

2024 New England Newspaper Awards



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**New England
First Amendment Award**

**ALLAN B. ROGERS
EDITORIAL AWARD**

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2024 New England Newspaper Awards

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

AWARDS PRESENTATION

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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 Dodge stand with their children, from left, Jackson (8), Myra (7), and Aiden (5). The Dodge family at their outdoor 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 Conant. "The use of getting rid of items and our own initiative 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 available: 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 Conant. "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 Montemagnone 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 remaining select board members had to take 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 some personal 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 Senior 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 served 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 President of Heritage & Company, he remediated and owned 12 buildings on Boston's historic Beacon Hill, then owned and remediated several downtown Manchester buildings including 107's Department Store.

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 1973, 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 Marden, Marden (1961) and Michael, their two daughters: Andrea and Sofia of Southborough, Mass., David Alexander Marden of Washington, D.C., a daughter: Karen Marden, Beach.

See MARDEN, Page 3

NEW BOSTON HISTORY

BEHIND THE DOOR
South Hill Road has three historic homes including the one on
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In the Kitchen 15
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IN THE GARDEN

DASSING IT ON
NBCS wireless, leaving from a local summer gardeners
PAGE 23



2024 New England Newspaper Awards

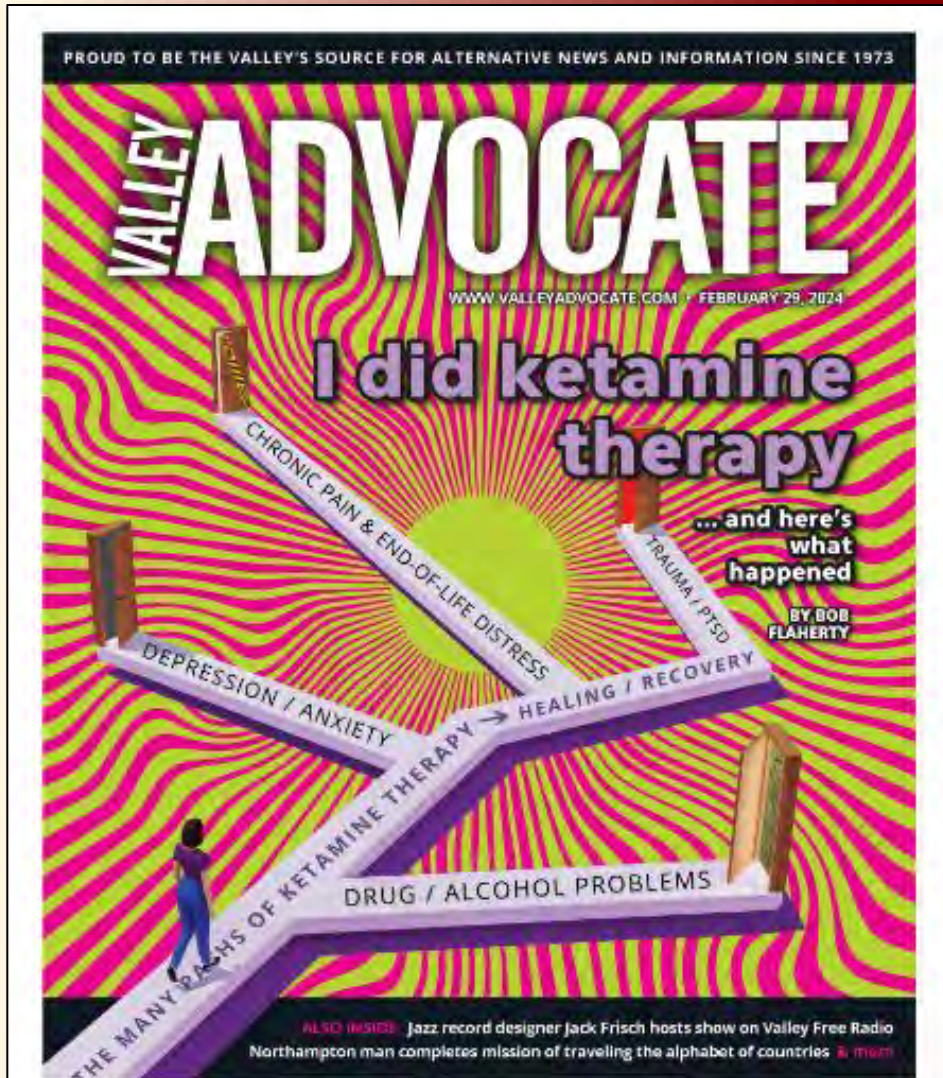


Distinguished Newspaper

Specialty Publications

Valley Advocate

Northampton, MA



2024 New England Newspaper Awards



PROVIDENCE BUSINESS NEWS
PBN
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NOVEMBER 10-23, 2023

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 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

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 See page B8 for winners.

Newspaper of the Year

Specialty Publications

Providence Business News

Providence, RI



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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

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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 MOHL - SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

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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

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NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER & PRESS ASSOCIATION

2024 New England Newspapers of the Year



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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
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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 Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been detected at MBR National Historical Park, Vermont's largest state park. The discovery was made during a routine inspection of the park's ash trees. The EAB is a highly destructive pest that can kill ash trees within a few years of infestation. The Vermont Department of Conservation is working to contain the infestation and protect the park's natural resources.

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. The new owner has announced that the store will be renamed "The Market" and will continue to operate in the same location. The new owner is excited to take over the store and hopes to bring new products and services to the community.

Fiery crash
Last Thursday, Nov. 10, 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.

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 of work in his 34-year career. Chambliss is known for his exceptional work ethic and dedication to his job. He has been a fixture at the school for decades and is highly respected by his colleagues and students.

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 by several legal challenges. The town and the project developers have reached a settlement, and the tiny house is now being built on the site.

The Faux Paws
IN THE HAYLOFT AT ARTISTREE
FRI, DEC. 1 AT 7PM
artistree

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A-Z
A-B-C
D-E-F
G-H-I
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V-W-X
Y-Z



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 member of the Provincetown Historical Society and a member of the Provincetown Historical Society. He is also a member of the Provincetown Historical Society.

HOUSING Eastham Board OKs Closer Look at Tiny Houses

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

By Christine Legras

LAURENS — Tiny houses — often called micro-housing — are catching on in towns across the state, and the local zoning board has taken the first step toward allowing them as a way to address the housing shortage in the town.

Laurens will be the first community in the region to explore the possibility of allowing tiny houses, according to a zoning by-law amendment that is currently being discussed by the board. Although it is unclear when the amendment will be passed, it would allow tiny houses to be used as secondary dwellings on the same lot as a primary residence.

Summer Scoops

The town's independent business is an annual Outer Cape ice cream festival. The festival is a popular event that draws many visitors to the town. The festival is held at the town's ice cream shop.

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 about to start in Provincetown — including the services of at least two pedicab operators and subjects to the local government — and that the J-1 visa program is a foreign student — a student in the U.S. for a summer of work and travel, specifically to provide them to the 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.

"This category has been open for 20 years, and the visas have usually had that first 1-issued so far," said Gil-Ed Gallo, who runs the company, Geo-Geo. Gallo, a U.S. citizen, and Gallo's wife, a U.S. citizen, are the only two people who have been issued visas in the past year, and the majority of those pedicab drivers this year were foreign-born.

The company says that it requires the "Summer Work Travel" J-1 placement, but not the other J-1 placements, because they are not allowed to work in the U.S.

It is important to note that the J-1 visas are not for work in the U.S.

Shawn also mentioned the continuing housing crisis in the Cape and the need for more housing options.

He also mentioned the need for more housing options.

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 March 8/11

TRURO — The select board voted 5-1 on July 8 to renew the town's contract with Town Manager Doreen Tangeman. The vote came during an open session and was announced by select board member and chair of the board, the mayor.

The only negative vote was cast by select board member and chair of the board, the mayor.

The decision came in the wake of a campaign against the board on a recent election, which included a complaint that the board had failed to renew the contract.

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

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

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



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**Weekly Newspapers
large circulation division**

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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 line, you're not really sailing. You're just sitting there and waiting for the next wave to come."

Could estate sale find be an authentic Paul Cézanne?

"The estate sale find is a painting by Paul Cézanne, a French painter who lived from 1839 to 1906. It is a still life painting of a landscape with a building and a tree."

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The Inquirer and Mirror

Nantucket, MA



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Addison County Independent

Middlebury, VT

New canvas
A quilt can be a work of art. The artist's imagination is the only limit. See page 10.

Family fun?
The 4th of July is a time to enjoy the outdoors. Don't miss the fun. See page 10.

Film Festival
Enjoying the festival is a time to enjoy the outdoors. Don't miss the fun. See page 10.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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



Field Days' iron warrior
A woman competes in the ironing event at the Field Days festival. The event is a fun and competitive way to celebrate the 4th of July. See page 10.

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 forward. The law, which takes effect in 2024, will require sheriffs to provide a written report to the state's attorney general for every arrest. This report will include details of the arrest, the charges, and the outcome. The law also requires sheriffs to provide a written report to the state's attorney general for every citation. This report will include details of the citation, the reasons for the citation, and the outcome. The law is a response to concerns about the accountability of sheriffs and the need for transparency in the justice system.

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 are making it difficult for food banks and other organizations to provide food to those in need. The Vermont Food Bank is one of the organizations that is struggling. The bank is having difficulty purchasing food at the same prices as in previous years. Additionally, flooding has damaged some of the bank's facilities, making it difficult to store and distribute food. The bank is asking for donations and volunteers to help meet the increased demand for food.

\$600K grant helps city shelter fulfill its mission

By JAMES ELLIOTT
MIDDLEBURY, Vt. — A \$600,000 grant from the state will help the Middlebury City Shelter fulfill its mission. The grant will be used to purchase new furniture and equipment for the shelter. The shelter is a place where people who are experiencing homelessness can find a safe and warm place to stay. The shelter also provides food, clothing, and other services to those in need. The grant will help the shelter improve its facilities and provide better services to those who are experiencing homelessness.



Thank you, Vaneasa

By JAMES ELLIOTT
MIDDLEBURY, Vt. — The Lincoln celebration is a time to honor the city's founder, Vaneasa. The celebration is a public event that takes place in the city square. It features a parade, live music, and other activities. The celebration is a way to thank Vaneasa for her contributions to the city and to celebrate the city's rich history. The celebration is a fun and festive event that is enjoyed by people of all ages.



Upside down
A woman in a red dress who goes up the white long-sleeved shirt on the parade float, holding onto the parade float. The parade is a fun and festive event that is enjoyed by people of all ages.

Film festival offers varied lineup

By JAMES ELLIOTT
MIDDLEBURY, Vt. — The 9th annual film festival is a time to enjoy the outdoors. The festival is a public event that takes place in the city square. It features a variety of films, including documentaries, feature films, and shorts. The festival is a fun and festive event that is enjoyed by people of all ages. The festival is a way to celebrate the city's rich history and to enjoy the outdoors.

Council picks educator to fill opening

By JAMES ELLIOTT
MIDDLEBURY, Vt. — The Middlebury City Council has picked an educator to fill a vacant position. The council has chosen a candidate who has a strong background in education and a commitment to the community. The candidate is a highly qualified and experienced educator who will bring a wealth of knowledge and skills to the position. The council is confident that the candidate will be a great addition to the city's education system.

By the way
Members of the...
Index



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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 79 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



Li Hengyi carves with his sister, Yanki Che, about the next chess move at the Rowley Fourth Lawn Party at Castle 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 best skinny-dipping spots in the United States, according to a recent review on a rating website.

The Massachusetts list includes local 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, Honesick Beach, and Lake Garrison.

Sandy beaches on the bottom half of the list include Shaght and Wigganahook 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 scooping lobsters to test these supposed nudist hot spots, you might want to check regulations.

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 126 annually.

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

While its open water and pink dune grass may tempt some to go au naturel, Crane Beach lacks the privacy and quiet appeal of a skinny-dipping locale. The Ipswich Local News is also unsure whether the article accounted for the infamous goatees waiting to take a cheap cut 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 Wigganahook 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 expanse of white dunes.

Crane Beach nudist misadventure: Beyond beach rules, misadventure appears in a misadventure in Massachusetts, according to Massachusetts general laws from PL title 1, chapter 272, section 53B.

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 31

Ipswich Local News

Ipswich, MA

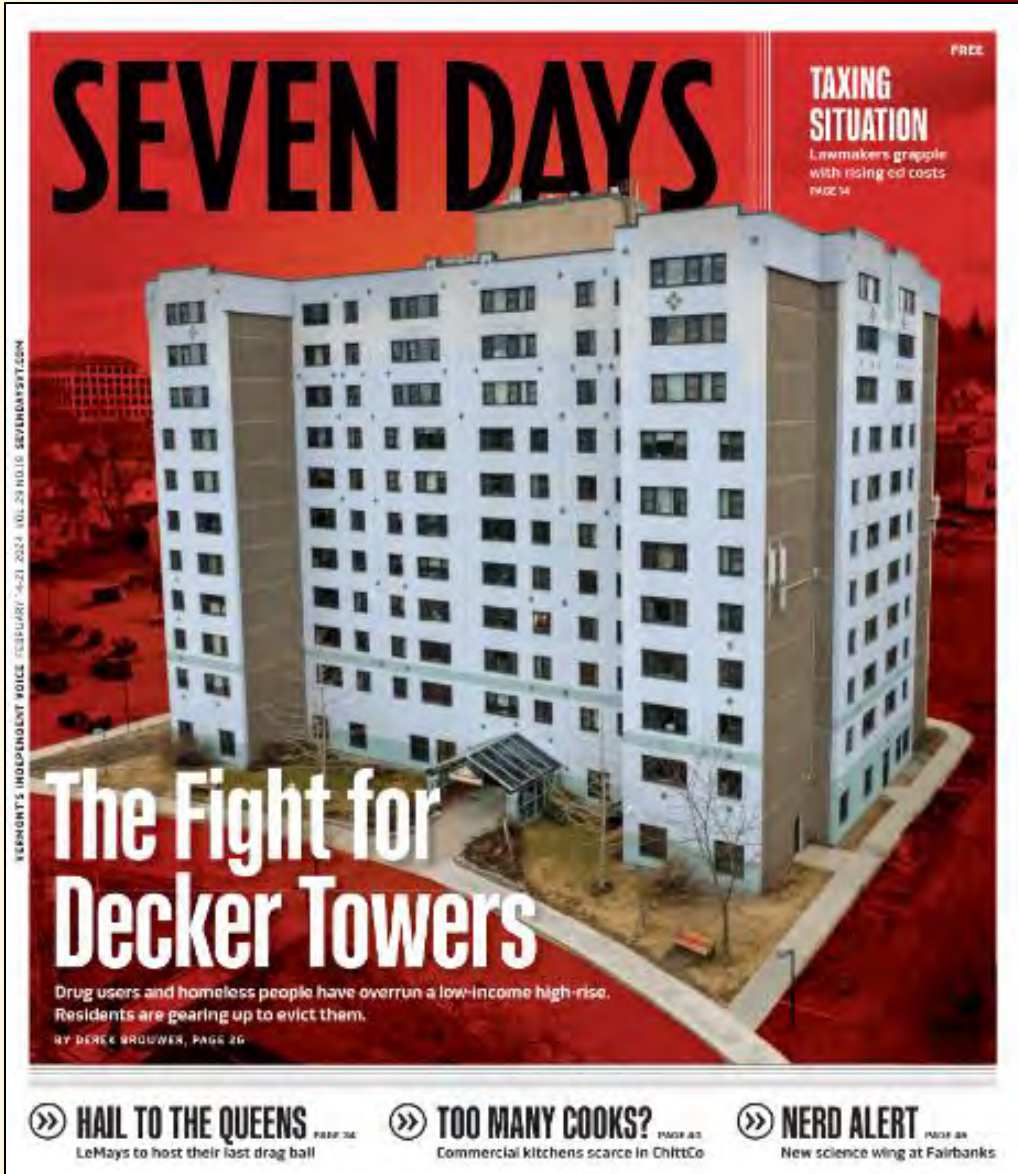


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Newspaper of the Year

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Seven Days

Burlington, VT



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**Daily Newspapers
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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, Massachusetts • Volume 112 • Number 10 • October 10, 2024 • \$1.00



Eclipse mania grips continent
Millions in path of totality

By Andrew Smith
Greenfield News

GREENFIELD, Mass. — A total solar eclipse will sweep across northern New England on October 10, and millions of people are expected to watch the celestial event from the safety of their homes or in person.

Millions of people are expected to watch the celestial event from the safety of their homes or in person. The eclipse will be visible from much of the United States, including parts of Canada and Mexico.

Greenfield residents are encouraged to stay indoors during the eclipse to protect their eyes. The eclipse will be visible from much of the United States, including parts of Canada and Mexico.

Greenfield residents are encouraged to stay indoors during the eclipse to protect their eyes. The eclipse will be visible from much of the United States, including parts of Canada and Mexico.

A celestial occasion

Residents turn out to admire solar eclipse

GREENFIELD, Mass. — Thousands of people gathered in Greenfield on Tuesday to watch the total solar eclipse. The event was a major community gathering, with many people staying in town for the occasion.



Greenfield residents watch the total solar eclipse on Tuesday. The event was a major community gathering, with many people staying in town for the occasion.

WEATHER TODAY 47
Mostly sunny and warm 72

Greenfield	47-60
Amherst	45-55
Northampton	48-58
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Northampton	48-58
Westfield	46-56
Ware	44-54
Belchertown	45-55
Wareham	46-56

Memorial coming home

Greenfield resident found wooden box of World War II letters online, including of his change



GREENFIELD, Mass. — A Greenfield resident has found a wooden box containing World War II letters and other documents. The box was discovered online and is being returned to the family of the soldier who wrote the letters.

Sportsmen's writer honored for work

Mike Roche recognized by secretary of SOCRATES' Society, writing with 2024 credit certificate



GREENFIELD, Mass. — Mike Roche, a Greenfield sports writer, has been honored by the secretary of the SOCRATES' Society. Roche has been recognized for his work in writing about local sports and community events.

Recorder.com
81-25



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 her out to Friday's that she learned about Hairston's military

service, his struggles with alcohol and his efforts 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 he often felt he could look into the 500+ as his body was being laid out.

"He was a friend to everyone," says Jamaica Haggerty, head waitress at Mount Zion, recalling that Hairston would call everyone "rever- end." "He was so friendly he could be all kinds of things."

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



Bill Hairston, at right in the photo, 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.



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 50 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.

The project was spear- headed by two local artists, Sharon Lashner 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 Lashner, who runs Color Collaborative studio in Northampton. "It's not art therapy in the proper 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 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: sunny; high 67°, low 40°

Page A2

INDEX

Table with 2 columns: Section/Topic and Page Number.

gizmetnet.com \$1.25

Myths and misfortunes surrounding the eclipse

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

By CHLSE NEWM

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

— the centuries exist state of be- lief — even ago, viewed at a water- edge, referred to a lot water- world.

Sharma's school visited early that day to prevent children from making wishes during the eclipse. Restaurants and Hindu temples closed, and people were urged to stay indoors, giving people little reason to look their heads and shoulders, outside activi-

ties. "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. However, it is safe to look at the eclipse with the sun- glasses, or for each of the glasses, use for each of the glasses."

Sharma recalled that she be- lieved in a few hours before the eclipse, and would wonder her last until after looking. She then found any small grains in the room, pointed any standing water, but her family didn't orga- nize that, she said. She also re- membered that she had seen some grains before with her grand- parents, one for each of the glasses.

UNITED SUPERHEROES advertisement with logo, text about monthly supporters, and a red t-shirt image.

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PATRIOTS UPSET BY LOSS
 MAC JONHEWY LATE TO PASS TO WIN
 GASKETT LIFTS NEW ENGLAND TO 23-22 OVER PAINFUL LOSS

ANSONIA WINS BIG
 MACI BASHAM SLINGS ROD & TBS AS CHAMPION CROWNED CHIEF OF POLICE TO REMAIN UNDER EYE OF THE LAW



Empowering women in business
 Women's Business Development Center, a nonprofit organization based in Ansonia, celebrated the opening of new offices in downtown Waterbury, Oct. 19.

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 66, Oct. 19.

Panel expands its attacks
 An ad committee continued its attacks on the state's education system, Oct. 19.

COMMUNITY NEWS, PAGE 2B



TODAY AT REP-AM.COM

LET US HELP YOU...
 WE'LL HELP YOU...
 WE'LL HELP YOU...

56 The state will...
35 The state will...
 100%...
 100%...
 100%...

Coalition saves 1,000 acres

Regional effort keeps Salisbury land from being developed

1,000 ACRES — A coalition of conservation groups has secured a 1,000-acre conservation easement in Salisbury, protecting the land from being developed. The coalition, led by the Connecticut Audubon Society, the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, and the Connecticut Land Trust, worked for over a year to secure the easement. The land, which is currently owned by a private developer, will now be managed as a conservation area. The coalition also secured a 500-acre easement in Salisbury, bringing the total protected area to 1,500 acres. The coalition is pleased with the outcome and hopes to continue its efforts to protect other areas of land in the region.



The panoramic view from Cooper Hill from Salisbury, showing the land that was recently protected by the coalition.

ELECTION 2023

A CAMPAIGN FULL OF CONTRASTS



Waterbury regional candidate Dan DiManno speaks at a campaign event.



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

DiManno calls for change in direction for Waterbury
 Waterbury regional candidate Dan DiManno is calling for a change in direction for the city. He is running for the position of city council member and is currently leading in the polls. DiManno is a former city council member and has a long history in the community. He is focused on improving the city's infrastructure, creating jobs, and addressing the needs of the residents. He is confident that he can bring about the change that the city needs.

Permerewski touts record of moving the city forward
 Paul N. Permerewski Jr. is touting his record of moving the city forward. He is running for the position of city council member and is currently leading in the polls. Permerewski is a former city council member and has a long history in the community. He is focused on improving the city's infrastructure, creating jobs, and addressing the needs of the residents. He is confident that he can bring about the change that the city needs.

DiManno's record
 Dan DiManno has a long history in the community. He has served on the city council and has been involved in many community projects. He is a strong advocate for the residents and is committed to making a difference in the city. He is confident that he can bring about the change that the city needs.

Permerewski's record
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Battle lines drawn over state's proposed auto ban
 The state's proposed ban on new cars is causing a stir in the automotive industry. The ban is expected to take effect in 2035 and will require all new cars to be electric. The automotive industry is concerned that the ban will hurt the economy and create jobs. They are arguing that electric cars are not yet ready for mass production and that the ban is premature. The state is arguing that the ban is necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change.

Fire at Plymouth home on Sunday leaves 1 dead
 A fire at a home in Plymouth on Sunday left one person dead. The fire started in the kitchen and spread quickly, forcing the family to evacuate. The fire department arrived and worked for several hours to contain the fire. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. The family is grieving the loss of a loved one and is seeking help from the community.

DiManno's record
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Eagle Times

Claremont, NH

EAGLE TIMES
Sunday Edition, April 14, 2024

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

Community rallies behind search for missing horse

BY LAURA PERKINS
Staff Writer

CLAREMONT, N.H. — When a horse goes missing, it's a heart-wrenching experience for the owner. In the case of a missing horse named "Candy," the community has rallied behind the search. Candy, a 10-year-old Quarter Horse, was last seen on the morning of April 10. The horse is described as a dark brown color with a white blaze on its face. The owner, a local resident, has offered a reward for anyone who can provide information about the horse's whereabouts. The community has organized several search parties and has posted flyers throughout the area. The search is ongoing, and the community continues to offer support and assistance.

Sheriff John Simonds won't seek re-election

BY JENNIFER COLE
Staff Writer

CLAREMONT, N.H. — Sheriff John Simonds has announced that he will not seek re-election in the upcoming November election. Simonds, who has served as the town's sheriff for over a decade, has a long and distinguished career in law enforcement. He has been instrumental in many successful investigations and has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues and the community. Simonds' decision to step down is a significant one, as he has been a key figure in the town's law enforcement efforts. He will be leaving his position at the end of his current term. The town will be looking for a new sheriff to take over his duties in the coming year.

First Chamber Auxiliary meeting held

BY JENNIFER COLE
Staff Writer

CLAREMONT, N.H. — The First Chamber Auxiliary held its monthly meeting on the evening of April 10. The meeting was held at the town's community center and was attended by a large number of members. The meeting featured a presentation on fire safety, which was given by a local fire department representative. The presentation highlighted the importance of fire safety in homes and businesses and provided tips on how to prevent fires and what to do in the event of a fire. The meeting also included a social gathering and a raffle. The First Chamber Auxiliary is a volunteer organization that supports the town's various activities and events. The next meeting is scheduled for the following month.

Fire safety in Plainfield

BY JENNIFER COLE
Staff Writer

PLAINFIELD, N.H. — A fire safety presentation was held in Plainfield on the evening of April 10. The presentation was given by a local fire department representative and was attended by a large number of residents. The presentation highlighted the importance of fire safety in homes and businesses and provided tips on how to prevent fires and what to do in the event of a fire. The presentation also included a demonstration of fire extinguishers and a fire drill. The fire department representative emphasized the importance of having a fire escape plan and practicing it regularly. The presentation was a success and was well-received by the community.

Weather effects will continue to trickle in this spring planting season

BY BECKY NELSON
Staff Writer

CLAREMONT, N.H. — The weather effects will continue to trickle in this spring planting season. The weather has been unpredictable, with a mix of rain, snow, and ice. This has made it difficult for farmers and gardeners to get their crops in the ground. The weather is expected to continue to be unpredictable in the coming weeks. Farmers and gardeners are advised to be patient and to wait for the right time to plant their crops. The weather is a challenge, but it is also an opportunity to be prepared and to take advantage of the good weather when it comes.

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EYES OF THE OWL
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Circulation: 1,200

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
Curtain call for mall-based theater
Theater groups are looking for ways to survive in a world of big-box retailers and online streaming services.
REPORT
Theater groups are looking for ways to survive in a world of big-box retailers and online streaming services.

CONCORD
Plan at ex-CVS deemed too tall
A plan to build a new CVS pharmacy at the former CVS site in Concord is being challenged by neighbors.

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.

SPLIT DECISION
A decision on whether to build a new ski area in Ossipee is being debated by local officials.

DAVID BROWN
What could come of lost ski area in Ossipee?

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B'S WOES CONTINUE
Bicycle knee to things in they are at street front, Page 10.
ALSO INSIDE: The impact of knee disease on women, Page 10.

OUTLOOK 2024
What's Even for Leaders and Legislators

Come get schooled in WMass' commercial life

Did 'overserving' at The Still lead to a deadly wrong-way crash?
By Laura Jordan

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The Day

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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 composer, navigates GOP Spidee after Agard's death

By Bob Schiller

When he died in 1988, the world mourned the loss of a great composer. But it was not until 2013 that the world learned of his true identity as a political activist. He was a member of the Republican Party and a vocal supporter of the conservative movement.

'TOTALLY READY'

By Bob Schiller

Barbara Fillet is ready to go. She has everything she needs to travel to Vermont to end her terminal illness through medical aid in dying. She is ready to go.



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Concord, NH

"Planning the end"

Publick Occurrences

Barbara Filion of Portsmouth is



WEEKEND EDITION PREP YO

CONCORD

NEWSPAPER MARCH 24 AND 25, 2012

New venue, same goal: Carr

The Black Tie Dinner will be held at the new venue, the Concord Country Club, on Saturday, April 7, 2012. The goal is to raise funds for the Concord High School. The event will be held from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Tickets are \$100 per person. For more information, contact the Concord High School at 603-225-1234.

PLANNING THE END: This is the second in a series of stories that explore the end of life. The first story was about the death of a young man. This story is about the death of a young woman. The article discusses the challenges of end-of-life care and the importance of advance directives. It also touches on the emotional toll of watching someone die and the role of hospice care.

Barbara Filion gets her affairs in order

Barbara Filion is a woman who has been diagnosed with a terminal illness. She is currently in the hospital, and her family is trying to get her affairs in order. The article discusses the importance of having a will and other legal documents in place. It also touches on the emotional challenges of watching someone die and the role of hospice care.

Eclipse advice: Be patient

The total solar eclipse will be visible from Concord, New Hampshire, on Monday, April 30, 2012. The article provides advice on how to view the eclipse safely. It recommends using eclipse glasses or a pinhole viewer. It also provides information on where to view the eclipse in Concord. The eclipse will last for about 2 minutes.

PLANNING THE END: This is the third in a series of stories that explore the end of life. The first story was about the death of a young man. The second story was about the death of a young woman. This story is about the death of a young man. The article discusses the challenges of end-of-life care and the importance of advance directives. It also touches on the emotional toll of watching someone die and the role of hospice care.

Barbara Filion travels to Vermont to end her terminal illness

Barbara Filion has traveled to Vermont to end her terminal illness. She is currently in a hospice care facility in Vermont. The article discusses the challenges of end-of-life care and the importance of advance directives. It also touches on the emotional toll of watching someone die and the role of hospice care.

PLANNING THE END: This is the fourth in a series of stories that explore the end of life. The first story was about the death of a young man. The second story was about the death of a young woman. The third story was about the death of a young man. This story is about the death of a young woman. The article discusses the challenges of end-of-life care and the importance of advance directives. It also touches on the emotional toll of watching someone die and the role of hospice care.

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Alan's Soccer Branch

SUNDAY MARCH 31ST

Memories your agent should have

Alan's Soccer Branch is a business that provides soccer equipment and services. The article discusses the challenges of running a business and the importance of having a good agent. It also touches on the emotional toll of watching someone die and the role of hospice care.

PLANNING THE END: This is the fifth in a series of stories that explore the end of life. The first story was about the death of a young man. The second story was about the death of a young woman. The third story was about the death of a young man. The fourth story was about the death of a young woman. This story is about the death of a young man. The article discusses the challenges of end-of-life care and the importance of advance directives. It also touches on the emotional toll of watching someone die and the role of hospice care.

CONCORD

NEWSPAPER APRIL 9 AND 10, 2012

Monday's Show in the Sky

Eclipse advice: Be patient

The total solar eclipse will be visible from Concord, New Hampshire, on Monday, April 30, 2012. The article provides advice on how to view the eclipse safely. It recommends using eclipse glasses or a pinhole viewer. It also provides information on where to view the eclipse in Concord. The eclipse will last for about 2 minutes.

PLANNING THE END: This is the sixth in a series of stories that explore the end of life. The first story was about the death of a young man. The second story was about the death of a young woman. The third story was about the death of a young man. The fourth story was about the death of a young woman. The fifth story was about the death of a young man. This story is about the death of a young woman. The article discusses the challenges of end-of-life care and the importance of advance directives. It also touches on the emotional toll of watching someone die and the role of hospice care.

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The Loss of Grace



In Vermont's juvenile lockup, a girl endured violence and isolation. She wasn't the only one. And it was no secret.

BY JOE SEKTON

The girl in the video is named She. It is a pseudonym, what you do not see next to her name is the reality of her troubled situation. The walls are white there is no bed, no table, no desk. The child is streaked with dirt and waste — a statement of neglect and abuse. Her hands are bruised, her feet are swollen and her mouth...

The video is being shared by a freelance writer at the Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center in Essex. The camera looks through a window in the door of the room. The child is alone in the room and is looking like a frightened animal. Yet her eyes possess a flash of warmth and in that moment, it is not hard to imagine her early childhood of challenges and promise.

A girl raised in rural Vermont in a home without electricity, where the light to water was used to flush the toilet and the family food was stored in a small refrigerator. A girl who could ride a bike at age 2, who could catch her playing in a field at 3, who had a magical touch with animals and once walked into a circle of country Arabians horses, usually her best friend. A girl who often went hungry but who made a habit of bringing food to the homeless people begging outside her local supermarket.

At another moment, the girl in the video is about the room laughing madly, her eyes overflowing with laughter. She sits on the floor and begins to harm herself — inserting lengths of wire into her right nostril. She does this carefully, with no obvious expression of pain.

The woman working the camera does not open the door to announce, she asks, "Why are you doing that?" and loops the camera rolling. Parts of the answer to the camera question are hidden in the girl's thousands of pages of medical notes and child welfare records. She was taken from her family by the State of Vermont at age 12, given a half dozen shifting diagnoses of mental illness and prescribed nearly 30 different medications as she was shuffled from hospital to specialized school to placement out of state. At one, in Chicago, the staff sought no control her behavior using "behavioral contracts" heavy doses of several drugs meant to reduce her symptoms. She did not claim that family members to conceal and care for her. She had been attracted to school — called "the crazy one" and mocked for her lack of English diction.

"I'm different from other people," she told a therapist. "I feel like I got the rope called 'Self' around my neck. I don't know how to get it off. I don't understand why anyone would bully me." The girl had been at Woodside before, when she was 13. Then, she spent 11 days in a child's mock court where a sheriff for the day was kept talking and she for days was left in the facility alone. Her mother, who was a nurse, told her she was not to be isolated and when she had finished all notes to the child and was reprimanded. She was reprimanded 21 times, her arms and legs were tied and used by nurse aides when nurses were busy on other things in a hallway. She was denied the schooling at Woodside to which she was entitled by law and in one of the most troubling incidents her family asked judges to please give her back to them.



REPORTING THIS STORY

The reporter's investigation involved a review of court records, medical notes, a custody agreement, hospital records, and a review of the Vermont Department of Corrections and the Vermont Department of Children, Youth and Families. The reporter also interviewed several people who provided information for this story, including a Vermont attorney general, a Vermont state legislator, the current director of the Department of Children and Families, former director of the state's juvenile justice system, and several other people who provided information for this story.

Read this document at several.org/woodside.

Woodside, a state-run facility, supports the needs of Vermont's most troubled children. It is a place where children are often isolated and where they are often treated with violence. The facility is a place where children are often treated with violence and where they are often treated with violence. The facility is a place where children are often treated with violence and where they are often treated with violence.

Woodside, opened in 1986 and operated by the Vermont Department for Children and Families, could house 30 children from ages 10 to 17. The population was a mix of boys and girls with mental health issues, some of whom had run away from home. They were supposed to be provided with housing, counseling, and group activities. Later, after Woodside was rebranded as a child welfare facility, those kept there were to be provided

therapy and treated for their mental health disorders. The video, taken through the locked room's window, captures the girl sitting there, alone, in Woodside. Her mouth is open, she is not speaking, she is not smiling. She is a young girl, but that person you

Seven Days

Burlington, VT

"The Loss of Grace"

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 throwing... was lethargic... care notes.

The resident... Former facility... restoration... room even as

5 Resident Rights
5.10 Right to freedom of movement
 Residents shall be free from sexual abuse, neglect, or other mistreatment.
 This has not been verified as a violation.
 Based on record review and 10) was neglected by failure to allow doctor to an identify finding:
 1. On 10/20/21 an amen... the Division of License...
 2. On 11/6/21 and 12/21...
 3. The 10/18/21 13:28 hr... read "after lunch res...
 4. On 10/18/21 13:28 hr... hydroxyamine for sec

The Maine Department violated a resident's right to freedom of movement despite his doctor's request. Highlighted by ProPublica.

The health department's approach to oversight of the roughly 190 largest medical care than in other states.

From 2020 to 2022, these facilities for 59 involving anything from missed mandates

Despite these violations, the facility for failing to correct issued four condition violations and one in privacy rights.

By contrast, Massachusetts from imposing stiff standards for regulatory

The paucity of sanctions at Woodlands of Rockland

5 RESIDENT RIGHTS

5.10 Right to freedom of movement

This has not been verified as a violation.

Based on record review and 10) was neglected by failure to allow doctor to an identify finding:

Finding:

On 12/19/2021, the Division of License visit was made to the facility.

1. On 12/19/2021, the Division of License confirmed that the facility was not in compliance with the rule.

The Maine Department protecting "a resident's" locked courtyard. (Captioned by ProPublica)

Woodlands of Rockland that the facility violated declined to elaborate on the findings.

Edward Sedacca, a former facility manager, said the company took over the facility in 2019 and that we inherited was a facility with infrastructure well below a higher level of care.

Crawford Common

RELATED STORY
 found in the archive



Dianne Mills outside her home.

Farwell disputed Mills' investigation for the case inconsistent with the report said.

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

Mollot, of the Long Term Care, to do more against facilities independent monitoring

"Faced with the fact that we had to do over and over again incidents enforcement acts?" Mollot

"What



Stacy Peterson, a former facility manager, made a report for ProPublica.

From 2020 to 2022, 190 reported by a Level IV facility another resident, according to the health department.

But the health department at Rockland reported, requiring the facility to correct the issue.

With little pressure, the "were nonexistent" at the facility.

Maine's health department investigated residents wandering away from facilities

Elopement — when a person wanders away from a facility for people with dementia — was never inspected and reported to the health department.



After a state investigation without staff noticing, the facility has been sanctioned by the health department for wandering away. (Photo by Tara Rice for ProPublica)

This article was produced by The Maine Monitor. Highlighted by ProPublica.

Late one morning in March, a "disoriented" man wandered away from the facility and then was found at a street 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
By HANDED GREENE
Senior Staff

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

State's top court examines local town's shooting range ordinance
By CORA TORRES
Assistant Staff

INSIDE



It was a good day for the Masabuck, Top, and Corvix football teams, which won first-round tournament games. Score: Though, dropped a 3-1 decision to Belter. Sports, 81



Ramon Daniels of Dover and friends, a "Don't Take Rights Off My Back" sign outside the N.H. Statehouse to support getting speedy passage for the new Free State of Concord. The rally, organized by Chay Sharma to vote recently passed bills that would strip rights for voters across the state.



Left, House bills of Governor's vetoed 40-100 over the highway funding rights. Right, protesters picket problems under the 2024-2025.



Left, House bills of Governor's vetoed 40-100 over the highway funding rights. Right, protesters picket problems under the 2024-2025.

Keene's Fall City Council will discuss the preliminary design for the new pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure project at a workshop next month.

The future project will include the removal of Main Street, the widening and reconstruction of the road, and the construction of a new pedestrian and bicycle path.

While the council has been a steady force in the past, it will be a challenge to get the preliminary design project, which is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The project will be a major step in the city's effort to improve its infrastructure and make it more pedestrian and bicycle friendly.

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The proposed law would also require the state to provide training for law enforcement officers on how to handle transgender individuals.

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INSIDE
A person's face is shown in a small inset image.

The Keene Sentinel Keene, NH

"Covering the LGBTQ+ community"



Publick Occurrences

The Keene Sentinel

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

Richard Hines

James Hinkley

CVS announces plans to overhaul how drugs are priced

Richard Hines

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 Mhfarrengu 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.

Chief nurse Krista Japelle of 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 and was at one," Mafuta told nurse. He presented him to 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

This reporting is based on a review of hundreds of pages of court documents, police reports, and interviews with Mafuta's legal counsel. Mafuta is not a defendant in a criminal case. This is not a story about an individual's mental health care system, but about the broader system of care that Mafuta's family and community are navigating.

"I'm my best," 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 had been limited by George Floyd's murder. During a heated local election campaign, city officials would deploy Mafuta as a symbol of decreasing public safety.

Then, in a matter of seconds inside a St. Albans prison last December, Mafuta beat and gashed injured his cellmate. 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 firm of the attack seems 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 more disquieting account is the story of a young man whose early childhood trauma and mental illness, but returned 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

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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, however, in 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 Babbar 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 and seas roared to life and in the same instant, the Red Alert app chirped a warning. I looked down, seeing it read, "Ashdod Southern Industrial Zone."

"That's where I am," I started to say as the first report of an Iron Dome battery hidden nearby discharged five rockets in a salvo into the sky. 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 chirping out warnings incessantly 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”

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NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER & PRESS ASSOCIATION

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 standing 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 Rates

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, there was a rush to the pharmacies to testify about her experience with addiction.

She'd already come a long way. As a child, Susan felt uncomfortable in her 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 at least five times for her adult life and experienced some of the biggest problems plaguing the state's treatment system: long waits at addiction clinics, a lack of access to medication for addiction in prisons. But with the help of Leland, a streetwise dad who works with mothers to overcome addiction, Susan had gotten clean. She was sober, housed and eating generic chicken. As she testified to lawmakers, someone held her youngest child, just a year old.

For the best friend, Susan was a “kick the 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 83 in 2014 to 120 in 2018, 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 the state, and those drugs plied themselves across the Northeast, including in Vermont.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was shorting up to meet local overdose testimony reports, and people who had been using cocaine for years started trying meth. Some were hooked on it.

“I got the biggest rush I'll ever had in my entire life,” said Chris, 36, of her first fix, about five years ago. “I used to be still because big f--- was. It was so much more addicting [than cocaine].”

Meth — or Tuna, as it's known in the streets — lasted 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 cocaine.



people who might have had addictions to help are quick to make a referral, too. Susan

Susan started when she was in 10th grade. Her parents were trying to drag her to church's experiential therapy center. She had a bad attitude, but she was a good kid. Her parents were trying to drag her to church's experiential therapy center. She had a bad attitude, but she was a good kid. Her parents were trying to drag her to church's experiential therapy center. She had a bad attitude, but she was a good kid.

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Vermont's Relapse Rates

to talking meth, and the scientific medical research on the biology of the disorder. The treatment programs that have shown promise — such as those that offer medication-assisted therapy — are not just 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't just mean to get into the state's detox center in Montpelier or Vermont Valley Place in Montpelier and Somerville House in Waterbury. By the time a bed opens up, people are often back on the streets — or dead.

“The lack of resources has taken a toll on both users and the people trying to help them,” said Leland, who said he's seen the “stratification” of the state.

“Vermont is completely unprepared to take care of this,” he said. “I hear you have no housing. I hear you were assaulted and raped but didn't get any help. I hear you're in jail.”

So, the woman who stopped last summer when doing her second medication, had a relapse her release from prison last month. But a housing opportunity led through an employer back to another relapse, who was sleeping out and still actively using.

“Living in a hammock last night, Kelly told me. She said she's been to treatment and still in her own home. The police will take her away from her home.”

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One thing the bill does not touch on: overdose prevention sites, which have been shown to reduce overdose deaths in New York City and many other cities. The bill does not touch on the health care system. That includes Westchester, who noted that 78 percent of all people dying from drug overdoses in Vermont have never been treated for addiction.

“That's a staggering figure, and, in fact, 700,000 people are still using drugs. That's a staggering figure, and, in fact, 700,000 people are still using drugs. That's a staggering figure, and, in fact, 700,000 people are still using drugs.”

But the health care system is not doing prevention sites, getting as far as to run a pilot in 2021 that would have simply opened a study of them. And Health Commissioner Marc Loring has expressed doubt that the facilities would work in Vermont due to the rural landscape.

As a legislative hearing in April, Loring cited concerns over geographic

“We've changed our language, the language,” he said, pointing to his health, “to be more specific about the health.”

Westchester also said that the state is no longer treating the problem as an urgent matter. Back to the end of the state's opioid crisis, the state is still struggling to get local leaders to help fight the crisis. Westchester 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 get the message out.”

'YOU'RE ALIVE'

Amelia Reed was angry the first time she was arrested for an overdose — not because she wanted to go to jail, but because she had found a temporary place to stay through the help of a friend who had been fighting those same battles.

She has come to realize that her father had been using drugs for a long time. She had been using drugs for a long time. She had been using drugs for a long time. She had been using drugs for a long time.

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

BURLINGTON MAYOR MEG WILBERG

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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 investigation”

Public Occurrences

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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*

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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 all incidents that occurred in Rhode Island hospitals and nursing homes from the Rhode Island Department of Health and the Rhode Island Department of Corrections. The Journal is in the process of creating a searchable database of the incidents, and this database will be available in the coming weeks.

Quick Search Search resident-on-resident violence

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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, researchers, and advocates. Here's what they said:

Increase staffing — and training

While Rhode Island's attempt to improve nursing homes proved controversial, people are looking for ways to prevent resident-on-resident violence. "Appropriate staffing to meet each resident's needs, the CEO of the Rhode Island Health Care Association, having enough nurses, he indicated, mental health services, psychiatrists, and counselors, as well as recreational activities." — *Antonia Noori Farzan*

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The Providence Journal

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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”

Public Occurrences



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

As a tribal councillor, Watso has lived in Odanak for an hour and a half north of Montreal. He and other First Nation leaders have turned their backs on the border, and waged an increasingly successful 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 recently, 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 article shows the "Ndakinna," or homeland, stretching 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 paper 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 19th 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 access to 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 have been identified as Abenaki are found 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 relationships with the U.S. and Canada include enforcement and education.



Eleven states have also recognized their own criteria, which vary from state to state. The Conference of State Legislatures has urged federal recognition. The process is slow, and Oklahoma, the state with the largest population, has barred state-recognized groups, according to Leroux.

In Vermont, the state Commission on Native American Affairs is tasked with whether or not a group should be recognized. A member panel is tasked with reviewing applications and advocating for recognition. 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, Vermont's urban housing complex, as 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 victims of damage to an ongoing crisis.

Every day, dozens of people enter the building in day and use drugs, or attempt to escape the cold. Its own streets are littered with used needles, crack pipes and plastic bags. They are covered with urine and feces, crisscrossed with vulgar graffiti, and strewn with blankets and other meager belongings of the people who sleep there each night. Intoxicated visitors randomly stroll around or pass out on the streets in the afternoon and in the laundry rooms.

"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-story car shed off its hinges. Someone tried to cut through a 5,000-watt surge protector to steal residents' bank accounts. Broken doors and windows 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 federally funded agency that owns and manages Decker, has fortified the first floors and second common areas with security cameras, which the Vermont police officers can view in real time. The problem, however, is not 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 warming 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 friend can monitor 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 only because someone in 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 own city's victory, since many of the residents have survived struggles with homelessness or addiction.

But they are getting desperate.

Yes, 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 that 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. He wore a patterned blue plaid shirt and a white scarf. On this night, he wore a purple skullcap and a snow-covered shirt. He was wearing an unbuttoned, worn-out jacket with an embroidered name: "Power and good cannot coexist."

Seven Days

Burlington, VT

"The Fight for Decker Towers"

Publick Occurrences



Back to a bedroom



At a resident meeting

The Fight for Decker Towers

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

The streeted 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 Book Stop, the shared amenities and the scenic 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 \$250 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 one Decker tenant last year, all of whom the agency suspected of dealing drugs, some evictions are pending.

The eviction process often takes many months, during which time, housing foster. Some apartments, problems authority officials say, have increased dozens of daily evictions, when tenants have a right to host as their guests. Policies have changed so that drug cases need 60 days or Decker, according to the housing authority.

The environment is confusing for tenants, especially those with little or no substance-use disorder care recovery.

Before dawn on the Friday when Matt Collins sat on the lobby, an ambulance had arrived for Victoria Merckin, one of the low-income tenants. The 55-year-old had struggled with alcohol and drugs and was on the brink of homelessness when the housing authority kicked her last fall, according to Chris McDecker, 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 swapped books, looked up the laundry rooms, and tried to get order among the revolving door of visitors and squatters.

Within a few months, Victoria appeared to have relapsed, Chris said. On January 25, the housing authority had sent residents 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.

28 SEVENTH DAYS FEBRUARY 4, 2024

"What do you want to do with it? What's the rules around here?" he asked. Since the meeting, outside manager Karyn Phillips, a nurse and certified Writings to hold over the top.

Victoria and the original board are late, on January 30. It's unclear who actually caused her death. An attorney is pending.

STAIRWAYS TO HELL

An elevator removed the key from Writings. The hole was stuffed with a brick.

By 7:30 p.m., nine people occupied the room, including one woman who had pulled out a blanket for heating and held a candle in her hand. A man was passed out on the stairs along the stairs to another floor. Four paraphernalia dotted the landings and most of the steps. Mary found an empty glass and something including broken glass and a small bottle filled with amber liquid. The door was still, as in a trap.

Most residents credit the stairs when they die. "The stairs were not safe when they got away, and when you're on a short supply for the assistance that people who are living on the stairs in Clarendon Center the stairs. The last call came in January, housing authority employee contacted 23 people sleeping in Decker, outside the agency said — would go away to the job or to a home in the city or to a nursing home or to the morgue."

The housing authority has installed drug containers and blower dispensers throughout the building. The agency also locked the single-unit residents on the first floor after a police officer discovered it to have drugs and, presumably, the residents, then they find other places to sell their substances.

Each morning, housing authority employees walk the stairs with and tell the hundreds of people to move along. Throughout the day they also have daily visits to leave. When you get to a Decker viewing a tenant — a pregnant right — and who is occupying can quickly lead to confinement. However, instead of the building one usually get back into a few minutes or hours later. When authorities find drug testing changes, some would typically go to hold someone in the low-level drug.

Sweeping the building clear in a Friday night would be a complete task for the one remaining resident cleanup. Her final bid before evictions a few months later, she also installed a personal security camera inside the apartment door, next to a health warning.

The Fight for Decker Towers

her walker. The pepper spray was part of a greeting home security against that Phillips had ordered from Amazon. Wolff recently took a learner's self-defense and empowerment class. Both Wolff and Phillips said they do not intend to leave their apartments. Phillips 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 self-defense. Wolff has been told never to progress to impulsive — informed by the knowledge that, without family support while she waits for a hearing resolution, she would have been arrested — and the crushing sense that the burden she and her neighbors are now shouldering is harmful and unfair.

"It feels like we're hearing tweets and anonymous page outs, or just someone say, 'you're a spoiled violation of our space,' she wrote in an email to me.

Meeting in the community room to lunch in one room Wolff and her friends are trying to solve one their last. "At the conversation, inevitable, personal problems in the building. Between bills of household chores wings, broken, it recounted the story of a man who was jogging the deck of his apartment's roof in the morning. Wolff repeated:

"I would need to stop" Phillips asked her.

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

Phillips told the group that some Decker residents have said they're seeing pepper spray from the stairwells to their apartments. It seemed to be a common theme, she said.

"I was sitting on a bed, surrounded by a bunch of people," Lillian said. "The woman on the bed had her hand on the side of the stairs, who is sitting in prison, she said it."

"I got a bad theory warning about which is full every night, she must live up outside for hours with no guarantee she'll last a week. There's a store here and there's a certain amount of stuff that's why the stairs, it's not good for the people, I've said."

30 SEVENTH DAYS FEBRUARY 4, 2024

The Fight for Decker Towers

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

Collins, to his disbelief, was trapped on the first floor, between a window and the door. His black dog, Pepper, whom she pushed around in a wheelchair.

More than two hours passed, and the resident wasn't there yet. 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 stairwells, where we found 10 people sleeping. One woman was passed across the width of a step, her forehead to the floor. There was a needle and her body. She didn't know we approached.

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

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

By 7:30 p.m., the elevator was fixed. I returned to the stairwells. On an upper floor, I came upon a woman sitting on some steps. The woman, who asked to be identified by her middle name, Eve, was trying to eat a melted popsicle with her fingers. There, plus some pudding and a microwave cup of Ben & Jerry's American 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 Clarendon Center and had to sleep in a tent with her stove, who is now in prison, she said it.

"I got a bad theory warning about which is full every night, she must live up outside for hours with no guarantee she'll last a week. There's a store here and there's a certain amount of stuff that's why the stairs, it's not good for the people, I've said."

The meeting, however, while Eve had been asleep, evidently a pig of mice in the stairwell landing, suddenly, she couldn't see and could barely breathe. The incident caused her to retreat. "It was a disaster."

32 SEVENTH DAYS FEBRUARY 4, 2024



Back to a bedroom

— when they didn't have a room at a residential space.

"If they want to open up one of these buildings to us, and obviously there would need to be some oversight and things like that... we could make that into a story," Karyn said.

Eve's friend, who also asked to be identified by her middle name, Mary, came down the stairs. Mary said she understood why Decker residents are frustrated, she could be, too. But Mary thought that who was making serious comments about how she and other homeless visitors "make themselves at home" in the building.

"This is the closest thing we have to a tent," she said.

"If they were in our position, they had nothing and they were outside in the cold, what would they do?" Mary continued.

"Having people in my own 13 work everybody making day of the need to stay warm."

"Absolutely," I've agreed. I went home to my apartment to sleep. Only later, while receiving my mail, I'd realize that Eve was the woman I'd stepped over in the stairwell while that evening.

GETTING ORGANIZED

An election made for the new resident council, a council that the community center and opened in the lobby.

32 SEVENTH DAYS FEBRUARY 4, 2024



Back to a kitchen

resident-activist, had arranged for Burlington Tenants United to serve as official witnesses for the vote. Also in attendance Democratic council candidate Ann Stanton, a representative of Burlington's homeless help, Karyn Katelyn, who was in charge of the legislative hearings, and independent Ward 5 city council candidate Len Greenberg.

After the last organizer and participant of resident panels, called the meeting to order. Decker Tenants had never before elected a council to represent tenants to the landlord and controlling the deed. Looking to help said would give residents "a model" of "real common ground where we can work together to make Decker livable."

The ballot asked residents to appear on a board to help them. When you see what whether the council should establish a neighborhood watch.

The minutes to the board of directors spoke.

"I want to be on the board because I want to have a voice in helping you guys and promoting you when I can," Susan (last name, 68, and her partner, 68-year-old) said.

"I want to continue to work with you guys Burlington. I'm staying but with city hall," Paul, 62, said.



Publick Occurrences



Maine Trust for Local News

Lewiston, ME

“Lewiston Mass Shooting”

Publick Occurrences

Connecting with the Sun Herald

MAINE

Several hundred people gathered in the city of Portland on Wednesday for a protest against the proposed expansion of the Portland International Jetport. The protesters, many of whom were wearing signs that read "Portland is not an airport," argued that the expansion would destroy the city's historic character and create a massive parking lot in the heart of the city.

PHOTOGRAPHY

A group of photographers gathered on Wednesday night to discuss the challenges of capturing the city's vibrant life. One photographer shared a photo of a busy street scene, while another showed a close-up of a person's face. They discussed the importance of timing and composition in street photography.

ADVERTISEMENT

Local businesses and organizations are promoting various events and services. From community fundraisers to new product launches, the ads provide information for residents.

Multiple dead, wounds, police overnight search

A major investigation is underway in Portland following a fatal shooting on Wednesday. Police are searching for a suspect in the case, which has resulted in multiple injuries and the death of one individual. The scene is cordoned off, and forensic teams are working to gather evidence.

Live up candlelight vigil

A candlelight vigil was held on Thursday evening to honor the victims of the shooting. The event drew a large crowd of community members who gathered in a public square to light candles and share their thoughts on the tragedy.

Staff Report

Local news coverage continues with reports on city council meetings, school district updates, and local business news. The staff provides detailed accounts of these events.

GROCERY MERG

Portland Sun

Since 1947

Six months before Army gave go

The following is a timeline of events leading up to the decision to allow the expansion of the Portland International Jetport. The timeline covers the period from the initial planning stages to the final decision by the Army.

Wednesday, Oct. 25

7:30 p.m. Photographer sends photos to the newspaper.

8:37 p.m. Police confirm witness statements and begin search for suspect.

9:35 p.m. Police release information regarding the shooting, including the name of the victim and the location of the crime.

10:00 p.m. The news of the shooting is reported on local television and radio.

10:30 p.m. The mayor of Portland calls a press conference to address the community's concerns.

11:00 p.m. A candlelight vigil is held in the city square.

Thursday, Oct. 26

6:50 a.m. State police continue search for suspect.

10:00 a.m. Mayor addresses the public, promising a thorough investigation.

11:00 a.m. A news conference is held to provide updates on the case.

12:00 p.m. A candlelight vigil is held in the city square.

1:00 p.m. A news conference is held to provide updates on the case.

2:00 p.m. A candlelight vigil is held in the city square.

3:00 p.m. A news conference is held to provide updates on the case.

4:00 p.m. A candlelight vigil is held in the city square.

5:00 p.m. A news conference is held to provide updates on the case.

6:00 p.m. A candlelight vigil is held in the city square.

7:00 p.m. A news conference is held to provide updates on the case.

8:00 p.m. A candlelight vigil is held in the city square.

9:00 p.m. A news conference is held to provide updates on the case.

10:00 p.m. A candlelight vigil is held in the city square.

11:00 p.m. A news conference is held to provide updates on the case.

12:00 a.m. A candlelight vigil is held in the city square.

Friday, Oct. 27

6:00 a.m. State police continue search for suspect.

7:00 a.m. Mayor addresses the public, promising a thorough investigation.

8:00 a.m. A news conference is held to provide updates on the case.

9:00 a.m. A candlelight vigil is held in the city square.

10:00 a.m. A news conference is held to provide updates on the case.

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During hubbally

The city of Portland is experiencing a period of intense public debate and protest regarding the proposed expansion of the Portland International Jetport. Residents are expressing concerns about the impact on the city's historic character and the environment.

PHOTO

A photograph showing a group of protesters gathered in front of the city hall, holding signs and chanting slogans against the jetport expansion.

SECTION

Local news coverage continues with reports on city council meetings, school district updates, and local business news. The staff provides detailed accounts of these events.

WORLD

International news coverage includes reports from around the globe, focusing on major events and trends in the world.

Shoot of anti New book's

A new book has been published that offers a critical perspective on the current political and social climate. The book has received mixed reviews and has sparked a heated debate among readers.

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Portland Press Herald

Commission: Police should have seized Lewiston shooter's guns months before

A state commission has issued a report stating that police in Lewiston should have seized the guns of a shooter months before the fatal shooting. The report criticizes the police's failure to act on intelligence they had received.

'I KNEW WE COULD DO IT'

A group of local athletes celebrated their victory in a recent competition. The team expressed their pride and joy, stating that they knew they could achieve their goal.

Some past marijuana offenses would be hidden from view under several bills before Legislature

The Maine Legislature is considering several bills that would change how past marijuana offenses are handled. Some of the bills would allow individuals with past offenses to be eligible for certain jobs or licenses.

State urges judge not to add attorney general, governor to suit against indigent defense system

The state has urged a judge to dismiss a lawsuit filed against the indigent defense system. The lawsuit sought to force the state to fund a more robust defense system for low-income individuals.

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Publick Occurrences



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


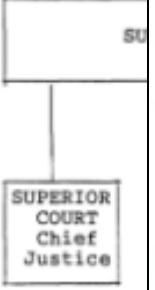


Some probate courts say they don't know how many adults are in guardianships or whether they're still alive.

The Maine Monitor

Hallowell, ME

“Maine’s part-time court”

Publick Occurrences

<p>11/24, 12:23 PM</p>  <p>Judge David Paris runs the Cumberland County probate court. His wife ordered from a bakeryroom. SR, he says, he n</p> <p>Norman Fisher's esent</p> <p>If he didn't properly m</p> <p>mind. Once, his out-of</p> <p>disch.</p> <p>For two decades, supp</p> <p>organize his medicati</p> <p>Beldford man, who w</p> <p>provide.</p> <p>With none of Fisher's t</p> <p>turned to the program</p> <p>state assigned him tw</p> <p>were responsible for t</p> <p>Those guardians sub</p> <p>Fisher's case, but the s</p> <p>see him. If they talked</p> <p>wants.</p>	<p>11/24, 12:23 PM</p>  <p>Maine's county-run prob</p> <p>the Commission to Stud</p> <p>Guardianship is the</p> <p>adult's right to make</p> <p>money is spent, and</p> <p>unpaid position but t</p> <p>Approximately 1,200</p> <p>Department of Heal</p> <p>manage their medic</p> <p>In addition, hundred</p> <p>members or friends</p> <p>guardianships in Ma</p> <p>A top court administ</p> <p>guardianships in the</p> <p>The Cumberland Co</p> <p>— potentially thousa</p> <p>alive.</p> <p>The change to state</p> <p>probate court to upd</p> <p>appointed before the</p> <p>required to update th</p>	<p>11/24, 12:23 PM</p> <p>Fewer than a dozen work</p> <p>just three court employe</p> <p>Each probate court is sup</p> <p>or lawyers — that the prob</p> <p>whether a guardianship is</p> <p>lawyers to represent adu</p> <p>The Monitor spoke with e</p> <p>good job. They lauded the</p> <p>they lacked money, many</p> <p>"At least in this county, we</p> <p>the state system, they wo</p> <p>Cumberland County.</p>  <p>Judge Paul Aranson is at the Co</p> <p>Probate courts are supp</p> <p>are caring for the adult for</p> <p>Yes Robb, who retired in 2</p> <p>oversight of guardianship</p> <p>were failures in several as</p> <p>zeroed in on two care wor</p>	<p>11/24, 12:23 PM</p> <p>Sometimes, Paris preside</p> <p>adoptions in the county</p> <p>commissioners' meeting</p> <p>downstairs. He holds hea</p> <p>the grand jury room wher</p> <p>available. If a virtual meet</p> <p>needs to happen, he hold</p> <p>from the backroom.</p> <p>Paris didn't even receive</p> <p>when he was elected in</p> <p>November 2020. His wife</p> <p>ordered him a set online</p> <p>than \$100.</p> <p>"I run it like any other jud</p> <p>would run their court. I fu</p> <p>professionally as I can," P</p> <p>said.</p> <p>Probate judge candidates</p> <p>be licensed to practice la</p> <p>reside in the state. They a</p> <p>elected by county residen</p> <p>serve four-year terms.</p> <p>After 30 years of private p</p> <p>doing criminal and civil is</p> <p>in the state's district, sup</p> <p>and supreme courts, bec</p> <p>judge was on Paris' back</p> <p>He said he didn't believe</p> <p>the political connections</p> <p>probate judge.</p> <p>"I've got to go out and be</p> <p>This is why I can do the j</p> <p>shoulders," Paris said. "Yo</p> <p>law court."</p>	<p>11/24, 12:23 PM</p> <p>"When you are not devot</p> <p>your time to being a judg</p> <p>hard to maintain the leve</p> <p>professionalism and edu</p> <p>of law that is necessary</p> <p>position. I have the utmo</p> <p>respect for the probate j</p> <p>It's not that they are inco</p> <p>the work it is that the tin</p> <p>provided to them. The at</p> <p>time they have available</p> <p>to be judges is simply no</p> <p>sufficient," Gorman said.</p> <p>State considers</p> <p>consolidating probate</p> <p>courts</p> <p>Maine voters passed a</p> <p>constitutional amendme</p> <p>November 1967 to get ri</p> <p>but the amendment neve</p> <p>State lawmakers have d</p> <p>The studies they commi</p> <p>conclusion: Probate judg</p> <p>occurs because they are</p> <p>courts to become part of</p> <p>A bill in 2022 to reduce t</p> <p>House and Senate, but w</p> <p>"Personally, I continue to</p> <p>system would both fulfil</p> <p>Sen. Anne Carney (D-Cap</p> <p>Consolidation of the pro</p> <p>counties would no longe</p> <p>because it would even o</p>	<p>11/24, 12:23 PM</p> <p>Subsequent probate may be at 10011 Maine's probate probate court.</p> <p>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.</p>  <p>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. Peck.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The court workers often don't even know whether those people are still alive.</p> <p>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.</p>
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Publick 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)

Valid 2 PM Sun Jul 09, 2023 to 8 PM



The National Weather Service warns
Burlington

ENVIRONMENT

Rainfall expected to exacerbate

As precipitation begins in 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, 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 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 LaPlante 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

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CLOCKING OUT FOR THE ECLIPSE
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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 May Norberg, a Democrat, had served since 2012.

Mayor Mulvaney and Councilor Stanak were sworn in at the city hall on Monday night. Mulvaney, who took office in 2011, is the first Democrat to hold the office in more than a decade. Outgoing Mayor May Norberg, a Democrat, had served since 2012.



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 vital 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 assisted living — even while I'm in subsidized housing and I have 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 was skeptical but helped transform his own into one of the most influential members of Congress. Vermont's senior senator now holds a powerful perch as the chair of the Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee, or H.E.P. When he's not advising 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 2030. In the state, 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-12/2016-04-14

Seven Days

Burlington, VT

"This Old State"



Publick Occurrences

news

Burlington to Help Pay for Security at Decker Towers

BY DAVID BRIDGES
davidbridges@winochee.com



Outgoing Burlington Mayor Dan Claitor says he has signed a letter to the state asking for help to pay for security at Decker Towers.

The Decker Towers is a 10-story apartment complex in Burlington. It was built in 1970 and is one of the oldest high-rise buildings in the state. The building is owned by the state and is used as a state office building.

Claitor says the state should be responsible for the security of the building because it is a state-owned building.

The building is a prime target for terrorists and other groups. Claitor says the state should be responsible for the security of the building because it is a state-owned building.

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news

Local

What's new in the local area.

Local news items.

Local news items.

Local news items.

Local news items.

Local news items.

Local news items.

giggetts 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 to 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 putting pressure on the CEOs of these non-profits who are charging too much, and we've got the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs, and a lot of pressure that our people in manufacturing.

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 to big pharmaceutical companies is far more important than providing the needs of senior citizens and elders.

Age has been a big topic heading into the presidential election, with some voters concerned about President Biden's mental acuity and physical fitness. What do you say to voters who ask you whether age should be a concern when heading to cast ballots in November?

It's not easy to say. Age is a natural barrier, but it's also a natural strength. It's not just about physical fitness, it's about wisdom, experience, and the ability to lead. I think we should focus on the strengths of our leaders, not just their weaknesses.

It's not easy to say. Age is a natural barrier, but it's also a natural strength. It's not just about physical fitness, it's about wisdom, experience, and the ability to lead. I think we should focus on the strengths of our leaders, not just their weaknesses.

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Local news items.

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SEVEN DAYS aloud

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



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new

Employ a Certain

people who have the skills and experience to help you grow your business.

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Late Loomers

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

BY HANNAH FEUER | hannahfeuer@winochee.com

On Wednesday mornings in Middlebury, five women gather to weave fibers symbolizing the aspects of their lives. During a recent session, Nancy Hunter, an 87-year-old woman, wove a series of looms that represented her life, representing the first 100 days of her mother's illness.

"Passing in the year, taking out the yarn, deciding what colors — it's sort of reflecting on what you've done," she said. "It's a way of saying that you can reflect."

This is Weaving Your Story, a free weekly course in the home of the School for People Over 60, one of 17 "continuing education" projects it's funding this year for a total of \$72,000.

Across the state, older adults participate in a variety of programs specifically for their age group, from a computer and singing residency in Canaan to a weekly memoir-writing group in Middlebury. The goal is to address some of the challenges of isolation by providing social engagement through class, as well as to the arts and culture.

Jan Warner, 71, is another weaving student. As a senior living in South Burlington, she said, "There's just a million things you can do," she said, "but you need to be organized to do them."

Scott Hunter, a psychotherapist by day, co-ordinated the weaving class, which she teaches. She discovered the meditative benefits of fiber art after retiring from her job. She made a course called Weaving a Life, which focuses on the therapeutic aspects of weaving with Middlebury artist Susan Barrett Merrill. Inspired by Merrill's work, Hunter started integrating weaving into her private therapy practice in 2016. Last spring, she started teaching Weaving Your Story in Middlebury.

Weaving "helps your nervous system regulate when it's that you're going through," Hunter said. "You can use it in all kinds of ways to explore how we're relating to the world, as opposed to other people, to the things that are coming up for us."



Photo Courtesy



Photo Courtesy

THIS OLD STATE
The Story of Vermont
BY HANNAH FEUER

often integrate a low-level neck's angle of looking, such as a neck or neck, from the experts.

"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," Hunter 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.

NEN & PA

NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER & PRESS ASSOCIATION

SEVENTH DAY, NOV 14, 2024

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
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New England First Amendment Award

*Recognizing a New England newspaper
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New England First Amendment Award



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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

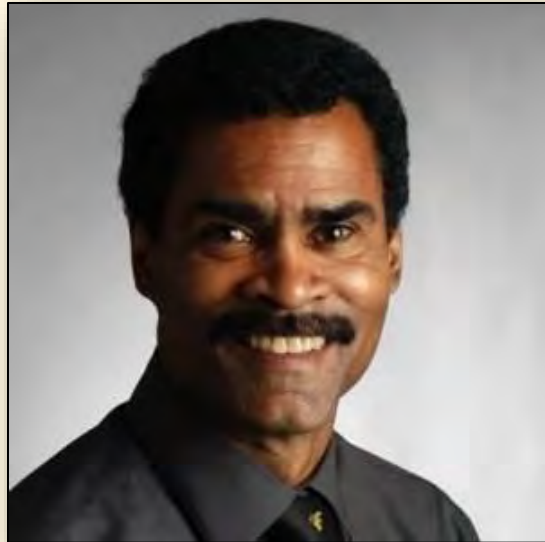
New England Newspaper Awards



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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!**

