

Lynn left behind their father's dusty but cozy newsrooms for college and careers.

Now they are back. Elsie, 26, moved home in 2010 after she ran out of money while working and traveling through Asia. She manages two of her father's weeklies in the Burlington suburbs of Colchester and Essex.

Polly, 29, returned in 2011 from Denver, and has thrown herself into running the weekly newspaper in Killington, the popular ski town. Christy, 28, moved back in June after her boyfriend finished graduate school in Vancouver. She helps her father, Angelo, running the business side of Middlebury's paper, The Addison County Independent.

It is conventional wisdom that newspapers are a fading enterprise. Last month, the Tribune Company bought 19 local television stations even as it sought to sell its portfolio of papers, and twice in August, big-city papers changed hands: The New York Times sold The Boston Globe and other properties for \$70 million, after paying \$1.1 billion for The Globe 20 years ago, and the Graham family said it would sell The Washington Post after eight decades of ownership.

But instead of fleeing the newspaper business, the Lynn sisters have embraced it, and not just because it is part of their heritage.

"I've grown up in the papers," said Elsie Lynn. "But I don't think that's the reason I'm in it. The future is exciting for me. We have this chance and this opportunity to be pioneers and change our career and change this industry."

The papers the Lynn sisters help run have been surprisingly profitable. They have not faced bankruptcy like newspapers of the Tribune Company including The Los Angeles Times and haven't cut coverage like The Times-Picayune of New Orleans. In these parts of Vermont, where Internet connections are less reliable and winter snowstorms can block roads for days, readers often prefer print.

Mr. Lynn said that he had run his newspapers debt-free for a decade. While his papers aren't making money yet from their digital efforts, his newspaper and phone book businesses generate about \$4.5 million in gross revenue.

"We can't afford not to make money," Mr. Lynn said as he sat in his office here surrounded by photographs of his daughters, the family dogs dozing loudly nearby. "There's no future losing money in any of these papers."

It helps that Mr. Lynn has a long history in the business. His great-grandfather, Charles Scott, bought The Iola Register in Kansas in 1882. Mr. Lynn was raised upstairs from the offices of another nearby Kansas paper called The Humboldt Union. In 1984, Angelo Lynn bought The Addison County Independent in Vermont and started building up his chain of papers. Mr. Lynn's older brother, Emerson, owns two papers with his wife, Suzanne, and Angelo as well as two other Vermont papers.

Angelo Lynn speaks fondly of the newspaper life. He spends his weekends hiking and skiing with his daughters and weekdays churning out enterprising local journalism.

"Once you become part of a community, you see the good that a paper does," Mr. Lynn said. "That's very fulfilling." His daughters' newspaper futures were less certain. When Elsie Lynn arrived at the newsroom of The Colchester Sun and The Essex Reporter, she had never studied journalism or held a journalism job. She wasn't convinced she wanted to work with her father and uncle.

"I've said, 'Man, I don't know, Dad, if this is what I want to do,'" she said as she sat in her threadbare newspaper office in a converted stable space on the outskirts of Colchester. "He said 'No pressure.'"

She settled in, typing up wedding announcements, but before long her father asked her to review the papers' finances. Elsie discovered they were owed \$120,000 from advertisers. In three months, she collected \$90,000. She also saved her father labor costs by absorbing multiple job titles. Elsie said she often logged 13-hour days writing and editing stories and promoting them on social media.

Polly Lynn was living in Colorado working for an educational tour company with her partner, Jason Mikula, when her father received an offer to buy The Mountain Times in Killington. Mr. Lynn asked the couple, who were already thinking of moving, to come to Vermont to run it. The couple took over in September 2011 just as Hurricane Irene hit and Killington was hit with some of the storm's worst flooding. She produced the first editions from her father's dining room table.

Since then, Polly said, she has kept a non-stop schedule of publishing deadlines and has designed a hyper-local news app for Killington. She spends evenings attending town planning meetings and winters skiing with sources and advertisers.

There has already been a payoff. Polly and Mr. Mikula increased the paper's revenue by 15 percent, or about \$100,000, by improving editorial content and strengthening its advertising relationships, according to Mr. Lynn.

Mike Miller, a Killington business owner and former selectman, said local businesses appreciated the couple's forthright approach: when they made early mistakes on advertisements, they admitted they were wrong, fixed them and even offered to make more creative advertisements. They also appreciate the couple's efforts to participate in the community.

"I'm just amazed at their energy," Mr. Miller said. "If there's something that there are going to be more than 10 people there, they cover it."

In some ways, Christy Lynn had the toughest transition. While her sisters work at papers an hour's drive from their father, she works steps away from him. Her father focuses on editorial content, and she oversees the advertising sales team and comes up with new promotions.

She has accomplished some small coups. She realized that the Waterfalls Day Spa in Middlebury was promoting itself on social media but did not advertise much in the paper. So she persuaded the owners to advertise more in both the paper and online. Mr. Lynn said that advertising revenue grew 6 percent in this year's first quarter under Christy's watch.

Gary Greene, a newspaper sales broker, said successful community newspapers shared specific traits. Unlike larger newspapers, local community papers have little debt and don't depend heavily on classified advertising. They hire enough employees to report on town meetings and sports events and publish material people can't find elsewhere. They are in county seats, where they receive legal notices and advertisements from local businesses.

Mr. Greene, who sits on the boards of small newspaper chains nationwide and sees their financial statements, says those qualities are critical to profitability.

"These papers have all made money through the downturn," Mr. Greene said. "What other business categories are doing 15 to 20 percent margins? Most businesses would love to make that kind of money."

For now, newspaper analysts say these papers' futures remain promising as long as they remain the sole information source. Alan D. Mutter, a newspaper consultant who writes the Reflections of a Newsosaur blog,

said that there was still value in information like school lunch menus and high school sports scores.

"Weeklies in healthy communities that do a good job reporting on local news and serving local businesses are by far the healthiest of publications," he said.

"The Messenger has been in business for 150 years," said Emerson Lynn, referring to one of his Vermont papers, The St. Albans Messenger. "Do I think Google is going to be in existence for 150 years? Not a chance."

It's unclear how long the Lynn sisters will work in newspapers. While Mr. Lynn has made no succession plans, he also doesn't want to sell. While some of the nation's largest papers are being sold for a small fraction of their purchase price, the market for smaller community papers is healthier. Mr. GREENE, the newspaper broker, said that this year his company closed eight deals with 23 publications, nearly double the sales volume in 2011 and 2012. And the resale value of smaller newspapers—the deals worth less than \$20 million—is higher than that of bigger papers and chains.

It also helps that the Lynn family seems committed to the business. In March, Angelo and his wife, Lisa Gosselin, invited his brood and their partners and dogs for dinner at his home, a renovated camp building on Lake Dunmore. Dinner conversation revolved around food, skiing and newspapers. Polly warned her father to expect calls of complaint about a forthcoming article.

None of them talked about how long they would remain in the business. But long after they finished their dessert of poached pears and blueberry pie, they lingered at the table to chat. Before they left, Elsie remembered that The Colchester Sun was sponsoring a cold-water dive into Lake Champlain.

"Who is going to jump in the lake with me?" she asked.

There was a flurry of reporterlike questions: "How cold is the water? When is it?"

But one by one, they all agreed to take the plunge.

TRIBUTE TO JIMMY ROSE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a Kentuckian who has become a hero to many in my home state and across the country for his honest and moving portrayal of life in southeastern Kentucky. I am speaking of Jimmy Rose, the man from Pineville who has risen to fame this summer for his appearances on the television show "America's Got Talent" and his performance of the hit song "Coal Keeps the Lights On."

Last night, millions of Americans tuned in to see Jimmy's performance in the final round of the competition, held in New York City. I know I speak for thousands of Kentuckians when I say that no matter what the outcome tonight, he is truly a winner in our hearts, and his original song is a winner with people all over.

Jimmy is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who learned how to play guitar from a fellow marine while deployed in Iraq. He has worked as a coal miner and he himself wrote the song "Coal Keeps the Lights On" to raise awareness about how excessive regulations are hurting jobs in his hometown and in the coal industry.

Coal is part of a vital energy sector in the State of Kentucky. But Jimmy

is tired of seeing coal mining jobs disappear from Pineville, from his native Bell County, and from the region. I agree with him, 100 percent.

From Jimmy's first appearance on "America's Got Talent" earlier this summer, he became a phenomenon. People could identify with the words he sang, and they could identify with his courteous disposition and steadfast character as the trademarks of the people of southeastern Kentucky. Fans across the country have happily supported, voted for, and sung along with Jimmy Rose.

I commend Jimmy Rose for putting a face on a problem that is all too often overlooked by some in Washington—the plight of the coal miner and the many hard-working Kentuckians whose jobs are related to the coal industry. In these difficult economic times, we should be doing everything we can to protect these jobs and protect a way of life for thousands of families.

I think Jimmy's message is an important one. And I want to congratulate Jimmy Rose for all his success to date. I am certain that we will be hearing much more from him in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL MARK D. GUADAGNINI

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, today I honor a superb leader, aviator, and American. After more than 33 years of service to a grateful nation, RADM Mark D. Guadagnini is retiring from the United States Navy and his position as the Director of U.S. Fleet Forces Command's Maritime Headquarters. On this occasion, I believe it is fitting to recognize Rear Admiral Guadagnini's years of distinguished service and dedication to fostering the relationship between the military and this Chamber.

Rear Admiral Guadagnini is a 1980 distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. Over the course of his career, he participated in six combat Operations, including Desert Storm, Provide Comfort, Deliberate Force, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom, accumulating almost 5000 hours of flight time and accomplishing nearly 100 combat missions. He has led at the highest levels of operational aviation command at Strike Fighter Attack Squadron 15, Carrier Air Wing 17, and Carrier Strike Group NINE.

In addition to his impressive accomplishments at sea, he was also one of our most well-rounded officers, serving as a test pilot, flag aide, fleet staff officer, manpower distribution officer, a Capitol Hill liaison, and, not coincidentally, as one of my first and best legislative fellows 20 years ago. While in the flag ranks, Rear Admiral Guadagnini leveraged his expertise serving as the chief of Naval Air Training; head of Human Resources for the Naval Aviation Enterprise; Deputy Commander for Fleet Management at U.S. Fleet

Forces Command, and lastly, as the director of Maritime Headquarters at U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

I could not be prouder of the accomplishments that "Guad" has earned while wearing the uniform of the world's greatest fighting force. His impact, particularly in the aviation community, will continue well into the future and our navy and nation will feel his absence. I wish him and his whole family "fair winds and following seas."

TRIBUTE TO DR. MILTON RUSH

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished teacher and agricultural scientist, Dr. Milton C. Rush. Dr. Rush devoted his career to his students, his research, and his tireless efforts to protect and enhance one of our most important sources of nutrition.

Dr. Rush began his career in rice pathologies in 1970 as a professor at Louisiana State University after receiving a doctor of philosophy degree in plant pathology from North Carolina State University. For the next 40 years at Louisiana State University, Dr. Rush has provided the agricultural community with invaluable research on rice pathology that has greatly benefited farmers throughout the State of Louisiana and the Nation. Under his leadership, the LSU rice program experienced its greatest years of agricultural research expansion and development. Through his years of service as an educator and pathologist, Dr. Rush created enduring changes in a wide breadth of research and direction to impact and improve the lives of countless students, rice growers and consumers within and throughout his community.

Perhaps Dr. Rush's greatest accomplishment came in his development of a new rice variety, which he named after his beloved wife, Blanca Isabel. This new high-yielding, early harvest, long-grain rice variety was the culmination of decades of research focusing on the epidemiology and control of rice diseases, rice tissue transformation, and the breeding of disease-resistant rice strains. This new purple rice is bred in Louisiana and contains anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant properties. His outstanding development of a more healthful and nutritious variety of rice will continue to provide unparalleled benefits to the citizens and communities of Louisiana and the Nation, delivering an improved alternative for generations to come.

Dr. Rush has been honored frequently during his distinguished career. Among these honors are the Florence Avalon Daggett Professorship in Rice Pathology, the LSU AgCenter's Distinguished Service Award, the Sedberry Award for outstanding graduate professorship, memberships to the American Phytopathological Society, the Rice Technical Working Group, the Germplasm Advisory Committee, and

two terms as president of the Louisiana Plant Protection Association Constitution Committee. Dr. Rush's career leaves a legacy of accomplishment and dedication to his family and all those who are a part of the agricultural communities that his tireless work impacted.

Dr. Rush has been and continues to be an inspiration to all those who have benefited from his decades of service to the field of rice pathology. It is with my heartfelt and greatest sincerity that I ask my colleagues to join me along with Dr. Rush's family in recognizing the life and many accomplishments of this incredible mentor, professor, and agricultural scientist, as well as his lasting impact throughout the Nation.

AIR FORCE 66TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today—September 18—marks the Air Force's 66th birthday. For 66 years, our Nation has entrusted the Air Force with preserving peace and freedom, and defending our democracy. Since its beginnings on July 26, 1947, when President Harry Truman signed the National Security Act of 1947 on board the presidential aircraft, the Sacred Cow, and set the creation of the United States Air Force in motion, to its instrumental role in the wars of Iraq and Afghanistan, the Air Force has always served America admirably and I have every confidence that it will continue in this proud tradition.

The Air Force tracks its origins back to 1907, when the Wright Brothers conducted the world's first airplane flight over the sands of Kitty Hawk, NC. Just like the Wright Brothers whose innovation spurred aviation, the vast success and numerous achievements of the Air Force would not be possible without the talented Airmen who fuel innovation today, enabling the Air Force to fly faster, further, and utilize technology that the Wright Brothers could not have imagined over 100 year ago.

Today, the United States Air Force is the largest, most capable, and most technologically advanced air force in the world, with about 5,300 manned aircraft in service, 246 Unmanned Combat Air Vehicles, and 450 intercontinental ballistic missiles. The Air Force prides itself on five core missions; Air and Space Superiority; Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance; Rapid Global Mobility; Global Strike; and Command and Control. The Air Force's commitment to core missions illustrates its vast capability and has remained steadfast since the Air Force's establishment as a separate service 66 years ago. Our amazing Airmen today are constantly adapting and improving to meet the challenges of a fast-paced security environment and an ever-evolving battlespace across the globe.

The United States Air Force is, and will continue to be, the United States' key asymmetric advantage across the spectrum of conflict. Whether responding to a national security threat, a