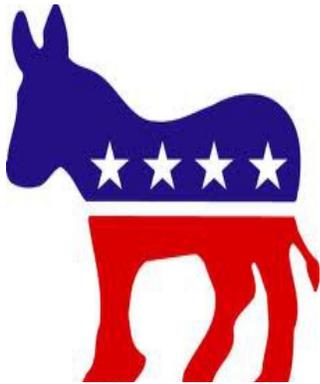


Gator Talk

Vermont 2012 Election Results

This year's elections have come and gone, and there were no surprises for Vermonters. Democrats held all major Vermont offices for which they were incumbents. Phil Scott was the sole Republican to win a major Vermont office, Lieutenant Governor, and he was the incumbent of that office. Vermont Democrat Doug Hoffer was elected State Auditor, after Republican Thomas Salmon retired. In the Washington county senate race, incumbents Bill Doyle, Ann Cummings, and Anthony Pollina were re-elected. The Washington County Representatives are Maxine Grad, a Democrat, from Moretown, and Adam Greshin, an Independent, from Warren. Both are incumbents. Grad has been in the House since 2000, and Greshin was first elected in 2008. The election held no surprises, as most elected candidates were incumbents.



Craft Fair

Crafters Edge: 802 is a student business run by the 8th graders of Main Street Middle School. They held a Craft Fair in the gym of MSMS on Saturday, November 10th. Craft and flea market vendors came from all over Vermont to participate. Crafters Edge sold art products, shop items, and ran a cafe. Linsey Battistoni and Elan Mayo, students at MSMS, interviewed Tammy Browning, Linda Goodell and Elmira Behzadikia about their experience at the craft fair. We asked Linda, who works at our school and is a long time vendor at the craft fair, the following questions:

CE: How long have you been doing this Craft Fair?

LG: About 15 years, since it's started

CE: How has it changed over time?

LG: It used to be just a craft fair, but they added the flea market

CE: What do you enjoy the most?

LG: The people and the setup

We then went to Tammy Browning, the mother of a 8th grade student at MSMS, about her experience at the fair.

CE: Have you participated in other Craft Fairs?

TB: No, this is my first one

CE: How'd you start your business? (Eco Party)

TB: I was tired of driving up to lparty for my kids parties, and wanted something eco friendly

CE: Will you come back next year?

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Art

This painting is located in the Governor's Gallery in the pavilion building on state street. The exhibit is all themes about how Vermonters stayed strong after Irene hit in 2011. This particular painting is a spoof of an older painting "Washington Crossing the Delaware" by Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze. This picture is named "Washington County Crossing Main Street" and was painted by, Sarah-Lee Terrat.



Terrat's Painting "Washington
"Washington Crossing the Delaware"

All But One

Isn't it odd that every single person just elected in Vermont is a Democrat- except one? Republican Phil Scott beat Democrat Cassandra Gekas in the Lt. Governor race. I wondered why, as this seems rather odd, and decided to ask him. His thoughts: "I believe this is because of my longstanding reputation as a moderate who listens to all points of view before making decisions. I try to remain objective and to reach out to other elected officials in all parties when appropriate. As a result, I'm fortunate to have earned the trust and respect of Democrats and Independents as well as Republicans. Although Vermont may not be totally unique in this respect, I do think our state has a special "independent streak", and that Vermont voters still look to the person as well as the party when it comes to elections. Because my brand of Republicanism is a little different than other Republicans elsewhere in the country, I'm fortunate to live in a state where voters get to know their candidates."

Inside the Court

With all the excitement about the election, it's easy to forget about the third branch of government. People don't spend vast amounts of money for a chance to be part of it, and it doesn't declare war or coin money, so it's easy to think that the judiciary is not as important and influential as the legislative and executive branches of government. Curious, I decided to interview Chief Justice Reiber of the Vermont Supreme Court, to find out what really happens in the judiciary, the behind-the-scenes branch of government, who surprisingly, is more in the spotlight than you would imagine. What happened at the court this week? "Rocket docket is a slight variation of the appeal regimen I just described to you. We have three justices that sit at the rockets. These are cases that we've determined do not raise novel questions of law or are not very complex. We have this system of rotating panel members. All of us wind up sitting about eight times a year at Rocket Docket. Now yesterday was a rocket docket. I was not a member of the panel that heard the cases. However, two children's cases we decided should be heard by all five justices together, not just the three that were on that panel. The reason was, and this is typical of how the system works, both of those cases raised novel questions under the juvenile law, regarding matters that had matters directly decided before.

not be directly decided before. So all five of us sat at each of those cases. After that, for the rest of the day, we were at a business meeting. The court, as I said, has the responsibility to administer all the courts in the state, and all the employees, we've got 350 or so employees. Once a month, at least, usually it much more frequently, we have an administrative meeting. That's what we did yesterday. It's previously scheduled and it has an agenda that we follow, so that's the other thing we did yesterday." So, what is the difference between the legislative and the judicial branches of government? "The big difference between what they do and what we do is that we interpret laws they've passed, and we do so under very specific rules, rules that say for instance that we can only decide issues that are brought before us. We can't sit around the table downstairs, the five of us, and say, "Oh, I read about something in the paper this morning that really got to me addressing an issue," and issue a decision about it. It doesn't work that way. The only voice we have is to speak in resolution of disputes, live disputes that are brought here to us by people who are disagreeing with each other. Our job is really to protect the rights of the voices who are silent, the people who are really not speaking their mind, based on the laws that the legislature has passed." So the next time someone says to you, "The court? Oh, yeah, that other branch of government, the unimportant one," you know what to say.

Craft Fair (Continued)

TB: No, I need a place with lots of families, since my product targets kids and parents We interviewed Elmira last, who has a Main Street Middle School 7th grade child, about her thoughts and crafts.

CE: Is this your first time at a craft fair?

EB: Yes, my very first.

CE: What drew you to it?

EB: I heard about it at my sons Open House.

CE :How'd you start your craft?

EB: Four years ago I took a pottery class and I fell in love and couldn't stop doing it.

Catamounts Face Hard Loss

The top seeded 8-4-5 UVM Catamounts men's soccer team faced a tough competitor in the semi-finals, going up against the 6-7-5 UNH Wildcats yesterday at 1 p.m. The Catamounts squeaked by Stony Brook in the quarterfinals with a 2-1 victory in OT. The Catamounts won the America East regular season title for the first time in 23 years. Catamounts junior goalkeeper Connor Leland was the America East Goalie of the Year, and was the first UVM player to win that award since 2002. The fifth seeded Wildcats won 1-0 with a 57th minute goal by Paul Bianchi. The Wildcats will face the No. 2 seed UMBC (University of Maryland Baltimore County), in the championship game.

November 5th-November 11th Weather Outlook, Montpelier VT

Day	Temperature	Precipitation	Wind	Conditions
Monday	27°F-33°F	0.05 inches	7 mph-15 mph (NW)	Partly Cloudy
Tuesday	17°F-34°F	0 inches	4 mph-14 mph (NW)	Mostly Cloudy
Wednesday	14°F-33°F	0 inches	3 mph-9 mph (NNW)	Cloudy
Thursday	29°F-33°F	0.02 inches	9 mph-17 mph (N)	Cloudy
Friday	27°F-42°F	0 inches	8 mph-22 mph (NW)	Mostly Cloudy
Saturday	27°F-44°F	0 inches	5 mph-15 mph (NW)	Mostly Sunny
Sunday	32°F-60°F	Mist	6 mph-17 mph (S)	Partly Sunny