of low-stress activities to get involved in that don't take up as much time as a job, you just have to go looking for one. Make the most of high school and have some fun!

Q: I am so tired of hearing my family talk about politics. I get that there's a lot going on, but it's just too much.

Whenever I get home, it's all my mom wants to talk about. It starts off with "How was your day?" but it quickly switches over to politics. Please help!

A: If she keeps steering the conversation to politics, steer it away. I understand that this sort of thing can be frustrating, and I would first implore you to have a conversation with your loved ones about how you'd rather not engage. I would secondly suggest that you just keep deflecting.

If she just wants to rant, she'll keep going until it's out of her system, but if you keep deflecting, she may just give up. You're a kid! You (probably) can't vote yet, so I get why these conversations may just seem hopeless or like your mom is dumping her dissatisfaction on you, but eventually you are going to have to have an opinion. Set boundaries, deflect.

That's all I've got for you, but politics comes for us all, so you better get ready.

For future submissions to Amber, please either scan the QR code or email directly to cvuhawksnest@cvsdvt.org.



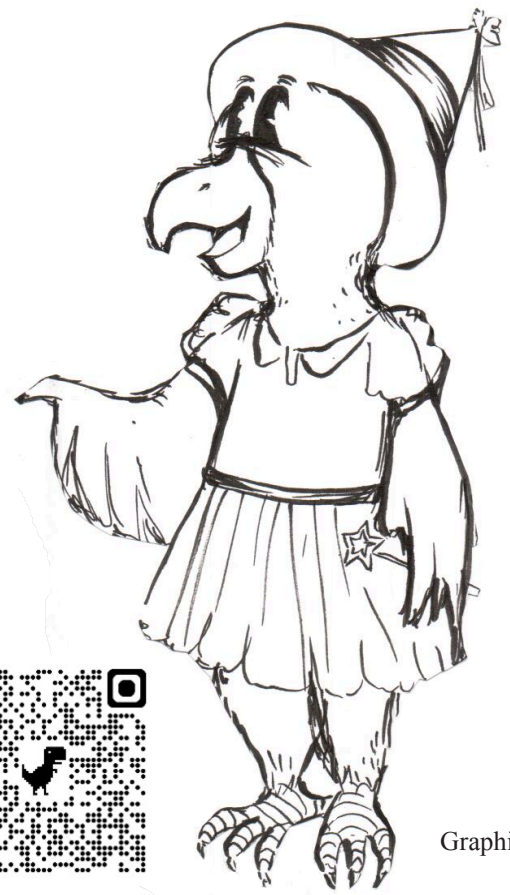
Harvest people of Shelburne, an annual fall tradition

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Please use the QR code under our Hawk's wing (to the right) to reach us. We will take you under our wing.



Graphic (left) by Lily Gruber, Managing Editor

Answers from Crossword

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