

What's news

Two teenagers charged in Memorial Day Barre fire

The Associated Press

Vermont State Police said they've charged two teenagers with arson in a Memorial Day fire that gutted a century-old bank building in Barre.

Nathan Witham, 17, and Jessica Delary, 16, both of Barre, are charged with second-degree arson in the fire, which broke out on the third floor of an unoccupied former Key Bank building. The building had recently been purchased by Barre Mayor Thomas Lauzon. Damage estimates have been as high as \$1 million.

Police said Thursday that the two suspects were being held on unrelated charges at Essex County Jail, in Lewis, N.Y.

■ **Barnard man killed by bull while bringing in cows:** Vermont State Police said a 55-year-old dairy farmer was killed by a bull while bringing in the cows for milking. The body of Dwight Clark of Barnard was found late Wednesday by searchers after Clark's sister reported she couldn't find him on the farm, authorities reported Thursday. Police said the bull was a full-grown Holstein that did not have horns. The bull had been left in the pasture with the cows for breeding.

■ **Fugitive prompts manhunt in Lamoille County:** Police in Lamoille County were searching Thursday for a wanted man who fled from authorities on his motorcycle, then dumped the bike and ran off, according to a news release. The incident began at about 7:55 a.m. in Morristown when Darren Bingham, 39, led police on a chase first on the motorcycle and then on foot. Police said Bingham is wanted on multiple warrants in Lamoille and Orleans counties. When he was last seen, authorities said, he was wearing a black helmet and a black long-sleeve shirt, and his blond hair was pulled back into a ponytail. Anyone with information is asked to call Morristown police at 888-4211.

■ **Ascutey fire chief: Water shortage hindered crews:** A Vermont fire chief said a shortage of water allowed a fire to spread in a 200-year-old house on U.S. 5 in Weathersfield. Ascutey Fire Chief Darren Spaulding told the Valley News the first firefighters at the scene of the 3 p.m. Wednesday blaze kept flames from spread-

ing to much of the two-story clapboard building. Water from a nearby hydrant ran out, and tankers with more water didn't arrive until flames had spread through much of the structure. There's no word what caused the fire. No one was injured. The name of the homeowner was not released.

■ **Wanted man arrested after chase:** Timothy S. Kearney, 18, was arrested Wednesday evening after a brief pursuit, police said. A resident informed police that Kearney, who was wanted for failing to appear for arraignment on a charge of retail theft, was at a residence on Moore Hill Road in Newbury. Troopers from the Bradford barracks responded and took Kearney into custody after a short foot chase. Kearney was jailed at the Northeast Regional Correction Facility in St. Johnsbury on the outstanding warrant.

■ **Postcard campaign fights Vermont Yankee future:** The Vermont Public Interest Research Group, which wants the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant closed down, is lobbying the candidates for governor for help. Tuesday, the advocacy group gathered more than 2,000 postcards it had collected from people around Vermont and delivered them to the campaign headquarters of the six major-party candidates, imploring them to make clean energy a priority and to retire the plant when its license expires in 2012. VPIRG said its campaign has collected more than 7,000 postcards from Vermonters who want the 38-year-old plant closed. — From staff, wire reports

Vt. revenues increase

State analysts present view of economy

By Terri Hallenbeck
Free Press Staff Writer

MONTPELIER — Vermont's economy is showing signs of recovery, but unpredictable rough spots still could be on the horizon, economists told state leaders Thursday.

Economists Jeff Carr and Tom Kavet delivered the news to Gov. Jim Douglas

and the heads of the Legislature's money committees Thursday afternoon. With that glimpse of brightness, the group adjusted expectations in anticipation of slightly higher revenues coming into the state in the next two years.

Carr and Kavet said the state's year-end revenues slightly exceeded projections for fiscal 2010 and should increase in 2011 and 2012, but they also warned of uncertainty ahead. Carr, who is Douglas' economist, warned that making predictions is trickier than ever.

"Who knows?" Douglas said of the economic future.

Kavet, the Legislature's economist, said the risk that the economy will fall into a double-dip recession has increased from a 15 percent to 20 percent possibility earlier this year to 20 percent to 30 percent now.

The two found positive signs in the economy, however, including a 41 percent increase nationally in corporate profits and hiring of temporary workers. Those hirings typically are a precursor to permanent hiring, they said.

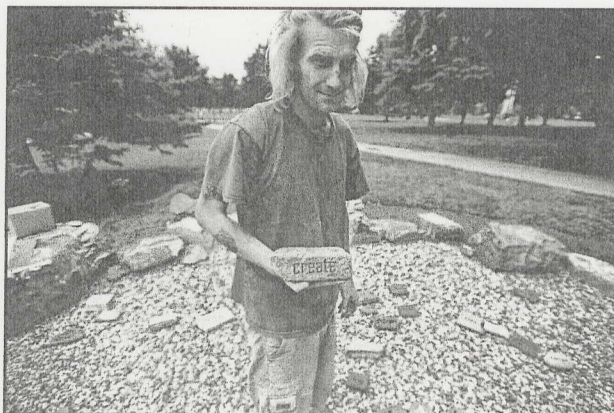
The economists agreed on figures that show \$3.8 million more coming into the state's General Fund this

fiscal year and \$15.4 million more in 2012.

That's a good sign, said House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Martha Heath, D-Westford, but she said the state still faces a \$100 million budget deficit next year. "People shouldn't think it takes away from any pressures," she said. "Finding even \$100 million in FY12 is going to be incredibly difficult."

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Garden etched in stone



Photos by IAN THOMAS JANSEN-LONNGUIST, for the Free Press

Chris Cleary of On the Rocks Carving Studio in Jericho Center displays one of the word rocks he carved as part of the Word Garden installation at St. Michael's College in Colchester.

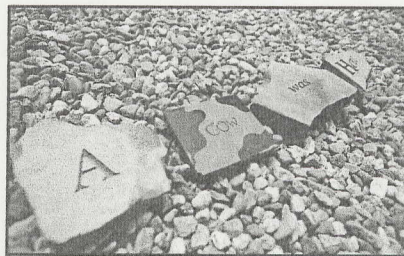
Visitors interact with word-carved rocks

By Tim Johnson
Free Press Staff Writer

COLCHESTER — The new teaching garden at St. Michael's College might well qualify as a literary tour de force, but it won't leave anyone at a loss for words.

After all, it's called a Word Garden. More than 300 varied, word-inscribed stones can be placed in sentences, phrases or couplets, as profound or inane or touching as the arranger cares to make them.

It's the brainchild of Jericho stone carver Chris Cleary, whose backyard was littered with words in stone: cast-offs from his various projects, from tombstones to sculptures. He thought there might be a place for them at St. Michael's nearby the other teaching gardens, for which he had provided the title stones. The resident teaching gardeners



Rocks spell out a clause in the St. Michael's College Word Garden.

ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

— associate professors Valerie Bang-Jensen (education) and Mark Lubkowitz (biology) — embraced the idea and brought it into being, with funding from the college and full support of the groundskeeping staff.

Surrounded by boul-

ders of Monkton quartzite, the Word Garden is a 20-by-30-foot bed of pebbles, reminiscent of a Japanese Zen garden. Scattered about, inviting imaginative combinations, are the word rocks.

Bang-Jensen compares the Word Garden to the magnetic poetry that can be found on refrigerators,

See WORDS, 8B

ELECTION 2010

Incumbents lead race for dollars Congressional candidates file

By John Curran
The Associated Press

MONTPELIER — Incumbency has its advantages. One of them is money, and the campaigns of U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy and U.S. Rep. Peter Welch have plenty of it, according to campaign finance reports filed Thursday.

Leahy has \$3.2 million on hand for his campaign against Democrat Daniel Freilich and Republican Len Britton, while fellow Democrat Welch boosted his war chest to more than \$1 million between April 1 and June 30, according to reports filed with the Federal Election Commission.

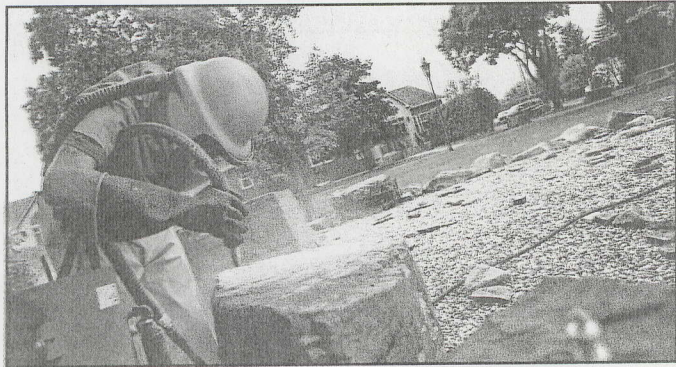
Thursday was the deadline for filing reports for the period.

Leahy, who was elected in 1974 and is seeking a seventh term, reported total contributions of \$458,504 in the period and \$4.1 million overall. He spent \$275,880 in the April-June period and had \$3,290,322 on hand after it, according to his report.

He faces Freilich in the Democratic primary and in the general election, since Freilich also filed as an independent, meaning he can run in November even if he loses the primary.

Freilich, 46, of Wilmington, a U.S. Navy physician making his first bid for elected office, reported contributions of \$16,272, expen-

See FUNDS, 8B



Chris Cleary of On the Rocks Carving Studio in Jericho Center sandblasts a chess board on a rock Wednesday in the Word Garden at St. Michael's College in Colchester.

WORDS: Visitors interact with garden

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but the more she thinks about it, she said, the more she realizes how limited that analogy is. Magnetic poetry is uniform, two-dimensional. The words here are inscribed in many fonts, in rocks of many shapes, colors, textures. Some combinations are playful: The rock that reads "through" has a hole in it. "Ball" is inscribed in a spherical piece of fieldstone. The Indian sandstone inscribed "Wood" actually looks like wood.

The aesthetic variety was evident in one of the phrases on display Thursday — perhaps a haiku in the making: "Beautiful flower met."

"Beautiful" was done in Pristine font, on lilac stone — a kind of purple sandstone. "Flower" was done in a kind of curly font (Cleary didn't know the name), on Pottsdam red sandstone. And "Met" was in a script that brought to mind the New York baseball team.

The garden has been in place since Monday, and it has become a hit with playgrounders at the McCarthy Arts Center next door. They come out to browse, or compose, during intermission. The space can be used in any number of ways, Bang-Jensen and Lubkowitz said — by individuals, couples, classes. The space will figure prominently in a first-year seminar they plan to co-teach called "Digging Down to the Roots: The Meaning of Gardens."

They'll also make use of the other teaching gardens they've inaugurated during the past six years: "Books & blooms," with plantings that evoke children's literature, from Winnie-the-Pooh to Harry Potter; "Native Plants of Vermont," which features spring and fall bloomers; and an "International Garden," complete with figurative poles and a path representing the equator. College groundskeepers do the edging and mulching, Lubkowitz said, while students and

faculty take care of the designing, planting, weeding, website designing and so on.

Bang-Jensen and Lubkowitz envisioned these gardens as a valuable venue for interdisciplinary instruction — biology students and children's literature students in the same class, for example. Their continuing collaboration infuses their own language: Bang-Jensen startled Lubkowitz the other day by describing a plant as "chlorotic," and he surprised himself by summoning up one of her phrases, "world lens."

What sets the Word Garden apart, Bang-Jensen said, is its interactivity.

"You can see how creative people are," Bang-Jensen said, "or how unbound by linguistic rules they are."

"Or how bound by rules they are," Lubkowitz said, mentioning a faculty colleague who took a sentence

to task for the incorrect use of an apostrophe.

The sentence was still there Thursday: "Ninja fur balls drive east in poor boat's."

That wasn't the only nonsense: "Feel passion ate forever" and "enthusiastic creosote paid no respect."

The verbiage mix includes a few prefixes and suffixes, but punctuation is limited to question marks, exclamation points and the dreaded apostrophe (preceding "s" or "ll"). Writers have to make do without commas.

"I figure people will drop it down, just start another line," Cleary said.

One line is usually enough.

"We're all born through shenanigans," someone wrote.

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FUNDS: Candidates file reports

Continued from Page 1B

ditures of \$21,666 and \$1,698 cash on hand as of June 30.

"I think we've raised more than anyone's ever raised against him in the primary," Freilich said. "This is the first time there is a serious challenge, and there's a reasonable chance of heating him, despite the disparity in money."

Britton, owner-operator of Britton's Lumber, Landscape and Feed store in Taftsville, reported raising \$88,484 to date, spending \$87,386 and contributing \$3,508 to his own cause. He had \$4,606 cash on hand at month's end.

Welch, D-Vt., has no primary challenge this year. He reported raising \$179,815 between April 1 and June 30, leaving \$1,011,019 cash on hand. His campaign spent \$102,211 in the period, according to his filing.

His GOP opponents were nowhere close. One was in the red:

■ John M. Mitchell of Rutland reported cash on hand of minus \$1,131, as well as \$12,050 in debts.

■ Keith Stern of Springfield reported lending his campaign \$10,000, saying it was the only contributions he received in the period. He spent \$1,477 and had \$8,522 on hand as of the end

of July, his report said. In an interview, he said he's saving his fundraising for the general election, when he'll face Welch — if he gets through the primary. "If I win the primary, I'm going to need a lot of money to run against Peter Welch. So I'd rather have the money for that," he said.

■ Paul Beaudry of Swanton said he filed his campaign finance report last week, but it wasn't showing on the FEC's website Thursday. Beaudry said he received about \$13,000 in contributions during the quarter, spent about \$8,000 and had about \$5,000 on hand.

Ex-bishop withholds testimony

The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — A former Roman Catholic bishop in the Springfield diocese repeatedly invoked his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination during a deposition in a lawsuit filed by a man who alleges he was molested by a known pedophile priest.

The Most Rev. Thomas Dupre testified in a lawsuit by Andrew Nicastro, who says now-defrocked priest Alfred Graves molested him in Williamstown in the 1980s. Nicastro alleges that then-Bishop Joseph McGuire and Dupre, his subordinate, assigned Graves to the church knowing he had abused other boys.

Dupre later became bishop but resigned after an unrelated child sex abuse indictment in 2004.

He was never prosecuted because the statute of limitations had expired.

Nicastro's lawyer, John Stobierski, sought the release of a videotape of Dupre's deposition. A written transcript released by Stobierski on Thursday shows Dupre taking the Fifth Amendment to nearly all questions during more than two hours of testimony.

"I think what's most important is him pleading the Fifth," Stobierski said. "Most important is he can't be — at this point — forthcoming about his role. I think

it says volumes." Dupre's lawyer, Michael Jennings, said he asked a judge to impound the videotape but did not object to release of the written transcript.

"It was the spectacle of the videotape, which has no purpose. It isn't going to inform the public," Jennings said.

Later Thursday, Hampden Superior Court Judge Bertha Josephson denied Dupre's motion to suppress the videotape.

Stobierski said he plans to release copies of the video next week.



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