



OFFICIAL PROGRAM

*A Special Publication of
the Addison Independent*



ADDISON COUNTY FAIR & FIELD DAYS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6 - SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2024



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Welcome

The Addison County Fair & Field Days Board extends a cordial invitation to you, and your friends and family to exhibit at this year's Addison County Fair & Field Days on August 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 2024. It is our pleasure to present the opportunity for area citizens to showcase the quality products which they have produced. The guidelines and rules are in this booklet for anyone wishing to enter something in the competitive exhibit departments. 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 2024 fair.

Addison County Fair & Field Days, Inc.

1790 Field Days Rd, Vergennes, VT 05491
802-545-2557 (phone) • 802-329-2133 (fax)

Visit us at AddisonCountyFieldDays.com

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All in a day's work for our farmers.



About this Field Days Program

For many Vermonters, the Addison County Fair & Field Days is a Top 10 summer event — and for good reason. Vermont doesn't just talk about its agricultural roots, it lives them. Milking cows, shearing sheep, growing food — 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 crafters 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 program 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. 6-10. Come and 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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2024 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 \$15

SEASON PASS \$60

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 \$20

CHILDREN (5 years and under)

FREE all days

RIDE BRACELET – Buy a \$25 bracelet and it is good for rides all day.



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Cover photo by Steve James/Addison Independent



2024 Dedication

This year we are pleased to dedicate our fair to sunshine and warm weather! After a year of mud and rain, we are enlisting the help of Mother Nature to give us warm days, sunshine, and cool breezes!

We thank all the 2023 fair personnel, exhibitors, vendors, volunteers, and fair goers for your support during last year's rainy event.

This year promises to bring all the usual vendors, rides, fair food, exhibits, kids, and animals and all their glory!

Although paving the parking lot was not in the cards or the state's groundwater rules, we have a beautiful new livestock barn to house the beef and open dairy cattle. We hope you will enjoy our green grass and improvements to a few really soft areas of the grounds and roads.

See you at Addison County Field Days, Aug. 6 through 10, 2024!



**Tickets
Sell Out!**

"The Taste of Vermont"

at Addison County Fair & Field Days
Dining Hall • Tuesday, August 6th
Sittings at 5:15, 6:00 and 6:45
Adults: \$15 Children 10 & under: \$8

Tickets available now at:
Middlebury Inn in Middlebury, Pratt's Store in
Bridport, the Field Days office
or at fielddays@gmavt.net.
Beginning Aug. 6th,
tickets will only be available
at the Field Days office.
Call 545-2557



Green Mountain
Passport Day

Opening Day Parade
6:00PM

Sanctuary Band
7:00PM

Bracelet Rides – ALL DAY for \$25
Rides and Midway by Dreamland Amusements



4-H animal lease program creates champions

By SOPHIA
AFSAR-KESHMIRI

For the second year in a row, Jonathan Chamberlin's daughter, Paige, 9, was able to show animals at the Addison County Field Days Fair in 2023 through the same 4-H lease program that he participated in as a child.

In this day and age the majority of the 4-H'ers that lead their animals around the fairgrounds show pen are participating as part of this animal leasing program, according to Addison County 4-H educator Martha Seifert.

The program gives Addison County kids who don't live on farms the opportunity to experience the animal husbandry lifestyle. It was initiated 25 to 30 years ago "because there's fewer and fewer of us that grew up on farms," Seifert said.

"And this gives kids the opportunity to work with large animals," she said.

The 75th annual Addison County Fair and Field Days kicked off at the county fairgrounds in New Haven on Aug. 8, 2023, and ran through Saturday evening, which capped off with fireworks.

Rain always seems to come to the fair; last year it arrived on the first day and was more plentiful than usual. Organizers canceled that Tuesday evening's Demolition Derby, but scheduled to hold it on Wednesday evening — there's ALWAYS a demolition derby.

Due to muddy conditions on that Wednesday, Field Days officials had closed the main public parking entrance and welcome center located off Route 17 and were asking that attendees enter the fairgrounds via the farm gate on Field Days Road instead. The main entrance was expected to re-

open by Wednesday evening.

Back at the show arena, youngsters paraded their cows, all much bigger than their human-counterpart, around the competition pen in surprisingly crisp and unstained white uniforms.

The New England-wide 4-H animal loaner program is set up so that host farms choose whether or not families pay a fee for participation.

"Some of them (families) pay like \$1 for the year, and others, there's no fee," Seifert said.

"It teaches some responsibility, decision making, critical thinking, all those life skills."

And it doesn't hurt that the kids have fun too.

Chamberlin, 43, didn't grow up on a farm, and neither do his kids, and the program has provided the opportunity for himself, Paige and his 12-year-old son, Colin, to raise animals.

At the 2023 4-H Field Days cow competition, the hard work that Paige has been putting in since April yielded a blue ribbon for her Spring Asher Calf named Rain.

"It teaches some responsibility, decision making, critical thinking, all those life skills."

— Martha Seifert

gled into a perfect Paige-sized-nook between Rain and another calf when asked for a photo.

She gave an emphatic "Yeah!" when asked if she had fun raising cows.

And with a huge smile, she said she enjoyed the activities of walking and talking to Rain.

Paige leased Rain from Blue

She showed her love for the animals as she hopped over to the animals and snuggled



PAIGE CHAMBERLIN, 9, snuggles up between two cows in the 4-H dairy barn at the 75th Addison County Field Days Fair this past August. Like her father before her, Paige doesn't live on a farm so she leases a cow from Blue Spruce Farm to raise and show at the fair.

Independent photo/Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri

Spruce Farm in Bridport, the same farm that Middlebury Union High School student Emma Dearing, 17, had been leasing from for 10 years.

In the 2023 competition, she and her red and white Holstein named Believe-Alliah were awarded Junior Champion in the Holstein category.

When asked what she has most enjoyed about the program, she said she loves the people she's had the opportunity to meet.

Blue Spruce Farm owner Eugene Audet, 63, proudly watched as the two champions got their photo taken. He said his farm has been participating as a host for the 4-H lease program for years.

He reiterated Seifert's statement that the program allows non-farm kids to see what farm-life is like.

Additionally, he said participants learn to communicate with the larger 4-H community that

they are involved in, whether that pre-competition or during days in the 4-H barn at Field Days.

Another Addison County farm, Four Hills Farm in Bristol, has been hosting participants for many years as well. Sadie Moulton, 29, first started leasing from the farm 15 years ago, and on Tuesday her sister Bella Roell, 13, and her niece Kylee Shepard, 12, both showed in Tuesday's Field Day competition and won awards for their Four Hills Farm calves.

Moulton said that in total, the family had five kids show 11 calves at this year's fair.

"We have six kids (at the fair) but one technically isn't old enough to bring (a calf) yet but helps a lot," she noted.

The family said that they were grateful for how hands-on, helpful and "really generous" Four Hills Farm has been throughout the process and over the years.

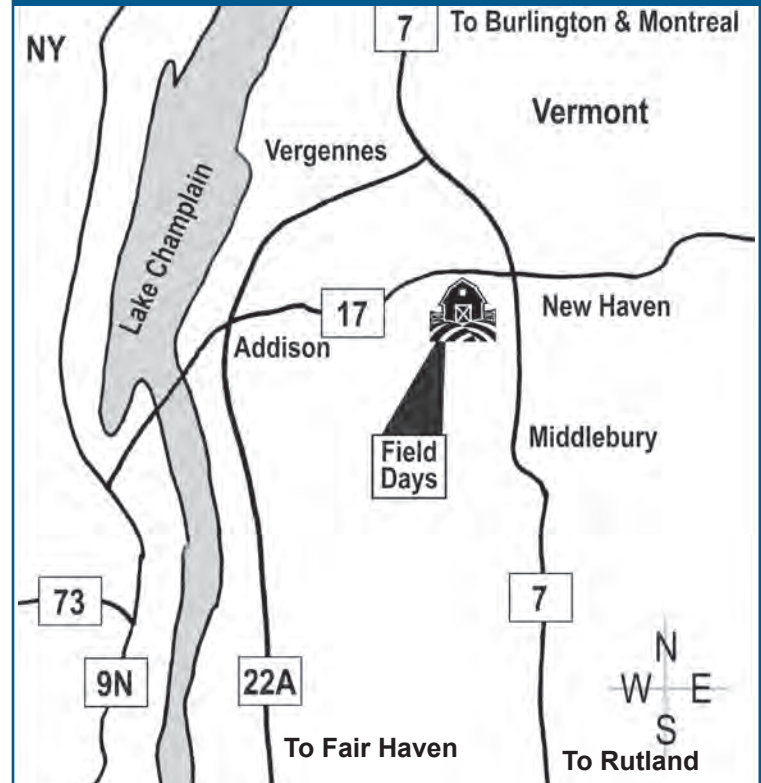


2024 Daily Activities

Please Note: Most exhibits will be removed on Saturday night at 10:00.

- 10 a.m.-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
- 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Maple Sugar House Open
- 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Twist O' Wool Guild Demos
(Twist O' Wool Guild tent)
- 10 a.m.-10 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 Daily Maple Products Demonstrations
(maple sugar house)
- Noon-midnight Midway Open (approximately)
- 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Milking Parlor Demonstrations

How to get to Field Days







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Schedule of Events

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024

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)

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. Circus Adventure (entertainment show area)
- 1 p.m.-5 p.m.... Children's Activities (children's barnyard area) - FREE
- 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)
- 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. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
- 3:30 p.m. The Silver Circus Show (entertainment)

(See Schedule of Events on page 13)

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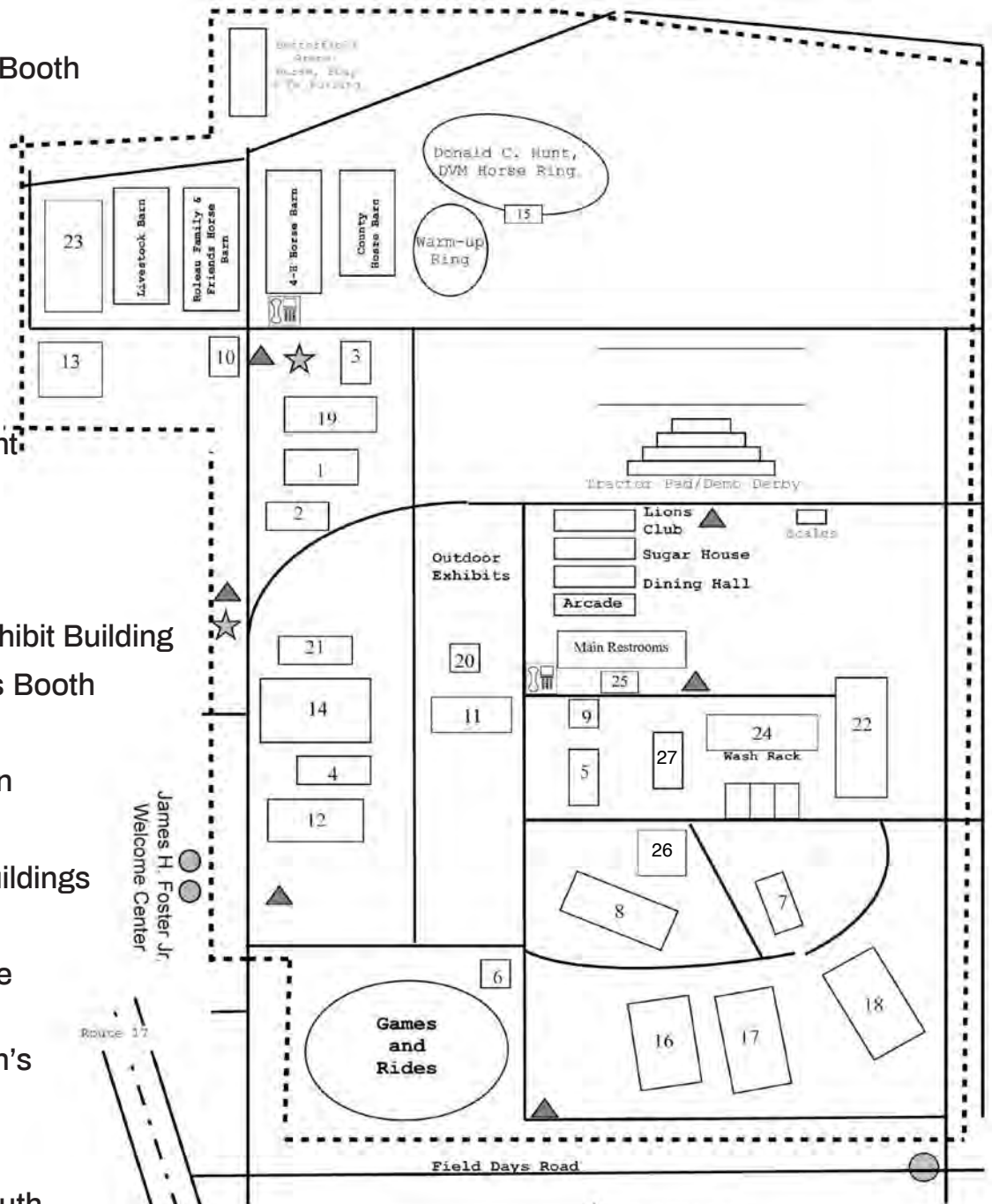


Tuesday Night
Classic Car Night
FREE RB FLOAT!
w/classic car



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



- ★ Restrooms
- Ticket Booths
- ☎ Phones
- ▲ Designated Smoking Areas



Schedule of Events

- show area)
 4:30 p.m. Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment
 5:15 Vermont Products Dinner-1st Sitting (dining hall)
 5 p.m. Gymkhana (horse area)
 5:30 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
 6 p.m. Vermont Products Dinner-2nd Sitting (dining hall)
 6 p.m. Circus Adventure (show area)
 6:45 Vermont Products Dinner-3rd Sitting (dining hall)
 7 p.m. Sanctuary Band (bandstand)
 7 p.m. G. Stone Motors Demo Derby (Tractor Pad)
 7 p.m. Dan LaPointe-Glorybound Country/Gospel (show tent)

WEDNESDAY

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.-noon ... Children's Activities (children's barnyard area) - FREE
 10:30 a.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
 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

(See Schedule of Events on page 14)

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Schedule of Events

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. The Silver Circus Show (entertainment 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 p.m. Sheep Shearing/Handling Demonstration (sheep show tent)
 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. The Silver Circus Show (entertainment show area)
 4:30 p.m. Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment (show tent)
 5:30 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
 6 p.m. The Silver Circus Show (entertainment show area)
 7 p.m. Karaoke Talent Night with DJ Amanda Rock (signup at 6:30) (show tent)
 7 p.m. G. Stone Motors Demolition Derby (tractor pad)
 7:30 p.m. Third Shift Band (bandstand)

THURSDAY

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. The Silver Circus Show (entertainment

Continued on next page

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Schedule of Events

- 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. Circus 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)
- 6 p.m. The Silver Circus Show (entertainment show area)
- 7 p.m. G. Stone Motors Demolition Derby (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

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. Working Steer & Ox Show
- 10 a.m. - Noon Children's Activities (children's barnyard area) - FREE

(See Schedule of Events on page 16)

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Schedule of Events

10 a.m. VTPA- Garden Division- Youth, Adult Stock, SportStock, ATV, Super Stock Open, Pro Diesel, 4 Cyl Mods (tractor pad)
 10 a.m. Horse Pulling (Butterfield Arena)
 10:30 p.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
 11 p.m. Pirate Man Dan (show tent)

Afternoon

Noon-6 p.m. Cairo Northern Clowns (front of the FFA Food Booth)
 Noon..... PeeWee Dairy Showmanship (animal show arena)
 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 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. The Silver Circus Show (entertainment 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. Pirate Man Dan (show tent)
 2 p.m. Magic Workshop w/Silver Circus (entertainment show area)
 2 p.m.-5 p.m. ... Children's Activities (children's barnyard area) - FREE
 2:45 Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of Entertainment (Show Tent)
 3 p.m. Future Showmanship/Fitting Class & Beef Conformation & Group Classes (animal show arena)

Continued on next page



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Schedule of Events

- 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. The Silver Circus Show (entertainment show area)
- 4 p.m. Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)
- 5 p.m. Armwrestling-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. Circus Adventure (show area)
- 6 p.m. VTPA- Truck Division- Stock St. Legal, Mod St. Legal, Work Stock Diesel, 2.5 Diesel, 2.6/3.0 Pro Diesel, 2WD Mini, VT V8 Minis (tractor pad)
- 7 p.m. Armwrestling-Adults (weigh-ins 5 p.m.) (show tent)
- 7 p.m. Blues and Beyond Band (bandstand)
- 7 p.m. NYTPA - Sanctioned Super Farm & Limited Pro Tractor Pulls (tractor pad)

SATURDAY

Dairy Show, Pulling Competitions & Firworks! Morning

- 9 a.m. Open Dairy Show-Jersey, Brown Swiss & Guernsey
- 9:30 p.m. Draft Horse Show (horse area)
- 10 a.m. Wanda Goodyear Memorial Baked Bean

- Contest (picnic pavilion)
- 10 a.m. VTPA-Farmstock, Open 4WD, Hot Farm, Super stock 4x4, Altered Farm, Street Legal Semi, Single Engine Mod Pulls (tractor pad)
- 10 a.m. - Noon Children's Activities (children's barnyard area) - FREE
- 10:30 p.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
- 10:30 p.m. Youth Sheep Blocking and Fitting Contest (sheep tent)


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) - 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. The Silver Circus Show (entertainment 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)

(See Schedule of Events on page 18)

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Schedule of Events

- | | | | |
|----------------|--|----------------|---|
| 1:30 p.m. | Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment (Show Tent) | | |
| 2:30 p.m. | Turkey Calling Contest (Butterfeld Arena) | 5 p.m. | show arena) |
| 3 p.m. | 4H & Youth Poultry Show (Bandstand) | 5 p.m. | Home & Garden Awards & Leona Thompson Bowl Presentation (home & garden bldg) |
| 3 p.m. | Pirate Man Dan (Show Tent) | 5:30 p.m. | "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area) |
| 3 p.m. | Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area) | 5:30 p.m. | Miniature Horse Team Hitching Demonstration (children's barnyard area) |
| 3 p.m. | Sheep & Wool Garment Lead Line Class (sheep show tent) | 6 p.m. | The Silver Circus Show (entertainment show area) |
| 3 p.m. | Sheep Shearing/Handling Demonstration (sheep tent) | 6 p.m. | VTPA-VT V8 Minis, Altered Farm, Street Legal Semis, S.S. 4x4 Pickups, Hot farm, Pro Stock, Single Engine Mod Pulls(tractor pad) |
| 3 p.m. | "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area) | 7 p.m. | Rust & Ruin (bandstand) |
| 3:30 p.m. | Duck & Goose Calling Contest (sign up at 2:30)(Butterfeld Arena) | 7 p.m. | Dance Party w/DJ Tony Lamoureux (Show Tent) |
| 3:30 p.m. | 4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building) | 7 p.m. | NYTPA - Sanctioned Super Farm & Limited Pro Tractor Pulls (tractor pad) |
| 3:30 p.m. | Circus Adventure (Show Tent) | 9:15 p.m. | Farm Credit East Closing Fireworks Display (set of east of horse area) |
| 3:30 p.m. | Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand) | | |
| 4 p.m. | 4H & Open Youth Rabbit Show (animal | | |

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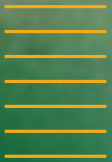
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Friends & family crash together at the Demo Derby

NEWBIE TRAINS TO DO THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT SHE WOULD DO ON THE ROAD

By SOPHIA AFSAR-KESHMIRI

After motor enthusiasts waited an extra day for the popular G. Stone Motors Demolition Derby at the 2023 Field Days, which was postponed a day due to rain, Moriah Sullivan Hebert opened the event by singing the National Anthem for the fifth year.

Unlike the previous four times, after she hit her last note, the 23-year-old scurried down the steep stairs from the announcer's box, through the spectator stands, across the muddy grounds and hopped into a rare spot of bright pink in a row of automotive lemons adorned with less eccentric hues.

Then she competed in the

first heat.

Hebert Sullivan and the other drivers ran in a 2023 demo derby that may have appeared violent, but was no exception to the family-friendly spirit Addison County Fair and Field Days is known for. In the moments leading up to the first round of smashing, crashing, chasing and clanging, love pervaded the pit.

Friends chatted and brothers joked. While Hebert Sullivan was getting ready to sing, her husband, Tyler Hebert, 26, was enjoying some pre-competition camaraderie.

Hebert Sullivan's pink car, which had "Flower Power," scrawled on its side, sported a drawing of its namesake attached to the roof.

Meanwhile, although this was Hebert Sullivan's debut derby, it



MORIAH SULLIVAN HEBERT and husband Tyler Hebert support each other after Sullivan Hebert's first run in the Field Days Demolition Derby this past August. Sullivan Hebert's Flower Power car was knocked out in the first heat, but Hebert raced to second place in the 6-cylinder feature.

Independent photo/Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri



CODY CURTIS OF Vergennes was back at the Field Days Demolition Derby last year to compete for a second time. Curtis first decided to participate in 2022 after being diagnosed with brain cancer two years ago. Before last year's contest he said, "I'm gonna give it all. I'm gonna try to bring a trophy." Then, just a day before his 33rd birthday, Curtis won his heat in the derby, with "my frog (decoration) in my passenger seat."

Independent photo/Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri

wasn't her car's: It had run in a previous demolition derby.

Getting ready for this new driving experience was easy for novice demo derby competitor. She said her derby prep included "thinking to myself do the opposite of what you ever want to do on the road."

Although she was knocked out early in the first heat, her car, so smashed that it looked like the back half had been removed, never lost its rooftop decoration, which poked through the cloud of dust stirred up by her fellow participants.

Sullivan Hebert summed up her inaugural ride:

"Love the experience, a little sad at myself because I felt like I should have been in there longer. I had a lot more to give, but my car didn't.

Then she echoed the words of many demo derby drivers:

"But next year, I feel like I'll be back and better than ever."

Actually, when she laid eyes

on what would become her first demo derby car, Sullivan Hebert was not so enthusiastic, according to her husband.

"That car came about, and she was mad at me for buying more cars," Hebert said. "And I somehow talked her into running it, and she loved it. She wants more."

Now she's hooked, he said.

"She wants to get another car for next year. So that's a win," Hebert said.

And that wasn't Hebert's only success of the night; he placed second in the 6-cylinder feature.

While it was his wife's debut derby, Hebert's came when he was only 16; the minimum age to participate.

"This is definitely one of the things he's passionate about," Hebert Sullivan said of her husband.

When asked what he enjoys about the event, Hebert said, "The adrenaline ... that's the majority of it."

Continued on next page



THE WHITNEY FAMILY made a big dent at last year's Field Days Demolition Derby with seven members rumbling through the competitions. Timothy Whitney Jr. won the 6-cylinder feature and his dad, Timothy Sr., was second in the minivan bout. Shown from left, the Whitneys are Daniel, Timothy Jr., Timothy Sr., Marci, Greg, Isaac and Caleb.

Independent photo/Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri

"And, however, watching everybody come around, helping everybody else out," he added.

The couple, who live in Bristol and recently used the fairgrounds for a second celebration of their union, wasn't the only family competing.

Brothers Caleb and Isaac Whitney from Brandon, who are 18 and 16 years old, respectively, both had cars in the pit, along with five other family members: two other brothers, their cousin and their aunt.

It was Isaac's first time competing.

"We've watched it our entire lives," said Caleb, who signed up for the first time last year.

It was Caleb's older brother Greg who cost him first place in his first derby: "Lost to my older brother, who got first all because my car caught on fire."

"We brought 11 cars to the demo," according to their aunt Marci Whitney, 42, of Cornwall, who also competed for the first time this year.

"Figuring one of us should at least be able to place," Caleb

quipped.

His prediction came true. His uncle, Marci's husband Timothy Whitney Sr., and their son, Timothy Whitney Jr., both placed; they drove to second in the mini-van feature and first in the 6-cylinder feature, respectively.

Tim Sr. inspired Marci to give the derby a try as a driver.

"I have watched my husband Demo for over 20 years," she explained when asked what made her decide to compete.

However, the 2023 derby marked both her debut in and retirement from the sport. She says she will not drive again.

"I didn't finish great but I accomplished what I went for. I hit hard, and I can check it off my bucket list," she said. "The family is what makes it so much fun. We are very close family, and this gives us another reason to get together."]

In 2024 the G. Stone Motors Demo Derby has been expanded to run three evenings! Look for it on the Tractor Pad at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

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The 2024 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:

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| 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 after the first local frost.

Visit addisonindependent.com/contests for more info.





Firearm raffles allowed

By AMELIA SEEPERSAUD

Amidst all of the excitement of the annual Addison County Fair and Field Days, the Paquette Building hosts a variety of different local Vermont organizations and businesses.

Though firearms are not physically allowed into the fair, during Field Days last summer groups were allowed to hold gun raffles open to everyone in attendance. Two groups in particular hosted in the building held such gun raffles: the Vermont Traditions Coalition (VTC) and the Vermont Trappers Association (VTA).

VTC had three gun raffles going and one large raffle selling at \$100 a ticket for an ATV. The gun raffle was open to anyone at the fair who was interested and eligible to own a gun. They didn't verify eligibility or run a background check themselves as they sold each ticket. According

to VTC Treasurer Michael Bard, "When they win the raffle, the transfer will go directly through a firearms dealer, and they do all the background checks."

The Vermont Traditions Coalition is primarily a volunteer coalition made up of different Vermont organizations that align with each other's goals. As their website states they're a group "working to protect their cultural heritage."

"We work in the legislative and regulatory processes," Mike Covey, the group's executive director, said, "advocating for hunting, fishing, trapping, snowmobiling, forestry, public land access, public land management. All the things that kind of connect Vermonters to the landscape."

VTC Treasurer Bard explained that the organization's goals at the fair were to fundraise and also to let people know what



VERMONT TRADITIONS COALITION Treasurer Mike Bard, left, and Executive Director Mike Covey were happy to talk to folks at Field Days about their organization, but they also were raffling off guns to get people to stop at their booth.

Independent file photo/Steve James

they're about. For Bard, the ability to talk with people at Field Days was the most significant incentive for being there.

"If we didn't sell a single raffle ticket but we spoke to a lot of people, we'd have done a good job," he said.

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Arrrgh you ready for Pirate Man Dan?

By AMELIA SEEPERSAUD

Each year, families flood into the show tent at the Addison County Fair and Field Days, and sit on the edge of their seats in anticipation of the beloved entertainer known as Pirate Man Dan.

Pirate Man Dan (offstage he's called Daniel Jolley) has been performing at the New Haven fairgrounds for almost a decade. He began his first show of last year's fair on Tuesday, with a question for the audience:

"Who here's seen my show before?"

Every hand in the tent shot straight into the air, to which he remarked that this was the only place where everyone's seen it before.

Elizabeth Curran from Whiting attended the show with her husband, son and visiting grandchildren. Curran and her family have been attending the pirate's shows for years.

"We really enjoy his performance, we come to every one," she said. "We really like how much he interacts with the audience. We truly go to every show.... There are 10 of them this week, we'll be at all of them."

Jolley's family-friendly performance mixes comedy with thrill, keeping audiences coming back for more.

Before he was Pirate Man Dan, Jolley was a professional clown.

"My parents were professional part-time clowns," he told the *Addison Independent*. "I was homeschooled. A lot of kids learned sports and they got really good at basketball or whatever. And I got good at unicycling, twisting balloons and juggling, and I just kind of grew up with it."

He's been performing professionally at fairs all over the Northeast and the South for a dozen years now. It was in 2016 that he made the switch to his Pirate Man Dan persona.

"I was looking to build a mobile platform that I could do shows off of," he said. "And the only thing I could think of that was flat at its base was a boat. And I literally built the entire character off of that. At the same time, the clown scare happened and I had this in the works. That year I had 21 fairs and the next year I had 23 fairs and 21 of them went with the pirate."

Though he performs in many



PIRATE MAN DAN, a.k.a. Dan Jolley, rides his unicycle at a Field Days show in 2023, getting the crowd energized as he's about to create a balloon animal behind his back.

Independent file photo/Steve James

fairs across the country, Addison County Field Days feels particularly special for Jolley having grown up in Groton, Vt., himself.

"This fair was the fair my parents took me to growing up," he said. "I'm probably in the top 20 of performers countrywide in the fair industry. That all basically started with this little Vermont boy because of this fair."

He explained that the Addison County Fair and Field Days is one of the few places he doesn't need large backdrops and signs to pull people in. He knows that here, perhaps because it's where he's grown up, that folks get his humor and will always fill the tent.

"Performing here feels like this is where my roots came from."

Fancy fried foods featured at Field Days

By SOPHIA AFSAR-KESHMIRI

Tammy Shattuck, 50, introduced Field Days fairgoers to her fried pies at her treat's debut event in 2023.

The Rutland County resident transformed this classic fork-and-knife-dessert into a mobile handheld, with all of the wonderful pie parts intact, but contained within a more petite semicircle pie-crust package.

It was perfect for strolling the muddier-than-usual fairgrounds,

peering over fences at animals or watching the demolition derby.

Shattuck's mobile alternative for a sweet fair snack beats the classic and challenging-to-eat fried dough in the convenience category. After receiving the treat in its parchment paper sleeve, I was thankful I wasn't experimenting with tactics to eat the sweet and sugary circle pizza sans slices. I watched one fairgoer employ the "hold-the-parallel-plate-edges-and-nibble-the-front" technique, only to eventually be

forced to slide the snack forward.

Shattuck was inspired to sell these handheld fried halfmoons, filled with your choice of apple, caramel apple, cherry, strawberry rhubarb, apricot raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, raspberry or peach, after her brother revealed the pie-cooking tactic he saw, "they did out west," she said.

Shattuck assured a tentative customer that they are "absolutely" tastier than your average pie.

On the first day of Field Days in 2023, which was kind of rainy

(what a surprise), she wasn't sure if she'd be taking her stand to any more events. But by the following evening, about midway through the G. Stone Motors Demolition Derby, business was booming and it was looking like her fried pies have a bright future at other fairs.

Amongst the food booths another featured fried snack was also inspired by the west.

Cassandra Wagner, 28, from Richmond, was selling fried

See Foods on page 25



Art exhibits showcase innovation

By AMELIA SEEPERSAUD

The Home and Garden Building on the Addison County fairgrounds exhibited 203 pieces of art submitted by folks from “all around the county and beyond” during Field Days last year, as Handicrafts Superintendent Lee Greenwalt describes it.

Each year, the day before the fair opens, a contest is hosted in which exhibitors can come with their handicrafts, which are then judged and may be selected for a wide array of ribbons and prizes. Then, the exhibits are displayed for Field Days fairgoers to observe and enjoy.

In 2023 the fair accepted entries from 69 exhibitors, 19 of them being youth exhibitors (ages 5-18) and four being golden years exhibitors (age 80+).

“The most interesting thing for me,” Greenwalt said, “is seeing how innovative people are. People have just wild ideas and new crafts. Every year I see something new here. People put their heart and soul into it and they love getting their ribbons and prizes.”

Last year you could swing by the Home and Garden Building to see a wide variety of eclectic crafts, from hexagonal hats, to bouquets made of buttons, to elaborate dollhouses and more. There will surely be an eclectic collection of fantastic crafts this year, too — go check ’em out!



HANDCRAFTS SUPERINTENDENT LEE Greenwalt describes some of the Addison County-made art on display in the Home and Garden Building on the fairgrounds during the 2023 Field Days.

Independent file photo/Amelia Seepersaud

Every year, the Home and Garden Departments at Addison County Fair and Field Days host amateur competitions in five areas in the Frances Monroe Building. The competition in 2023 had more entries in almost every department than it has had for years. The Monroe Building was filled with many beautiful exhibits.

In addition to prizes offered by local businesses and individuals, two special awards are granted annually. Since 1974, the best all-around adult participant in the Foods and Handicrafts Departments is awarded with the Leona

Thompson Award, named for long-time Extension Agent Leona Thompson. Last year’s winner was Mary Howard.

Starting in 2012, the Home and Garden Departments began honoring former Director Frances Monroe with an award in her name for a youth 18 and under who has submitted outstanding entries in at least two departments. The 2023 winner was Normandie Cesario.

Congratulations to these two talented people.

Who will win in 2024?

Foods

(Continued from, Page 24)

cheese curds with just one more Field Days under her belt than Shattuck. She sells at Vermont events similar to Field Days.

“I’m from Wisconsin originally. And so (fried cheese curds) was a huge part of my childhood,” Wagner said.

At Wagner’s stand, a rectangular chalkboard adorning her business name, The Curdeous Cow, listed the various dipping sauces she offered: marinara, maple syrup, homemade ranch, homemade spicy ranch or homemade creamy horseradish.

She said kids usually opt for the maple syrup option.

These beer-battered fried nuggets have their origins at Rodgers Farmstead in Berlin. Wagner noted that this was where she sources her curds, and wanted to ensure that their origins got a shoutout.



TAMMY SHATTUCK, LEFT, and her assistant, Jennafyr, are ready to hand out more fried food at their booth on the first day of Field Days in 2023.

Independent photo/
Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri

Good Luck to all Participants!

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FIELD DAYS ENTERTAINMENT

Strolling among the exhibits, checking out a ride in the midway, eating lots of “good” food — all that is standard fair fare. One thing that is always fresh is the live entertainment at Field Day, and the 2024 edition of the country fair will have a lot of live acts. Some of them are old favorites, but there is plenty that is new, as well.

One new act that you should make time to see is the **Silver Circus**, starring variety artist Andrew Silver. The act features a unique blend of magic, juggling and physical comedy. You’ll be delighted by his humorous, high-spirited showmanship, mystified by his astonishing magic, and his dexterity is guaranteed to take your breath away. He’s doing 11 shows during the week, including juggling, clowning and magic workshops on three afternoons. Check out the schedule for the performances in the entertainment show area.

On the musical front, Field Days will feature six local bands, and three of those are new to the fair.

The first of the newbies is **Third Shift**, which will play on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Bandstand. This five-piece dance band from South Burlington features the dynamic vocals of Colleen McLaughlin and a range of styles from jazz and contemporary pop to classic rock, soul, and R&B.

You’ll enjoy another band new to Field Days if you go to Bandstand on Friday at 7 p.m. when **Blues and Beyond** takes the stage. Led by Danny Roda in South Royalton, Blues and Beyond brings positive energy and great songs to the stage, infusing blues, jazz, soul, and dance rock favorites.

If you like acoustic, American and country rock, then go see the third new band — **Rust & Rain** — on Friday at 7 p.m. at the Bandstand. This band is husband and wife, Josh and Beth Adams, with bassist Tom MacMillan, and they feature amazing vocal harmonies and fancy fretwork. This trio hails from Chester in Central Vermont.



PEDAL TRACTOR

If that’s not your kind of thing, at the same time on Friday in the Show Tent you can go hear **DJ Tony Lamoureux** do his Dance Party. He will take musical requests from fairgoers.

Not new to Field Days, but singer Lori Towle will return to the Bandstand on Tuesday night at 7 p.m. with the band **Sanctuary**. Look and listen for rock from the ’80s and more danceable covers from Towle, Tom Lawson, Justin Brault, John Wallace and Jerry Cloutier.

Two other familiar bands you can enjoy again are

FEATURING

ANDREW SILVER OF THE SILVER CIRCUS

THIRD SHIFT

TOM JOYCE, THE MAGIC MAN

SANCTUARY

RUST & RAIN

PEDAL TRACTOR PULL

SKILLET TOSS

PIRATE MAN DAN



SKILLET TOSS

Nickel & Dime (an Addison County dance cover band featuring your favorite songs from the ’70s and beyond) at 7 p.m. on Thursday at the Bandstand and **Rehab Roadhouse** (a four-piece ensemble that specializes in the intersect between B-side ’70s classic blues and more modern jam) the same night at 8 p.m. at the Show Tent.

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.

Here are some special things to look for:

- The **Field Days Opening Parade** steps off from near the tractor

(See *Entertainment* on page 28)



FIELD DAYS ENTERTAINMENT



THIRD SHIFT

pad at 6 p.m. on Tuesday. This year's theme sounds fun; it's "Addison in Wonderland." 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 or any Field Days director if you plan to participate.

- 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**. Amanda 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.

- If you like the thrill of motorsport competition there will be more of it for you this year as the G. Stone Demolition Derby is expanding from two days to *three*. Look for it at the Tractor pad on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

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.

Continued on next page



TOM JOYCE THE MAGIC MAN

FIELD DAYS ENTERTAINMENT

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 appearing 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



SILVER CIRCUS



SANCTUARY

- **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 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.



Verd Mont Button Club unites enthusiasts

By SOPHIA AFSAR-KESHMIRI

One day at last year's fair, Verd Mont Button Club member Sheri Ross, 73, enthusiastically showed off a collection of small, big and beautiful buttons displayed on pillows that the Verd Mont Button Club stand in the Home and Garden Barn at Addison County Fair & Field Days.

Button collectors and enthusiasts from across the state have been connecting through the club, which has been dedicated to the niche hobby since 1979.

From March to November, members gather monthly to compare notes — and of course buttons.

“The Verd Mont Button Club was founded ... in order to bring into a relation of mutual helpfulness and cooperation, organizations and persons who pursue the hobby of collecting buttons, to

promote educational exhibitions, to encourage research, to publish and disseminate information among its members, and to preserve for the future generations all that is beautiful and historical in buttons,” explains a club pamphlet.

Things can even get competitive.

“Club members participate in national and regional button shows and conventions sponsored by the Northeast Regional Button Association and the National Button Society,” the pamphlet reads.

Ross, who still has a hint of a Southern accent, said she began collecting when she was 19 years old.

“I just went to the flea market in Nashville a lot and yard sales. I went to auctions every Saturday with my mom. And I just loved them,” she said.



VERD MONT BUTTON Club members Sheri Ross, left and Lynn Bladgen staff the club's table at the Addison County Fair and Field Days in 2023, where they shared their interesting hobby with fairgoers.

Independent photo/Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri

Ross pointed out pillows festooned with two types of “realistic” glass buttons, of which she

said her personal favorite resembles the same creature printed all across her shirt — frogs.

See a barn frame loom in action at Field Days

By AMELIA SEEPERSAUD

The Antique Equipment Building at the Addison County Fair & Field Days fairgrounds is home to a wide range of antique farming and household equipment. The 2023 fair was no exception.

On display was an array of farming tools, a skein winder, a buggy jack, a 1920s stove and more. Some of the equipment dates back to the 19th century.

Occupying a central spot in the room was a large barn frame loom dated to the 1870s.

“Every year we make a warp (a set of yarns stretched in place on a loom), we bring it here, and we dress the loom and a variety of people weave on it, and that's part of the excitement,” crafter Lausanne Allen told us last year.

“We made that in April,” she

continued. “It's eight yards long and we hope to finish weaving it this week.”

“We will,” volunteer Candace Polzella piped in.

Polzella talked about the new additions they had to the building's equipment last year.

“What we're doing different this year is we have these two spinning wheels that have been donated,” she said.

As they spoke, they were in the process of wrapping cot-

“Every year we make a warp (a set of yarns stretched in place on a loom), we bring it here, and we dress the loom and a variety of people weave on it, and that's part of the excitement.”

— crafter Lausanne Allen

ton threads around the wheel's bobbin (the part of the spinning wheel the thread is wound around).

“The fun part is that anyone involved in homestead arts has to be able to solve problems with

what they have at hand,” Allen said. “It's the Yankee ingenuity of us. And so here we are, we'd like some waxed-linen to do this with, but we have some schleppycotton that would break if we

sneezed on it. But we're actually going to make sure it does the job.”

They described the loom as having initially been “askew.” It's been a group effort to maintain the loom and to keep it in working condition.

Allen described the fair as a village coming together as it always has.

“Yesterday and the day before, the village was waking up,” she said. “You saw people coming in and spending hours making the village happen. And it just makes you realize that when farmers would come to the aid of each other, there was that spirit of ‘we're all in this together.’ And that's true of the fair too, you see people who come out year after year to help make things work.”



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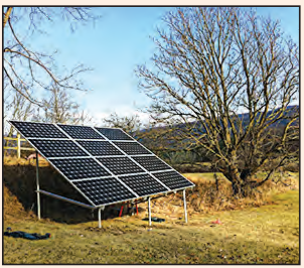
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