

assign specific blame for this heat wave to climate change, but on a planet with hotter summers, we can expect worse and more frequent heat waves. So that is nationally.

Globally, NOAA announced that July 2013 was the sixth warmest July on record.

I was traveling in Asia during the recess with Senator JOHN MCCAIN immediately following record-setting heat. In mid-August temperatures passed 105 degrees Fahrenheit in Shanghai, China, the hottest temperature measured in the city since records began to be kept about 140 years ago. The temperature in Shimanto, Japan, hit 105 degrees Fahrenheit, the hottest ever recorded in that Nation.

South Korea's President Park talked with us about climate change and its importance in Northeast Asia. While we were there in South Korea, the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy had warned of power shortages due to high temperatures, and we met with public officials in rooms with air-conditioners shut off to save power.

Senator MCCAIN and I heard from China's leading climate official, Vice Chairman Xie, about China's plan to invest almost \$475 billion on clean energy and emissions-reducing projects through 2015—nearly \$500 billion between now and 2015 and about seven regional cap-and-trade programs that will eventually include other large cities such as Shanghai, Beijing, and Tianjin. For my colleagues who say China must act first on climate change: They are acting, and we should not look to them for an excuse to delay action here at home.

Indeed, a report recently by the Pew Charitable Trusts described China as—let me quote this—China: “The epicenter of clean energy finance, attracting \$65.1 billion in investment . . . it garnered 25 percent of all solar energy investment . . . 37 percent of all wind energy investment . . . and 47 percent of the investment in the ‘other renewable energy category.’”

That is what the Pew Report said about China.

The report compared that to the “disappointing U.S. performance in the worldwide race for clean energy jobs, manufacturing, and market share.” That is not a race we want to lose. Yet we are exhibiting disappointing performance against China.

August was also a month for the usual climate denial. One of our Senate colleagues reportedly self-declared that he was a global warming denier and said he believes evidence points to the Earth entering a mini ice age.

One California Representative told constituents: “Just so you know, global warming is a total fraud.”

A conservative Representative from Iowa told his constituents:

[Climate change] is not science. It's more of a religion than science.

A Representative from Florida said: “Our climate will continue to change because of the way God formed the Earth.”

August even brought a climate denier opinion piece to my home State “Providence Journal:” “Climate science is in turmoil,” the piece said, “because global surface temperatures have been flat for 16 years.”

Rhode Island's PolitiFact unit quickly determined that this claim “cherry-picked numbers and leaves out important details that would give a very different impression.”

In truth, there have been steps in the upward march of global surface temperature before. My skeptical colleagues should read about these steps and what may cause them in mainstream news outlets, which explain that while these pauses do happen, they have not and do not herald the end of climate change. Setting aside surface temperature for a moment, we continue to see warming, rising, and acidifying oceans.

The recess brought the latest issue, for instance, of “National Geographic,” whose cover story is “Rising Seas.” Let me read two excerpts:

A profoundly altered planet is what our fossil-fuel-driven civilization is creating, a planet where Sandy-scale flooding will become more common and more destructive for the world's coastal cities. By releasing carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere, we have warmed the Earth by more than a full degree Fahrenheit over the past century and raised sea level by about eight inches. Even if we stopped burning all fossil fuels tomorrow, the existing greenhouse gases would continue to warm the Earth for centuries. We have irreversibly committed future generations to a hotter world and rising seas.

Here, focusing on a specific location:

Among the most vulnerable cities is Miami. I cannot envision southeastern Florida having many people at the end of this century, says Hal Wanless, chairman of the department of geological sciences at the University of Miami. We're sitting in his basement office, looking at maps of Florida on his computer. At each click of the mouse, the years pass, the ocean rises, and the peninsula shrinks. Freshwater wetlands and mangrove swamps collapse—a death spiral that has already started on the southern tip of the peninsula. With seas four feet higher than they are today—a distinct possibility by 2100—about two-thirds of southeastern Florida is inundated. The Florida Keys have almost vanished. Miami is an island.

That is from that extremist publication National Geographic.

August also brought news that the IPCC will announce that it is now more certain than ever that human activity is the main cause of recent climate change. Let me be very clear about this: There is a broad and strong scientific consensus that climate change is ongoing and that human actions are a cause. It is a consensus of a breadth and strength that it is disgraceful and stupid for us to ignore it. That consensus should come as no surprise because the science behind it—behind the proposition that carbon dioxide in the atmosphere warms the Earth—dates back to the Civil War. It ain't news. We have known it for more than a century. Even the contrarian scientists brought in by the deniers to testify in Congress

agree that carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that warms the Earth.

The science is credible. The danger is credible. Now it is about time for Congress to become credible. It is time to wake up. It is time to do our duty here in Congress to our country and to our fellow man. It is time for us to get serious and protect Americans from the looming harms of climate change.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

16TH STREET CHURCH BOMBING

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, two weeks ago, thousands of people gathered on the National Mall in front of the Lincoln Memorial to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, where Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his historic “I Have a Dream” speech. That remarkable moment in this Nation's history was a peaceful day of unity and we rightfully remember the inspiring words of Dr. King.

We are reminded this week of just how quickly that hope and positive signs of progress were challenged by a stunning act of violence. Just a few days after Dr. King inspired a nation with his dream for his four children, four other children in Birmingham were killed at their church because of the color of their skin. On September 15, 1963, a bomb was planted by members of the Ku Klux Klan at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Addie Mae Collins, 14, Denise McNair, 11, Carole Robertson, 14, and Cynthia Wesley, 14, were innocent victims of racial hatred. The inhumanity of those who conspired and killed children in a church may seem unimaginable in our Nation today, but, as Colbert King of the Washington Post noted recently, “Before al-Qaeda, there was the Ku Klux Klan.”

We celebrate the significant strides we have made with determined efforts in forging a more just and equal America since the KKK's reign of terror, and yet we cannot forget that these events occurred just days after the March on Washington. It occurred in the lifetime of 88 of 100 members of this Senate body. It is our recent history, not ancient history.

The tragic deaths of those four little girls, along with the other shining examples of bravery, patriotism and resolve during the Civil Rights movement, catalyzed passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. These laws helped to transform our Nation and ensure that our most basic promises to our citizens are more than just words on a page, honored only in their breach.

The inspiring possibilities described so eloquently by Dr. King, and the depravity and horror of the Birmingham church bombing just weeks later, reveal an important lesson about our history. The path to progress in our Democracy is winding, and sometimes very, very difficult. We know from our shared experience that we cannot be the Nation that we strive to be by setting the dial on autopilot and assuming that all will be well. There are so many reminders of the winding path to progress, and recently we experienced a considerable detour.

Three months ago, a narrow majority of the Supreme Court held that the coverage provision of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act was unconstitutional. Section 5, often called the “heart of the Voting Rights Act,” provided a remedy for unconstitutional discrimination in voting by requiring jurisdictions with the worst histories of discrimination to “preclear” all voting changes before they could take effect. The remedy is both necessary and important because it stops the discriminatory voting practice before our fellow Americans’ rights are violated. By striking down the coverage provision for Section 5, the Supreme Court’s ruling leaves this vital protection unenforceable.

While certain barriers to participation have been eliminated, we continue to see discriminatory voting measures such as arbitrary registration rules, polling-place manipulation, voter purges, challenges or other devices to deny access to the ballot, as well as vote dilution tactics. Since the Court’s recent decision in Shelby County, several states have already decided to impose new barriers to voting, thereby reversing the gains that we have made through the last five decades.

These include measures taken by Texas, North Carolina, and Florida to undermine their citizens’ right to vote and to participate in our democracy. But on this day, when we reflect on the contributions of our children to the cause of liberty, perhaps no story is more worth retelling than the story of the Prairie View A&M students. It is a story that bridges the past with both the present and the future. Students from that historically black university have been fighting for their voting rights for more than four decades now, and if not for the Voting Rights Act, many of these students would have been denied their fundamental right to vote.

The history is well-documented in a recent Houston Chronicle article by

Renée Lee. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. In the 1970s, the Justice Department filed an action against Waller County and its state officials for using a questionnaire to deny Prairie View students the right to vote. In 1992, 19 students were indicted for improperly voting, which ultimately led to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that authorized college students to register and vote in communities where they live while at school.

In 2004, the NAACP and four Prairie View students filed a federal case after the county district attorney tried to enforce residency requirements that would keep students from voting. A Section 5 enforcement suit was filed by civil rights organizations around the same time after county officials shortened the early voting period at the campus in violation of Section 5. This effort to narrow student participation came at a time when a student leader sought elective office. Testimony about this recent chapter at Prairie View A&M was submitted to Congress in support of the 2006 Reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act. It was compelling evidence that voting discrimination persists in that community and that even a Supreme Court ruling was not sufficient protection.

Two years after the reauthorization of Section 5, in 2008, nearly 1,000 Prairie View students marched in protest for the lack of an early voting place on campus. The county had reduced the number of early voting polling sites from six to one, requiring students to walk miles to the nearest polling location. If you did not know the long and tortured history of the schemes to block Prairie View A&M voters from their constitutionally protected rights, moving a polling place may seem like merely a matter of administrative convenience, but in voting, both history and context matter. The Justice Department under Attorney General Michael Mukasey ultimately entered into a consent decree with Waller County that required officials to restore three polling sites. And now, the students from this historically black university are once again fighting to exercise their fundamental right to vote by demanding an accessible polling place. The Prairie View A&M story illustrates that sometimes discrimination starts early, and that some officials are surprisingly persistent in their efforts to erect barriers in the path of our youngest voters. The Voting Rights Act stands as a guardian against these schemes to discourage young voter participation.

But now, following the Shelby County ruling, and with a college leader seeking elective office in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, local officials have borrowed the Prairie View A&M disenfranchisement playbook. There, a party chairman challenged the eligibility of Montravius King from standing for office by claiming that Mr. King did not meet the residency requirement because he lived in a dorm. The

premise of this challenge is flatly contradicted by Supreme Court precedent and the decades of advocacy over Prairie View A&M students’ voter access. Nevertheless, North Carolina local officials were initially able to disqualify Mr. King’s candidacy. There were also indications that some in Elizabeth City, North Carolina intended to employ new voter challenge procedures in the state to prevent students from the historically black college from voting. It is perhaps no wonder, then, that part of the officials’ plan also involved removing the polling place from the campus. Last week, local election board reversed itself only after a huge public outcry, but these events reveal that some things have changed and some, unfortunately, have not. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article from the Washington Post by Mary Curtis, which documents the efforts by North Carolina’s state officials to infringe on the fundamental right to vote.

When President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law in 1965, he declared that: “Through this act, and its enforcement, an important instrument of freedom passes into the hands of millions of our citizens.” We must remain vigilant and protect the rights of all Americans to exercise this fundamental right.

The recent Supreme Court decision placed the burden on Congress to respond with a legislative fix. It is therefore our duty and constitutional obligation to not waver from the path of greater political inclusion that we have set for ourselves and the Nation through our bipartisan support of the Voting Rights Act.

We must restore the vital protections that were weakened by the Supreme Court’s ruling. We must provide additional remedies for states and counties, anywhere in the Nation, that not only have a history of discriminating against their voters, but continue to do so. We must extend the reach of these protections to states that commit serious voting rights violations in the future. We must amend the existing provisions of the Act to make those protections more effective. And we must provide greater transparency for changes to voting procedures so that voters are made aware of these changes. These are the kinds of bipartisan solutions that we should all be able to agree on.

As we continue the fight to combat discrimination, we should remember the words of Dr. King. We should remember the aspirations of students like Montravius King. We should remember the contributions of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and Congressional leader JOHN LEWIS. And we should remember that those four girls who died in the 16th Street Baptist Church Bombing, and who are being posthumously honored today with Congressional Gold Medals, were part of a movement that helped make America better, stronger and

more just. The way to truly honor them is not by words alone but through our actions and leadership. While we commemorate the sacrifice of these four girls, our work does not end with this commemoration. Our work is ahead of us and we must act together in a bipartisan manner to protect the fundamental right to vote for all Americans. All of our children are depending on it.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Aug. 29, 2013]
 PAST IS PRESENT AS NORTH CAROLINA HONORS
 1963 MARCH AND BATTLES VOTING LAWS
 (By Mary C. Curtis)

CHARLOTTE.—In North Carolina, commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and Martin Luther King's dream credited past struggles while a current battle over voting laws took center stage.

In an uptown Charlotte park Wednesday, the crowd used the examples of civil rights pioneers in a continuation of the Moral Monday protests against conservative laws from the Republican-controlled state legislature. Similar gatherings were planned in each of the state's 13 congressional districts. While many issues, including education and health care spending, were reflected in comments and emblazoned on signs, the new state voter-ID bill was a unifying cause.

Later Wednesday evening, several Democratic and Republican legislators took questions from their Mecklenburg County constituents in a raucous forum called, ironically as it turned out, "Solving It Together." At the top of the list in hundreds of questions submitted beforehand—voter-ID laws.

The new laws have already garnered national publicity, and not the kind North Carolina likes. At the state CEO Forum in Raleigh last week, former secretary of state Colin Powell criticized the voting legislation, saying, "These kinds of actions do not build on the base." He made those remarks after GOP Gov. Pat McCrory, who had signed the bill into law, addressed the group, though McCrory later said he left before the retired general spoke.

Besides requiring photo ID, the bill shortens early voting by a week, ends preregistration for 16- and 17-year-olds, eliminates same-day voter registration, Sunday voting and straight-ticket voting, prohibits university students from using their college IDs and increases the number of poll watchers who can challenge a voter's eligibility, among other provisions. It is currently being challenged in court and Sen. Kay Hagan (D-N.C.) has asked Attorney General Eric Holder to take action as the Justice Department has in Texas.

Actions of GOP-controlled elections boards in North Carolina have also been grabbing headlines, from the closing of a polling place at Appalachian State University to the ruling that a student at historically black Elizabeth City State University cannot run for city council using his college address to establish residency.

At Charlotte's Marshall Park, a program of speakers and singers, as well as the sunny weather, duplicated the mood of the 1963 Washington march. Under a voter registration tent, a pledge card from the state NAACP urged attendees to be part of the "Forward Together, Not One Step Back" movement voter empowerment effort. The Rev. William Barber, head of the state NAACP, was on the program.

Amy Gollinger, a physician from Davidson, N.C., held a sign reading "Protect every American's Right to Vote," which she alternated with ones that said "Protect women's rights" and "Why deny Medicaid to struggling families?" referencing McCrory's decision to refuse federal Medicaid funds. She said Wednesday was a "perfect time" to protest. "Even though we've come far since 1963, our state legislature has shown we have much further to go," she said. "It's unbelievable we've gone from one of the most progressive states to one of the most regressive. I hope it empowers voters to get out and make a change."

Sitting next to Gollinger with a sign reading "Stop the attacks on public education!" James Davidson of Charlotte said, "I'm here for Martin Luther King," and called proposals from the legislature "going back to Jim Crow." He said he hoped new laws would spur citizens to action. "They went to sleep and didn't get out to vote," he said.

At the Mecklenburg legislators' forum at Central Piedmont Community College, the crowd in the packed auditorium loudly registered its approval, disapproval or disbelief as representatives of the state House and Senate explained actions on voting, education and the back-and-forth over attempts to change control of Charlotte Douglas International Airport from the city to a state authority to a commission.

In heavily Democratic Charlotte, audience sentiment at the forum, sponsored in part by local media outlets, was loudly skeptical of the Republican-led changes.

Voting rights led the discussion, with one questioner at the microphone asking for data on the fraud that is given as reason for the photo-ID law (the answer came in anecdotal examples) and another quoting former president Bill Clinton's words at the Washington commemoration of the 1963 march. "A great democracy does not make it harder to vote than to buy an assault weapon."

From somewhere in the crowd came the tweet that there was much more debate on-stage than in the North Carolina General Assembly, where GOP super-majorities were accused of rushing through bills.

It seemed less Old South vs. New South than voter voices vs. ALEC (the American Legislative Exchange Council), with one question comparing North Carolina's bills to model legislation from the conservative nonprofit. State Rep. Bill Brawley, a Republican and active ALEC member, said he believed in the organization's goals of limited government, free market capitalism and federalism; Rep. Ruth Samuelson, a Charlotte Republican, said she has attended one of the group's meetings. All of the legislators said they serve their constituents, not any organization.

State Sen. Dan Clodfelter, a Charlotte Democrat, said he remembered a time when "we weren't afraid in this state to be different from the states around us," when ideas "didn't come out of anybody's play-book."

After the forum, voters lingered to continue the contact with officials some thought had not been listening closely enough during the legislative session. Clodfelter was wistful as he spoke of the times North Carolina passed pioneering laws, such as the Racial Justice Act, which allowed death-row inmates to appeal their sentences and have them converted to life in prison without parole if they could prove racial bias in their cases. (It was repealed this year.) "Now we're known for the wrong kind of things," he said. When one of his Republican colleagues noted that the Democrat had Wednesday's crowd on his side, Clodfelter said he answered, "You made them that way."

State Sen. Jeff Tarte, a Republican who had managed to be conciliatory in his conservatism during the panel, insisted he "loved" the night's verbal battles. "It's what the American system is all about," he said, though since his party passed its legislative agenda, it was easy for him to be magnanimous.

Samuelson sat on the edge of the stage as the crowd filtered out. She defended her support of the voting bill, and noted a New York Times editorial "The Decline of North Carolina" that criticized the general Assembly's actions and caused quite a stir in this image-conscious state. She said studies have found that "after this bill," it's easier to vote in North Carolina than New York.

When asked what she thought of congressman and civil rights veteran John Lewis's attack on voter-ID laws, particularly on the date marking the 50th anniversary of his appearance with other civil rights leaders at the 1963 March on Washington, she said, "I appreciate the sacrifices they made. I appreciate the emotion around this issue," then added, "I'm trying to protect the integrity of their vote. . . . They worked hard for that vote; I want to make sure it doesn't get stolen."

State Sen. Malcolm Graham, a Charlotte Democrat, had said onstage that in North Carolina you're more likely to get struck by lightning than be affected by voter fraud. He said that when his daughter returned to historically black Winston-Salem State University this year, she and other students were greeted with stories that a county board of elections chair wanted to eliminate the school's early voting site. "Our national brand as a state has been tarnished," he said.

After the forum, Graham said he believed the passion would extend past Wednesday night. "This thing has legs," he said. The test, he said, would be the tough reelection Hagan faces in 2014. "That's the line in the sand the Democrats have to draw."

[From the Houston Chronicle, Aug. 1, 2013]

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M STUDENT FIGHTS FOR
 VOTING POLL SITE ON CAMPUS
 (By Renée C. Lee)

A Prairie View A&M University student leader is calling on officials to add a campus polling place to remedy what she and a civil rights leader described as decades of voter suppression.

Priscilla Barbour, president of the Student Government Association at the historically black university, sent a letter to Texas Secretary of State John Steen and Waller County Registrar Robyn German last week requesting that action be taken by Oct. 1. Barbour says students' voting rights are being violated because the nearest polling location is more than a mile away.

The Oct. 1 first deadline, she said, would allow time to make students aware of the new polling place before the November elections.

Barbour, a senior, hopes her request will end a battle that former Prairie View students have failed to win over the years.

"We've always had problems," said Barbour, who is active with the Texas League of Young Voters. "Voting is supposed to be something that's convenient, something you have the right to do without walking a great distance or standing in line."

The political science major said students were forced during last year's general election to wait in a long line to vote at the polling location at the local community center.

The city of Prairie View accommodates students by placing a polling location on campus, but Waller County officials have refused to do the same, she said.

German, the county's new registrar, could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Steen's spokeswoman, Alicia Pierce, said Steen was drafting a letter to German.

"We don't generally determine polling locations," Pierce said. "That decision is made at the county level, but the secretary is willing to meet with Miss Barbour. We'll be glad to work with her."

Gary Bledsoe, president of the NAACP state chapter, said Waller County has a history of voter intimidation and suppression of black voters.

REPEATED COMPLAINTS

The lack of polling places on campus, lost voter registration applications and problems with ballot boxes are among the many voting issues that have come up time and again in the county, he said.

"Students are entitled to a voting poll on campus," Bledsoe said. "They have been fighting for one for many years. It's a righteous request."

Barbour's action follows a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that struck down a key provision in the Voting Rights Act. The law protects minority voters from discrimination at the polls and, until June, required nine states with a discriminatory history, including Texas, to get federal approval before making changes to election laws.

The ruling gave Texas and other states the green light to push through voter ID laws, which civil rights leaders say will inhibit minority voting.

Prairie View has been at the center of voting right issues as far back as the 1970s, when the U.S. attorney general filed action against Waller County and state officials for the use a questionnaire that denied Prairie View students the right to vote.

In 1992, 19 students were indicted for improperly voting, which led to a Supreme Court ruling that authorized students to register and vote in communities where they live.

The NAACP and four students filed a federal lawsuit in 2004 after the county district attorney tried to enforce residency requirements that would keep students from voting. Another suit was filed around the same time after county officials shortened the early voting period at the campus without Justice Department approval.

The district attorney rescinded his action as part of a settlement and county officials added an extra early voting day on campus after being questioned by the Justice Department.

PREVIOUS PROTEST

In 2008, nearly 1,000 Prairie View students marched in protest of the lack of an early voting place on campus. The county, citing budget concerns, reduced the number of early voting polling sites from six to one, requiring students to walk miles to the polling location. The Justice Department instructed county officials to add three polling sites.

Barbour said she was apprehensive about sending her letters but figured she had nothing to lose.

"Even if nothing's accomplished, now the tone is set," she said. "I'm not the first to tackle the issue and I'm sure I won't be the last. This gives students a chance to be knowledgeable and take a stand."

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW WHITEFORD

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I am proud to recognize Andrew Whiteford of Richmond, VT, owner of Andy's Dandys, maker of all-natural dog treats.

Marcelle and I had the pleasure of meeting Andrew and his mother Lucie Whiteford at the bicentennial celebration for Richmond's Old Round Church,

and we were so impressed with him. Andrew was born with Down syndrome, and his family started Andy's Dandys as a means for Andrew to have meaningful employment and to provide jobs for other young adults with special needs. His work is in line with the best of Vermont's spirit of service to others, and for that I ask that the article by Lynn Monty from the August 22, 2013, edition of the Burlington Free Press be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, Aug. 22, 2013]

RICHMOND BAKERY COOKS UP JOB-TRAINING PROGRAM AND SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS

A mother's creative approach to helping her son transition to adulthood, and all-natural dog treats, are the recipe for success at Andy's Dandys.

Lucie Whiteford launched the Richmond bakery to help her son Andrew (Andy) Whiteford, 21, who was born with Down syndrome, find meaningful employment after high school graduation.

The business was inspired by her boy's affection for his rescued hound named Rosie and his love for reading recipes and baking.

"I hope for him to be fulfilled, happy, healthy, as independent as he wants to be, and to continue to be in a social environment surrounded by people who understand him and love him," Whiteford said of her son.

This Bridge Street bakery is on a mission to illustrate employability, while producing a high-quality Vermont product. The original goal of supporting Whiteford in his growth from high school to adult work life has evolved to serving other young adults with special needs, and teaching them real work-based skills that they can take with them in their job search for future employment.

"The mission of Andy's Dandys is to employ and train people to be employable," business partner Leshia Rasco said. She is Whiteford's special educator at Mount Mansfield Union High School where he will graduate next year.

"It's the revenue stream that makes the mission part possible," Rasco said. "In the future we hope that it will build."

Rasco designs and implements individualized work training programs at Andy's Dandys for other young adults with special needs. She has been an instrumental part of Whiteford's growth and of developing his business.

The business has grown organically, Rasco said. "Lucie has been buying things and paying herself back."

BAKER, DECORATER, DELIVERER

Andrew Whiteford bakes and decorates Andy's Dandy treats and also makes deliveries and works to promote the business at trade shows and seasonal events.

Andy actually goes by Andrew.

"His name is Andrew. We don't call him Andy," Lucie Whiteford said.

"Call me Andy," Andrew Whiteford said with a smile.

"He is yanking my chain," Lucie Whiteford said. "The business was named Andy's Dandys because we wanted some link to Andrew, because this was for him, and because it has a nice ring to it. Should we decide to one day make something other than pet treats, we won't have to change the name."

On a recent morning, a baker's apron was folded in half, and tied around his waist, not

around his neck, just the way he requested. Andrew Whiteford was just as meticulous about dipping each one of the many freshly baked molasses dog bones into bright orange yogurt frosting, as he was about donning his apron.

"There are all kinds of colors, like blue, orange, and sometimes brown," he said. "I want to sell these in Las Vegas and on a Hawaii beach someday. I am not joking. It's true."

PRESERVATIVE FREE TREATS

Joking or not, Andy's Dandys has taken off.

The business started in 2008. Andrew Whiteford began by selling the treats in school and at Saint Michael's College, where his father Tim Whiteford is an associate professor of education.

By fall of that year a few hundred of the colorful dog treats sold from a couple Chittenden County convenience stores. Overall, 8,500 treats sold that year.

The bakery uses human-grade ingredients and the treats are preservative-free.

Today, the bakery turns out thousands of treats each week, which sell at about 95 stores in Vermont, New Hampshire, upstate New York, and Maine. Thirty-two thousand treats sold in 2012.

"This year we are pacing about 20 percent ahead of where we were last year, and last year was a 100 percent increase over 2011," Lucie Whiteford said.

CUSTOM SHAPED FOR YOUR BUSINESS

The bakery has started offering custom-shaped treats that reflect a business' name or product. For example, a flying pig dog treat for the Northfield Savings Bank instead of the standard milk-bone biscuit, she said.

"It's about offering customers a Vermont-made product to demonstrate support for a small Vermont business such as ours," she said. "They gave us a shot, and I understand that customers really love them."

Lucie Whiteford came on staff full-time last month after leaving her position as an account executive at Fox 44 TV. She hopes to begin drawing a salary as the new quarter starts in September.

"It's profitable now which is why I was able to leave my job to do this full time," she said. "Now that I can work on this business full time, I expect to be able to double sales again in a year's time."

THE BIGGEST REWARD

More than revenues, Lucie Whiteford's biggest reward is watching her son succeed in adulthood. She said raising a child with a disability has been enlightening and rewarding.

"We celebrate what most people consider mundane accomplishments, such as learning to speak well enough to be understood, learning to button a shirt or tie a shoe," she said.

Andrew Whiteford has always pushed himself to achieve goals singing a solo at the senior recital, snowboarding down a black diamond trail, and teaching himself how to dip dog treats with two hands at once, his mother said.

"He continues to exceed our expectations, reminding us that we should be mindful about not setting the bar low just because he has a disability," she said. "As a family we have all grown so much in terms of learning patience, patience and more patience."

Andrew Whiteford has come into his own in the past few years, his sister Marie Johnson said. "He has a definite interest in this business now," she said. "He has developed a sense of ownership."

Their mother agreed. "Andrew turned a corner this summer. He decided he wanted to