

## Letters to the Editor

### More '99 Percent' news needed

I heard that there was to be training for the spring Occupy Wall Street (or 99 Percent) effort. I got an email about it but couldn't reply. Something about my dial-up account not working well for the Internet.

I looked for an announcement in the *Addison Independent* and especially in the community calendar section, but nothing.

Something said there was to be a training at Middlebury College, but that is a big place to drive around hoping to see an inside meeting of

those who are allowed to contact the organizers.

It is like Move On: If you can't work the Internet, forget it. There is no way to contact them, even with Internet.

I hope future organizational and training and actions of Occupy Wall Street are made more public, like an announcement in the *Addison Independent* community calendar and such places, or maybe a news release.

**Peter Grant  
Bristol**

### Bristol Wi-Fi could lead to idling

It would seem that the town of Bristol offering free Wi-Fi access is a win-win for everyone ("Bristol soars into digital era with free Wi-Fi," April 26). But there is a downside. This will allow people to gain access with their mobile devices and laptops while sitting in their parked vehicles, which on many occasions will be idling to run air-conditioning or heat.

What is the harm in vehicles idling excessively while parked? Exhaust emissions negatively impact the air we all breathe (idling emissions are significantly more toxic than traveling emissions), waste energy, contribute to climate change, and can cost individuals hundreds of dollars a year in fuel waste and engine wear.

The problem of Wi-Fi access

and vehicle idling has already been demonstrated in Bristol since Wi-Fi has been offered by the Lawrence Memorial Library. Librarian director Nancy Wilson, observing idling vehicles around the library taking advantage of the access, had no-idling signs installed last summer, which has lessened but not eliminated the problem.

Is growing Wi-Fi access in Bristol and other Vermont towns a step forward in allowing us to go online wherever we are? Or is it actually a step backward in encouraging the harm and waste of excessive vehicle idling?

**Wayne Michaud  
Bristol**

*Editor's note: Wayne Michaud is director of Idle-Free VT Inc. To learn more, visit [www.idlefreevt.org](http://www.idlefreevt.org).*

## Letter

(Continued from Page 4)

crisis, as we all watched in disbelief. They thought they knew everything and they didn't. Human arrogance.

Or maybe it was even worse than that. BP et al. knew they didn't have it perfect (i.e., bad Halliburton cementing, which had happened before on other BP wells) but they decided to gamble anyway, thinking they could get away with it. Human arrogance with a helping of greed.

The Gulf of Mexico disaster, as bad as it was, pales beside the ongoing devastation at the Fukushima Daiichi reactors.

The Fukushima meltdowns remain terribly underreported while the situation continues to grow worse. Besides the tons of waste drifting towards the west coast of the North American hemisphere, the ghost ships that have to be torpedoed, the cesium-137 measuring 200 times greater than Chernobyl, the radioactive iodine (from Japan) found in New Hampshire by Dartmouth scientists, there is now the daunting problem facing the entire nuclear industry of how to clean up the three Daiichi plants people and machines cannot get near.

The radiation levels are so high that they are fatal to humans (within 48 hours) and within 14 hours to the microchips running the robotic equipment. In other words, whole new orders of advanced equipment and technology have to be created to get into three of the four reactors before the cleanup and the decommissioning can even begin. This is expected to last decades.

Unfortunately there may not be decades left: There is a 98 percent likelihood of an earthquake on the magnitude of 7 or greater hitting the area within the next three years, which will in all probability topple the spent fuel rod storage structure on the top of Daiichi 4.

Was none of this was even contemplated before these reactors were built? Were no worst-case scenarios addressed? I can't believe these possibilities were never discussed. But if they were, by what reasoning were they dismissed? Maybe they thought that by the time one of these events occurred, new technologies would have come along to fix them. Again, human arrogance.

In the past, there have been many developments that have saved us, but those days are gone. It seems we are beginning to live in the era of Hail Mary passes. Too many people on the planet to feed? Let's try genetically modified foods. Or pink slime, as we compete with our pets for food. Not enough water to drink or to irrigate our fields or to use in all the hydro fracking

we plan on doing? No problem. It should be fine for a while after we sell off Lake Superior.

Not enough energy to run our cars? Let's plop what amounts to experimental oilrigs in the middle of vital ecosystems. Or perhaps steal what we need from another country because they say something that offends us or have a religion we don't like. We use more oil fighting these wars than we recoup with dangerous drilling. Not enough energy to run the rest of our stuff? Build more nukes. And by all means, keep the dinosaurs running until we have our own Daiichi at Indian Point or Vernon.

There is an important election coming soon. Let's hope the two candidates will finally start talking about the truly important issues facing us and not this sideshow nonsense we've been witnessing during the Republican primaries. Sadly, I doubt this debate will occur. I fear one candidate is afraid to tell the truth and the other doesn't know it.

**Heidi Holliger  
Vergennes**

## ADDISON COUNTY

### School Briefs

#### Area students finish programs


RANDOLPH — Four area residents graduated from the Vermont Department of Labor's Electrical and Plumbing Apprenticeship Programs at a ceremony held April 14 on the Vermont Technical College Randolph Campus.

They are Eugene O. Charlebois of New Haven, electrical; Michael Loven of Salisbury, electrical; Glenn Waldrip Jr. of Brandon, plumbing; and Justin C. Webb of Vergennes, electrical.

**Emily Quattrocci** of Lincoln, a student at Vermont Technical College, traveled to North Carolina's Outer Banks in April with the Vermont Tech Community Outreach Team to help with Hurricane Irene relief.


**Kayla Whittemore** of Shoreham was named to the dean's list for the 2012 winter term at Kettering University in Flint, Mich., where she is majoring in industrial engineering.

**Saturday, May 12th**  
**LINCOLN MOUNTAIN MAGIC**  
**5K AND 10K ROAD RACE**



Beautiful course through the hills of Lincoln  
Prizes for first place finishers  
T-shirts and raffle drawing  
Family fun, free food, live music

RACES START AT 9:00AM AT LINCOLN COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
ONSITE REGISTRATION AND NUMBER PICKUP BEGINS AT 7:30AM  
PREREGISTER AND VIEW COURSES AT [WWW.FRIENDSOFLCS.ORG](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFLCS.ORG)  
CALL 802-343-9966 FOR MORE INFORMATION



TO BENEFIT FRIENDS OF LINCOLN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## Think of the possibilities... at EastView.

"Youth would be an ideal state if it came a little later in life."

—Herbert Henry Asquith

We can't roll back the clock, but the freedom and opportunities that come with living at EastView will remind you of your glorious college days. Our cottages and apartments offer spacious carefree living, in energy-efficient and light-filled homes surrounded by Vermont's incredible beauty. Treat yourself to a tour today!

For a tour and more information, call Connie at 388-0303.



Eastview Information Center  
100 EastView Terrace, Middlebury  
802-388-0303  
[connie@eastviewmiddlebury.com](mailto:connie@eastviewmiddlebury.com)

**OPENING THIS JUNE**  
Cottages Available Now

**DON'T MISS AN ISSUE, SUBSCRIBE • [WWW.ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM](http://WWW.ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM)**