

# 2024 New England Newspaper Awards

---



**Cornerstone Award**

**BOB WALLACK  
COMMUNITY JOURNALISM AWARD**



**New England  
First Amendment Award**

**ALLAN B. ROGERS  
EDITORIAL AWARD**

*Public Occurrences*

# *2024 New England Newspaper Awards*

---

Massachusetts ▲ Connecticut ▲ Rhode Island ▲ New Hampshire ▲ Maine ▲ Vermont

## AWARDS PRESENTATION

JOHN VOKET

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

# *2024 New England Newspaper Awards*

---



# *2024 New England Newspapers of the Year*



## **8 Circulation Categories**

- ◆ Newspaper of the Year
- ◆ Distinguished Runner-ups

# *2024 New England Newspapers of the Year*



## **Specialty Publications**

# Distinguished Newspaper

Specialty Publications

# The New Boston Beacon

New Boston, NH

## THE NEW BOSTON BEACON

A New England Press Association Distinguished Newspaper 2021 & 2022



Volume 8, Issue 6 • New Boston, NH 03070 Complimentary • June 2023



**THE FAMILY FARM**

Photo courtesy of Jim Dodge

Dodge Farms & Green and Garden Stand owners Kim and Adam Dillis stand with their children, from left, Jackson (8), Myra (7), and Aiden (5). The Dillis continue to grow their business and offer more local produce to residents. See story, page 24.

### The clear-bag initiative

**By Mary C. Constance**  
*Beacon staff writer*

With several months' notice and more than a year in the planning, the New Boston Transit Station clear-bag initiative officially launched on June 1. The program was approved by the Solid Waste Committee and the New Boston Select Board.

Despite its name, recycling, being in effect since 1993, (legal dumping of recyclables into the dumpster continued to be a problem) at the transfer station.

"Mandatory recycling happens, and illegal dumping stops with this initiative," says Transit Station Manager Gerry Conway. "The use of getting rid of items and our team monitor to recycle."

As of June 1, only approved bags will be allowed to be placed in the dumpster. If a resident shows up with their trash in a bag not approved, they will either be asked to open the bag and display the contents to a transfer station employee or will not be able to throw their trash in the dumpster.

Consequently, trash bags are available for purchase at the transfer station. The cost for 13 gallon bags (typical kitchen garbage) is \$10 for 100. Cash for larger bags are as follows: 25-gallon bags are \$5 for 25 and 55 gallon bags are \$5 for 10.

Residents may also purchase bags commercially from an approved list that includes only Glad Force Flex, Fifty Strong, Amstar, Bionco, and Star's Club Mountain Mist Power Flex.

"All initiatives are that in the past 30 years our landfill will be closed," says Conway. "The use of getting rid of items will go through the roof. If we are getting ready now and getting things in place now, the Town of New Boston will be ready. That is our goal."

### McFadden joins select board

**By Mary C. Constance**  
*Beacon staff writer*

Bill McFadden was appointed to serve the New Boston Select Board position that became available when Justice Rosen resigned on April 25. Select Chair Dennis Montemurro placed McFadden's name up for consideration and newly elected Kay Juckes recorded the motion at a special meeting called by the select board on April 27.

"We were left in a very difficult situation. The outgoing select board members had to have a meeting right away because if something happened to either Dana or Kay, we would be left without decision makers for the town and that was very alarming," says New Boston Town Administrator Paul Francavalle.

Generally, the appointment process includes a group of potential candidates to come in and meet with current select board members. Those candidates may be nominated members past and present.

See MCFADDEN, Page 19

### New Boston loses a great ambassador

**Jay Lewis Marden ♦ 1935-2023**

Jay Lewis Marden, 87, passed away peacefully Sunday, May 14 at the New Hampshire Veterans Home in Wilton, from heart and kidney failure. He was born November 16, 1935, in Boston, Mass., son of Wallace Raymond Marden and Margaret Mackay Marden. He grew up in Hingham and Haverhill, Mass., and spent summers in Chatham, N.H.

He graduated in 1953 from Elliger Academy in Stratton, Maine and received a B.S. degree from the University of New Hampshire in 1957 where he was a member of the Phi Mu Delta Fraternity, President of Student Social Honor Society, and Army ROTC. Stationed at Oakland Army Base in California, he then served in the reserves.

He received an Captain, Army (1958-1964) he worked at MIT in Cambridge as Director of Academic Services.

In 1965, he entered the mining of the family real estate business begun by his father. They remediated, owned, and managed more than 200 acres near in Boston and Cambridge while developing industrial parks and subdivisions on the South Shore of Boston. As Executive of Heritage & Company, he remediated and owned 12 buildings on Boston's historic Beacon Hill, then owned and remediated several other sites. Manchester Streets (including MIT's Department 5500).

On June 12, 1965, he married Dorothy (Dow) Scott Haven from Otisville, Florida. They lived on Beacon Hill from 1971 to 1974, before purchasing in 1971, the Gregg Hill Farm on 1740 on New Boston Road, the last Marden in New Boston built and lived in (Gregg Hill is the last 1900s).

His family includes his wife of 58 years, Dorothy, two sons, Kurt Mackay Marden (1961) and Michael, their two daughters, Andrea and Sofia of Southborough, Mass., three stepchildren, and a step-grandson, David Alexander Marden of Washington, D.C., a daughter, Karen Marden Booth (1964).

See MARDEN, Page 3

**POSTAL PATRON**

**NEW BOSTON HISTORY**

**BEHIND THE DOOR**

**INDEX**

**IN THE GARDEN**

**IN THE KITCHEN**

**EDUCATION**

**FAITH**

**CALENDAR**

**LIBRARY**

**ANIMALS**

**BASSING IT ON**

**IN THE GARDEN**

FOLLOW US: [www.facebook.com/NewBostonBeacon](http://www.facebook.com/NewBostonBeacon)



2024 New England Newspaper Awards

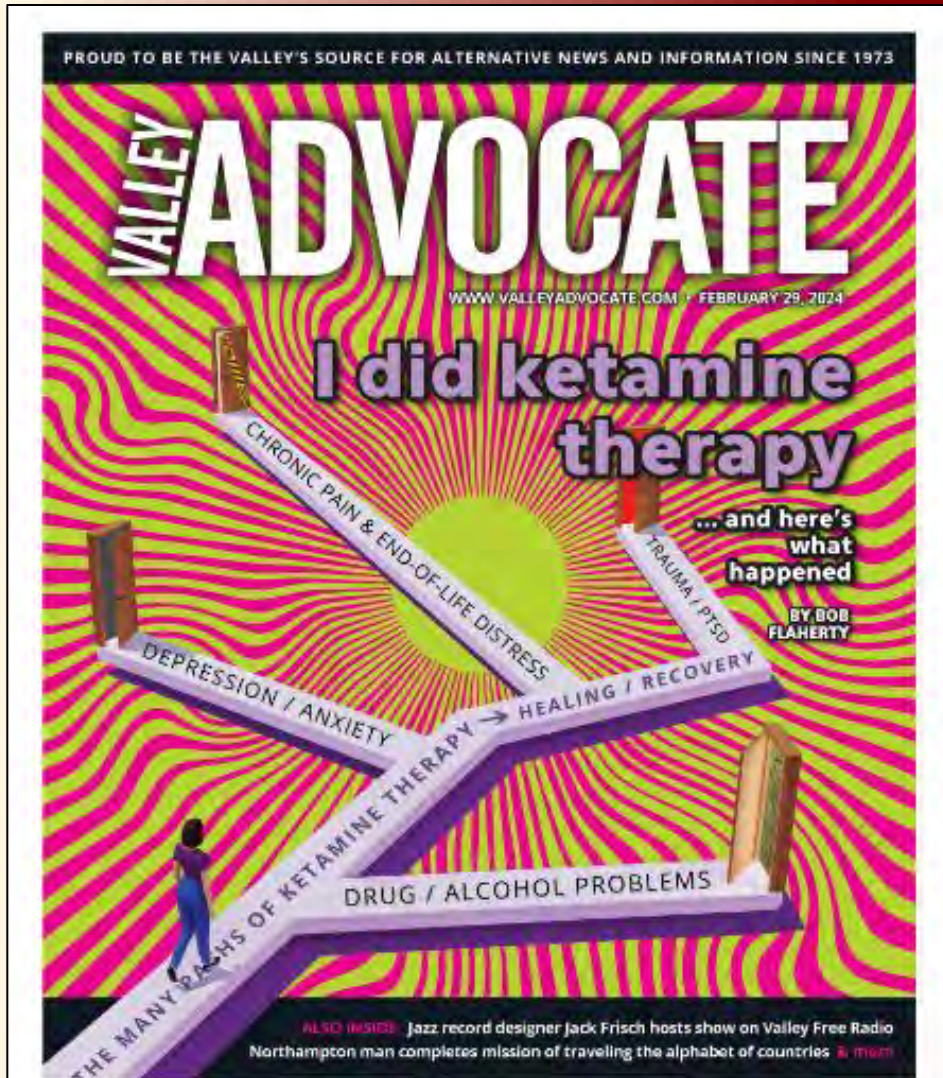


# Distinguished Newspaper

Specialty Publications

## Valley Advocate

Northampton, MA



2024 New England Newspaper Awards



PROVIDENCE BUSINESS NEWS  
**PBN**  
 pbn.com YOUR SOURCE FOR BUSINESS NEWS IN SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND | VOL. 38, NO. 14 | \$5

NOVEMBER 10-23, 2023

**SPECIAL SECTION**  
 2023 Manufacturing Awards

**PBN SUMMIT RECAP**  
 FALL HEALTH CARE SUMMIT  
 Solving labor shortages: a top task for leaders | B0  
 Value-based care may be a remedy, panelists say | B2

**VETERANS DAY 2023**

*Honoring All Who Served*

presented by

**AMGEN**  
**BANKRI**  
 BANKRHODEISLAND.COM

**Coastal1**  
 THE SMARTER WAY TO BANK

**Greenwood Credit Union**  
**Lifespan**  
 MEDICAL GROUP

**Navigant CREDIT UNION**

**Neighborhood Health Plan OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**QUONSETJOBS.COM**  
**NEW ENGLAND GROUP**

**PBN SUMMIT & AWARDS**  
 DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION 2023

Register Now to Celebrate with the Winners!  
 See page B8 for winners.

# Newspaper of the Year

Specialty Publications

# Providence Business News

Providence, RI



2024 New England Newspaper Awards





# *2024 New England Newspapers of the Year*



## **Online News Publications**

# Distinguished Newspaper

Online News Publications

## vt digger 15 years

### 'A false narrative': Abenaki leaders dispute the legitimacy of Vermont's state-recognized tribes

A Canadian tribe maintains that Vermont's groups are not Indigenous and, instead, are appropriating their identity and culture. Research from leading scholars supports Odanak First Nation's assertion, though the Vermont groups dispute it.

#### Editors' Picks

Our best stories, investigations, podcasts and more, as recommended to you by VTDigger editors.



BURLINGTON

**Burlington council moves to revisit controversial police officer cap**



EDUCATION

**Pro-Palestinian student group sues UVM over suspension during spring protests**



GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

**Vermont officials say voting systems are secure after potential vulnerabilities found**



ENVIRONMENT

**EPA orders Vermont to change how the state regulates some farms**

# VT Digger

Montpelier, VT



2024 New England Newspaper Awards



# Distinguished Newspaper

Online News Publications



**CII** | **INSIDE INVESTIGATOR**

**Featured**

**Education Regulation: Connecticut's Homeschooling Debate**  
September 8, 2024

**DMV's commercial vehicle sweep nabs DMV Commissioner's truck**  
September 10, 2024

**Latest News**

**Middletown Retirement Board member wants investigation into no-bid contract**  
September 11, 2024

**Superior court rules against vexatious requester**  
September 10, 2024

**Should Connecticut raise the child support age to 21?**  
September 9, 2024

**Class-Action Lawsuit Planned for PCB Victims in Hartford Schools**  
September 8, 2024

**CBIA survey; rising cost of business and life concerns employers**  
September 5, 2024

**DPH holds hearing on abortion regs: "A problem of transparency"**  
September 4, 2024

**Senate Dems ask for limits on spending of money stolen by Cronin**  
September 3, 2024

# Connecticut Inside Investigator

Hartford, CT



2024 New England Newspaper Awards



# Newspaper of the Year

Online News Publications

## Rhode Island Current

EDUCATION ENERGY + ENVIRONMENT HEALTH CARE TRANSPORTATION POLITICS + JUSTICE ELECTION 2024



### Primary voters back Democratic incumbent legislators with one exception

BY NANCY LAVIN - SEPTEMBER 10, 2024



### Turnout cracks nearly 10% in a R.I. primary with very few contested races

BY CHRISTOPHER SHEA - SEPTEMBER 10, 2024



### Hopkins clinches Republican primary for Cranston mayor

BY ALEXANDER CASTRO - SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

### U.S. House speaker withdraws spending bill that would require ID to register to vote

BY JENNIFER SHUTT - SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

### Inside the spin room: Surrogates weigh in on presidential debate

BY JOHN COLE - SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

### Harris tears into Trump over abortion rights and race in tense presidential debate

BY ASHLEY MURRAY AND JACOB FISCHLER - SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

### Whitehouse sweeps Democratic primary for U.S. Senate

BY CHRISTOPHER SHEA - SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

### Trump urges shutdown unless Congress passes bill requiring ID to register to vote

BY JENNIFER SHUTT - SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

### Are Healey and Lamont still in sync on offshore wind?

BY BRUCE MÖHL - SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

GET THE MORNING HEADLINES  
DELIVERED TO YOUR INBOX

SUBSCRIBE

#### COMMENTARY

Reclaiming America is actually about forward

#### IN BRIEF

Healey says she's not interested in



Critics sound off on proposed winter utility rate hikes at PUC hearing

BY NANCY LAVIN - SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

# Rhode Island Current

Providence, RI



2024 New England Newspaper Awards

**NENPA**  
NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER & PRESS ASSOCIATION

# *2024 New England Newspapers of the Year*



**Weekly Newspapers  
small circulation division**

# Distinguished Newspaper

Weekly Newspapers ♦ small circulation division

# Monadnock Ledger-Transcript

Peterborough, NH

**JAFFREY TURNS 250** SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE  
14th issue of Jaffrey's 250th anniversary celebration  
A PLACE IN HISTORY

**MONADNOCK Ledger-Transcript**

**COMMUNITY**  
**Parking project nearly done**

**JAFFREY 250**



**CELEBRATION ON THE SCREEN**  
Documentary will mark Jaffrey's 250th anniversary



**COMMUNITY**  
**Campus recovering after tornado touchdown**  
Dixville School expects to be open on time

**Advertisement: Ledgerwood Bay**  
Open the Door to New Opportunities  
Want to learn more? Call Kathy: 603.246.1115



2024 New England Newspaper Awards



# Distinguished Newspaper

Weekly Newspapers ♦ small circulation division

# Vermont Standard

Woodstock, VT

**Entertainment**  
Diane Warren will be in concert Friday in Rutland  
Page 1C

**Focus**  
Bromville's Blucher & Pattry has become a cornerstone of the town  
Page 1D

**VERMONT 170 STANDARD**  
170th Anniversary  
2024 New England Weekly Newspaper of the Year  
Wednesday, December 12, 2024

**Emerald Ash Borer detected at MBR National Historical Park**  
By Liam Murray  
The Vermont Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been detected at MBR National Historical Park, a significant discovery for the state's forest health. The EAB, a small, sawfly-like insect, is a highly destructive pest that has caused billions of dollars in damage to ash trees across North America. MBR National Historical Park, located in the town of Montpelier, is home to several large ash trees that are part of the park's historic landscape. The discovery of EAB at the park is a cause for concern, as the insect is known to spread rapidly and can cause the death of ash trees within a few years of infestation. The Vermont Department of Forests, Land and Water is working to contain the EAB at the park and prevent it from spreading to other areas of the state. The department is conducting a series of treatments to kill the EAB and is also working to remove ash trees that are heavily infested. The EAB is a highly invasive species and is considered one of the most serious threats to Vermont's forest health.

**Mac's Market in Woodstock has new owner and new name**  
By Tom Stone  
The former Mac's Market in Woodstock is being sold to a new owner and is being renamed. The new owner, who has purchased the store, plans to rename it and is currently in the process of finalizing the details of the sale. The store has been a staple in the community for many years and is expected to continue to serve the community under its new name.

**Fiery crash**  
Last Thursday, Nov. 14, Woodstock Police, Fire and EMS responded to the scene of a head-on collision near the intersection of Route 100 and Woodstock Road. The crash resulted in a single fatality. The driver of the car that struck the truck was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the truck was injured and is recovering in a local hospital. The cause of the crash is still under investigation.

**Remarkable school custodian has missed only one day in 34 years**  
Salt of the earth Bill Chambliss exhibits an incredible work ethic  
By Tom Stone  
Bill Chambliss, a school custodian in Woodstock, has missed only one day in his 34-year career. Chambliss is known for his exceptional work ethic and dedication to his job. He has worked for the same school district for his entire career and has been a role model for many other employees. Chambliss is a hardworking and reliable individual who has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty. His dedication to his job has earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and the community. Chambliss is a true professional and a valuable asset to his school district.

**Tiny house project finally moving forward after legal wrangling**  
By Tom Stone  
A tiny house project in Woodstock has finally moved forward after a long period of legal wrangling. The project, which was initially approved by the town, had been delayed for several months due to a dispute over the location of the house. The town and the project owner have reached an agreement, and the house is now being built. The tiny house is a small, compact living space that is becoming increasingly popular in Vermont. It offers a sustainable and affordable alternative to traditional housing. The project is expected to be completed in the next few months.

**INDEX**  
This Week's Special: 100¢  
The Vermont Standard  
170th Anniversary  
2024 New England Weekly Newspaper of the Year  
Wednesday, December 12, 2024

**The Faux Paws**  
IN THE HAYLOFT AT ARTISTREE  
FRI, DEC. 1 AT 7PM  
artistree  
A truly unique experience with your style. That's what you'll find at Artistree.



2024 New England Newspaper Awards



# Newspaper of the Year

Weekly Newspapers ♦ small circulation division

# The Provincetown Independent

Provincetown, MA



2024 New England Newspaper Awards



## The Provincetown INDEPENDENT

Unchained news for Outer Cape Cod

Provincetown, Massachusetts

July 8, 2023 | Vol. 4, No. 197

\$3.00

### WE LOVE A PARADE



Paul Sledge, center, in a parade in Provincetown on July 8, 2023. Sledge, 67, is a retired U.S. Marine and a member of the Provincetown Veterans Association. He is wearing a U.S. Marine uniform and a U.S. Marine hat.

### HOUSING Eastham Board OKs Closer Look at Tiny Houses

Changes in state rules may help towns take up small-scale solutions

By Christine Legras

CAUMBLIT — Tiny houses — often called micro-housing — are catching on in Provincetown, and the local zoning board has approved a study to see if they can be used to address the town's housing shortage.

Legras says it's the first time in the town's history that the possibility of allowing tiny houses has been approved. A zoning by-law allowing tiny houses is currently being drafted by staff. Although it is unclear when the town will have a public hearing on the issue, the town's building and health

commissioner says the town is currently reviewing the issue. The zoning board meeting, which took place on July 5, was held in a meeting room at the town office. The board is expected to meet on July 12 to discuss the issue. The board is also expected to discuss the issue of allowing tiny houses in the town's zoning by-law.

didn't raise the issue to continue to carry the issue. The board is also expected to discuss the issue of allowing tiny houses in the town's zoning by-law. The board is also expected to discuss the issue of allowing tiny houses in the town's zoning by-law.

### NATURAL EXCHANGE 5 Students Are Sent Home for Visa Violations

Many were unaware that J-1 visa holders cannot drive pedicabs

By Paul Benson

PROVINCETOWN — It was news to many in Provincetown — including the parents of at least two pedicab operators and subjects to the local government as well — that the J-1 visa program to attract international students to the U.S. for a summer of work and travel, specifically forbids them to drive pedicabs.

There are 15 J-1 visas in Provincetown this summer and another 45 still "pending" in the state, according to a state Dept. website. And it seems that for as long as there have been pedicabs here, international students have been pedaling them.

The program is open for 30 years, and the program before was said that it is "not used to drive," said Gil-Ed Gallo, who runs the program. George Tomasso, mayor of Provincetown, in 2011, said, "I don't know if it's a good idea to have them come in to drive from foreign on the J-1 program, and the majority of their pedicab drivers this year were foreign-born."

### TOWN MANAGEMENT Truro Select Board Renews Tangeman's Contract

The board will discuss his job performance in an open session on July 11

By Stephen Mann-Stall

TRURO — The select board voted 5-1 on July 6 to renew the town's contract with Town Manager Doreen Tangeman. The vote came during an open session and was announced by chair Kristina Reed in a public meeting of the board the next day. The only negative vote was cast by one, chair Sue Brown. Reed told the Provincetown Daily.

The decision came in the wake of a campaign against the board not to renew the contract, which included

a letter to residents for re-evaluating the town manager. The letter stated that his contract was set to expire on July 15, 2022. As of late May, the board had received at least 60 emails calling for Tangeman's removal, with a host of complaints about his performance. Brown did not respond to a message asking about her vote on the July 6 meeting. It is not clear how that decision affected the board on July 6. The board decided to authorize an independent town manager of

a complaint the board had received the town chair by seeking negative information about Tangeman from town employees. See separate article on page A6.





# *2024 New England Newspapers of the Year*



**Weekly Newspapers  
large circulation division**

# Distinguished Newspaper

Weekly Newspapers ♦ large circulation division

**The Inquirer and Mirror**  
Nantucket's Locally-Owned Newspaper Since 1821

**Planning director's management style harshly criticized**  
Leslie Snell denies all accusations

*"This is not a nice place. This is a place where the local employees who are being reworked here."*

**Beetle infestation ravaging island pines**

*"This is not a nice place. This is a place where the local employees who are being reworked here."*

**Around the world with 11th Hour: Sailing at its most extreme**

*"When you get to the end of the world, you're not at the end of the world. You're at the beginning of a new world."*

**Could estate sale find be an authentic Paul Cézanne?**

*"The estate sale find is a Paul Cézanne painting, and it's a very important find for the community."*

**Crisis Response & Support**  
Anywhere in the community 24/7, 365 days a year — insurance not required.  
Crisis Response: 508.221.3315  
fairwindscenter.org

**2024 New England Newspaper of the Year**

# The Inquirer and Mirror

Nantucket, MA



2024 New England Newspaper Awards



# Distinguished Newspaper

Weekly Newspapers ♦ large circulation division

# Addison County Independent

Middlebury, VT

**New canvas**  
A 12x16 canvas print of a scene from the movie 'The Artist' is available for \$24.95. Order by August 15th.

**Family fun?**  
The 10th Annual Family Fun Day is being held on Saturday, August 17th, from 10am to 4pm. Free admission.

**Film Festival**  
The 9th Annual Film Festival is being held on Saturday, August 17th, from 10am to 4pm. Free admission.

## ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Vol. 112, No. 33 Middlebury, Vermont • Thursday, August 17, 2023 • 16 Pages \$1.00



**Field Days' iron warrior**  
Alicia Clark of Middlebury is competing in the ironing competition at the Field Days event. She is one of the many participants who are competing in various events.

### New law makes sheriffs accountable

**By JAMES ELLIOTT**  
MIDDLEBURY, Vt. — Vermont's new law that makes sheriffs more accountable for their actions is a significant step in the state's effort to reform its justice system. The law, which takes effect in January, will require sheriffs to provide a written report to the state's Judicial Branch after every arrest. The report will include details about the arrest, the charges, and the outcome. This new requirement is intended to increase transparency and ensure that sheriffs are held accountable for their actions.

### Inflation, flooding hamper charitable food efforts

**By JAMES ELLIOTT**  
MIDDLEBURY, Vt. — Inflation and flooding are hampering charitable food efforts in Addison County. The rising cost of food and the damage caused by flooding have made it difficult for food banks and other organizations to provide food to those in need. The organizations are struggling to find ways to offset the increased costs and are asking for more support from the community.

### \$600K grant helps city shelter fulfill its mission

**By JAMES ELLIOTT**  
MIDDLEBURY, Vt. — A \$600,000 grant from the state has helped the Middlebury City Shelter fulfill its mission. The grant will be used to improve the shelter's facilities and provide additional services to those in need. The shelter is a vital resource for the community and this grant will help it continue to provide a safe and supportive environment for those who are experiencing homelessness.



**Upside down**  
Alicia Clark of Middlebury who goes up the white flag upside down at the Field Days event. She is one of the many participants who are competing in various events.

### Thank you, Vaneasa

**By JAMES ELLIOTT**  
MIDDLEBURY, Vt. — The Lincoln celebration, longtime mascot of general store with party tributes. The celebration was a great success and a wonderful way to honor the store's long history in the community. The store is a beloved part of the town and this celebration was a testament to its enduring legacy.



**Upside down**  
Alicia Clark of Middlebury who goes up the white flag upside down at the Field Days event. She is one of the many participants who are competing in various events.

### Film festival offers varied lineup

**By JAMES ELLIOTT**  
MIDDLEBURY, Vt. — The 9th annual event to add a cinematic spark to Middlebury. The festival offers a diverse lineup of films, including independent and international works. The event is a great opportunity for the community to enjoy high-quality cinema and support local businesses. The festival is held in a beautiful outdoor setting and is a highlight of the summer season.

**By the way**  
Members of the...  
Middlebury City Police...  
Phone: 248-1111

**Index**  
A-Z...  
A-Z...  
A-Z...

### Council picks educator to fill opening

**By JAMES ELLIOTT**  
MIDDLEBURY, Vt. — The Council has picked an educator to fill a vacant position. The new hire will be responsible for teaching and mentoring students. The Council is pleased with the selection and looks forward to the new hire's contributions to the school community.



2024 New England Newspaper Awards



# Distinguished Newspaper

Weekly Newspapers ♦ large circulation division

POSTAL CUSTOMER: IPSWICH AND ROWLEY

IPSWICH LOCAL NEWS  
NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES

## Ipswich Local News

NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES

READER-SUPPORTED, COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWS • WWW.THELOCALNEWS.NEWS • AUGUST 9, 2023 • VOLUME 4, ISSUE 41

### Rowley 40B project seeks 'yellow light'

by AMY PALMER

Rowley Farms Development presented an overview of its affordable housing and development proposal to a packed Rowley Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday night.

The proposed development spans about 400 acres, of which 29 would be built upon, located by the intersection of Danvers Road and Route 155 and reaching across to Wilburfield Street and Dodge Reservation.

As part of the development, the company hopes to construct affordable housing, a number of recreational facilities, and both a dining and function facility.

"Our vision is a multifaceted development," said Robert Buckley, senior partner at Riemer & Braunstein, who is representing Rowley Farms. "We'll build upon an environment that will ultimately result hopefully in a vibrant, active community."

Rowley Farms Development, located by Ted Spitzer, provided this overview to the selectmen in the hopes of obtaining a "flashing yellow light," Buckley said. The "flashing yellow light" is not an approval nor a full stop on the project, he said, but



to eagerly confer with his sister, Mackenzie, about the next chess move at the Rowley Fourth Lawn Party at Castles Hill on Sunday. Read the story by Peter Schick on page 15, with more photos by John McCabe on pages 16 and 17.

SEE DEVELOPMENT, PAGE 21

### Article: Skinny-dip at Crane Beach. Trustees: Please don't.

by LINDSEY BYMAN

No bathing suit? No problem!

Massachusetts is one of the 49 states that offer skinny-dipping spots in the United States, according to a recent review on a rating website.

The Massachusetts list includes local Craney Beach, Crane Beach, and Crane Harbor Beach.

They rank the top half of the list, along with other Bay State favorites Ashfield Lake, Rock Beach Falls, Chapel Brook, Haverhill Beach, and Lake Garrison.

Steady swimmers on the bottom half of the list include Shingler and Wigganishook beaches.

The article says, "America is home to many secluded and beautiful spots that are ideal for a discreet swim in nothing but your birthday suit."

The ranking is based on beach quality, safety, weather, and local cost.

But before strolling along to test these supposed nudist hot spots, you might want to check the law. A representative of the Trustees of Reservations—the nonprofit that manages Crane Beach—wrote in an email that the Trustees have no comment on the list. Instead, he pointed to the number of 156 annually.

The representative added that public nudity is prohibited on the beach.

While its open water and fresh dune grass may tempt some to go au naturel, Crane Beach lacks the privacy and right aspect of a skinny-dipping locale. The Ipswich Local News is also unsure whether the article accounted for the infamous govt. website warning to take a cheap out of exposed skin.

If the beach rules aren't a deterrent in potential skinny-dippers, those beach-savvy folks might be. A representative of Gloucester's Wigganishook and Good Harbor beaches also said skinny-dipping is not allowed there.

Despite the lower rank of these beaches, their rocks might offer more cover for naturists than Crane's exposure of white dunes.

**Crane Beach nudist misadventure**

Crane Beach's rules misadventure exposure is a misdemeanor in Massachusetts, according to Massachusetts general laws (part IV, title 1, chapter 272, section 53).

A note on the law defines indecent exposure as intentionally exposing genitalia to one or more persons and one or more persons being offended by the exposure.

Offenders can be imprisoned for up to six months, fined up to \$200, or both imprisoned and fined.

The note on the law says the charge accounts

SEE SKINNY-DIPPING, PAGE 21

# Ipswich Local News

Ipswich, MA

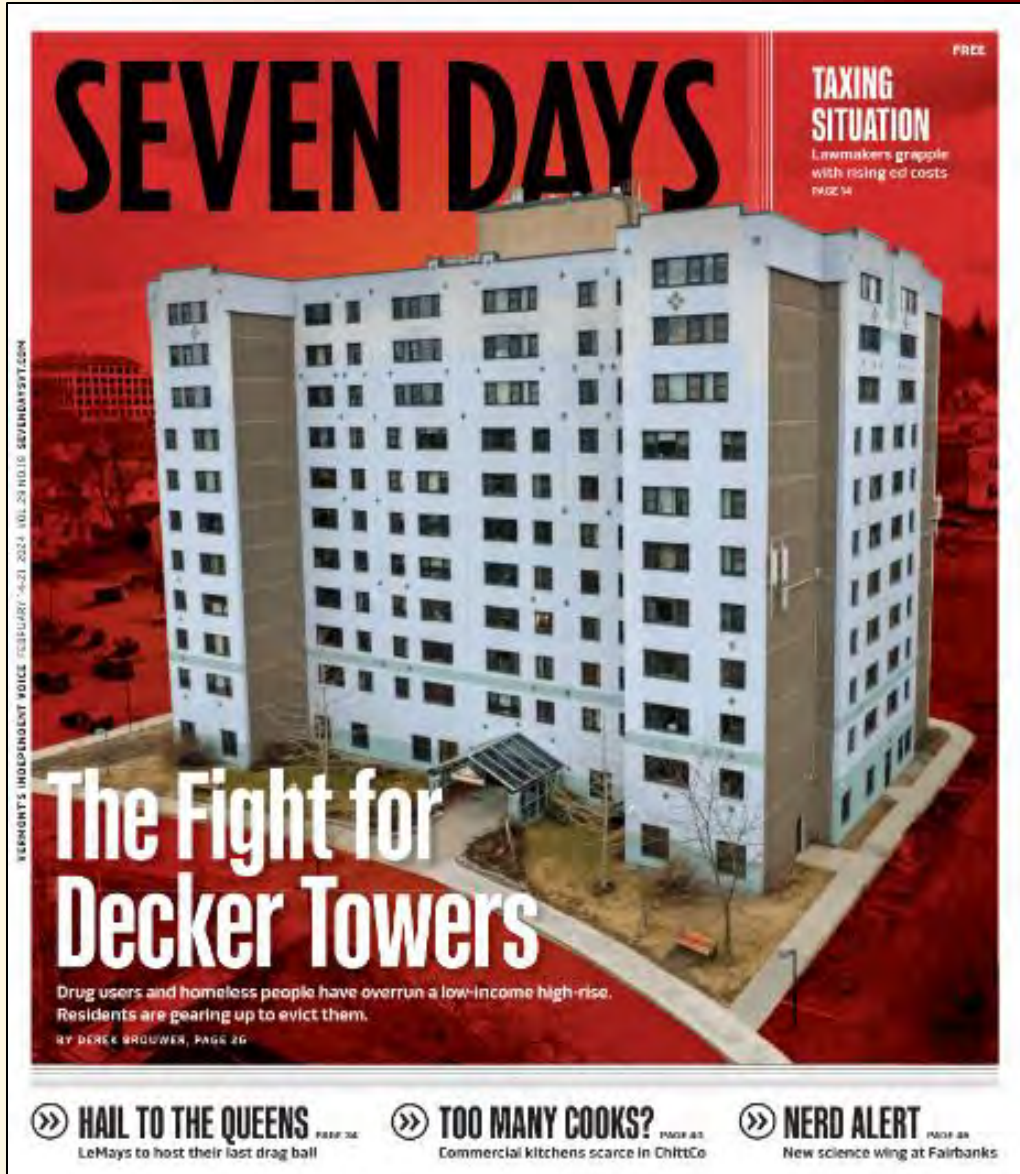


2024 New England Newspaper Awards



# Newspaper of the Year

Weekly Newspapers ♦ large circulation division



## Seven Days

Burlington, VT



2024 New England Newspaper Awards

**NENPA**  
NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER & PRESS ASSOCIATION

# *2024 New England Newspapers of the Year*



**Daily Newspapers  
Weekday Edition  
small circulation division**

# Distinguished Newspaper

Weekday Edition ♦ Small circulation division

# The Keene Sentinel

Keene, NH



2024 New England Newspaper Awards



# Distinguished Newspaper

Weekday Edition ♦ Small circulation division

## GREENFIELD RECORDER

Greenfield, Mass. 01302 • Phone: 413-253-1111 • Fax: 413-253-1112 • Website: www.greenfieldrecorder.com



**Eclipse mania grips continent**  
Millions in path of totality

By [Name] [Date]

Millions of Americans are flocking to the path of totality for the total solar eclipse on Monday, Aug. 21. The eclipse will be visible from the United States, Mexico and parts of Canada. Millions of people are expected to travel to the path of totality to witness the event.

### A celestial occasion

Residents turn out to admire solar eclipse

Greenfield residents gathered on the town square to watch the total solar eclipse on Monday, Aug. 21. The eclipse was visible from the town square, and many residents gathered to watch the event. The eclipse was a rare celestial event, and many residents gathered to watch the event.



Greenfield residents gathered on the town square to watch the total solar eclipse on Monday, Aug. 21. The eclipse was visible from the town square, and many residents gathered to watch the event.

### Memorial coming home

Greenfield resident found wooden box of World War II letters online, restoring of a dream

A Greenfield resident has found a wooden box containing World War II letters online. The box was found on an online marketplace, and the resident was able to identify the letters as belonging to a family friend. The letters were found in a wooden box, and the resident was able to identify the letters as belonging to a family friend. The letters were found in a wooden box, and the resident was able to identify the letters as belonging to a family friend.



### Sportsmen's writer honored for work

Mike Roche recognized by secretary of SOCRATES' Society, writing with 2024 Olympic athletes

Mike Roche, a Greenfield resident, has been recognized by the secretary of the SOCRATES' Society for his work as a writer. Roche has written for the society, and his work has been recognized by the secretary. Roche has written for the society, and his work has been recognized by the secretary.



Recorder.com  
81-25  
A GREENFIELD PUBLICATION



2024 New England Newspaper Awards





CITIES & TOWNS, A3  
Some in Hadley question why town should allow energy storage projects

OPINION, A6  
Columnist John Sheirer: Don't let me whine about taxes



Frontier boys volleyball team eyes Western Mass. three-peat | B1

# Daily Hampshire Gazette

Volume 237, Number 184 | Monday, April 8, 2024

NORTHAMPTON

## 'Rock star' will be missed

Bill Hairston, who spent years as head counselor at VA in Leeds, dies at 86

By SCOTT MCKENZIE

NORTHAMPTON — Bill Hairston was one of the first people to greet Carole McRoy on the day she began teaching services at College Charter last in 1971.

A quiet man who spoke softly and stayed at the back of the church, it wasn't until McRoy and a friend in- vited him out to Friday's that she learned about Hairston's military

service. His struggles with alcohol and his desire to overcome the addic- tion, and his passion to help others. "I never realized he had so many- ing story to tell, but I also never heard him brag during our 47 years of friendship," says McRoy, recalling her friend who died on March 21 at age 86. "Bill was a humble servant and an underdog."

At Mount Zion, which along with St. John & Mary, were the places where Hairston frequented every day he was at the church, and in a place where he would look into the 500 men as his body was being laid out.

"He was a friend to everyone," says Jamaica Haggerty, head of the VA in Northampton, recalling that Hairston would call everyone "govern- or." "He was so friendly he could be at work."

Usually arriving around 7 p.m., Hairston, at 86, was a longtime counselor at the Veterans Administration in Leeds. He died March 22 at the age of 86.



Bill Hairston, the owner of Mount Zion, is shown in a photo of Bill Hairston, who sits at the altar most days. Hairston, at 86, was a longtime counselor at the Veterans Administration in Leeds. He died March 22 at the age of 86.

NORTHAMPTON

## A MURAL TAKES SHAPE

Community painting large mural at JFK school — a collage of places where students feel happy, safe

By ALEXANDER BALDROUGAL

NORTHAMPTON — Mem- bers of the greater Northampton community took part in a painting party on Saturday to help create a 1,500 square-foot mural for JFK Middle School.



The project was spear- headed by two local artists, Sharon Lombard and Ryan Murray. The mural was in- spired by a question posed to the students of the middle school: "What is a place where you can imagine feel- ing happy and safe?"

"The mural is an introduction to the students that art can be used as a way to regulate their emotions," said Lombard, who runs Color Collaborative studio in Northampton. "It's not art therapy in the popper sense, since it's not a clinical mental health service, but it's introducing the idea of art as a way to process some- times hard feelings."

Based on the designs of collages created by students, the mural will be painted by Victoria McKinnon, 12, from left, Georgia Dupuis, 12, Lina Nagle, 11, Natalie Dupuis, 8, and Geoffrey Alaya Torres-Creek, 12, and Cira Sower, 13, paint one of 10 mural panels to help create a 1,500-square-foot mural for JFK Middle School during a community painting party Saturday afternoon in the school cafeteria.

HADLEY

## Hopkins to launch clean energy pathway

School to provide hands-on experience in renewable energy sector; separate grant will bolster STEM programs

By SCOTT MCKENZIE

HADLEY — Hopkins Academy is one of the newest schools in Massachusetts that will be home to a Clean Energy Consortium pathway pilot, with students getting hands-on learning oppor- tunities related to the renewable energy sector.

On Wednesday, Gov. Maura Healey was at Carter Middle School to announce that the school, along with Hopkins, will be piloting the program.

All the same time, Hopkins and Granby Junior High School will both be piloting the Information Technology Career Pathway as they can develop partnerships with local employers and a Middlebury Career Center, giving students an

WEATHER TODAY

Monthly sum: high 67, low 40

Page A2

INDEX

Politics	B1
Crime & Courts	A3-A4
Community Calendar	A7
Classified	A6
Obituary	A6
Notice of Birth	A6
Notice of Marriage	A6
Public Notices	A6
Real Estate	A6

gizettenet.com \$1.25

## Myths and misfortunes surrounding the eclipse

Local experts explain that eclipses have a rich, nearly-mythical history.

By CHLSE ALLEN

Maigi Sharma remembers sitting on the lawn of her child- hood home in Uxbridge, Pennsylv-

— the centuries exact state of be- lief — seven ages ago, gazed at a star- eclipsed orb in a hot water tub.

Sharma's abided-oh-so-early that day to prevent children from making noise during the eclipse. Restaurants and Hindu temples closed, and people took refuge in their homes to avoid the bad omens.

"Sometimes people say do not look at the sun during the solar eclipse. The small amount of light that is visible during the eclipse is not as bright as the sun, but it is still bright enough to cause eye damage if you look directly at it for too long."

Sharma recalled that she be- lieved in the bad omens of the eclipse, and would even her- self not look at the sun during the eclipse. She had a small amount of light that is visible during the eclipse is not as bright as the sun, but it is still bright enough to cause eye damage if you look directly at it for too long.

# Newspaper of the Year

Weekday Edition ♦ Small circulation division

# Daily Hampshire Gazette

## Northampton, MA



### UNITED SUPERHEROES

MONTHLY SUPPORTERS OF OUR LOCAL UNITED WAY

UNITED SUPERHEROES are supporters of our local UNITED WAY. Monthly donors are an integral part of the foundation of our success.

United Way logo and text: "United Way of the Franklin and Hampshire Region" and "Visit: [www.fh.org](http://www.fh.org) to start your automatic monthly gift!"

2024 New England Newspaper Awards



# *2024 New England Newspapers of the Year*



**Daily Newspapers  
Weekday Edition  
Large circulation division**



**PATRIOTS UPSET BY LOSS**  
 MAC JONHEAR  
 LATE TO PASS TO WIN  
 GREGG LIPPER  
 NEW ENGLAND  
 TO 23-22 @ NYJ  
 PAGE 30A

**ANSONIA WINS BIG**  
 MACI BISHAM  
 ELKS RODE & TRS AS  
 CHAMPION COUNTRY CIRCLE, 20-4  
 TO REMAIN UNDEVELOPED, PAGE 24A



**Empowering women in business**  
 Women's Business Development Center,  
 a nonprofit organization based in Ansonia,  
 celebrated the opening of new offices in  
 downtown Waterbury, PAGE 16

**Possible move for post office**  
 U.S. Post Office officials are considering  
 moving the Waterbury post office from its  
 home on Route 20 to a commercial  
 development on Route 68, PAGE 14A

**Janet expands its attacks**  
 An old enemy returned for another  
 day. Janet Napolitano returned to the  
 White House as a member of the  
 White House staff, PAGE 27A

COMMUNITY NEWS, PAGE 28



TODAY AT  
 REP-AM.COM

LET US HELP YOU...  
 WE'LL BE THERE FOR YOU

56 The city will  
 35

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM  
 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
 9:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
 10:00 PM - 11:00 PM  
 11:00 PM - 12:00 AM

## Coalition saves 1,000 acres

Regional effort keeps Salisbury land from being developed

**1,000 ACRES** of land in Salisbury, Conn., have been saved from development by a coalition of conservation groups and local residents. The coalition, led by the Salisbury Land Trust, has successfully fought off several large-scale development projects that would have destroyed thousands of acres of natural habitat and scenic views. The coalition's efforts have resulted in the preservation of 1,000 acres of land, including wetlands, forests, and open fields. The coalition is now working to secure additional funding to purchase the remaining land and to create a network of trails for public use.



The scenic view from Cooper Hill overlooking the Salisbury Land Trust property.

## A CAMPAIGN FULL OF CONTRASTS



Waterbury regional candidate Dan F. Marino speaks at a campaign event.



Paul N. Permerewski Jr. at his home in Waterbury on Thursday.

**Marino calls for change in direction for Waterbury**  
 Dan F. Marino, a candidate for the Waterbury regional seat in the November election, called for a change in direction for the city. He said that the city has been in a state of decline for many years and that it is time to take bold action to revitalize the city. He proposed a series of reforms, including the creation of a new city government structure, the elimination of unnecessary departments, and the implementation of a new budget process. He also called for the city to focus on economic development and job creation.

**Permerewski touts record of moving the city forward**  
 Paul N. Permerewski Jr., a candidate for the Waterbury regional seat in the November election, touts his record of moving the city forward. He said that he has worked hard to improve the city's infrastructure, create jobs, and attract new businesses. He also pointed to his success in securing state and federal funding for various projects. He said that he is committed to continuing his work for the city and to ensuring that Waterbury remains a vibrant and growing community.

**Battle lines drawn over state's proposed auto ban**  
 The proposed ban on the sale of new gas-powered cars in Connecticut has sparked a heated debate. Supporters of the ban argue that it is necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to promote the use of electric vehicles. Opponents argue that the ban is premature and that it will hurt the automotive industry and create jobs. The state is currently in the process of holding public hearings on the issue.

**Fire at Plymouth home on Sunday leaves 1 dead**  
 A fire at a home in Plymouth, Conn., on Sunday left one person dead. The fire started in the kitchen and spread quickly, forcing residents to evacuate. Firefighters arrived on the scene and worked for several hours to contain the fire. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

**Camper in driveway, portion of 18th-century house damaged**  
 A camper parked in the driveway of an 18th-century house in Waterbury was damaged by a fire. The fire started in the camper and spread to the house, causing significant damage to the structure. Firefighters arrived on the scene and worked for several hours to contain the fire. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

# Distinguished Newspaper

Weekday Edition ♦ Large circulation division

# Republican-American

Waterbury, CT



2024 New England Newspaper Awards



# Distinguished Newspaper

Weekday Edition ♦ Large circulation division

## The Day New London, CT



2024 New England Newspaper Awards



# Newspaper of the Year

Weekday Edition ♦ Large circulation division



# The Berkshire Eagle

Pittsfield, MA



2024 New England Newspaper Awards



# *2024 New England Newspapers of the Year*



**Sunday Edition**  
**Small circulation division**

# Distinguished Newspaper

Sunday Edition ♦ Small circulation division

# Eagle Times

Claremont, NH

**EAGLE TIMES**

Monday, Tuesday, April 14, 2024

Spring Sports Preview  
Mayoral Notes: Interested in joining the energy committee?

**Community rallies behind search for missing horse**

**Sheriff John Simonds won't seek re-election**

**First Chamber Auxiliary meeting held**

**Fire safety in Plainfield**

**Weather Today**  
43°

**Sunday**  
49°

**Monday**  
58°

www.eagletimes.com



2024 New England Newspaper Awards








# Newspaper of the Year

Sunday Edition ♦ Small circulation division

INSIDE TODAY

ANNUAL REPORT TO OUR READERS

2023



EYES OF THE OWL

11

## SUNDAY MONITOR

OCTOBER 21, 2023


---

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

#### Curtain call for mall-based theater

By [Author Name]

It's a sad day for theatergoers in Concord as the mall-based theater scene winds down. The Concord Mall Theater, which has been a staple of the community for decades, is set to close its doors. The theater has been a hub for local talent and a place where many have found their passion for the stage. The closure is a significant loss for the town, but it also marks a new chapter in the history of theater in Concord.



CONCORD


#### Plan at ex-CVS deemed too tall

By [Author Name]

Plans for a new development at the former CVS site in Concord have been deemed too tall by the town's planning board. The proposed building would be significantly taller than the surrounding structures, which has caused concern among residents and local businesses. The town is looking for alternative plans that would better fit the neighborhood's character.

### PROS AND CONS OF SYNTHETIC FIELDS

As Concord's city and school officials consider the future of Veterans Field, we look at how they're being used elsewhere and successes and challenges they've seen.



LYNNWOOD, MASS. (left) and MILFORD, MASS. (right)


LYNNWOOD, MASS. (left) and MILFORD, MASS. (right)

---

### SPLIT DECISION

By [Author Name]

The town of Ossipee is facing a difficult decision regarding the future of its ski area. The ski area has been a major attraction for the town, but it has also faced challenges in recent years. The town is weighing the pros and cons of different options, including whether to continue operating the ski area or to repurpose the land for other uses.



DAVID BROOKS

#### What could come of lost ski area in Ossipee?

By [Author Name]

The loss of the ski area in Ossipee has left many wondering what the future holds for the land. There are several potential options, including converting the land into a park, a residential development, or a commercial center. The town is currently in the process of evaluating these options and will make a final decision in the coming months.


---

**SLOW DRAIN? WHOOSH IT AWAY!**

**\$99 MAIN DRAIN LINE OPENING**

833-209-1603

RECIPE



RECIPE

2023

11

# Concord Monitor

Concord, MA



2024 New England Newspaper Awards



# *2024 New England Newspapers of the Year*



**Sunday Edition**  
**Large circulation division**

# Distinguished Newspaper

Sunday Edition ♦ Large circulation division

## The Berkshire Eagle Pittsfield, MA



**The Berkshire Eagle**  
WEEKENDER

### Who was Mark Bednarz?

While addiction and criminal activity ultimately may have led to his death, family members want people to know there was much more to him than that.

**T**he family members of Mark Bednarz, a man who died in a car crash on the road to a drug rehab center, say they are still in shock. "I don't think I could be a drug addict," says his wife, Jennifer. "I don't think I could be a criminal. I don't think I could be a person who would do anything like that." Jennifer says she and Mark were together for 15 years. "I don't think I could be a person who would do anything like that," she says. "I don't think I could be a person who would do anything like that."



**EAGLE INVESTIGATIONS**

**INSIDE**

**Plan your summer with BerkshiresWeek.com**

It makes sense that The Eagle is creating such an excellent site. After all, who knows more about the Berkshire than the community's newspaper of record for the last 130 years?

**20% OFF** Sunesta **FREE** 0% Financing

**2024 New England Newspaper of the Year**



2024 New England Newspaper Awards



# Distinguished Newspaper

Sunday Edition ♦ Large circulation division

# Sunday Republican.

Springfield, MA

**Sunday Republican.**  
Celebrating 200 YEARS!  
MASS LIVE  
February 25, 2024

**B'S WOES CONTINUE**  
Risks rise to 40% in new study from MIT, Page 10  
ALSO INSIDE: The impact of brain disease on women, Page 16

**OUTLOOK 2024**  
Come get schooled in WMass' commercial life

**Did 'overserving' at The Still lead to a deadly wrong-way crash?**

**CANNABIS EXPO**  
FEB 24 & 25  
SAT 10-8  
SUN 10-5  
WWW.XPOCANN.COM



2024 New England Newspaper Awards



# Newspaper of the Year

Sunday Edition ♦ Large circulation division



## The Day

New London, CT



2024 New England Newspaper Awards



# *2024 New England Newspaper Awards*

---

## *Public Occurrences*

# Publick Occurrences

Named for *Publick Occurrences*,  
the first newspaper published in America (1690)



Recognizing this year's  
*most outstanding journalism*  
by individuals and teams  
at New England newspapers

# Publick Occurrences

WEEKEND EDITION CONCORD HOCKEY READY FOR PLAYOFFS

## CONCORD MONITOR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2014

### Revisiting Rundlett: Forging ahead amid concern

It's been almost 10 years since the Concord middle school was closed. The school's closure was a controversial decision that has been revisited many times over. The school's closure was a controversial decision that has been revisited many times over. The school's closure was a controversial decision that has been revisited many times over.

**PLANNING THE END:** This is the first in a series of stories documenting Barbara Fillet's decision to travel to Vermont to end her terminal illness through medical aid in dying.



**Unity in politics was his strength**

Philips, family member, Virginia, 62, Spauld County, Vermont

**TO OUR READERS:** The first Weekender, and check out our new app

### 'TOTALLY READY'

By the time the weekend comes around, you'll be ready to go. The first Weekender, and check out our new app.



**APPLY NOW!**

ALL	Aluminum	12
AL	Aluminum	12
AS	Aluminum	12
AW	Aluminum	12
AC	Aluminum	12
AD	Aluminum	12
AE	Aluminum	12
AF	Aluminum	12
AG	Aluminum	12
AH	Aluminum	12
AI	Aluminum	12
AJ	Aluminum	12
AK	Aluminum	12
AL	Aluminum	12
AM	Aluminum	12
AN	Aluminum	12
AO	Aluminum	12
AP	Aluminum	12
AQ	Aluminum	12
AR	Aluminum	12
AS	Aluminum	12
AT	Aluminum	12
AU	Aluminum	12
AV	Aluminum	12
AW	Aluminum	12
AX	Aluminum	12
AY	Aluminum	12
AZ	Aluminum	12

**ADVERTISING:** 833-209-1403

**CONCORD MONITOR**

NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER & PRESS ASSOCIATION

## Concord Monitor

Concord, NH

### "Planning the end"









# Public Occurrences



## Maine rarely sanctions residential care facilities even after severe abuse or neglect incidents

By Rose Lundy  
November 12, 2023

From 2020 to 2022, Maine's state health department cited residential care facilities for dozens of resident rights violations and hundreds of other deficiencies. But it has imposed only one fine in response.

## The Maine Monitor

Hallowell, ME

“Maine’s long-term challenge”

# Public Occurrences



Photo: Investigation, ProPublica, document

This article was The Maine Monitor informed about and photograph

One lunchtime started thrown was lethargic care notes

The resident w Former facility restoration room even all

**5 Resident Rights**  
**5.10 Right to freedom from sexual abuse; neglect**  
 Residents shall be free from sexual abuse, neglect, or harassment.  
 This has not been well as ex  
 Based on record review and 10) were neglected by failure to allow doctor to an identify  
 Finding:  
 1. On 10/20/21, an anony  
 the Division of License  
 2. On 11/6/21 and 12/21  
 for review.  
 3. The 10/18/21 13:28 hr  
 read "after lunch res  
 lethargic. they took  
 hydroxyamine for sec

The Maine Department violated a resident's right sandwich despite his do Highlighted by ProPublica

The health department approach to oversight department rarely in roughly 190 largest medical care than n older Mainers.

From 2020 to 2022, these facilities for 59 involving anything fr and missed mandat

Despite these violat facility for failing to c issued four condition violations and one in privacy rights.

By contrast, Massac from imposing stiff s operations for regul

The paucity of sand Woodlands of Rock

## 5 RESID 5.10 Right Resid sexual

This has not

Based on re  
 a resident's li

Finding:

On 12/19/20  
 Division of L  
 visit was ma

1. On 12  
 confir  
 out in

The Maine Department protecting "a resident locked courtyard. (Ob

Woodlands of Roc that the facility viol declined to elabor

Edward Sedacca, company took ove incident, and has s we inherited was b infrastructure well higher level of can

Crawford Common

**RELATED STORY**  
 found in the anov



Dianne Mills outside her h

Farwell disputed Mills Woodlands of Rockla investigation for the c inconsistent with the r said.

According to Farwell, process of hiring two the state for license re

Mollot, of the Long Te to do more against fa independent monitori

"Faced with the fact th and over again inclu enforcement acts?" M

"What

Several former emp incidents at Woodla when the health de



Stacy Peterson, a form facility managers made Rice for ProPublica.

From 2020 to 2022 reported by a Level another resident, ac

But the health depa Rockland reported, requiring the facility

With little pressure "were nonexistent v

## Maine's he investigate away from

Elopement — when a for people with demen never inspected and ra



After a state investigat without staff noticing, t been sanctioned by M wandering away. (Pho photograph by Tara Ri Monitor and ProPublic

This article was produ The Maine Monitor. Ha

Late one morning in M disoriented" man stand called police and then intersection.

From 2020 to 2022, new reporting shows, residents wandered away from Maine residential care facilities at least 115 times, according to state inspection records and a database of incidents reported to the health department.

The incidents took place at 48 residential care facilities classified as Level IV, which resemble what are known generally as assisted living facilities in other states. According to the Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation's online licensing portal, there are roughly 190 Level IV facilities in the state.

The Maine Monitor and ProPublica found that at least 30 of the elopements took place at Cape Memory Care and other facilities that house people with severe dementia — which are required to be locked or otherwise secured to prevent residents from wandering away.

In 98 of the elopements, investigators conducted only a desk review or no investigation at all. Health department spokesperson Lindsay Hammes said investigators decide not to take action for a variety of reasons, including because a facility has already moved to correct the underlying issue.

"The Department takes seriously and investigates instances of elopement. A desk review is one type of investigation," Hammes said.



In at least 30 incidents, residents wandered away from facilities like Cape Memory Care that house people with severe dementia. Photo by Tara Rice for ProPublica.

# Publick Occurrences

**THE KEENE SENTINEL**  
Celebrating our 225th year Thursday, May 30, 2024

**Rally at the Statehouse**  
"We can never talk a break. We have to continue to stand up and say who we are and demand how we need to be treated in this world!" —MILLER YOUNG

**U-turns, footpath among potential topics for workshop**  
Department of Transportation proposal

**Bills that would curb LGBTQ+ rights draw 200 protesters to Concord**  
By JAMES KENNEDY, General Staff

**State's top court examines local town's shooting range ordinance**  
By COURTNEY CARROLL, General Staff

**INSIDE**

## The Keene Sentinel Keene, NH

### "Covering the LGBTQ+ community"



# Publick Occurrences



The Keene Sentinel  
Richard Hines



Three stories of...  
Richard Hines

Richard Hines

Richard Hines

Richard Hines

Richard Hines

Richard Hines

Richard Hines

Richard Hines

Richard Hines

Richard Hines

Richard Hines

Richard Hines

Richard Hines

Richard Hines

Richard Hines

Richard Hines

## Three stories

Three stories of...  
Richard Hines

## Three stories of

Three stories of...  
Richard Hines

## States rethink ambit

States rethink ambit...  
Richard Hines

## magazine

magazine...  
Richard Hines

## The Check-Up: It's Not

The Check-Up: It's Not...  
Richard Hines

## Be in the present mo

Be in the present mo...  
Richard Hines

## magazine

magazine...  
Richard Hines

## Exercise is for everyone

Exercise is for everyone...  
Richard Hines

## Richmond zoning p

Richmond zoning p...  
Richard Hines

## magazine

magazine...  
Richard Hines

## Bill targets gender

Bill targets gender...  
Richard Hines

## CVS announces plans

CVS announces plans...  
Richard Hines



The Keene Sentinel  
Richard Hines



## Bill targets gender

Bill targets gender...  
Richard Hines

## CVS announces plans

CVS announces plans...  
Richard Hines

## Bill would ban gender

Bill would ban gender...  
Richard Hines

## Testimony trends against

Testimony trends against...  
Richard Hines

## ABOUT THE SENTINEL

ABOUT THE SENTINEL...  
Richard Hines

## CVS announces plans

CVS announces plans...  
Richard Hines

## magazine

magazine...  
Richard Hines

## The Check-Up: Understanding the impact of HIV and AIDS

The Check-Up: Understanding the impact of HIV and AIDS...  
Richard Hines

## CVS announces plans

CVS announces plans...  
Richard Hines

## magazine

magazine...  
Richard Hines

## The Check-Up: Understanding the impact of HIV and AIDS

The Check-Up: Understanding the impact of HIV and AIDS...  
Richard Hines

## CVS announces plans

CVS announces plans...  
Richard Hines

## From Room 37 to Cell 17

A young man's path through the mental health care system led to prison — and a fatal encounter

BY DEREK BROUWER & EDLIN FLANDERS

He was being hustled — he was certain of it. His passengers snatched him from the corners of their eyes. Trucks snorting the block, strangers pressed close. He heard shouts and screams, spectral sounds snuffly straggled off as urban drizzle. But on this windy December night in 2020, the young man took them as clues that someone was chasing him.

He had just left a downtown café and called Burlington police for help. Soon, officers at the University of Vermont Medical Center were introduced to Mphahenge Mafuta. Friends knew him by his nickname, Robbie, which he pronounced in an unusual way. ROW-bee, that sounded like the name of the six-inch Bowie knife he'd begun carrying for protection.

His case notes describe the new patient: 19 years old, Black, clean-shaven, no known psychiatric history. He was paranoid, and likely hallucinating. "I am being followed by a group of people unknown to me," Mafuta told nurse Rhyanette Miles in Room 37, one of two in the emergency department outfitted with retractable metal screens used to shield medical equipment when patients lash out during a psychotic episode.

A specialist arrived over hours later and began asking questions. The first was simple: What do you do for?

### ABOUT THIS STORY

Our reporting is based on public records and pages of court documents, police reports, and interviews with Mafuta's legal counsel. Mafuta declined our request for an interview. This column was first published in 2024. It has been updated to reflect new information.

"I'm a lawyer," Mafuta answered.

Over the next two years, Mafuta's name and face would become familiar to doctors, police, corrections officers and residents of a city increasingly anxious about the interlocking problems of mental illness, homelessness and crime. He would return to the hospital again and again and take to sleeping on downtown park benches. He would be tackled and tased during a publicized run-in with Burlington cops, making a political statement that soon landed in George Floyd's name. During a heated local election campaign, city officials would deploy Mafuta as a symbol of focusing public safety.

Then, in a matter of seconds inside a St. Albans prison last December, Mafuta beat and garrotted another inmate. Mafuta stopped outside his cell that day, dazed and bloody, as prison officers scrambled to save Jeffrey Hall, who subsequently died in a hospital. Last month, Mafuta appeared in a Franklin County courtroom to answer a charge of murder.

The late files of the attack seem to point to a dangerous and volatile defendant whose destructive impulses flared in prison, but interviews with Mafuta and people close to him, as well as a review of police records and hundreds of pages of medical charts, reveal a far more complicated chain of events.

This most disquieting element is the story of a young man whose early childhood trauma soon but transformed into a gifted and charismatic teen — only to sink into a quagmire of mental illness and homelessness from which an overburdened, fragmented network of care was unable to rescue him. His descent offers a telling glimpse into the inadequacies of a system that provides limited support during the early stages of psychiatric illness, forcing the machinery of criminal justice to respond when crises result.

If Mafuta's murder case makes it to trial, his attorney will seek to convince jurors that he was

## Seven Days

Burlington, VT

# “Robbie Mafuta: a young man’s path through the mental health care system”







# Publick Occurrences

## Rhode Island Catholic

WWW.THERCATHOLIC.COM

FAITH, FAMILY & LIFE SINCE 1875

NOVEMBER 16, 2023 ■ \$1.00



Slate of Hope: A Time for Giving Thanks

PAGE 3



Catholic Near East Welfare Association assisting Gazans

PAGE 5



Who's Holy Land is it? A history of the most contested land

PAGE 7

### ISRAEL AT WAR - PART 1: REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

## Israel launches offensive after Hamas attack

BY RICK SNIZER  
Executive Editor

ASHDOD, Israel — Driving south from Jerusalem toward the border of the Gaza Strip, I wondered how long it would be before the Red Alert app that I had downloaded to my phone on my arrival in Israel would announce a rocket strike was imminent.

After arriving in Ashdod, about 40 miles from the Gaza Crossing into Gaza, it would take only 15 minutes.

I parked in the sandy lot of a seaside hotel, one being used by many foreign journalists covering the war. After seeing several news crews waiting out on their body armor, a rifle on my back, I decided to leave mine in the trunk of the rental while I walked out to the beach. From my vantage point, I could see what appeared to be an Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) tank patrol boat offshore in the Mediterranean, and a tank landing craft (the Babier Landing Craft) carrying a cadre of commandos speeding by much closer to shore.

I took note of how isolated the beach was on an otherwise beautiful, 85-degree day, save for a group of four French-speaking men playing paddle ball near the closed-swim area where I took for a foreign TV news crew enjoying some downtime. I also spotted a man sporting a red moustache who resembled one of David Hasselhoff, and more peculiar of all, a bikini-clad woman lying face down in

the sand about 200 feet away reading a book. I looked up, seeing a helicopter gunship overhead and a large unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) circling between the beach and the Gaza border.

It was then that it happened. The air raid came round to the end in the same instant, the Red Alert app chimed a warning. I looked down, seeing it read, "Ashdod Southern Industrial Zone."

"That's where I am," I started to say as the loud report of an Iron Dome battery hidden nearby discharged five rockets in a search for the target. Within seconds explosions could be heard as smoke billowed from where they had impacted the targets. I thought one of the rockets launched by Hamas had evaded the defenses when the Iron Dome missile performed a loop and neutralized it. It was a stunning sight to behold.

That evening, I made sure to wear the body armor as I drove along a lonely, dusty back road under an overcast sky, to a point about five miles north of the beach, just which only military vehicles were allowed to continue south on Day 1 of the IDF's land invasion into Gaza.

From there I would see many Hamas rocket launchers, with most heading high and to the north, with the Red Alert app chiming out warnings inaccurately for the Tel Aviv and Central Israel areas.

See ISRAEL, Page 14



Photo: Rick Snizer

**ROCKETS BURSTING IN AIR:** Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system shoots down a rocket above Ashdod, Israel. Red was launched by Hamas from the Gaza Strip on Oct. 28.



Photo: Rick Snizer

**KEEPING HOPE ALIVE:** A display of 30 handmade teddy bears, each representing one of the children kidnapped by Hamas terrorists on Oct. 7 and taken back to the Gaza Strip, where they are being held hostage, draws thousands each day to Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Square. Each bear has a photo, name and age of one of the child hostages.

# Rhode Island Catholic

Providence, RI

## “Israel at war series”

**NEN&PA**  
NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER & PRESS ASSOCIATION

# Public Occurrences

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023

## Catholic News shining

BY RICK SWEENEY  
Executive Editor

**ISRAELI CALM** — "Noah's ark is safe," Joseph Plauton says, giving his assessment of the rapidly deteriorating situation in the Gaza Strip, the smaller of the two Palestinian territories in the Holy Land.

Plauton, the regional director of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association's Jerusalem Field Office, is going forward as he believes the issues being offered by members of the news team who live and carry out the Association's work in the traditions of the Good Samaritan in the Holy Land.

Said Plauton, who is a successful businessman and a Holy Lander who has earned a UNESCO award for his work in the Holy Land, "I am a businessman and I am a humanitarian. I am a humanitarian because I believe that the Holy Land is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony."

"I am a businessman because I believe that the Holy Land is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. I am a humanitarian because I believe that the Holy Land is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony."

"I am a businessman because I believe that the Holy Land is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. I am a humanitarian because I believe that the Holy Land is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony."

"I am a businessman because I believe that the Holy Land is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. I am a humanitarian because I believe that the Holy Land is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony."

"I am a businessman because I believe that the Holy Land is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. I am a humanitarian because I believe that the Holy Land is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony."

"I am a businessman because I believe that the Holy Land is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. I am a humanitarian because I believe that the Holy Land is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony."

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023

## Who's Holy Land contested swam in the Middle

BY JENNIFER BARTON  
Special Staff Writer  
(Continued)

BY RICK SWEENEY  
Executive Editor

**P**erhaps the most heated area of religious, and even political, contention in the Holy Land is the status of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. It is the site of the Temple of Solomon, which was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. and the Dome of the Rock, which was built by the Umayyads in 691 A.D.

"The Temple Mount is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony."

"The Temple Mount is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony."

"The Temple Mount is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony."

"The Temple Mount is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony."

"The Temple Mount is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony."

"The Temple Mount is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony."

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023

## Israel

(From page 1)

I would expect to see another attack in the next few days. I arrived back at my hotel around 10 p.m. and was expecting my gear to be waiting for me. I had heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad.

At the same time, there was a lot of talk about the situation in the Holy Land. I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad. I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad.

"I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad. I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad. I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad."

"I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad. I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad. I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad."

"I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad. I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad. I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad."

"I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad. I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad. I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad."

"I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad. I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad. I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad."

"I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad. I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad. I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad."

"I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad. I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad. I heard that the situation was bad, but I was not expecting it to be this bad."

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2023

## ISRAEL AT WAR – PART 2: A HOS

### Attack survivor release of the ho

BY RICK SWEENEY  
Executive Editor

**TET, HO CHI MINH** — It's a nightmare scenario that no parent would ever want to experience. But what if the members of his family were taken captive by Hamas militants on Oct. 7, two weeks-late members of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) who had been sent to the Gaza Strip to assist in the evacuation of the area.

Shortly after the Oct. 7, he left the cover of his tank and ran to the aid of his fellow soldiers. He was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed. He was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed. He was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed.

"I was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed. I was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed. I was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed."

"I was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed. I was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed. I was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed."

"I was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed. I was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed. I was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed."

"I was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed. I was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed. I was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed."

"I was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed. I was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed. I was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed."

"I was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed. I was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed. I was the only one left standing when the tank was destroyed."

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2023

## ISRAEL AT WAR – PART 3: Latin Patria

### to make go

BY RICK SWEENEY  
Executive Editor

**CHADOLAN** — The current war between Israel and Hamas is not only a religious and political conflict, but also a cultural one. It is a conflict that has the potential to divide the Holy Land into two warring states.

"The current war between Israel and Hamas is not only a religious and political conflict, but also a cultural one. It is a conflict that has the potential to divide the Holy Land into two warring states."

"The current war between Israel and Hamas is not only a religious and political conflict, but also a cultural one. It is a conflict that has the potential to divide the Holy Land into two warring states."

"The current war between Israel and Hamas is not only a religious and political conflict, but also a cultural one. It is a conflict that has the potential to divide the Holy Land into two warring states."

"The current war between Israel and Hamas is not only a religious and political conflict, but also a cultural one. It is a conflict that has the potential to divide the Holy Land into two warring states."

"The current war between Israel and Hamas is not only a religious and political conflict, but also a cultural one. It is a conflict that has the potential to divide the Holy Land into two warring states."

"The current war between Israel and Hamas is not only a religious and political conflict, but also a cultural one. It is a conflict that has the potential to divide the Holy Land into two warring states."

"The current war between Israel and Hamas is not only a religious and political conflict, but also a cultural one. It is a conflict that has the potential to divide the Holy Land into two warring states."

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023

## ISRAEL AT WAR – PART 4: JEWS AND CHRISTIANS COME TOGETHER

### Israeli border evacuees enjoy respite supported through Jewish, Christian relief efforts

BY RICK SWEENEY  
Executive Editor

**JEHOISALIM** — The Gaza Strip is a small territory, but it is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony.

"The Gaza Strip is a small territory, but it is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony."

"The Gaza Strip is a small territory, but it is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony."

"The Gaza Strip is a small territory, but it is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony."

"The Gaza Strip is a small territory, but it is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony."

"The Gaza Strip is a small territory, but it is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony."

"The Gaza Strip is a small territory, but it is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony."

"The Gaza Strip is a small territory, but it is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony. It is a place where people can live together in peace and harmony."

Rhode Island Catholic ■ 3



JEWS AND CHRISTIANS COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THE ISRAELI BORDER EVACUEES. (PHOTOS BY RICK SWEENEY)

# Public Occurrences

## Vermont's Relapse

Efforts to address opioid addiction were starting to work. Then potent new street drugs arrived.

BY COLIN FLANDERS - cflanders@vermontjournal.com

### Amanda Bean's longtime opioid addiction took a turn last summer.

The drugs she bought on the street were noticeably stronger but wore off faster — so she shot up more often each day. She also started to use methamphetamine, which had become cheaper and more readily available than the cocaine she preferred. She would sometimes go days without sleep, she said during a recent interview from jail, drifting further and further away from reality.

Then the withdrawals began. Even on throughout the fall and winter, until a fall as if each time she tried, she was awakened by someone knocking over her with Narcan, the OD-reversal medicine. In April,

on Easter weekend, she overdosed at her mother's apartment. Each day the following week, she landed in the ER for overdoses, prompting a court-ordered detox to finally ask her what the hell was going on. "I don't know," he recalled telling him.

By last month, Bean had racked up more than 90 pending criminal charges, most for seeking to support her addiction. On May 4, she appeared for a hearing at the Burlington courthouse. Chittenden County State's Attorney Sarah George, who had gotten to know Bean over the years through the legal



## Seven Days

Burlington, VT

## “Vermont's Relapse”

# Publick Occurrences

## Vermont's Relapse

### REBOUND EFFECT

There was a time when many expressed hope for people with opioid use disorders. In early 2014, three weeks after Obama's speech, these wishes faded. One female has learned about her experience with addiction.

She'd already come a long way. As a child, Brian felt uncomfortable in his own skin — "the damaged goods," she would say years later — and the thing that brought others happiness was hollow to her. "The only time I ever felt at peace or joy was when I'm fucked up," she said.

By 20, she had been hospitalized in and out of the state for mental illness and experienced some of the biggest problems plaguing Vermont's treatment system: long waits at inpatient clinics, a lack of access to medication for addiction in prisons. But with the help of Lund, a therapist that works with mothers to overcome addiction, Brian had gained calm. She was able to bond and enjoy parenting classes. As she worked to transition, someone held her youngest child, just a month old.

For the briefest moment, Brian was a "nice" life change. Over the next five years, Vermont leaders pursued efforts to fix some of the major problems she had encountered. The health care system, law enforcement and courts slowly started to treat addiction as a disease instead of a moral failing. Treatment rapidly expanded, including into prisons.

But opioid overdoses, which had risen from 63 in 2014 to 139 in 2016, finally dropped in 2019. It seemed as if Vermont had turned a corner.

But the ground was already shifting. Mexican cartels started pumping cheap fentanyl and methamphetamine into state streets, and those drugs plied themselves across the Northeast, including in Vermont.

Dentard was shorting up to meet local overdose helpline reports, and people who had been using opiates for years started trying meth. Some were hooked instantly.

"I got the biggest rush I'll ever had in my entire life," said Chris, 38, of her first fix, about five years ago. "I used to use pills because big 's was 10 times more addicting [than pills]."

Meth — or Tuna, as one known on the streets — proved longer than cocaine, too. Chris, who asked if her best name be withheld because she still uses drugs, knew immediately she would never go back to opiates.

32 SEPTEMBER 1, 2021



people who might have had a hard time to support their addiction and instead they were a quick way to make a buck, too said.

Brian agreed when residents in the city have also been tried to drugs. In Governor's emergency order number City Hall Park. But somehow, apparently have been the result of a doctor not being according to change the state's treatment plans have been tied to such cases.

"I want to do it in Vermont, but I don't know if it's really that easy," she said.

She's struggled with addiction on and off for years but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

34 SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

## Vermont's Relapse

to building trust, and the scientific medical research on the effects of the treatment. The treatment program that has shown promise — such as those that offer those — is still being tested — and it's not working in the Burlington area.

No treatment has become more difficult, the demand for places people can go to detox and regain stability has grown. But it can be that worse so get into the state — or even worse — and then it's worse — or dead.

The lack of resources has taken a toll on both users and the people trying to help them. All that's happened, it's the worst of the worst of the worst.

"Vermont is completely overwhelmed. I know you're outside. I hear you have no housing. I hear you were assaulted and raped last night. I don't have experience for you right," she said.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

34 SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

One thing the bill does not touch on is whether prevention sites, which have been shown to reduce overdose deaths when they're opened. Two pilot projects in New York City and many others demonstrate the best way to reach the needy and is Vermont. That includes Westminster, who opened the first of its kind, providing a safe place for people to get help. It has been shown to be effective.

"That's a staggering figure, and, in fact, even more so. We're addressing the problem of the people that are in the state," Westminster said in an interview.

But the health care system is still a long way from being a good place to go to for those who are struggling. And Health Commissioner Micaela Garza has expressed concern that the health care system in Vermont is not doing well.

As a legislative hearing in April, Garza raised concerns over geographic

**We need to once again start treating this like our No. 1 public health crisis.**

BURLINGTON MAYOR MEG WATKINSON

inequality, noting that some of the high-use overdose cases occur in rural areas where it could be difficult to find such a site. He also expressed the progression of the facilities in the age of fentanyl, when people have to use more often. Someone would have to "live" at a site in some way, he said, adding that he wants to see more resources.

Vermont's residents face a hard battle to get treatment services. The state has 24 licensed detox and rehab facilities, but only one is a full-service detox and rehab facility. The rest are just detox facilities.

That's the state of Vermont's addiction treatment services. The state has 24 licensed detox and rehab facilities, but only one is a full-service detox and rehab facility. The rest are just detox facilities.

That's the state of Vermont's addiction treatment services. The state has 24 licensed detox and rehab facilities, but only one is a full-service detox and rehab facility. The rest are just detox facilities.

34 SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

"We've changed our language, but it's time," he said, pointing to his health, "in fact, we still don't care if they die."

Westminster chose Baker's frustration and said he fears that the state is no longer meeting the problem as an urgent matter. Back to the end of the third quarter, the state's overall budget for local leaders to help fight opioids. Now, Westminster said, he and his counterparts are pushing for help from the state.

"If we start to really address this crisis," he said, "we need state government to open the door to us."

**'YOU'RE ALIVE'**  
Amidst these times, says the first time she was treated for an overdose — not because she wanted to — but because she had found a necessary piece in the struggle that she thought might be helpful. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help. She's been able to find a doctor but she says she has a lot of help.

34 SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

**COLDWELL BANKER** CAROLYN BELL, REALTOR

**WELCOMES MONIQUE BEDARD**

As a Vermont native and Vermont native, Carolyn Bell is proud to welcome Monique Bedard to the team. Carolyn has been a Realtor for over 10 years and has a wealth of experience in the industry. She is a dedicated professional and a great person to have on your team. She is currently looking for new clients and is ready to help you with all your real estate needs.

**MONIQUE BEDARD** is currently looking for new clients and is ready to help you with all your real estate needs. She is a dedicated professional and a great person to have on your team. She is currently looking for new clients and is ready to help you with all your real estate needs.

www.coldwellbanker.com  
www.moniquebedard.com  
88 Park St. New, Vermont

OVER 150 COMMERCIAL LISTINGS

**jane frank** JEWELRY & MORE

**WEEK'S FALL**

**JEWELRY CLASSES: SOLO OR GROUPS**

**ORIGINAL FATHER'S DAY & GRADUATION GIFTS**

www.janefrank.net | 26 Strong St. Burlington | 802.486.8742

**Travel back in time on Vermont's fastest moving restaurant!**

Enjoy a gourmet, three-course meal at the **Champion Valley Diner**. Only 1930s, authentic Vermont food and signature cocktails on the menu. **Chefs on the Move**. As you walk a moving three-story, multi-level train car through the beautiful Champion Valley, Vermont depot from Burlington Union Station, you'll experience the best of Vermont's history and scenic views.

**rails-vt.com**  
www.championvalleydiner.com

**Experience Vermont by Rail!**

**Champion Valley Diner**

34 SEPTEMBER 1, 2021


# Public Occurrences

The Providence Journal


ws | Sports Entertainment Lifestyle Food Advertise Obituaries eNewspaper Legals

LOCAL

## What hundreds of pages of records reveal about nursing home resident-on-resident violence

 **Antonia Noori Farzan**  
Providence Journal

Published 5:03 a.m. ET May 1, 2024 | Updated 7:11 a.m. ET May 1, 2024




John Sullivan's sister was taken aback when she saw his new roommate.

[Robert Hill](#) was "a big man," she later recalled in a police interview, "and I could tell that he had a temper."

"Jack" Sullivan, by contrast, was frail, bedridden, immobile and could no longer speak. Once an insurance adjuster and outdoorsman who was [one of the founding members of the Ocean State Bird Club](#), the 81-year-old suffered from Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease and was receiving round-the-clock hospice care at Warren's Crestwood Nursing Home.

His new roommate seemed disoriented, anxious and confused about why he was at the nursing home, Sullivan's sister noticed. Hill, 76, was loud, so she couldn't help but hear him arguing with his wife and asking for his keys back.

On the way out, Sullivan's sister stopped by the nurses station to voice her concerns. But there was no one there.



## The Providence Journal

Providence, RI

### “Nursing home investigaton”

# Public Occurrences

PLACE  
ce Classifieds

ews | Sports Entertainment Lifestyle Food


LOCAL

## Here's what happens in nursing homes that isn't tracked

**Antonia Noori Farzan**  
Providence Journal

Published 5:03 a.m. ET May 1, 2024 | Updated 5:03 a.m. ET May 1, 2024

Is resident-on-resident violence in nursing homes more common than in other states, or less? And when patients harm one another, how do we respond? We don't know, because federal agencies haven't tracked the incidents. Here's an overview of what happens in nursing homes, how the authorities, and what is and isn't tracked.



A nurse wheels a resident down a hallway at Alder Street Nursing Home. *Providence Journal*

PLACE  
ce Classifieds

ews | Sports Entertainment Lifestyle Food

CRIME

## Look up incidents of resident-on-resident violence in our database

**Antonia Noori Farzan and Wheeler**  
Providence Journal

Published 5:34 a.m. ET May 1, 2024 | Updated 5:03 a.m. ET May 1, 2024

The Providence Journal reviewed records from the Rhode Island Department of Health and the Rhode Island Department of Corrections to gain a better understanding of how often resident-on-resident violence occurs in nursing homes. Compiled in the searchable database, the Journal is in the process of creating a searchable database that will allow the public to look up incidents of resident-on-resident violence in Rhode Island nursing homes. Please note, this database is not a comprehensive list of incidents that occurred in Rhode Island hospitals or nursing homes from the Rhode Island Department of Health or the Rhode Island Department of Corrections. The Journal is in the process of creating a searchable database of incidents, and this database will be available soon.

Quick Search Search resident-on-resident violence

PLACE  
ce Classifieds

ews | Sports Entertainment Lifestyle Food

LOCAL

## RI nursing home violent with each other. What can be done?

**Antonia Noori Farzan**  
Providence Journal

Published 5:03 a.m. ET May 16, 2024 | Updated 5:03 a.m. ET May 16, 2024

What can nursing homes do to prevent resident-on-resident violence, or at least make incidents less likely to happen? The Providence Journal posed that question to a group of experts representing nursing home workers, administrators, and law enforcement. Here's what they said:

### Increase staffing — and training

While Rhode Island's attempt to improve nursing homes proved controversial, people agree that increasing staffing and preventing resident-on-resident violence are key. "Appropriate staffing to meet each resident's needs, including having enough nurses, he indicated, psychiatrists, and counselors, as well as recreational activities and social recreation."

PLACE  
ce Classifieds

The Providence Journal

ews | Sports Entertainment Lifestyle Food Advertise Obituaries eNewspaper Legals

CRIME

## Accused of killing his nursing home roommate, he will likely never face trial. Here's why.


**Tom Mooney**  
Providence Journal

Published 5:19 a.m. ET May 13, 2024 | Updated 3:08 p.m. ET May 15, 2024

PROVIDENCE — Robert Hill, who is 77, is scheduled to be arraigned for murder later this month. But it's doubtful that will happen. Warren police arrested the Navy veteran in April last year. They charged him with killing his Crestwood Nursing Home roommate, John "Jack" Sullivan, who was 81. The police say Hill suffocated him in their room using pillow stuffing. "He tried to kill me first," Hill told the nursing home staff, records show. "He's been trying to kill me for 10 years." Except Hill, diagnosed with severe cognitive impairment, had lived at Crestwood for less than three weeks.

### Caught in legal limbo

Since his arrest last year Hill has been held at the Eleanor Slater Hospital, the state psychiatric hospital. His arraignment has been scheduled and rescheduled several times. Each time, the case has been continued because Hill remains mentally incompetent to stand trial, court records show.



John "Jack" Sullivan, an avid birder, points to an award that the Ocean State Bird Club gave him upon his retirement from the organization's board. *Provided By Michael Gow*

# Public Occurrences

LIFE & CULTURE

## ‘A false narrative’: Abenaki leaders dispute the legitimacy of Vermont’s state-recognized tribes

A Canadian tribe maintains that Vermont’s groups are not Indigenous and, instead, are appropriating their identity and culture. Research from leading scholars supports Odanak First Nation’s assertion, though the Vermont groups dispute it.

By Shaun Robinson  
November 14, 2023, 7:02 am



Musée des Abénakis showing Odanak and Wôlinak First Nation’s ancestral territory across present-day Canada and New England. Photo by Shaun Robinson/VT

ODANAK, Quebec — Jacques Watso took the turns fast as he drove through the narrow streets of Odanak, a First Nations reserve in Quebec his family has called home for generations. As music belted from the radio, he leaned out the window to point out houses where his friends and his sister and her friends live: “This is Caroline, this is Eddie ... there’s Kim...”

Home to about 350 Abenaki band members, Odanak is perched on the banks of the St. Francis River, with modest houses fanning out around a church and a village green. All over the community, there are subtle indications — such as the stop signs, which read in French, English and Abenaki — that this is an Indigenous reservation.

Watso pulled up to the Musée des Abénakis, where the First Nation has chronicled its history, and walked over to a small plaque on a rock that bore carvings of two animals, each representing a different historic tribal clan. Watso held up a necklace he wore with a pendant embroidered with a bear paw — for his family’s clan.

## VT Digger

Montpelier, VT

“A false narrative”



# Publick Occurrences



Jacques Watso, a band councillor for the Odanak First Nation in Quebec. Photo by Shaun Robinson/VTDigger.

As a tribal councillor, Watso has lived in Odanak for an hour and a half north of Montreal. In 2011, Vermont First Nation leaders have turned their backs on the border, and waged an increasingly vocal campaign to be recognized as Abenaki by the state.

Those Vermont groups — the Eloue and the Koas Abenaki Nation and the Odanak First Nation — and, at least recent, history with Odanak leaders assert that many non-Indigenous and, instead, are approved.

## Don't forget your Flu shot

Research from scholars on Indigenous health in Canada — as well as reports from Vermont — concluded that there is little evidence of ties to historic groups in Vermont.

"It's a false narrative," Watso said, "that you teach that to young people to believe the story."

## 'Serious questions'

Abenaki people have inhabited the region for thousands of years. A map at the top of the "Ndakinna," or homeland, stretches from what's now Massachusetts in the west to the Atlantic Ocean in the east.

By the 18th century, though, the British had decimated their colonizing efforts, forcing many Abenaki people to flee to modern-day Quebec.

The current cross-border dispute is over who can claim legitimate descent from original Indigenous peoples, without a homeland.

According to a recently published book by Leroux, a French Canadian scholar, many Abenaki people settled along the St. Francis River at the site of the village of Odanak — which is now the center of Abenaki cultural and political life.



Leroux writes in the July paper that the village was created in modern times by a community at Odanak. But it is not clear if its residents moved north to Odanak after the Revolution.

Daniel Nolett, executive director of the Odanak First Nation, noted that some Abenaki live in U.S. communities into the 21st century — including around Albany, New Hampshire.

## Odanak reservation in Quebec



Created with Datablogger.

Odanak First Nation has federal recognition as a nearby Abenaki nation — Wôlinak community. This recognition allows for federal funding and resources, and is considered sovereign territory.



No state-recognized band in Vermont until 1970s, when Homer St. Francis Missisquoi, according to Fred Wiseman, a researcher of Abenaki culture.

Other families in Vermont that claim descent from Abenaki are also happening in Franklin County, Vermont, Wiseman said. While some "come out of the closet" as Abenaki in other parts of the state.



The Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi Community.

About 570 federally recognized Abenaki live in the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs. Federally recognized Abenaki have a relationship with the U.S. and Canada for enforcement and education.



Eleven states have also recognized Abenaki, which vary from state to state. The Conference of State Legislatures in 2011 recognized the process. Oklahoma, the state with the largest population, has barred state-recognized governments, according to Leroux.

In Vermont, the state Commission on Native American Affairs for state recognition before it was established whether or not a group should be recognized. A member panel is tasked with reviewing applications and advocating for or against benefit members of Native American groups.

Commissioners are appointed by the state.

## 'The right thing to do'

Several years later, however, Vermont officials returned to the matter. And in April 2011, then-Gov. Peter Shumlin signed legislation granting state recognition to the Nulhegan and Elou Abenaki groups. He did the same for the Missisquoi and Koasek groups the following year.

The tribal government that oversees Odanak and Wôlinak has sharply criticized the state process leading to that decision, and it has urged Vermont lawmakers to reconsider recognition of the four groups as recently as last month, when it issued a press release to that effect.

"When their (federal) claim was rejected, we thought that they were done," Nolett, the Odanak First Nation executive director, said in a late May interview at his office in the tribal headquarters, a bright and spacious room overlooking the Rue Sibosis below. Watso, sitting nearby, nodded in agreement.



Daniel Nolett, executive director of the Odanak First Nation's tribal government, sits in his office. Photo by Shaun Robinson/VTDigger.

Over several hours that afternoon, Nolett took calls on all sorts of topics — including one about a young boy who had just failed a shooting test and was seeking reassurance that he could take it again soon. When talk turned to Vermont's four state-recognized tribes, both men became animated, leaning forward and gesturing with their hands.

Nolett and other Odanak First Nation leaders take issue with how the state permitted factors

other than genealogy to be considered, saying that this allowed groups with many members who are not actually Indigenous to be recognized as such. (Both Odanak and Wôlinak require genealogy to be submitted for band membership.)

Don Stevens, chief of the Nulhegan Abenaki, disputes that argument. In an interview, he asserted that he and other band members in Vermont submitted genealogical records to the state as part of the recognition process. But, he said, that information was kept confidential from the public in order to protect people's privacy, and to protect members of the groups that were applying for recognition from "personal attacks."

Attacks on the state recognition process came from a small but vocal group of critics who were not from Vermont, Stevens said. He and other leaders have also said that the criticism comes not from ordinary Odanak First Nation citizens, but from politicians.

## The Fight for Decker Towers

Drug users and homeless people have overrun a low-income high-rise. Residents are gearing up to evict them.

STORY BY DEREK BRIDGEMAN | PHOTOS BY JAMES RUCK

A grim battle is being waged inside Decker Towers, the 11-story apartment building in the center of Burlington. Low-income residents and people with disabilities are being evicted, but in the drug-soaked corridors of Vermont's oldest housing complex, the 160 tenants are losing.

The veterans neighborhood is being overwhelmed by a surge of homeless people seeking shelter, many of them drug users. In the past two years, Decker residents have become collateral damage in an ongoing crisis.

Every day, dozens of people enter the building in day and use drugs, or attempt to escape the cold. Its own stairwell is cluttered with used needles, crack pipes and plastic bags. They are covered with urine and feces, crisscrossed with vulgar graffiti, and smeared with blankets and other makeshift belongings of the people who sleep there each night. Intoxicated visitors randomly stroll around or pass out on the stairs in the half-light and in the laundry room.

"People in Burlington know there are problems at Decker Towers," longtime resident Bob Collins said. "They have an idea how bad."

Over the past few weeks, someone defecated in a hallway, urinated in a room, and the search permeated nearby apartments. A vandal or thief ripped the door to a multi-line car head shell off its hinges. Someone tried to cut through a 5000-watt surge protector to shield residents' laptops from thieves. Identity records were ripped apart in the parking lot, within view of surveillance cameras mounted on a mobile security trailer, a car windshield was smashed.

Burlington Housing Authority, the publicly funded agency that owns and manages Decker, has fortified the front doors and sealed common areas with security cameras, which has inspired police officers and also is ineffective. The problems, however, are only getting worse.

In a city and state where homeless shelters are full, police are stretched thin, and the combination of financial and methicillin-resistant antibiotic drug resistance less effective, Decker Towers is functioning as an unattended burning shelter, an unattended injection site,



People in Burlington know there are problems at Decker Towers. They have no clue how bad.

BOB COLLINS

and a hub for distribution of drugs and stolen goods.

Residents in low-income apartments have been forced to pay three months' rent in vacant buildings within town. So those who live at Decker are barricading their apartment doors with chairs and security bars. Some are staying inside their units and a criminal can enter them in the laundry room or the back yard. They are taking self-defense classes and buying weapons at Walmart. They are calling public officials and news outlets.

After hearing from several residents in January, I went to Decker Towers on one for myself. Over seven evenings, I observed neighbors and their families, but nothing seemed to be a tangled web of chaos and confusion. I faced a few of the dilemmas that its residents routinely encounter, such as what to say to the angry man demanding to be let in to see whether someone at the construction project is a cocaine user.

Many of the residents I met expressed anger toward their unmet needs. Some tenants themselves have survived struggles with homelessness or addiction.

But they are getting desperate.

On Thursday, Decker's elderly and disabled residents voted to form a resident council, which then voted to establish a neighborhood watch. The council plans to deploy teams of residents as amateur security guards — a "senior militia," as one resident put it, armed with pepper spray, steel pipes and firearms. — In place of professionals then, Burlington Housing Authority says it can't afford and would not resolve the complex problem.

"I hope it doesn't turn into a blood-bath," Cathy Foley, a long resident organizer, told me ahead of the vote, "but everyone who is continuing to be outside the table."

Those risks were apparent when I spent a recent Friday evening in the front lobby with Collins, 70, who was waiting for his son to leave him from work. Collins has a white mustache and a quick wit. Show me a picture of his apartment, he said a while later. On this night, he wore a purple skullcap and a sun-bleached shirt emblazoned with an oversized image of a face and great cartoon speech.

## Seven Days

Burlington, VT

## "The Fight for Decker Towers"

# Publick Occurrences



## The Fight for Decker Towers

though it has since been removed. The lower level and landline are remnants of a time when Decker really closely filled its original role as a place of refuge for people with limited means and special health needs.

The elevated high-rise on 24 Paul Street opened in 1971 for low-income seniors. Residents were drawn by its location near downtown and across from Ken's Rock Stop, the shared meeting and the majestic views of Lake Champlain. Later, Burlington Housing Authority officials opened the building to people with physical and mental disabilities, too. Decker residents pay 30 percent of their income toward the roughly \$750 monthly rent; the federal government typically covers the rest.

Over the past couple of years, as the drug market has exploded in Vermont, some Decker tenants have become part of the trade, whether by choice or exploitation by a dealer looking for a place to set up shop. The housing authority evicted some Decker tenants last year, all of whom the agency suspected of dealing drugs, some evidence are pending.

The eviction process often takes many months, during which time problems fester. Some apartments, housing authority officials say, have increased dozens of daily visitors, when tenants have a right to host as their guests. Some have managed to shut down their gas and electricity or Decker, according to the housing authority.

The environment is corrosive for tenants, especially those with late substance-use disorders or in recovery.

Before dawn on the Friday when I met Collins in the lobby, an ambulance had arrived for Victoria Morrison, one of the low-to-mid-income managers. The 55-year-old had struggled with alcohol and drugs and was on the brink of homelessness when the housing authority notified her last fall, according to Charles Decker, her stepbrother, who also lives at Decker. In exchange for a free room, Victoria served as eyes and ears for the building after the daytime program manager went home each night. She stopped doing that job on the laundry room, and tried to get order among the revolving door of visitors and squatters.

Within a few months, Victoria appeared to have relapsed, Charles said. On January 24, the housing authority had sent Morrison a letter informing them that Victoria's room no longer was safe and could be evicted at any time.

Now, two days later, she was in the hospital.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES L. WATSON FOR NENPA. VISITORS TO A BARBER. VISITS TO A BARBER. VISITS TO A BARBER. VISITS TO A BARBER. VISITS TO A BARBER.

"What do you do as a landlord? What's the rules around here?" he asked. Since the morning incident in which Khyden, Matryel, a nurse and correctional Williams to hand over the key.

## STAIRWAYS TO HELL

An eviction removed the key from Williams. The key was still in the room. By 7:30 p.m., other people occupied that, including one woman who had pulled out a blanket over a landing and held a needle in her hand. A man was pinned out a landing along the stairs to another floor. Four paragraphs dotted the landings and most of the steps. Most boxes or bags of items and everything including broken glass and a stone bottle filled with amber liquid. The door was still, and no one in the room.

Most residents could see the stairs when they visit. The stairs always had to be clear. But they are never, and often appear as in short supply for the estimated 300 people who live on the stairs in Chesham Court. The large scale stay in January, housing authority employees evicted more than 23 people living in Decker apartments. The agency said it would pay many of the bills for a while to the other stairway better than the others.

The housing authority has installed drug containers and hidden detectors throughout the building. The agency also locked the single-unit residents on the first floor after police remembered it to have drugs and, presumably, the residents. But they find other places to hide their substances.

Each morning, housing authority employees walk the stairs with the help of the hundreds of people who live along. Throughout the day, they always have a sign on the stairs. That's not what it is. Decker viewing a tenant in a ground floor — and who is occupying can quickly lead to confrontation. In some instances all of the building can easily get back into a few minutes or hours for times if authorities find drug testing. Those signs would typically go into someone's home on the low-level stage.

Sweeping the building clean of a Friday night would be a complete task for the staff maintaining constant cleanup. At least that's how it has been for many months. The staff also installed a personal security camera inside the apartment door, next to a hallway mirror.

## The Fight for Decker Towers

be walked. The pepper spray was part of a greeting home security against that Phelps had ordered from Amazon. Wolff recently took a former's self-defense and empowerment class. Both Wolff and Phelps said they're afraid to leave their apartments alone. Phelps has been pushed through a doorway and caught in the middle of physical altercations.

Their decision to arm themselves has followed a long history of police. Wolff has been torn over her progressive impulses — informed by the knowledge that, without family support while she waits for a hearing resolution, she would have been homeless — and the creeping sense that the harder she and her neighbors are working to help and help each other.

"It feels like we're hearing lawsuits after numerous paper cuts, of just saying that, we've been violated of our space," she wrote in an email to me.

Meeting in the community room in lunch in the room Wolff and her friends are trying to move onto their bus. Yet the conversation, inevitable, returned to problems in the building. Between bites of homemade chicken wings, Cohen, 41, recounted the story of a man who was juggling the two kinds of his apartment in two in the morning. Wolff repeated:

"It was used to stop?" Cohen asked her.

"No, I don't know about it," she said. "I just had trouble sleeping last night."

Phelps told the group that some Decker residents have seen red pepper spray lying on the stairs with the cap removed. It seemed to be aggressive behavior, she said.

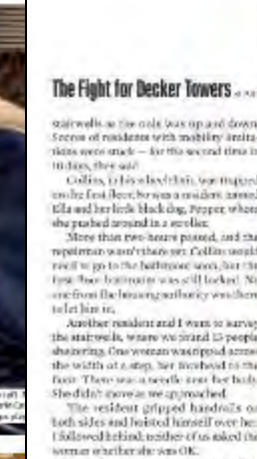
"I was getting up, blood yesterday because of that," Lallier said. "The worst one is called, but some because it's designed to run a little, and it's sticky," he explained. "And there's somebody here who has it."

After the juice soaked, around 9 p.m., Lallier, carried his plate of chicken bones out of the community room and into the lobby. These people must use the stairs to take a man with a shopping cart full of a woman with a sleeping bag and a large wheeled suitcase, and a man holding an electric wheelbarrow, still sealed in the box.

The man with the wheelbarrow stayed about the lobby as though he were balancing a tightrope in a tightrope. Decker residents have become accustomed to the sight of him. They know the large and recognize him as somebody with light.

"He's twerking," Lallier observed. Zimmerman got it.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES L. WATSON FOR NENPA. VISITS TO A BARBER. VISITS TO A BARBER. VISITS TO A BARBER. VISITS TO A BARBER. VISITS TO A BARBER.



## The Fight for Decker Towers

stairs was the only way up and down. Scores of residents with mobility limitations were stuck — for the second time in 10 days, they said.

Collins, 61, his wheelchair, was trapped on the first floor for seven minutes, around 11 a.m. and her first. Black dog, Pepper, when she pushed around in a service dog.

More than two hours passed, and the repairman wasn't there. Collins could not go to the bathroom area, but the first-floor bathroom was still locked. No one from the housing authority was there to let her in.

Another resident and I went to survey the situation, aware we might be people shopping. One woman was pushed across the width of a step, her forehead to the face. There was a needle and her body. She didn't know we were approaching.

The resident gripped handrails on both sides and heisted himself over her. I followed behind, neither of us asked the woman whether she was OK.

Over the next hour, we carried Khyden and similar on a few flights to her apartment, then secured two middle school age kids to a family member's car. A repairman arrived and opened the bathroom for Collins.

By 7:05 p.m., the elevator was fixed. I returned to the stairwells. On an upper floor, I came upon a woman sitting on a cot on the stairs. The woman, who asked to be identified by her middle name, Eve, was trying to eat a needed popliteal with her fingers. There, plus some pudding and a miniature cup of Ben & Jerry's Americone Dream for cream, were her dinner.

I've said she has slept at Decker almost every night this winter. It's better than being outside, as she was most of last winter. That year, she had no room in Decker. Some people and dogs were in the building with her, she said, who is now in prison, she said.

"Right about the night warning shelter," which is full every night, she must live up outside for hours with no guarantee she'll last a week. Decker is a stove and therefore, contains a major fire, with others, who live there. She says she's seen the people, Eve said.

The morning, however, while Eve had been asleep, evidence of mice in the stairwell landing, suddenly, she continued and could barely breathe. The incident caused her to retreat. "It was a disaster," she said.

"We questioned why homeless people had been forced from two abandoned buildings downtown — the derelict Memorial Auditorium and the old YMCA."



## The Fight for Decker Towers

stairs was the only way up and down. Scores of residents with mobility limitations were stuck — for the second time in 10 days, they said.

Collins, 61, his wheelchair, was trapped on the first floor for seven minutes, around 11 a.m. and her first. Black dog, Pepper, when she pushed around in a service dog.

More than two hours passed, and the repairman wasn't there. Collins could not go to the bathroom area, but the first-floor bathroom was still locked. No one from the housing authority was there to let her in.

Another resident and I went to survey the situation, aware we might be people shopping. One woman was pushed across the width of a step, her forehead to the face. There was a needle and her body. She didn't know we were approaching.

The resident gripped handrails on both sides and heisted himself over her. I followed behind, neither of us asked the woman whether she was OK.

Over the next hour, we carried Khyden and similar on a few flights to her apartment, then secured two middle school age kids to a family member's car. A repairman arrived and opened the bathroom for Collins.

By 7:05 p.m., the elevator was fixed. I returned to the stairwells. On an upper floor, I came upon a woman sitting on a cot on the stairs. The woman, who asked to be identified by her middle name, Eve, was trying to eat a needed popliteal with her fingers. There, plus some pudding and a miniature cup of Ben & Jerry's Americone Dream for cream, were her dinner.

I've said she has slept at Decker almost every night this winter. It's better than being outside, as she was most of last winter. That year, she had no room in Decker. Some people and dogs were in the building with her, she said, who is now in prison, she said.

"Right about the night warning shelter," which is full every night, she must live up outside for hours with no guarantee she'll last a week. Decker is a stove and therefore, contains a major fire, with others, who live there. She says she's seen the people, Eve said.

The morning, however, while Eve had been asleep, evidence of mice in the stairwell landing, suddenly, she continued and could barely breathe. The incident caused her to retreat. "It was a disaster," she said.

"We questioned why homeless people had been forced from two abandoned buildings downtown — the derelict Memorial Auditorium and the old YMCA."



## The Fight for Decker Towers

stairs was the only way up and down. Scores of residents with mobility limitations were stuck — for the second time in 10 days, they said.

Collins, 61, his wheelchair, was trapped on the first floor for seven minutes, around 11 a.m. and her first. Black dog, Pepper, when she pushed around in a service dog.

More than two hours passed, and the repairman wasn't there. Collins could not go to the bathroom area, but the first-floor bathroom was still locked. No one from the housing authority was there to let her in.

Another resident and I went to survey the situation, aware we might be people shopping. One woman was pushed across the width of a step, her forehead to the face. There was a needle and her body. She didn't know we were approaching.

The resident gripped handrails on both sides and heisted himself over her. I followed behind, neither of us asked the woman whether she was OK.

Over the next hour, we carried Khyden and similar on a few flights to her apartment, then secured two middle school age kids to a family member's car. A repairman arrived and opened the bathroom for Collins.

By 7:05 p.m., the elevator was fixed. I returned to the stairwells. On an upper floor, I came upon a woman sitting on a cot on the stairs. The woman, who asked to be identified by her middle name, Eve, was trying to eat a needed popliteal with her fingers. There, plus some pudding and a miniature cup of Ben & Jerry's Americone Dream for cream, were her dinner.

I've said she has slept at Decker almost every night this winter. It's better than being outside, as she was most of last winter. That year, she had no room in Decker. Some people and dogs were in the building with her, she said, who is now in prison, she said.

"Right about the night warning shelter," which is full every night, she must live up outside for hours with no guarantee she'll last a week. Decker is a stove and therefore, contains a major fire, with others, who live there. She says she's seen the people, Eve said.

The morning, however, while Eve had been asleep, evidence of mice in the stairwell landing, suddenly, she continued and could barely breathe. The incident caused her to retreat. "It was a disaster," she said.

"We questioned why homeless people had been forced from two abandoned buildings downtown — the derelict Memorial Auditorium and the old YMCA."

### GETTING ORGANIZED

An election next for the new resident council, a crucial step that the community must and pulled into the lobby.

Mike had invited roughly 40 people to attend by organizing a potluck dinner. David Ross, a soft-spoken resident-activist, had arranged for Burlington Tenants United to serve as official witnesses for the vote. Also in attendance: Democratic municipal candidate Matt Stanton, a representative of Burlington's homeless camp, Kenyally and his partner, who was in Burlington for legislative hearings, and independent Ward 5 city council candidate Len Greenberg.

Before the last organizer and proprietor of resident panels, called the meeting to order. Decker Tenants had never before elected a council to represent tenants to the landlord and coordinate the need. Living so busy said it would give residents "a model" of "first common ground where we can work together to make Decker livable."

The ballot asked residents to appear on-site before the election and give a verbal vote. Decker Tenants had never before elected a council to represent tenants to the landlord and coordinate the need. Living so busy said it would give residents "a model" of "first common ground where we can work together to make Decker livable."

### WANT TO WRITE FOR NENPA?

1. I want to be on the board because I want to have a voice in helping you guys and promoting you when I can." Stant on at work, 68, said he respects, "It's not about what you're doing for the people." "The People are the power." "I want to continue to work with you on Burlington. It's a good job with city hall." Post, 62, said.

NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER & PRESS ASSOCIATION

# Publick Occurrences



## Maine Trust for Local News

Lewiston, ME

### “Lewiston Mass Shooting”



# *Publick Occurrences*



**Calls to overhaul Maine probate courts have stalled for half a century. The most vulnerable people may be at risk.**

Some probate courts say they don't know how many adults are in guardianships or whether they're still alive.

## **The Maine Monitor**

Hallowell, ME

**“Maine’s part-time court”**

# Publick Occurrences

12/24, 12:23 PM



Judge David Paris runs the Cumberland County probate court. He is seen here in a courtroom. (PHOTO BY FRED J. PEEK)

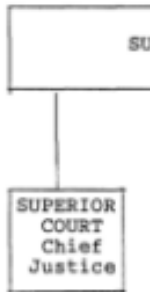
Norman Fisher's estate. If he didn't properly manage the money, his out-of-pocket costs could be significant.

For two decades, support groups have organized his medication. Beldeford man, who works in the health care industry, provides care.

With none of Fisher's family members, the state assigned him two guardians. They were responsible for his care.

Those guardians submit reports to the court. Fisher's case, but they don't see him. If they talked with him, they would want to see him.

12/24, 12:23 PM



Maine's county-run probate courts are the Commission to Study the Probate System.

Guardianship is the adult's right to make decisions. Money is spent, and unpaid position but it's not a job.

Approximately 1,200 guardians are appointed by the Department of Health and Human Services to manage their medical care.

In addition, hundreds of members or friends of the guardianships in Maine are appointed.

A top court administrator oversees guardianships in the state. The Cumberland County probate court is potentially thousands of guardianships.

The change to state probate court to update the probate code is required to update the probate code.

The change to state probate court to update the probate code is required to update the probate code.

12/24, 12:23 PM

Fewer than a dozen workers are just three court employees.

Each probate court is supported by lawyers — that the probate court is supported by lawyers to represent adults.

The Monitor spoke with several court workers. They lauded the court workers for their good job. They lauded the court workers for their good job.

"At least in this county, we have a good state system, they work well. Cumberland County is a good state system, they work well.



Judge Paul Aranson sits at his desk behind a Plexiglas wall that was installed during COVID-19. (PHOTO BY FRED J. PEEK)

Probate courts are supported by court workers. They are caring for the adult for the court.

Yes, Robb, who retired in 2019, has oversight of guardianships. There were failures in several areas. They were failures in several areas.

12/24, 12:23 PM

Sometimes, Paris presides over adoptions in the county commissioners' meeting downstairs. He holds the grand jury room when available. If a virtual meeting needs to happen, he holds the grand jury room.

Paris didn't even receive a salary when he was elected in November 2020. His wife ordered him a set of online courses for more than \$100.

"I run it like any other judge would run their court. I run it professionally as I can," Paris said.

Probate judge candidates must be licensed to practice law and reside in the state. They are elected by county residents and serve four-year terms.

After 30 years of private practice, Paris is doing criminal and civil law in the state's district, superior and supreme courts, but Paris was on Paris' back. He said he didn't believe in the political connections of probate judge.

"I've got to go out and be a judge. This is why I can do the job on my shoulders." Paris said. "You're a law court."

12/24, 12:23 PM

"When you are not devoted to your time to being a judge, it's hard to maintain the level of professionalism and education of law that is necessary for the position. I have the utmost respect for the probate judges. It's not that they are in the work, it is that the time provided to them. The amount of time they have available to be judges is simply not sufficient," Gorman said.

## State considers consolidating probate courts

Maine voters passed a constitutional amendment in November 1967 to get rid of probate courts, but the amendment never took effect.

State lawmakers have discussed the idea of consolidating probate courts.

The studies they commissioned concluded: Probate judge occurs because they are courts to become part of the state's judicial system.

A bill in 2022 to reduce the number of probate courts in the House and Senate, but it was not passed.

"Personally, I continue to believe that a consolidated system would both fulfill the needs of the state and Sen. Anne Carney (D-Cape Breton) said.

Consolidation of the probate courts would no longer be a problem because it would even out the workload.

12/24, 12:23 PM

Subsequent probate cases to all 14 Maine's probate courts.

At 72, Aranson is mostly retired from private practice and is several decades removed from being the county's district attorney. He is at the courthouse three days a week, which is more often than most judges.



Probate Judge Paul Aranson listens to justifications for why multiple adults are in need of guardianship in Cumberland County. He sits at his desk behind a Plexiglas wall that was installed during COVID-19. (PHOTO BY FRED J. PEEK)

Cumberland County's probate court in downtown Portland has as many, if not more, resources than any other county in the state. And still, it's not enough to ensure the court maintains contact with each incapacitated adult in its jurisdiction.

Since September 2019, Aranson has authorized approximately 712 guardianships or conservatorships that provide financial oversight to individuals. But there are thousands more from before his time on the bench that court administrators said they do not track or have regular — or sometimes any — contact with the guardian or adult.

The court workers often don't even know whether those people are still alive.

One Cumberland County worker keeps a spreadsheet of recent guardianships to track reports that guardians are supposed to submit, the deputy register said. If a guardian fails to file the annual report, they are scheduled for court to explain the deficiency and could be stripped of their guardianship.

# Public Occurrences

## Following the floods

As catastrophic flooding inundated Vermont in July 2023, VTDigger journalists deployed life-saving information, documenting the human toll and pursuing deeper stories on the



### Rainfall exceeds 8 inches as forecasters eye rising rivers

As precipitation begins to taper in the southern part of the state, it's expected to shift north into central Vermont. That could exacerbate the next threat: the flooding of major waterways.

By Paul Heintz  
July 10, 2023, 5:28 pm

## VT Digger

Montpelier, VT

## “Following the floods”



# Public Occurrences

PUBLIC SAFETY

## Catastrophes threaten, expected starting

The National Weather Service has warned throughout much of the state. Gov. Phil Scott said Sunday afternoon.

By Paul Heintz  
July 9, 2023, 2:42 pm



Storm Total Precipitation (in)



The National Weather Service warns  
Burlington

ENVIRONMENT

## Rainfall expected to exacerbate

As precipitation begins to fall across the state, it's expected to exacerbate the flooding in waterways.

By Paul Heintz  
July 10, 2023, 5:28 pm



PUBLIC SAFETY

## In Ludlow, Berlin, through mo

With its major arteries impacted, the Okemo Ski Resort became

By Ethan Weinstein  
July 11, 2023, 2:20 pm



Peggy Fletcher rose to the sound

"I woke up at 5 a.m. with the fire alarm," Fletcher, 76, said. "They said, 'Ma

She grabbed her medication, her keys, and she thought.

Fletcher leaned out her door and saw the Black River Mobile Home Community shelter at the Ludlow Community

"He was slushing through the water," Fletcher said.

PUBLIC SAFETY

## Helicopter rescue interesting for Berlin resident

A New Hampshire National Guard helicopter rescued three people Tuesday afternoon from the Winooski River, which threatened to flood in Berlin.

By Alan J. Keays  
July 11, 2023, 5:03 pm



A dumpster, storage container and other debris collect at the edge of the river. Photo by Natalia Williams/VTDigger

BERLIN — A New Hampshire National Guard helicopter rescued three people Tuesday afternoon from the Winooski River, which threatened by rising waters.

"It was interesting for sure," Rosie LaPlante, 76, said. "Rosie and her husband, Cricket, were hoisted from the ground by a Black Hawk chopper.

WINDHAM COUNTY

## Still stranded, a Jamaica woman recounts how water and rocks rushed against her home and buried her car

"At first it was just water and then you could just hear the thunder of these huge boulders coming down."

By Patrick Crowley  
July 12, 2023, 3:02 pm



A pile of rocks nearly covers a Volkswagen owned by Diana DeMarsico on July 12, 2023. Photo by Patrick Crowley/VTDigger

JAMAICA — In the heavy rain on Monday afternoon, Diana DeMarsico drove to the village of Jamaica and bought a sandwich.

She usually parks her car alongside the barn at her home on a hillside on West Hill Road, but this time she left the car out front, near the road. She wanted to be in a place where she could leave quickly if she had to.

DeMarsico was aware of the threat of flooding. She had previously spent about \$20,000 to excavate around her home in an effort to improve drainage.

news

MORE INSIDE

DECKER DEAL FOR SECURITY  
PAGE 19

CLOCKING OUT FOR THE ECLIPSE  
PAGE 19

MONTPELIER'S NEW P.D. SITE  
PAGE 19

POLITICS

Mulvaney-Stanak Sworn In as Burlington Mayor

BY COURTNEY LAMON  
courtney.lamon@vermont.com



Burlington Mayor Scott Mulvaney and Councilor Stanak were sworn in as the city's new mayor and councilor on Monday night at the city hall. Mulvaney, who took office in 2011, is the first Democrat to hold the office in more than a decade. Outgoing Mayor Ray Wenberg, a Democrat, had served since 2002.

Wenberg's successor, Mulvaney, took office on Monday night at the city hall. Mulvaney, who took office in 2011, is the first Democrat to hold the office in more than a decade. Outgoing Mayor Ray Wenberg, a Democrat, had served since 2002.



Bernie Sanders speaking with a group of people at the Waterbury Area Senior Center.

## Senior Senator

Bernie Sanders sits down with Seven Days to talk about aging Vermont.

BY COLIN FLANNERS • colin@sevendaysvt.com

The Waterbury Area Senior Center buzzed with anticipation last Thursday as a standing-room-only crowd gathered to speak with U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT).

Surveying the roughly 90 attendees, most of whom appeared to be younger than him, the 82-year-old senator said he was working hard to increase funding for the state senior programs and wanted to hear how the federal government might improve their lives.

"What's on your mind?" he asked. Mary Alice Bisbee, an 87-year-old Montpelier resident, was one of the first to raise her hand.

"I've been around a long time," Bisbee said. "But now I can't afford to afford to stay in my apartment. I can't find anybody to help me. There's no help."

"Mary Alice, it's good to see you," Sanders replied. "In one sentence, you just summed up a lot of the issues out there."

Long a champion of the seniors, Sanders could have easily been described as an underdog hero, and he has certainly helped transform him into one of the most influential members of Congress. Vermont's senior senator now holds a powerful perch at the chair of the Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee, or H.E.P. When he's not talking to CEOs of major corporations for contentious two days, Sanders is spending much of his time advocating for people 65 and older, whose ranks are projected to grow by some 32,000 nationally each day through 2020. In that time, roughly one in four Vermonters will be 65 or older.

He has published reports on the financial health of retirement and the "rigged" system that has allowed major pharmaceutical companies to charge American patients far more than people in other



countries. He also introduced legislation that would shore up and expand Social Security programs for a lot of our corporations and high-income earners. And he has stressed the importance of the Older Americans Act, which provides funding to vital programs such as Meals on Wheels.

SDV-12/2016/06 WFF

# Seven Days

Burlington, VT

## "This Old State"

# Publick Occurrences

## news

### Burlington to Help Pay for Security at Decker Towers



Designing that apartment tower, the manager and his higher-ups. The city is helping pay for security at Decker Towers. The city is helping pay for security at Decker Towers. The city is helping pay for security at Decker Towers.

The city is helping pay for security at Decker Towers. The city is helping pay for security at Decker Towers. The city is helping pay for security at Decker Towers.

The city is helping pay for security at Decker Towers. The city is helping pay for security at Decker Towers. The city is helping pay for security at Decker Towers.

## news

### Local Hit a New

Local Hit a New

Local Hit a New

Local Hit a New

Local Hit a New

gigget narrative. You need to make the Medicare for all single-payer system. What we were focused on this last year in my opinion was a resolution in primary health care. Needless to say, my Republican friends weren't all that sympathetic, but we ended up with something later that year which I find — a reasonable increase for community health centers, a rather good increase for National Health Service Corps and a very good increase for teaching health centers.

We are also paying attention on the CBO of these two proposals are changing America, the end way the Highest priority of the world for prescription drugs and other for products that are possible to manufacture.

Estimates are seven out of 10 people might need some form of long-term care in their lifetime. And yet we know the system we have now is not working for many. Labor shortages make it difficult to find workers who can help people age in place. Assisted living facilities are priced well beyond the means of average Americans, and many end up having to deplete their savings to qualify. Why hasn't anything been done about this? People say, "If they only understood." My colleagues in Washington do understand. They're not stupid. They don't give a damn. And that's the point that most Americans don't know. For many of my colleagues in Congress, middle Republicans, giving tax breaks to billionaires and a big tax reduction for corporations is the way to get them from providing the needs of senior citizens and families.

## news

news

news

news

news

## SEVEN DAYS aloud

LISTEN to these stories and more.

### Zoe Saunders, Gov. Scott's Pick for Education Secretary, Faces Questions About Her Qualifications



Now hear this! Seven Days is recording select stories from the weekly newspaper for your listening pleasure.



Listen at: [sevendaysvt.com/aloud](http://sevendaysvt.com/aloud)

## new

### Employ a Certain

Employ a Certain

Employ a Certain

Employ a Certain

Employ a Certain

## Late Loomers

Through arts such as weaving, older Vermonters reflect on their lives and losses

BY HANNAH FEUER | [www.sevendaysvt.com](http://www.sevendaysvt.com)

**O**n Wednesday mornings in Middlebury, five women gather to weave fibers symbolizing the passions of their lives. During a recent session, Nancy Hunter, 67, finished weaving a series of looms, each one a different color, representing the first initials of her mother's siblings.

"Passing in the year, taking out the yarn, deciding what colors — it's sort of reflective of what you do in life," she says.

This is Weaving Your Story, a free weekly course in shepherding the passions of their lives. Hosted for people over the age of 60 at the Center of Age Well, a nonprofit resource center serving older Vermonters. Participants create a week of looms that represent the people, memories or milestones of their lives.

The course is part of a larger effort to help seniors stay active and connected. The Vermont Arts Council granted \$5,000 to support the class, one of 17 "creative aging" projects it's funding this year for a total of \$72,000.

Across the state, older adults participate in activities designed specifically for their age group, from a singing and singing residency in Canaan to a weekly memoir-writing group in Middlebury. The goal is to address some older adults' feelings of isolation by providing social engagement through class or by attending to the arts circuit.

Liz Warren, 71, is another weaving student. As a senior living in South Burlington, she said, "There's just a million things you can do," she's pursued other opportunities organized by Age Well, such as a garden tour.

Liz Warren, 71, is another weaving student. As a senior living in South Burlington, she said, "There's just a million things you can do," she's pursued other opportunities organized by Age Well, such as a garden tour.



**THIS OLD STATE**  
The Story of Vermont  
by HANNAH FEUER

often integrate a low-level craft's skills of knitting, such as a quilt or needlepoint, into the projects.

"Sometimes people see this, 'What do I do with all these things?' I don't want to get rid of them because that's so hard," Hansen said. "But when they can have something else to do with it, that that also becomes really precious. It's really transformative."

A poetry can also represent stories passed down through generations.

## Employ a Certain

More Vermont seniors They

BY C

They have been ready to make after 10 years as a care coordinator for Catholic nurses, a nonprofit that provides affordable housing for older adults. An avid crafter, she was eager to spend more time knitting and painting to do. Now, that all, she's spending all her time on her own and her family's health. She's also been through a health care system that costs nearly \$1,000 a month. Now, though, money isn't the light. After her 100th birthday, she's about to start with friends, go to the airport or travel. Her husband took a hit.

"I didn't have enough money to buy pants," Rose said. "I began thinking that maybe I was a little premature in thinking."

# *New England Newspaper Awards*

## **ALLAN B. ROGERS EDITORIAL AWARD**

In honor of the former editor of the Eagle-Tribune  
who died in 1964 at the age of 31

Recognizing the **best editorial** on a local  
subject published during the past year

# Allan B. Rogers Editorial Award



“When police search classrooms for books”

The Berkshire Eagle  
Pittsfield, MA

# *New England Newspaper Awards*



## **New England First Amendment Award**

*Recognizing a New England newspaper  
for its exceptional work in upholding the  
First Amendment and educating the public about it*

# New England First Amendment Award



## Maine Trust for Local News

*“Lewiston Mass Shooting”*

2024 New England Newspaper Awards



# New England First Amendment Award





# *New England Newspaper Awards*



## **The Cornerstone Award**

*In recognition of unsung heroes  
who meaningfully and significantly  
contribute to the accomplishments  
of our publications*

# *The Cornerstone Award*



**Susan Leggett**  
Addison County Independent  
Middlebury, VT

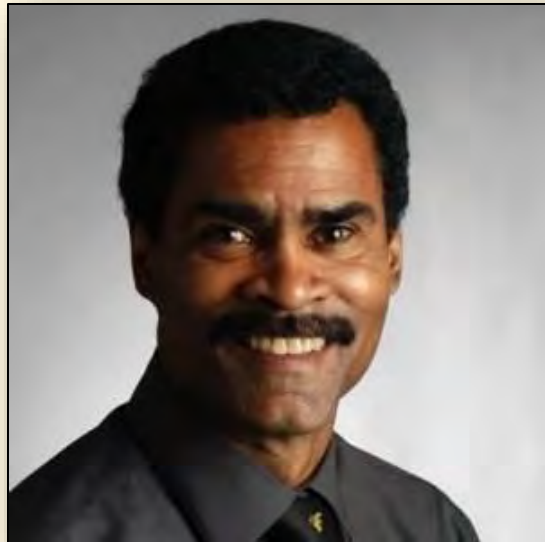
# *New England Newspaper Awards*



## **BOB WALLACK COMMUNITY JOURNALISM AWARD**

**Honoring an outstanding journalist who has faithfully served the community for which they are responsible, and has played an active role in contributing to its quality of life**

# *Bob Wallack Community Journalism Award*



**Kris Craig**

**The Providence Journal**  
Providence, RI

# *2024 New England Newspapers of the Year*



**Thank you and congratulations  
to all that competed this year!**

