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Your 12-page "Rake In The Savings" Curtis Lumber sale circular is inside. Check out all the great money-saving values.

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FreePress

Vol. 30, Issue 40

Friday, October 4, 2019



Bob Williams says check out the big savings in his True Value sale circular inside!



Mack Molding hosting on-the-spot interviews Wednesday

Mack Molding is turning 100, and they are looking for employees to join their team. The company will host on-the-spot interviews this coming Wednesday, Oct. 9 from 1 to 6 p.m. at their 608 Warm Brook Rd., Arlington location.

See full details on page 16 of this edition of the FreePress.

Open Career Day event next week in Manchester

Kimpton Hotels and Restaurants are hosting a Open Career Day event this coming Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 9 and 10, at their 3835 Main St., location in Manchester Village.

There are a wide range of open positions at the company. See all the details on page 17.

Job openings!

- Town of Fair Haven
- R&D Auto
- Whitehall school
- Equinox Terrace
- Vermont Country Store
- Greater Rutland County Supervisory Union
- Bromley Mountain
- Heritage Family Credit Union
- More, more, more

See pages 16-17.

125

finds under \$100!

See page 15.

Zombie walk tonight

First Friday in Granville will be all about zombies as the Pember Library and Museum of Natural History and the Slate Valley Museum team up for some pre-holiday fun.

Zombie Fest will take place this evening, Oct. 4, from 7 to 9 p.m. at both museums. The sixth annual Zombie Walk will assemble at the Pember for the 8 p.m. march to the Slate Valley Museum.

Both museums are plan-

ning activities, crafts, treats, costume judging, prizes and other surprises.

The Pember will provide wormy dogs on a



Zombies young and old will take to the streets in Granville this evening.

bun, jelly eye-balls, bloody punch, spider peanut butter cup cookies and meaty lady fingers for hungry ghouls, along with make-up stations and zombie rock to wake the dead for the zombie parade down

Main Street to the Slate Valley Museum, where the party will continue with crafts, a costume contest and more goodies.

For more information, call the Pember at 518-642-2525 or Slate Valley Museum at 518-642-1417.

The Pember Library and Museum of Natural History is located at 33 West Main St., and the Slate Valley Museum is located at 17 Water St., Granville, New York.



'What a lot of joy a dog brings to a life,' says Pamela Hayes Rehlen of Leroy.

Leroy

The 20-pound bundle of personality captured the author's heart

By Pamela Hayes Rehlen

For years, my husband and I had a 20-pound, tricolored, half Bichon Frise, half Shih Tzu dog named Leroy. He was both of ours, but he'd gravitated toward me from the beginning.

The very beginning was when we saw someone carrying his litter-

mate into our Birdseye Diner and were told that there was one more of these puppies still available from a breeder in Port Henry, New York.

So we stopped in Port Henry on our way to Montréal, and as soon as our son saw Leroy joyfully thrashing around in the tall grass with his

See LEROY, pg. 2

Middletown Springs Historical Society celebrates 50 years

By Jared Stamm

Middletown Springs Historical Society will host an open house celebrating its 50-year anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 6, from 2 to 4 p.m.

On display will be "Fifty Years of History," assembled by the society's collections manager Jon Mathewson, which highlights the society's accomplishments since its founding in 1969 - from saving Mineral Springs Park to publishing a book on the town's historic district, preserving Middletown Springs history and renovating the society's home, an ongoing process

See MIDDLETOWN, pg. 2

FreePress to salute hometown firefighters

The Lakes Region FreePress will publish our annual "Salute to Fire Fighters" edition on Friday, Oct. 18.

This keepsake edition will profile all the fire departments serving the Lakes Region, including Benson, Poultney, Fair Haven, Middletown Springs, Castleton, Wells, Pawlet, West Haven, West Pawlet and Hubbard-

ton. Businesses wanting to participate in this once-a-year edition should contact the FreePress at 518-642-1234.



Check out the Lakes Region FreePress every day for the latest event updates and happenings in your community



Kinney Drugs offering free prescription delivery / see flyer inside



Rutland County Jobs

Check out Rutland County Jobs on Facebook for the latest job opening updates

FreePress

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Established 1989. Published every Friday by Manchester Newspapers.

Subscription Rates - \$75 for 52 weeks. The Lakes Region/Northshire FreePress assumes no financial responsibility for any typographical errors in advertisements but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which the typographical error occurred. Advertisers please notify the management of any errors which may occur.

Third class postage paid at Granville, New York, Post Office. Mailing address for Lakes Region: Box 330, Granville, NY. Main Office: 14 E. Main St., Granville, NY 12832. Phone: (800) 354-4232. E-mail: news@manchesternewspapers.com.

Artificial Intelligence Task Force to meet in Manchester Oct. 10

Vermont's Artificial Intelligence Task Force will hold a public hearing on Thursday, Oct. 10, from 4:45 to 7 p.m. in the park house activity room at Dana L. Thompson Memorial Park.

The task force was created by the Vermont Legislature to investigate the benefits and potential risks of artificial intelligence and make recommendations on the responsible growth of Vermont's emerging technology markets, the use of artificial intelligence in state government, and any need for state regulation of the artificial intelligence field.

The public is encouraged to attend to share perspectives, concerns, hopes and suggestions for how the task force

should direct its work. Written testimony also will be accepted and may be emailed to ryan.flanagan@vermont.gov.

Additional public hearings may take place. Specific dates and locations will be announced.

To view Act 137, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y55fq63l> or visit www.legislature.vermont.gov/ and search Act 137 in the 2017-2018 session.

For more information, to submit comments or to request accommodations please contact Ryan. Flanagan@vermont.gov.

Dana L. Thompson Memorial Park is located at 340 Recreation Park Rd., Manchester Center, Vermont.

Arts and crafts in Manchester Oct. 4-6

Craftproducers will kick off autumn in Vermont with the 31st annual Manchester Fall Art and Craft Festival, Friday, Oct. 4, through Sunday, Oct. 6, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day at Riley Rink at Hunter Park in Manchester.

The festival also will launch American Craft Week in Vermont, Oct. 4-13.

Organizer Tim Cianciola is an enthusiastic supporter of the handcraft movement and said: "We hope to educate more people about the importance of American craftsmen and -women."

The show will feature 140

artists and artisans displaying and selling traditional and contemporary crafts and original art, as well as a specialty food section including Vermont wines and spirits.

While craft shopping, customers can enjoy great food and Vermont craft beers.

Parking is free. No dogs please.

Admission is \$10 for adults; children 12 and younger are free.

For more information, call 802-316-5019.

Riley Rink at Hunter Park is located at 410 Hunter Park Rd., Manchester Center, Vermont.

Castleton book discussion Oct. 17

Castleton Community Center will host local author Diane Poczubut, who will read and discuss her most recent book, "Robbie B and Mimmy's Treasure," on Thursday, Oct. 17, at 1 p.m.

The short novel is about the relationship between a high-functioning autistic young man and his grandmother who is in the



Diane Poczubut will discuss her short novel.

early stages of Alzheimer's. The story describes the turmoil and decisions a family must face when dealing with a loved one with that type of diagnosis.

For more information, call the center at 802-468-3093.

Castleton Community Center is located at 2108 Main St., Castleton, Vermont.

Bargains a-plenty at rummage sale in Dorset Oct. 5

Dorset Church will host its annual rummage sale on Saturday, Oct. 5, with outside tents open for business at 8:30 a.m. and the inside sale beginning at 9 a.m.

Come browse lots of warm fall and winter clothing for women, men and children, in addition to linens, kitchenware, toys,



Dorset rummage sale leaders

books, games, tools, "this & that" and attic treasures.

A concession stand will serve breakfast sandwiches, hot dogs and more throughout the day.

For more information, visit the church's Facebook page. Dorset Church is located at 143 Church St., Dorset, Vermont.

Middletown

Continued from front page

that has included replacing the foundation and the wiring to adding a security and alarm system.

The society also will have its award-winning timeline exhibit on display. Begun by Mathewson in 2002, the exhibit includes events from every year between 1761 and 1971, with more important events explained in detail.

Also on display will be an exhibit on the mineral springs bottling factory and the Montvert Hotel.

Visitors will be able to see new items added to the society's collection over the past year, too, said society treasurer Pat Hemenway. "We've gotten a little dog carriage from many years ago, a collection of small chairs that were used by children in the school, stereoscopic pictures and some quilts."

One of the quilts is what

Hemenway calls a "hard-times quilt," which was made from old cloth bags. "I'm not sure what kinds of bags were used, whether they were grain or flour sacks. The quilt may not be very pretty, but it was definitely functional."

In contrast is another lighter-weight more decorative quilt. "It's more of a summer quilt. It wasn't for warmth so much as it was for decoration," said Hemenway.

During the afternoon, visitors will have the opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes at the society.

"We'll be showing what happens when we get an object and how we store it," said Hemenway. "We provide special care for textiles such as clothing items and our paper collections, including letters and all sorts of documents." The society uses non-acid boxes, padded hangers and cloth covers to keep items safe for the future.

It also uses PastPerfect, a collections management software program, to organize and

catalog its collection.

"We'll demonstrate how the software works," said Hemenway. "For example, we have letters written home by soldiers who were at Gettysburg. If you wanted to research anything about the Gettysburg battle, PastPerfect would identify the items that came from that time."

"We have quite a lot of people who come to the society to do research on their families, and the software makes it easy to do that," she said. "It's a nice thing to be able to provide."

Refreshments will be provided.

For more information about the day, contact society president David Wright at 802-235-2376 or Pat Hemenway at 802-235-2421.

The society is open on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. from Memorial Day through the end of October, or by appointment.

Middletown Springs Historical Society is located at 4 Park Ave., Middletown Springs, Vermont.

Leroy

Continued from front page

much larger Shih Tzu mother he said: "That dog is adorable."

As I remember, Leroy cost \$300 with a bag of Puppy Chow thrown in. His papers showed that he was originally named Best Boy, which indicated to me how the breeder felt about him. She'd held onto him to the last. When we picked Leroy up to take him home, I wanted to reassure her that her little dog would have the life of Riley over in Castleton, Vermont.

And he did.

For the next ten years, Leroy was always with us. We took him along in our Airstream RV to Lake George, Cumberland Bay, Lake Placid and Rhinebeck. I realize that we almost always took him to New York State campgrounds. And that was fitting because he was a New York State, Port Henry dog, a rough-and-tumble guy, a fierce barker first and immediately afterward an easy socializer.

He sounded so ferocious racing to our back door that even the toughest-looking workmen - the ones who might have had pit bulls at home - quickly drew back. But they had nothing to fear from Leroy. He wasn't a biter. He loved visitors. What he loved most were big groups of visitors.

We have an annual Fourth of July party, and it was Leroy's idea of heaven. I would be busy as hostess, but later in the evening when everyone had eaten and we were all sitting, I'd realize that Leroy was under my chair surveying the seemingly vast group around

him with immense satisfaction.

For him, the crowds during the Colonial Day house tour were even better. He'd race up to our never-used-any-other-time front door when it opened, and there would be a raucous interval and the hesitation of visitors wondering just how much of a risk they were taking.

As soon as everyone had been reassured and had come inside, Leroy stopped barking and wandered off, confident that he'd made new friends.

After we'd carried Leroy home from Port Henry, we went to Dr. Janet, who is the veterinarian in Castleton Corners, and she told us we had a spunky little dog. I'd already taken him for an hour's walk on the rail trail, but Dr. Janet told me that, spunky or not, the walk had been too much for a small puppy.

Somehow, right from the first, I never understood that Leroy wasn't invulnerable. He always walked. He was always out in front of me on his long retractable leash, lunging every once in a while at chipmunks and rabbits who made frantic dashes across our path or at enraged squirrels who skittered in the tree branches under which we passed. His world was full of wonderful-to-him, foolish-and-inconsequential-to-us, attractions.

On a later visit, Dr. Janet told me that Leroy needed to be neutered. I'd seen that many of his social interactions were marked with an inappropriate eroticism, but I said that I didn't want to have him neutered, and so she further explained that she knew a number of dogs who hadn't

been and had wound up with prostate cancer.

I never thought about cancer in relation to Leroy. My husband and I were irrationally confident that a little animal born in Port Henry was immune to serious health complications, because we believed that Port Henry natives were a tough lot.

But I don't think that he was as tough as we thought because as he got older he changed. He became fearful. Loud noises were terrible for him, and he'd jump up onto my lap - and by then he was a solid, often-dirty, 22-pounder - and sit there cowering and quivering. I dreaded thunderstorms. An anxiety-reducing ThunderShirt for dogs made nothing better.

I always thought Leroy would live undiminished into his teens, but I came to realize that he was slowing down and sleeping a lot more than he once had. Dr. Susan in Poultney, who'd replaced Dr. Janet in Castleton Corners, told me that he had a number of chronic canine disorders.

And then one day, after we'd taken an Airstream trip out of state and didn't want the extra bother of bringing him along, we came home and learned that he had an untreatable cancer - although it took weeks to diagnose.

What a lot of joy a dog brings to a life. What overwhelming sadness when they're gone.

Pamela Hayes Rehlen has published stories, articles, magazine features and two books: "The Blue Cat and the River's Song" and "The Vanished Landmarks Game: Vermont Stories from West of Birdseye," both available at the Castleton Village Store.

Art, fashion, live media at Stone Valley Arts benefit Oct. 12

Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill will present "PLATFORM VT!" featuring art, fashion and live media on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 5 to 8 p.m.

The evening will feature inspiring multimedia art programming to celebrate place and community and will include live music and dance performances, a dazzling fashion show, locally made refreshments and an opening reception for the 20th annual exhibit of the International Collage Exchange and "Vermont Feministé."

The PLATFORM concept originated in San Francisco several decades ago at a time of economic decline. Artists partnered with the business community to create multi-dimensional art events that took place in vacant buildings. Artists and designers were showcased, and the public was introduced to potential opportunities in available real estate. "PLATFORM VT!" will fea-



Detail from Mansa K. Mussa's 'Return to Forever'

ture performances by George's Back Pocket, Devin Balcacer and Vital Spark North.

Exhibiting in the SVA galleries are 76 collage artists from around the world joined by Vermont

artists Nina DuBois, Heidi Smith, Jane Davies, Athena Tasiopolis and Erika Schmidt.

And the evening's fashion show will feature dazzling design collections, including Cosmic Dance by Jen Usher, We were wildlife by Chikako and Imaginary Friends by Saffron.

Comfort food and local beer will be included in the price of admission.

Tickets are \$18 presale and \$20 at the door. All proceeds will benefit the renovation and preservation of Stone Valley Arts' historic home.

For more information, call 802-325-2603 or visit www.stonevalleyarts.org.

Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill is located at 145 E. Main St., Poultney, Vermont.



Are you brave enough to take the haunted hayride in Benson?

Benson gears up for haunted hayride

Folks will be plenty jittery next weekend in Benson when the Benson Volunteer Fire Department sets up its annual haunted hayride, leaving from Benson Town Office every 10 minutes beginning at 7 p.m., rain or shine.

The two-night event, set for Friday and Saturday, Oct. 11 and 12, is an opportunity for brave souls to climb aboard hay wagons pulled by tractors and embark on a 45-minute adventure filled with bumps, scares and laughs along Benson's spookiest dirt road.

Advance tickets on a wagon leaving at the time of your choice may be purchased by calling 802-537-3421 or 802-537-2611 or by emailing bensonhayride@gmail.com before the day of the event.

On hayride nights, tickets

for a seat on the next available wagon may be purchased at the ticket booth from 6:30 to 10 p.m. or until tickets are sold out.

All tickets cost \$10. An entire wagon, which holds around 30 people, costs \$275.

And if getting scared works up an appetite, refreshments will be available for purchase, including apple pie, fried dough and all manner of pumpkin-spiced treats.

All proceeds will benefit the Benson Volunteer Fire Department.

Benson Town Hall is located at 2760 Stage Rd., Benson, Vermont.

Fair Haven animal blessing Oct. 6

To celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the members of the St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Order of the Secular Franciscans in cooperation with Father Eric will sponsor their annual blessing of beloved pets on Sunday, Oct. 6 at 4 p.m.

Celebrants will gather around the St. Francis Garden on the Our Lady of Seven Dolours rectory lawn at 10 Washington St. in Fair Haven. All pets must be leashed or in a cage/carrier.

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Pitcher featured artist at Dorset library in October

Dorset Village Library will feature artist John Charles Pitcher during the month of October and will host a free opening reception on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more than 45 years, Pitcher has expressed his love for birds and the natural world through his sketches and paintings. His success in capturing the sense of a place and likeness of his subjects reveals not only his mastery of technique but also his passion and knowledge as a naturalist.

As a distinguished signature member of the Society of Animal Artists, Pitcher exhib-



Detail from "White-crowned sparrow, Dorset Vermont, by John Charles Pitcher

its in museums and fine art galleries both domestic and abroad. He has painted and explored the vastness of Alaska, canoed the wilderness

waters of Canada and sketched the migrating caribou herds of northern Labrador, but he continues to be amazed and inspired by the diversity and beauty found in his own backyard. This exhibit will feature sketches and works inspired by Dorset's natural beauty.

Refreshments will be served. All works will be for sale, with a portion of the proceeds going to benefit the library.

For more information, call 802-867-5774.

Dorset Village Library is located at 3331 Vermont Route 30, Dorset, Vermont.

Statewide water-quality improvement efforts continue

Through a grant provided by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, the Poultney Mettowee Conservation District continues to provide broader services to landowners and the public in support of the Vermont Clean Water Act. Activities began late 2017 and will extend through at least the fall of 2020.

The grant provides support for conservation districts to conduct targeted outreach, coordinate monitoring programs to support science-based water-quality investments, organize local agricultural workgroups and develop priority water-quality projects, among other services.

As part of this body of work, conservation districts and regional planning commissions will be closely coordinating activities to provide complementary support for the state's

watershed planning process.

The Poultney Mettowee Conservation District, Rutland Conservation District and the Rutland Regional Planning Commission will continue to work together to assist the state with local planning and water-quality project implementation efforts.

Watershed planning helps identify and focus efforts needed to protect or restore specific waterbodies throughout the state. The Poultney Mettowee Conservation District will be focused primarily on the South Lake Basin (or Poultney and Mettowee watersheds) planning and project implementation this year, working to identify priorities, document progress and conduct outreach necessary to develop effective water-quality projects and garner greater local support and awareness of the basin plan's goals.

Locally identified water-quality priorities in tactical basin plans are well positioned for development and funding from the state's Clean Water Initiative. Basin plans help provide the umbrella for other various planning initiatives, including stormwater master planning and river corridor planning and ultimately provide a vehicle to strategically address regional water-quality priorities.

The State Natural Resources Conservation Council, the state agency that serves Vermont's 14 conservation districts, will be overseeing this effort and working closely with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

For more information, contact Hilary Solomon at the Poultney Mettowee Conservation District at 802-287-8339 or hilary@pnmrncd.org.

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Obituaries are accepted by the FreePress. The price for the obituary depends on the number of words. Please contact the FreePress at 518-642-1234 for details.

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Autumn news from the Wells Village Library

By Angela French, library director

These last weeks have been busy ones at the Wells Village Library.

On Saturday, Sept. 21, I attended the Vermont Fairy Tale Festival at the Sherburne Memorial Library in Killington. The Wells Village Library booth was designated the Princess and the Frog, and I was lucky to have three princesses to assist with passing out the kisses (Hershey's Kisses and kiss stamps): Princess Lily, her sister Princess Sophia and the family friend Princess Lucy all looked beautiful and were such a help.

What a magical experience for all who attended, with knights fighting in the field and hidden dragon eggs to find. I plan on representing our library again next year, too.

On Tuesday, Sept. 24, the library hosted the Rutland County Librarians meeting at 9 a.m. Following that meeting the Wells Village Book Club hosted local author Diane Sheehan Shovak, author of the book "Deceit."

We had quite a full library with 12 in attendance, it was a joy to listen to Diane speak about how her book came to be. "Deceit" is Diane's first book, and it is set on Lake St. Catherine. Copies are available

at Otto's Cones Point General Store, The Wells Country Store, the marina store, the Original Vermont Store, Hermit Hill Books, Castleton Village Store and The Gold Trout in Granville.

In October, the book club will read "Killing Trail" by Margaret Mizushima. Copies are now available at the library, and the book club will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 29, at 1 p.m.

A reminder that winter hours at the library will begin on Monday, Oct. 14. Hours will be Tuesdays from noon to 4 p.m., Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Fridays from 3 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Mettawee school families and staff shared dinner at a back-to-school potluck on Sept. 19.

Pawlet town clerk closures through December

The office of Pawlet's town clerk announces the following closures through the end of the year:

Monday, Oct. 14: Closed for Indigenous People's Day, which was signed into law by Governor Phil Scott on May 6, 2019.

Thursday, Oct. 24: Closed.

Tuesday, Nov. 5: Closed for Election Day

Monday, Nov. 11: Closed for Veterans Day

Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 27 and 28: Closed for Thanksgiving

Tuesday, Dec. 3: Office will close at 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday-Thursday, Dec. 24-26: Closed for Christmas

Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1: Closed for New Year's Eve and Day

Normal business hours are Mondays-Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

RCHS Pints for Pets Oct. 5

Rutland County Humane Society will host its second annual Pints for Pets fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 1 to 4 p.m. in Rutland's Main Street Park.

Tasters can sample homebrews, chat with homebrewers about their beers and vote on their favorites. This year's "Judge's Choice" has already been chosen, brewed and canned and can be sampled and purchased. Bring your well-mannered dog and listen to great music by Rick Redington and the Luv while enjoying local beer and food.

For more information, call 802-483-9171, ext. 208.

Main Street Park is located at 5 S. Main St., Rutland, Vermont.

Mettawee back-to-school night celebrates local student artist

Clear blue skies and cool temperatures set the perfect note for the annual Mettawee Back-to-School Night on Thursday, Sept. 19.

A potluck dinner served on tables outdoors was shared by families from Pawlet and Rupert at this celebration of the start of the new academic year. Picnic tables and blankets on the ground were the seating arrangements for dinner.

While families took advantage of the beautiful weather to catch up with teachers and friends after the summer break, the highlight of the evening took place inside the school. A new colorful mural painted in the library over the

summer by former Mettawee and current Long Trail School student Gretchen Hammell was formally unveiled to the public.

Hammell's 120-square foot painting celebrating the wonder of books was on full display for the assembled crowd, which included three generations of the Hammell family.

"We wanted to publicly thank Gretchen for her creativity and hard work," said Mettawee school principal Brooke DeBonis. "She's always been a role model for our students, and this beautiful painting will always be with us. This is the perfect way to kick off the new year."

Wellness Recovery Action Plan program in Rutland to begin Oct. 12

Rutland Regional Medical Center will offer a free Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) program on Saturdays,

Oct. 12 through Nov. 30, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the medical center's Conference Room K.

Do you or someone you know struggle to incorporate wellness strategies into your busy life? The WRAP program is designed to help individuals develop action plans to improve self-management and recovery skills. The 8-week program is designed for those who are struggling with mental health difficulties, have substance abuse problems, are a caregiver or human service provider and are committed to making positive change.

To register, contact Krista Neary at 802-776-5507.

Rutland Regional Medical Center, Conference Room K, is located at 435 West St., Rutland, Vermont.

Got something to share?
Send it to news@manchesternewspapers.com!

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News from the Castleton Free Library

Pollinator hotels at the library

By Jan Jones, director of Castleton Free Library

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the latest assessments of our natural environment: climate change, habitat loss, decline in bird populations, melting ice and warming oceans, the plastic (everywhere!) problem.

Close to home, invasive insects threaten our forests, and many pollinators – our tiny friends that help turn flowers into the fruits and vegetables that we love – are in trouble.

For sure, there are big steps that must be taken, but many small steps as well, and your local library can help.

At Castleton Free Library, we have made a commitment to following “green” practices and providing informational programming and resources focused on sustainability. We look especially for projects that inspire hope and concrete actions with adults and kids working together on grassroots solutions.

This month we are pleased to partner with the Poultney Mettewee Natural Resources Conservation District and Champlain Valley Native Plant Restoration Nursery to present a free workshop on native plants and pollinators on Monday, Oct. 14, at 6:30 p.m.

There will be two speakers with short slide presentations followed by a hands-on activity making “pollinator hotels” from bamboo tubes and wood. Lia Mcfarline is a beekeeper from Mcfarline’s Apiary in Benson, Vermont, and Sadie Brown is the nursery manager at PMNRCD.

While pre-enrollment is not required, it would greatly help us with planning. If possible, please call 802-468-5574, email castletonfreelibrary@gmail.com or contact us on Facebook to leave a message with your name and the number of people attending.

The program is designed for adults and “all ages beyond small children” – you be the

judge. All materials will be provided. The program will run until about 8 or 8:30 p.m.

For those smaller children, remember that our playgroup and story hour continue weekly year-round. The former happens every Wednesday at 10 a.m. and is facilitated by Lynn Gould of the Rutland County Parent-Child Center. Story hour is every Friday at 10:30 a.m. and is attended by older homeschoolers, as well as the preschool and baby gang. All participants made “I love Earth” signs on the recent Climate Action Day. Sadie Brown is a story hour alumna, and I can’t wait to meet her again on the 14th in her adult version! Perhaps way back when, a seed lodged in her preschooler soul at the library, ultimately leading her on a path to stewardship.

We’ll soon be announcing a DIY series of skill-sharing for resilience and fun. Contact us if you are interested in passing along your how-to knowledge!



R. Sanford Stragnell transforms old roofing copper into autumn leaves.

Recycled metal sculpture open house in Castleton Oct. 5, 6

On Vermont Open Studio Weekend, R. Sanford Stragnell of Stragnell Art will host an open house on Saturday and Sunday, October 5 and 6, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Visitors will learn how Stragnell is inspired by nature and recycled objects to create his art. Old roofing copper is transformed into autumn leaves, old timber cutters chain becomes a caterpillar, spoons morph into frogs . . . the possibilities are endless.

The open house will

include a demonstration in Stragnell’s studio, a stroll through his personal sculpture garden and a gallery full of finished works that are for sale. All are welcome. Refreshments will be available.

For more information about the Vermont Open Studio Weekend, visit www.vermontcrafts.com.

Stragnell Art is located at 97 South Street, Castleton, Vermont. Follow the yellow Vermont Open House signs.

Who lives in the woods?

Merck Forest and Farmland Center will host a “Who Lives in Our Woods” program on Saturday, Oct. 5, at 2 p.m.

Who do you think lives on a wild hillside in Vermont? Come find out!

Cost is \$5. Preregistration encouraged. For more information or to preregister, call 802-394-7836 or visit www.merckforest.org.

Merck Forest and Farmland Center is located at 3270 Vermont Route 315, Rupert, Vermont.

VNAHSR health & wellness programs

VNA and Hospice of the Southwest Region provides health clinics for Lakes Region residents.

VNAHSR will host the following blood pressure and foot care clinics: Monday, Oct. 7, 11:30 a.m., Village Manor, Pittsford; Wednesday, Oct. 9, 1:30 p.m., Manchester office of VNAHSR; Thursday, Oct. 11, 12:30 p.m., Castleton Meadows, Castleton; Friday, Oct. 11, 8:30 a.m., Rupert Firehouse, West Rupert. The foot clinic is \$10. No appointment is necessary.

For more information on these clinics, call 802-770-1536. VNAHSR will host a flu

clinic every Tuesday in October at the Manchester office of VNAHSR, 5468 Main St., from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, call 802-775-0568.

Bereavement groups facilitated by VNAHSR office chaplain Rev. Andrew Carlson meet Mondays at 5 p.m. at Bromley Manor Chapel, 2595 Depot St., Manchester Center, and on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Grace Congregational Church, 8 Court St., Rutland.

These groups are free and open to the public.

For more information on these groups, call 802-770-1613.

Campus News

CCV honors Tursi, Gay and Keyes

Nicole Tursi of Benson, Melissa Gay of Fair Haven and Lea Keyes of Wells were all named to the Community College of Vermont’s summer 2019 student honors list.

The honor recognizes part-time students who earn a GPA of 4.0.

Williams enrolls at Lasell

Harrison Williams of Castleton became a marketing student at Lwasell University in Auburndale, Massachusetts, this fall.

Williams joins more than 580 new students at the university.

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Stepping out

WANT MORE NEWS?

For a complete listing of regional events see our online calendar at:
manchesternewspapers.com/communitycalendar

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FRI 10/4

BOOK SALE The Friends of the Rutland Free Library Book Sale will host their monthly book sale at the library on Friday, Oct. 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Shop thousands of organized, gently used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages. Most items priced 25 cents to \$3. This month all mysteries are buy one, get one free. Information: www.rutlandfree.org. Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland, Vt.

ART & CRAFT Craftproducers will kick off autumn in Vermont with the 31st annual Manchester Fall Art and Craft Festival, Friday, Oct. 4, through Sunday, Oct. 6, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day at Riley Rink at Hunter Park in Manchester. The show will feature 140 artists and artisans displaying and selling traditional and contemporary crafts and original art, as well as a specialty food section including Vermont wines and spir-its. Admission: \$10 for adults; children 12 and younger are free. Information: 802-316-5019. Riley Rink at Hunter Park, 410 Hunter Park Rd., Manchester Center, Vt.

FIRST FRIDAY The Pember Library and Museum of Natural History and the Slate Valley Museum will host Zombie Fest on First Friday, Oct. 4, from 7 to 9 p.m. The sixth annual Zombie Walk will assemble at the Pember for the 8 p.m. march to the Slate Valley Museum. Both museums are planning activities, crafts, treats, costume judging, prizes and other surprises. Information: Call the Pember at 518-642-2525 or Slate Valley Museum at 518-642-1417. The Pember Library and Museum of Natural History, 33 West Main St., and the Slate Valley Museum, 17 Water St., Granville, N.Y.

JAZZ CAFÉ Stone Valley Arts will present a Friday night jazz café on Friday, Oct. 4, at 7 p.m. Guests will enjoy a relaxed evening of jazz ballads in an informal café-style setting. Musicians will include Gary Schmidt on piano, Ron White on bass, Don DiChiara on vocals and special guest Zack Hampton on saxophone. In addition to wonderful music, a table of dessert tapas will be offered. Guests can BYOB or have nonalcoholic beverages provided free of charge. Information: 802-325-2603. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill, 145 E. Main St., Poultney, Vt.

'GASLIGHT' The Dorset Players will open their 2019-20 season with a production of "Gaslight" by British playwright Patrick Hamilton on Friday and Saturday evenings, Oct. 4-5 and 11-12, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoons, Oct. 6 and 13, at 2 p.m. The psychological drama, directed by Janet Groom, is the longest running non-musical to have played on Broadway. Tickets: \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members and \$12 for children younger than 14. Information/tickets: www.dorsetplayers.com/tickets or call 802-867-5570 weekdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dorset Playhouse, 104 Cheney Rd., Dorset, Vt.

CONCERT Brandon Music will welcome celebrated singer-songwriter Kyle Carey on Friday, Oct. 4, at 7:30 p.m. Carey's sound is an unusual trans-Atlantic fusion that includes influences of the American folk anthology, the traditional music of Cape Breton, Ireland and Scotland and the

Appalachian poetry of Louise McNeill. Tickets: \$20; pre-concert dinner is \$25. Reservations required for dinner and recommended for concert. Brandon Music is BYOB. Information/reservations: Edna at 802-247-4295 or email info@brandon-music.net. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd., Brandon, Vt.

SAT 10/5

RUMMAGE SALE Dorset Church will host its annual rummage sale on Saturday, Oct. 5, with outside tents open for business at 8:30 a.m. and inside sale beginning at 9 a.m. Come browse lots of warm fall and winter clothing for women, men and children, in addition to linens, kitchenware, toys, books, games, tools, "this & that" and attic treasures. A concession stand will serve breakfast sandwiches, hot dogs and more throughout the day. Information, Visit the church's Facebook page. Dorset Church, 143 Church St., Dorset, Vt.

BATS Manchester Community Library will welcome Jerry Schneider and "The Wonderful World of Bats" on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Since 2003, Schneider's program has helped audience members move beyond old stereotypes of bats to understand their vital role in helping to control pesky insects, pollinating night blooming flowers and dispersing seeds. Participants can create their own bat T-shirts; bring your own or purchase one for \$4. Cost: Free. Information: 802-362-2607. Manchester Community Library, 138 Cemetery Ave., Manchester Center, Vt.

ART EXHIBIT Dorset Village Library will feature artist John Charles Pitcher during the month of October and will host a free opening reception on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more than 45 years, Pitcher has expressed his love for birds and the natural world through his sketches and paintings. Refreshments will be served. All works will be for sale, with a portion of the proceeds going to benefit the library. Information: 802-867-5774. Dorset Village Library, 3331 Vermont Route 30, Dorset, Vt.

CHICKEN BBQ The Granville Lions Club and the Granville Area Food Pantry and Community Services will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication of the food pantry's new building on Saturday, Oct. 5 at noon, followed by a chicken barbecue fundraiser at 12:30 p.m. The lunch menu will include half a barbecued chicken, baked potato, baked beans, cabbage salad, roll and brownie. Take-outs will be available. Cost: \$10; proceeds will be donated to the food pantry. RSVP: 518-642-9765. Granville Area Food Pantry and Community Services, 3 Morrison Ave., Granville, N.Y.

PINTS FOR PETS Rutland County Humane Society will host its second annual Pints for Pets fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 1 to 4 p.m. in Rutland's Main Street Park. Tasters can sample homebrews, chat with homebrewers about their beers and vote on their favorites. This year's "Judge's Choice" has already been chosen, brewed and canned and will be ready to sample and purchase. Bring along your well-mannered dog and listen to great music by Rick Redington and the Luv while enjoying local beer and food. Information: 802-483-9171,

ext. 208. Main Street Park, 5 S. Main St., Rutland, Vt.

HISTORY TALK Mount Independence State Historic Site will host "The Autumn of 1776: Making Preparations to Receive the Enemy," by historian and site interpreter Paul Andriscin, on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Andriscin will describe the busy autumn of 1776 when Mount Independence and Fort Ticonderoga were being prepared by the American troops for the arrival of the British. Admission: Included in the regular admission of \$5 for adults, free for children younger than 15. Information: 802-948-2000. Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd., Orwell, Vt.

WOODS AT MERCK Merck Forest and Farmland Center will host a "Who Lives in Our Woods" program on Saturday, Oct. 5, at 2 p.m. Who do you think lives on a wild hillside in Vermont? Come find out! Cost: \$5. Preregistration encouraged. Information/preregistration: 802-394-7836 or visit www.merckforest.org. Merck Forest and Farmland Center, 3270 Vermont Route 315, Rupert, Vt.

FILM FESTIVAL Burr and Burton Academy will present the 22nd annual Manhattan Short Film Festival on Saturday, Oct. 5, at 7 p.m. at the Riley Center for the Arts. For one week, more than 100,000 film lovers will gather across six continents to view and vote on the ten short films - 18 minutes and under - that are finalists in this annual event. All films shown will be eligible to enter the Oscars in 2020. Tickets: \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$8 for students and may be purchased at www.bbatickets.com. Information: 802-362-1775. Burr and Burton Academy, 143 Seminary Ave., Manchester, Vt.

CONCERT Brandon Music will present the debut performance of The Umoya Trio on Saturday, Oct. 5, at 7:30 p.m. The Boston-based recorder group is made up of Kaleem Ahmid, Chantal Holy and Anna Laufenberg and will perform a selection of music spanning over 400 years, with intriguing pieces from C.P.E. Bach, Beethoven) and modern composer Sören Sieg. Tickets: \$20; pre-concert dinner \$25. Reservations required for dinner. BYOB. Information/reservations: Edna at 802-247-4295 or email info@brandon-music.net. Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd., Brandon, Vt.

SUN 10/6

ANIMAL BLESSING St. Raphael's Catholic Church in Poultney, Vermont, will host its blessing of the animals on Sunday, Oct. 6, at 9 a.m. The service will include a prayer for the animals as well as for the families who bring them to the service. The brief ceremony also will include a sprinkling of holy water. Animals are typically blessed together. Information: 802-287-5703. St. Raphael's Catholic Church, 21 E. Main St., Poultney, Vt.

BLESSING St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Wells will host a blessing of the animals on Sunday, Oct. 6, as part of the morning service at 9 a.m. In addition to cats, dogs, iguanas and more, photographs or drawings of departed pets will be blessed. Information: 518 499-1850. St. Paul's

Visit www.manchesternewspapers.com for a more extensive calendar listing.
Email events to:
news@manchesternewspapers.com

BY JARED STAMM



Brandon Music will welcome singer-songwriter Kyle Carey this evening, Friday, Oct. 4, at 7:30 p.m. Carey's sound includes influences of the American folk anthology, the traditional music of Cape Breton, Ireland and Scotland and the Appalachian poetry of Louise McNeill. Tickets: \$20; pre-concert dinner is \$25. Information/reservations: Edna at 802-247-4295 or email info@brandon-music.net.

Episcopal Church, 7 E. Wells Rd., Wells, Vermont.

BASKET RAFFLE Athletes from Fair Haven, Proctor and West Rutland will host a basket raffle on Sunday, Oct. 6, at West Rutland Town Hall to support local girls traveling to play on America's Basketball Team in Barcelona in July 2020. Doors open at 11 a.m.; drawings begin at 1 p.m. Raffle will include more than 100 baskets, gift certificates and prizes. The event also will include a 50/50 and refreshments. Cost: \$5 for admission and a sheet of 25 tickets. Additional sheets will be available for \$2 per sheet. Information: 802-236-3741. West Rutland Town Hall, 35 Marble St., West Rutland, Vt.

OPEN FARM Rupert Valley Holsteins will host an open house on Sunday, Oct. 6, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. as part of Cabot Creamery's Open Farm Sunday. Bring the whole family out for fun activities like hayrides, scavenger hunts, games for kids, farm animals as well as samples of Cabot's cheddar cheese. Information: 802-394-7810. Rupert Valley Holsteins, 585 State Route 153, West Rupert, Vt.

HARVEST FEST Brandon will host its annual harvest fest on Sunday, Oct. 6, from 1 to 4 p.m. in Estabrook Park, one mile north of the village center on Route 7. Create "Harvest People" and enjoy hayrides, pumpkins, apple pies, donuts and other treats for sale. Sponsored by the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce, the Brandon Recreation Department and the Brandon Area Toy Project. Cost: Free. Information: email info@brandon.org or call 802-247-6401.

PIE AUCTION Neighbor to Neighbor will host its second annual pie auction on Sunday, Oct. 6, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Burr and Burton Academy in Manchester. All sorts of pies, both sweet and savory, will be available to bid on. The silent auction will include light refreshments and music provide by the Dorset Barbecue Quartet. Tickets: \$15, with proceeds benefiting Neighbor to Neighbor, a local nonprofit that helps the elderly maintain their independence. Information/tickets: 802-367-7787. Burr and Burton Academy, 57 Seminary Ave., Manchester, Vt.

HISTORY TALK Brandon Town Hall will host a free presentation by Bill Powers entitled "The Fisk

Family of Stephen Douglas" on Sunday, Oct. 6, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Edward Fisk (1787-1850) of Brandon was the uncle of American politician and lawyer Stephen Douglas (1813-1861) and helped raise him after Douglas's father died in 1813. A free will donation will be accepted. Information: 802-247-5420 or visit www.brandontownhall.org. Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square, Brandon, Vt.

TUE 10/8

BIRDING WALK Rutland County Audubon Society member Joel Tilley will lead a walk looking for fall warblers and other migrating birds on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 7:30 a.m. on the Castleton University Trails. Walkers will meet at the D&H trail crossing on South Street in Castleton at 7:30 a.m. Visitor parking is behind the Stafford Academic Center in the Stafford lot. The walk will be on easy to moderate terrain. Information: jptilley50@gmail.com.

BINGO The Manchester Eagles Club, Routes 11/30, Manchester, will hold Bingo at 6:45 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. Information: 802-375-2801 or 802-362-2025.

WED 10/9

GREAT COURSES Castleton Community Center will host Joe Mark, who will facilitate the Great Course "America and the World: A Diplomatic History," on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. through the fall. Programs will begin with a 30-minute video followed by lively discussion among participants about how and why America was able to shift from a weak 13-colony country to an unprecedented global power and influence. Free and open to all; no registration needed. Information: 802-468-3093. Castleton Community Center, 2108 Main St., Castleton, Vt.

CRUISE-IN Equinox Village will host a fall foliage cruise-in on Wednesday, Oct. 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. This event is a family-friendly car gathering open to all years, all

makes and all models. It's a relaxed format and a chance to share cars with a wide variety of people in a beautiful Green Mountain setting. No registration is required. Information: Kristina Martin at 802-362-4061 or kmartin@equinoxvillage.com. Equinox Village, 49 Maple St., Manchester Center, Vt.

THU 10/10

INTRO TO TAI CHI Castleton Community Center will offer tai chi for beginners on Thursdays, beginning Oct. 10 through Nov. 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The seven-week program will help reduce stress, increase balance and flexibility and muscle strength, and improve relaxation. Medical studies confirm that tai chi relieves pain, reduces falls and improves the quality of life. All are welcome to this free class. Registration: 802-468-3093. Castleton Community Center, 2108 Main St., Castleton, Vt.

FILM Manchester Community Library will host two free screenings of a popular 2019 film on Thursday, Oct. 10, at 1 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. The film tells the story of a struggling musician who realizes he's the only person on Earth who can remember The Beatles. It stars Himesh Patel and Lily James and is directed by Danny Boyle. Running time is 117 minutes. Information: 802-362-2607 or visit www.mclvt.org. Manchester Community Library, 138 Cemetery Ave., Manchester Center, Vt.

FARMERS MARKET Fair Haven's farmers market will take place on Thursdays on the town green, from 3 to 6 p.m. through October 24. Information: Olga Sears at 802-948-2211.

FILM SERIES Lakes Region Film Society shows films on Thursdays at 7 p.m. at the Wells Town Hall in Vermont. Films are a curated mix of best foreign movies, American award winners, classics, new films, documentaries and comedies. LRFS is a nonprofit organization and all are welcome. Information: lrfilmsoc@gmail.com or 802-287-6101. Wells Town Hall, 108 Route 30, Wells, Vt.

To have your non-profit event listed, email it to news@manchesternewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday at 10 a.m. for following week publication. A complete listing of all Stepping Out calendar events is available online at manchesternewspapers.com.

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Letters

This newspaper welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should pertain to an issue of general concern. Thank you letters and political endorsements must be printed as paid advertisements. Rates will be furnished upon request.

All letters must be signed and include name and address of the author.

We also request all letters be limited to 350 words and one letter per month.

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Vol. 30, Issue x

FreePress

Friday, October 4, 2019

True Value
Bob Williams says check out the big savings in his True Value sale circular inside!

MACK

Mack Molding hosting on-the-spot interviews Wednesday

Mack Molding is turning 100 and they are looking for employees to join their team. The company will host on-the-spot interviews this coming Wednesday, Oct. 9 from 1 - 6 p.m. at their 608 Warm Brook Rd., Arlington location. See full details on page 14 of this edition of the FreePress.

Open Career Day event next week in Manchester

Kimpton Hotels and Restaurants are hosting an Open Career Day event this coming Wednesday and Thursday at their 3835 Main St., location in Manchester Village. There are a wide range of open positions at the company. See all the details on page 15.

Job openings!

- Town of Fair Haven
 - R&D Auto
 - Whitehall schools
 - Equinox Terrace
 - Vermont Country Store
 - Greater Rutland County Supervisory Union
 - Bromley Mountain
 - Heritage Family Credit Union
 - More, more, more
- See pages 14, 15

Public Notice

Zombie walk tonight

First Friday in Granville will be all about zombies as the Pember Library and Museum of Natural History and the Slate Valley Museum team up for some pre-holiday fun.

Zombie Fest will take place this evening, Oct. 4, from 7 to 9 p.m. at both museums. The sixth annual Zombie Walk will assemble at the Pember for the 8 p.m. march to the Slate Valley Museum.

Both museums are plan-

ning activities, crafts, treats, costume judging, prizes and other surprises.

The Pember will provide wormy dogs on a bun, jelly eyeballs,



Everyone loves the Zombie Walk.

bloody punch, spider peanut butter cup cookies and meaty lady fingers for hungry ghouls, along with make-up stations and zombie rock to wake the dead for the zombie

parade down Main Street to the Slate Valley Museum, where the party will continue with crafts, a costume contest and more goodies.

For more information, call the Pember at 518-642-2525 or Slate Valley Museum at 518-642-1417.

The Pember Library and Museum of Natural History is located at 33 West Main St., and the Slate Valley Museum is located at 17 Water St., Granville, New York.



sfsfsf

Leroy

By Pamela Hayes Rehlen

For years, my husband and I had a twenty pound, tri-colored, half Bichon Frise, half Shih Tzu, dog named Leroy. He was both of ours, but he'd gravitated toward me from the beginning. The very beginning was when we saw someone carrying his litter mate into our Birdseye

Diner and was told that there was one last one of these puppies still available from a breeder in Post Henry, New York.

So we stopped in Port Henry on our way to Montréal, and our son, who was with us, said, as soon as he saw Leroy joyfully thrashing

See LEROY, pg. 2

Middletown Springs Historical Society celebrates 50 years

By Jared Stamm

Middletown Springs Historical Society will host an open house celebrating its 50-year anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 6, from 2 to 4 p.m.

On display will be "Fifty Years of History," assembled by the society's collections manager Jon Mathewson, which highlights the society's accomplishments since its founding in 1969 - from saving Mineral Springs Park to publishing a book on the town's historic district, preserving Middletown Springs history and renovating the society's home, an ongoing process

See MIDDLETOWN, pg. 2

FreePress to salute hometown firefighters

The Lakes Region FreePress will publish our annual "Salute to Fire Fighters" edition on Friday, Oct. 18. This keepsake edition will profile all the fire departments serving the Lakes Region, including Benson, Poultney, Fair Haven, Middletown Springs, Castleton, Wells, Pawlet, West Haven, West Pawlet and Hubbard. Businesses wanting to participate in this once-a-year edition should contact the FreePress at 518-642-1234.



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Get up close and personal to Revolutionary War history at Bennington Museum

Located in the Sloane Gallery at Bennington Museum – which features the Battle of Bennington and Vermont firearms – is the original bronze cannon that was captured by American forces in the Battle of Bennington.



Local woodworker Charles Dewey poses with wooden replica of cannon.

Weighing only 213 pounds, it was well-suited for mobile campaigns as it could be transported across rugged terrain on a carriage hitched to a single horse.

The cannon is interesting to look at, but local woodworker Charles Dewey, a descendant of the Dewey family who fought at the Battle of Bennington in 1777, thought it would be great to provide visitors with the opportunity to get up close to an historically accurate reproduction of both the cannon and the carriage that carried it.

Dewey consulted with experts at Saratoga Battlefield National Park and researched contemporary military publications.

The carriage uses historically accurate oak wood and is

Painted the same dark gray used by the British army. The cannon on the carriage is a replica made of pine. The tires and hub bands are steel, but the black straps and hardware on the carriage body are replicated in wood and painted to look like metal. While in use, the carriage would have held ammunition boxes on either side of the cannon above the axle. The axle itself is a copper pipe.

Most of what visitors to the Bennington Museum see, they cannot touch. In this case, the museum encourages visitors to get close and touch this replica cannon and carriage.

Bennington Museum is located at 75 Main St. (Route 9), Bennington, Vermont. It is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily June through October and is wheelchair accessible.

Regular admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors and students over 18.

For more information, call 802-447-1571 or visit the museum's website.



Rotarians learn of McCoy's biking adventure

The Poultney Rotary Club recently held a joint meeting with the Granville Rotary Club at the Lake St. Catherine Country Club. The guest speaker was Poultney's Matt McCoy who spoke about his bicycle ride across the United States. He started the journey on March 9 from San Diego, California. He ended his expedition a month later on May 6 when he dipped his bicycle wheels in the Atlantic Ocean at St. Augustine, Florida.

Matt spoke of the many interesting experiences he had crossing our nation. This journey followed another "bucket list" experience he enjoyed two years earlier: hiking the Appalachian Trail from Spring Mountain, Georgia, to the top of Mt. Katahdin in Maine in 2016.

Matt is pictured with the bike he rode along with his wife Pattie (Poultney Rotary Club president) and Granville Rotary Club president Paul Manchester.

Brush up on French in Manchester

Burr and Burton Academy, Maple Street School, and Manchester Community Library are teaming up to offer an eight-week opportunity to brush up on French-language speaking skills on Tuesdays through Nov. 19, at 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. in the Cafe Commons.

Burr and Burton French teacher Michelle Emery and Lizzy Lindenberg, French teacher at Maple Street School,

will keep the meetings lively.

Participants will have the opportunity to practice conversation skills. Most meetings will center on a theme and will be geared toward those with intermediate or advanced skills. All are welcome.

For more information, call 802-362-2607.

Manchester Community Library is located at 138 Cemetery Ave., Manchester Center, Vermont.

Send news to news@manchesternewspapers.com.

Open Farm Sunday

Rupert Valley Holsteins will host an open house on Sunday, Oct. 6, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. as part of Cabot Creamery's Open Farm Sunday.

Bring the whole family out for fun activities like hayrides, scavenger hunts, games for kids, farm animals as well as samples of Cabot's cheddar cheese.

For more information, call 802-394-7810.

Rupert Valley Holsteins is located at 585 State Route 153, West Rupert, Vermont.

Tai chi in Castleton

Castleton Community Center will offer tai chi for beginners on Thursdays, beginning Oct. 10 through Nov. 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The seven-week program will help reduce stress, increase balance and flexibility and muscle strength, and improve relaxation. Medical studies confirm that tai chi relieves pain, reduces falls and improves the quality of life. All are welcome to this free class.

To register, call the center at 802-468-3093.

Castleton Community Center is located at 2108 Main St., Castleton, Vermont.

Indian meal in Granville

St. Mary's Church in Granville will host an Indian meal on Saturday, Oct. 5, after 4 p.m. Mass and Sunday, Oct. 6, after 9 a.m. Mass.

The menu will include chicken tikka masala, vege-

table kuruma and rice for \$5 per person.

For more information, call 518-642-1262.

St. Mary's Church is located at 23 Bulkley Ave., Granville, New York.

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'Receiving the enemy' illustrated talk at Mount Independence Oct. 5

Mount Independence State Historic Site will host an illustrated talk, "The Autumn of 1776: Making Preparations to Receive the Enemy," by historian and site interpreter Paul Andriscin, on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Andriscin will describe the busy autumn of 1776 when Mount Independence and Fort Ticonderoga were being prepared by the American troops for the arrival of the British. At that time the two garrisons made up one of the largest pop-

ulation centers in the United States. What was happening here and elsewhere in the Revolutionary War at this thrilling time?

This talk is included in the regular admission fee of \$5 for adults and free for children younger than 15.

For more information, call 802-948-2000.

Mount Independence State Historic Site is located at 497 Mount Independence Rd., Orwell, Vermont.

22nd annual hike on Mount Zion Oct. 6

The Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site will host its 22nd annual hike up Mount Zion in Hubbardton on Sunday, Oct. 6, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Hikers will meet at the site's museum by 1:30 p.m. and then drive to the park. The hike is included in the regular admission of \$3 for adults and free for children under 15.

The top of Mount Zion has sweeping views of the battlefield and surrounding moun-

tains in the Taconic range. Mount Zion is now part of the Taconic Mountains Ramble State Park. Wear sturdy boots, dress for the weather and bring water.

For more information or to confirm that the hike is on in the case of inclement weather, call 802-273-2282.

Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site is located at 5696 Monument Hill Rd., Hubbardton, Vermont.

'Christmas Carol' auditions in Dorset Oct. 7, 8

The Dorset Players will hold auditions for their holiday production of "A Christmas Carol" on Monday and Tuesday evening, Oct. 7 and 8, from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Callbacks will be held on Thursday, Oct. 10, from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

The director is looking for between 15 and 20 adult actors, ages 18-80, and 5 to 6 young actors, ages 8-teens for an ensemble cast to play multiple roles. Families are encouraged to audition.

The production is a nonmusical version of the



classic Christmas story by Charles Dickens, but cast

members will be singing Christmas carols throughout the show. Auditions will include singing, movement/choreography and readings from the script. Auditionees should be familiar with the storyline and characters of the story.

Performance dates are Dec. 6, 7, 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 8 and 15 at 2 p.m.

For more information, call 802-867-5570 Monday-Friday, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Dorset Playhouse is located at 104 Cheney Rd., Dorset, Vermont.

West Pawlet Fire Department pancake breakfast Oct. 13

West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department will serve a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 13, from 7:30 to 11 a.m. at the fire house.

The menu will include regular, chocolate chip, blueberry, and cranberry pancakes served with local maple syrup, waffles, home fries,

scrambled eggs, sausage and bacon, along with coffee, tea, milk and orange juice. Facility is handicapped accessible.

Cost is \$10 for ages 12 and older, \$8 for seniors ages 65 and older, \$5 for ages 5-11, free for children under 5 years old. Breakfast profits are dedicat-

ed to the department's equipment and training needs.

New members are always welcome.

For more information, call 802-325-3222.

West Pawlet Fire House is located at 2806 Vermont Route 153, Pawlet, Vermont.

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RRMC high-performing hospital for knee replacement

For the third year in a row, Rutland Regional Medical Center has been named a high-performing hospital by "U.S. News & World Report" for knee replacement.

More than 4,500 medical centers nationwide were evaluated in nine procedures and conditions with fewer than a third of all hospitals receiving any high-performing rating.

Rutland Regional was the only hospital in Vermont to earn a "High Performing" rating for knee replacement, in recognition of care that was significantly better than

the national average as measured by factors such as patient outcomes. "High Performing" is the highest rating "U.S. News & World Report" awards for that type of care.

"We are immensely honored to receive this recognition by U.S. News & World Report for the third consecutive year," said Claudio Fort, Rutland Regional Medical Center's president and CEO. "This award represents the outstanding dedication of our clinicians and support staff to patient care and improving patient outcomes."

The awards and recognitions Rutland Regional received over the years recognizes the organization's commitment to patient safety, outstanding clinical outcomes, high-performing procedures, advanced technology, nursing excellence and patient and employee engagement. These awards serve to underscore the organization's focus on providing exceptional care for all patients.

"For 30 years, 'U.S. News' has strived to make hospital quality more transparent to healthcare consumers nationwide," said Ben Harder, man-

aging editor and chief of health analysis at "U.S. News and World Report." "By providing the most comprehensive data available on nearly every hospital across the United States, we give patients, families and physicians information to support their search for the best care across a range of procedures, conditions and specialties."

The U.S. News Procedures & Conditions methodology is based entirely on objective measures of quality such as risk-adjusted outcome rates, volume, quality of nursing and other care-related indicators.

Jazz cafe this evening

Stone Valley Arts will present a Friday night jazz café this evening, Oct. 4, at 7 p.m.

Guests will enjoy a relaxed evening of jazz ballads in an informal café-style setting. Musicians will include Gary Schmidt on piano, Ron White on bass, Don DiChiara on vocals and special guest Zack Hampton on saxophone.

In addition to wonderful music, a table of dessert tapas will be offered.

For more information, call 802-325-2603. Stone Valley Arts at Fox Hill is located at 145 E. Main St., Poultney, Vermont.

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Dorset Players 92nd season opens with 'Gaslight'

The Dorset Players will open their 92nd season with a production of "Gaslight," also known as "Angel Street," by British playwright Patrick Hamilton on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 4-5 and 11-12, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 6 and 13, at 2 p.m.

The psychological drama, directed by Janet Groom, is the longest running non-musical to have played on Broadway.

The plot centers around Bella who suffers from what she believes are early stages of insanity. Her husband Jack struggles to help her and spends his evenings out on the town in order to cope.

Or so he makes her believe.



Kristen Kimble and Jeff Cox play wife and husband in 'Gaslight.'

As the plot unfolds a detective enters the scene and suspense builds to a chilling climax.

The cast includes Jeff Cox as the husband, Kristen Kimble as the wife, Paul Michael Brinker as the detective and Leslie Bremner and Joelle Greenland.

Tickets are \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members and \$12 for children younger than 14.

For more information or to buy tickets, visit www.dorsetplayers.com/tickets or call 802-867-5570 weekdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dorset Playhouse is located at 104 Cheney Rd., Dorset, Vermont.

Brandon history talk

Brandon Town Hall will host a free presentation by Bill Powers entitled "The Fisk Family of Stephen Douglas" on Sunday, Oct. 6, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Edward Fisk (1787-1850) of Brandon was the uncle of American politician and lawyer Stephen Douglas (1813-1861) and helped raise him after Douglas's father died in 1813. A free will donation will be accepted.

For more information, call 802-247-5420 or visit www.brandontownhall.org.

Brandon Town Hall is located at 1 Conant Square, Brandon, Vermont.

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The Umoya Trio makes its debut performance this weekend.

New trio to debut at Brandon Music

Brandon Music will present the debut performance of The Umoya Trio on Saturday, Oct. 5, at 7:30 p.m.

Umoya is Xhosa for “wind” and is a nod to the energy of the wind: of fierce siroccos, turbulent gales, swirling mist-rals and gentle cool breezes and, of course, the energy from the trio’s wind-powered instruments.

The Boston-based recorder group is made up of Kaleem Ahmid, Chantal Holy and Anna Laufenberg and will perform a selection of music spanning

more than 400 years, with intriguing pieces from C.P.E. Bach, Beethoven and modern composer Sören Sieg.

Tickets are \$20; pre-concert dinner is \$25. Reservations are required for dinner and recommended for the concert. Brandon Music is a BYOB venue.

For more information and reservations, call Edna at 802-247-4295 or email info@brandon-music.net.

Brandon Music is located at 62 Country Club Rd., Brandon, Vermont.

Jason Lutes to describe writing and drawing a graphic novel

Green Mountain Academy for Lifelong Learning will welcome American comics creator Jason Lutes who will discuss the process of writing and drawing a graphic novel on Thursday, Oct. 10, at 5:30 p.m. in the Hunter Seminar Room at Burr and Burton Academy.

Using his own work and that of other cartoonists as examples of different approaches to

visual storytelling, Lutes will describe how he conceives, researches, writes and draws a graphic novel. He will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of this unique art form and how the physical constraints of the printed book affect creative decision-making.

The talk will conclude with discussion of Lutes’s book “Berlin,” a work of historical

fiction about the rise of fascism in Weimar Germany.

Registration for the talk is \$18 in advance or \$22 at the door.

For more information or to register, call 802-867-0111 or visit www.greenmtnacademy.org.

Burr and Burton Academy is located at 57 Seminary Ave., Manchester, Vermont.

New hydrant in West Pawlet

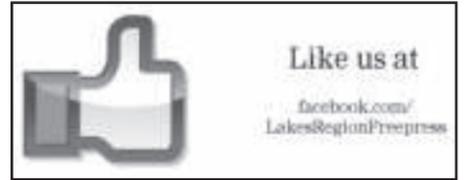
The West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department has installed a new pressurized rural fire protection hydrant located near the intersection of Vermont Route 153 and Betts Bridge Road.

The new hydrant will allow the department to provide more than 1,000 gallons per minute and load tankers without the aid of a pump. The department now has 12 dry hydrants and two pressurized hydrants in the West Pawlet fire district.

This hydrant project was made possible by grant and

design assistance provided by Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force under the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts. Grant funding for the project came from the Vermont Departments of Public and Fire Safety and the U.S. Forest Service via Vermont Forests Parks and Recreation.

The West Pawlet Fire Department would like to thank the community members of the Villages of West Pawlet and Pawlet for their support.



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‘The Wonderful World of Bats’ by Jerry Schneider at Manchester library

Manchester Community Library will welcome former teacher and children’s librarian Jerry Schneider who will discuss “The Wonderful World of Bats” on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Since 2003, Schneider has introduced audiences to local and tropical bats. The program helps audience members move beyond old stereotypes of bats to understand their vital role in helping to control

pesky insects, pollinating night blooming flowers and dispersing seeds.

Participants also will create their own bat T-shirts; bring your own or purchase one for \$4.

This program is free and

open to the public.

For more information, call 802-362-2607.

Manchester Community Library is located at 138 Cemetery Ave., Manchester Center, Vermont.

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Solar projects underway in Slate Valley benefit schools

Slate Valley Unified Union School District is partnering with MHG Solar on two local solar projects – one in Pawlet and another in Poultney.

The Pawlet project is nearing completion, while construction on the Poultney project is anticipated to begin within the next two months. Both projects will provide the school district with financial benefits and educational opportunities.

“Our idea has been that we can generate clean electricity in Vermont, while repurposing industrial lands,” said Pete Giese, co-founder of MHG Solar. “In this way, we not only help

Vermont advance toward its ambitious renewable energy goals, but we also help preserve agricultural and scenic lands, create a new source of revenue for land owners, generate property taxes for communities, and tie these projects to the community.”

In partnership with MHG Solar, Slate Valley Unified Union School District will be able to generate electrical cost savings.

“Participation in these two unique solar projects not only provides a tie to the community and creatively reuses industrial lands, but it also generates meaningful savings for the schools,” said Cheryl Scarzello,

director of finance for the school district. “In total, the district expects to save more than \$15,000 per year and more than \$450,000 in electricity costs over the term of the solar projects.”

In addition to cost savings, the school district will have access to STEM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) curriculum opportunities.

“Our partnership with MHG Solar will provide moments to purposefully combine science, technology, engineering and mathematics, in and outside of classrooms with current issues,” said Casey O’Meara, director of

curriculum, instruction and assessment at the school district. “It will further our district’s vision for teaching and learning.”

MHG Solar leases land from local slate companies and sites its projects on top of slate tailings piles. In most cases, MHG Solar strategically locates projects adjacent to ongoing operations. This allows the company to revitalize the tailings piles, while operators continue running their core business.

“We will have an opportunity to align curriculum and instructional practices with student goals,” said O’Meara. “This project will provide a system for us

to apply personalized, experiential learning in our schools.”

In total, the district’s portion of these projects will be the equivalent of ~1,200,000 kWh of clean electricity each year – roughly the annual electrical consumption of 150-170 Vermont homes each year.

“We are excited about the opportunity to partner with MHG Solar as it has environmental, financial, and, most importantly, educational benefits for our students,” said Brooke Olsen-Farrell, Slate Valley Unified Union School District superintendent. “It appears to be a win-win for everyone involved.”

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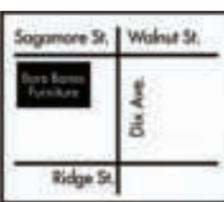
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