

A photograph of a male graduate in a black cap and gown, captured mid-jump in a field of various flowers. He has a wide, joyful expression with his mouth open and eyes squinted. The background is a lush green field with trees in the distance. The text is overlaid on the image.

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Class  
of 2020**

**We salute you!**

A special publication of the Addison Independent and The Reporter • June 2020



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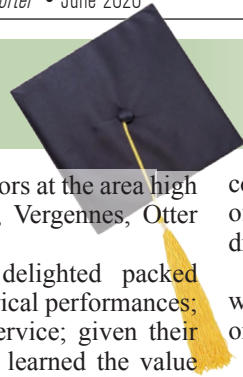
Congratulations to the Class of 2020 from our family to yours. We wish you success in all your future endeavors.

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# Hats off, graduates!



Like all, we wish to congratulate the seniors at the area high schools — Middlebury, Mount Abraham, Vergennes, Otter Valley, Proctor and West Rutland.

In the past four years they have delighted packed auditoriums with jazz, orchestral and theatrical performances; donated countless hours of community service; given their all athletically and sometimes won titles; learned the value of teamwork; excelled in academics and vocational training; participated in clubs; and forged lasting bonds of friendship.

We salute the graduates and their friends and families and their accomplishments with this special publication.

While doing so we cannot overlook the extra challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic — nor can we forget how the Class of 2020 rose and answered those challenges.

For years these seniors had been looking forward to graduation ceremonies under tents, in packed gyms or community centers, marching across the stage to cheers and applause, picking up their diplomas, and then heading off to family parties and Project Graduation celebrations.

And before that moment they dreamed of a spring packed with milestones. Prom. Trips. The final concerts with their bandmates, and the last sports seasons with their teammates.

And above it all they thought of their final high school moments with their friends of many years, sitting around lunch tables, hanging around lockers or waiting for the bus;

comparing class notes back in their homes; gathering at one of their places, maybe the one with the swimming pool; or driving out to the lake, mountains or Burlington.

And then would come the long-awaited transition to the workplace, the family business or farm, the military, or college or a trade school, all following promises to stay in touch.

It was all lined up. Until, of course, it wasn't.

Suddenly they faced closed schools, isolation at home, online learning, an uncertain future, and a global pandemic caused by a highly contagious disease that threatened their health and that of everyone they knew.

They missed their friends. They missed their teachers. They missed once-in-a-lifetime events. They looked ahead and didn't know what to expect.

But they hung in there and made the best of it. They still learned. They supported each other virtually, and their communities rallied around them with signs, social media posts, and parades. Their shared struggle made them appreciate even more what they did have.

Our seniors, our graduates — they have learned some things about themselves, and we have learned some things about our graduating seniors. They are resilient. They are determined. They are wiser. They are ready for the future.

They are the Class of 2020.

— The Editors

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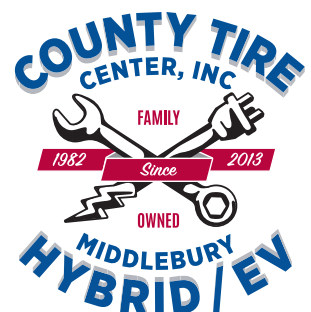
# Congratulations to all of the 2020 Graduates!



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# MUHS names Valedictorian and Salutatorian

MIDDLEBURY — With graduation less than two weeks away, Middlebury Union High School on May 29 announced that Nico Brayton will be the Valedictorian and Emily Pecsok the Salutatorian for the Class of 2020.

Brayton, son of Dan Brayton and Antonia Losano of Middlebury, has pursued one of the most demanding programs of study available at the high school. He has rounded out



his transcript with the successful completion of coursework at Middlebury College and at the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth. He was named an AP Scholar with Honor and is a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist.

As a student, Brayton has won the respect of the faculty and staff at MUHS. He has served as president of the Student Council, been a peer leader, and been involved in a variety of clubs and activities at the school as well as in Addison County. Brayton's interests include the arts, most notably playing the piano, and mathematics. In the spring of his junior year Nico learned that he was one of four students selected from a nationwide applicant pool to receive the prestigious Calvin Coolidge Foundation scholarship, which will fund the entire cost of his higher education for the next four years. Nico plans to spend the summer outdoors in Vermont and he will enroll at Yale University in Connecticut in the fall to pursue a major in Mathematics.

Pecsok, of Cornwall, is Middlebury Union High School's Salutatorian. She is the daughter of Noreen and Steven Pecsok. While enrolled at the high school, Pecsok has completed a challenging curriculum, one that includes a wide range of Advanced Placement classes, and a dual enrollment offering at CCV. Pecsok has taken full advantage of the offerings at MUHS and is highly regarded by the faculty and staff. The faculty admires Pecsok's ability to grasp difficult topics, her dedication to her studies and her focus in each of her classes. Her strong academic performance has earned her a spot on the school's Honor Roll as well as membership in the National Honor Society. Pecsok was named a National Merit



EMILY PECSOK AND NICO BRAYTON

Scholarship semifinalist in her junior year.

Pecsok is an active member of the MUHS community. She has been involved in several clubs and activities and was a founding member of the school's Women Empowered club during her sophomore year. Pecsok has a sincere interest in environmental issues and sustainability, writing, and riding horses. Pecsok plans on spending the summer at Stonegate Stables in Salisbury, a place where she has spent considerable time riding. In the fall Pecsok will be heading to central New York state to attend Cornell University and is considering a major in Mathematics.

Pecsok is a recipient of Cornell's Meinig Scholarship for leadership. It includes money for grants and many interesting opportunities.

Both Brayton and Pecsok will address the MUHS Class of 2020 at their graduation ceremony, which is being held at the high school on Saturday, June 13.



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# MUHS graduates reflect on their senior year

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Commencement ceremonies for the Middlebury Union High School class of 2020 on June 13 were unprecedented — not for being wild and ostentatious, but for being minimalist out of necessity. Due to social distancing requirements during COVID-19, each of the 131 graduating seniors were individually driven to a stage at MUHS, where they picked up their hard-earned diplomas.

MUHS

No teeming crowd, no group hugs, no conventional procession.

But the lack of pomp and circumstance didn't diminish the sense of pride and accomplishment that each graduate felt upon capping a high school career that was far from ordinary.

In late May, the Independent reached out to several MUHS seniors to get some of their reflections on what has been a tumultuous spring semester, one characterized by distance learning, no team sports and no prom. But they know they'll leave an indelible mark in the history of MUHS as having been a class that confronted — and overcame — a worldwide pandemic.

Here are some thoughts from four members of the MUHS Class of 2020:

**THEO WELLSW-SPACKMAN**

**How disappointed are you that you won't be able to enjoy a "conventional" graduation, shoulder-to-shoulder with your classmates, friends and family?**

It's certainly a shame that the kind of unified graduation that seniors normally have is not workable in light of the pandemic, as it provides a kind of academic and social closure that we now might not have. However, I think reading the news puts everything into perspective. The tragedy that COVID-19 has already caused is far too great to justify unnecessary risk at this point. I really appreciate the work the school has put into creating a safe alternative that still honors as many of the graduation traditions as possible.

**Are you still hoping for a prom?**

The short answer is, not really. I think if the school is able to organize one, it will be quite far in the future, and many of my classmates will realistically be unable to attend. I think that prom will likely be replaced with smaller social events among friends once social distancing restrictions are lifted.

**Were you counting on playing in spring sports before COVID-19 arrived?**

Yes, I was planning on playing Ultimate Frisbee, and I know for a lot of people the loss of a final season with their athletic communities has come as a blow. In addition, many other programs, such as music festivals (such as the New England Music Festival) and the MUHS Senior Play, have been canceled. However, like I said, continuing these activities is in no way worth putting our community in danger.

**SYDNEY PROVENCHER**

**How disappointed are you that you won't be able**



**to enjoy a "conventional" graduation, shoulder-to-shoulder with your classmates, friends and family?**

I'm really disappointed about graduation because we as seniors and our parents, friends and family have looked forward to and worked for this day for the last 12 years; just to have it ripped away from us. This is a big moment in our lives and now we really need to make it memorable for ourselves.

**Are you still hoping for a prom?**

I am not really concerned about having a prom. It would have been nice to experience all of the senior activities like project grad and the senior picnic, but prom isn't high on my list of priorities. Hopefully we can do something as a class before we all go our separate paths.

**Were you counting on playing in spring sports before COVID-19 arrived?**

Yes, I was really looking forward to my last season playing with many of my teammates for a long time, and I have been coached by Polly for many years. Softball is my number one sport of choice and to find out that there would be no season was more upsetting to me than no prom or our other senior activities. If we could just have our sports it would put a little excitement in the lives of not only us — the athletes — but our family, friends and fans that enjoy watching us play. A lot of joy has been taken from us and our families during what should be a memorable time in our lives.

**JEFFREY LOKATYS**

**How disappointed are you that you won't be able to enjoy a "conventional" graduation, shoulder-to-shoulder with your classmates, friends and family?**

Having a graduation with all my family and friends in attendance would have great and enjoyable but the end result is what matters the most to me getting my diploma and moving on to the next step in my educational career (Suffolk University) is what excites me the most.

**Are you still hoping for a prom?**

Having a senior prom would have been exciting but I believe that my class will put on something of that sort in the near future so I'm not disappointed.

*(See MUHS, Page 7)*

# MUHS

*(Continued from Page 6)*

## Were you counting on playing in spring sports before COVID-19 arrived?

I was not counting on playing a spring sport but I was planning on attending the games.

### ISABEL OLSON

Olson is a track-and-field athlete, specializing in the 800 and 1,500 meter running distances. She said the absence of spring sports has been “devastating for some students,” and that it will leave many with a sense of unfulfilled goals on the athletic fields. Just as students strive to improve their grades steadily between their freshman and senior years, student-athletes persevere to record faster times or more team wins from year to year.

While Olson will continue to compete in college, she knows other MUHS grads might not get that chance. So the spring 2020 semester will have been their last time to shine on the sports field or track.

A drive-up graduation, while necessary, won’t be as intimate and satisfying as a “normal” commencement with crowds, Olson acknowledged. She said some members of the class of 2020 had asked MUHS administrators to postpone the ceremony until August in hopes of having a COVID-free environment, but that request didn’t fly.

“Graduation is when you say your final thank you,” Olson said.

“It’s less about getting a diploma,” she continued, noting graduating students earned that distinction after their last assignments were graded.

“(Graduation) is more about getting together with the





community of the Class of 2020 one last time.”

Olson doesn’t believe a prom can be salvaged at this point. She’s pleased to have had the junior prom experience, however. She’s more disappointed about not having had a chance to perform in the MUHS spring play, “Mary Poppins.”

“We were one-and-a-half weeks from opening night,” she said.



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Bryan Limoge



Caleb Benz



Carly Burger



Cassie Stearns



Catherine Schmitt



Celeste Berenbaum



Chaz Welch



Chloe Hamilton



Colleen Oster



Corrina Lavit



David Peters




Devon Kearns

**To Allie Nadeau,  
 MUHS class of 2020**

Congratulations on your special day. Grandpa Nadeau would have been very proud.

Love always, Grandma Nadeau




Devyn Pratt



Dominic Beck



Eben Jackson

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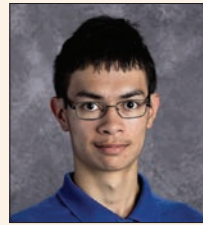
Eli Billings



Ellen Berg



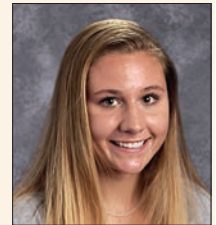
Ellie Kiel



Eloë Gile



Emily Pecsok



Emma Beauchemin



Emma Huntington



Eryn Diehl



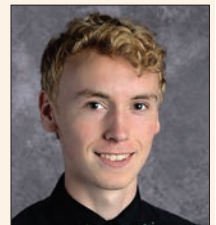
Ethan Kent



Eva Phair



Frank Wolff



Gabriel Cason



Grace Tucker



Gwen Stafford



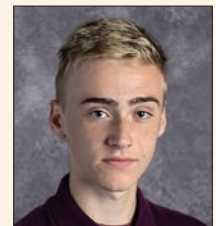
Hale Hescok



Hannah Wyman



Hunter Gale



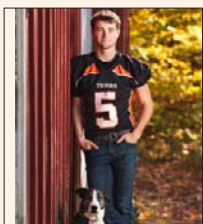
Hunter Heffernan



Hunter Munteanu



Hunter Warner



Ian Ploof



Ileigh Aube



Isabel Olson



Isabella Pistilli



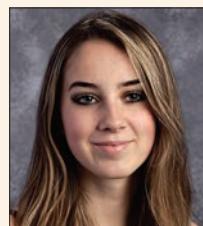
Isadora Luksch



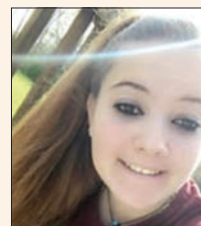
Isaiah Bullock



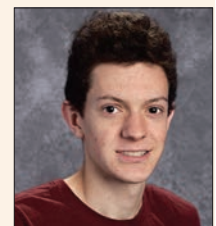
Jacob Weber



Jadah Corbett



Jasmine Gero



Jeffrey Lokatys



### CONGRATULATIONS

### Addison County GRADUATES

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We are pleased to announce the 2020 "LIVE UNITED" Scholarship Recipients

- Kam Bartlett - Middlebury Union High School
- Michael Davis - Vergennes Union High School
- Lexi Kouwenhoven - Mt. Abe Union High School



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Addison County Home Health and Hospice salutes this year's grads and wishes you all well in the future. You have all shown maturity and resilience beyond your years and we wish you success in all of your endeavors.

We also salute the parents, teachers, school administrators and staff members who changed plans so quickly to accommodate our challenging times.

Now, please go to nursing school!



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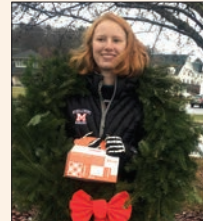
Jesse Audet



Joseph Findlay



Josie Rheame



Journey LaRose



Kamrin Bartlett



Kassidy Sunderland



Katelyn Warner



Katherine Berthiaume



Kaylee Lathrop



Keeley Casavant



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Kenneth Barkdoll



Kira Kemp



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Martine Limoge



Mary Ann Eastman



Mary Nagy-Benson



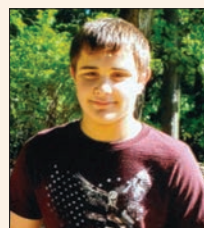
Maycee Godshalk-Tidd



Mason Wisnowski



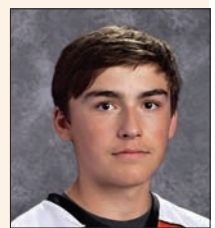
Merry Kimble



Michael Whitley



Mira Maglienti



Morgan Galipeau

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**Congratulations on your graduation, Keeley!**



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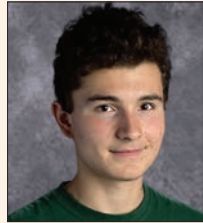
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Nadya Sato



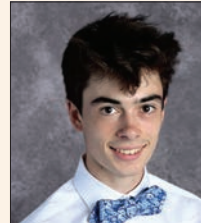
Nicholas Carrara



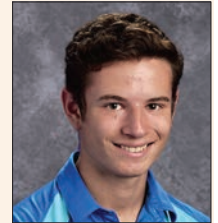
Nico Brayton



Olivia Pottinger



Owen Palcsik



Peter Wolosinski



Phoebe Smith



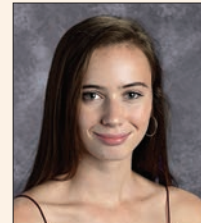
Pierce Murray



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Riley O'Neil



Romy Munkres



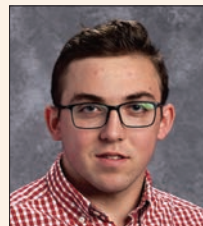
Rosie Maheu



Ryan Nadeau



Sabina Ward



Sam Klingensmith



Spencer Doran



Sydney Provencher



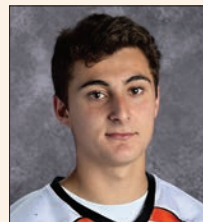
Talin Teague



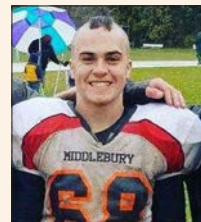
Taylor Moulton



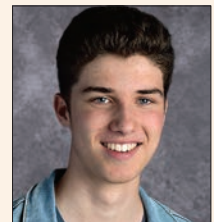
Tea Zizis



Thatcher Trudeau



Trysten Quesnel




Theo Wells-Spackman

**Ryan Nadeau, Congratulations!**

Your "adoptive grandparents" are very proud of you. You are an excellent role model for many young people. We can't wait to see how your future unfolds.

*Love, Eileen and Don Rinker*




Tierek Quesnel




Tim Dyer



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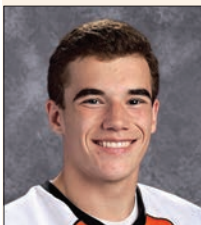
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# VUHS names 2020 top students

VERGENNES — The Vergennes Union High School Valedictorian for the Class of 2020 is Kai Williams. Kai is the son of Thomas Borchert and Rhonda Williams of Waltham. Kai is a member of our National Honor Society and has earned high honors each semester of his high school career. He has excelled at mathematics in high school and already completed several mathematics classes at the college level.

He is also an accomplished musician and has been involved with numerous sports and activities including soccer, the annual musical production, and Peace One Day.



Kai will be attending Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, where he will study Mathematics.

Sophie Hatch of Vergennes is VUHS's Class of 2020 Salutatorian. She is the daughter of Jennifer Hatch of Vergennes and Jason Hatch also of Vergennes. Sophie has been active as a class officer and an athlete, playing both basketball and soccer throughout high school and serving as Vice President of her senior class. A National Honor Society member and officer, Sophie has also worked part time on her family's farm and as a waitress.

Sophie will be attending Keene State College in New Hampshire and will study Exercise Science/Allied Health.

The VUHS Class of 2020's Third Honors student is Emily Rooney. Emily is the daughter of Kevin Rooney and Deborah Rooney. Captain of VUHS's varsity basketball squad, Emily



**KAI WILLIAMS**

has also played soccer, participated in the annual musical production, served as secretary for VUHS's chapter of the National Honor Society, and played in the Commodore Jazz Band.

She will be attending Clark University in Massachusetts, where she will study International Development & Social Change.



**SOPHIE HATCH**



**EMILY ROONEY**

# Friends, community give hope to VUHS grads

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — Lost traditions and milestones. Challenges and struggles. And ultimately resiliency, hope in the face of uncertain futures, and a greater appreciation for the people in their lives.

Seniors in the Vergennes Union High School Class of 2020 sounded those themes when talking about their final semesters and careers at VUHS and Addison Northwest School District elementary schools.

Ferrisburgh residents Sophie Hatch and Emily Rooney, and Vergennes residents Addie Brooks and Alder Donovan-Cook talked to the *Independent* about their experiences and those of the 68 members of their class.

Rooney is the Class of 2020's president, Hatch its vice president, Brooks its secretary, and Donovan-Cook a student representative to the ANWSD board.

## UPHEAVAL

All spoke about what was lost when the COVID-19 pandemic sent them home for their last three months of high school: concerts, a trip to Germany, sports seasons for which Commodores had high hopes, prom, annual senior visits to their elementary schools to share their memories and plans with younger pupils and former teachers, and, of course, a traditional graduation ceremony.

"You think about what graduation is going to look like, and people talk about it for years," Rooney said.

Prom was missed.

"On the night of prom I put on my prom dress and danced around my room by myself," Brooks said.

Hatch joked at least she saved a few bucks.

"Sadly I didn't even get to buy a prom dress this year because school had ended right before I was going to buy one. Well, I don't know if it was sad or lucky I didn't spend the money," Hatch said. "Me and my friends had a little Zoom to celebrate what would have been prom."

Losing the visits to their elementary schools, a tradition known as "Back to Your Roots," hit hard. Instead, seniors filled out Google forms to share with younger pupils. Among other things, the forms asked about their favorite memories. Brooks, who plans to be an educator, recalled hers at Vergennes Union Elementary.

"(Nicole Paquette) let us paint a mural in her room of the lake. I remember walking around that room with a paintbrush and seeing all my friends and painting little fish and all the stuff that we'd see in the lake," Brooks said. "When I think about what I want to do as a teacher I think about engaging my students just like that."

Donovan-Cook offered a list with "seeing people" at the top. He added specifics, including his career at The Walden Project, the VUHS alternative education program, which he credits with helping him mature as a student and person:

"I was going to go to Germany. It was going to be my senior year of lacrosse. It was going to be the end of my time at Walden, and there's a lot of stuff that goes with that. And losing all of that at once was kind of rough."

Hatch said despite it all she believes her classmates persevered.



"Everybody has such an image in their head of what those last three months of their senior year are going to be. And ours got totally flipped upside down. But I think we're going to be definitely making the best of it," she said.

## SPRING ONLINE

The seniors praised their teachers, but gave mixed reviews to virtual learning.

Brooks said her morning meeting teacher, Sara Thompson, texted everyone in the group every morning, while her classroom teachers accommodated her hours on a new job.

"They understand right now it's hard for everyone. All of my teachers have been great in helping me just get through my work and get through senior year," she said.

Donovan-Cook turned to the Walden Project, an alternative program in which students gather at an outdoor classroom for most of the week. He said Walden worked for him because of his difficulty focusing in a classroom setting. After in-person school was canceled this spring, he found online learning a challenge, adding he believed he was not alone.

Hatch said not seeing teachers in person meant extra self-discipline.

"It's difficult to hold yourself accountable, because it's so easy just to skip a Zoom or not turn in your homework right now, because you don't have that piece of interaction with your teacher," she said.

The personal element lacking this semester extended to little daily connections outside classrooms, Rooney said.

"This has taught me how important people are in your life," she said. "It's people you say hi to in the hallway, and you've had two classes with them ever semester every year. And I've

(See VUHS, Page 21)

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- Dr. Seuss



# VUHS

*(Continued from Page 19)*

realized I’ve missed these people.”

## FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY

Ultimately their peers and teachers are what the seniors said they missed most this semester, and will remember most about their VUHS years.

“There are musical friendships, and there’s rowing friendships. There are people that I don’t talk to every day, but I know they’re still there for me,” Brooks said. “The connections I’ve made with people at the high school are so different than the other connections I’ve made in my life.”

Donovan-Cook said he will think about relationships, some of which he developed through the fall musicals, when he reflects back on his VUHS years.

“Just being able to develop such great friendships at such a small school has been really awesome,” he said.

Rooney added she, too, would recall the people.

“Definitely looking back I’ll remember my teachers and other students and coaches and just how important it is to have and to foster those relationships in high school,” she said.

Students also appreciate their hometown support, including the signs in their honor in front of their school and the post-graduation parade organized on their behalf.

“I’d just like to say thank you to the community for really getting behind the Class of 2020 and supporting them, and trying to make sure we do get our senior year, like that feeling of graduating and celebrating,” Hatch said.

Donovan-Cook said the local community has helped the class maintain its spirit and morale:

“Even when the pandemic was at its worst here, having the Bang and Clang (parade) every night, there’s such a sense of community in Vermont. And I’m really glad to be in a place like Vermont and Vergennes in such a crazy time.”

## LOOKING AHEAD

Members of the class have post-secondary plans: working on family farms or businesses, striking out on their own, joining the military, or attending trade schools or colleges.

The class officers plan on college, but uncertainty is a constant. Brooks hopes to attend the University of Vermont, but

wonders if UVM can really open given the school will have to deal with quarantining out-of-state students and, like all schools, possibly a second wave of coronavirus.

“They’re promising us. But at this point I basically have no idea what’s going to happen,” she said.

Donovan-Cook plans to attend Warren Wilson College in rural North Carolina. The area is relatively virus-free now, he said, and he hopes for the best, as do Rooney with Clark University in Worcester, Mass., and Hatch with Keene State in New Hampshire.

But all four are undeterred.

Brooks said she knows no matter what happens people will stand with her.

“I have an entire three-and-a-half years of high school behind me with people who have supported me. And I know they’ll be there to support me,” Brooks said. “I know they’ll be there for me when this is all over.”

Donovan-Cook cited “the fact we have those close relationships” with people to share the burden as an important factor, and said he and his peers remind themselves that compared to many they are lucky:

“I really just think of it in the context of what the rest of the world is going through. We’re doing so well that I can’t really focus on how much it sucks. I just have to focus on how much it doesn’t suck.”

Hatch pointed to the unity of the Class of 2020 and the lessons of the past three months.

“Definitely looking back through the years we’re going to be able to cherish the fun that we did have in school, all those moments we did spend with our friends,” she said. “And I’ll be able to cherish the time that I did have in the school even more now that I know what it’s like to not have that time in the school.”

Rooney said talking with her future Clark soccer teammates, many of whom come from COVID-19 hotspots, helped her gain perspectives: “We’re very lucky and privileged to be in the situation we are.”

Donovan-Cook summed up the confidence the seniors have in their futures by looking at the big picture:

“It’s not like there’s going to be a full year or two of high school graduates getting lost. Colleges will be flexible. Jobs will probably be flexible, because this is something we’re all dealing with.”



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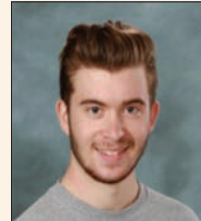
Adelaide Brooks



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Aidan Scott



Alder Donovan-Cook



Alexyss Mackinnon



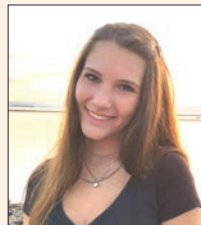
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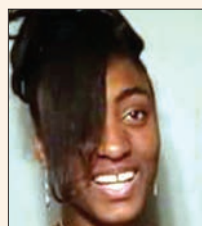
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Ian Brons



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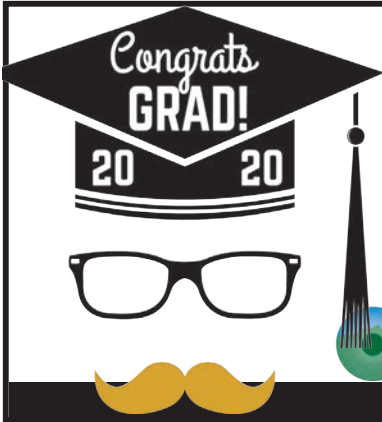
Jason Trejo



Jeffrey Sterns



Jonathan Lapell

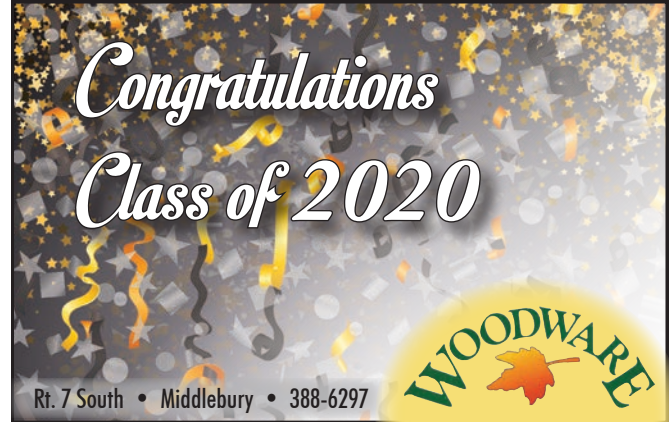


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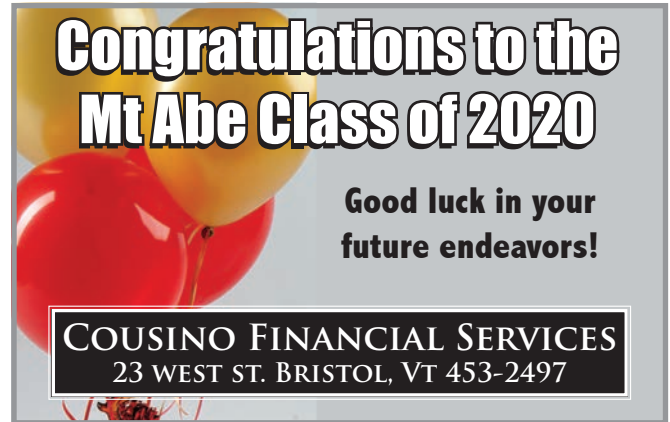


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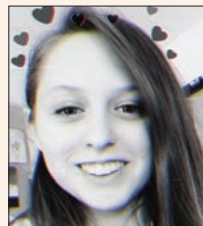
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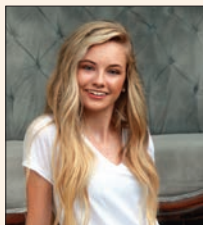
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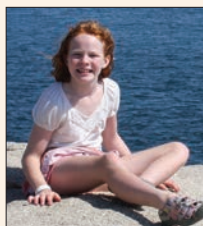
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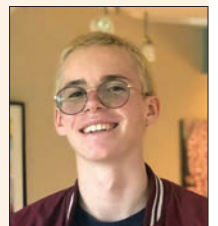
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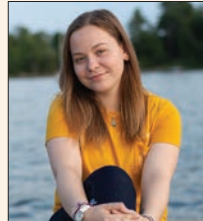
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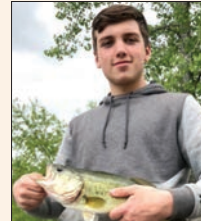
Sophie Hatch



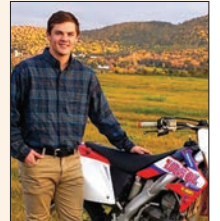
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### Class speakers

MOUNT ABRAHAM SENIORS elected classmates Carly Counter and Maizy Shepard to deliver speeches for this year's graduation. Counter, right, and Shepard had special video messages broadcast on WCAX-TV and recorded videos of their talks that were included on a edited version of the entire Mount Abe graduation ceremony that is available online at neatbristol.com.

Images courtesy of Northeast Addison Television

# Mt. Abe seniors reflect on their weird year

By CHRISTOPHER ROSS

BRISTOL — There have been days over the past two months when Mount Abraham Union High School senior Maizy Shepard would catch herself looking at a clock in her Bristol home, trying to remember what class she would have been in at that moment, if school hadn't been disrupted by a global health crisis.

"I started to miss my old schedule, even if that meant getting up three hours earlier than I have been," Shepard told the *Independent* in a recent email. "It has been a very confusing time."

Being a senior has only added to that sense of confusion, she said.

One by one, since Gov. Phil Scott ordered the closure of Vermont school buildings in mid-March, the milestones Mount Abe's Class of 2020 had expected to celebrate this spring, marking an end to 13 or more years of schooling, have been altered or canceled altogether. It's been a lot to sort through. But as they counted down the days until their June 6 graduation ceremony, Shepard and two of her classmates shared their thoughts on what it's been like to finish 12th grade in the middle of a pandemic.



*"During such an abnormal time, I think it is so important to just be a human being first."*

— Maizy Shepard, Mount Abe

### ADJUSTING

Mae Peterson also lives in Bristol.

"At the beginning I was doing a LOT of homework," she said in a phone interview. "I would wake up and spend most of my day online. Something that in school would have taken me 30 minutes to do would take me an hour and a half, because there were so many distractions. That was really hard."

Peterson doesn't like remote learning, she said.

"It's like taking all the fun parts out of school, like seeing your friends and having relationships with your teachers and being in the library. Now it's just the work."

But she doesn't hate it, either.

"I've loved making my own schedule. And I've loved getting to eat whatever I want whenever I want. That's been really nice."

### HOPE

One bright spot for Peterson this spring was being able to commit to her college of choice, which she had originally thought would be out of reach financially.

"That was a really exciting moment that happened during quarantine."

One of the brightest spots for Shepard has been family, (See Mt. Abe, Page 28)

# Mt. Abe

*(Continued from Page 27)*

friends, friends' parents, and even people she didn't know all that well.

"There is a new sense of community that I feel we are all a part of," she said. "Ultimately we are (staying home) to keep everyone safe, and that sense of community makes you feel so strong and motivated."

Classmate Liam Kelliher, who lives in Monkton, has felt the same way.

"One bright spot has been the resilience shown by the American citizens who choose to follow adequate safety measures," he told the *Independent* in an email. "Never in our lifetime have we been faced with such a devastating pandemic, yet our communities remain as tightly knit as ever. Rather than giving up on each other, we have leaned on one another more than ever for support."

### UPENDED

Still, the pandemic's effect on Kelliher's senior plans has been "devastating," he said.

In March he had hoped a "normal" graduation would still be possible.

"I knew that June was still multiple months away, and figured that the virus would take mercy on our graduating class," he said. "I was wrong, to say the least. This virus is selfish. It ... has stolen the class of 2020's prom, graduation, and our ability to end senior year on a high note."

Kelliher understands why it must be so, but it's not the way he wanted to end his high school career.

Shepard will also miss what could have been. She had been looking forward to attending a prom that she didn't also have to clean up after, she said. And though she's grateful to have been chosen as one of the class speakers at graduation, she's disappointed she couldn't deliver it in person.

"I (had imagined) saying my speech and looking at the sea



of caps and gowns, as well as taking pictures with my friends and family that I would be able to hold on to forever," she said.

On the final day of school Shepard had hoped to say goodbye to the building and to some of her friends, and she had planned to visit certain teachers in their classrooms to say "thank you." Now that will have to be done by email.

Still, she added, "I think it is more important to think about what we do have: the memories."

Peterson feels like she should be more sad about prom and graduation, but she's been so anxious about what college is going to look like in the fall, especially if a second pandemic  
*(See Mt. Abe, Page 29)*



# Mt. Abe

*(Continued from Page 28)*

wave hits, that she hasn't had time to feel sad.

She is immensely grateful, however, to have had her soccer season last fall.

"I've talked to my teammates and we would definitely have traded graduation and from any day to have soccer the way it was. We're so glad we didn't lose our season."

## MENTORING

In addition to school, Peterson has spent her mornings working for the school district's Essential Person's Childcare Program, where she observed how difficult the past few months have been for younger children.

"It's hard for them," she said. "The kids want to hug (but they can't because of social distancing protocols). It's been a real learning curve for them."

Shepard, who has two younger siblings at home, can relate.

"At times I would watch my youngest sister (a kindergartener at Bristol Elementary) when my parents were going to work," she said. "Sometimes she would question what was happening and why things are different. Having to find a way to appropriately explain our current situation to a 6-year-old is a serious task. It seemed that sometimes the important moments with her would just be drawing together and letting her express her feelings, rather than trying to get her to focus on school work."

## THE FUTURE

Both Shepard and Kelliher will attend the University of Vermont this fall.

"Currently my major is Undecided in the College of Arts and Sciences," Shepard said. "Whatever I decide to be my future career, I know that I want it to be based on helping people and bettering our world."

Kelliher plans to study medicine.

"This virus has given me a perfect opportunity to examine the importance of the career I intend to follow," he said. "Medical staff across the world have stepped into the front lines of adversity and made extreme sacrifices, all in an effort to heal the world of its pandemic. I cannot think of a single career that provides more aid to the global community than medicine, which multiplies my desire to follow this path."

Peterson plans to attend Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla., which is renowned for its marine biology program.

"I'm going for environmental studies with a concentration in marine conservation," she said. "I didn't really see myself being in Florida, but it will be a good spot for what I want to learn."

## BEING HUMAN

Despite their setbacks this year, Shepard believes that perspective is everything.

"All I would need to do to snap out of feeling sad about my situation, was to think about everyone else in the world," she said. "There are countless ways that other people are struggling during this time. Losing a semester of high school seems like the least of all of those struggles. At this point in our lives, we are equipped with the ability to understand the magnitude of differences everyone else is facing."

Ultimately, Shepard said, this experience has taught her the most about being a human being.

"During this time most of us set expectations for ourselves and intense schedules. But during such an abnormal time, I think it is so important to just be a human being first. Sometimes you have to put aside a quiz, cleaning your room or waking up early, to just be you. Just to do what you really need at that moment. And that's OK if it changes. Because we are human beings who are constantly evolving and adapting. We need to put less pressure on ourselves and focus on the really important things. Such as talking with a family member, checking in on a neighbor, helping in whatever way you can. It is important to do what you need to do, without feeling bad about it."

*"Rather than giving up on each other, we have leaned on one another more than ever for support."*

*– Liam Kelliher,  
Mount Abe*



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- Anonymous

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Although you did not get a chance to have a traditional graduation it in no way diminishes your accomplishments.  
*Congratulations to the following graduates.*

Shane Edward Adkins • Ethan TenEyck DeWitt • Charlotte May Layn • Nekaiya Pearl Shine • Victor Joseph Alicea • Maximillion Thomas Doherty-Konczal • Hope Leavitt • Juliette Michele Snell • Alexander Bailly Stokes • Morgan Marie Edgerly • Madison Diane Little • Caroline Mary Sodaro • Austin Ballou • Wisdom Bridges Edwards • Griffin Louer • Katie St. Amour • BJ Louis Bennett • Robert F. Lowell • Richard Dean Stalcup-Tanner • Rebecca Lynn Bennett • Jackson Christopher Gepfert • Camille Terese Lyons • David R. Gebo • Roza Vivan Stewart • Katelyn Ann Benson • Parker Thomas Gero • Ethan John Martin • Jacob Alan Sturtevant • John Armand Bent • Justice Ariel Green • Rylee-Mae Hope Mason • Ulysses Joel Suazo • Matthew T. Birkett Travis Mark Guillemette Katelyn Marie McIntyre • Wyatt Floren Thompson • Shayna Block • Lucinda O'Leary Guy • Eric Michael McKean • Rosemary Carolyn Thurber • Maxwell P. Breault • Cyrus Maxwell Hall • Peter Timothy McNerney • Noble Westbrook • Jnana Sagara Beck-Arndt • Scout Josephine Hall • Cassatt Yong Yuping Melchior • Nolan F. Whitcomb Faith Lillian Brinkman • Addison Ames Harris • Madison Elizabeth Menzel • Charlotte Willis • Silas Benjamin Burgess • Abigail Marie Hoff • Sean Gregory Meyer • Brynn Florence Winchester • Haley Marie Bushey • Abigail Earnshaw Lliff • Sydney Lara Minnerly Emma Louise Campbell • Skyla Lorraine Jackson • Kira I Murray • Matthew James Cleaves • Chole Ann Johnston • Amber Pecor • Eben Martin Clifford • Liam Dylan Kelliher • Sydney Hope Perlee • Jason Roland Clodgo • Andrew Dayton Knight • Mae Elizabeth Pererson • Bryan Coakley-Wright • Alexis Mary Kouwenhoven • Dawson Andrew Phillips • Jessica Paul Colbeth Cole Dereksen Kouwenhoven • Jamie L. Prim Jr. • Kai Christopher Correll • Hailey Marie LaFrance • Alanah Rose Rockwell Jordyn Danielle Cota • Adrien Lee Larocque • Tristin Samuel Roscoe • Carly Jane Counter • Brian Chase Larson • Samuel Arlo Schoenhuber • Gabriel Alexander Cousino • Ryan Christopher Lathrop • Jonas Allen Schroeder • Owen R. Darling • Rebecca Paige Laurent • Maizy Scout Shepard

Congratulations to the administration, teachers and staff that made the most of a difficult situation

**SOAR EAGLES SOAR!**

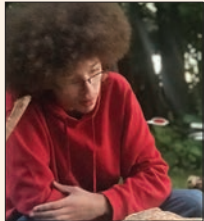


Mount Abraham Union High School

**2020**  
**GRADS**



Abigail Hoff



Alexander Bailly Stokes



Abigail Illiff



Alexis Kouwenhoven



Addison Harris



Amber Pecor



Adrien Larocque



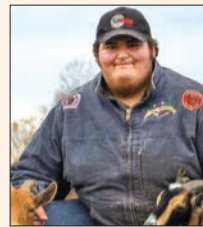
Andrew Knight



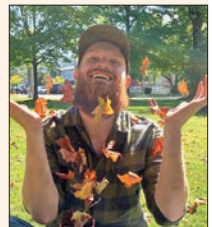
Alanah Rockwell



Austin Ballou



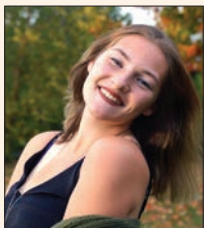
BJ Bennett



Brian Larson



Brynn Winchester



Camille Lyons



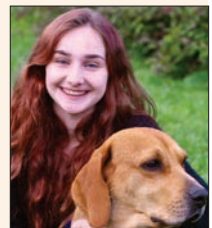
Carly Counter



Caroline Sodaro



Cassatt Melchior



Charlotte Layn



Charlotte Willis



Chloe Johnston



Cole Kouwenhoven



Cyrus Hall



David Gebo



Dawson Phillips



Eben Clifford



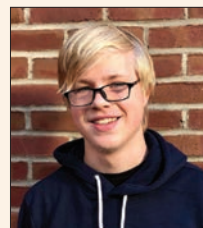
Emma Campbell



Eric McKean



Ethan Dewitt




Ethan Martin



Faith Brinkman

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Mount Abraham Union High School

**2020**

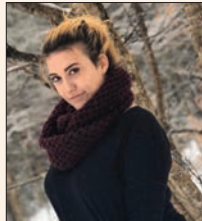
**Congratulations! GRADS**



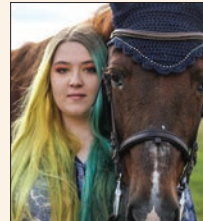
Gabriel  
Cousino



Griffin  
Louer



Hailey  
LaFrance



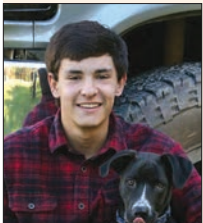
Haley  
Bushey



Hope  
Leavitt



Jackson  
Gepfert



Jacob  
Sturtevant



Jason  
Clodgo



Jessica  
Colbeth



Jnana  
Breck-Ardnt



John  
Bent



Jonas  
Schroeder



Jordyn  
Cota



Juliette  
Snell



Justice  
Green



Kai  
Correll



Katelyn  
Benson



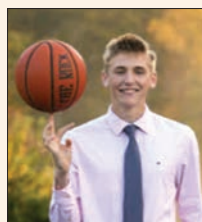
Katelyn  
McIntyre



Katie  
St. Armour



Kira  
Murray



Liam  
Kelliher



Lucinda  
Guy



Madison  
Little



Madison  
Menzel



Mae  
Peterson



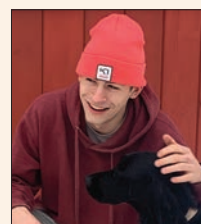
Maizy  
Shepard



Matthew  
Cleaves



Maximilian  
Doherty-Konzal



Maxwell  
Breault



Nekaiya  
Shine



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the moon!*

We'll be watching eagerly to see where you'll go, what you'll achieve, who you'll become.

We hope you'll stay in touch with us too!

Good luck, 2020 Grads!

~ your hometown paper

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Mount Abraham Union High School

**2020**

**Congratulations! GRADS**



Noble Westbrook



Nolan Whitcomb



Owen Darling



Parker Gero



Peter McNerney



Rebecca Bennett



Rebecca Laurent



Richard Stalcup-Tanner



Robert Lowell



Rosemary Thurber



Roza Stewart



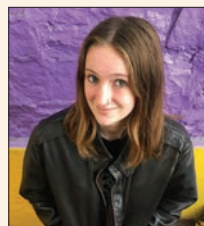
Ryan Lathrop



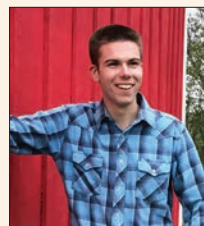
Rylee-Mae Mason



Samuel Schoenhuber



Scout Hall



Sean Meyer



Shane Atkins



Shayna Block



Sydney Perlee



Silas Burgess



Sydney Minnerly



Travis Guillemette



Tristin Roscoe



Ulysses Suazo



Victor Alicea



William Swindell



Wisdom Edwards



Wyatt Thompson



## Mount Abraham Union High School Class of 2020

Abigail Hoff  
Abigail Iliff  
Addison Harris  
Adrien Larocque  
Alanah Rockwell  
Alexander Bailly Stokes  
Alexis Kouwenhoven  
Amber Pecor  
Andrew Knight  
Austin Ballou  
BJ Bennett  
Brian Larson  
Bryan Coakley-Wright  
Brynn Winchester  
Camille Lyons  
Carly Counter  
Caroline Sodaro  
Cassatt Melchior  
Charlotte Layn  
Charlotte Willis  
Chloe Johnston  
Cole Kouwenhoven  
Cyrus Hall  
David Gebo

Dawson Phillips  
Eben Clifford  
Emma Campbell  
Eric McKean  
Ethan DeWitt  
Ethan Martin  
Faith Brinkman  
Gabriel Cousino  
Griffin Louer  
Hailey LaFrance  
Haley Bushey  
Hope Leavitt  
Jackson Gepfert  
Jacob Sturtevant  
Jamie Prim  
Jason Clodgo  
Jessica Colbeth  
Jnana Breck-Armdt  
John Bent  
Jonas Schroeder  
Jordyn Cota  
Juliette Snell  
Justice Green  
Kai Correll

Katelyn Benson  
Katelyn McIntyre  
Katie St. Armour  
Kira Murray  
Liam Kelliher  
Lucinda Guy  
Madison Little  
Madison Menzel  
Mae Peterson  
Maizy Shepard  
Matthew Birkett  
Matthew Cleaves  
Maximilion Doherty-Konczal  
Maxwell Breault  
Morgan Edgerly  
Nekaiya Shine  
Noble Westbrook  
Nolan Whitcomb  
Owen Darling  
Parker Gero  
Peter McNerney  
Rebecca Bennett  
Rebecca Laurent  
Richard Stalcup-Tanner

Robert Lowell  
Rosemary Thurber  
Roza Stewart  
Ryan Lathrop  
Rylee-Mae Mason  
Samuel Schoenhuber  
Scout Hall  
Sean Meyer  
Shane Adkins  
Shawn Pawul-Sullo  
Shayna Block

Silas Burgess  
Skyla Jackson  
Sydney Minnerly  
Sydney Perlee  
Travis Guillemette  
Tristin Roscoe  
Ulysses Suazo  
Victor Alicea  
William Swindell  
Wisdom Edwards  
Wyatt Thompson



## Middlebury Union High School Class of 2020

Addison Hubbell  
Alexia Huestis  
Alexis Bartlett  
Alice Ganey  
Alison Seaton  
Allie Nadeau  
Andrew Hinman  
Andrew Racine  
Anna McIntosh  
Annie Lapiner  
Anthony Garner  
Avery Austin-Neil  
Avery Walker  
Brianna Lathrop  
Bryan Limoge  
Caleb Benz  
Carly Burger  
Cassie Stearns  
Catherine Schmitt  
Celeste Berenbaum  
Charles "Chaz" Welch III  
Chloe Hamilton  
Colleen Oster  
Corrina Lavit  
David Peters  
Kamrin Bartlett  
Devon Kearns  
Devyn Pratt  
Dominic Beck  
Ebenezer Jackson  
Eli Billings  
Ellen Berg

Ellie Kiel  
Eloe Gile  
Emily Pecsok  
Emma Beauchemin  
Emma Huntington  
Eryn Diehl  
Ethan Kent  
Eva Phair  
Evan Forbes  
Ezekiel "Zeke" Hooper  
Franklyn Wolff  
Gabriel Cason  
Grace Tucker  
Gwen Stafford  
Hale Hescocock  
Hannah Wyman  
Hunter Gale  
Hunter Heffernan  
Hunter Munteanu  
Hunter Warner  
Ian John Ploof  
Ileigh Aube  
Isabel Olson  
Isabella Pistilli  
Isadora Luksch  
Isaiah Bullock  
Jacob Weber  
Jadah Corbett  
James Jette  
Jameson Pierce Murray  
Jasmine Gero  
Jeffrey Lokatys

Jenna Howlett  
Jesse Audet  
Joseph Findlay  
Josie Rheäume  
Journey LaRose  
Kassidy Sunderland  
Katelyn Warner  
Katherine Berthiaume  
Katie Terk  
Kaylee Lathrop  
Keeley Casavant  
Kelsey Buteau  
Kenneth Barkdoll  
Kira Kemp  
Levi Gordon  
Liam Hamilton  
Lillian Fleming  
Lily Lewis  
Louis Bergevin  
Maeve Hammel  
Malia Hodges  
Martine Limoge  
Mary Ann Eastman  
Mary Nagy-Benson  
Maycee Godshalk-Tidd  
Mayson Wisnowski  
Meredith Kimble  
Michael Whitley  
Mira Maglienti  
Morgan Galipeau  
Nadya Sato  
Nicholas Carrara

Nicolas Brayton  
Olivia Pottinger  
Owen Palcsik  
Peter Wolosinski  
Phoebe Smith  
Raymond Hart  
Rielly Wright-Quesnel  
Riley O'Neil  
Rosemary Munkres  
Rosie Maheu  
Ryan Nadeau  
Sabina Ward  
Samuel Klingensmith  
Spencer Doran  
Spencer Pratt  
Sydney Provencher  
Sylvia Vorsteveld  
Talin Teague  
Taylor Moulton  
Téa Zizis  
Thatcher Trudeau  
Theodore Wells-Spackman  
Tierek Quesnel  
Timothy Dyer  
Timothy Goettelmann  
Trysten Quesnel  
Tyler Buxton  
William Carpenter  
William Forbes  
Wren Colwell  
Zoe Hill

## Otter Valley Union High School Class of 2020

Aiden Purcell	Cole Booska	Jacob Quenneville	Leah Pinkowski	Phoebe Elliott
Alexia Peake	Daniel Winslow	Jared Denis	Livia Bernhardt	Renee O'Connell
Alia Edmunds	Eli King	Jocelyn Noble	Logan Trombley	Ryan Booska-Harvey
Alyza McKeighan	Elinor Ross	Johan Harding	Madison French	Sam Scholar
Ashlynn Depatie	Emily Doty	Jordan Lemieux	Mary Kingsley	Samantha Hatch
Austasia Bryant	Emma Falquero	Julia Eastman	Mathew Hernandez	Sawyer Pierpont
Austin Martindale	Evan Diaz	Julian Lopez	Mikaela Merrill	Shayla Phillips
Caitlin Bixby	Gadge Puro	Kati Bashaw	Morgan LaPorte	Sophia Walker
Cara Boudreau	Grant Blow	Keisha Young	Nahum Sgorbati	Spencer Pelkey
Carolynn Lafountaine	Haleigh Pelkey	Kelsie Sunhawk	Nathan Wilder	Stephanie Palmer
Chao "Joe" Qun Niu	Haley Curtis	Kiaria Corbett	Nathaniel Blake	Tyler Boynton
Charles Noble	Ian Ouellette	Kirkland Disorda	Nicholas John	Warren Ringy
Chrisma Brenenstuhl	Isabella Falco	Kristin Markie	Olivia White	
Christopher LaFountain	Jacob Owen	Lauryl Blanchard	Paul Schultz	

## Vergennes Union High School Class of 2020

Abigail Bluteau	Eleni Marie Brouillard	Jason Trejo	Marlie Elizabeth Hunt	Robert Kenfield
Adelaide Kathryn Brooks	Emily Brinkman	Jeffrey Stearns	Matthew Dematties	Rory Patch
Aidan Gardner	Emily Elizabeth Dabrowski	Jonathan Winston Lapell	Matthew Forbes	Shamus North Hayes
Aidan Scott	Rooney	Josias Salomao	Maya Nadezhda Praamsma	Simon Farrell
Alder Malachi Donovan†	Erich Reitz	Julio Ismael Quiles	Maylee Eliza Desautels	Siobhan Eagan
Alexyss Denise Mackinnon	Gage Lalumiere	Justin Alexander McEntee	Mckenna Grace Phillips	Skye Little Chamberlain
Amber Nicole Krumrie	Gavin Robert Grady	Kai Thomas Williams	Michael Thomas Davis	Sophie Amelia Hatch
Benjamin Curtis	Grace LeBeau	Kaleigh Anne Campbell	Mitchell Warren Clark	Trudy Ann Cosgrove
Brianna Billings	Grace Lillian Ashley	Karyn Nerissa Kenfield	Nathan DeVos	William Bergmans
Claire Therese Austin	Grady Devoid	Kathryn Lydia Wyckoff	Payton Lee Jones	Zander Eli Wildasin
Clement Kofi Amonoo Simpson	Heather French	Kevin Jackson	Rebecca Lynn Kachmar	Zeke Gregory Clark
Colby Sean Beinhaur	Henry MacLeod Boylan	Kyla Heir	Riley Morgan Routhier-Becher	
Dalylah Cushman	Ian Edward Brons	Kyle Alan Booska	Robert Beenen Verburg	
Diego Nikolas Estrella	Jackson Hall Hameline	Leah Croke	Robert Casey Bicknell	
	Janea Marshall	Luke Weston Bergmans		

## Fair Haven Union High School Class of 2020 Orwell residents

Andrew Lanthier	Furious Roy	Mark FitzGerald	Samuel Manley
Andrew Tenzer	Jonas Greene	Olivia Scher	Savanah Desrocher
Brianna Berstein	Julianna Williams	Paige Cusanelli	
Cody Laduc	Kaitland Breen	Riley Ochs	

## Proctor High School Class of 2020

Allie Almond	Logan Starling
Amanda Reynolds	Lyndsey Elms
Brandon Colvin	Maddie Flanders
DeAndre Burns	Miranda Martin
Gabe Parker	Raleigh McKeighan
Hunter Manfredi	Sarah Varney
Joe Valerio	Scott Meighan
Liana Hall	Solomon Parker

## West Rutland High School Class of 2020

Alana Raine Raymond	Kyle Matthew Laughlin
Alissa Monique Covarrubias	Liam Matthew Beaulieu
Bailey Morghan Sevigny	Lukas Micheal Wiskoski
Caleb Peter Green	Madison Leigh Guay
Carter Joshua Ransom	Rebecca Lee Sanderson
Deanna Mae Kenyon	Ryan Guy Smith
Jeneé Elizabeth McGee	Terrell Isaac O'Bara
Kenneth James Lynch	Wayne Douglas Pease
Kiera Noel Pipeling	



ELLIE ROSS



LIVIA BERNHARDT

## OVUHS names Ross, Bernhardt top students

BRANDON — Otter Valley Union High School has announced that Elinor Ross is the valedictorian of the Class of 2020 and Livia Bernhardt is salutatorian

“Ellie” Ross, daughter of Doug and Liz Ross of Brandon, has a strong academic record while taking the most advanced classes offered—AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Literature, and AP World History. In her junior year, she achieved academic excellence in AP Biology, Advanced American Studies, and Pre-Calculus, was awarded the Rensselaer Medal, Yale Book Award, and the Society of Women Engineers Highest Honors, and was inducted into the National Honor Society. She is Otter Valley’s UVM Green and Gold Scholarship recipient.

A talented competitive swimmer, Ellie also holds down a job outside school.

After Otter Valley, she plans to study Electrical Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Livia Sessions Bernhardt is a Leicester resident and the daughter of Hannah Sessions and Greg Bernhardt. An excellent student, Livia earns the highest marks in OV’s most challenging classes. She is National Honor Society member and won the Wellesley College Book Award, the Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award for Math and Science and a Certificate of Merit for High Honors in Science and Math from the Society of Women Engineers.

Not limited to academics, Livia has been involved in student government throughout high school. She attended Rosie’s Girls and three Governor’s Institute camps and participated in the Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership and Athletic Leadership Conferences as a sophomore. She has been a three-sport varsity athlete to boot: field hockey, basketball and softball. She was named Special Olympics Unified Partner of 2019.

Livia will pursue a science or math degree at Bates College.



## A salute to Otter Valley’s Class of 2020

The Otter Valley Union High School administration, faculty and staff took to social media in the days leading up to graduation and left the following messages for the Class of 2020:

This year’s senior class, the Otter Valley Class of 2020, showed us how resilient and strong they are as individuals

and as a combined group. They have weathered many storms — from 9/11 to COVID-19. Throughout all, they have made learning and their community a priority. They have looked out for one another throughout every obstacle and cheered each

*(See OVUHS, Page 39)*

# OVUHS

*(Continued from Page 38)*

other on with every success. They are to be commended for their persistence, their care, and their advocacy.

The Class of 2020 is a vocal class in all the best ways. They know how to advocate for themselves in person or in writing. They have passionately pursued an in-person graduation that honors their core value of remaining together through this monumental celebration.

When we think of the Class of 2020, we think of a caring class, a class that has seen hardship well before COVID. We can go right through the list and site one example after another of students who supported the start of our Unified Sports Program, who have suffered extreme losses in their families, who care for younger siblings, who work hard in our community, and who work diligently on their academics.

You will also witness exceptional athletes, scholars, leaders and our future.

Knowing the class of 2020 has truly been a gift.



A campaign of notes to OV seniors was started on the Otter Valley Facebook page. Here are some of those notes:

To the Class of 2020, we started this journey together six years ago. You, as wide-eyed 7th-graders and me, a brand new Substance Abuse Professional counselor. It has been a privilege to have shared this journey with you. As individuals and as a group, you have taught me strength, resiliency, humor, courage and hope. The historic exit you are making from Otter Valley is only fitting for a class that will forever leave a lasting impression on my life. I am excited to cheer you on as you begin your next adventure.

Katie Wallett



Dear OV Seniors  
I will miss you all. Thank you for all the memories, and I hope to see you at some point in the future.  
Stay curious and stay strong. Follow your heart, and don't believe everything you think.  
Wishing you all the best,  
- J. Meyers

*(See OVUHS, Page 41)*



## Congratulations to the Graduating Seniors of the Class of 2020!

You've persevered to successfully reach this milestone. We support you in your future hopes and aspirations!



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The Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce and all of our members are so very proud of the 2020 Otter Valley Graduates!

You should feel immense satisfaction in your ability to adapt to change and create a positive experience out of extremely difficult times! These attributes will serve you well as you move into the workplace and college settings. Best of luck as you march into your very bright futures.

Congratulations also go out to our Chamber of Commerce Senior/Junior Prize Award winner- Grace Coolidge! Keep up the good work!



## Congratulations Otter Valley Class of 2020

Reach for the Stars  
and Register to Vote!



Rep. Butch Shaw (R)  
bshaw@leg.state.vt.us

Rep. Stephanie Jerome (D)  
sjerome@leg.state.vt.us

Paid for by the candidates.

# Congratulations Class of 2020



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with the Totally New  
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# OVUHS

(Continued from Page 39)

Bonjour,

As you are about to part OV, I understand how bittersweet it must be for you. Let's not dwell on how your senior year was... unusual, to say the least... or as we say in French, *bizarre*.

Whether you have been in my classes, or our paths have crossed either in the hallways or in any other ways, I want to thank you for all these great moments, how short they might have been, that we shared. Go, set sail towards a brighter future, and do not forget to visit.

I *hate* goodbyes (*Adieu!* Ask Carolyn, Sawyer, Nick, Elie what it means in French), I'd rather say "*Au revoir,*" see you later.

The future is bright.

Be well, and come visit.

Dr. Sicot

Note to seniors from Mrs. Kimball:

I have been so impressed with how you all have handled this difficult time. Your culminating year is coming to an end far from how you ever imagined. Still, you have handled it with class and maturity. You are a class that will go down in history, not just because of COVID-19, but because you are a class made up of well-rounded young adults who are ready to change the world. It is now time to go out there and make your mark.

Message to seniors from Ms. Larrow:

"Seniors, I hold your class very close to my heart. You were my first group of 7th-graders that I've seen move all the way up through to graduation. We went through a lot together in middle school and I'm so proud to see how far you have all come. You are going to do amazing things and I wish you all the best! Stop by and say hello when you get the chance."



Message to seniors from Mr. Jeskie:

Mr. Jeskie wishes the best to the Class of 2020. You will be missed! Sorry that your senior year and your graduation ceremony was not quite what you thought it would be. Be sure to come back for regular visits!

A note from Mrs. Roberts for graduating seniors:

To the Class of 2020:

I am incredibly honored to know each and every one of you. Despite this horrible pandemic and all the sadness, heartache, disappointment and uncertainty it has wrought, you've somehow managed to find and maintain the motivation and resiliency necessary to carry on. To paraphrase the great actor Denzel Washington, you've "done what you needed to do so you can do what you want to do."

You should be extremely proud of yourselves and your ability to persevere despite the historic curveballs life has thrown at you; I certainly am!

So onward and upward, brave seniors. The best is yet to come!

xo,

Mrs. Roberts



# Otter Valley Union High School

2020

# GRADS



Aiden Purcell



Alexia Peake



Alia Edmunds



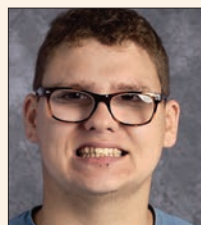
Alyza McKeighan



Ashlynn Depatie



Austasia Bryant



Austin Martindale



Caitlin Bixby



Cara Boudreau



Carolyn Lafontaine



Chaoqun Chao (Joe) Qun Niu



Charles Noble



Chrisma Brenenstuhl



Cole Booska



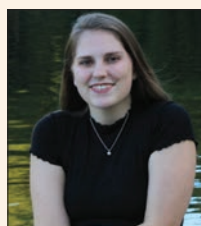
Daniel Wiles



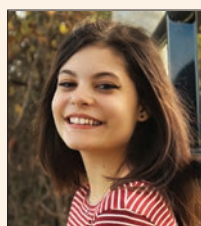
Eli King



Elinor Ross



Emily Doty



Emma Falquero



Evan Diaz



Grant Blow



Haleigh Pelkey



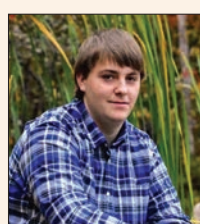
Haley Curtis



Ian Ouellette



Isabella Falco



Jacob Owen



Jacob Quenneville



Jarad Denis



Jocelyn Noble



Johan Harding



## Shayla Phillips • OVUHS

We are so proud of you!  
Can't wait to see what your future holds.

Love,  
Dad, Mom, Skylar & Jimi

### Otter Valley Union High School



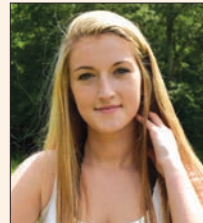
Jordan  
Lemieux



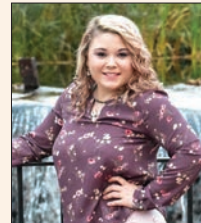
Julia  
Eastman



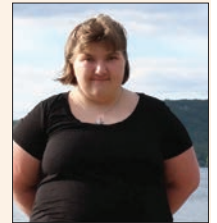
Julian  
Lopez



Kati  
Bashaw



Keisha  
Young



Kelsie  
Sunhawk



Kiara  
Corbett



Kirkland  
Disorda



Kristin  
Markie



Lauryl  
Blanchard



Leah  
Pinkowski



Livia  
Bernhardt



Logan  
Trombley



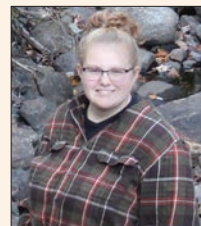
Madison  
French



Mary  
Kingsley



Mathew  
Hernandez



Mikaela  
Merrill



Morgan  
LaPorte



Nahum  
Sgorbati



Nathan  
Wilder



Nathaniel  
Blake



Nicholas  
John



Olivia  
White



Paul  
Schultz



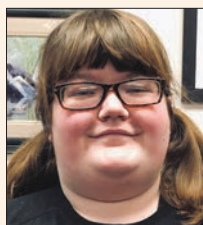
Phoebe  
Elliott



Renee  
O'Connell



Ryan  
Booska-Harvey



Samantha  
Hatch



Sawyer  
Pierpont



Shayla  
Phillips



Sophia  
Walker



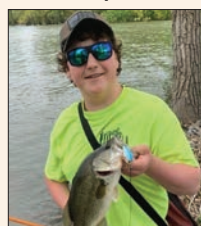
Spencer  
Pelkey



Stephanie  
Palmer



Tyler  
Boynton



Warren  
Ringy



# Proctor names Valedictorian and Salutatorian

PROCTOR — Proctor Junior/Senior High School would like to congratulate the class 2020 Valedictorian and Salutatorian; Joseph Valerio and Allison Almond. Their hard work over the last four years has earned them this recognition. Valerio, the son of Mathew and Joanne Valerio of Proctor, is president of the Class of 2020, and vice president of The National Honor Society. He



is Captain of Proctor High Schools' varsity soccer, baseball, and basketball teams. He also participates in Proctor's Mentorship program. Valerio plans to attend The University of Connecticut and study Actuarial Science.

Allison Almond, the daughter of Chris and Karen Almond of Proctor, is vice president for the class of 2020, and president of The National Honor Society. Almond is captain of the girls' varsity soccer and basketball teams, and led both to the state



**JOSEPH VALERIO**



**ALLISON ALMOND**

championships. She was also captain of Proctor High Schools' 2019 softball team. Almond plans to attend Castleton University, where she intends to study Health Sciences and continue her softball career playing with the Division

III Spartans.

Proctor High School wishes both Valerio and Almond the best of luck on their journey forward. Please join them in congratulating these two fabulous students.

# West Rutland names top students



West Rutland Valedictorian  
**Kiera Pipeling**

Kiera was recruited to play soccer at Averett University in Danville, Va. She plans to pursue a degree in Nursing.

She is a three-sport athlete and also holds the title of Miss Vermont Teen USA 2020.



West Rutland Salutatorian  
**Liam Beaulieu**

Liam plans to pursue a degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Vermont. He is a three-sport athlete.



West Rutland Salutatorian  
**Madison Guay**

Madison is pursuing a degree in Nursing at SUNY Adirondack in Queensbury, N.Y. She is a three-sport athlete.



Proctor High School

**2020 GRADS**

**Congratulations!**



Allie Almond



Amanda Reynolds



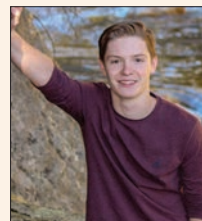
Brandon Colvin



DeAndre Burns



Gabe Parker



Hunter Manfredi



Joe Valerio



Liana Hall



Logan Starling



Lyndsey Elms



Maddie Flanders



Miranda Martin



Rileigh McKeighan



Sarah Varney



Scott Meighan



Solomon Parker



# Congratulations, Graduates!

**Congratulations Class of 2020!**

from all of us

**The REPORTER**  
*Brandon • Pittsford • Proctor • West Rutland*  
*Lake Dunmore, Leicester, Whiting, Southbury, Groton*

**ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT**  
Serving Addison County, Vt. Since 1946



**Congratulations!**

We are so proud of our OV graduates!

**Virgil AND Constance**  
Home & Garden

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802-247-0062 • Call 802-324-0613  
Tim and Mary Shields, owners

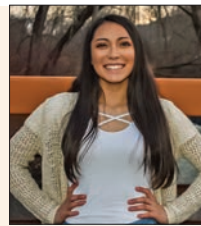




West Rutland  
Congrats!  
2020  
**GRADS**



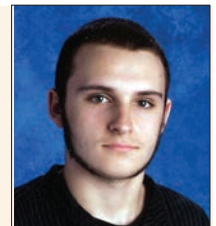
Alana Raymond



Alissa Covarrubias



Bailey Sevigny



Caleb Green



Carter Ransom



Deanna Kenyon



Jeneé McGee



Kenneth Lynch



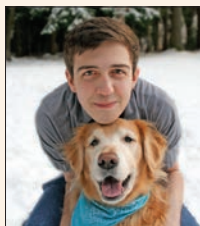
Kiera Pipeling



Kyle Laughlin



Liam Beaulieu



Lukas Wiskoski



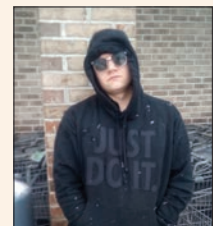
Madison Guay



Rebecca Sanderson



Ryan Smith



Terrel O Bara



Wayne Pease



Orwell  
Congrats!  
2020  
**GRADS**



Andrew Lanthier



Andrew Tenzer



Brianna Berstein



Cody Laduc



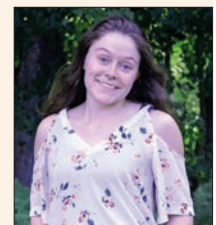
Furious Roy



Jonas Greene



Julianna Willaims



Kaitland Breen



Mark FitzGerald



Olivia Scher



Paige Cusanelli



Riley Ochs



Samuel Manley



Savannah Desrocher



# CONGRATS

## Addison

## County

## Seniors

## Class of

## 2020!



FROM ALL OF US AT  
NATIONAL BANK OF MIDDLEBURY,

# *Congratulations 2020 graduates!*

Although you've experienced a difficult conclusion to your high school career, it in no way lessens your achievements. Take pride in all your accomplishments as you move forward with confidence into the next phase of your life.

*Your graduation is a  
new beginning and we  
wish you the very best  
in all you do next!*



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