

High 25
 Low 8

SUBSCRIBER OF THE DAY

PETER PERKINS
Calais

SPOTLIGHT

"We do love our heroes. And we might need them right now more than ever. Stan Lee is an American hero who will certainly span the ages. We are lucky he has been part of our universe — flaws and all."

Editorial, A4
In the news
 One of the most vocal critics of the proposed Barre City-Barre Town school district merger has submitted a petition that will force a re-vote likely in mid-January. **A3**

Look for the Holiday Cookbook
 in today's paper!



Check it out online at
 www.timesargus.com/holidaycookbook

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LOTTERY

■ NOV. 13, 2018, DRAWS
 Midday: 5-2-9 and 9-0-9-9
 Evening: 1-4-6 and 1-1-9-5
 New York State:
 6-1-5 LS12 and 0-5-9-9 LS23

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ACT 46
'Forced merger' gets board nod

By **DAVID DELCORE**
 STAFF WRITER
 BARRE — A shotgun wedding wasn't their preference, but Barre school commissioners are urging the state Board of Education to pull the trigger on an Act 46-inspired school district merger, notwithstanding the objections of their counterparts in Barre Town. Proving two can play the

letter-writing game, school commissioners unanimously agreed Monday night to send one of their own to the state board, which is poised to make a threshold decision regarding what should become of the two-town, three-school Barre Supervisory Union starting next July. The state board's daylong session at the Barre Elks Lodge on

Thursday is expected to produce a final draft of a plan for dealing with school districts that were unable or unwilling to voluntarily merge under the three-year-old law — Act 46 — that encouraged and incentivized such alliances. Now Act 46 could actually compel them, prompting both local school boards to swiftly shift into letter-writing mode following Barre

Town voters' third straight rejection of a proposed merger. Days after Barre Town school directors agreed to request a reprieve in writing, Barre school commissioners endorsed a "forced merger" — one that would bring both communities' pre-K-8 school districts, as well as jointly owned, See Act 46, page A5



Merri Paquin, of Critter Meadows Family Farm, checks on her cows in Williamstown on Tuesday. After a barn fire in 2014, Paquin and her family have faced a number of challenges in an already volatile dairy industry, but as she put it, "we feel this is a life worth living."

Appeal made to save local cows

By **STEPHEN MILLS**
 STAFF WRITER
 WILLIAMSTOWN — A GoFundMe appeal has been launched to help a Williamstown dairy farm save its herd from starvation this winter. Critter Meadows Family Farm on Gilbert Road is in desperate need of \$30,000 to buy hay for its 90 head of dairy cows to feed them through the winter. The appeal comes after a series

of major disasters for the Paquin family in recent years, leading up to a crisis as cold weather sets in. In 2014, the cow barn burned, killing 59 of the 117-strong herd with another 30 cows dying two weeks after from respiratory illnesses associated with the fire. Soon after the fire, Dan Paquin suffered a traumatic brain injury in a tractor accident that has also left him suffering from seizures. Running the farm fell to his wife,

Marri, and their daughter, Jasmin, 29. Marri Paquin has had to devote much of her time caring for her husband while also trying to run the farm and a home cleaning business. A drought through much of this year has meant less haying for the cattle that has left the farm short of feed through the winter. Other recent medical problems for the family include their son, David Paquin, 36, who suffered a leg

injury in a logging accident but is expected to recover, and Marri Paquin who is dealing with kidney stone problems. It has been a long road to recovery for the family after the barn fire with finding other places to milk their cows, and rebuilding the barn and the size of the herd. But the lack of feed has left the family farm struggling. The family See Herd, page A8

Facos backs regional 911 dispatch center

By **STEPHEN MILLS**
 STAFF WRITER
 MONTPELIER — Support for a regional emergency dispatch center in central Vermont has come from Montpelier Police Chief Tony Facos. In a letter to be presented to Montpelier City Council on Wednesday, Facos addressed the proposal by the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority to coordinate dispatch service to improve response times and reduce overall costs of current services in Montpelier and Barre. Facos noted that Montpelier Police Department has participated in exploring options and ideas and supported the vision of regionalization, supplied data, made staff available for meetings, interviews and dispatch center observations, and provided professional opinions on emergency communications and public safety. "While this document will not directly answer all of the questions that city councilors, our partners and the community may have, it

will serve to highlight our collective thoughts on the CVPSA," Facos wrote. "First of all, we do believe that in Vermont, a true regionally supported approach to public safety services is the future." Facos said his department saw many advantages to a regional dispatch center. They include: — Better coordinated response of emergency personnel to the public and first responders in need. — Improved recruitment and retention of qualified staff by providing more career opportunities, competitive salary and benefits, continuous training and staff development, and enhanced technology that is financially out of reach of individual communities. — Coordinated planning, funding and management of a needed fire and EMS regional radio infrastructure replacement and upgrade for central Vermont, requiring a bond vote of between \$1.2 million to \$1.6 million, although it's See MPD, page A8

CLEANING UP



Snow sprays from a plow clearing a path along Route 2 in Middlesex on Tuesday. The storm was blamed for scores of accidents, including a fatal crash, around the state on Tuesday.

ATTEMPTED MURDER
Suspect is held without bail

By **ERIC BLAISDELL**
 STAFF WRITER
 BARRE — A Montpelier man will remain held without bail in his attempted murder case. A bail review hearing for Tyreke Morton, 19, concluded Tuesday in Washington County criminal court with Judge Kirstin K. Schoonover ruling Morton will continue to be held without bail. Morton pleaded not guilty to two felony counts of attempted murder in November 2017.

If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of life in prison. Morton is being held without bail at Northern State Correctional Facility in Newport. Tuesday's hearing was a continuance of the hearing started Friday when Morton's attorney, Dawn Seibert, of the Defender General's office, argued her client should be released to a facility run by Spectrum Youth & Family Services in Burlington. Morton wouldn't have been at the facility 24/7, so Seibert said she had multiple people willing to supervise Morton when he was not at the facility. She said she wasn't contesting that the evidence against Morton was great, but argued his defense would revolve around his diminished capacity at the time of the incident. She said outside that incident, where Morton experienced a psychotic episode, many people would testify that See Morton, page A5