

Construction to begin next week on major Alburgh water line expansion

By MICHAEL FRETT
Islander Staff Writer

ALBURGH – After years of planning and delays, construction is scheduled to finally begin next week on an expansion of water lines into South Alburgh.

According to the prudential committee overseeing the South Alburgh Fire District No. 2, a longstanding plan to extend water infrastructure from the district's pipes on West Shore Road through South Alburgh was expected to start sometime over the coming week.

Paperwork placed the start date for the district's expansion in early May, according to the prudential committee, though some preparatory work had already started the week before.

"I've worked on this for 12 years," the prudential committee's chairperson, Jonathan FitzGerald, told *The Islander* during a brief interview. "It's just amazing, actually."

The South Alburgh Fire District No. 2 functions as the governing body overseeing a municipal water system serving South Alburgh. The district currently maintains water lines tracing West Shore Road toward its intersection with Route 129 near Isle La Motte, and relies on the Alburgh village's water system as its source for drinking water.



John FitzGerald, the chair for the South Alburgh Fire District #2's prudential committee, oversees the committee's meeting last week. "It's amazing, actually," FitzGerald said of the district's plans to finally move forward with expanding water lines.

Photo by Michael Frett.

See "WATER LINE EXPANSION" Page 3

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Milton to host forum for town manager search this weekend

By MICHAEL FRETT
Islander Staff Writer

MILTON – Residents in the Milton community will have a chance to meet their next potential town manager this weekend as the selectboard takes their search for a municipal manager public.

According to the town’s selectboard, local officials will host a community forum this coming Saturday where community members will be able to meet and question potential candidates for the town manager’s office. Officials have said there are currently four candidates for the position, with each candidate having been recruited internally from Milton’s local government.

According to Darren Adams, the chairperson for Milton’s selectboard, Saturday’s forum will be led by the selectboard, with Adams preparing a presentation about their search for a new municipal manager before opening the forum for questions. The forum is scheduled to start at 9 a.m. and will include a remote Zoom component, officials confirmed this week.

Town officials previously promised to bring their search for a municipal manager public following several rounds of interviews conducted with Milton’s selectboard in executive session.

Cities and towns in Vermont will sometimes hire municipal managers to help oversee their day-to-day operations. According to a job description shared by the Town of Milton, Milton’s town manager is “the administrative authority over operations” and “the general supervisor of the affairs for the Town of Milton” charged with executing policies set by Milton’s selectboard.

According to Adams, Milton officials opted to recruit internally to replace their former town manager Don Turner, a longtime public servant and former fire chief and lawmaker who passed away late last year, to prioritize candidates who would be more familiar with their predecessor’s work and with Milton operations more generally.

“Given the unique circumstances of this search, with Don’s illness and subsequent passing,” Adams told *The Islander* in a recent email, “it was imperative that we give the strong talent that Don hired or worked with an opportunity to carry on his legacy and expand on his success at the same time acknowledging we will never be able to replace him.”

Milton officials were previously asked by community members to bring their search public, with those requests culminating in a petition signed by 39 Milton residents asking that there be a “fair, open and community-informed process for selecting Milton’s next town manager.”

Following Saturday’s forum, Milton officials said they would decide whether to appoint one of their four candidates for the manager’s position or expand their search beyond Milton’s town government.

Town officials said they hoped to hire a new manager “as soon as possible.”

Isle La Motte to finalize new selectboard assistant role

By MICHAEL FRETT
Islander Staff Writer

ISLE LA MOTTE – Town officials in Isle La Motte are continuing to work out details for a new municipal staff member created to administratively support the selectboard and other local officials.

The town’s selectboard has a special meeting planned for this coming Wednesday intended to finalize a job description for “selectboard office assistant” position the board included funding for when it proposed an annual municipal budget voters ultimately endorsed on Town Meeting Day in March.

According to members of Isle La Motte’s selectboard, there was ongoing conversation needed to detail the role and avoid assigning tasks that already fell to existing positions within the town’s government.

Officials said they anticipated discussion around the office assistant’s role to be extensive, but seemed to agree there was some urgency in getting the position’s description finalized. The selectboard has long needed support, according to members of the selectboard, and Isle La Motte’s roadwork demands, now at a “critical level” according to officials, needed the administrative assistance.

In a readout detailing Isle La Motte’s municipal budget ahead of this year’s Town Meeting Day elections, the town’s selectboard said they imagined charging a new office assistant with projects like records digitization, grant writing and filing standardization.

According to town officials, the selectboard hoped to have a description for its selectboard office assistant finalized by the end of next week’s special meeting.

WATER LINE EXPANSION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

For several years now, the district has mulled an expansion, the second phase of a three-phase buildout meant to connect South Alburgh to municipal water in Alburgh's village. The second phase would expand water from West Shore Road along Middle Road toward Route 2 and then trace the state highway south toward Poor Farm Road and, ultimately, the Cedarvale Estates and Point-of-Tongue.

Earlier this month, after years of planning and fundraising involving a federal grant and loan promised by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Rural Development program and a partially forgivable loan from the state of Vermont, the South Alburgh Fire District's prudential committee signed off on the paperwork to begin the buildout of the system's second phase.

According to the prudential committee, engineers expected the buildout to take 18 months before construction would allow homeowners to activate their connections to the new water line. Already, around 90 households in Alburgh had signed onto the expansion, nearly doubling the district's service area given the approximately 90 households currently hooked into the system's first water lines.

It was unclear exactly what the expansion would mean for increasing user rates within the system, according to FitzGerald. The district expected to partially afford loans from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and state government through user rates, but the addition of new hookups as water lines gradually stretched toward the Point-of-Tongue meant more users to share the costs of a growing system.

The district was also planning to increase its fee for new hookups over the next week, sunsetting a smaller \$1,500 fee established by the district to encourage new hookups as it prepared for expansion.

The expected buildout was estimated to cost approximately \$9.7 million, according to FitzGerald.

The district's prudential committee only briefly hinted toward buildout of the system's third and final phase when they met last week.

According to the district, officials had entertained expanding water lines from their West Shore Road terminus along Route 129, a step the district had to rule out despite earlier promises to Route 129 residents due to the challenges with expanding water lines along nearby wetlands. Completion of the project's next phase, meanwhile, might open the door for expanding from the east, officials said.

Much of the prudential committee's most recent meeting was spent discussing management of the growing district. Committee members entertained potentially expanding their volunteer board from three members to five, and discussed hiring a full-time manager to help operate their district now that it was expected to more than double in size over the next year.

Generally, though, people seemed to express a sense of relief that a years' long plan to expand water in South Alburgh was finally moving ahead. District members remotely attending the water district's meeting last week offered their congratulations before logging out, and even as officials debated one another in person, there seemed to be an agreement that the expansion was welcome news.

"This project needs to go," Cheryl Dunn, the clerk and treasurer for Alburgh's village government, said. "It's the best thing that could happen to this community."



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Suspect in Colchester attempted homicide shooting arrested by Broward County Sheriffs in Florida

By MIKE DONOGHUE
Islander Staff Writer

COLCHESTER -- A Burlington man, wanted on an attempted first-degree murder charge for a near-fatal shooting in old Fort Ethan Allen in Colchester earlier this month, was arrested in Pompano Beach, Fla. over the weekend, police said.

Ryan Ducharme, 21, was taken into custody about 1 a.m. Saturday by the Broward County Sheriff's Department, in coordination with the Chittenden County State's Attorney's Office, Colchester Police said.

Ducharme is wanted on charges of both attempted murder and aggravated assault for the near-fatal shooting of Shaun Sylveste, 23, of Colchester, officials said.

Sylveste was wounded at least three times in the chest, abdomen and leg and investigators found at least six .45-caliber casings, blood and other evidence at the scene.

A Vermont Superior Court judge signed an arrest warrant for Ducharme on Friday, police said.

Colchester Police were unaware Ducharme had fled to Florida, Police Chief Peter Hull told *The Islander*. He said the Broward County Sheriff's in Florida found Ducharme, determined he was wanted in Vermont and alerted Colchester Police.

Ducharme was ordered held without bail at the main jail, one of four detention facilities operated by the Broward County Sheriff's Department in Fort Lauderdale. The main jail is a maximum-security facility for violent/dangerous inmates or escape risks, according to its website. It holds about 1,540 inmates including about 65 juveniles awaiting trial in adult court.

He will be jailed there until he can be extradited

back to Vermont by the Chittenden County Sheriff's Department.

Ducharme and a Winooski man were linked to the shooting shortly after it was reported about 1:20 a.m. April 12 at 363 Ethan Allen Avenue, near the Colchester/Essex boundary, police said.

Investigators later conducted a court-ordered search of Ducharme's residence at 374 Riverside Avenue. Police had said the missing man, formerly of Winooski, was believed to be armed and dangerous.

His reported accomplice, Jonathan Willard, 19, of Winooski was arraigned in Vermont Superior Court last Tuesday on several criminal charges, including aiding in the commission of a felony and false information to police as part of the ongoing investigation into the attempted homicide, officials said.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives along with its Chittenden County Gun Violence Task Force were called out to assist with the investigation, which quickly developed the names of two suspects.

When eventually confronted by police, Willard maintained he did not know the name of the man he was hanging around with on Friday night and who asked him to drive him to old Fort Ethan Allen early Saturday, court records note.

St. Michael's College Rescue personnel arrived after the shooting to rush Sylveste to the University of Vermont Medical Center for treatment of his various wounds.

Investigators also learned that when Ducharme drinks he becomes confrontational and picks fights with everyone to include his friends, police said in court papers.

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South Hero finalizes purchase of 96-acre property near historic village

By MICHAEL FRETT
Islander Staff Writer

SOUTH HERO – The Town of South Hero has finalized its purchase of 96 acres near the town’s historic village center for an ongoing wastewater project, local officials announced this month.

According to the South Hero selectboard’s chair, David Carter, the town recently closed on its purchase of the storied Lavin property. The purchase was now being reviewed by state officials that had allocated some of the more than \$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding for developing a community wastewater system supporting South Hero’s village.

According to Carter, the purchase left enough grant funding for some additional engineering and design work required before the town could eventually develop a system.

“There’s still some funds leftover to do some wastewater design,” Carter said during a recent selectboard meeting. “All of those acquisitions were below the appraisals, so we got a pretty good deal and have some money left over for design.”

South Hero officials have looked to the Lavin property as the possible site of a community wastewater system. An ongoing wastewater study identified the property earlier this year as likely the only viable site for the communal septic system envisioned by South Hero’s wastewater committee after complications with conserved development rights ultimately ruled out property on Allenhalm Farm.

The Lavin property refers to a collection of undeveloped parcels reaching east from South Hero’s historic village center along Route 2 and the recently built Lavin Lane.

In a January presentation, officials representing the town’s wastewater committee said early results suggested there were between 6,300 gallons and 6,400 gallons of available septic capacity at the Lavin property, which officials said was enough to support around 25 units of housing or around ten full-time jobs and 20 part-time jobs if local businesses opted to use new wastewater capacity to expand.

The lack of community wastewater options is often viewed as an impediment to development in the Champlain Islands, where challenging soil conditions can make managing wastewater systems difficult. South Hero’s municipal plan specifically identifies the lack of wastewater capacity as one of the steepest barriers for building more affordable housing in South Hero.

The selectboard previously approved allowing the town to purchase five of the Lavin property’s eight parcels so long as they collectively assessed for \$750,000. According to meeting minutes posted online, the selectboard unanimously agreed late last month to purchase another lot on the property, as well as its associated wastewater capacity, for \$175,000.

At least one of the lots not purchased by South Hero was bought by Champlain Islanders Developing Essential Resources, a Grand Isle County nonprofit serving the elderly and people with disabilities better known by its acronym “CIDER.” The nonprofit previously said it planned to build a storage facility and vehicle hub for its flagship transit service and other programming on its parcel.

According to Carter, the town’s purchase of six of the Lavin property’s eight parcels left the town in a “unique position,” both because of the possible wastewater capacity it added to South Hero’s historic village center as well as the control it gave South Hero officials over a sizable amount of property near one of the town’s two villages.

“Here we have 96 acres that we control and a much larger area for wastewater disposal, and more area to explore for potential wastewater capacity,” Carter said. “This purchase is going to be transformative for the entire town for the next 100 years.”

While South Hero retained some funding to continue designing a potential wastewater system, officials said more funding would be needed before the town could build a public septic system. In their January presentation, representatives from South Hero’s wastewater committee placed possible construction costs for a communal septic system at around \$4 million.

The town has no active deadlines for developing a wastewater system, according to local officials.

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- Rummage Sale at Three Steeples United Methodist Church, 491 Rte 11, Champlain, NY; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Local libraries brace for disruption as administration targets federal library agency

By MICHAEL FRETT
 Islander Staff Writer

SOUTH HERO – Libraries in the Champlain Islands are bracing for the potential loss of programming previously funded through federal grants after an executive order pulled funding for the government agency charged with supporting local museums and libraries.

Earlier this year, the Trump administration announced the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a small agency established to support cultural institutions, would be “eliminated to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law” alongside several other minor federal agencies. The agency’s staff was subsequently placed on administrative leave, according to news reports.

The order, according to the White House, was to support “continuing the reduction of the federal bureaucracy” and linked to a larger Trump administration effort to target alleged waste and fraud in the federal government.

In Vermont, funding administered through the Institute of Museum and Library Services ultimately supports programming offered to local libraries by the Vermont Dept. of Libraries. The federal agency estimates that around \$1.2 million had been awarded to Vermont’s library system in 2024 through the institute, supporting programs like Vermont’s interlibrary loan services and professional development.

For the library directors charged with overseeing public libraries in the Champlain Islands, the resulting disruptions have raised questions about programming and state support that some libraries rely on.

“We’re in a really good position,” Keagan Calkins, the executive director for the Worthen Library in South Hero, recently told *The Islander*, “but I would really be at a loss as a director if we couldn’t lean on the state for a lot of things.”

Public libraries in Vermont tend to be better insulated from disruption than some of their counterparts elsewhere in the U.S. The majority of the state’s libraries raise their funds locally, affording most of their operations through local taxes supplemented with nonprofit fundraising. The loss of federal funding, though disruptive, was not existential for the Champlain Islands’ libraries.

According to local library directors, however, the Champlain Islands’ libraries will be downstream of statewide programming affected by the federal government’s expected spending cuts.

Basic features like interlibrary loans and digital subscription services are among those funded indirectly by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Vermont Dept. of Libraries. Continuing those services might require local libraries to absorb the costs of those services into local library budgets, according to library officials, at either the expense of local taxpayers or other programs.

Among the programs potentially at risk of losing federal funding was the ABLE Library, a service managed locally by the Vermont Dept. of Libraries that offers reading materials for patrons with impaired vision. The services allowed for the home delivery of talking book machines and large-print books, something that library directors said expanded access to their respective libraries.

“It’s a pretty incredible resource for someone with a vision disability,” Robin Berger, the executive director of the Grand Isle Free Library, said during a recent interview. “If the ABLE Library is defunded, we’re not helping people access the library, and as a community we become less inclusive.”

Berger also criticized the potential loss of federal support for professional development programming offered through the Vermont Dept. of Libraries, something that, according to the Grand Isle Free Library’s director, had proven invaluable for rounding out rural libraries’ workforces given the cost of going to

school for library services.

“It makes it so we have so many more people in Vermont working as professional librarians,” Berger said. “For a rural state, it’s not like you’ll be able to just get a master’s degree and go to a library.”

For the North Hero Public Library, changes in federal funding have put on hold potential plans for an expansion. After an application for funding under a grant program supported through the American

Continued on Page 7

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Rescue Plan Act was denied, the library's leadership had instead expected to turn toward a separate U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development grant now believed "paused" by the Trump administration.

With federal funding no longer guaranteed, the library's executive director Caroline Korejko said the North Hero Public Library would likely delay any immediate plans to fundraise for an extension. Existing capital reserves would support more immediate repairs in the meantime, according to Korejko, while officials awaited word on private funding for a storage shed the library planned to build nearby.

"Things will have to be put on pause," Korejko told *The Islander*. "We're lucky we have this nest egg for capital improvements."

More than anything, library directors said it was the uncertainty brought by the Trump administration's decision to pull funding from federal library services that dogged local library officials.

Library officials said they were still gauging how certain services offered under the Vermont Dept. of Libraries would be continued without federal support. A statement from the Vermont Library Association suggested the impacts could be "profound," though library directors said they expected some services would continue albeit under a new structure and likely at a greater local expense.

Local library officials added, however, that they were discouraged to see public libraries, institutions that had often become de facto community centers in their respective cities and towns, dismissed by the federal government as "unnecessary."

"That the federal government doesn't value this wonderful, basic service is a disappointment to me," the Worthen Library's Calkins said. "[Libraries] should be supported and uplifted, not punished or undervalued."

"It's not just about books," the Grand Isle Free Library's Berger agreed. "Libraries are a community space, and we have so few of those now."

Korejko, who similarly shared concerns with the loss of federal funding for libraries, noted however that requests for library cards had increased at the North Hero Public Library over the last few weeks. That, she said, gave her some optimism for the coming years.

"I'm nervous about losing some things, but I also know that the islands are a resilient community," Korejko said. "I take that as a sign that people are standing with their library, and that gives me hope."

Federal funding cuts force South Hero to reexamine meeting house plans

By MICHAEL FRETT
Islander Staff Writer

SOUTH HERO – South Hero officials will reexamine their plans for rehabilitating their historic "Old White Meeting House" after potentially losing federal funding previously expected for the project.

In an interview this week, local selectpersons David Carter and Anne Zolotas confirmed that the town was exploring how it could move forward with restoring the historic meeting hall now that South Hero could no longer expect previously anticipated congressional funding and a historic preservation grant.

"We need to solidify some ideas and options we do have," Carter, the selectboard's chair, told *The Islander* on Monday. "We have some questions about what we can do and what we want to do."

"In some ways, we're starting from square one," Zolotas added.

According to town officials, reports over the last month confirmed that a \$400,000 grant sought through congressionally directed spending and the federal government's Save America's Treasures program was no longer expected after a recent federal spending package passed without any congressionally directed spending included.

More recently, according to South Hero officials, the town was told that a National Park Service grant previously awarded to South Hero was now "paused" by the federal government while its administering agency, the U.S. National Park Service, was reviewed by the Dept. of Government Efficiency, a Trump administration initiative formed ostensibly to vet federal agencies for waste and fraud.

During a recent interview, South Hero officials said they planned to move ahead as though neither source of funding would be available in the future.

"We're proceeding as prudently as we can," Zolotas said, "as though we aren't getting it."

What that means for the restoration of the "Old White Meeting House," however, remains unclear.

According to South Hero officials, enough money still remained between an allocation approved by local voters in 2022 and private fundraising to afford stabilizing the building. Officials said they would prioritize the meeting hall's foundation and its eastern wall, where garage doors were carved into the building, as they reexamined restoration plans.

The Town of South Hero and the Old White Meeting House's associated South Hero Foundation have together raised \$338,000 for the meeting hall's restoration, according to town officials.

A larger \$500,000 grant awarded under the federal Northern Border Regional Commission also remained viable, according to town officials, though South Hero no longer had enough funding set aside for a one-to-one match required

See "MEETING HOUSE PLANS" Page 8

FIRE DISTRICT #4 WATER LINE FLUSHING

By Les Gardner, Plant Manager/Operator

Grand Isle Fire District #4 Water District will be flushing the water lines and turning the valves between April 21 and April 30.

If you experience dirty water, turn on your outside hose and run until clear.

The Deck Doctor

- *Pressure Washing
- *Patios / Stonewashing
- *Concrete Washing
- *Deck Staining
- *Deck Repairs

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FREE ESTIMATES



Please join us for Coffee and Conversation!

Monday, April 28th, 10:00-11:30am
Alburgh Legion Meeting Room

The Grand Isle Republican Committee will be hosting Coffee and Conversation with our VT Representatives & Senators:

- Leland Morgan
- Michael Morgan
- Randy Brock
- Bob Norris
- Pat Brennan

At this event our legislators will brief us on what's happening in the state house and attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, share concerns and engage in meaningful discussions about the issues that matter most to our community.

All are welcome! Hope to see you there! Please email: Grandislerepublicans@gmail.com if you have any questions!

MEETING HOUSE PLANS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

by the federal development initiative. Exploring how to match the \$500,000 grant, whether through in-kind work or additional fundraising, was another priority for the town.

The town also had environmental obligations associated with the property following the discovery of lead, a likely byproduct of lead paint used in the historic meeting hall, in the surrounding soils.

Originally built in the early 1800s, South Hero's historic meeting hall has served as a church, a town hall and a school before settling into its most recent role as the longtime home for Granny's Attic, a popular charity thrift shop that only recently left the building due to anticipated renovations. The building is featured on the National Register of Historic Places within a larger South Hero historic district.

According to town officials, the meeting hall has started showing its age, with the most obvious issues seen along its eastern wall where the building noticeably sags above a set of garage doors added to the historic meeting hall when it was repurposed as a garage for South Hero's highway department and, later, the town's volunteer fire department.

Plans for the Old White Meeting House's restoration have become one of the more intensely debated topics in South Hero, helping fill the audience section during recent selectboard meetings and sparking discussions on social media. Debate has largely centered on issues like the town's vision for a restored meeting house and its focus on historic preservation necessitated by its National Park Service grant.

A special meeting initially planned for early May in order to answer some questions ahead of a May 15 deadline for South Hero's National Park Service grant was now on hold according to South Hero officials after federal officials announced last week their plans to "pause" the National Park Service's grant program funding the Old White Meeting House's restoration.

According to a report provided by the volunteer committee coordinating the Old White Meeting House's restoration, officials said they were now fo-

cusing on "the most economical but beneficial means to preserve, repair and reclaim the building without destroying the historical features."

Meanwhile, town officials said there was guidance about what purpose a restored meeting hall should serve once it was renovated, though there was still discussion about how to best serve that purpose.

"The object of that [Northern Border Regional Commission] grant is economic opportunity and activity in a community," Zolotas told *The Islander*. "It's going to be a public attraction and generate economic opportunity in the community."

An initial restoration project would likely still be limited. Even when federal funding was expected, town officials said their restoration plans would only cover the building's stabilization and work on its first floor. The meeting hall's second floor, which previously housed Granny's Attic, would likely remain off limits until other requirements, like handicap accessibility, could be addressed.

According to the town's selectboard, officials still hoped to have the Old White Meeting House's first floor restored to where the building can be opened as a community events space capable of managing larger audiences than those currently allowed in public spaces like the Worthen Library.

Carter told *The Islander* he hoped pending restoration activity would help inspire additional fundraising, as well, that could later support the next phases of the meeting hall's renovations.

"We feel there is a commitment in the community for supporting this with contributions," Carter said. "My feeling is that, when they see actual activity, movement and repairs, I think enthusiasm will grow."

According to town officials, while a larger discussion around the Old White Meeting House planned for May was now on hold, debate about the meeting house's restoration would continue with the town's volunteer meeting house committee.

Officials also affirmed this week that they planned to keep the Old White Meeting House project alive.

"How many people have had the opportunity to sit on the floor of that cupola and have lunch?" Zolotas asked. "To sit there on a summer day, looking out over the fields, is truly special."

"We've had some major impacts with federal funds and with environmental issues, but we're working around them," Carter added. "We're not dead yet."

Take a Break

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Weekly SUDOKU

7	5	3	9		4		1	
				1				
	2		4	7	5	9	3	
		2		7			5	
4	7				5			
3						7	1	4
2	3				6	9		
	9	8	7				1	4
	1			4	9		3	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

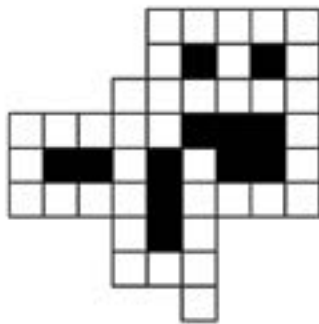
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FEAR & KNIGHT

By: J. Johnson

DOUBT ... OR DARE!

- ORU
- GAGTRA
- ORBEP
- ▼EBNA
- ANIDER
- ▼GBI
- TORO
- ▼RANGO
- UPN
- ▼CUDDEE
- IDBEP
- ▼ERGA



Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (▼) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ▼RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Persian Gulf emirate
- 6 Little lie
- 9 Chances, for short
- 12 Winner's gesture
- 13 "All bets — off"
- 14 Haw preceder
- 15 Thesaurus compiler
- 16 Bach's "Coffee —"
- 18 Deserves
- 20 Legal document
- 21 Salonga of "Miss Saigon"
- 23 Commotion
- 24 Deli array
- 25 Arsenal supply
- 27 Wear down
- 29 "Othello" character
- 31 Indian instruments
- 35 Mea —
- 37 Coin aperture
- 38 Be buoyant
- 41 — out a living
- 43 Glacial
- 44 Hoops great Monroe
- 45 Ornamental beetle
- 47 Cheery refrain
- 49 Arcade pioneer
- 52 Revue segment

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12						13			14		
15					16			17			
		18		19			20				
21	22			23			24				
25			26		27		28				
29				30			31		32	33	34
				35			36		37		
38	39	40				41	42		43		
44					45			46			
47				48				49		50	51
52					53			54			
55					56			57			

- 53 Prohibit
- 54 Serious
- 55 That lady
- 56 Walgreens alternative
- 57 On mom's side
- 8 London's Big —
- 9 Butler's love
- 10 — four (small cake)
- 11 Plane assignments
- 17 Chirps
- 19 Perfect
- 21 Science room
- 22 Brit. record label
- 24 1501, in Roman numerals
- 26 Available for work
- 28 Japanese seaport
- 30 Snip
- 32 "Open sesame" speaker
- 33 Sinbad's bird
- 34 Pigs' digs
- 36 Praline nuts
- 38 Greek cheeses
- 39 Coniferous tree
- 40 Emulate Douglass
- 42 Obliterate
- 45 Serb or Croat
- 46 Heaps
- 48 "Shark Tank" network
- 50 Emertus, briefly
- 51 Hot temper

DOWN

- 1 Tivo, for example
- 2 MIL morale booster
- 3 "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" role
- 4 Baseball's Tommie
- 5 Office leader?
- 6 Element
- 7 401(k) relatives

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Answers on Page 10

Volunteers lend hand as recreation officials prep North Hero parks

By MICHAEL FRETT
Islander Staff Writer

NORTH HERO – Not even springtime bursts of rain kept volunteers from the trails this weekend as organizers prepared one of North Hero’s natural areas for the coming summer season.

Brought together by North Hero’s recreation committee, Saturday’s workday invited a small team of volunteers to help clear hiking trails wrapped through the Pelots Point Natural Area, one of several nature areas maintained by the recreation committee. Volunteers focused largely on pruning branches that reached into recreational trails, though some walked out with handfuls of litter, as well.

According to Terry Marron, a trail steward working with the recreation committee, volunteer work days were vital for maintaining the town’s recreation areas. North Hero’s recreation committee, staffed entirely by volunteers, had only so much bandwidth available to them, Marron said, and bringing in other community members helped make the work of maintaining North Hero’s parks easier.

Volunteer workdays were also pitched by North Hero recreation officials as an opportunity for locals to meet one another and become involved in their Champlain Islands community, something officials said there appeared to be an appetite for.

“I feel like people want to be involved,” Marron told *The Islander*. “It’s a great way to come to meet your neighbors and learn what’s going on.”

North Hero Parks and Recreation currently maintains three natural areas for its namesake town. Spread over a southwestern corner of North Hero is the Butternut Hill Natural Area and Camp Ingalls, a former 4-H camp preserved as a recreation area in the 1970s. Pinched between Lake Champlain’s main lake and the western shore of Pelots Bay, meanwhile, is the Pelots Point Natural Area and, a short walk from there, is the Footpath on the Island Line, a converted railroad bed leading toward a small beach.

According to Jeanne Metherall, the chairperson for North Hero’s recreation committee, maintaining trails in North Hero’s nature areas allowed visitors and residents an easier way to get outdoors and recreate in North Hero. Recreation in North Hero, she said, was otherwise tied to Lake Champlain and could be inaccessible to members of the public without their own lakefront access or personal watercraft.

“Outside of boating and water stuff, there isn’t much for people to do here,” Metherall told *The Islander*. “We feel having places like this allows people to get out.”

North Hero’s parks were also important natural areas, according to Marron, an avid birdwatcher who helps Audubon Vermont with its annual wildlife surveys. Birdwatchers have tracked more than 130 species of bird in the Pelots Point Natural Area alone, according to Marron, and brochures published by the recreation committee also note the presence of rare animals like the spiny softshell turtle.

Recreation officials are planning several more workdays throughout the coming weeks, including trail work scheduled for this weekend at Camp Ingalls and a garlic mustard pull planned for May.

“These places are so valuable,” Marron told *The Islander*. “We’re so lucky someone had the forethought to conserve these parcels.”



A small group of volunteers braved this weekend’s rain to help prepare trails in North Hero’s Pelots Point Natural Area for the coming summer season. Photo by Michael Frett.



BAKED HAM DINNER

Saturday, April 26 • 5 p.m.

MENU: Baked ham, scalloped potatoes, corn, roll with butter, coffee and a cake for dessert.

COST: \$11 non-members, \$10 members

LOCATION: Islands in the Sun Senior Center, 547 South Main St., Alburgh.



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SURVEY

Valued reader,

Please take a few minutes to complete the below survey. The information will assist The Islander team with completing a readership demographics profile for various uses.

Please mail to: The Islander, PO Box 225, South Hero, VT 05486 or email to islander@vermontislander.com

The survey can also be completed online at www.theislandernewspaper.com/survey

Thank you in advance,
Kristina Botala, Editor

1. What is your age?

- 18 or younger 19-20 21-29 30-99
 40-49 50-59 60-69 70-79
 80-89 90 or older

2. What is your gender?

- Female Male
 Non-binary Prefer not to disclose

3. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- Less than high school degree
 High school degree or equivalent (e.g., GED)
 Some college but no degree
 Associate degree
 Bachelor degree
 Graduate degree (e.g., Masters, PhD, M.D)

4. Which of the following categories best describes your employment status?

- Employed part time
 Employed full time
 Not employed, looking for work
 Not employed, not looking for work
 Retired
 Prefer not to disclose

5. What was your combined household income in the last year?

- \$0 - \$9,999 \$10,000 - \$24,999 \$25,000 - \$49,999
 \$50,000 - \$74,999 \$75,000 - \$99,999 \$100,000 or more
 Prefer not to disclose

6. Which of the following describes your current living situation?

- Own my home Rent my home
 Other (please specify) _____
 Prefer not to disclose

Drivers with local ties included in inaugural motorsports hall of fame class

By MICHAEL FRETT
Islander Staff Writer

MILTON – The Vermont Motorsports Hall of Fame has inducted its inaugural class, honoring, among others, several Vermont drivers with ties to both the Town of Milton and the nearby Champlain Islands.

In a press release announcing its first class of inductees, the Vermont Motorsports Hall of Fame revealed that Milton's Dragon brothers, Harmon "Beaver" Dragon and Robert "Bobby" Dragon, would be among the hall of fame's first members. The two, both racing legends in Vermont, had built their careers at the former Catamount Stadium while clinching multiple statewide and regional championships.



Left to Right: Beaver Dragon, Bobby Dragon, Shirley Muldowney.

The Vermont Motorsports Hall of Fame inaugural class also included Shirley Muldowney, a Burlington-born drag racer whose championship-winning career nurtured at the Milton Speedway had won her the moniker "First Lady of Drag Racing" and who, according to the Vermont Motorsports Hall of Fame, had spent her early years growing up in the Champlain Islands.

The first woman licensed to compete with the National Hot Rod Association, Muldowney would go on to win four Top Fuel World Championship titles and see her career dramatized in the 1983 film, *Heart Like a Wheel*.

That Milton's historic ties to motorsports was featured by the hall of fame's inaugural class was not a surprise to the Milton Historical Society's Lou Mossey. According to the local historian, Milton had once had a reputation as a racing community, boasting tracks like the Milton Speedway and the Catamount Stadium that once drew audiences to the Chittenden County town.

An exhibit in the Milton Historical Society's museum dedicated to automobile racing remains one of the museum's most popular, according to Mossey, and companies like Vermont SportsCar, which retrofits and builds racing cars in a Catamount Industrial Park facility for use in rallycross racing and serves as the home factory for Subaru Motorsports USA, have helped keep some of the community's racing ties alive.

"We have a reputation for being a racing town," Mossey told *The Islander* during a recent historical society gathering sponsored by the Milton Historical Society, "and we're proud of it."

Organizers announced the Vermont Motorsports Hall of Fame's inaugural class last month during the Vermont Motorsports Expo in White River Junction. An induction ceremony is expected later this year.

According to a press release from the Vermont Motorsports Hall of Fame, the organization was created "to preserve the history of automotive sports and motorized competition in the Green Mountain State" and honor "those who have been essential to the success, longevity and enjoyment of the sport" while raising awareness for motorsports in Vermont.

"After more than a year of planning, discussion and preparation, it's exciting to finally announce our first group of honorees," the Vermont Motorsports Hall of Fame's president, Justin St. Louis, said in a statement. "While the decision-making process will certainly become more difficult in coming years, the members of this inaugural class were essentially 'no brainers.'"

"Each and every one was a pioneer in Vermont motorsports," St. Louis's statement continued, "and we are thrilled to finally give them the recognition they deserve."

FEAR & KNIT answer



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

7	5	3	9	6	2	4	8	1
8	4	9	3	5	1	6	7	2
1	2	6	4	8	7	5	9	3
9	8	2	1	7	4	3	6	5
4	7	1	6	3	5	8	2	9
3	6	5	2	9	8	7	1	4
2	3	4	8	1	6	9	5	7
5	9	8	7	2	3	1	4	6
6	1	7	5	4	9	2	3	8

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

DUBAI	FIB	OPS
VSIGN	ARE	HEE
ROGET	CANTATA	
MERITS	WRIT	
LEA	ADO	MEATS
AMMO	ERODE	
BIANCA	SITARS	
CULPA	SLOT	
FLOAT	EKE	ICY
EARL	SCARAB	
TRALALA	ATARI	
ACT	BAN	SOBER
SHE	CVS	ENATE

Body pulled from icy Lake Champlain identified as Plattsburgh, N.Y. area man

By MIKE DONOGHUE
Islander Staff Writer

SOUTH HERO — A Plattsburgh, N.Y. area man has been identified as the man found floating off Kibbe Point in Lake Champlain on Easter, the Vermont State Police said.

Silas W. Smith, 39, was spotted shortly after noon near a breakwater or retaining wall, according to Grand Isle County Sheriff Ray Allen, the first law enforcement officer to respond.

Allen said he was asked to bring a department drone to fly over the area to help with the recovery.

A homeowner made the initial report and volunteer firefighters from South Hero and Grand Isle, wearing ice rescue suits, were able to recover the body from the chilly water, officials said.

State police were called in to investigate the untimely death, Allen said.

State police uniform troopers and detectives responded along with South Hero Rescue.

Grand Isle County State's Attorney Doug DiSabito worked with investigators and ordered an autopsy.

Smith's identity was confirmed following an autopsy on Monday by the office of Vermont's Chief Medical Examiner.

The cause and manner of Smith's death are pending further investigation and testing, including toxicology, police said.

State Police said they had no evidence to indicate the death is suspicious, but did not elaborate.

They did not say the last time Smith had been seen or if anybody had reported him missing.

State police asked anyone who might have seen Smith between Saturday into Sunday in the Lake Champlain Islands, especially in South Hero, to call the local barracks in St. Albans at 802-524-5993.

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2025 HOME SCHEDULE

Donaldson Park, 36 Donaldson Rd,
Grand Isle

Weekday games 6 p.m.

Saturday games 10 a.m. or 1 p.m.

May 3: Softball Minors

May 6: Baseball Minors, Softball Minors

May 7: Baseball Majors

May 8: Baseball Minors

May 9: Baseball Minors

May 10: Baseball Minors

May 13: Baseball and Softball Minors
(interleague games)

May 15: Baseball Minors, Softball Minors

May 16: Baseball Majors

May 17: Baseball Minors, Softball Minors TBD

May 20: Baseball and Softball Minors

May 21: Baseball Majors

May 22: Softball Minors

May 27: Minors Baseball

May 29: Baseball and Softball Minors

May 30: Baseball Majors

May 31: Baseball and Softball Minors

June 3: Baseball and Softball Minors

June 5: Baseball Minors

June 6: Softball Minors

June 8: League Celebration 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

YOGI season kicks off next week

By Elaine Perry

GRAND ISLE: The Youth Organization of Grand Isle Little League (YOGI) is gearing up for the 2025 season, which will have over 150 participants ages 4-12 representing the 4 towns within the district.

This year will see 5 Tee Ball teams, 4 Coach Pitch teams, 2 Minors Softball teams, 2 Minors Baseball teams, and 1 Majors Baseball team. Practices are well underway for both Majors and Minors teams, with Majors planning to host Waitsfield for an early season scrimmage on April 30.

Dedicated volunteers readied both of the fields at the annual field clean-up day on April 12.

The first home games are as follows: Majors baseball Wednesday May 7, Minors baseball (Coach Perry) Saturday May 10, Minors baseball (Coach Foster) Tuesday May 6, with Minors softball (Coach Mahar) Saturday May 3, and Minors softball (Coach Degree) Tuesday May 6.

Practices begin for both Coach Pitch and Tee-Ball divisions starting the week of April 28, with games starting the week of May 12. Tee-Ball will split time between Folsom and Grand Isle Schools, with Coach Pitch seeing action at both Grand Isle School and Donaldson Park.

Majors Baseball with solid outing in first scrimmage

By Elaine Perry

Last Thursday evening, the YOGI Majors Baseball team outlasted the Swanton Majors team by an unofficial score of 15-7 at Raleigh Field.

Four pitchers combined for the win in the early season outing, with multiple players scoring big hits, including an in the park home run by Keaton Hamblett in the second inning, and a Grand Slam clearing the centerfield fence by Weston Allen in the third.

Major's next scheduled game will be a home scrimmage against Waitsfield on April 30, 5:30 p.m. at Donaldson Field.



Bentley Stanhope holding the runner at third.
Photo courtesy of Lindsey Stanhope.



Jaxon Wright hitting a double.
Photo courtesy of Brittany Baker.



**SOUTH HERO CEMETERY COMMISSION
Invitation to Bid**

The South Hero Cemetery Commission is accepting bids for the fiscal year July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026. This includes mowing, trimming, fall and spring leaf pickup. The South Hero Cemetery is located on South Street.

Please submit your bids to cemeterysouthhero@gmail.com or drop off at the Town Office, Attn: Town Administrator, 333 Route 2, by Thursday, May 14, 2025 before 5:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
From April 21 – May 23**

The Town of North Hero water distribution flushing.

The North Hero Water Department conducts a comprehensive water line flushing program throughout the Town. This process rapidly moves water through the Town's water piping system to scour the inside of the water lines. Flushing is a common practice to improve water quality and maintain the water distribution system. Minerals and other materials that accumulate in the lines are removed by flushing. This material is not harmful but can cause discolored water.

Customers may notice discolored water or a change in water pressure when flushing is conducted in their area. When flushing is taking place, we recommend that customers check to ensure their tap water is running clear before using it for drinking, cooking, or clothes washing. Customers who experience some coloring or sediment in their water should run the cold water faucet for a short time. This should clear up any discolored water.

If you have any questions, call the water plant at 372-6258 or email at watersystem@northherovt.com.

**VILLAGE OF ALBURGH
ANNUAL MEETING
WARNING**

The legal voters of the Village of Alburgh are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Alburgh Municipal Building, in said Village of Alburgh, on Tuesday evening May 6, 2025 at 7:30 pm. to transact the following business:

Article 1: To elect the remaining officers, namely two trustees to serve a term of 4 years to fill two vacancies, and a trustee to serve a term of 5 years, an auditor to serve a term of three years and a delinquent tax collector for one year.

Article 2: To receive and act upon the reports of the various village officers.

Article 3: To see if the voters of the Village of Alburgh will vote to raise the sum of \$29,386.32 by taxation, to be used for general village purposes to include streetlights.

Article 4: To see if the voters of the Village of Alburgh will vote to authorize the trustees to borrow money in anticipation of taxes to pay current expenses of the Village of Alburgh.

Article 5: To see if the voters of the Village of Alburgh will vote to pay taxes to the village treasurer heretofore.

Article 6: To see if the voters of the Village of Alburgh will vote to donate the sum of \$700.00 towards the support of the Alburgh Public Library.

Article 7: To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Dated at Alburgh, Vermont this 8th day of April A.D. 2025.

- /s/ Cheryl Dunn, Village Clerk/Treasurer
- /s/Herbert Durham, Chairperson
- /s/ Heath Bovat
- /s/ Walter Kane
- /s/ Aidan Poquette
- /s/ Robert Savage

**ALBURGH TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICIAL WARNING
ANNUAL MEETING**

The legal voters of the Alburgh Town School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Alburgh Town Office, on Tuesday May 6th, 2025. Polls open between the hours of 7:00 A.M and 7:00 P.M. to vote by Australian ballot of the following articles.

ARTICLE 1. Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$8,060,323 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Alburgh School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$13,103 which is 7.98% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year

- /s/ Whitney Maxham, Chair
- /s/ Jenn Fenn, Vice Chair
- /s/ Luke Richter, Clerk
- /s/ Heather Darby
- /s/ Cheryl Dunn

*The Alburgh School board will hold an informational meeting on Monday, May 5th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m at the Alburgh Community Education Center. Remote connection: meet.google.com/nqn-eoiz-wkt

Recorded and Posted at Alburgh, VT this 9th day of April, 2025.

ATTEST: /s/ Danielle James Choiniere, Clerk

**TOWN OF SOUTH HERO
Invitation to Bid**

The Town of South Hero is currently accepting bids for a 1-year contract (7/1/25-6/30/26) for mowing & trimming the following town properties:

- Town Office
- Town Garage
- So. Hero White Meeting House & adjacent Cabin lawn
- Bicentennial Museum

Bids must be sealed and received at the Town Office located at 333 Route 2 or mailed to PO Box 175, South Hero, VT 05486 by 5:00 p.m. on May 14, 2025. Bids will be opened at the Selectboard meeting on May 26, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Proof of Insurance must accompany the bid. Please write Attn: Lawn Mowing Bids on the front of the envelope.

Any questions regarding this bid please contact the Town Administrator at 802-372-5552 x4.

The Town of South Hero reserves the right to accept or reject all bids.

**Official Warning Of
Annual Meeting Of
Grand Isle Fire District #4**

The legal voters of the Grand Isle Fire District #4, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Grand Isle Fire District #4 Pump House at 204 West Shore Road, Grand Isle, Vt. on Monday May 12, 2024 at 6:30 P.M., to transact the following business.

1.) To elect members of the Prudential Committee to fill the following positions:

- A. One (1) Three Year Term
- B. One (2) Two Year Term

CURRENT PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

- MEMBERS:
Ilene Morgan, TERM 3 Yr.,
DATE CURRENT TERM EXPIRES: May, 2025.
Glenn Patno, TERM 2 Yr.,
DATE CURRENT TERM EXPIRES: May, 2025.

NOTICE: NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE WILL BE RECEIVED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

- (Ilene Morgan is seeking re-election)
- (Glenn Patno is seeking re-election)

- 2.) To review and approve the Treasurer's Report.
- 3.) To receive a report from the Chairman.
- 4.) To transact such other business as may legally come before the meeting.

Adopted and approved at a meeting of the Prudential Committee of Grand Isle Fire District #4, held on April 14, 2025.

Received for record and recorded in the records of the Clerk of the Grand Isle Fire District #4 on April 15, 2025 and in the Office of the Grand Isle Town Clerk on April 15, 2025.

Dated at Grand Isle, Vermont: April 15, 2025.
Esther F. Blow
Clerk/Treasurer
Grand Isle Fire District #4

**SOUTH HERO
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

The South Hero Development Review Board will hold a Public Hearing at their 7:00 p.m. meeting on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, to act on the following:

- Applicant & Landowner: Jon Quackenbush/Pest Pro
- Hearing Type: Amendment to Site Plan
- App. No.: 25-58-RT238
- Proposed: Enlarged parking lot
- Location: 238 US RT 2
- Date of Notice: April 24, 2025

This will be the first hearing of the evening.

*This hearing will be held in-person at the Town Office. There is a Zoom option: this is the sign-in: 833 3992 8027 – Use Passcode 838373

Participation by an interested person in this hearing, either through oral or written testimony, evidence, or a statement of concern related to the subject, is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeal.

**NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL MEETING
LARGE FARM CONSTRUCTION
PERMIT APPLICATION**

Notice is hereby provided that Dwight Bullis of Savage View Farm LLC in the town of Grand Isle, Vermont has applied to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for a Large Farm Construction Permit.

Savage View Farm LLC is proposing the following changes at their farm, located at 216 US Route 2:

- Construction of animal housing

An informational meeting will be held by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets on May 1, 2025 at 9:00 AM. The meeting will be held at Grand Isle Town Office located at 9 Hyde Road, Grand Isle, VT 05458.

The purpose of the public informational meeting shall be to provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the proposed project.

The public comment period regarding the application closes five business days after the meeting date mentioned above. All comments must be submitted by close of business on May 8, 2025. The request for any application materials is considered a public record request. All inquires or comments regarding the application or the meeting may be submitted to Brittany Cole at Brittany.Cole@vermont.gov

**Vermont Agency of Transportation
Public Notice
Herbicide Spraying**

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has requested from the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, a permit to apply the following herbicides: Garlon 4 ULTRA, Garlon 3A, Oust Extra, Escort, Krenite S, Polaris, and Roundup Custom to control unwanted vegetation along all State highways. Operations are authorized to start approximately May 15th, 2025, but will not begin until the appropriate notification requirements are completed. The application will be made by certified pesticide applicators using mechanically controlled equipment and hand-controlled methods. The methods employed are intended to avoid or eliminate drift. Residents along the rights-of-way (ROW) are encouraged to protect sensitive environments or water supplies within 100 feet of the ROW limits, and to avoid entering the ROW as spray trucks pass and until products dry. Residents should notify VTrans of the existence of any water supplies within 100 feet of the State's ROW. Citizens wishing to inform VTrans are urged to contact the nearest District Transportation Administrator as follows: District 1 - Bennington - (802) 447-2790, District 2 - Dummerston - (802) 254-5011, District 3 - Mendon - (802) 786-5826. District 4 - White River Junction - (802) 295-8888, District 5 - Colchester - (802) 655-1580, District 6 - Berlin - (802)-917-2879, District 7 - St. Johnsbury - (802) 748-6670, District 8 - St. Albans - (802) 524-5926, District 9 - Derby - (802) 334-7934. The contact person at the State Highway Department Headquarters is Brandon Garretto, Vegetation Management Admin, 2178 Airport Rd, Dill Bldg Unit A, Barre, VT 05641 or brandon.garretto@vermont.gov. Contact can also be made using the VTrans Internet Web page at https://vtrans.vermont.gov/operations.

The appropriate place to contact with comments other than VTrans is the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management Division at 116 State Street Montpelier, VT 05620, 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 828-1732. The link to their web page that would describe the VTrans herbicide application permit request can be found at https://agriculture.vermont.gov/

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LEGAL Notices

STATE OF VERMONT
 SUPERIOR COURT - PROBATE DIVISION
 GRAND ISLE UNIT
 DOCKET NO. 25-PR-01417
 IN RE ESTATE OF: SUSAN BLAIR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the creditors of SUSAN BLAIR late of Alburgh, Vermont:

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: April 16, 2025
 /s/ Jennifer Blair Butler
 74 State Street
 Rouses Point, NY 12979

Name of Publication: The Islander
 Date of first publication: April 24, 2025
 Date of second publication: May 1, 2025

Name and Address of Court:
 Grand Isle Probate Court
 PO Box 7
 North Hero, VT 05474



United Methodist Church
 North Hero ~ Grand Isle ~ Isle La Motte

WORSHIP SERVICES
 9:00 a.m. North Hero - 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
 9:00 a.m. Grand Isle - 2nd & 4th Sundays
 11:00 a.m. Isle La Motte - every Sunday

Rev. Mathew J. Enzler "Pastor Matt"
Jacqueline Hughes, Lay Leader
 ChamplainIslandsUMCWorship@gmail.com
 Contact: 406-531-5985

GOD'S LITTLE BROWN CHURCH
 A non-denominational
 GCMF affiliated Church

CORNER ROUTE 2 AND ROUTE 129
 SOUTH ALBURGH, VERMONT 05440
 REV. C. ANDREW CHRYSLER, PASTOR
 (802)782-9384 WWW.GLBCVT.ORG

"God's Word has the answer"
 WORSHIP.....SUNDAY 10:00 AM
 BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER-WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM

UNION BIBLE CHURCH
 Main St., Route 2, Alburgh, VT
 Dr. John C. Kehoe, Pastor
 796-3055

Independent—Bible Believing—Gospel Preaching
 SUNDAY School & Bible Study 9:30AM
 SUNDAY Worship 10:30AM
 WEDNESDAY Prayer Mtg. & Bible Study 6:30PM
 WEDNESDAY Children's Bible Club 6:30PM
 "A Friendly and Joyful Welcome Awaits You"
 Nursery Provided at all Services
 website: www.unionbiblechurch.org

Obituary

EARLE WILLIAM COLLINS

ALBURGH
 – Earle William Collins, age 95, passed away peacefully on Monday, April 21, 2025 at the Northwestern Medical Center in St. Albans.



Earle was born at home on Oct. 20, 1929, to William and Ella (Lake) Collins in Alburgh Springs. He graduated from Alburgh High School and served in the United States Army from 1951 to 1953.

He married Grace Bohannon on July 1, 1961, and together they ran a successful farm in Alburgh Springs. He also worked many years for the railroad. After retirement, they enjoyed travelling and visiting family.

He is survived by his two sisters, Ann Garrard of Plattsburgh, NY, and Audrey Poquette of Swanton. He was predeceased by his beloved wife Grace and his brother Lloyd Collins. He is survived by many nieces and nephews as well cousins in Canada and Michigan.



Family and friends are invited to Earle's life celebration to include a visitation on Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. with a funeral service following at 2 p.m. at the Goss Life Celebration Home, 89 Grand Ave., Swanton, VT 05488. Interment to follow at Bush Cemetery.

Earle's family would like to thank the dedicated people at Franklin County Rehab for their loving care of him.

Condolences, photos and favorite memories may be shared through www.gossfs.com

To place an obituary
 contact **The Islander** at
 802-372-5600 or email
 islander@vermontislander.com

Our Lady of the Lake Parish
 Serving the churches of Alburgh, Grand Isle,
 Isle La Motte & South Hero
 Fr. Joseph Sanderson

MASS SCHEDULE
 St. Rose of Lima, South Hero-
 Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
 St. Joseph, Grand Isle-
 Sunday: 9:00 a.m.
 St. Amadeus Parish, Alburgh-
 Sunday: 11:00 a.m.
 802-796-3481
 Website: <https://ourladyofthelake.vermontcatholic.org/>

GEORGE EDWARD STEVENS

MILTON -
 George Edward Stevens, longtime Milton resident, born on Dec. 10, 1937, in Putnamville, departed this life on March 13, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, community service, and deep connections. His journey through life was marked by his dedication to family, friends, and his community.



George spent many years working with horses and as a farm hand before embarking on a remarkable 37-year career as a long-distance truck driver with Gero Bros Moving and then Action Movers, during which he traveled extensively across 48 states and much of Quebec. His adventures on the road were filled with stories of the people he met and the places he visited, reflecting his open heart and curiosity about the world around him.

In addition to his professional endeavors, George was a dedicated member of the St. Ann Church, where he was a proud parishioner and a fourth-degree Knight of Columbus for 35 years. His faith and commitment to service extended beyond religious duties, as he was known for his generosity and willingness to lend a hand to those in need.

Outside of his work and community commitments, George enjoyed the simple pleasures of life, such as playing cards and camping at Abel Mountain Campground in Braintree. These hobbies brought him joy and allowed him to forge timeless memories with friends and family.

George was preceded in death by his loving wife, Sheila Stevens; his father, Clyde Stevens; his mother, Linnie Pierson Stevens; and his brother, William Stevens. He is survived by his nephew, Lee Stevens; close friends, Kevin and Joanne Holcomb; childhood friend, Malcolm Fielder; high school friend, Jim White; many cousins and many people who held a special place in his heart.

Friends and family are invited to pay their respects during visitation at the Minor Funeral and Cremation Center in Milton on April 25, 2025, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. A funeral mass will follow on April 26, 2025, at St. Ann Church at 11 a.m., providing an opportunity to honor and celebrate George's life and the many ways he touched the lives of those around him. Graveside Service at St. Ann Cemetery to immediately follow.

George Edward Stevens will be remembered for his unwavering spirit, kindness, his warm, strong hugs, and the indelible impact he made in the lives of many. His memory will surely live on in the hearts of all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Congregational Church of South Hero, U.C.C.
Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.
 Nursery for ages 5 & under • Sunday School
 Watch live at <https://tinyurl.com/CCSHLive>
*No matter who you are,
 or where you are on life's journey
 You are welcome here*
 Pastor: Rev. Cordelia Burpee
 24 South St. South Hero, VT 05486
 Tel: 802-372-4962 • ccshvt@gmail.com
 Office hours M-F 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



2025 Green Up Day:

ALBURGH

Bags are available at the town clerk's office. Green Up bags can be left on the side of the road for pickup, brought to the transfer station, or placed in the town's 1-ton pickup parked in the fire department parking lot.

Information: Danielle James Choiniere, 802-796-3468 or dchoiniere@alburghvt.org

ISLE LA MOTTE

ILMCO is asking locals to meet at the town's offices, 42 School Street Extension, at 8:30 a.m. for road clean up assignments, Green Up Day trash bags, gloves, pick up sticks and safety vests. Enjoy a free breakfast of donuts and homemade breakfast sandwiches from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Information: Alex Montagne, 831-212-9481 or vermontislandgirl@gmail.com

MILTON

Bags are available at the Milton Municipal Building from April 24 through May 2 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers are asked to highlight the areas they will be cleaning on the town's Green Up map. The Milton Conservation Commission will be giving out free coffee, hot chocolate, donuts, giant pumpkin seeds for the Giant Pumpkin Growing Contest, as well as trail brochures and extra Green Up bags from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Bombardier Park East's pavilion. Chat with the Conservation Commission and learn all about Milton's trails and natural areas.

Information: Recreation Director, 802-893-4922, recreation@miltonvt.gov

NORTH HERO

Bags and grabbers to borrow are available in the Library, in a large black/yellow tub behind the Community Hall. Hero's Welcome and Harborside Harvest Market also have bags. Contact your neighborhood organizer to prevent duplicating routes: South End Organizer, Jeanne Metherall, jeanne_metherall@comcast.net; North Hero Village Organizer, Michael Clasen, michaelclasen3@gmail.com; Savage Point Organizer, Tim Bourne, bourne.tim@gmail.com; North of Block House Point, Berney Skutel, bskutel@gmail.com; North of Holiday Point, Bonnie Codey, bonniecody@gmail.com

SOUTH HERO

Green Up Day activities in South Hero are coordinated by South Hero's Conservation Commission. Email southherocc@gmail.com if you want to help. Bags are supplied and bag pickup is arranged. At this time, volunteers are signed up for litter pickup on all the town's roads except: Ferry Rd (Eagle Camp Rd to W Shore Rd), Hall Rd, Rte 2 (Town Line Rd to Lombard Ln), Rte 2 Park & Ride, Rte 2 (Community Ln to Kibbe Point Rd).

The South Hero Land Trust will host a free BBQ for volunteers between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Folsom School.

Milton celebrates start of spring with annual Easter egg hunt

By ISLANDER STAFF

MILTON – The holiday spirit hopped into Milton this weekend as the town's annual Easter egg hunt returned to Bombardier Park. Organized by the Milton Recreation Department, the event filled Bombardier Park with more than 3,000 Easter eggs with candy and other prizes "for an egg-stremely fun time celebrating the start of spring." Photos by Steve LaMonda, *Islander* Correspondent.



Local senior center revives Alburgh, Isle La Motte Easter egg hunt

By ISLANDER STAFF

ALBURGH – An Easter tradition came back to Alburgh this weekend. Revived by the Islands in the Sun Senior Center with support from several Alburgh businesses and local organizations, this weekend's returning Easter egg hunt for families from Alburgh and Isle La Motte welcomed children to search the Terry Tatro Bicentennial Park for eggs. Photos by Michael Frett, *Islander* Staff Writer, and Willie Burbank, *Islands in the Sun*.



Cathy Tatro and Joanne Deo, volunteers from the Islands in the Sun Senior Center, help prepare Easter baskets for this weekend's returning Alburgh and Isle La Motte Easter egg hunt. Photo by Michael Frett.



The Easter Bunny greets children participating in this weekend's Easter egg hunt at the Islands in the Sun Senior Center and the nearby Terry Tatro Bicentennial Park. Photo courtesy of Willie Burbank, Islands in the Sun Senior Center.

Screening of "Lost Nation" at North Hero Community Hall

By Caroline Korejko, North Hero Library Director

NORTH HERO - "Lost Nation", a Revolutionary War-era action drama set in the early upstart Republic of Vermont stars Irish actor Kevin Ryan ("Copper," Harry Wild") as Vermont founding father and rebel schemer, Ethan Allen, who leads resistance to New Yorker land claims, launches an ill-fated attack on British forces in Montreal, and leads invasions by his Green Mountain Boys into Yorker strongholds of Guilford and Brattleboro. A parallel and intersecting story features Kenyan actress Eva Ndachi ("Beautifully Broken") as Lucy Terry Prince, whose poem, "Bars Fight," about the 1746 Deerfield Massacre, is the first known work of African American literature.

A free screening of "Lost Nation," will be shown in North Hero at the Community Hall on Saturday, April 26 at 2 p.m. followed by a question-and-answer session with film director Jay Craven.

"Lost Nation" is Craven's 10th feature film. His work has shown at Sundance, Lincoln Center, The Smithsonian, La Cinémathèque Française, Cinemateca Nacional de Venezuela, Constitutional Court of Johannesburg, and more than 500 cities and towns across the U.S. - also 53 countries. His 1993 film, "Where the Rivers Flow North" was a finalist for Critics Week at the Cannes International Film Festival.

Location: 3483 U.S. 2, North Hero

SHOREMASTER DOCKS & BOAT LIFTS 2024 PRICING - SPRING 2025 DELIVERY

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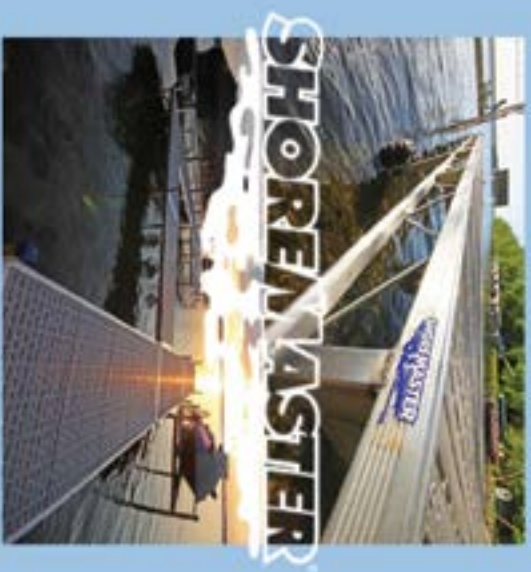
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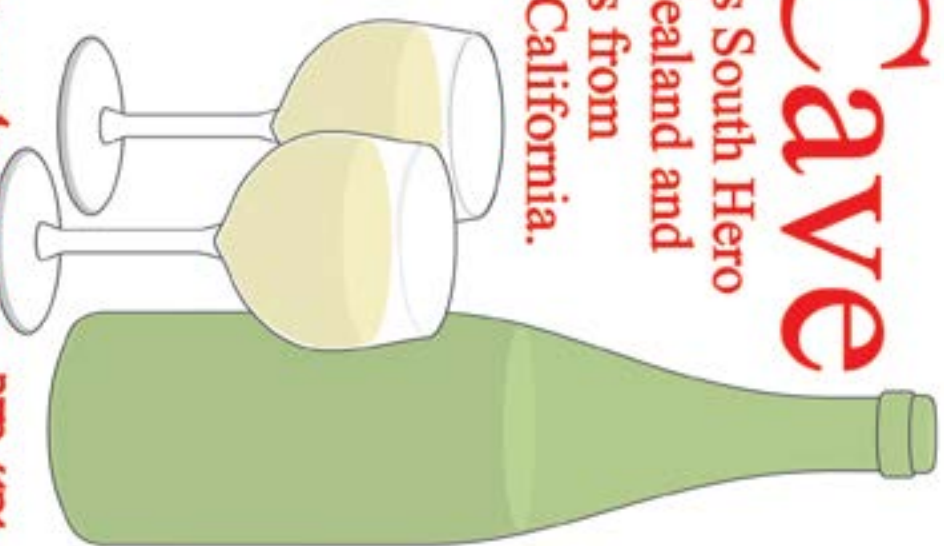
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Vol. LI No. 17

Thursday

April 24, 2025



Photo by Emily E. Mank, Isle La Motte.

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