SOAR celebrates a summer of outdoor adventure and fun

and lunch as part of the RNESU

relief

of its five-week-long summer camp this past Friday, Aug. 6 with a camp-wide party featuring two water slides, face painting and climbing on the playground. Leaders capped off the party with a BBQ lunch of hot dogs, burgers and chips.

Seventy-five kids first grade Opportunities, Recreation," ce BY KATHERINE LAZARUS
BRANDON — The SOAR "Success through
Academics and s, Academics and celebrated the end

through seventh arrived at the Neshobe Elementary School from 10:45 a.m.-4:45 p.m. each day from July 5-Aug. 6 to participate in this year's camp. Summer themes at the camp included exploring insects, nature and exploring insects, nature and mindfulness, and caring for the rst grade ed at the School

"It went incredibly," said SOAR Director Nancy Bird, 59, who has been director for 12 of the 17 years SOAR has run. "It's fun, it's safe and the kids had an absolute blast. That's what parents want and need, and it's simple which is the key."

Sixteen staff, including three staff that helped one-on-one, made arts and crafts and played in the summer sunshine with children from Neshobe Elementary, Otter Creek Academy, and Lothrop Elementary.

In a swimsuit herself, staffer Amanda Bliven, 32, from

it, it's the best was so muc fun being kid again." Middlebury, said of her first year being a leader at the SOAR "It went incred-

"connecting with the chiltervention specialist at eshob te thing, she said, simple which is the key." need, and it's parents want and had an absolute blast. That's what ibly. It's fun, it's safe and the kids

show-

—Nancy Bird, SOAR Director and doing the community so vice," Savela said of his time

camp. He plans on seeing some of his SOAR teachers in school this year and, at the very year next year at camp.

With hungry stomachs from playing and learning, the kids ran to get lunch from leader Evan Diaz, 19, who is from Brandon. He substitutes during the school year at the same school he attended as a kid, though he did not to to camp.

not go to camp.

"It went really well," he said of the camp. "A lot of kids have been able to test out their own interests with a wide variety of outdoor activities and crafts," Diaz explained, as he flipped burgers and rolled over hot dogs while the kids got in a long line heading for the lunch table.

will age up next year and not be able to attend the SOAR program, Nikolas Savela, program. While Alyssa

Sudbury, d, with a

huge smile from the slip n' slide whose long line

field. helping nity ser-SOAR CAMP LEADER Evan Diaz, 19, from Brandon, flipped burgers and hotdogs in the hot sun for kids celebrating their last day. "It went really well. A lot of kids have been able to test out their own interests with a wide variety of outdoor activities and crafts," said Diaz, who is a substitute during the school year.

Golden Dome Award Nominees for Summer Reading!



















DIRECTOR NANCY BIRD, 59, on the left, who has led 12 out of the 17 summer sessions SOAR has put on, crosses the field to help prepare lunch as kids laugh and play on the Wild Rapids water slide on Friday, Aug. 6.

Evenings at Vermont Blues Retreat Aug. 14

All-Star Faculty Concert

of Acoustic Blues
Participants and faculty intimate evening with Vermont's legendary blues musicians Brandon Music – Saturday, August 14 – 7:30 PM

Wed. 8/11 A Night

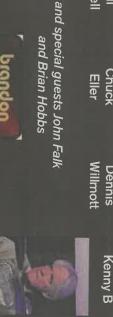


Thurs. 8/12 Blues Jam House band &

participants. Outside musicians welcome.







Fri., 8/13

Participant Concert

free will donation

brandon

All events at 7:30 PM Admission:

ng / Tickets: \$40 or email: info@brandon-music.net ic 62 Country Club Road Brandon, VT www.vermontbluesretreat.com

Limited Seating / 802 247-4295 or 6 Brandon Music 6

More Info: 802 247-2700