



OFFICIAL PROGRAM

*A Special Publication of
the Addison Independent*



**ADDISON COUNTY
FAIR & FIELD DAYS**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8 - SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2023



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outside and
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INSIDE

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Welcome

The Addison County Fair & Field Days Board extends a cordial invitation to you, and your friends and family to this year's Addison County Fair & Field Days on Aug. 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. It is our pleasure to have you, our guests to the annual county fair, here enjoying a good time. And it is a pleasure, too, to give area citizens the opportunity to showcase the quality products which they have produced. We extend our sincere appreciation to all who have exhibited in the past, and look forward to working with new, as well as past exhibitors, during our fair. And we thank all our visitors who make the fair complete.

Now, go have some fun!

Addison County Fair & Field Days, Inc.

New Haven,VT 05742

802-545-2557 (Phone) 802-329-2113 (Fax)

FieldDays@gmavt.net

Visit us at AddisonCountyFieldDays.com

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About this Field Days Program

An agricultural fair like the Addison County Fair & Field Days looks to the past and this area's roots in the soil — literally and figuratively. We don't just talk about our agricultural roots, we live them. Growing food, shearing sheep, milking cows — those are all things we do day in and day out in this part of New England. Agriculture is an integral part of Addison County life and economy, and it is also a lot of fun.

At Field Days we celebrate that essential part of the Vermont character every year. Tens of thousands of people from the Champlain Valley and beyond come to the fair every year to celebrate their agricultural roots — or to get back to those roots.

The best farmers, sugarmakers, cooks, bakers and all kinds of craftmakers compete for bragging rights — as do those brave men and women who get behind the wheel in the demolition derby and the tractor pull (not to mention the folks who work with the powerful draft horses). And don't forget Wednesday's skillet toss. More often than not, the winners turn out to be our neighbors, or the folks down the road who we see at the grocery store and at our kids' school concerts.

Children with livestock of all kinds — cows, calves, sheep, lambs, rabbits and many sorts of fowl — work for weeks and months leading up to the fair, grooming their animals for show-ring competition. Adults compete for the coveted Leona Thompson Bowl. Younger crafters try to earn the Frances Monroe Youth Award.

Contestants young and old — and every age between — gather fruits and vegetables from the garden and sugar and spices from the pantry; then cook them up into a smorgasbord of jams, pickles, cakes and cookies for competitions in the Food Department.

There are exhibits, pulls (tractor, truck, horse, oxen and pedal-tractor), animal judging, horse shows, carnival food by the ton and plenty of midway rides.

Oh, and don't miss the armwrestling if you can help it. This booklet is designed to serve as a guide to Field Days. A complete schedule of events can be found as well as profiles of this year's entertainers.

There is plenty to see and do over the five days of the fair — Aug. 8-12. See it all!



Message to Superintendents

The *Addison Independent* will publish the results of as many Field Days competitions as we can get our hands on. Event superintendents should take their results to the Field Days office immediately after the events. Field Days staff will make copies and the *Independent* will publish the information as quickly as possible.

Thank you!



FIELD DAYS RESULTS

LOOK FOR COVERAGE FROM THIS YEAR'S ADDISON COUNTY FAIR & FIELD DAYS IN THE *ADDISON INDEPENDENT*.

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Cover photo by Steve James/Addison Independent

2023 Admission

Your ticket price includes parking, gate admission, re-admission, grandstands, all Field Days shows & exhibits. Ticket office opens at 7:30 a.m.

ADULTS (ages 12 and over)

Tuesday – Saturday Daily Admission \$13

SEASON PASS \$45

SENIOR DISCOUNT Free on Tuesday
with Green Mountain Passport. (*Green Mtn Passports can
be purchased at your local Town Clerk's office*)

CHILDREN (ages 6-11)

Daily Admission \$5

SEASON PASS \$15

CHILDREN (5 years and under)..... FREE all days

RIDE BRACELET – Pay one price for all the rides

The Dreamland Amusements midway is open every day of Field Days from noon to midnight. Buy a \$25 bracelet and it is good for rides all day. Otherwise there is a price for each individual ride.



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2023 Dedication

This year is the 75th anniversary of Addison County Fair and Field Days. For our anniversary year dedication, we are dedicating this year's fair to you, our fair goers! Field Days wouldn't be what it is if you didn't attend. Whether you go to the fair to watch someone in one of the many events, to get your favorite fair foods, or to see your friends and neighbors, you have a part in making Field Days the fun event that it is. Without you, our 4-H'ers have no one to show their hard work, our pullers and demo drivers have no crowd to cheer them on, our commercial vendors have no one to show their latest products, and our farmers have no one to share their best animals and biggest and best crops.



What would the midway be without kids, old and young, to ride the rides and play the games? What would the Children's Barnyard be without children to enjoy the animals? Who would listen to the bands or watch the entertainers if you didn't come to the fair? Who would appreciate the hard work knitting, sewing, gardening, crafting, baking and creating works of art and photography? Who would the antique enthusiasts tell the story of how it was done years ago?

You visit Field Days in sunny weather and rain. Not much can keep you away, and we love it! The more people visit, the better fair we can put on. We, the board of directors, our business manager, and grounds keeper, and many, many volunteers and financial supporters put on Addison County Fair and Field Days for you to enjoy! We appreciate you and dedicate this 75th fair to you! Come out and enjoy!



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Wonderful wool at the fair

By KATIE FUTTERMAN

The Twist O' Wool Guild, which debuted its first joint project at the Addison County Fair and Field Days in 1979, will be back again this year to display members' colorful work, equipment and their raw material.

Much to the dismay of those who passed by the tent last year and caught a glimpse of the colorful sweaters, shawls, baskets and more on display, the guild was not there to sell work. Instead, Christine Homer and other members were there to educate people on how wool gets processed.

One thing that was for sale, however, was an afghan, for which they sold raffle tickets at one dollar per ticket, and five dollars for six tickets.

"I mean, what a deal!" Homer said. "I can't imagine how many hundreds of hours are in this. It's a real work of love."

The members had divided the work of the afghan into little sections on which they each worked. The money raised from raffle tickets went toward educational programs.

Homer had previously spun and wove on traditional equipment while working at a living history farm. When she moved to Vermont in 1980 and saw people spinning at the fair, she said, "Oh, this is where I belong!"

"I can't imagine how many hundreds of hours are in this. It's a real work of love."

— Christine Homer

The guild had been organized just one year earlier by Eleanor Boutcher of Shoreham, Ellen Leone of Bristol, and Shelagh Smith of Monkton in May of 1979, according to the guild's website.

In 2022, the guild honored Smith by asking members to make a knitted piece to display using one of the many patterns she designed. The items were displayed at the fair.

"All the guild members sincerely appreciate her inspiration and mentorship over the years, Homer told the *Independent*.

Now, the guild has about 40 or 50 members, who range in involvement level, and meet regularly at the American Legion in Middlebury as well as connect through a member Facebook page. They also try to hold at least a couple workshops a year.

"It's a great group of people. Everybody is very friendly and encouraging of each other. We inspire each other to do more," Homer said.

Homer's favorite part is spinning.

"I like watching the colors if you get a roving that's got lots of colors, I love watching it twist together and feed into the spinning wheel," she said.

At the fair last year, Homer was also sorting through wool, along with members Kat Cyr and Katherine Knox.

The Vermont Sheep and Wool Association provides information on many of the sheep breeders and raisers in Vermont, and people can look it up and visit farms to get wool or attend spinning conferences. Homer looks forward to the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival in Tunbridge in October.

When the Twist O' Wool Guild first started, the only way to obtain wool was to buy a fleece,



AT THEIR Field Days exhibit in 2022, Twist O' Wool guild members Christine Homer, left, and Katherine Knox gather up raw wool that the guild procured through the Vermont Sheep Association. Sorting through it is the hardest part, before they get to move to knitting and spinning into beautiful pieces.

Independent photo/Katie Futterman

hopefully one that was cared for and clean.

Then the craftswomen would wash, dry and card the wool. At that time, they didn't have the drum carders that they do now, so they had to hand card everything with hand combs to straighten and clean the wool. As the years went by, the guild offered lots of workshops and

members learned new skills.

Homer highlighted the ease of getting involved. The guild has equipment, books and videos. People can borrow equipment, and they don't have to invest in all of the paraphernalia before they start.

To find out more about the guild, head online to twistwoolguild.weebly.com.

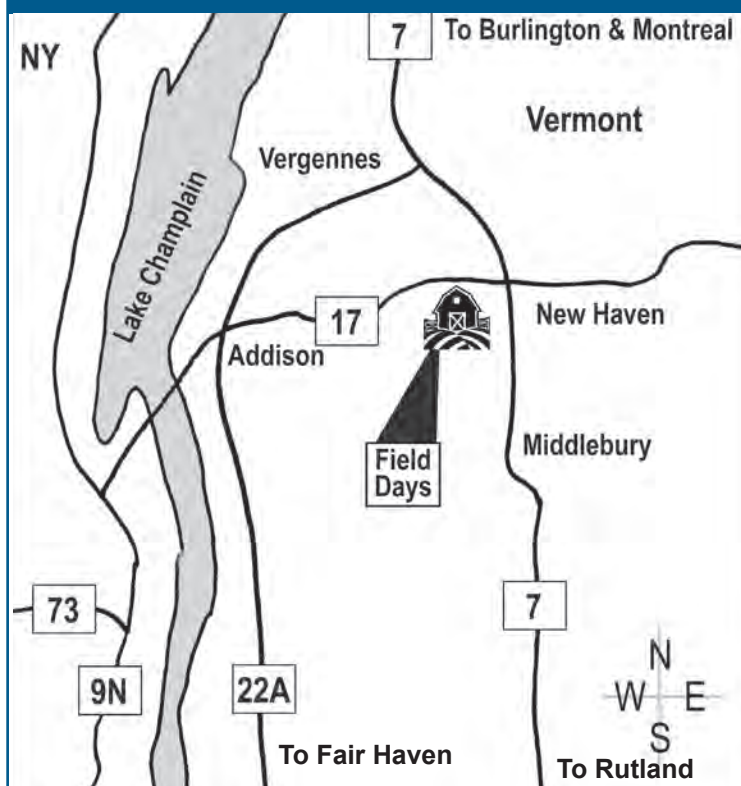


2023 Daily Activities

Please Note: Most exhibits will be removed on Saturday night at 10 p.m.

Children's Barnyard Open	10 a.m.-10 p.m.
4-H & Youth Building Open	10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Antique Equipment Building Open	10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Maple Sugar House Open	9 a.m.-9 p.m.
Twist O' Wool Guild Demos (Twist O' Wool Guild tent).....	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Forest Festival Exhibits & Demonstrations (forestry building)	10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Home & Garden Building Open with continuous craft demos	10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Lucien Paquette Exhibit Building Open...	10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Maple Products Demonstrations (maple sugar house)	Daily
Midway Open (approximately)	Noon-midnight
Milking Parlor Demonstrations	1 p.m.-4 p.m.

How to get to Field Days



**Tickets
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Middlebury Inn in Middlebury, Pratt's Store in

Bridport, the Field Days office

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Beginning Aug. 6th,

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Schedule of Events

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Opening Ceremony & Parade, Demo Derby, Dinners & Shows

MORNING

- 8:30 a.m. Western Only 4-H and Open Youth Junior Horse Show (horse area)
- 9 a.m. 4-H Dairy Conformation Classes (animal show arena)
- 10:30 a.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
- 11 a.m. Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)
- 11 a.m.-3 p.m. "Sparky's Lovebug Love!" (Connor Home Stage in Paquette Bldg.)

AFTERNOON

- Noon-6 p.m. Cairo Northern Clowns (Front of FFA Food Booth)
- Noon..... Dig For Treasure! (youth activity area) - FREE
- Noon..... Pirate Man Dan (show tent)
- 12:30 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
- 1 p.m. Midway Opens (approximately) \$25 all day ride bracelets
- 1 p.m. Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)
- 1 p.m. Cirque Adventure (show area)

- 1:30 p.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
- 1-5 p.m. Children's Activities (children's barnyard area) - FREE
- 1:30 p.m. 4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building)
- 1:30 p.m. Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of Entertainment (show tent)
- 2 p.m. Sheep Shearing/Handling Demonstration (sheep tent)
- 3 p.m. Pirate Man Dan (show tent)
- 3 p.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
- 3 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
- 3:30 p.m. 4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building)
- 3:30 p.m. Cirque Adventure (show area)
- 4:30 p.m. Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment
- 5 p.m. Gymkhana (horse area)
- 5:15 p.m. Vermont Products Dinner-1st Sitting (dining hall)
- 5:30 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
- 6 p.m. Vermont Products Dinner-2nd Sitting (dining hall)

(See Schedule of Events on page 13)



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Field Days Grounds Map

1. Kelly James Natural Resources Pavilion

2. Public Safety Building

3. Dusty Chuck 4-H Food Booth

4. 4-H Exhibit Building

5. Youth Food Booth

6. Field Days Main Office

7. Milking Parlor
& Dairy Bar

8. Dairy Palace Arena

9. Bandstand

10. Twist O' Wool Guild Tent

11. Pavilion

12. Show Tent

13. Handmowing Area

14. Lucien D. Paquette Exhibit Building

15. Horse Area Manager's Booth

16. 4-H Dairy Barn

17. Open Dairy Show Barn

18. Beef Cattle Tent

19. Antique Equipment Buildings

20. Show Area

21. Frances Monroe Home
& Garden Center

22. Sara McCarty Children's
Barnyard

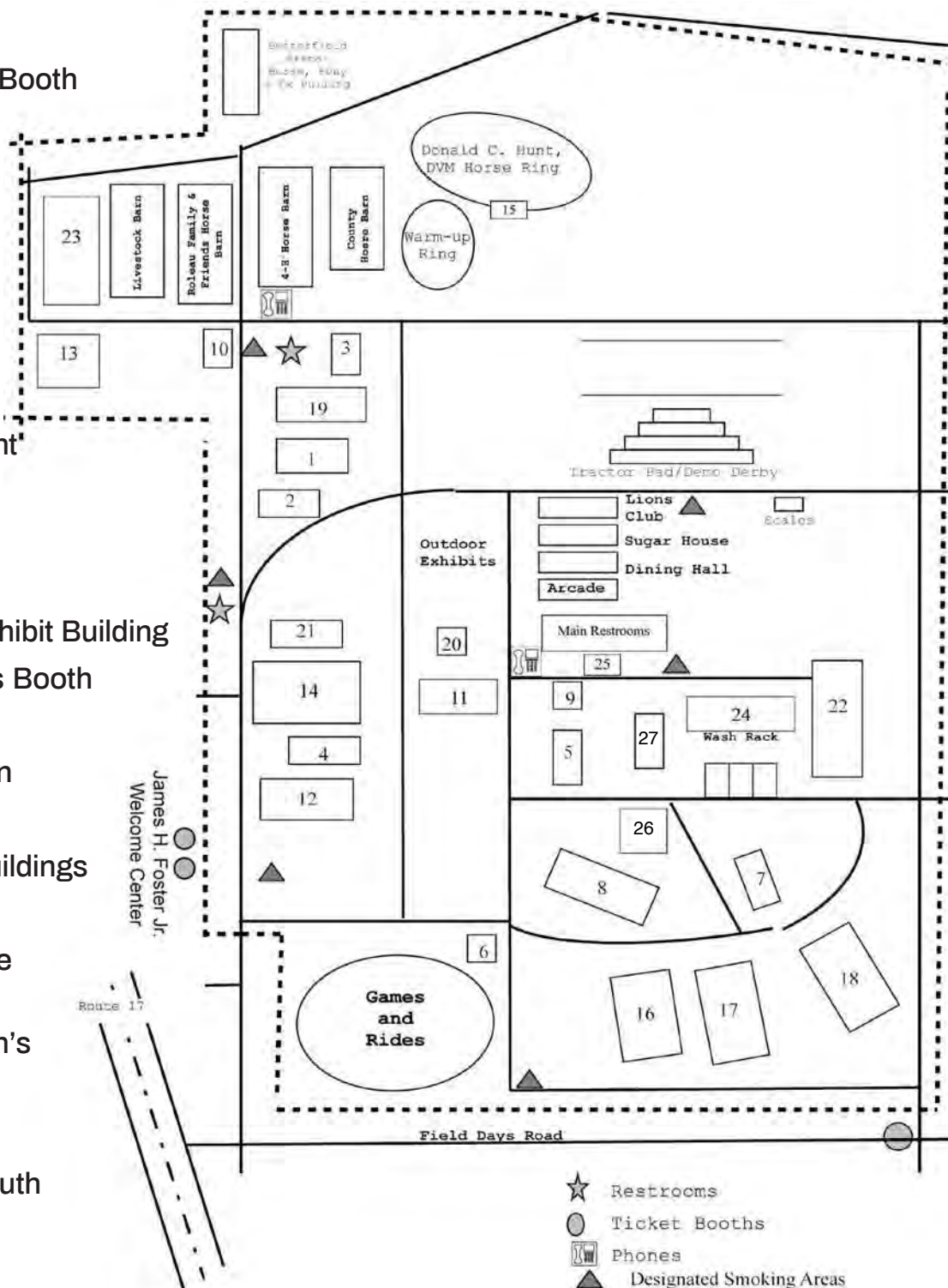
23. Sheep Tents

24. Pony Rides & Free Youth
Activities

25. Infant Comfort Station

26. Addison County Toy Barn

27. Poultry Tent





Schedule of Events

6 p.m.Cirque Adventure (show area)
 6 p.m.Field Days Opening Parade - "75 years of memories & nostalgia!"
 6:30BINGO! with American Legion (show tent)
 6:45 p.m.Vermont Products Dinner-3rd Sitting (dining hall)
 7 p.m.Miniature Horse Team Hitching Demonstration (children's barnyard area)
 7 p.m.G. Stone Motors Demo Derby (Tractor Pad)
 7 p.m.Whiskey & Wine Band (Bandstand)

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Agricultural Shows & Demos, Caber Toss, Karaoke and The Demolition Derby

MORNING

8:30 a.m.English Only 4-H and Open Youth Jr. & Sr. Horse Show (horse area)
 9 a.m.Open Dairy Show-Holsteins, Ayrshires, Milking Shorthorns
 9:30 a.m.Ox Pulling (Butterfield Arena)
 10 a.m.-noonChildren's Activities (children's barnyard area) - FREE
 10:30 a.m.Antique Equipment Demos (antique

equipment area)
 11 a.m.-3 p.m."Sparky's Lovebug Love!" (Connor Home Stage in Paquette Bldg.)
 11 a.m.Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)

AFTERNOON

Noon-6 p.m.Cairo Northern Clowns (Front of FFA Food Booth)
 Noon.....Midway Opens \$25 all day ride bracelets
 Noon.....Pirate Man Dan (show tent)
 Noon.....Dig For Treasure! (youth activity area) - FREE
 Noon.....Goat Show (sheep show tent)
 Noon.....Men's Caber Toss (tractor pad)
 12:30 p.m."Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
 1 p.m.Ladies Iron Skillet Toss (tractor pad)
 1 p.m.Cirque Adventure (show area)
 1:30 p.m.Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
 1:30 p.m.4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building)
 1:30 p.m.Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment
 2 p.m.Sheep Shearing/Handling Demonstration (sheep show tent)

(See Schedule of Events on page 14)

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Schedule of Events

2:30 p.m. Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)
 3 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
 3 p.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
 3 p.m. Pirate man Dan (Show tent)
 3:30 p.m. 4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building)
 3:30 p.m. Cirque Adventure (show area)
 4 p.m. 4-H & Other Youth Rabbit Showmanship (Children's Barnyard)
 4:30 p.m. Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment (show tent)
 5:30 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
 5:30 p.m. Miniature Horse Team Hitching Demonstration (children's barnyard area)
 6 p.m. Cirque Adventure (show area)
 7 p.m. Karaoke Talent Night with DJ Amanda Rock (signup at 6:30 p.m.) (show tent)
 7 p.m. G. Stone Motors Demolition Derby (tractor pad)
 7:30 p.m. 50 cal band (bandstand)

Thursday, August 10, 2023

Tractor Pulls

MORNING

8 a.m. Annual ACFFD Open Horse Show (horse area)
 9 a.m. 4-H Dairy Fitting & Showmanship Classes (animal show arena)
 9 a.m. 4-H & Other Youth Sheep Show (sheep show tent)
 10 a.m. Hand Mowing Contest (antique equipment demo area)
 10 a.m. VTPA Tractor Pulling-Antique & Enhanced Antique Tractor Pulls
 10:30 a.m. Pony Pulling (Butterfield Arena)
 10:30 a.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)

11 a.m. Pedal Tractor Pull (show tent) (sign-ups at 10 a.m.)
 11:30 a.m. Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)
 11 a.m.-3 p.m. "Sparky's Lovebug Love!" (Connor Home Stage in Paquette Bldg.)

AFTERNOON

Noon-6 p.m. Cairo Northern Clowns (Front of the FFA Food Booth)
 Noon..... Midway Opens (approximately) \$25 all day ride bracelets
 Noon..... Dig For Treasure! (youth activity area) - FREE
 12:30 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
 1-5 p.m. Children's Activities (children's barnyard area) - FREE
 1 p.m. Cirque Adventure (show area)
 1:30 p.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
 1:30 p.m. Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment (show tent)
 1:30 p.m. 4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building)
 2:30 p.m. Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)
 3 p.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
 3 p.m. Pirate Man Dan (Show Tent)
 3 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (children's barnyard area)
 3:30 p.m. 4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building)
 3:30 p.m. Cirque Adventure (show area)
 4 p.m. Beef Showmanship/Fitting Show (Senior, Intermediate, Junior, & Novice) & Market Classes (animal show arena)
 4:30 p.m. Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment (show tent)
 5:30 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
 (See Schedule of Events on page 16)

Enjoy the Fair!

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Trappers: the furriest table at the fair

By KATIE FUTTERMAN

The Vermont Trappers' Association brought its finest furs to the county fair this past August. Though some were for sale, the main goal was education, according to Pete Lossmann, secretary of the association.

"We have so many people who are removed from nature, basically, and they come through here and they have no idea what this stuff is. Or they come through and they say, 'Oh, I saw something run across the road,' and by process of elimination we can show them what it probably was," he said.

The table displayed a wide-range of fur-bearers, all of which were native to Vermont. The eyes of such animals poked out on the ends, seemingly making eye contact with everyone who walked by.

Lossmann, who resides in Bristol, has been a member of



PETE LOSSMANN HAS been a member of the Vermont Trappers' Association for 35 years, and as of last year's fair he was the organization's secretary. He brought some furs of Vermont wild game to Addison County Fair and Field Days last August to educate Addison County residents.

Independent file photo/Katie Futterman

the association for 35 years. The group describes itself as a "sports group," and is one of the strongest in the state when it comes to numbers, with more than 600 members.

Of course, not everyone is a fan of trapping. But Lossmann is adamant about its benefits.

"The benefits of trapping are kind of far-reaching. There's population control, there's damage control," he said.

The association's website also publishes information about the perceived benefits of trapping.

"Traps are simply needed in North America to protect, maintain and restore appropriate balances between the needs of wildlife and man," reads their website.

There is also helpful regulation, such as the licensing of trappers, establishing harvest seasons and rules

(See Trappers on Page 25)



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Schedule of Events

5:30 p.m. Miniature Horse Team Hitching
 Demonstration (children's barnyard area)
 6 p.m. Cirque Adventure (show area)
 7 p.m. Motorsports Rodeo- ATV & Side-by-Side
 Drag Races (tractor pad)
 7 p.m. Nickel & Dime (Band Stand)
 7:30 p.m. Animal Costume Class (animal show arena)
 8 p.m. Rehab Roadhouse (Show Tent)

Friday, August 11, 2023

More Shows, Armwrestling and Pulling Competitions

MORNING

8:30 a.m. Exhibitors' Breakfast (dining hall)
 9 a.m. Open Sheep Show (sheep show tent)
 9:30 a.m. Draft Horse Show (horse area)
 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. ... Children's Activities (children's barnyard
 area) - FREE
 10 a.m. VTPA Tractor Pulling, Garden Division-
 Youth, Adult Stock, Sport Stock, ATVs,
 SuperStock Open, Pro Diesel, 4 Cyl Mod
 (tractor pad)
 10 a.m. Horse Pulling (Butterfield Arena)
 10:30 a.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique

equipment area)
 11 a.m. Pirate Man Dan (show tent)
 11 a.m.-3 p.m. "Sparky's Lovebug Love!" (Connor Home
 Stage in Paquette Bldg.)

AFTERNOON

Noon-6 p.m. Cairo Northern Clowns (front of the FFA
 Food Booth)
 Noon..... Dig For Treasure! (youth activity area) -
 FREE
 Noon..... Midway Opens \$25 all day ride bracelets
 Noon..... "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
 Noon..... PeeWee Dairy Showmanship (animal show
 arena)
 12:15 p.m. Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of Entertainment
 (Show Tent)
 1 p.m. Tom Joyce, Magician (bandstand)
 1 p.m. 4 Abreast, Show Division (horse area)
 1 p.m. Cirque Adventure (show area)
 1:30 p.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique
 equipment area)
 1:30 p.m. 4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit
 building)

Continued on next page

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1. Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, A Vermont's Guide to
 Residential Clean Heating and Cooling, January 2021.





Schedule of Events

- 1:30 p.m.Pirate Man Dan (show tent)
- 2-5 p.m.Children's Activities (children's barnyard area) – FREE
- 2:45 p.m.Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of Entertainment (Show Tent)
- 3 p.m.Future Showmanship/Fitting Class & Beef Conformation & Group Classes (animal show arena)
- 3 p.m.“Robinson's Racing Pigs” (dairy area)
- 3 p.m.Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
- 3:30 p.m.4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building)
- 3:30 p.m.Cirque Adventure (show area)
- 4 p.m.Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)
- 5 p.m.Arm wrestling-Kids 16 & under (sign up at 4 p.m.) (show tent)
- 5:30 p.m.“Robinson's Racing Pigs” (dairy area)
- 5:30 p.m.Miniature Horse Team Hitching Demonstration (children's barnyard area)
- 6 p.m.Cirque Adventure (show area)
- 6 p.m.VTPA Tractor Pulling, Truck Division - Stock Street Legal, Mod Street Legal, Work Stock Legal, 2.6/3.0 Pro Diesel, VT V8 Minis, 2WD Minis Pulls (tractor pad)
- 7 p.m.Arm wrestling-Adults (weigh-ins 5 p.m.) (show tent)
- 7 p.m.Blues without Borders Band (bandstand)
- 7 p.m.NYTPA - Sanctioned Super Farm & Limited Pro Tractor Pulls (tractor pad)

Saturday, August 12, 2023

Dairy Show, Pulling Competitions & Fireworks!

MORNING

- 9 a.m.Open Dairy Show-Jersey, Brown Swiss & Guernsey
- 9 a.m.Draft Horse Show (horse area)
- 10 a.m.- noonChildren's Activities (children's barnyard



- area) - FREE
- 10 a.m.Wanda Goodyear Memorial Baked Bean Contest (picnic pavilion)
- 10 a.m.VTPA Tractor Pulling-Farmstock, Open 4WD, Hot Farm, Super stock 4x4, Altered Farm, Street Legal Semi, Single Engine Mod Pulls (tractor pad)
- 10:30 a.m.Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
- 10:30 a.m.Youth Sheep Blocking and Fitting Contest (sheep tent)
- 11 a.m.-3 p.m.“Sparky's Lovebug Love!” (Connor Home Stage in Paquette Bldg.)

AFTERNOON

- Noon-6 p.m.Northern Cairo Clowns (front of FFA food booth)
- Noon.....Pirate Man Dan (show tent)
- Noon.....Midway Opens (approximately) \$25 all day ride bracelets
- Noon.....Dig For Treasure! (youth activity area) -

(See Schedule of Events on page 18)



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ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

The 2023 Garden Game Is Here!

Each summer the Addy Indy and Agway partner to present the Garden Game, awarding prizes for the largest entries in each of the fruit and veggie categories below:

Asparagus (length x circumference)	Onion (circumference)
Beet (circumference)	Parsnip (circumference)
Broccoli (diameter)	Pepper (circumference x circumference)
Cabbage (circumference)	Potato (length x circumference)
Cantaloupe (circumference)	Pumpkin (circumference x circumference)
Carrot (length x circumference)	Radish (circumference)
Cauliflower (diameter)	Rhubarb (length)
Corn (length x circumference)	Rutabaga (circumference)
Cucumber (length x circumference)	Summer Squash (length x circumference)
Edible Leafy Greens (length x width - leaf only)	Sunflower (diameter)
Eggplant (circumference x circumference)	Tomato (circumference)
Fennel (length x circumference)	Turnip (circumference)
Green Bean (length)	Winter Squash (length x circumference)
Kohlrabi (circumference)	Zucchini (length x circumference)
Leek (length x circumference)	
Melon (circumference)	

How do you play the Garden Game?

Just bring in any of the above fruits/veggies to our office at 58 Maple Street, Middlebury to be officially measured. Weekly front runners will be posted online and listed in the newspaper. Entries must be home-grown in the greater Addison County area. One winner per category. One prize per person. Winners will be announced at the first sign of frost.

Visit addisonindependent.com/contests for more info.



Schedule of Events

	FREE
Noon.....	"Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
12:30 p.m.	Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)
1 p.m.	Rack 'N Reel's Sling Shot Competition (sign up at noon) (Butterfield Arena)
1 p.m.	Six Horse Hitch, North American Classic Six Qualifier (horse area)
1 p.m.	Cirque Adventure (show area)
1:30 p.m.	Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
1:30 p.m.	4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building)
1:30 p.m.	Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment (Show Tent)
2:30 p.m.	Turkey Calling Contest (Butterfield Arena)
3 p.m.	Pirate Man Dan (Show Tent)
3 p.m.	Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
3 p.m.	Sheep & Wool Garment Lead Line Class (sheep show tent)
3 p.m.	Sheep Shearing/Handling Demonstration (sheep tent)
3 p.m.	"Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
3:30 p.m.	Duck & Goose Calling Contest (sign up at 2:30 p.m.) (Butterfield Arena)
3:30 p.m.	4-H Hands-on Workshop (4-H exhibit building)
3:30 p.m.	Cirque Adventure (Show Tent)
3:30 p.m.	Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)
4 p.m.	4-H & Open Youth Rabbit Show (animal show arena)
5 p.m.	Home & Garden Awards & Leona Thompson Bowl Presentation (Home & Garden Bldg.)
5:30 p.m.	"Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
5:30 p.m.	Miniature Horse Team Hitching Demonstration (children's barnyard area)
6 p.m.	Cirque Adventure (show area)
6 p.m.	VTPA Tractor Pulling-VT V8 Minis, Altered Farm, Street Legal Semis, S.S. 4x4 Pickups, Hot farm, Pro Stock, Single Engine Mod Pulls (tractor pad)
7 p.m.	Sanctuary (bandstand)
7 p.m.	75th Anniversary Square Dance (Show Tent)
7 p.m.	NYTPA - Sanctioned Super Farm & Limited Pro Tractor Pulls (tractor pad)
9:15 p.m.	Champlain Valley Equipment Closing Fireworks Display (set off east of horse area)

threws of...
The couple reside...
bury, where Mr. Matthews is...
They reside with their son, John...
couple also have a daughter, Mrs...
There are two grandchildren and t

MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT, FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1948

Site of Farm and Home Field Day



The first annual Addison County Farm and Home Field Day was held Friday and Saturday, August 6 and 7, 1948, at the farm of Gerald Sawyer, Middlebury, out Weybridge, Vermont, at the Middlebury Inn.

FARM AND HOME FIELD DAY TO DRAW THRONGS

Two-Day Program For First Annual County Event

Addison County farmers plan to have a brief holiday from haying and farm work Friday and Saturday, to attend the first annual Addison County Farm and Home Field Day, to be held at the Davis farm, three miles East of Middlebury and also on the adjoining farms of Gerald Sawyer, Wilbur Ricknell and...

FARM AND HOME FIELD DAYS DRAW 4200 SPECTATORS

Farm tractors roared, mowing machines clattered, bull dozers hay balers thumped and tires screeched during the fifth Farm and Home Field Day, August 8 and 9, at the farm of Gerald Sawyer, Middlebury, out Weybridge, Vermont, at the Middlebury Inn.

Car Rodeo, Dairy Cattle To Be Featured

NEW HAVEN — Addison County Farm and Home Field Days got underway here Thursday as perfect weather drew hundreds of visitors to the Robert Sherman farm for exhibits, dairy cattle demonstrations, farming machinery and a diet lane.

Prize Winners Listed Field Days Draw 5800 Despite Rainy Weather

Addison County Field Days presented by the 1948 Vermont Dairy Princess, Miss Kathy White of Ryegate, also a special guest of the day. The safety poster contest was judged by Mrs. Benjamin Wissler and Mrs. Erie Volkert of Middlebury and Mrs. Harriet Cushman of Cornwall. First prize in the horse show Saturday was won by Mrs. Bridge and...



THROUGH THE AGES

1948-2023

1949



1970

1. Leveling Land on the bank drainage ditch which has been n
2. Ditching—Diversion and Op
3. Disc Plowing
4. Contour Strip Plowing

Two contour strips, each about 120 ft long will be laid out. Alternating strips will eventually reach all the way across the on. The exhibit area, new seeding and affected by the demonstration.

Three kinds of plows will be used:

NOON PROGRAM
12:00 to 1 p. m.

Lunch and Visiting Time
Note—Refreshments of hot dogs, sandwiches and ice cream on sale at 4-H and FFA booths will be used by these youth groups in DON'T FORGET THEM.
Bring Your Own...

1949



1970



1954



1961



1961

WHICH HAS THE MOST CALORIES?



For-
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ADDISON COUNTY
1973
FAIR
& FIELD DAYS

- ★ **THURSDAY, AUGUST 9**
FAIR AND FIELD DAYS PARADE 7:00 PM.
- ★ **FRIDAY, AUGUST 10**
GOV. THOMAS P. SALMON DAY: TRACTOR PULLS; NORTHEAST FIDDLERS, 8:00 PM.
- ★ **SATURDAY, AUGUST 11**
THE KEYSTONES SING AT 8:00 PM.
- ★ **SUNDAY, AUGUST 12**
STARS OF GRAND OLE OPRY: TWO BIG SHOWS AT 2:00 PM AND 7:00 PM.

A Tractor Rodeo Friday
4-H's Gal
Ribbons At

Plowing, Dairy
Show Features
On Friday

ADDISON COUNTY
FAIR-FIELD DAYS



1948

1978

County To Celebrate 25th Anniversary Of Field Days



NEW AT FIELD DAYS — Wayne Smith, left, president of the board of directors of Field Days Roundup and director Jerry Quesnel examine construction work on the new demonstration sugarhouse to be completed before the opening of Field Days Aug. 7.

Sugarhouse
New Feature



day
**Gain Dairy Show
At Cty. Field Days**

airy
res

Addison County

Field Days at 50



Celebrating
50 years of a
Vermont
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It's fair time!

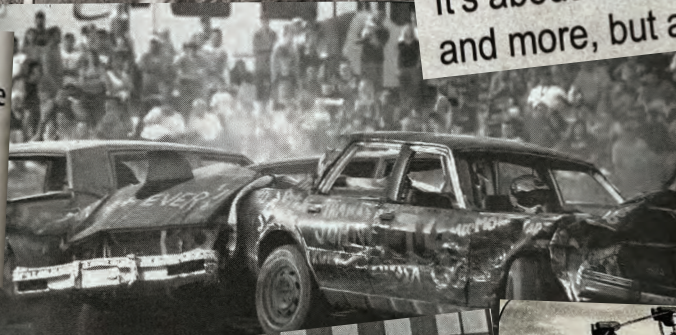
It's about racing pigs, stunt bikers, rides
and more, but also about local heritage



40 years and Growing
Addison County Farm & Home

Field Days

August 9-13



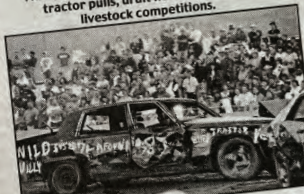
#1 Auto Parts Demolition Derby

Wednesday, August 8
& Thursday, August 9
at 7:00 p.m.

Vermont's Largest Agricultural Fair

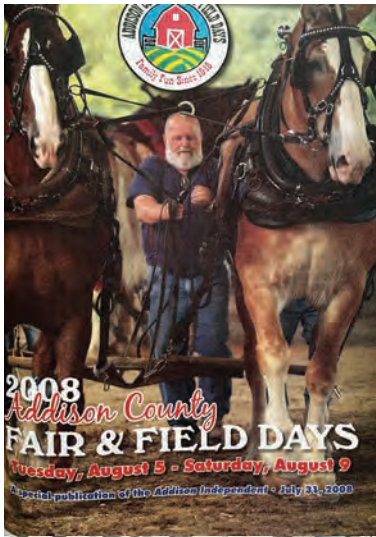
August 7-11, 2001

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rides, nightly entertainment, petting zoo,
tractor pulls, draft horse shows and
livestock competitions.



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SCOTT HAWLEY HAS BEEN at it for 11 hours a day making...



All the fun of the fair
FIRST-DAY VISITORS FLY over the Addison County Fair Field Days grounds (above) on one of the midway ride... as handlers (below) push and pull to get one reluctant calf into the judging bar... everyone appears to be happy though... from the fair on Pages 8A, 9A and 10A. Field Days continues in New Haven... story!





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Bike stunt show wows crowd

By KATIE FUTTERMAN

Craig Wright got his wheels turning during his bike stunt show during the 2022 Addison County Fair and Field Days. He accompanied well practiced stunts with jokes, as well as a little audience involvement.

"I was last here in 2019," he told the crowd. "Anyone see it?" When no one in the crowd perked up, he said, "Well, that's good, because I was better then!"

Despite Wright's modesty, seemed impossible that he could ever have been better. He started with the "rock walk," which was somewhat of a 180 degree turn and jump in one. As did his tricks, he explained to the crowd, through his heavy breaths into the mic, what he was doing, and how difficult it was.

For instance, he explained that the "track stand," which looked simple, was the most important thing he had learned, as he need-

ed to balance in between every single trick.

Wright continued to up the ante, hopping up on blocks and down ramps. In a feat no one thought possible, Wright even hopped all the way up to the top of his trailer on his bike, mounting one step at a time — always standing on his bike pedals, feet never touching the ground. In fact, even Wright didn't think it would be possible, telling the crowd he rarely gets up there.

"Don't go home and ride your bike on the trailer," he told the crowd once he got up there. "Do it at your friend's house!"

From there, he moved to what he called "the red beam of death" because, he joked, the beam was 36 inches off the ground, and his inseam was only 32 inches.

"It's a whole different kind of scary," he said.

For Wright's finale, he warned the crowd, "This is the sketchiest thing I do. So no matter how many pieces I come down in, clap a lot."

Wright kept the audience engaged throughout the show, beginning with jokes such as: "You wanna know why bikes are lazier than unicycles? Because they're two tired," as well as teaching Vermonters how to clap properly.

He even invited up two brave kids, who helped him hold a pole for him to jump over, as well as a grown adult, who lay on the ground nervously as Wright jumped over him.

And he certainly did not fail to get the crowd excited. After the show, kids and adults alike ran up to talk to him and see his special trick bike with no seat. They also got the chance to buy his merchandise, which included miniature bikes that kids could



AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT IS critical to Craig Wright's shows. During a performance at Field Days last year, he invited a man from the audience to lay on the ground in front of the viewing stand and then hopped over the guy — twice.

Independent file photo/Katie Futterman



CRAIG WRIGHT HAS been performing bike stunt shows since 2010. In one of his final tricks in a show at Addison County Fair and Field Days last year, he hops up steps onto the top of his trailer without ever stepping off his bike.

play with with their hands.

Wright himself started biking as a kid.

"I started biking just because I was a kid with a bicycle in a rural area, and nothing else to do," he said.

Wright grew up in New Hampshire, and taught himself most of what he learned. Eventually, he started going on YouTube and watching tutorials there.

In 2010, Wright began doing shows with churches, and he eventually left his job in 2014 to pursue it full-time. Wright performed in around 10 fairs a year, in addition to school assemblies and smaller festivals, as well.

Then, the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the event industry. By the summer of 2021, Wright had gotten rid of all his stuff, when he got a call from three fairs who had just gotten permission to do their fair last minute. He bought the stunt bike rig from

his friend, drove to Alabama and did a few shows without really practicing.

He scheduled three fairs last summer and rides his bike about once a week to practice. During last year's show, Wright told the crowd that his practice technique was to find piles of rocks and jump from one to another.

"I'm not getting to be a better rider, I'm just kind of maintaining. But I have another job, I have kids, it's just kind of what it is," he said.

The hardest part is traveling and being away from home, as well as doing the show in all sorts of weather.

But still, Wright loves what he does.

"I really like putting together the storytelling of the show, how you're building up the act and trying to get people engaged and have fun and have them connect with the show."



4-H displays animal art & more

By KATIE FUTTERMAN

Each year at Field Days, members of Addison County 4-H clubs exhibit projects they have completed in the previous 12 months. The show of 4-H crafts and other goods at the Youth Hall on the fairgrounds were impressive to behold at the 2022 Field Days.

Among the exhibiting clubs was the oldest one in the county, the Weybridge Willing Workers 4-H Club, chartered in 1920. Louise Bowdish, a co-organization leader of the club, also serves as superintendent of the building in which the 4-H clubs displayed their work.

The work, just like the 4-H clubs, explored a wide range of realms. Of course, much of it was animal focused. There was a poster on the world of foxes, how a chick hatches, bee education, sheep shearing and paintings of cows. As viewers walked through plants growing from every direction, they could also see other sights, such as a homemade pasta poster and miniature farm replicas.

"Whatever a child is interested in, we will fit it into a project," Bowdish said.

Bowdish was in charge of finding willing volunteers to judge such crafts on a blue, red and yellow ribbon basis, a process that can take up to four hours. Although the "clover buds," ages five to seven, participate in the activities, they aren't judged as harshly and are awarded only a rainbow participation ribbon. However, the older kids have the opportunity to move on to the regional and even national level, where they can be awarded trips, according to Bowdish.

The 4-H clubs are run through the UVM Extension networks as summer programs or school-led and full-year programs. Children run the meetings and elect their own leaders, according to Bowdish. Many parents help and volunteer.

Bowdish listed almost every activity one can think of. 4-H clubs cover everything from engineering and other STEM programs to gardening, foods, crafts, sewing, textiles, computerized programming, robotics, photography and more.

Look out for their excellent work at the fair!

Trappers

(Continued from Page 15)

on the use of trap varieties and trapping methods. This regulated trapping helps create a balanced and healthy environment, advocates said. Without it, threatened and endangered species protected from excessive predation by trapping programs would become extinct, all according to the website.

Then, of course, there is the edible component.

"If you like roast beef, you're gonna love beaver," Lossmann promised.

People can also eat raccoons, and bobcats have an "amazing, sweet

flavor," according to Lossmann.

Thus, nothing is wasted in the production of a wild fur garment, whereas synthetic materials exhaust non-renewable resources, according to the association's website.

The fur market at the time of last year's Field Days was a bit depressed, Lossmann said, but in general, people can sell furs — which, of course, is how trapping first started with beavers, many moons ago.

Whether you need a new fur coat for Vermont's cold winter or a new food idea, the Vermont Trappers' Association's table is a potential stop at the fair.

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Living and working with metal

By KATIE FUTTERMAN

Scott Hawley ironed out his 10th year at the Addison County Fair and Field Days in 2022. Families eagerly gathered around the blacksmith's shop on the fairgrounds to watch him craft stocking hangers out of metal. It was nothing short of fate that drew Hawley into iron work. His work with metal started early on, while Hawley was growing up, his father was a machinist.

"We always had metal doing something," he said.

Hawley started his own furniture business, Hawley's Fine Woodworking, in 1990. As time went on, customers asked him to put iron cornerbacks on tables and later make things like pothangers.

"I wound up making an awful lot of iron work," he said.

By 2008, Hawley was juggling iron work and his furniture business. Finally, in 2021 he retired the furniture business entirely and moved fully into iron work. Hawley works at his shop, Furnace Brook Iron Works in North Chittenden. He typically clocks in 11 hours a day, five days a week, with some work on the weekend — all by himself.

"When you have your own business, it's almost constant," he said.

"Wait, let's clarify," interjected Steve Pecca, who oversees the antique shop just next to him at the fair. "He's not working, he's demonstrating, he's living history, he's giving the people a taste of what it was like. Working? Is this working?"

Hawley said he loves what he does. His favorite vein of iron work is making knives, which

"He's not working, he's demonstrating, he's living history, he's giving the people a taste of what it was like. Working? Is this working?"

— Steve Pecca

has become his specialty. He also makes the stocking hangers that he worked on at last year's fair, as well as door hinges and more. Hawley sells his work online and offers iron work tutorial videos on his YouTube page, Furnace Brook Iron Works. He said YouTube videos like the ones he uploads are what taught him a lot of what he knows about iron working.

Hawley, who is around 60

years old, is eager to continue iron working for years to come. Though, all the hammering takes a toll on the arms, and he admits that he "does not really care for" all of the grinding of blades.

Look out for Hawley's work online at furnace-brook-iron-works.myshopify.com or maybe learn a thing or two about iron work from one of the over 150 videos on his YouTube channel.



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MEMBER OWNED. MEMBER COMMITTED.





Demolition Derby provides clangor, flames, tears, joy and an incredibly humane story

By SHAYIQ SHAH

It's a staple of the annual county fair, and it never fails to impress.

It's the G. Stone Motors Demolition Derby at the Addison County Fair and Field Days.

The piloting prowess at display by drivers in demo derby at Field Days one night last August sent the crowd into electrifying cries as they cheered on the brave men and women navigating their rigs around the tractor pad.

However, simmering under the mechanical and soulless clangor from derby cars crashing into each other, there was an incredibly authentic and humane story hidden from the countless spectators.

This is the story of Cody Curtis, a Vergennes resident who said he was diagnosed with brain cancer last year. Curtis's participation in the 2022 derby was his first appearance in the competition.

The first evening of 2022's two-night affair had cars cranking metal in four different categories: four-cylinder, six-cylinder, eight-cylinder and the mini-vans.

Curtis was driving in his "Monster Car," number 43C, when he partook in the first heat on the four-cylinder roster. This was his opportunity to earn himself a place in the final event of the night — the four-cylinder feature — and Curtis did exactly that.

"They were hammering me in there," he said after the event. "I got the first hit, and it was a BAM. But I didn't stop going and I kept hammering them back."

Curtis's resilience earned him a trophy as one of five winners of the first heat and secured qualification for the feature event. This trophy came as an early birthday present for Curtis who celebrated his 32nd birthday the next day.

However, the mettle and resolve shown by Curtis in his fight against brain cancer and inside the Derby arena could not be matched by the metal in his Car 43C. The damage taken by the car in the first heat was too severe for the vehicle to compete in the final.

Curtis, distraught, had to pull out from the final. That didn't hamper the spirits of his family members by any stretch.



VERGENNES DRIVER CODY Curtis overcame a lot to win his heat in last year's Demolition Derby, but his car was satisfied with that and couldn't run in the final.

Independent file photo/Steve James



"We are so proud of him and so happy for him," said Cody's dad, Roger.

Driving into the Derby arena takes courage, however, sitting in the crowd and seeing a loved one getting crashed into by Derby cars takes even more courage.

Tricia Foster, a Field Days director since 2017, cheered on her nephew from the stands.

"As I get older, the more people I know that are driving, the more nervous I get," Foster said.

The dangers associated with the sport were made evident in an extremely grand and scary fashion during the minivan fea-

ture event. Driver Brent Warren, driving in his car "Kid Dynamite," hurriedly escaped from his minivan as it caught on flames during the feature event.

Firefighters from the Vergennes Fire Department rushed to the minivan engulfed by flames and put out the fire. Over the public address system the commentator, rather nonchalantly, said, "Ooooh, Kid Dynamite has got hot pants."

The calmness is his voice pointed to the fact that this would not be an uncommon occurrence. Surely enough, that

(See Derby on Page 29)



Derby

(Continued from Page 28)

would be proven in an even more decisive moment in the same feature event when Tim Whitney in minivan 47w was engaged in a last duel with Ethan Gevry driving in "Hog Wild."

Whitney and Gevry were the last two drivers left in their minivans. After an intense battle, Whitney's car 47w was forced to stop by the firefighters on scene as his minivan caught fire. This gave Gevry in "Hog Wild" the win with Whitney a close second. Maddie Martell driving in car 831 secured third position.

The eight-cylinder feature event went to Devin Parker driving in "Numb Skull" while the second and third positions were taken by Boomer Lafountain in car 96 and Morgan Huestis driving in car 77.

THE LAST HIT

The six-cylinder event gave the crowd a 32-minute thriller with an epic final battle between Jeffery Grant and Timothy Whitney Jr. Grant, driving car 24, and Whitney Jr., driving 13T, were engaged in a heroic and bombastic last duel with both vying to get the last hit.

With both their cars nearing malfunction, according to the rules of the Derby, the car with the last hit would be declared the winner if both cars are unable to continue. A five-minute time limit was introduced and the car with the last hit at the end of that time would be the winner.

However, after two minutes, Whitney Jr.'s 13T received one blow too many and was finally inoperative. Grant was declared the winner after this momentous battle with Timothy Whitney Jr. a very proud second. Chuck Havens, driving in car 10, secured third position.



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FIELD DAYS ENTERTAINMENT

No county fair is complete without a full lineup of live entertainment.

This year's 75th annual Addison County Fair and Field Days boasts a wide selection of activities and performances — ranging from a parade to a pedal tractor pull — sure to interest fairgoers both young and old.

Live musical acts will perform each night at the fair with an exciting lineup with something that appeals to many tastes.

Topping the list for this year's entertainment is a live musical performance by “**Sanctuary**,” which will perform Saturday night at 7 p.m. at the Bandstand. You may recognize some of these musicians, since this is a local band that consists of some definite rockers who know how to get people out of their seats and into the groove. “Sanctuary,” fronted by singer Lori Towle, performs Rock music and dance covers from the 1980s and more. Also in the lineup of the band are Tom Lawson, Justin Brault, John Wallace and Jerry Cloutier — recognize any of them?

If you like Lori's voice, you won't have to wait until Saturday to hear it. She is scheduled to perform on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. on the Bandstand in the duo **Whiskey & Wine**. This fun and engaging acoustic duo performs many of your favorite cover songs. Their set lists span decades and genres creating a “something for everyone” entertainment experience. And Towle also sings in **Nickel & Dime**, an Addison County dance cover band featuring your favorite songs from the '70s to current hits. Listen for a mix of Southern & classic rock.



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FIREWORKS
PEDAL TRACTOR PULL
ROBINSON'S RACING PIGS
SKILLET TOSS
CABER TOSS
TOM JOYCE, THE MAGIC MAN

For a change of pace, come out to the Bandstand on Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. to experience the local energy of “**.50 Cal.**” Ernie Emmonds provides the vocals for this eclectic Addison County band that describes its talents in Rock, Country, Pop and even a little Rap. They definitely have some strong guitar playing and kicking drums in addition to Emmonds's powerful voice.

Also on the music marquee this week are Rehab Roadhouse on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Show Tent, and Blues Without Borders on Friday at 7 p.m. on the bandstand.

Rehab Roadhouse is a four-piece ensemble that specializes in the intersect between B-side '70s classic blues, and more modern jam. Their setlist is a mix of originals and covers. Maybe you've heard some of these bandmembers: Joel Palmer on vocals and harmonica, Neil Kamman doing vocals and guitar, Dave Mack on drums and Otto Funke on bass.

And Friday's “**Blues Without Borders**” features vocal powerhouse Deb Tier and the incendiary guitar playing of ScottyMac. The talented rhythm section supporting these two consists of Jon Randel on keys and second guitar, Mike “Uncle Joe” Burbank on bass, and Dan “Freight Train of Rhythm” Whittemore on drums. Expect to hear blues, rock, classics and songs from some of today's hottest acts.

But entertainment at Field Days goes way beyond musical performances.

Just about everywhere you turn there will be some sort of entertainment act going on.

(See Entertainment on Page 32)



FIELD DAYS ENTERTAINMENT

Continued from page 31

Here are some special things to look for:

- The **Field Days Opening Parade** steps off from near the tractor pad at 6 p.m. on Tuesday. In honor of the fair's diamond anniversary, the theme of this year's parade is "75 Years of Memories & Nostalgia!" All entrants are asked to assemble 45 minutes before the parade start time on the east side of the tractor pad on the road to the north of the parking area. There will be prizes for the winning entries. Contact Benj Deppman at 724-1381, Diane Norris at 989-4295 or any Field Days director if you plan to participate.

Ribbons will be awarded to the top three winning entries in the parade.

- Head to the Show Tent on Wednesday at 7 p.m. when Addison County DJ Amanda Rock will lead the ever-popular **Karaoke Talent Night**. Amada will help get the energy flowing so you all can let your inner performer come out on stage. Sign up for a spot in the show beginning at 6:30 p.m. You will probably find a few diamonds in the rough among your Addison County neighbors when it comes to singing.



FIREWORKS



CIRQUE ADVENTURE

There are a couple new things in the entertainment category that you should take note of:

Cirque Adventure will provide shows three times daily at the Show Area. This is an Acrobatic show that is almost guaranteed to wow the crowds. This troupe does High Flying Aerial Acts, Amazing Ground Acrobatics, Trampoline Acts, Teeterboard Acts and various other circus skills. They are high energy shows designed to get your guests excited.

These talented acrobats perform at fairs all around the country, and they will bring a smile to your face. Look for shows at 1, 3:30

(See Entertainment on Page 33)

Good Luck to all Participants!

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FIELD DAYS ENTERTAINMENT

Continued from page 32

and 6 p.m. each day of Field Days.

If you like your entertainment motorized, then there is another new act at Field Days this year that is up your alley. On Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Tractor Pad, there will be what's being billed as a **"Motorsports Rodeo"** that will feature ATV and Side-by-Side Drag Races with members of the public driving the vehicles! This event is open to ATVs and Side by Sides and contested as double elimination. Races will be started with a .400 Pro Tree starting lights and racers will get their reaction time, elapsed time, and top speed at end of each run. Printouts will be available for each racer after each run. Helmets and proper clothing are required — long pants, shoes or boots: no open-toed footwear. Registration opens at 3 p.m. and racing starts at 7 p.m.



MOTORSPORTS RODEO



PEDAL TRACTOR PULL

But not everything is new. On Thursday at 11 a.m. head to the Show Tent, where girls and boys ages 4-10 will compete in the **Pedal Tractor Pull**. This is the youngsters' version of the real thing. Come on down and watch the fun and cheer for your favorite puller. Pulling tractor and sled is provided by Field Days. Sign-ups start at 10.

Another old favorite comes along at 9:15 p.m. on Saturday evening when Field Days entertainment draws to a close with a classic — the **Champlain Valley Equipment Closing Fireworks Display**, which will be set off east of the horse area but viewable throughout the grounds.

APPEARING REGULARLY

In addition to all of the special performances above, the fair offers a full slate of daytime entertainment, with some performers appear-
(See Entertainment on Page 34)

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FIELD DAYS ENTERTAINMENT

Continued from page 33

ing each day, often several times. Here is a look at those:

- A popular performer returning this year is **Pirate Man Dan**, who will be offering his “Pirate Adventure Experience” twice a day at the Show Tent. Dan Jolley of Groton, an experienced clown, will offer a fun show for all ages — he says, “even teenagers.” The friendly pirate’s act includes balloons, magic, unicycling, stilts and bubbles. One reviewer said Pirate Man Dan “put on a great show. Not only did all the kids in the room enjoy him, but he had the adults all laughing at his jokes.”

- **Cairo Northern Clowns** are scheduled to walk the grounds daily to provide a smile and a laugh when you least expect it.

- Look for **Buffalo Barfield’s “Unherd of Entertainment”** to tickle your funny bone in the show tent at various times. Gregg “Buffalo” Barfield and his wife, Michele, have created a unique and entertaining comedy and variety music show. The South Carolina-based act’s unique blend of music and comedy has been described as “Jeff Foxworthy meets Jimmy Buffett.” The show is a blend of Americana, country, blues and oldies rock ‘n’ roll music with a touch of down home “clean” comedy. This one is good for the young kids.

- **Tom Joyce, the Magic Man**, will appear twice a day at the bandstand. Check the schedule to see when he is performing. He’s absolutely fabulous with the kids, but grown-ups will enjoy the show, too. He’s funny, but his magic is actually mysterious — it’s the best of both worlds

- **Robinson’s Racing Pigs** will run their hilarious competition several times a day near the dairy area. It combines the livestock portion of Field Days with the levity of an entertaining show.

- Also in the audience participation category, are two events at mid-day on Wednesday: the **Men’s Caber Toss** at noon (men toss a telephone pole (caber) end over end) and the **Ladies’ Cast Iron Skillet Toss** at 1 p.m. (ladies throw skillets for distance and accuracy). Head to the tractor pad for this fun.

- Another contest of brute strength that is also a lot of fun to watch



TOM JOYCE, THE MAGIC MAN

is the **armwrestling** competition at the Show Tent on Friday evening. The kiddos will start it off with youths 16 and younger squaring off in real, head-to-head competitions at 5 p.m. (get on the sign-up sheet at 4 p.m.). After the learners have warmed up the audience, the big boys and girls take their turn facing off against competitors in their weight classes. Adult Armwrestling starts at 7 p.m. (weigh-ins at 5 p.m.) with bouts in left- and right-hand.



PIRATE MAN DAN



CABER TOSS



Shakin' Bacon competes at Field Days

By SAM LIPIN

Someone call the paparazzi, because there are major celebrity sightings at the 2022 Addison County Fair & Field Days. Snoop Hoggy Hog, Arnold Schwarzhogger and Justin Bieberque were sighted racing as fast as their little legs can carry them.

Robinson's Racing Pigs, a regular at Field Days, will showcase their pigs once again this year at the annual fair, three times a day, for a total of 15 races. In each race, pigs small and large run around a short track, vying for the first place prize — an Oreo cookie.

Paul and Carlotta Robinson first raced their pigs almost 40 years ago at the Florida State Fair in Tampa. It immediately received warm receptions at fairs around the country, even resulting in appearances on "The Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson and Jay Leno.

After the Robinsons' passing in the late '90s, Randy and Sharon Ross have taken over the attraction, bringing that same

sense of passion and entertainment to fairs around the U.S. and Canada.

"Young and old, people love it," Randy said. "When we first started doing this 38 years ago, we thought it would be a fad, but here we are and people still love it."

Robinson's Racing Pigs also hopes to teach a thing or two to kids and other fairgoers who come to the shows.

"Most people when they think of pigs, they think of fat, lazy animals that just lay around and don't want to do anything," said Randy, who along with his wife puts each pig through a two-week training program to prepare them to race. "Pigs are intelligent; they want to learn."

While the Rosses have continued the legacy and traditions of the Robinsons before them, they've also added a new kind of race to the show: The Paddling Porker Show.

Pigs compete four at a time per usual but must swim a 24-foot-long swimming pool before emerging and continuing on their



way to the Oreo. Contestants include Belly Flop, Soggy Bacon, Spamu and Tsunami Salami.

Randy and Sharon do this year-round, taking their pigs to around 30 events annually, with approximately six weeks off for vacation. Regardless, they have no plans to stop anytime soon.

"I don't want to do anything else," Randy said. "Everybody asks me when I'll retire and I tell them, 'When I can't do it anymore.'"

Robinson's Racing Pigs can be seen daily at 12:30, 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. at the dairy area adjacent to the games and rides. Randy and Sharon will be giving out ribbons to the lucky kids who pick the winning pig, spreading the victory to more than just the hasty hogs.

"Most people when they think of pigs, they think of fat, lazy animals that just lay around and don't want to do anything. Pigs are intelligent; they want to learn."

— Randy Ross





Addison County Fair & Field Days annual gala raffle

The Addison County Fair & Field Days Gala is held in March annually. This fundraiser is to help raise money for capital improvements to the fairgrounds. We appreciate all the support we have received to make the gala a success. A very special thank you to all who supported us this year.

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Tarry Ho's mini horses bring big smiles to Field Days

By MARIN HOWELL

If you stop by the Sara McCarty Children's Barn at Addison County Fair and Field Days, you're guaranteed to run into Jim and Barbra Amblo, as well as their team of miniature horses named after Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. The couple, who owns Tarry Ho Miniature Horses in Charlotte, have become familiar faces at the Children's Barn. The Children's Barn is named in honor of Barbra's sister, Sara McCarty, who advocated for venue in the 1980s.

"She fought and fought and fought for this building, and eventually they decided to build it," Jim said. "She made me promise that I would do what I could to keep this thing running."

Since then, Barbra and Jim have been an intrinsic part of the Children's Barn. They used to bring chickens to show at Field Days, though Jim said they ultimately moved into the horse driving business they're known for now.

"We did the chickens for a while, and then one time we were down watching the draft horse show," Jim said. "The class came out of eight-horse hitches, I mean it was really something to see."

The winner of that class got \$500, and with that number in mind the couple decided to switch from showing chickens to driving a hitch of miniature horses.

Barbra started out driving a pair, which quickly expanded to a hitch of four horses. Jim then came across the Budweiser Hitch, a bright red Studebaker wagon with 10 horses, and the former builder was so inspired



JIM AND BARBRA Amblo's miniature horses are a familiar part of the Sara McCarty Children's Barn at Addison County Fair and Field Days. Each year, the couple brings their hitch of miniature horses to Field Days to educate and entertain the kids that wander into the barn.

Independent Photo/Marin Howell

"This is a hobby that started as a hobby and turned into more than we ever dreamed it would."

— Jim Amblo

that he built the couple's bright red Mini Budweiser Hitch Wagon. Unlike the Budweiser Hitch, the couple's hitch consists of eight miniature horses.

Jim and Barbra, who at last year's fair were 87 and 84 years old, respectively, have been running the operation largely by themselves since they got into horse driving. Jim said the

couple had no idea the venture would turn into what it did.

"This is a hobby that started has a hobby and turned into more than we ever dreamed it would," Jim said.

Now each year, Jim and Barbra bring their horses out to Addison County Fair and Field Days and the Champlain Valley Fair. They've become a famil-

iar part of the Children's Barn at Field Days, sitting in the barn each day to educate anyone interested about their work with the horses and to chat with the new and familiar faces that wander into the barn. They also give a miniature horse team hitching demonstration each evening in the children's barnyard.

For them, the best part of all their work with the fair is educating and entertaining the kids and they're happy to get the chance to do that each year.

"The best part is the children," Jim said. "If a child goes out of that door crying, we've not done our job."

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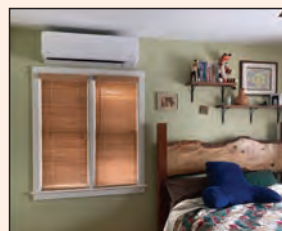
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installation we are here for you!***

In 1972, Dave Cobb started Bristol Electronics as a Main Street storefront.
Today, Bristol Electronics is a four generation
installation business celebrating 51 years!

*We'd like to congratulate the Field Days organizers on their
75th year of the fair — we know you work hard to put together
such a wonderful fair for our county!*



Timber the office dog, Chris Blanchard, Dave Cobb, Stephen Cobb
and the next generation to come.

We'll be at the fair! Swing by our booth if you'll be there too!