

# Community

Achievements ■ Milestones ■ News

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## AROUND TOWN

### MSJ/RHS '77

Class of 1977 40th Reunion begins at 5 p.m. Saturday, July 22, and features cocktails, buffet dinner and dancing for \$40 per person; for location, call Patti McNeil 345-6833 or Patty Sabotka 236-7756.

### State fair contest

The Vermont State Fair Museum is holding a writing contest this year with the theme, "My Favorite Memory of the Rutland/Vermont State Fair."

The contest is open to all ages and special awards for Best of Show will be given in each age category: Adults, over age 18; Juveniles ages 15-17; ages 11-14; age 10 and under who may tell their story to an adult who can type it for them.

These special awards will be the Belden Family Memorial Award, in memory of Joseph Belden and his wife, Lenora. He worked at the fair for more than 70 years, 33 of which as superintendent of the Dog and Pet Department where she also worked for 33 years as assistant superintendent and was best known as "The Cat Lady."

Entries must be submitted by Aug. 8, delivered to the Vermont State Fair office, 175 South Main St. in Rutland, or mailed to Vermont State Fair, P.O. Box 10, Rutland, VT 05702.

For more information, rules and entry form, visit the fair office or go to [www.vermont-statefair.org](http://www.vermont-statefair.org).

### Library program

**WELLS** — Wells Village Library Summer Program, "Build a Better World," for preschool and elementary students, presents science- and literacy-based themes with hands-on learning, as well as book suggestions and ideas for parents.

Remaining events take place from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the library, 5 East Wells Road in Wells, as follows:

Friday, July 21 — 3 p.m. start and sign-up required for drawing comic book characters with Ericc Gramm.

Thursday, Aug. 3 — Fold a paper house.

Thursday, Aug. 10 — Letters and numbers scavenger hunt.

Thursday, Aug. 17 — Animal Gross Out, hot dogs and chips served, barbecue on the Town Green.

Note: There are no bathroom facilities.

For more information, call 645-0611 or visit [wellslibrary.com](http://wellslibrary.com).

### Comic book camp

**WESTON** — As part of the "Build a Better World!" Vermont Department of Libraries Summer Reading Program, Wilder Memorial Library will host a three-day Comic Art & Illustrated Book Camp for

children age 7 and above from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, Aug. 1-3, at the library, 24 Lawrence Hill Road in Weston.

The camp is free, but pre-registration is required by email to [director@wilderlibrary.org](mailto:director@wilderlibrary.org) or call 824-4307.

### Water safety

Vermont's lakes and rivers provide many opportunities to cool off and enjoy swimming among the state's natural beauty. It's important to remember that even a seemingly benign swimming hole can present hazards. The conditions of many familiar spots on rivers are different from past years.

"Heavy rain this summer has caused our waterways to rise and currents to increase, so it's even more important for all to be alert and careful as they enjoy our lakes, ponds and rivers this summer," said Tom Anderson, the state's public safety commissioner.

The most basic safety steps is to never swim alone, whether you are in a natural waterway or a swimming pool. If one of you encounters trouble, the other can help if it is safe to do so, or get additional help.

Other considerations when venturing to swimming holes include:

— Be aware of your surroundings, including the current and location of rocks.

— Beware of slippery rocks. Many accidents at swimming holes are caused by falls from slippery rocks.

— Know the conditions. Has it rained recently and has it influenced the current?

— Swim sober. Drugs and alcohol can dull your senses, impair your judgement, and slow response time.

— Be realistic about your abilities. Understand your strength, abilities, and shortcomings as a swimmer.



## Best seat in the house

STAFF PHOTOS  
BY ROBERT LAYMAN

**A**t top, Jade Rivers, left, works with instructor Nora Valdez on sanding a piece of Indiana limestone for The Carving Studio & Sculpture Center's annual Stone Bench Project. At right, Emily Wigmore works on sketching out lines before working on the stone that will hold the bench's plaque. Led by Valdez, a master sculptor, teens can explore the art of stone carving through a free two-week seminar. This is the ninth bench The Carving Studio has produced and will be installed at the Castleton Town Hall later this summer.



## STUDENT NEWS

Vanessa Brown and Ross Momaney, both of Brattleboro, were named to the spring 2017 dean's list at the University of Maine at Farmington.

Victoria Breese, of Mendon, and Claire Olsen, of Rutland, were named to the dean's list for the 2016-17 second semester at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts.

## BIRTHS

### Porter Medical Center

A girl, Lorelei Kathryn-Grace Walker, was born July 2, 2017, to Lindsey (Watrous) and Matthew Walker, of Rutland City.



PROVIDED PHOTO  
**Chase Stokes, of Ferrisburgh, holds the new Vermont state record carp he caught while fishing the Otter Creek in April.**

## Fishing records set

Vermont Fish & Wildlife biologists certified two fish caught in Lake Champlain tributaries earlier this year, as new Vermont state records.

A new state record carp, weighing 33.25 pounds and measuring 40 inches in length, was caught in Otter Creek in the town of Paton in April by Ferrisburgh angler Chase Stokes. The fish had a total girth of 26.5 inches at its widest point.

A new state record redhorse sucker has also been certified. Mike Elwood of Burlington landed the fish in the Winoski River in the town of Colchester in May. It weighed 9.96 pounds, measured 29 inches in length and had a total girth of 18 inches.

The former record carp weighed 33 pounds and measured 35 inches in length, while the previous record redhorse sucker weighed 9 pounds and measured 27.5 inches in length.

For more information, visit [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

## TALKING PICTURES

Rick Skiba



PHOTOS BY RH ALCOTT

Fifty years ago, in 1967, the No. 1 bestselling record album in the country was "Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band." Rick Skiba, of Howlin' Mouse Records in Rutland, remains a fan. With touring as a live band behind them, The Beatles had as much time as they wanted to spend in the

studio. They spent a year on "Sergeant Pepper's." Skiba says Paul McCartney's inspirations that year were not only the Beach Boys' album "Pet Sounds," but Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention as well. Skiba says, "Paul claimed that 'Sergeant Pepper's' was The Beatles' 'Freak Out.'"

The album has been remastered and re-released in the full range of formats for a new generation. To watch a video with Skiba celebrating the endurance of Beatlemania into the 21st century and 50 years of the group's psychedelic concept album, visit [bit.ly/0721Talkpix](http://bit.ly/0721Talkpix)