

JOURNAL

OPINION

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SAFE IN MOMMA'S WINGS—This mourning dove mother has two of her babies snuggling close to her in a nest in Hartford, VT. It is the fourth batch of babies for this dove this season.

COURTESY PHOTO BY DELORES DREW

Hearing held on detention center

by Alex Nuti-de Biasi

NEWBURY—Dozens of residents who oppose a state plan to develop a juvenile detention center in rural Newbury registered their objections at a state land use hearing on Aug. 25.

The Vermont Department of Children and Families and the nonprofit Becket Family of Services want to remodel a two-story building on Stevens Place which was originally a bed and breakfast and which Becket had been running as a treatment center for several years. It will hold up to six male offenders, aged 12-17, in state custody. The facility and property will still be owned and operated by Becket subsidiary Vermont Permanency Initiative, but it will be leased to DCF and renovated with state funds.

Currently, Vermont lacks a juvenile detention and treatment center after the closure of Woodside in Essex last year.

The Vermont Natural Resources Board's local commission held a site visit and public hearing last week as part of its review under Act 250, after an application was filed in July. The project is also subject to local review by the Newbury Development Review Board. A hearing has not yet been scheduled. DCF and Becket also coordinated three online forums for community members last winter.

Last week's hearing convened at the site of the former B&B on Stevens Place near Leighton Hill Road. After about an hour on site, the hearing reconvened at the Bradford Academy for another 4.5 hours.

For the most part, the hearing represented an opportunity for the applicants and its architects to generally describe the proposal and the changes that will be made to the existing property.

Although the building's existing

exterior will largely remain the same, the former B&B's interior will be completely renovated and refurbished, according to Jeff Wasser of project architect Studio Nexus.

"The character of the building will remain rural," he said. "The work consists of gutting the lower level and building new bedrooms, classrooms, offices, and multipurpose rooms."

In addition to building renovations, the proposal also calls for the development of a 4,500-square-foot, fenced-in basketball court and exercise area that will double as the facility's intake and emergency egress area. Other than the basketball court, officials said the juvenile detainees will remain indoors at all times. There will be a new 300-square-foot enclosed patio as well.

There will be a central office

See Hearing on page 8

Board hears roads, speed complaints

by Alex Nuti-de Biasi

ORFORD—The Orford Selectboard voted to accept the first installment of its American Rescue Plan Act funds following a public hearing last week.

The board held a brief hearing at the start of its regularly scheduled meeting on Aug. 25 to discuss whether to accept \$68,100 in coronavirus relief funding. There was little, if any, public input.

And while there was some discussion about using the funds to build out the town's broadband internet infrastructure, the three board members unanimously agreed to set the money aside for now.

"Where does the money go and when can it go?" said Chase Kling. "It's going to have to be delegated to an account. It may take a warrant article at town meeting before the board can spend the money."

Board chair John Adams and board member Fred Kidder agreed. The vote to accept the money was unanimous.

Since this is Orford, the town's roads and those who drive them pervaded much of the meeting.

A group of village residents attended the meeting in Orfordville in person to lobby the board to take action on speeding.

"The situation on Bridge Street is much worse in the last two to three years," said Lawrence Duffy. "It's not out-of-staters. It's Vermont and New Hampshire plates. My personal hope is that some additional resources be obtained to issue tickets and fine people."

Duffy added that walking across the street to his mailbox can be "harrowing experience."

Orford Police Chief Jason Bachus acknowledged that he gets a lot of complaints about speeding in the village and elsewhere.

"I'd like to do more directed patrols and enforcement, but I've been chained to the desk this year with paperwork and at the courts," he said.

He noted there are two possible solutions. One is the acquisition of electronic signs that alert drivers to their speeds as they pass while retaining that data for future study. Fairlee, where Bachus is part-time chief, has some of those signs.

"It's been a wealth of help over there," he said. But this is not the first time the topic of electronic speed signs have come up in Orford.

See Complaints on page 5

Students start without masks

by Alex Nuti-de Biasi

NORTHHAVERHILL—For the third time in the last three months, the Haverhill Cooperative School Board decided against requiring students to wear masks at the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Holding a special meeting on Aug. 26 to solicit public input on reopening plans, board members narrowly rejected a proposal to impose a student mask mandate for the first month of school when the six board members attending the session deadlocked 3-3 on the motion. They also declined to require facial coverings for staff members while empowering the superintendent to change the schedule, require masks, or make other pandemic-related adjustments on an emergency interim basis.

The special meeting, school board chair Dick Guy said, came in response to letters from teachers and parents who asked the board to reconsider in the wake of their previous votes on masks.

"None of us asked for the Covid issue to come around, but it looks like it'll stick around for a while," he said.

Members of the public and school staff who spoke last week were closely divided on the issue with 10 speaking in favor of some form of mask requirements while seven said they opposed a mandate asking that parents be permitted to make the decision for their children.

Most in favor of masks said they were responding to rising caseloads throughout New Hampshire where the 7-day rolling average of new cases has gone from 16 on June 25 to 336 on Aug. 29.

"Mask wearing is the only mitigation tool at our disposal," said parent Jim O'Hearn.

Resident Mike Thompson urged the district to adopt a facial covering requirement for just the first few weeks of school before reassessing the situation.

"I cannot for the life of me see why wearing a mask is such a hard thing to do," added Suzie Szczepanik, an aide at Woodsville Elementary School. "I don't see why this is such a hard decision since we can save someone's life."

But others urged restraint, arguing that the decision should be a parent's choice or that masks impeded emotional or learning development.

"Masks are a family decision," said parent Dave Long, who said he opted for full remote learning last

year instead of attendance with masks on. "This was a big hardship."

Dr. Ilma Galeote, a Littleton child mental health therapist, said she has seen some regression among students who were forced to wear masks last year.

"Visual cues are critical," she said, adding children only have a "narrow window" to learn them.

"The worst thing for an immune system is fear," she said. "The best thing—give them an example of not being afraid."

After over an hour of public input, the board members discussed among themselves and proposed several various motions. Board members rejected one proposal to require masks until students aged 5-12 were eligible for vaccinations and another to require masks for elementary students, but not high school students.

Then they took up a motion to consider requiring masks for all students until Oct. 4 when the school board could review the situation at a regularly scheduled

See Masks on page 5

OUUSD floats idea of student representation

by Lillian Gahagan

BRADFORD—High school students could get a spot on the local school board.

At the meeting on Aug. 25, members of the Oxbow Unified Union School District board discussed adding a student representative from Oxbow High School or River Bend Career and Technical Center on the school board that oversees schools in Bradford and Newbury.

"We'd like to re-start that conversation," OUUSD Chair Danielle Corti said. "What would students think?"

The discussion comes as board members start to develop a nickname for the district as many community members believe the formal name and, even, its initials are a mouthful. Student perspectives and their ideas would be helpful as the board considers this and other issues.

The state board of education has had student representation for years. Corti stated that having a representative from the student body on the board would invite students to become more involved.

Corti will reach out to Oxbow

Principal Jean Wheeler to ask her to take a look at the idea and where to go with it. Meanwhile social studies teacher Ted Pogacar said he would be happy to bring the topic before the student council.

Also during this meeting, the board accepted the resignation of board member Timm Judas of Newbury.

Judas wrote that his resignation was effective immediately and also included any other position he has held in the Orange East Supervisory Union board, strategic planning committee or related committees. Angela Colbeth volunteered to take Judas's place on the facilities committee.

Corti expressed her gratitude for Judas's work on the board especially during the first two years following the merger "when we were having a rough time."

According to the discussion, the board has 30 days to appoint a new member who would serve until the next election in April 2022.

Corti reported on the Aug. 17

See OUUSD on page 5

Board does U-turn on ARPA plan

by Alex Nuti-de Biasi

WOODSVILLE—After two previous votes to spend federal coronavirus relief funds on a plan proposed by the town's precincts, the Haverhill Selectboard reversed course on Monday night.

The board voted 3-2 to reconsider its motion approved two weeks ago following a two-hour public hearing that was attended by dozens of people. It then voted 3-2 to retain the funds for a plan as proposed by Haverhill Town Manager Brigitte Codling.

The vote on Aug. 30 came under an agenda item listed as "old business." Neither ARPA nor a reconsideration of the Aug. 16 vote were explicitly warned on Monday night's agenda as posted to the town website.

Monday night's discussion was brief, if raw at times.

"We need to look at [ARPA] one more time," said chair Fred Garofalo

before reading from a prepared statement. Although he joined the majority on Aug. 16, he said he had changed his mind in the 14 days since.

The precincts' spending plan is infrastructure intensive. Mountain Lakes has indicated it would use the funds toward water main replacement and developing a new drinking water source. Woodsville would apply the funding toward sewage treatment plant upgrades. North Haverhill wants to replace water meters and Haverhill Corner wants to purchase land around its water wells.

The town's plan would help cover shelter costs for the town's homeless as administered through the municipal welfare program, an unanticipated increase in the

See U-turn on page 5



Becket's Jay Wolter (left) and Vermont Permanency Initiative's Lara Saffo (right) speak with two Newbury residents during a site visit and hearing last week.

JO PHOTO BY ALEX NUTI-DE BIASI

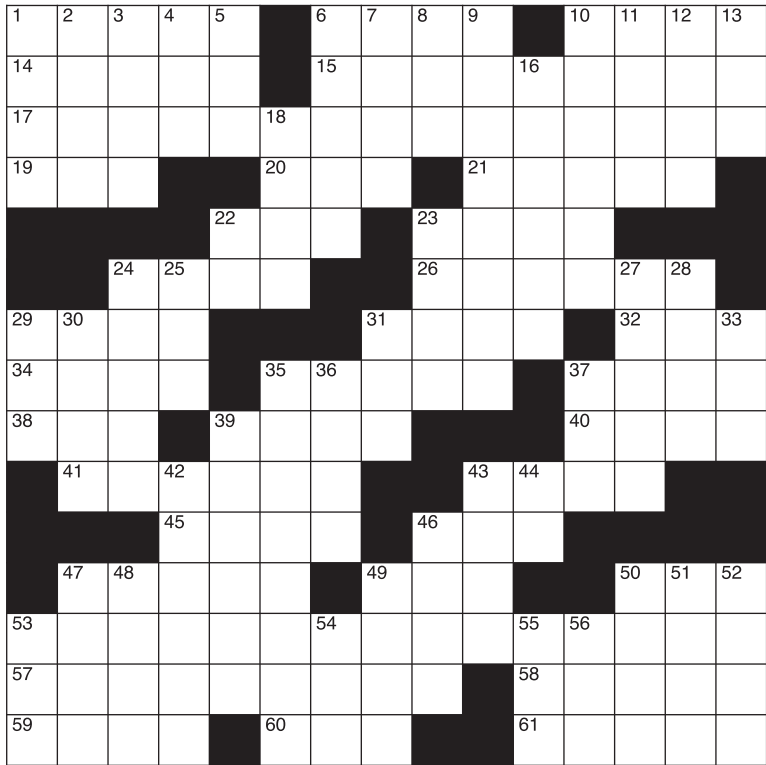


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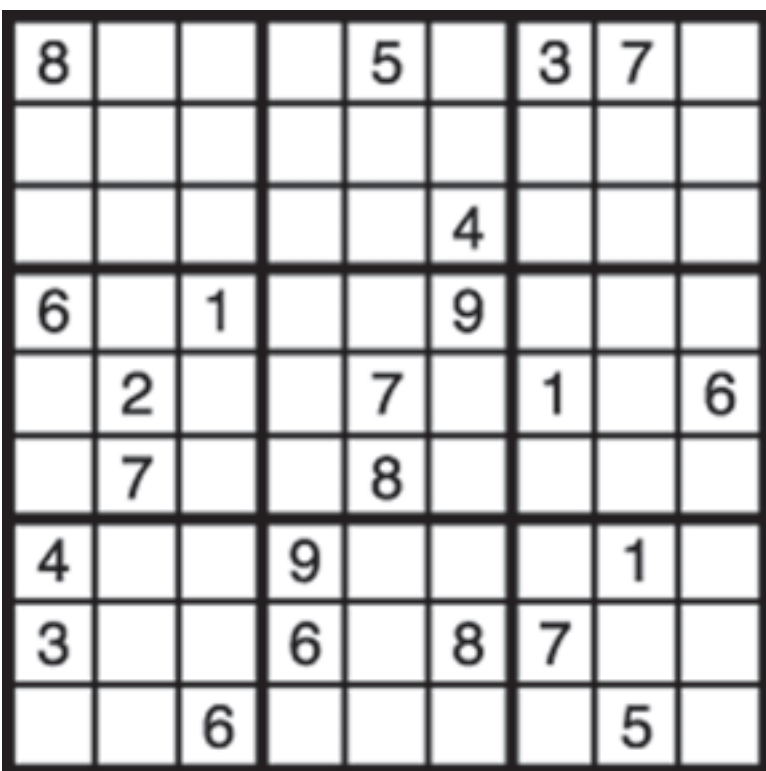
1. Secret clique
6. Earliest in and out
10. Ancient Egyptian symbol of life
14. Olfactory property
15. Kidnapping
17. Golf prize
19. Helps little firms
20. Cast a spell on
21. Panama is one
22. Dishonorable man
23. Sea eagle
24. Part of the healing process
26. Vin's last name
29. Wings
31. Made older
32. Political device
34. Looks like a rabbit
35. Gurus
37. Philippine Island
38. Not or
39. Hindu model of ideal man
40. Exam
41. Making less difficult
43. Without
45. Dravidian ethnic group
46. A baglike structure
47. Buenos Aires capital La ___
49. Dab
50. Singers who perform together
53. Pirates' saying
57. OK to allude to
58. Somaliland diplomat
59. Has to pay back
60. Felix is one
61. Intestinal pouches

CLUES DOWN

1. Harsh cries of a crow
2. Type of horse
3. ___ fide: authentic
4. Doctors' group
5. Fugitives are on it
6. Forged
7. Wild goat
8. Influential American president
9. Calls for help
10. Repents
11. Palm tree with creeping roots
12. Black powder used in makeup
13. Happy New Year
16. Stretched out one's neck
18. Whale ship captain
22. Atomic #20
23. Border
24. River that borders India and Nepal
25. After B
27. Fencing swords
28. Where researchers work
29. Expression of satisfaction
30. Broadway actor Nathan
31. Heavy, heat-retaining stove
33. A way to eliminate
35. Type of tree resin
36. Russian river
37. Children's TV network
39. Troublemaker
42. Averts or delays
43. Self-immolation by fire ritual
44. It cools your home
46. Satisfy to the fullest
47. Stinks!
48. Popular board game
49. Attack by hurling
50. A vale
51. Type of acid
52. Tasmania's highest mountain
53. No seats available
54. Licensed for Wall Street
55. Family of genes
56. Constrictor snake

ANSWERS ON PAGE 7

SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

WORD SEARCH

L T C O L U S E I R A L L I P A C C V S
 T N M I T U S H I E C R V C B K N H Y I
 R C R U M A O B U N O A E H S O L F A K
 A H L F I E N I O Y I G A K V N G G A H
 E A V V V R H T E E F A F M A K I F K Y
 H M U V E N T C I Y A Y P M E M I E M Y
 M B T Y C U A A S C H L H L M B E U V D
 H E G A H C A R D I O L O G I S T C A E
 R R I N O S I D N C U A T A N G I N A L
 Y Y G G C E R C O T O L G S Y C S B T P
 R U F I A V F I O K O H C U E T L G E M
 M C B O R L S B B O C B V T L H B Y L S
 O O U P D A A E L S T I A T T A C K P B
 L R U L I V T G N L A T I N E G N O C M
 R O L A O H Y P E R T E N S I O N T I G
 A N Y S G N Y V E N T R I C L E Y O S U
 O A E T R G R S E I R E T R A A T R O A
 I R V Y A L P U P L F D H N C R D L C D
 D Y Y Y M I G E H V Y A S G D E U C I Y
 A N G I O G R A M C U T C A T H E T E R

Newbury

Edee Thurston
(802) 866-5532

Dennis Goodrich from Norwich continues to periodically call on his friend, Mal Wetherell, at the Montebello Apartments.

Erich and Jennifer Mann and boys from Berkeley Heights, NJ called on Edee Thurston recently.

Joanne Clogston recently spent four days in Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center.

Val Longley and friend Elvan Brooks from Cleveland, TN spent time this summer in the area with family and friends.

Several of Edee Thurston's school classmates from the Class of 1953 at Bradford Academy recently met for lunch.

Syd Lea was in first place in an six mile kayak race in West Grand Lake, ME.

Lynda Goodrich spent the weekend with her son Tim and family in Maine recently.

Celina Wright took Edee Thurston to church in Barnet Center and then to the Comerford Dam beach in Monroe for a swim and cookout.

Mal Wetherell was in the hospital in Manchester, NH, but is back home and doing well.

Lynda Goodrich was hospitalized in Plymouth, NH due to a reaction to medicine.

Sydney Lea from Oakland, CA has been visiting with her parents, Robin Barone and Syd Lea.

Celebrating September birthdays are Brian Collins, Brandon Foster, Phyllis Vogel, Brian Emerson, Janis Moore, Babe Rowden and Nicole Hebb.

Bryson and Melissa Thurston had a vacation at Hampton Beach.

Phyllis Vogel spent a week with her friends, Joyce Gordon and Evelyn Haight, in Stamford, CT.

Sylvia McGaffey spent a weekend camping at Pleasant Valley Campground on Tickenaked Pond in Ryegate.

Elizabeth Killian from East Montpelier called on Selenda Girardin. Elizabeth used to own a frame shop in Bradford.

Janice Haradon visited her parents, Bob and Elsie Haradon.

On Aug. 29, the Newbury Congregational Church held a barbecue for the community at the Green Space.

The Vermont Eco studies from Norwich did a survey on the Lady beetle on Sleepers Meadow Trail. Many years ago, they did the same type of survey and found 38 different species. This time they were missing 12 species.

Phyllis Vogel just returned from a two week vacation with her daughter Beth and family in Montana.

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Farm hosts pol's wedding

NEWBURY—Four Corners Farm hosted the wedding of Vermont Lt. Gov. Molly Gray and Michael Palm on Aug. 28 in Newbury.

Palm is a captain for Republic Airways. Gray grew up on the farm and was elected the Lt. Gov. of Vermont in 2020. The couple met in Burlington where they were introduced by mutual friends. The private nuptials took place outdoors on the bride's family farm overlooking the Connecticut River.

Twilight party returns Sept. 4

BROWNINGTON VILLAGE—The Old Stone House Museum's annual Twilight Stars Party will return after a year off due to COVID-19 at 5 p.m. on Sept. 4. The festivities will feature live music with Evansville Transit Authority, food with Runaway Tomato and the Ladies Aid Society of Brownington, a beer garden and astronomy with Bobby Farlice-Rubio from the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium.

Held on Prospect Hill in the museum's historic village, the party starts at the base of the hill with music, food and drink. Families of all ages are encouraged to attend together to enjoy games for children and then later to gaze at the late summer night sky. At twilight, Farlice-Rubio will lead participants to the top of the hill where a bevy of telescopes will be on hand to journey through the cosmos.

The Old Stone House was erected by Corinth native Alexander Twilight.

GRAB N GO

NORTH HAVERHILL—Horse Meadow Senior Center provides a drive through hot Grab N Go meal each Tuesday and Thursday from 11:15 a.m. to 12 p.m. Grab N Stay meals are also available. Masks are required. The procedure is check in, order and pay, the meal will be brought to the car, and drive out. Meals are \$3 for those over 60 and \$5 for all others.

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Moving Forward signing up volunteers

BRADFORD—Moving Forward Together is looking for volunteers to join task forces in the following categories: Advance Resiliency, Sustainability, Alternative Energy, and Agriculture Build Town Capacity and Expand and Improve Recreational Facilities and Programming and Build & Skate Park. Anyone who would like to join any one or more of these task forces can email jenna@vtrural.org.

The final meeting in the Moving Forward Together Process is on Sept. 20 from 6:30-9 p.m. Location is to be determined. At this meeting, task forces will come together for the first time to build action plans and identify resources to move the work forward.

4-Hers excel at working steer show

BRADFORD—Orange County 4-H'ers captured the top two places in the State 4-H Working Steer show Aug. 14 in Bradford.

Siblings Joey and Amanda Ferris of Braintree placed first and second, respectively, overall in the competition, which was held at the Connecticut Valley Fairgrounds. The show, which was open to all current 4-H working steer project members, ages 8-18, also included several exhibitors from New Hampshire.

University of Vermont Extension 4-H sponsored the event, which was judged by Terri Chamberlin of Pomfret. Chamberlin is an adult leader for the Green Mountain Teamsters 4-H club, based in Pomfret. Amanda, 17, and Joey, 14, are longtime members of the Clever Clovers 4-H Club in Tunbridge and have been entered in the 4-H working steer project for many years.

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CLARA MARTIN CENTER

Fall festival returns on a tractor

WELLS RIVER—The Wells River Action Program's So Long Summer, Hello Fall Festival is returning on Sept. 4 in downtown Wells River from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This year, the festival will feature a new event as Wells River Chevrolet is hosting a classic tractor show. Antique tractors of all shapes, sizes and colors, (think Ford Gray, John Deere Green, Farmall Red, and Allis Chalmers Orange) will leave P&H at 10:15 a.m. and drive down to Wells River Chevrolet passing through downtown Wells River by 11 a.m. The tractors will remain at Wells River Chevrolet until 1 p.m.

The giant zucchini contest, the WRAP bake sale at the Welcome Center, and the Baldwin Memorial Library book sale will all be returning. The rubber ball river race on the Wells River, however, will not return this year. The Cohase Chamber hopes to have the race running again next year.

Main Street will be lined with over 35 booths selling a wide variety items including antiques, handmade crafts, knitted items and linens, CBD products, doll clothes and paper flowers, wreaths, nail polish strips, candles, wind-chimes, photo cards, and prints, yard sale and household items, men grooming products and toys, plus many more items.

A number of raffles and free drawings will also be available, including offerings from Ross-Wood Post #20 American Legion, Cottage Hospital, The Mentoring Project, Tuttle's Diner, Dads 4 By Tools, WRAP, and Camp Farwell for Girls, which will have a booth and a drawing for a two-week camp stay next summer.

Little Rivers Health Care will have Narcan distribution and education at a booth on Main Street, and at the clinic, walk-in Covid vaccinations. Covid testing will also be available, but registration on the state website is strongly recommended.

For more information about the festival or to reserve a booth contact Richard M. Roderick at wrapwr@gmail.com or call (802)757-2708. For more information about the tractor show, contact Grace at Wells River Chevy on Facebook, email grace@wrchevy.com or call (802)757-2311.

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- Stop and pick up a numbered registration form to fill out.
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- Seating will be social distanced.
- We encourage wearing a mask while in the building.

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Census results show some growth

by Meg Trogolo

Data from the 2020 Census shows slow population growth and a significant amount of unoccupied housing in the Upper Valley.

Less than 85 percent of homes were occupied in Orange County's census districts. Bradford, Randolph, Thetford, and Williamstown were the four exceptions.

In Grafton County, only Hanover, Lebanon, Littleton, and Plymouth had over 85% of homes occupied. In several census districts, the amount of occupied housing was lower than 70%, and in resort towns like Lincoln and Waterville Valley, fewer than 50% of homes were occupied.

Grafton County Commissioner Linda Lauer said that property has been changing hands rapidly in the area, and that she suspected the empty homes belonged to vacationers who spend most of their time out of state.

"The data that we're getting from the [Grafton County] Registry of Deeds says the housing market in Grafton County is really booming," Lauer said. "Real estate is moving, and my conjecture is that it is second homes."

Orange County had a population of 29,277 as of 2020, a 1.2% increase from its 2010 population of 28,396. Grafton County's population in 2020 was 91,118, increasing 2.1% from 89,118 one decade ago.

Both counties grew at slower rates than their respective states between 2010 and 2020. Vermont's population as a whole grew by 2.8%, while New Hampshire's population grew by 4.6%.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2020 Census was conducted over the course of several months in 2020, beginning

in March and ending in October. 33.1% of the data was collected by census takers, a process which experienced some disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The remaining housing units counted in the census responded online, by phone, or by mail.

In an Aug. 21 *Valley News* story, University of New Hampshire demographer Kenneth Johnson said that most of the Census data was collected prior to April 2020 and therefore did not reflect the migration of urban and suburban families to more rural areas that took place during the pandemic.

Johnson also said that Grafton County's population increase was likely due to migration, crediting the growth to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and Dartmouth College.

"A big medical facility and a college make [Grafton County] a pretty appealing place to live," Johnson told the *Valley News*.

The racial makeup of Orange County was 92.1% white, 1.1% black, 3.1% Native American, and 1.1% Asian, with 5.6% of respondents identifying as multiracial and 1.6% Latino.

Grafton County's population was 89.2% white, 1.7% black, 2.1% Native American, and 4.2% Asian. There are 5.5% of respondents who identify as multiracial, and 2.8% identified as Latino.

Both counties have seen an increase in residents of color in the past decade, mirroring the overall trend across the United States. The proportions of white residents in both counties are still higher than those of New Hampshire and Vermont in total, two of the whitest states in the nation, and the U.S. Census Bureau ranks northern New

England's three states at the bottom

in racial diversity.

The information on demographic change comes amid conversations about race in the Upper Valley. A number of local schools have changed or are considering changing their curriculums to address the ways in which racism has impacted American history and currently impacts Americans' lives.

According to the *Valley News*, several New Hampshire communities have debated in recent months over whether critical race theory, a concept typically taught to law students, should be banned from public school systems.

Some 2020 Census results were released on Aug. 12, and they include information about several aspects of national, state, and local populations. Census data can be found at census.gov.

VT adult day centers get \$5M in federal funds

MONTPELIER—Governor Phil Scott announced the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living is distributing \$5 million to Vermont adult day centers to provide financial stability after an extended shutdown due to COVID-19. This investment is made with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act State Fiscal Recovery fund, allocated by the Legislature in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget.

Prior to this round of funding, DAIL granted more than \$7.3 million in federal COVID Relief Funds to these centers, providing critical financial stability through June 2021.

BINGO
NORTH HAVERHILL—Bingo is held at Horse Meadow Senior Center, North Haverhill, outside under the tent on Thursdays from 1 to 2 p.m. For reservations, call 603-787-2539.

DRUMS ALIVE
NORTH HAVERHILL—On Mondays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to noon, Drums Alive takes place under the tent at Horse Meadow Senior Center. Reservations are needed. Call 603-787-2539.

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Viewpoints . . . Yours and ours

The opinion page of the Journal Opinion is devoted to editorials, commentary and letters. The editorial under the heading editorial is the only column that expresses the opinions of the *Journal Opinion*. All others are the views and opinions of the authors only.

Letters

In support of the Newbury outdoor classroom

To the Editor:

I was heartened to see the combined Newbury and Bradford voters support the purchase of the 10.2 acre parcel near the Newbury Elementary School for an outdoor classroom at the Aug. 17 in-person vote and feel that it is another step in trying to make this merged district work in a fair and equal manner for our students.

While some valid concerns were raised in the discussion prior to the vote and will be addressed one-by-one in the proper forum, several others vocalized at the meeting and in the “Checkerberry vote was a debacle” letter to the editor from Sukie Knight in the Aug. 25 *Journal Opinion* were simply not true and residents/voters should recognize this before signing a reconsideration petition.

First, it should be noted that reliable sources have told me that board members and administrators have reached out with multiple attempts to meet with Ms. Knight to discuss her concerns in hopes of coming to agreements/understandings, with no success. Second, again from reliable sources, I understand that Ms. Knight was offered the property and she declined the opportunity but then, after it went under contract, asked the seller to break that contract and sell it to her. Further, she was aware that it was fairly recently professionally evaluated at more than the sale price, so the argument of the lower town assessed value is a red-herring.

Third, the step of entering into a Purchase & Sales contract for the purchase, (the first step in any real estate transaction) was taken after board discussion and a motion in open session, so no secret. And, any P&S has conditions, most generally to be able to obtain the funds to pay for the purchase, which the board had clearly intended to bring before the voters, so it is difficult to seriously claim this to be a secret deal hatched by the board and administration.

The statement that the seller (John Renfrew) “kicked the school off because of the mess they made” may be less than the whole story, but if you need to hear that for yourself, feel free to talk with John. He’s approachable and tells the truth!

And finally, “blaming” the district/business manager for the \$282,000 surplus from FY2019 seems to be another red-herring. It is true that a surplus in this amount was unexpected—and the final audit completed later than normal—but with the transition into the consolidated district and a new business manager hired late in 2020, there is nothing particularly untoward to be concerned about relative to the surplus and financial record-keeping, as the audit showed no material weaknesses.

And, as part of the newly formed OUUSD Finance Committee, I have been impressed with the work of the district finance director, Linda Metcalf, and look forward to working with her going forward.

I hope you will join me in embracing the opportunities this outdoor classroom will afford NES students for years to come and will not be enticed into a series of ongoing battles based on falsehoods and misinformation.

Marvin Harrison
Newbury, VT

Volunteers want to offer public access

To the Editor:

At a hearing in March 2021, a Bradford Selectboard member contributed, “The problem with Zoom is it makes it too easy for the public to participate.”

In April 2021, a signed petition from the public was submitted to the selectboard for addition to a previously scheduled special town meeting warning, asking them to continue offering electronic access and developing standards for access. Along with the petition, a recommended equipment list was submitted.

The intention of the petition was that Bradford would value transparency, equitable access, and communication and invest in equipment that would make hybrid meetings manageable for all to actively participate. The valid petition was not accepted and instead “taken under advisement” and discarded.

The selectboard and select commissions have continued offering online participation using whatever cobbled-together solutions they can. In the selectboard’s case, they have moved to a meeting room with shoddy acoustics and a cheap USB camera that only allows the public to understand a minimal portion of what is being said (often leading to misinterpretations of what was said and will surely lead to trouble as a result).

On Aug. 30, a member of the selectboard wrote a letter directed to the planning commission chair, copying all selectboard members, the selectboard assistant, and planning commission members with “deep regret” that this member felt the need to say that it is unacceptable for the planning commission to be able to use electronic equipment borrowed from a local nonprofit as it is unfair to other commissions who don’t have the same access to borrow decent equipment.

Bradford taxpayers should be aware that the conservation commission, parks and recreation commission, energy committee, resilience commission, and planning commission have all been paying for or borrowing electronic equipment and Zoom accounts for more than a year in order to make sure that the public can continue to interact with town government as the selectboard has refused to invest in adequate electronic meetings solutions (with the exception of paying for their own Zoom account).

Examples include volunteers purchasing and carrying personal flat screen televisions to the Bradford Academy, needing to be at meetings up to an hour earlier to set up carried-in equipment, paying for microphones and cameras out of their own pockets, paying for Zoom subscriptions, the list goes on. These patched-together improvisations lead to undo discrepancies in quality, strain on our volunteers, and varied experiences for the attending public.

As a result, participation has dwindled, going from upwards of 30 people on Zoom-only meetings to less than 10 people at hybrid meetings. Meanwhile, other towns around Vermont have spent funds to bring their equipment into the 21st century and to foster public participation. Our selectboard has balked time and time again about spending a recommended \$1,500 on adequate equipment.

The excuse that is used is that equipment is not outlined in the budget, yet if you attend selectboard meetings regularly, you will see that costs that aren’t outlined are covered all the time (sometimes to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars) by moving money out of select reserve funds. Bradford’s Selectboard finds the money when they need it for projects they care about, but when public participation is seen as an “if we must” versus a “thing we need to do” the money is somehow nowhere to be found.

The selectboard has mentioned that they would like to use a portion of the \$807,399.18 of American Rescue Plan Act money that Bradford is receiving to purchase equipment. Let’s hope that 0.18% of the money is seen as a doable public investment. Until then, volunteers of town commissions will do whatever they can to offer meeting access to the citizens of Bradford and beyond.

Monique Priestley
Marcey Carver
Jean Carlan
Bradford, VT

###

Priestley is chair of Bradford Resilience and a planning commission member. Carver is planning commission chair. Carlan is a parks and recreation commission member.

Don’t mask me if I’m vaxxed

To the Editor:

I have been a resident of the town of Fairlee for 69 years, since COVID-19, and since most everyone has gotten their vaccinations—and there are few that have not.

Our governor has done away with all restrictions and this summer has been great for everyone.

Unfortunately, we are seeing outbreaks of COVID-19, because some people refuse to get vaccinated. Now, I am seeing places that were once welcoming require masks to be worn. This is totally ridiculous.

My suggestion is to show proof of vaccination and then everyone will be happy. Don’t get me wrong, I’m all for everyone’s safety and protection against disease. But with most getting their vaccinations, you still need to wear protection?

I remember way back in the 1960s when there were outbreaks of measles and TB, people didn’t run around scared. They got their vaccinations and moved on. This summer has been a good one and let’s not spoil the coming fall and winter seasons.

Clyde Blake
Fairlee, VT

Free COVID-19 testing at UVA

To the Editor:

Upper Valley Ambulance is continuing to offer free COVID-19 PCR testing by the Vermont Department of Health in Fairlee. No appointment necessary, but they are highly recommended due to the increased number of tests being performed. The hours and address is below:

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday: 9 a.m.-noon
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Upper Valley Ambulance, 5445 Lake Morey Road East, Fairlee, VT 05045; (802) 333-4043.

Zachary M. Lang
Bradford, VT

Biden’s top 10 blunders

To the Editor:

This could have been a top 50 list as there are so many to choose from. 1. He stated in his Inaugural Address “my whole soul is bringing America together, uniting our people and nation.” Really?

2. He destroyed our energy independence and canceled the Keystone Pipeline and oil exploration in the Arctic, costing tens of thousands of jobs and made us dependent on OPEC once again.

3. Rejoined the Iran Nuclear deal, which will result in Iran becoming a nuclear power.

4. Failed to stand up to China on all fronts.

5. Continues to give money to people for staying home and doing nothing, thus destroying our work ethic, forcing small business closures and resulting in shortages and delays on just about everything.

6. Failed to secure our southern border, allowing tens of thousands of illegals to enter the country every month, including MS-13, Covid positives, criminals and most likely Middle Eastern terrorists, costing taxpayers billions.

7. Bankrupting America, and lying about the true and complete content of his legislation, much of which is simply a Democratic stratagem to garner votes.

8. The Afghan debacle.

9. He has lost the respect of the world for the US.

10. He is unable or unwilling to admit his own weaknesses and incompetence. Even members of his own party are calling for his removal from office.

Ron Willoughby
North Haverhill, NH

Boomer Funk

Bubble Man

by Scott Funk

No doubt there are Bubble Women as well as Men, but this was a man and the first I remember seeing. I was at the beach where a lot of street vendors were selling their wares under their individual canopies. It had all the hustle of a craft fair or small-town carnival except for the one guy over on the grass who was dipping two ropes hung from long poles into 5-gallon buckets of suds. This, I soon figured out, was the Bubble Man.

Like the Pied Piper of Hamelin, he was surrounded by gleeful children all prancing about, chasing his gigantic bubbles. Their goal was to reach the biggest and pop it, although some stood bravely still and were engulfed by the bubble which popped around them.

On the outskirts of the throng of kids were the parents, all busily photographing their children as they frolicked. Even further away were the new children and their parents who had just come upon this incredible scene. Here the real joy and brilliance of the Bubble Man played out.

Eventually, a bubble would float out past the boys and girls chasing them, over the heads of the parents watching, and bob down onto an apprehensive child trying to figure out what was going on. Pop would go the bubble as it bounced against the kid’s head. Bing would go a big smile along with a questioning look at the parents. With an approving nod of the head, the child would be released to join the others in what appeared to be a free-for-all bubble fest.

All this joy and bubble beauty was free, much like public radio and TV are free. There was a big white pledge bucket over by the Bubble Man. No sign saying, “Give.” Nothing but the bucket alongside this big, muscular, smiling man with his long poles.

Understanding the bucket rule among buskers, I meandered over to take a look. Inside the bucket was an impressive assortment of bills ranging from \$1s to \$20s, lots of change, and more than a few candies. I tossed in a couple of bucks of my own before stepping back to enjoy the wonderful scene.

And wondered I did, about the Bubble Man. In a world crumbling into chaos, struggling with a worldwide pandemic, here stood one man who somehow decided he’d make his living tossing bubbles into the air, giving away these fruits to spread joy among children and spark childish awe in the adults who came upon him. Trusting to the generosity of strangers, he plies his trade and receives his reward as a natural consequence of the joy he spreads in a world where joy usually comes with an upfront ticket price.

I’m gone from the beach, out of reach of the Bubble Man’s miraculous creations and the laughter and excitement they spread. Still, I think of this remarkable person who stepped out into a world of turmoil and doubt. He alone seems to have found the solution to our worries and apprehension—give it away and make the children happy.

Everything else will come of its own accord. How I would have liked to have been there with him as he figured out the obvious. How glad I am that he taught it to me.

###

Scott Funk lives, works, and writes in Vermont. His Boomer Funk columns are available at www.vermontfunk.com, as are his blogs and archived Aging in Place columns.

Back Porch News...

Good, Local News.



Military updates

Major General Ray Shields, the Adjutant General for the State of New York, announced the recent promotion of members of the New York Air National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership. Kathryn Burnell from McIndoe Falls, assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing, received a promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel on March 2.

Student achievements

Taina Palacios, of Groton, has earned the The Roland W. Boyden Prize from the Marlboro Institute for Liberal Arts & Interdisciplinary Studies at Emerson College. The honor was announced during the annual achievement awards ceremony at the end of the spring semester. The Roland W. Boyden Prize is given by the faculty to a student who has demonstrated excellence in the humanities. Roland Boyden was a founding faculty member of the College, acting president, Dean, and Trustee. Palacios is pursuing a self-designed degree and is a member of the Emerson College Class of 2021.

Wait On Him

by Rebecca Farley

His love is all we require
to meet our every need.
As we lean on our faith
by walking in faith as He leads.

We should be very attentive,
and He’ll answer our prayers.
He hears our cries for help,
but will answer when and where.

Sometimes He might answer right away,
this, His follower, should know.
But sometimes we will have to wait on Him
so He can strengthen our souls.

###

The author resides in Wells River.

ON THIS DATE

Sept. 1 is Emma M. Nutt Day. She was the first woman telephone operator who started her professional career in Boston on Sept. 1, 1878. She worked as an operator for 35 years.

###

On Sept. 1, 1999, the German government began the process of moving from Bonn to Berlin. Berlin officially became the capital of Germany on Sept. 1, 1999, and Parliament reconvened at the newly restore Reichstag on Sept. 7, 1999.

###

Boxer Rocky Marciano was born Sept. 1, 1923 in Brockton, MA. He retired in 1956 as the only undefeated heavyweight champion. He died in a plane crash in Newton, IA on Aug. 31, 1969.

ABOUT THIS PAGE

The opinion page of the Journal Opinion is devoted to editorials, commentary and letters. The editorial on the left side under the heading editorial is the only column that expresses the opinions of the *Journal Opinion*. All others are the views and opinions of the authors only.

We encourage readers to comment on matters of interest and will publish letters regardless of their politics providing they are in good taste. We ask that you limit letters to 400 words or less and write no more than twice per month. All letters must be signed with contact information given for verification.

The publisher reserves the right to verify the accuracy of letters, edit letters for clarity, space and content, and limit the number of letters from any writer to two a month. Anonymous letters or letters judged to be libelous will not be published.

The deadline for letters and commentaries is Monday at noon. They may be mailed to the *Journal Opinion*, PO Box 378, Bradford, VT 05033, emailed to editor@jnews.com or faxed to (802)222-5438.

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Rambling Reflections

A surprising, child-like pleasure

by Nessa Flax

Those who know me are aware that I am a voracious reader.

Visit my home and you will always see an open book on the kitchen table. In between domestic tasks, editing for my clients, conceiving of and producing this column, I return to that book like a carrier pigeon instinctively finds its way home.

Reading grounds, uplifts, entertains, and calms me when worries whirl in my mind. In fact, science has proven that reading reduces stress and keeps our brains sharp as we age.

There is no doubt that my parents’ influence drafted the blueprint for my lifelong love of reading. About once a week they came home with armfuls of books for themselves. As a young child, I went to the library with them. I progressed from picking out books I wanted read to me to choosing books to read by myself. A shining highlight of childhood was getting my own library card.

Depending on the book, my reactions cover a broad gamut. Some books inspire, others bring

on tears or laughter. I “meet” fascinating people I would otherwise never know. I learn about other cultures, common human life journeys, and historical events in more vivid ways than schoolbooks ever offered.

But I recently had an experience with a book I have never had before.

“The Next Fine Day” by Elizabeth Yates was published in 1962. The date is important because that was an era before publishing costs skyrocketed, so the novel includes illustrations. This is quite rare today. The pen and black ink illustrations are exquisite.

While reading, I would often linger over a drawing, despite wanting to get along in the story. The realization slowly dawned that I was more relaxed reading this novel than I could remember ever being.

At first, I attributed this to the author’s expertise. The book blurb described it thus: “Elizabeth Yates has written a story to warm the heart and calm the mind, a story of verities for our restless time.”

Having lived through the early ’60s, I remember well how “restless” that time was. We sent 3,500 troops into Vietnam; the Berlin Wall Construction began; the Bay of Pigs invasion failed to overthrow Cuba’s Castro; the Cuban Missile Crisis threatened nuclear war between the US and USSR.

Still, it’s safe to say our current times are at least equally restless.

What I finally realized was because of the illustrations, I felt like a kid again—leisurely reading a picture book. Although there are only 19 drawings in this 191-page book, they brought a new/old dimension of pleasure.

Turning a page, I never knew if there would be a drawing. When there was, it was like a surprise present.

Later, I learned illustrator Nora S. Unwin was an accomplished, award-winning artist.

No wonder her drawings are so stunning. With this book, the joy of art and reading were married again for me... the very best gift of all.

•Complaints

(continued from page 1)

At town meeting in 2020, voters were presented with the option of purchasing two solar-powered signs for \$5,800. The article was defeated 69-55.

"We tried that at town meeting two years ago," Adams said. "We understand the problem. Your neighbors and our neighbors need to understand the problem."

The other solution to speeding? "More help and more boots on the ground," Bachus said.

That, however, may not be a palatable option. Contracted services through the sheriff's department and state police get pricey: \$65-\$78 per hour. And, for now, there may not even be anyone available at those prices as state police cope with staffing shortages. Meanwhile, the board chair observed there might be a third option.

"There's no complaints of speeding on Archertown Pond Road," Adams observed about the pockmarked, frost-heave-bedeveled artery. "Maybe we should put speed bumps out?"

The board took no action on the matter other than directing Bachus to obtain quotes for speed signs.

Finally, Quinttown Road maintenance came under renewed criticism.

Quinttown Road was at the center of a heated debate during town meeting in May. Although residents rejected an attempt by critics to make the road agent an elected position, they agreed to form a highway advisory commission that would report its findings to the selectboard.

In the aftermath, the highway department indicated it would grade Quinttown and other roadways. But resident Tom Thomson who owns land off Quinttown said the effort fell short.

"Portions of that road have not been maintained for 2.5 years," he told board members. "I'm referring specifically to grading, gravel, and ditching."

He said parts of Quinttown, especially near the Mousley Brook Road and Marsh Road intersections have not been graded, adding that a railing on the Mousley Brook bridge is deteriorating.

"To me, it's a little baffling that we're ignoring sections of roads," he said.

Kling said the situation had to change.

"I agree there's a crisis," he said. "We can't just sit back."

Thomson said ever since Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, the town has been playing catchup on road maintenance. The impacts of the devastating storm of July 1, 2017 reflect the poor practices.

"We have some of the best equipment available," he said. But, he added, when water builds velocity and it's not kept off the road, washouts or worse happen.

"I understand the frustration and I'm a little frustrated myself," said Kidder. "But I think we can right the ship."

Email: editor@jonews.com.

•Masks

(continued from page 1)

meeting. They voted 3-3, with the motion falling due to a tie. Don Locascio, Dick Guy, and Sabrina Brown voted in favor. Michael Aremburg, John Rutherford, and Alex Keeler voted against the motion. A seventh board member, Nate Swain, did not attend.

Although SAU-23 Superintendent Laurie Melanson said she recommended staff wear masks at schools, the board declined to make that a requirement instead leaving it to the district's employees to use their discretion.

The number of meetings on the subject and the closeness of the votes reflects anxiety and changing dynamics as the pandemic afflicts its third consecutive school year. Despite what appeared to be improving circumstances last spring as caseloads declined, the Delta variant of COVID-19 has reversed some of those gains.

Some of the debates across the country have been heated at times, according to news reports and media coverage, but Haverhill's meeting was mostly civil.

Last week's meeting was held in the gymnasium at Haverhill Cooperative Middle School. There were about 60 people attending the meeting in person with other participants listening via Zoom. Almost all of the speakers, however, spoke in person.

Similar discussions have been held throughout New Hampshire and SAU-23.

In Bath, board members voted to require masks for all until their September meeting when they will reassess the situation. Piermont has adopted a similar mandate, but will reassess the situation at every board meeting.

The Warren board voted to reject a mask mandate for students, but asked staff to wear masks in the building.

No matter what schools do in Haverhill and elsewhere, there is a federal requirement that requires facial coverings on public transportation so students and adults aboard school buses will still have to wear masks.

Email: editor@jonews.com.

FUN FACTS

The man who designed the Pringles can, Fred Bauer, is buried in one—or at least some of his ashes are.

FUN FACTS

There's a world record for the holder of the most world records: Ashrita Furman, who's set more than 600 records and currently holds more than 200. His records have ranged from fastest mile on a pogo stick, longest time to hula hoop underwater and greatest distance traveled on a bicycle balancing a milk bottle on the head.

NH Vax Rates
Percentage (rounded) of individuals fully vaccinated on Aug. 2 vs. Aug. 30

Bath	40%	41%
Benton	25%	25%
Easton	22%	24%
Haverhill	46%	47%
Landaff	36%	37%
Lisbon	35%	37%
Lyme	71%	71%
Monroe	38%	38%
Orford	56%	57%
Piermont	50%	50%
Warren	53%	53%
Wentworth	48%	48%

SOURCE: NH COVID-19 DASHBOARD

NH Caseloads
As of Aug. 30, new cases over the last 14 days vs. cumulative since start of pandemic

Bath	<5	36
Benton	<5	8
Easton	0	<5
Haverhill	<5	151
Landaff	<5	12
Lisbon	5	70
Lyme	<5	28
Monroe	<5	19
Orford	<5	35
Piermont	0	21
Warren	<5	35
Wentworth	6	53

SOURCE: NH COVID-19 DASHBOARD

•U-turn

(continued from page 1)

Woodsville Ambulance contract and installing mobile data terminals in the town's police cruisers.

"I see it," Garofalo said. "I know the districts need more money." But, he argued, those projects may not be certified as eligible until December. Meanwhile, the town's non-infrastructure projects could be funded now. He said with increases in welfare spending, the town is facing more than \$300,000 in liability that the ARPA funds could help plug a hole.

In all, the town is expected to receive \$477,908.24 over two installments in 2021 and 2022.

Matt Bjelobrk and Howard Hatch joined Garofalo in voting in favor of the town plan.

The two board members who continued to support the precincts' plan said they were disappointed.

"You had a tremendous opportunity to rebuild this community," said Michael Graham.

"What we missed is an opportunity to work together," added Steve Robbins.

Codling urged the precincts to independently pursue ARPA funding for their projects. She said that new federal money had recently been made available for infrastructure projects like the ones they have proposed.

Email: editor@jonews.com.

What's going on . . .

At the library

Blake Memorial Library

EAST CORINTH—Story hour is held every Thursday at 10 a.m., at the library, under the tent. Join Wendy for fun stories, songs and crafts. Rain or shine.

On Sept. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Corinth Town Hall a presentation of "Corinth's Forest Blocks and Wildlife Corridors" will take place. Jens Hilke of the Vermont Department Fish and Wildlife will conduct the program and bring his vast knowledge to bear on the challenges facing Corinth's Forest Block and Wildlife Corridor preservation requirements. The program is free and open to all.

NVU, VT writers announce contest

LYNDONVILLE—Northern Vermont University and the League of Vermont Writers announce the 2021-2022 Vermont High School Writing Contest. NVU and the League are co-sponsoring this opportunity for young writers that kicks off Sept. 1.

The contest is open to all Vermont students in grades 9-12, including those who homeschool. The deadline for entries is Nov. 15. Winners will be announced on or about Jan. 15, 2022.

The contest categories are fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, and students are free to choose a theme to explore within the 2,000-word limit. One entry per contestant; entries will be judged by three judges in each category.

Winners and runners-up in each category will receive cash awards, a one-year membership in the League, and the opportunity to have their work published in NVU-Johnson's Green Mountains Review and League Lines, a publication of the League. In addition, NVU will host an on-campus event in early 2022 to honor these students and their schools, teachers, and families.

Entry forms and submission requirements are available at northernvermont.edu/hswritingcontest.



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•OUUSD

(continued from page 1)

vote to purchase land for an outdoor classroom for students at Newbury Elementary School. The article to purchase the property passed by a vote of 50-38 at an in-person meeting held at Oxbow High School.

Corti said there could be a second vote as a petition to reconsider the purchase is circulating in the community. Meanwhile, Corti said she has received a number of supportive emails from teachers and parents.

Newly hired OESU assistant superintendent Randy Gawel provided the most recent Covid update for district schools. He has met with Covid coordinators and school nurses.

"Essentially, we are where we were at the end of the last school year," Gawel explained. "Guidance is continuing to evolve."

All OUUSD schools will be following state recommended guidelines. The school year got underway last week.

For Oxbow students, all students and staff will be initially required to wear masks at bus stops, on buses and while at school.

A review of Article 3 of the articles of agreement will be discussed at a September meeting.

Article 3 pertains to the restructuring of grade configurations in OUUSD schools. Any proposed change will have to be reviewed by the district's voters at the annual meeting or a special meeting.

Email: news@jonews.com.

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OBITUARIES



Marilyn Whitehead
1946 - 2021

BRADFORD—Marilyn Jean Whitehead, 74, passed away at her home in Bradford on Aug. 8, 2021 surrounded by the love of her family and friends. Marilyn's courageous 14-year battle with Stage 4 Lung Cancer was an inspiration for all who knew her.

She was born in Nyack, NY on Nov. 10, 1946 to Dorothy and Frederick Whitehead. After high school in 1965, at the height of the Vietnam war, Marilyn volunteered for and entered the Navy where she was assigned to the National Weather Environmental Service in Corpus Christi, Texas. Meteorology became a lifelong interest of hers. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Empire State College, University of New York in 1973. From New York, she traveled to Alaska where she worked for a season in the Bering Sea aboard a commercial fishing vessel. She loved to tell tales of her experiences "cracking crab" off the coast of Acutan.

In 1980, she met the love of her life in Provincetown, MA. She and Judith soon moved to Boston together where Marilyn trained as a laboratory technician. They bought land in Bradford in 1987. Students at Oxbow High School, class of 1988, built their log home for them as their class project. Marilyn worked at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center as a laboratory technician from 1988 until her diagnosis of cancer at age 60.

Judith and she celebrated their union with friends and family in an informal ceremony in 2006 but were married when it became legal at the Bradford Town Hall in 2014.

Marilyn loved her job, her home, helping others, women in science, all God's creatures, the planet, Star Trek and chocolate ice cream.

She is survived by her wife, Judith Beckett, of Bradford; her daughter and son-in-law, Phebe and Gaetano Quattrucci of South Freeport, ME; her granddaughter Tessa Quattrucci also of South Freeport; and her grandson, Dylan Morse, of Ithaca, NY; her sister-in-law, Gail Musson of Edgecomb, ME; and four nieces and nephews, two great nephews and a great niece.

There will be a memorial service followed by a potluck celebration of life on Oct. 2 at 780 Chase Hollow Road from 1 until 3 p.m. Please bring a covered dish or a dessert to share.

Donations in her name to local animal shelters or any organization dedicated to helping animals, the ocean and our planet would please her. Her bright spirit will be missed.

Hale Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Marilyn.



Joel Schmukler
1943 - 2021

PIERMONT—Joel E. Schmukler, 78, formerly of River Road, died on Aug. 22, 2021 at the Grafton County Nursing Home, North Haverhill.

Joel was born in Yonkers, NY to Evelyn (Eisler) Morrill and Norman Schmukler on April 1, 1943. Later he gained a stepfather when Evelyn married Charles R. Morrill.

Joel enjoyed many years on the dairy farm in Piermont where he resided with his mother and stepfather. Following the death of Joel's mother at age 92, Gail Eastman provided Joel's full-time care. Gail, along with other caring helpers, devotedly facilitated Joel's continued participation in the activities he so appreciated.

Joel enjoyed daily car rides, swimming, trips to the lake, picnics outdoors, and consuming his much-loved ice cream. Joel spent his last years residing at the Grafton County Nursing Home in North Haverhill.

Joel was preceded in death by his stepfather, Charles R. Morrill; and his mother, Evelyn Morrill. Joel will be laid to rest near his mother, stepfather, and maternal grandparents in South Lawn Cemetery in Piermont.

There will be no calling hours. A graveside service was held in South Lawn Cemetery on Aug. 31.

Ricker Funeral Home and Cremation Care of Woodsville is handling the arrangements. For more information or to offer an online condolence, visit www.rickerfh.com.

Margaret Urquhart Hutchins Samuel Hutchins III, DVM

SOUTH BARRE—The service to honor and celebrate the lives of Margaret Urquhart Hutchins and Samuel Hutchins III, DVM was held on Aug. 21 in the West Newbury Congregational Church in West Newbury. Margaret passed away on Nov. 3, 2020, and Sam passed away on Feb. 10, 2021.

The Rev. Dr. Lawrence A. Jones, Honorably Retired, Presbyterian Church (USA), Previous Temporary Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Granterville, welcomed the congregation and led the service.

Scripture readings from the Old Testament were read by Margaret's sister, Elaine Van De Carr, nephew, Mark Putnam, and niece, Jill Hutchins Tully. Readings from the New Testament were done by son, Brian Hutchins, grandson, Jason Hutchins and daughter-in-law, Kristin Hutchins. Daughter-in-law Ann Hutchins read, "A Parable for Mothers."

Memories were shared by grand-

daughter, Stephanie Hutchins, grand-daughter, Bailey Hutchins, and Jay Morris, a special friend who was like a son to Margaret and Sam.

"On Eagles Wings" and "Amazing Grace" were sung by soloist Jenny Chambers, "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" was sung by soloist Robin Hutchins Otte, niece and "You Raise Me Up" was sung by TOJ Marceau. Maggie Sample was the pianist with Carolyn Keck as the violinist.

The following grandchildren participated: as pallbearers, Isaac Hutchins, Camden Hutchins, Kory Hutchins, and Tanner Hutchins; as ushers, Nicole Hutchins, Spencer Hutchins, Mitchell Hutchins, and Natalie Hutchins, and as greeters, Kristen Hutchins and Amanda Grant.

Following the service, family and friends gathered for a time of fellowship and sharing at the West Newbury Hall before proceeding to the Wells River Cemetery where inurnment took place.

Arrangements were by Hooker Whitcomb Funeral Home, 7 Academy Street, Barre.



Irene Wells
1921 - 2021

RYEGATE—Irene L. Wells was born Jan. 31, 1921 in Ryegate. She went to be with her Lord and Savior on Aug. 24, 2021.

Irene came from a family of 14 brothers and sisters. She is survived by one sister, Evelyn and her husband Leonard Dobbins; and a brother, Jerry Page and his wife Ruth.

Irene married Wallace Raymond Gray and had three sons, Douglas, Edmond (deceased) and Gary; and one daughter, Marilyn Williams. She has seven living grandchildren and one deceased. Living to 100, she also had numerous great and great, great grandchildren.

Irene was blessed to have loved and married two other men in her life. Both preceded her in death, Harold Wells and Fred Gochey.

There will be a memorial for her at Union Baptist Church in Waterford on Sept. 4 at 2 p.m..

Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.saylesfh.com.

DHMC limits visitors

LEBANON—Dartmouth-Hitchcock has returned to a more restrictive visitor policy for its facilities. COVID-19 testing will also resume for patients being admitted to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon and prior to surgical procedures in select circumstances.

Under the revised visitor policy, which took effect on Aug. 25, adult inpatients are allowed one visitor per day. Pediatric inpatients are permitted to have two caregivers (who cannot be changed once they are designated).

For outpatient visits, both adults and children are permitted one caregiver. Two caregivers are allowed for newborn/infant appointments. The appointment provider may approve an additional caregiver in advance for other pediatric appointments when necessary.

For births, two adult support people (cannot change) are permitted during the entire stay: before, during and after the birth. Two adult support people (cannot change) may spend the night during labor and delivery, and one adult support person (cannot change) may stay overnight before and after the birth. Effective Sept. 1, the Birthing Pavilion at DHMC will allow one dedicated adult support person during the entire stay.

DHMC will also resume COVID-19 testing for any patient being admitted to the hospital, regardless of vaccination status, and prior to surgical procedures in select circumstances. Patients who are being directly admitted from an outside hospital must have a new COVID-19 test at DHMC regardless of prior testing.

Fishing program seeks instructors

MONTPELIER—The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is seeking volunteers to become 'Let's Go Fishing' instructors to pass on Vermont's fishing tradition to the next generation of Vermonters. The department will be hosting a one-day training workshop for new instructors on Sept. 25 at its Essex Junction office.

Instructors in the 'Let's Go Fishing' program organize and instruct clinics in their communities for Vermonters of all ages. Participants in the training workshop will learn how to teach a basic fishing clinic, including fishing ethics, aquatic ecology, fisheries management, habitat conservation and tackle craft. They will also be introduced to conducting specialized fishing clinics on ice fishing and species-specific fishing. The class is informal, and it is not necessary to have a high level of fishing expertise to become an instructor.

Bring a lunch. The workshop runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Essex Junction. Those interested can register online at vtfishandwildlife.com/node/232 or by calling (802)505-5562 or emailing letsgofishing@vermont.gov.

Once completed, pending a background check, attendees will become certified instructors and have access to program equipment and resources for their programs.

FUN FACTS

The hottest temperature ever recorded occurred in Furnace Creek, Death Valley, California, at 134 degrees Fahrenheit on July 10, 1913.

POLICE BLOTTER

FAIRLEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

FAIRLEE—In July 2021, Fairlee Police Department responded to or completed four calls for service. Calls for service included directed patrol for the July 4 fireworks, background check, agency assist to the NH State Police, and a theft case. In addition, 10 motor vehicle stops were conducted resulting in six written warnings, one verbal warning, and three civil violations issued. Vermont State Police responded to 24 calls for service, Vermont Fish and Game responded to seven calls for service, and Orange County Sheriff Department responded to three calls for service in Fairlee during the month.

ORFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

ORFORD—In July 2021, Orford Police Department responded to or completed 42 calls for service. Calls for service included residential alarms, animal control complaints, various assistance calls, follow-ups or initial investigations, suspicious persons or activities, and two theft complaints. In addition, Orford Police conducted 24 motor vehicle stops; issued seven motor vehicle summons and 17 warnings. New Hampshire State Police responded to four calls for service.

THETFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

THETFORD—The following is the Thetford Police Department activity report for Aug. 1 to Aug. 7:

On Aug. 3 at 8:23 a.m., Sawnee Bean Road for MV Complaint—VA registered car parked in complainant's driveway for 24 hours. Contacted owner, his son at working at Camp Akeela in Strafford, owner made arrangements to have car moved; at 12:54 p.m., assisted Fire Department and Green Mountain Power with tree and wires down on Route 132.

On Aug. 5 at 1:40 p.m., Route 113 for fingerprints for employment purposes.

On Aug. 6 at 3:44 p.m., assisted residents caught up in a "moving fraud" scheme on Sugarhouse Lane.

On Aug. 7 at 11:43 a.m., assisted EMS and VSP with a person experiencing a mental health crisis on Lower Plain in Bradford; at 11:43 a.m., Tucker Hill Road for juvenile got separated from his running group in UVD. He made it back home unassisted; at 2:34 p.m., Route 113 for MV Complaint—strange behavior around a vehicle parked on private property, vehicle gone on arrival, further follow-up pending; at 3:28 p.m., Route 113 for fraud—resident sent money for a short-term rental on Craigslist that turned out to be a scam.

THETFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

THETFORD—The following is the Thetford Police Department activity report for Aug. 8 to Aug. 14:

On Aug. 9 at 8:20 a.m., Route 5 for VIN inspection; at 4:29 p.m., on Route 5 for stolen vehicle from Hartford VT recovered. Suspect cited for operation without consent of owner; at 7:42 p.m., Route 5 for suspicious—possible assault and damage to vehicle, possibly involving a firearm that occurred the night prior, victim uncooperative to date.

On Aug. 10 at 8:15 a.m., traffic hazard/assist Fish & Wildlife with cow moose in the farm field, drivers stopping on Route 113 to watch and photograph it. Able to herd it away from the roadway with help from farmer and Fire Chief VT Route 113 and Asa Burton Road.

On Aug. 11 at 9:10 a.m., Route 5 for traffic hazard—modular home delivery blocking traffic—assisted with traffic control; at 2 p.m., Route 244 for possible credit card fraud over the phone; at 3:47 p.m., assist VSP with unwanted persons at a residence with only children present and arrest of subject on a federal probation warrant on Route 113 in West Fairlee.

On Aug. 12 at 6:16 a.m., directed patrol in Thetford Center village based on speeding complaints on Route 113.

On Aug. 13 at 10:54 a.m., Route 5 for suspicious call with connection to a Thetford business, determined to be an ongoing mental crisis in Vershire. Assisted VSP with getting male to mental health treatment center without incident.

On Aug. 14 at 8:10 p.m., assisted EMS on Route 5; at 11:56 p.m., directed patrol due to suspicious activity at night on Robinson Hill Road.

Hiker injured on Smarts Mountain

LYME—On Aug. 26 at 4:45 p.m., the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department was notified of an injured hiker at the summit of Smarts Mountain in Lyme. The hiker, Brian Bland, 59, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was hiking the Appalachian Trail to the summit of Smarts Mountain. As he approached the summit, Bland tripped over another hiker's hammock and hit his head on the cement base of the fire tower. Another hiker called 911 for assistance.

Rescue personnel from Lyme Fire, Lyme Police, Hanover Fire, and Thetford Fire Departments responded to the scene. Personnel were able to ride ATVs and a UTV up to within three-tenths of a mile of the summit. They reached Bland at 6:44 p.m. and rendered aid. Bland was able to walk down to the awaiting ATV where he was driven the rest of the way. Bland was safely brought to a waiting ambulance at 8:30 p.m. He was taken to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center for further evaluation.

Bridge repair work on Route 302

BATH—The New Hampshire Department of Transportation has begun work to replace the bridge joint on the bridge that carries Route 302/Route 10 in Bath. The bridge is located approximately a half mile south of the intersection with Route 112.

Motorists will be restricted to a single lane of alternating traffic for the next six weeks.

Warning signs will be posted prior to the bridge and motorists are encouraged to use caution when driving through the work zone.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

WEST BARNET—A breakfast will be held at Lake View Grange Hall in West Barnet on Sept. 11 from 8 to 10 a.m. On the menu are pancakes, bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, homefries, assorted mini muffins, toast, jams, jellies and real Vermont maple syrup. For more information, call Lois at 603-653-3046.



FEELINGS FOLLOW

by Dennis Prutov

So you're feeling bad. You wonder about God's love. There are two avenues of approach. You can throw in the towel, give up on the idea of assurance, and swim in a pool of self-pity. Or you can take some action: "Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why are you disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God" (Psalm 42:11 and 43:5).

There is a biblical principle at work here. The apostle Paul talks about it. "The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:9). To experience peace of heart, we must therefore practice biblical principles.

Here is an example. "Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together" (Hebrews 10:24-25). When we worship together, God meets with us. "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8). When we study together, God confirms we are His. Paul says to the church, "We are the temple of the living God; just as God said, 'I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people'" (2 Corinthians 6:16).

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Boys soccer
Oxbow at Lyndon
Rivendell at White River Valley
- Sept. 4**
Girls soccer
Oxbow at Hazen at 11 a.m.
Twinfield at BMU at 11 a.m.
Mill River at Rivendell at 11 a.m.
Thetford at Enosburg at 11 a.m.
- Cross country*
Thetford at Essex at 10:30 a.m.
- Sept. 7**
Girls soccer
Oxbow at Lyndon
Hazen at BMU
Rivendell at Windsor
- Golf*
Woodsville at Littleton at 3:30 p.m.
- Sept. 8**
Boys soccer
Twinfield at Oxbow
Rivendell at Thetford
Lin-Wood at Woodsville at 4 p.m.
- Girls soccer*
Lin-Wood at Woodsville at 4 p.m.
- Cross country*
Oxbow at Lyndon at 4 p.m.
Thetford at Bellows Falls
- Sept. 9**
Girls soccer
Rivendell at Bellows Falls
- Golf*
Multiple teams at Woodsville at 3:30 p.m.
- Sept. 10**
Boys soccer
Woodsville at BMU
Rivendell at Mount St. Joseph
- Girls soccer*
Woodsville at BMU
- Sept. 11**
Football
Oxbow at Windsor at 1 p.m.
- Boys soccer*
BMU at Twinfield at 11 a.m.
Peoples at Thetford at 11 a.m.
- Girls soccer*
Peoples at Thetford at 1 p.m.

Lashua and Brown make the winners circle

BRADFORD—Dead River Company night feature winners were Matt Lashua in the Sabil & Sons DIRTcar Sportsman Modifieds; Tadd Kingsbury in the Wells River Chevrolet DIRTcar Sportsman Coupes; Seth Carlson in the USAC DMA Midgets; Jesse Dunham in the LaValley Building Supply Dirt Stocks; Chris O'Dell in the Peanuts Auto LLC Four Cylinders feature one, and Garrett Brown in feature two; and Caiden Hebert in the Granite State Mini Sprints 600cc, and Chase Rogers in the 500cc.

Another driver is added to the winner's circle as Matt Lashua was able to capitalize on his upfront starting spot and get by the handful of drivers ahead of him for his first win of the season. Mike Dunn and Allan Hammond, the initial green front row held on for second and third.

There were some very happy new faces in the Wells River Chevrolet DIRTcar Sportsman Coupes. While Tad Kingsbury, coming off a rough couple of weeks, was able to make the track work for him and thankful the feature event was 35 laps, took the lead on lap 32 from Cody Copeland. Kingsbury got the win with Copeland in second, and Copeland teammate Ali Pushee with his best finish ever filling the final victory lane spot in third.

In the USAC DMA Midgets, Seth Carlson is another one to get the win of the night and take over the points lead giving himself a slight lead over Joe Krawiec who fell to second in points with his seventh-place finish. Justin Sheridan was scored in second place for the victory lane ceremonies with Josh Sunn grabbing the final victory lane spot.

The C.A. Miller Limited Late Models were off and will return to action on Sept. 4.

Jesse Dunham got win number four in the LaValley Building Supply Dirt Stocks and the points lead coming out on top over Lucas Wheeler by just three points. Dunham was joined by Mike McClay and Mike Mann in victory lane.

It has only taken him four years, but determination finally paid off for Garrett Brown as he finally was able to cross the line first under the checkered flag in the Peanuts Auto LLC Four Cylinders. Tight on his tail was Jonathan Baker in second and Devin Spinks in third. Chris O'Dell is another first time winner in the Fours as he beat out Travis King and Blake Buccellato.

The Granite State Mini Sprints held their Lenny West Memorial race a long-time supporter and one of the original drivers for the group. In the 600cc's Caiden Hebert got the win over Keith Brown with Jacob Green finishing in third. In the 500cc, Chase Rogers beat out Riley Chaffee for the win with Josh Wright joining them in victory lane in third.

The Sting Vintage Race Cars 4/6 Cylinder Enduro fourth event of the season will be on Sept. 4.

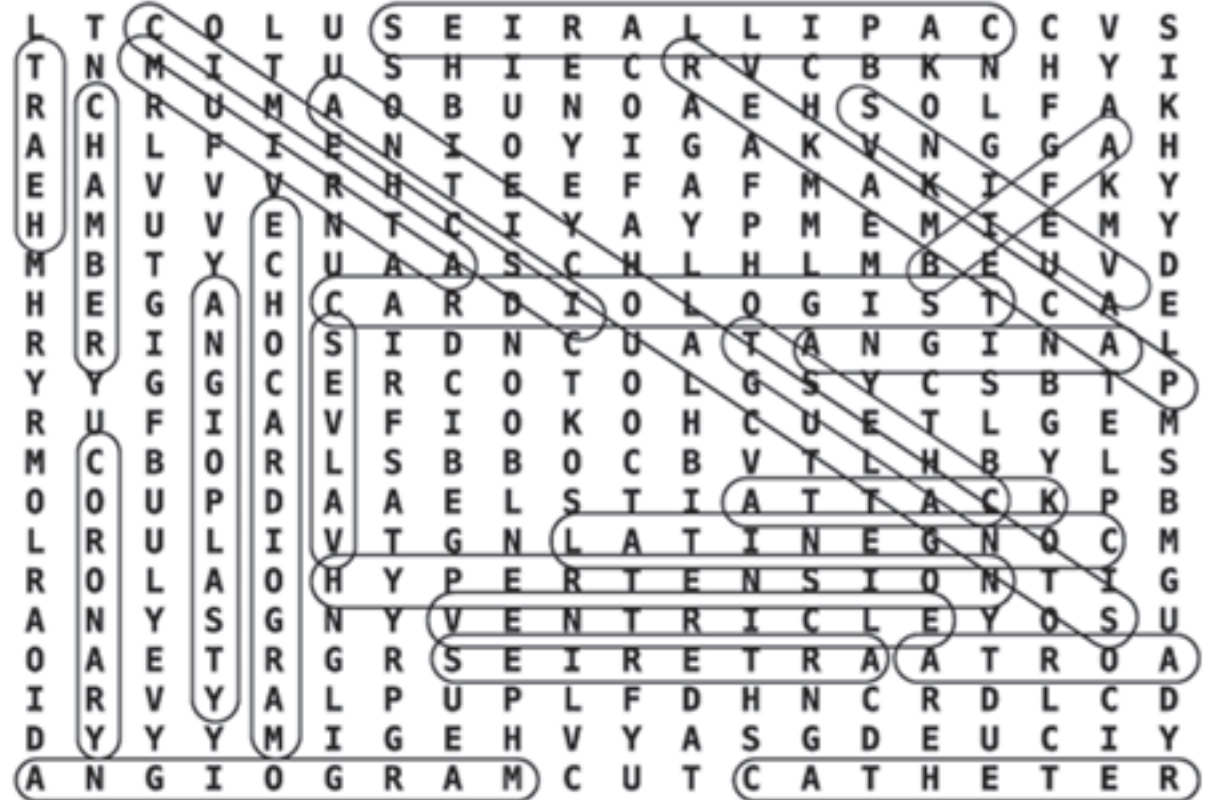
Coming up Sept. 4, sponsored by Valley Floors, the night's activities will feature the DIRTcar Sabil & Sons Sportsman Modifieds, DIRTcar Wells River Chevrolet Sportsman Coupes, C.A. Miller Limited Late Models and Peanuts Auto LLC Four Cylinders and the Sting Vintage Race Cars 4/6 Cylinder Enduro, plus the final appearance of the season for the WYKR Sprint Cars of New England. The USAC DMA Midgets and the LaValley Building Supply Dirt Stocks will return to action on Sept. 11.

Subsidy available for VT e-bikes

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION—A new program by Vital Communities aims to get e-bikes into the hands of people who can use them most but might have trouble affording them.

Vital Communities is accepting applications for the E-Bike Subsidy Program, sponsored by VTtrans. This program will help low- and moderate-income Vermonters purchase an e-bike by providing 25 to 100% of an e-bike's cost. The hope is to help approximately 12 people buy e-bikes this year, the pilot phase of the program. Applicants to the program will self-assess their economic need and apply for one of four subsidy levels that will either offer access to a zero percent interest loan in partnership with Mascoma Bank, or amounts of \$1,000, \$1,500, or up to \$2,300 for purchasing an e-bike and necessary accessories. Program participants will attend Vital Communities e-bike workshops and complete surveys over the course of the first two years of their e-bike ownerships.

Find out more and apply by any of these means: calling Vital Communities Program Coordinator Anna Guenther at (802)291-9100 ext.117; emailing anna@vitalcommunities.org; or go to vitalcommunities.org/ebikeapp.



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NORWICH—A favorite fall event will take place on Sept. 18 on the lawn of Norwich Historical Society, 277 Main Street, Norwich. Quality antiques dealers from throughout New England with antique furniture, rugs, art, and collectibles each in their own socially-distanced tent will be set up from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Music, Antiques Roadshow (11-1), and a raffle will all take place. Admission is \$5 (children 12 and under free). See more at www.norwichhistory.org.

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Denny Park in downtown Bradford hosted the Black Musicians Matter on Aug. 26.
JO PHOTO BY RICHARD SWENSON



Becket's Jeff Caron (right) speaks with a property abutter during an Act 250 hearing last week in Newbury.
JO PHOTO BY ALEX NUTI-DE BIASI

•Hearing

(continued from page 1)

with video surveillance and security control that is staffed and monitored 24/7. Visitors and staff will use the front entrance. Parking will be designed to accommodate 21 cars. The facility will be staffed by up to 15 counselors, housekeepers, and cooks at any one time, according to a filing.

DCF Commissioner Sean Brown said the goal was to find community-based housing or alternative treatments for detainees within four months of their arrival. He said there could be detentions of six months or longer.

He also ruled out the prospect of detainees older than 17 at the site and said the capacity will not exceed the six beds as outlined in the proposal.

Under Act 250, the Natural Resources Board assesses the proposal under several criteria ranging from impacts on groundwater, drinking water, air quality, local education and municipal services, aesthetics, wildlife, transportation, and soils. It also evaluates conformance with the town and regional plans.

At least 16 petitions have been filed by local residents who object to the development based on one or more of those criteria. In addition, Concerned4Newbury, a nonprofit representing an unknown number of residents, has hired attorney Nicholas Low to represent their interests.

"It may not be permanent for adjudicated youth," said Newbury resident Brad Vietje. "But it is permanent for us. This is our community."

While Act 250 does not directly address security and public safety, at least some of last week's hearing was devoted to the subject.

The Act 250 panel's Tim Taylor of Post Mills said he did not anticipate a need for an additional hearing at this time. Typically, the panel will solicit additional information and responses from the parties before delivering a decision that could be subject to an appeal to the Environmental Court.

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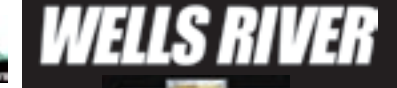
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Notice to creditors and others in the estate of Lewis Smith, deceased, late of East Topsham, Vt., who died on 3-13-2021. All creditors having claims against the decedent or of the Estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claims must be presented to me at the address below with a copy sent to the court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.
Dated 8-24-21

/s/Jeanne Smith
Jeanne Smith
44 Vt. Rt. 25
East Barre, VT 05649

Name of Publication:
Journal Opinion
Publication Date: 9-1-21
Address of Probate Court:
Vermont Superior Court
Probate Division, Orange Unit
5 Court Street
Chelsea, VT 05038

WEDNESDAY'S WORD

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HCMS gets underway with new principal

by Marianne Farr

NORTH HAVERHILL—Haverhill Cooperative Middle School's new principal, Jennifer Carbonneau, brings 21 years of experience in education with her. The former principal of Littleton Regional High School and Daisy Bronson Middle School, Carbonneau developed a skill set in a community that took pride in raising a homegrown leader. Now she is excited for the opportunity to start fresh and use those skills within her new school community.

Carbonneau grew up in Littleton and has been part of its educational community her whole life, first as a student, then as a teacher and, for the past eight years, as an administrator.

Growing up with parents who modeled acceptance impacted the direction her life took and helped shape the philosophy she brings to her role as an administrator.

Most notably, it enabled her to find her life's work on her own terms.

"It was nice to be valued in any decision you made," Carbonneau said.

She wanted to become a travel agent. Then, after discovering that college dormitory life wasn't for her, she switched to a six-week program and worked as a travel agent for the next five years. When she decided to switch professions, she opted to commute to Lyndon State College, now Northern Vermont University-Lyndon, where she earned a degree in English teaching. She

later earned her master's degree at Plymouth State University.

After working as an instructional assistant in the Littleton School District, her first teaching position was at Profile School in Bethlehem where she taught every subject but math as a 7th grade teacher. She then returned to Littleton as a 7th grade English teacher in a "full-circle" sort of way, replacing her former teacher.

In keeping with her belief that educators should switch things up every 10 years or so to keep things fresh and inspire continued development, she moved from 7th grade to 9th grade English.

Carbonneau said her continued learning through the National Writer's Project at Plymouth State University influenced her leadership aspirations. She explained that there is a glass ceiling in teaching and that one's ability to influence positive change goes only so far.

To that end, she became the instructional coach at Littleton High School where her role was to support the development of teachers, a position that gave her a wider sphere of influence and the ability to work directly with teachers and staff. SAU-23 employs a curriculum coordinator which is somewhat similar.

During this time, she was integral in the school's shift to competency-based learning so that by the time she became principal, the foundation of those specific

skill sets was in place and they were ready.

Now Carbonneau brings all of that experience to HCMS, including the aforementioned philosophy of acceptance modeled by her parents that also informs her educational philosophy.

At HCMS, Carbonneau plans to work on fostering a positive community that extends to parents, making them feel integrated instead of separate.

While traditional systems are based on consequences to encourage rule-following, Carbonneau values communication as a way to create a positive community. Conversations about the whys and the hows behind rules fill in important gaps that are missing from those traditional systems.

"You're a part of a community. Everything you say and do influences that whole community," she said, illustrating the concept. Achieving this involves more open and honest communication, and trust that sharing information will result in something better.

Carbonneau's preparation for the school year illustrates the types of actions that foster a positive community environment. In June she met with HCMS teacher teams, taking the time to learn about the school's climate, culture and value. She also met HCMS students via Zoom and in person so they could get to know her in advance of the school year.

The work to develop the framework for the 2021-2022 school year was a collaborative effort that took into account routines developed in response to COVID-19 as well as pre-Covid routines. Also important, is creating a school climate in which learning is fun and positive influence is modeled.

At Littleton, Carbonneau sent out a weekly communication, a practice she will continue at HCMS. She is also bringing back the Monday morning assembly that brought the entire school together, a pre-Covid tradition that teachers were eager to resume.

"It enables all students to get the same message at the same time," she said. To be clear, this isn't about efficiency. It's about inclusiveness and making sure that students know that what applies to them applies to all.

Carbonneau lives in Littleton with her husband Michael and their two children. Going back to her upbringing, Carbonneau marvels that children raised in the same way could have such different personalities. With two younger sisters, she experienced firsthand how important her parents' acceptance was in allowing those different personalities to thrive.

With her own two children, she likes the balance those differences create. Her daughter Madeline is a senior who is adventurous and outgoing. She enjoys team sports, and plays on the LRS basketball and softball teams. She's big on hunting

and wants to go to the University of Montana. Jayce is a junior who plans to take an ROTC course at White Mountain School to see if that's a

direction he would like. He skis for Littleton and enjoys karate. They are both on the golf team.

Email: mfarr@jonews.com.



Haverhill Cooperative Middle School Principal Jennifer Carbonneau is ready to greet students as they returned to school this week.

COURTESY PHOTO



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