

A GROWING FUNDRAISER



VALLEY NEWS — JAMES M. PATTERSON

Ledyard Charter School botany students, from left, Kiley Harvey, 18, Sabrina Lopez, 17, and Rya Pospychala, 16, right, search for an information sheet on Morning Glories to give Timber Holmes, of Grantham, left, who bought starts of the flowers at their Mother's Day plant sale in Lebanon. The sale includes annual starts planted by the students and house plants they propagated. Proceeds from the sale, which continues through Friday, benefits the school as it prepares to install a lift between the first and second floors of its building.

NEWPORT

Two incumbents face challenger

Selectboard seats to be decided in Tuesday's election

By PATRICK O'GRADY
Valley News Correspondent

NEWPORT — A challenger is vying with two incumbent Selectboard members for two, three-year terms on the board in Tuesday's election.

James Burroughs, the board's current chairman and a former Newport Police chief, is running for his second term, while Jeff Kessler, elected in 2007, is seeking a seventh, three-term.

The third candidate, Doug Ring, owns a towing company and has run unsuccessfully for the board in the last three municipal elections. Ring declined a couple of requests to discuss his candidacy.

The incumbents said the new \$9 million community center, which opened in March, was a major accomplishment for the board over the last three years, particularly in light of two failed bond votes for the center in 2019 and 2022.

"I was a big supporter of the community center and I kept pushing for it during the slow period when COVID hit and it was put aside," Kessler, 71, said. "That

has been on the wish list for a couple of decades and we pulled it off."

Burroughs, 51, noted that no direct local tax dollars were required to build the center and the Selectboard and other boards worked "hard to make it happen."

If reelected, Burroughs' focus, he said, would be on ensuring quality personnel to lead municipi-

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VERMONT

Mahdawi helps launch legal initiative

Fund will help immigrants facing deportation, detention and family separation

By HOLLY RAMER and AMANDA SWINHART
Associated Press

MONTPELIER — A Palestinian student arrested during an interview about finalizing his U.S. citizenship helped launch a \$1 million fundraising campaign to strengthen the legal safety net for immigrants in Vermont on Thursday, a week after a federal judge freed him from custody.

Mohsen Mahdawi, 34, who led protests against Israel's war in Gaza at Columbia University, spent 16 days in a state prison before a judge ordered him released on April 30. The Trump administration has said Mahdawi should be deported because his activism threatens its foreign policy goals, but the judge ruled that he has raised a "substantial claim" that the government arrested him to stifle speech with which it disagrees.

Immigration authorities have detained college students from around the country since the first days of the Trump administration. Many of them participated in campus protests over the Israel-Hamas war. Mah-

dawi was among the first to win his freedom after challenging his arrest.

"This is a message of hope and light, that our humanity is much larger than what divides us. Our humanity is much larger than unjust laws," he said at a Statehouse news conference. "And this is also a message to the rest of the world. It starts from Vermont."

Mahdawi joined Vermont State Treasurer Mike Pieciak, Senate Majority Leader Kesha Ram Hinsdale and community advocates to announce the Vermont Immigration Legal Defense Fund. The group, which also in-

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WEST LEBANON

Ice cream, smoothie combo set to open

By MARION UMPLEBY
Valley News Staff Writer

WEST LEBANON — As Upper Valley ice cream shops polish their scoops and rev up their machines in advance of the summer season, two new franchises offering frozen sweets prepare to join them.

Cold Stone Creamery and its sister store, Planet Smoothie, are scheduled to open on Saturday, May 10, in a shared location at the Powerhouse Plaza in West Lebanon.

Franchisee Seth Cox sees

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NEWS, A3

CARDINALS PICK NEW POPE

Robert Prevost, the Chicago-born missionary who spent his career ministering in Peru and took over the Vatican's office of bishops, was elected the first pope from the United States in the history of the Catholic Church.

AP — ALESSANDRA TARANTINO

INSIDE



SPORTS

HIGH-SCORING RAIDERS WIN

Raiders are off to 3-1 start after their 13-4 win over Pelham Wednesday, and are getting better as the season goes along.

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WORLD & NATION

SOUP KITCHENS SHUT DOWN

Israel's ongoing blockade of humanitarian assistance for Gaza forced a leading aid group to shut its soup kitchens as it faced empty warehouses and no replenishment of supplies. Page B3



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