

Arts 2023

This year we covered 49 arts makers, 61 exhibits, 33 film events & a lot more. Read Arts + Leisure.



Sports

A slow spot in the fourth quarter proved decisive for Tiger boys' basketball. See Page 1B.



Conservation

Ferrisburgh kids raised a lot of money by painting and selling rain barrels. See Page 5B.

ADDISON COUNTY

INDEPENDENT

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MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS enjoy a meal with The House at Taste of India on Christmas Eve. The Middlebury nonprofit has launched a new program aimed at providing free meals and community-building events for students staying on campus over winter break.

Holiday holdovers find home at The House

Nonprofit offering meals, activities for students

MIDDLEBURY — For many college students, winter break is a long-awaited respite and a chance to return home after a busy

But that's not the case for all students. For those who live in other parts of the country or overseas, traveling home for the holiday season director of The House. isn't always an ontion

off-campus space for international students them," Franklin said of the inspiration behind

and students of color at Middlebury College, is looking to support students staying on campus for the holidays. The organization has launched an initiative called "Holidays on the House," which is providing students with free meals and community-building activities throughout winter break, explained Annette Franklin,

"Over the years I've been aware of students This winter The House, a Middlebury that were on campus and the lack of resources (on campus) and feeling alone," Franklin nonprofit that seeks to provide a welcoming, for them, for food and also community among recalled, noting that this fall semester has been

The nonprofit has on occasion welcomed college students to The House over winter break. Throughout the year, the organization offers various forms of support to international students on campus, from hosting game nights to helping students with grocery shopping.

Earlier this month, Franklin received a call from a Middlebury College parent who'd heard about The House and its mission.

"She was concerned about students being (See Holidays, Page 7A)

Deer hunt slows during final leg of season

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY Despite a record-breaking November rifle season in which hunters had 676 bucks weighed locally, 2023 ultimately proved to be a below-average year for the overall number of deer killed and handled at Addison County wildlife reporting stations.

Numbers for every other season — archery season, 145 deer taken between Oct. 1 and Nov. 15 and then Nov. 27-Dec.15; muzzleloader season, 160 deer brought down

between Oct. 26-29 and Dec. 2-10; End in Bristol and C&S Hunting and the Youth-Novice Hunting Weekend, 93 deer on Oct. 21 and 22 — all trailed the local averages from recent years.

Counting all those seasons, hunters this year had 1,074 deer weighed at one of the local stations: Rack 'N Reel in New Haven, Buxton's Store in Orwell, Jerusalem Corners Country Store in Starksboro, the Lincoln and West Addison general stores, Backwoods Gun & Tackle in Bridport, Green Mountain Trails

Supplies in East Middlebury.

That's the lowest count in Addison County since 2016, when 1,064 deer were weighed in the county. It's also a drop-off of 67 deer, or about 5.9% from 2022's total harvest of 1,141.

It also means wildlife reporting stations handled more than half of the total count — 676 out of 1.074, or about 63% — during deer hunters' main event, November's 16-day rifle season.

That count set a record for

Addison County's rifle season, at least as measured since 2005, when the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife Department banned shooting bucks with two or fewer antler points during those 16 days. Rifle hunters may now again shoot spikehorns, but only in some Wildlife Management Areas.

Fish & Wildlife Department Deer Project Leader Nick Fortin said last week — with final reports still due from about 30 weigh stations statewide — it was too

(See Deer season, Page 18A)

From Pacific island to the Green Mountains

MacTavish settles in as Career Center head

"I was coming from a

place where the only

clothing I owned was

and shorts. So I had

to stop in Hawaii...

and try to find a

business outfit."

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — It's been a major change of scenery, but Nicole decidedly warmer attire, albeit MacTavish loves

Last winter, she squeezing sand between her toes and soaking flipflops, sundresses sun while helming the public system Kwajalein Atoll, part of the

her new view.

— Nicole MacTavish

Marshall Islands — a chain of volcanic islands and Ocean, between Hawaii and the

Philippines.

Monday saw her donning

during aberration of a mid-December day at Middlebury's Patricia Hannaford Career Center (PHCC): degrees and a pouring rain that was overwhelming flooding

Quite the switch from the coral atolls in the central Pacific consistent mid-80s, screaming (See Career Center, Page 7A)

Lincoln magician conjures joy & hope

By JOHN FLOWERS

LINCOLN — Lincoln's Tom Verner looks like a magician even when he isn't clad in a tuxedo, a ruffled shirt or black pants held up by suspenders.

There's something about his demeanor, his immaculately

dexterity that'd make you think, upon introduction, that this guy would be at home on a stage pulling a bouquet of roses out of a thimble.

Maybe it's his 50 years as a practitioner of prestidigitation that's burnished his aura as an (See Magician, Page 19A)



MAGICIAN TOM VERNER conjures up some fun for some Ukrainian children during a recent performance at a "recovery camp" in western Ukraine. Verner, a Lincoln resident, has traveled throughout the world as a founding member of Magicians Without Borders, a nonprofit dedicated to bringing a little joy into the lives of those suffering amid war and/or natural disasters.

Photo courtesy of Tom Verner



Middlebury Community Music Center (MCMC) has been awarded a \$60,698 Vermont Early Childhood Fund Opportunity Grant for its project "MCMC Music Together Schools/Early Childhood

(See By the way, Page 3A)

Index
Obituaries



A Year in Review

WHEN PARENTS ARE finally able to get their kids to sleep through the night, the last thing they want to do is keep them up until midnight on New Year's Eve to mark the change of the calendar. Middlebury's Ilsley Public Library on this past New Year's Eve 2022 hosted an año nuevo party 12 hours early, where kids and families counted down to 2023 at noon. At last year's event, Evie Stinson, Zara Trump and Fielding Hendrickson marked the new year in front of a Times Square backdrop.

Independent file photo/Steve James

Chronology 2023

Editor's note: Change is good, but that doesn't include climate change. Like everywhere, here in Addison County we saw the effects of this change in the early start to the maple sugaring season, the unusually late hard frost in May, and we all recall the torential rains of July and August. But, in between

the rain drops, folks in these parts had plenty of other things to make them talk about, to argue about and to smile about. 2023 was quite a year on many fronts. Relive some of those memories in this round up of the year that's ending and then have a fantastic 2024.

Let's make it great!

January

The Middlebury Union High School community got a shock in January when Principal Justin Campbell abruptly resigned from his job on a Monday, leaving the same day. Campbell, who had been on the job for less than three years, was vague in explaining his departure. "After

much contemplation, many conversations with family and some deep introspection, I have decided to resign my position as MUHS principal," he said in a brief statement. "I have enjoyed my time as an educator but I'm ready for a different challenge that helps me to better balance all aspects of my life." More insights into his departure would come later in the year, with his investigation

(See January, Page 8A)

City council taps Montgomery to fill vacancy

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The newest member of the Vergennes City Council is a military veteran, including service during the Gulf War; a longtime aviation technician who has switched to taking care of the local bus fleet; and a 15-year resident of the Little City.

Councilors on Nov. 28 appointed John Montgomery, 55, to join them on the council, and he sat as a member for the first time at their Dec. 12 meeting.

Montgomery is now working both as a Basic Leadership

Instructor for the Vermont Army Union High School. National Guard and a fleet technician for Tri-Valley Transit.

graduate Ludlow's former Black River High School, which closed in 2020. He has been married for 34 years to his wife Allison, whom

native and 1987

he met when they were both in middle school in Ludlow, but who graduated from Vergennes

"The housing crisis

is a great concern

large part of why I

— John Montgomery

to me and was a

decided to run."

He's also been a mentor for the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Montgomery is a Vermont Vergennes and describes himself

> as a theater lover who served on the board of the former Little City Players. In his letter of interest for the council opening, he cited both his work and extracurriculars.

"Having served my country since 1987 and instructing military leadership, I feel that I could be a good asset to the council. In the past, I have been in many stage presentations of community theater at the town hall, so I have been around," Montgomery wrote.

He told the Independent he spent most of his first meeting listening, observing and learning, but was preparing himself for what he hoped would be a

"It bothers me

that people who

move elsewhere

because of the

cost of keeping

their home. The

problem, it's a

homeless problem

national problem."

— John Montgomery

isn't just a Vermont

are retired have to

tenure on the board. His appointment expires on Town Day, Meeting at which point Montgomery will have to stand for election to keep his position.

Montgomery is planning on it. "I'm going to

try to win the seat on my own. I intend to do that," he said.

His military career began early and was lengthy according to an email to the *Independent*, and he returned to it in 2021 with his current post, which he works on weekends.

"I entered the military right out of high school in 1987 and am a Desert Storm veteran with the 101st Airborne Division," he wrote. "All these years later, I still serve as a Basic Leadership

Course instructor for the Vermont Army Guard. I very much enjoy taking young soldiers and turning them into non-commissioned officers."

In between, Montgomery wrote, "I spent over 30 years in the aviation maintenance field." As well as his dozen years working in helicopter maintenance for the U.S. Army, his career included multi-year stints with Delta Airlines and Dynapower and then a return to the Army National Guard from 2012 through 2017, according to his LinkedIn profile.

For family reasons, he switched to Tri-Valley. He and Allison have one son, and Montgomery was reluctant to continue to travel for work.

"My son needed his father more than I needed the aircraft," he wrote.

Then came the recent council opening. Montgomery summed up his interest.

> decided to run for City Council because I care about people. The housing crisis is a great concern to me and was a large part of why I decided to run," he wrote.

"It bothers me that people who are retired have to move elsewhere because of the cost of keeping their home. The

homeless problem isn't just a Vermont problem, it's a national problem. I've seen a lot of the same problems all over the country. A lot of veterans have fallen into this crisis as well. I don't have the answers, but I want to be part of the solution."

Montgomery described how he makes decisions.

"I try to use my heart as much as I use my head," he said.

Bud's Beans

hometown.

Vermont State Police report that Tyler Brouillard

Bridport man killed in crash

was killed in a crash on Lake Street sometime octogenarian got a cut on his hand on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. Troopers were unclear of the time of the crash. Officers, along with the Bridport Fire Department and Town Line First Response, went to the site of the crash near 3284 Lake St. at around report that Brouillard was driving a 2013 Dodge Dart northbound on Lake Street when apparently the right side of the car went onto the shoulder, he overcorrected and the car crossed the centerline and careened off the west side of the

road and started to roll. Brouillard was ejected from the car and sustained fatal injuries.

Police cordoned off the road while the Crash Reconstruction and Drone teams surveyed the scene. Troopers are still investigating and

ADDISON COUNTY - A ask that anyone with information 25-year-old Bridport man was on the crash call them at the New killed in a holiday car crash in his Haven state police barracks at 802-

388-4919. another vehicle crash on Christmas

Eve, an Essex Junction

and a traffic ticket. On Dec. 24 just after 5 p.m., state police responded to a report of a one-car crash on Route 7 south of Stage Road in North Ferrisburgh. Police report that Arthur Loeffler, 82, of Essex Junction was driving 10:45 a.m. on Dec. 25. Police a 2013 Ford Escape southbound on Route 7 when he fell asleep, left the west side of the road and struck an unoccupied parked truck.

Middlebury Regional EMS staff treated Loeffler for a hand laceration. Police issued him a traffic ticket for driving off the highway, which carries a \$220 fine and two points on insurance.

The car was considered a total loss. Police did not report the condition of the truck that Loeffler's car struck.

Little City to remove ash trees

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The city of Vergennes hopes to land a grant that will help clear ash trees that are susceptible to being killed by an invasive species.

The city council recently backed a grant application, proposed by residents Janice Bosworth and Eugenie Delaney, seeking \$48,172 from a Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation program to begin removing the 114 ash trees in the city's public rights of way.

That action is necessary due to the trees' inevitable demise from the state's worsening emerald ash borer infestation. That grant would fund the removal of several dozen of those trees around the city, and

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their replacement with a variety of

The grant, which has a Jan. 5 application deadline, is a no-match Urban & Community Forestry Grant through the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. Vergennes is eligible for the grant as an economically disadvantaged community, per federal guidelines.

Vergennes Public Works Director Jim Larrow joined City Manager Ron Redmond, Bosworth and Delaney in urging the council at its Dec. 12 meeting to support the application. They said there's no immediate evidence of an emerald ash borer infestation in the city, but they believe it's coming. And they said once ash trees are infected, they become brittle and more difficult and costly — even more dangerous — to remove.

"Sooner or later, we're going to cut them down," Larrow said. "We need to get them down now because it's so much safer."

Bosworth and Delaney said they, with tech support from the state's Urban Forestry Program, spent time this past spring mapping all the ash trees in the city's public right of way and flagged 114, with concentrations on Canal Street and Bowman Drive.

Bosworth and Delaney said the grant would focus on dealing with 18 of those trees that would be difficult for Larrow's crew to remove because of their size and/ or location — such as proximity to power lines.

They emphasized trees removed would be replaced with new trees of various species, with public input.

"One element of the grant is we have to replace the ash trees," Bosworth said. "It's not just cutting down trees.'

Redmond praised Bosworth and Delaney's work, which also drew applause from the councilors at the end of their presentation. And he said he was optimistic about the proposal's chances.

"Ît's a very good application. You guys are to be commended," he said. "We have a pretty good shot, I think."

CO OP **MEMBER DEALS**



JOHN MONTGOMERY, THE newest member of the Vergennes City Council, poses with his wife of 34 years, Allison, at a recent military ball. Montgomery has a long history of military service and is now a part-time instructor with the Army National Guard.

Photo courtesy of John Montgomery

Turn your Christmas Tree into a pine mulch through Addison County Solid Waste Management District's Merry Mulch Program!

Curbside Tree Pickup

Pick up is **EARLY** Saturday, January 6. We recommend putting trees out the night prior to pick up.

Vergennes The Vergennes Lions Club will pick up trees on Saturday, January 6th.

Middlebury

The **Middlebury Rotary Club** will pick up trees on Saturday, January 6th.

Tree Drop-Off

If you missed tree collection or do not reside in Vergennes or Middlebury, fear not! Christmas tree drop-off at the District Transfer Station is free for the month of January during regular hours, Mon.-Fri., 7 AM to 3 PM and Sat., 8 AM to 1 PM.

> Just the tree! No wreaths, ornaments, garlands, tinsel, wire, or other decorations.

Addison County Solid Waste Management District

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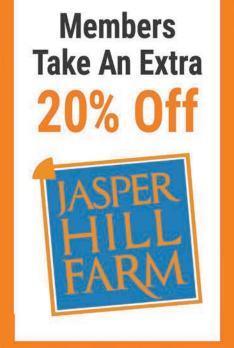
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Dec 28 - Jan 3

By the Way

(Continued from Page 1A)
Program Expansion." Funding will help MCMC expand access to its Early Childhood Music program by partnering with local preschools and day care programs, as well as training additional staff to lead Music Together in schools and in small groups with families. Music Together is described as a "proven, effective program to support children in a wide variety of outcomes, including language development and emergent literacy, social and emotional development, cognition and general knowledge, and physical and motor development."

"Everybody Wins Vermont" is a literacy program involving

community mentors who spend an hour a week reading and playing games with a local elementary school student. But that hour a week can produce more benefits than a mere book reading session. Mentors and mentees often spend time laughing, talking about their week, sharing stories and learning games. They sometimes have conversations about how the stories they read can apply to real life circumstances. In essence, Everybody Wins is about sharing books, reading together and helping kids develop a love of books, but it's also about connection, friendship, shared experiences and community. At Mary Hogan Elementary School, there are more than 30 students waiting for Everybody Wins mentors. These are students in grades 3-5 who want to spend their lunch and recess one day a week sharing books and laughter with an adult. If you're **Junction**, to 2.8% in Bennington

ready to mentor, apply online at tinyurl.com/4weevrf2.

Middlebury-area The unemployment rate rose slightly to 1.7% in November, up onetenth of one percent from the October rate of 1.6%. Addison County's November jobless rate was comfortably under the statewide rate of 2.1%, which was also up one-tenth of one percent from the prior month's estimate. According to Vermont Department of Labor officials, the Middlebury area in November had a workforce of 19,481, of which 336 were searching for jobs. The November unemployment rates for Vermont's 17 labor market areas ranged from 1.7% in Burlington-South Burlington, Newbury, Middlebury, Woodstock and White River and Derby. It should also be noted that Addison County's jobless rate in November of 2022 was 2.6%.

Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas has confirmed that 12 candidates have qualified to be placed on the ballot in Vermont's March 5 Presidential Primary. Six candidates have qualified for the Democratic ballot and six candidates for the Republican ballot. The six qualifying Democrats are incumbent President Joseph R. Biden Jr., Mark Stewart Greenstein, Jason Michael Palmer, Dean Phillips, Cenk Uygur and Marianne Williamson. The GOP candidates qualifying for placement on the ballot are Ryan L. Binkley, Chris Christie, Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley, Vivek Ramaswamy and former President Donald J. Trump. The Presidential Primary will coincide with Town Meeting Day in Vermont. Voters Agriculture and the association are reminded that by law they must declare which ballot, Democratic or Republican, they wish to vote when voting in the Presidential Primary, and that choice will be recorded. Presidential Primary ballots aren't mailed out to Vermont voters (unlike General Election ballots), but voters may request absentee ballots through the My Voter Page online at mvp.vermont.gov or by

contacting their town or city clerk.

The Vermont Veterinary Medical Association announced grant awards totaling almost nearly \$30,000 to four food animal veterinarians, including Dr. Emma Cijka of made possible through funding by the Vermont Agency of has risen 2.9 cents to \$3.07 now.

and calls for each of the grant recipients to commit to a year of service in food animal practice in underserved areas of the state in exchange for help in paying off their student loans. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, the average student loan debt of a 2016 veterinary school graduate is \$185,486 with some students entering the work force with over \$300,000 in debt.

Average gasoline prices in Vermont have fallen 1.7 cents per gallon during the past week, averaging \$3.30 per gallon now, according to GasBuddy. Prices in Vermont are 13.3 cents lower than a **Shoreham.** These grants were month ago and 8.1 cents lower than a year ago. The cheapest station by the Vermont Legislature to the in Vermont is \$2.89, the most **Vermont Agency of Agriculture.** expensive is \$3.40. Meanwhile, the The program is administered national average price of gasoline



ON DEC. 21 outside Middlebury's Town Hall Theater, actors, dancers, puppets and revelers bearing lanterns led the audience in a ritual celebrating the shortest day of the year and the coming of the light in the THT's third annual solstice pageant, "A Winter's Carol." No Strings Marionettes assisted a group of local kids in the making of

music, lanterns and puppets.
Folks ages 6 through adult crafted lantern puppets of all sizes that guided the audience through multiple installations outside around THT and ultimately inside the theater to warm-up with hot cider and a solstice blessing. An ensemble of 9- to 13-year-old revelers performed historic dances and poetry to bring to life the story of the Holly King passing the torch and making way for the Sun Queen to re-ascend to her

The performance included, clockwise from far left, Bodhi Kenna; Sara Miranda-Ngaiza; Barbara Paulson, who directs No Strings Marionettes; Adelynn Leonard, Joni Houghton, Zara Trump, Sara Miranda-Ngaiza and Bodhi Kenna; youngsters soaking up the theater.









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Editorials

For 2024: Turning good intentions into action

As this calendar year draws to a close, the sense of renewal and rejuvenation, of starting with a fresh slate has a strong cultural pull. It's part of the drive that makes humankind seek to expand knowledge, and to establish societal benchmarks (the right to vote, to marry freely, etc.) often derived from what once were lofty goals. Inherent in that process is learning from the past — from our mistakes as well as our successes.

To that end, today's review of the key local stories of 2023 (found under the heading Chronology that starts on Page 1A and continues through several pages inside that section) is not an idle exercise in simply recalling the year's news, but an exercise in learning from those experiences and taking steps forward where we can in the year ahead.

Here are some of those common obstacles, from this perspective, and

ways forward:

• Lack of housing and tight employment: The tight housing market of the past few years is part of a vicious circle that hurts local businesses' ability to hire the help they need; drives housing prices (and rents) higher; and has led to a drop in school enrollments. The seemingly obvious answer is to build more housing that will attract younger workers and families, but with a tight labor market, and high wages in the construction industry, that has proved difficult. But it's not impossible. Chittenden County has seen huge growth in housing over the past couple of decades, as has Franklin County and other parts of the state. It is possible here too. Fortunately, progress has been made this past year with multiple larger building projects underway in Middlebury, Bristol, Vergennes, but more needs to be done.

Here's how: At the state level a big push was made in last year's legislative session to modify some of the building restrictions in Act 250 to allow the market to create more housing, but it was eventually stonewalled by Democratic leaders in the House. A renewed effort to pass those reforms in 2024 should be a legislative priority.

On the local level, towns like Middlebury can do more to remove hurdles to local developers who have been put off by costly delays that has given the county's shire town an undesirable reputation as a place to build. That conversation has been ongoing for the past couple of years, but to little avail. To change that reputation, Middlebury needs to adopt a bolder approach. Using the mantra of "build it and they will come," Middlebury's town officials (town managers as well as elected boards) could set concrete numbers of new units to build over the next few years, review and modify town processes that have caused past delays, and then have the appropriate town officials be held accountable as part of their job performance.

From past state studies we know Addison County is currently short 300 housing units to meet existing needs, and that's not counting any expanded growth. Middlebury would make up the bulk of those shortages. Those state studies should help provide the goals to reach; the rest is putting people in charge to be sure the market of supply and demand works.

• As part of making Addison County a more affordable place to live, continued work to address childcare costs is crucial. A review of the year's news shows remarkable progress in providing expanded capacity: Red Clover Childcare at Middlebury's Congregational Church received a large donation for their expanded services and the Otter Creek Child Care center received millions from Middlebury College and a large federal grant to expand; state legislation increased the pay for childcare workers; and other smaller efforts around the county are underway.

One obvious solution remains untapped: using existing capacity at the county's elementary schools (from the decreases in the number of students over the past decade) to provide formal programs for 3-5-year-olds through the school day. Windsor County (Woodstock/Killington area) does this through its school system as part of its educational programming — a huge boon to those young families living in that county, and a major attraction for young families to move there. While there is concern among the larger providers of childcare in Addison County that such a move would cause unwanted competition, it's a conversation that should rise to the top this coming year with the intent of finding a way to maximize existing school facilities to their highest public use. If it's done right, more families would move into the area and there would be ample demand for both public and private providers. That, at least, should be the goal.

• Climate change shows up in every facet of our lives — from the extreme flooding we saw in 2023, frost damage to crops, and the lack of snow for winter sports as the year ends. Locally, we must manage our personal spaces in the most energy efficient ways possible and encourage legislators to support incentives to encourage those investments. Individuals can also buy hybrid vehicles or all-electric. That said, the larger towns and institutions (schools, the college and other large employers) should be considering how they can install EV charging stations to meet that growing need. Two other adjustments are needed: stop the NIMBYism that has prevented some solar farms from expanding, and join groups like the Third Act to become involved in a nationwide movement to help reduce the harm caused from a warming world.

• The social problems facing our communities — from gun violence to racial and gender prejudice, drug use, and the growing concern of various forms of mental illness, including from loneliness — call on a different set of resources that small communities have in abundance: compassion for their neighbors. These are complicated issues with a never-ending range of causes and effects, but most can be helped by creating stronger community bonds. The question for the year ahead is how to bridge the divide between those in need and those willing to help.

With each issue, we must also face one other formidable foe: the difficulty of turning good intentions into action. It's one thing to create a wish list of ways to make your community stronger; it's another to mark off actual goals achieved. As we ring in the New Year, let's work hardest on the latter.

ADDISON COUNTY IDEPEND

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Night light

GEOFF DAVIS OF New Haven feeds the fire at Bristol's Waterworks property to keep the light going on the longest night of the year. It was part of the annual Winter Solstice celebration on Dec. 21. See more images from the event on Page 3B.

Thankful for wheel of dark & light

Ways of

By Erin

Rubble

Well, it happened again. Sunday night it started raining and just kept on. It wasn't quite at this summer's level, but on top of snowpack and halffrozen earth, those three inches of rain were enough to drown hayfields, overflow roads, turn driveways into rivers and basements into swimming pools.

This morning, my husband and I drove through the Mad River Valley into Montpelier. Most of the

roads had reopened overnight, but flooding had drawn high-water lines across the snow on hill after hill. Mud still slicked the pavement. Business owners were comparing notes as to how much water their basements had swallowed this time.

Now, in the afternoon, I take the dog for a walk along the edge of the Bristol Waterworks. We follow

a logging road, picking our way through downed trees and fallen branches. The trail's half turned into a creek, still swollen from the rain. Though it isn't quite four o'clock, two days shy of the solstice, under deep overcast, it's dim enough that my eyes have trouble

This is the darkest year I can remember, between the Canadian wildfires and constant clouds. I've begun hoarding moments of sunlight like a dragon sleeping

Still, there's something lovely about shadows, even when they begin gathering in what should be midafternoon. In the twilight, under the gray-green hemlocks, I notice colors more: the orange flare of beech leaves, still clinging to a slender stem; the emerald glow of moss; the pale sheathes of bracket fungus ridging the deadfall.

After a year in which the weather's wobbled like a top losing momentum — drought, then weeks of rain, a cold August and frostless autumn, herons fishing in hayfields and lilacs blooming in October — it's reassuring to see the light changing the same way it does every year.

And, though I suspect I'm in the minority on this, I appreciate the shorter days. In

summer, I always feel like I have to squeeze the most out of every minute outside. Winter gives me permission to stay in. Push in between the dog and cat sprawled in front of the woodstove and read the paper, or grab the kids for a few minutes on the jigsaw puzzle. Wake in the morning to air the

color of cobalt, the pines a dark stencil against the sky. I love the sun, don't get me wrong. It wouldn't surprise me a bit to learn I'd worshipped it in a past life. Put me in a glass house in a place with 350 days

of sunshine and I'd be perfectly happy. But there's something appealing about its absence, too. I like driving home with Orion over my shoulder, stepping into my yard before dinner and looking up into the Milky Way. I like moving beyond the circle of firelight in a remote campsite and watching the world turn blue and silvery, full of sounds and motion. You hear differently at night. The world feels alive, and

strange, and not quite in our control. English is decidedly negative about darkness. Thesaurus.com equates it with bleakness, negativity, (See Ways of Seeing, Page 5A)

Finally, a Christmas surprise?

"Create a diversion!"

I never imagined saying that in real life. I don't think the UPS driver knew what to make of it either.

I hadn't expected my secret Christmas gift for Mark to arrive while he was home. And if he stepped out of the wood shop during the delivery, the surprise would be ruined

When I saw the UPS guy pull in, I ran out onto the porch in my stocking feet, whisper-yelling commands and random words. The dog's frantic barking, which translated roughly to "Brown truck kill us all," added to the chaos.

Hopping up and down, I pointed at the shop and sputtered words like "husband" and "surprise" and "hurry." I ordered the man to stand guard on the steps to distract

Mark if he poked his head out of the shop. But instead of preparing to feign choking or create some other diversion, he insisted on lugging the very heavy box into the kitchen for me.

"Go, go, go!" I shouted, shoving him toward the truck while keeping my eye on the shop door.

Racing back inside, I assessed the box, which contained the gift in question: a mini lathe. Mark had always wanted one but wouldn't buy one for himself. For once, I was going to get him a thoughtful gift — and he wasn't going to find out about it before Christmas.

The box had a picture of the lathe printed on it, which made hiding it more urgent. If he saw it, he'd know instantly what it was.

I realize we're adults; I didn't need to make this a surprise. But it was payback. Every few years, Mark devises an elaborate ruse to find me a special and unexpected Christmas gift. One year he got me a

200-year-old spinning wheel, signed by the maker, that had taken him months to track down and bring back from New York.

I got him a wallet.

Even when I do get him something somewhat special, he ruins the surprise. One year, for instance, I hid a new golf bag in the back of my craft closet, where he never goes.

One day, he called from upstairs, "Hey, what's this golf bag doing in the back of your craft closet?"

Seriously?

Around

the

bend

By Jessie Raymond

"What," I said, through gritted teeth, "would possess you to look in there?

"I lost a pair of pliers a few months ago, and I was

looking for them." No. This year would be different. I planned to slide the box under the bed in the front bedroom, so far back

he'd never see it. I planned poorly.

(See Around the bend, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

For the Sake of Peace

For the sake of peace... May prejudice dissolve into fine burgundy wine,

Making us drunk, instead, on respectfulness.

May the coarse pollen of aggression be collected on the legs of bees,

Delivered softly onto the hearts of spring's potential blooms,

And transformed into vast fields of wildflowers.

May our hate be sucked out of

By the kind daggered beaks of hummingbirds

And metabolized into thousands of ruby throat feathers.

May our closed-minded viewpoints sprout wings, Rise from their all-toocomfortable nests

For the sake of peace...

And soar above us dropping bombs of compassion and understanding.

May doubt and mistrust be kneaded into sweet dough, Risen by the yeast of love, And baked into hearty loaves that feed the starving Rather than starving our souls.

For the sake of peace, May we recognize that our own equity is bound together with the equity of all the people,

And once and for all May we stand on our feet, shoulder-to-shoulder, and heartto-heart

To deny "isms," fear, entitlement, advantage and greed, In order to sow the mighty seeds of true freedom.

May we all put down our phones and devices

And spend our days looking into each other's faces,

Listening to non-digital voices, And communicating through flesh and bone and empathy.

For the sake of peace, May our trance of consumerism get up tomorrow,

Put on working clothes, And go to Congress to lobby for the legal rights of Nature.

May our religious dogmas put

on flannel pajamas, Have a sound night's sleep, And wake up tomorrow having forgotten

Why holding on so tight to our own beliefs was so important.

May our "reality" TV politics fold up their podiums,

Put on their blue jeans And head down to the food shelves,

And soup kitchens, and shelters To hand out dinner, and blankets, and hope, And other real things.

And,

May our beliefs gather together tonight and every night In a prayer circle under the stars

Where they can all see heart-to And soul-to-soul,

If not always eye-to-eye. For the sake of peace. Elissa Cobb

Bristol

The war ends when Hamas is gone and hostages are free

I must respond to the Dec. 21 letter to the editor concerning the Israel-Gaza War.

The war will end when Hamas is gone and the hostages are fr ee and home.

Israel left Gaza completely in 2007, uprooting any Jews who lived there and turning over greenhouses and other developing industries as gifts to the Gazan people. Gazans thereafter destroyed everything they were given and the people elected Hamas to run their territory.

(See Cohen, Page 5A)

ADDISONMINDEPENDENT 650 years ago this week

While Addison County residents today are no strangers to extreme and unusual weather after this year's summer floods and unseasonably warm winter, locals 50 years ago faced weather challenges of their own. Vermont was reportedly the coldest state in the nation on Dec. 19, 1973, with temperatures reaching -16°F in Middlebury and as low as -28°F in Island Pond. A winter storm that week also brought sleet, hail, and a foot of snow — only for rain and warmer temperatures a few days later to cause severe flooding in Middlebury, New Haven, Salisbury and Cornwall.

Here are some of the other top stories that appeared in the Dec. 20 and Dec. 27, 1973, issues of the Independent:

• William J. Slator, the editor of the *Independent*, was released from a two-week stay in Porter Hospital after suffering a heart

the paper to bed." · Middlebury College sophomore Dave Kynoski was featured in a Sports Illustrated column highlighting "outstanding young athletes." The Proctor native set records as a goalie for the College soccer team, letting in just one goal in the entire fall season.

attack

while

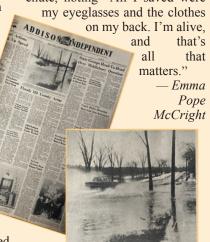
'putting

 Amid the ongoing fuel shortage, Attorney General Kimberly Cheney reminded gas station owners that it was illegal to "discriminate" against out-of-state drivers by refusing to sell them

• Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Coleman and their two children were left homeless after a Christmas Day fire destroyed their Bristol mobile home.

• Mildred January of Verg-

ennes narrowly escaped with her life after a terrorist attack at the airport in Rome, Italy that killed more than thirty people on Dec. 17. January had just boarded her Pan Am flight to visit family in Saudi Arabia when hijackers stormed the airport terminal, boarded the plane, and threw incendiary bombs into the firstclass cabin. January was able to escape through an emergency chute, noting "All I saved were



Cohen

(Continued from Page 4A) Hamas immediately murdered any moderate opposition and seized sole control. The people of Gaza supported and still overwhelmingly support Hamas, as proven by all the latest reliable polls.

Financial aid to Gaza has been showered on the territory for decades. Africans are forgotten, but Gazans get money like it's growing on trees. They could have made the territory a jewel on the seas, building infrastructure, hotels, universities, etc. Instead, they built rockets, tunnels and waged war.

Hamas states its goal is to annihilate Israel and kill Jews all Jews, anywhere. Yet the Gazan

people idolize these homophobic, homicidal, sexual perverts and have given them aid and comfort. They share their goal. Hamas epitomizes the "river to the sea" mentality that is nothing more than a real genocide of 8 million Jews who live there, the majority of whom trace their ancestry to the Muslim countries that forced them out after having lived there, in some cases since biblical times, not Europe or America. Where are the Jews of Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria, Syria and Ethiopia?

You cannot negotiate and reach an agreement or compromise with people who will not reciprocate.

Middle Eastern and European Jews have spent 2,000 years being massacred, raped, humiliated and victimized by pogroms, inquisitions, ghettos, expulsions and ultimately the holocaust. Israel and Jews will not let it happen again. Never again.

Floods Hit County Areas

And by the way, who are you to tell Israelis to get off the land? Americans have been living and working on stolen land for hundreds of years. Why don't you give back your land to the native Americans from whom your ancestors stole it?

> **Hal Cohen** Middlebury

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A) despair, ignorance, secrecy. It's used as a stand-in for evil, sadness, and hard times. Until recently, White people often liked to link dark skin to wickedness and

What all this overlooks is that darkness is the proper state of the world to an owl or an opossum, a moth or a firefly. In fact, every floodlight left on overnight in summer kills droves of insects that birds and bats rely on for food. In fall and spring, headlights and streetlights confuse and weaken migrating birds, who are already under serious threat. Every time we push back the night, we blind

someone else.

We also deprive ourselves. There's beauty in blackness: the sheen of my grandmother's jet beads, the subtle stripes on our inky kitten, the iridescence of a strutting grackle. There's peace in letting the seasons structure our days, the waning light telling us to slow down, regroup, live a little differently.

There's been so much trouble this year, floods and wars and inflation, threats and murders and despair. There's so little I can do about most of it, but I can be thankful that the great wheels of light and dark still

longest night and the mysteries it holds, its softnesses and harsh loveliness. I can let it remind me that the way I see is not the way a raccoon sees, or a mouse, or the way the tree frog frozen solid on the branch above me will see when it thaws in the spring.

As I work my way back through the snowmelt and deadfall, squinting in the gathering dusk, tell myself that my world is descending into darkness - and right now, right here, that's ok.

Erin Ruble is an immigration lawyer and writer. She lives in New Haven with her family and the swing on time. I can celebrate the occasional flock of chickens.

Around the bend

(Continued from Page 4A)

First, the box, according to the label, weighed 64.2 pounds, which is a lot to carry up a flight of stairs, especially when one is in a panicked rush. Through a dynamic series of grunts and curses, I managed to heave it, one stair at a time, up to the landing, I stopped after each step to catch my breath and listen for the kitchen door opening.

Second, the box, which took all my effort to push down the hall, did not, in fact, fit under the bed in the front room. It did fit under the bed in the other bedroom, but that's where we keep the Christmas model train set. Mark would no doubt find a reason to look there, even if I brought the train downstairs. ("I couldn't find the caboose. But I found a lathe!")

Over the next few harried minutes, I left a trail of scuff marks and brow sweat across the upstairs floors. I skidded that box hither and

yon and hither again.

Finally, sitting on the floor and using my feet, I rammed it into the front bedroom's closet, where I threw a blanket over it. I didn't have the time, or the energy, to be clever.

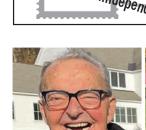
Did I succeed?

Was this the year I finally managed to surprise and delight Mark? I don't know vet: I'm writing this before Christmas.

I'd like to tell you it went seamlessly. That Mark had no idea that any gift awaited him upstairs. And that when he did find it, he said it was the best Christmas present he'd ever received.

It's more likely, however, that on Christmas Eve he said, "I can't wait to use my new lathe." And when my mouth dropped open, he said, "You left your laptop open and I read your column."

The man is hard to surprise. But I might be part of the problem.

















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Little creatures in winter streams

By MICHAEL J. CADUTO

One winter day, while teaching a winter ecology class, I pulled on waders and rubber gloves, grabbed a catch net, and led my "Minibeasts of the Stream" program, discovering a rich variety of insects in the frigid waters of Kedron Brook in South Woodstock, Vt.

Insects are abundant in winter streams because they are able to find food and, on most days, the water is warmer than the surrounding land. Many species hatch in time to consume autumn leaves

and the bacteria that grow on them. Winter light penetrates through naked tree crowns, allowing (single-celled diatoms algae) to flourish on rocks, becoming food for grazing insects. Insect species that

rely on streams for some stage of their life cycle overwinter in the forms of eggs, larvae, or nymphs. Most insect life cycles include egg, larva, pupa and adult. Many aquatic insects, however, move from egg to nymph to adult, with the nymphal stage developing through

several instars. Crane caddisflies, and riffle beetles overwinter as larvae, while stoneflies, mayflies, dragonflies,

and damselflies survive as nymphs. Black flies overwinter as eggs, hatching sequentially by species from late winter through summer. Most mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies develop in a single season, with

mayflies living only a few days as adults. (The names of true flies — in



spelled as two words, as in "crane fly." Those that are not true flies are one word; for example, "caddisfly.")

the order Diptera — are

Winter survival requires moving around

in the stream to avoid frigid waters, but the cold-tolerance of some aquatic insects is truly impressive: mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies can survive body temperatures as low as 19.4 degrees. Crawling amid the rocks, soft-

bodied caddisfly larvae weave ingenious silk tubes into mobile dwellings. Depending on the species and age (some larvae use different materials as they grow), they typically glue sand, leaf pieces, or small sticks onto the outsides of these silk tubes. Brachycentrus, the log cabin caddisfly, fashions a square home of minute plant parts. One genus, the Helicopsyche, was originally classified as a snail because its spiral case of minute sand grains is shaped like a nautilus.

Crane flies overwinter as (See Minibeasts, Page 20A)



Fran Allo Memory Tree in Vergennes



The Vergennes Lions Club and Vergennes Rotary Club wish to thank those that participated in remembering our loved ones that are no longer with us. Thank you to those that submitted names online or added an ornament on the Memorial Tree, placed in the park to honor Fran Allo, our beloved Christmas Lady that showed enormous generosity throughout the year.

Those honored are:	Charlie W. Reed	Jim Jennings	Raymond Sr. Brace
Joyce Vincent	Brigitte Djordjevic	Dave Thibodeau	Raymond Jr. Brace
Bonnie Nelson	Zoran Dordevic	Edla Wendel	Carolyn Hamel
Kathleen McNulla	Olive Case	Mamie Gee	Mary Walker
Duane Nelson	Daryl Winters	Raymond "Pat" Swinton	Beverly Parker
Allen & Ruby Gaines	Sandra Forand	Joel FitzPatrick	Bertha Desjadeon
Ann Sullivan	Ramona Forand	Marian Usher	Richard, Franny, Robert,
JoAnne Plummer Gordon	Leonard Forand	Eileen Clark	& Skate Brace
Drew Gordon	Brian Forand	Gail Lynk	Alberta Sargent
Alma Barrows Plummer	Ruth Tucker Ringer	Greg Clark	Ralph and Myrle Jackman
Margaret Sears	Roy Tucker	Henry Broughton	Eric Jackson
Leroy "Red" Plummer	Roy Tucker Jr	Lucille Broughton	Henry Broughton
Lester Delisle	Ronald Schroeder	Dennis Brace	Lucille Broughton
Polly Young Reed	Amy Vachon	Wayland Brace	Mark Steponaitis

Let us not forget, and always be thankful for, what these folks have contributed in the past to help make this a better world for everyone.



Eleanor Brace







Michelle Loudin



Eveline Jennings









Call Eileen at





Obituaries

Ethel J. Seguin, 83, of New Haven

NEW HAVEN — Ethel J. Seguin, 83, passed away peacefully after a long illness on Tuesday morning, Dec. 19, 2023, at home in New Haven with her beloved husband by her side.

Ethel was born in Cornwall, Vermont, on Aug. 7, 1940, to Charlie and Mabel (O'Dell) Gero. Ethel was raised in Cornwall.

She met the love of her life, Regent Seguin, at a New Haven town hall dance, and they later married in 1957. In 1964, they bought a farm they now call the family farm.

Ethel enjoyed her time on the family farm, working, gardening, cooking and raising their children. She never complained about the hard work. Once retired she enjoyed her flower gardens, baking and spending time with family and listening to old time country music; she also collected angels.



ETHEL J. SEGUIN

She is survived by the love of her life, husband Regent Seguin; their children, Carmen Lamoureux of Florida, Lorraine Smith and husband Vern of Saint Albans, Todd and wife Robbin (Cyr)

Seguin of Ripton, Lynn Paquette and husband Travis of New Haven, and John Seguin of New Haven; grandchildren Alicia, Steven, Peter, Amy, Christopher, Samantha, Justin, Hailey, Amanda, Joshua, Trent, Ashley, and Renee; and

siblings Connie, Kathy, Rosemary, Maryann, Beverly, Patty, and Carolyn; many dear friends; and

parents; brothers Harry, Charlie, Ed and Nicholas; and one sister, Elizabeth.

at 2 p.m. on Jan. 6, 2024, at the American Legion in Middlebury.

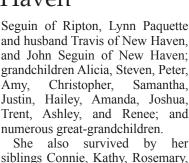
In lieu of flowers and donations Addison County. ◊

loved gathering with friends and

chatting over coffee. A joke or pun

Ken was predeceased by his

was never too far off.



many nieces and nephews. Ethel was predeceased by her

A celebration of life will be held

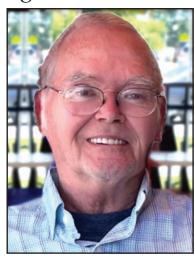
please make contributions to Addison County Home Health and Hospice or the AgeWell program of

Kenneth George Nicholson, 79, of Leicester

LEICESTER — Kenneth George Nicholson, 79, (he might say he was only 19), passed away peacefully Nov. 14, 2023, at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center.

Ken was born in Burlington, Vt., on Feb. 29, 1944. He was the loving son of George H. Nicholson and Margaret L. (Essery) Nicholson. Ken attended Burlington High School and later graduated from Castleton University with a degree in teaching. He found his true calling later in life as an LNA working with home health. Ken loved his patients and loved caring for people. He was a very kindhearted and loving man.

While raising his kids, he always encouraged them to laugh and play, whether pronouncing words silly or issuing a wonderful if not painful 'dad' joke. Ken loved 'stomping through the tulips', (along with the New Christy Minstrels song), with both his children, and worked hard to show them all he could

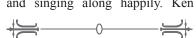


NICHOLSON

in life — from fancy brunches at the Radisson with Grammy and Grampy pa, to summer road trips to Park Safari or Prince Edward Island, during which the car would always be filled with oldies tunes



and singing along happily. Ken



beloved parents, whom he cared for both profoundly and diligently, and his much-loved and cherished dog, Barney. He is survived by his sister, Fran Lillyman, of Tulare, Calif.; his son, Kyle Nicholson of Big Sky Mont.; his daughter, Jessica Nicholson of Middlebury, Vt.; and his granddaughter, Abagail Nicholson-Wemette of Middlebury.

There will not be a local ceremony for Ken as he desired one last road trip to PEI. His son and daughter will be bringing him along on that commemorative road trip at a later date, which will include a small private ceremony.

Arrangements under direction of Sanderson Funeral Home. Online condolences at: www.sandersonfuneralservice.



Caroline A. Delisle, 90, of Bristol

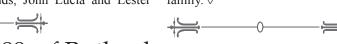
BRISTOL — Caroline A. Wheeler Tanner Lucia Delisle, 90, passed on Dec. 20, 2023, at Porter Rehab in Middlebury.

Caroline was born May 25, 1933, in Burlington, Vt., to parents Frank and Eva Alice (Wyman) Wheeler of Hinesburg. As a single parent of six, she went to Champlain College in Burlington and earned her associate degree to become a secretary. She then worked for the Welfare Office, and then at ACCAG in Middlebury. After she retired, she volunteered for ACTR.

Her hobbies were ceramics, puzzles and reading.

Surviving children are daughters Renee Tanner Sanders (Robert) of California, Dale Tanner Fleming (Charlie) of Bristol, and Cindy Tanner Martel (Maurice, deceased) of North Carolina, and son Jerry Tanner (Laura) of Bethel, along grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces,

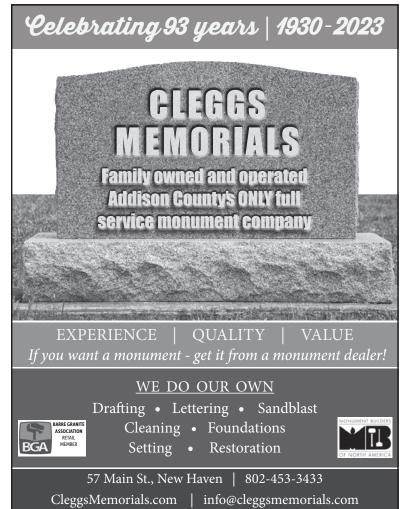
nephews and friends. Son Robin Tanner and daughter Teja Tanner predeceased her. Her parents and husbands, John Lucia and Lester



Mary Margaret Keros, 99, of Rutland

RUTLAND — Mary Margaret unique enthusiasm for life. Keros passed away on Dec. 18, 2023, at the age of 99, a month before her 100th birthday, in Rutland, Vt. She was born on Jan. 22, 1924, in drew people in by her warmth and

Mary's long life and legacy will be privately celebrated and remembered by her family at a future time. The family Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Mary was a would value any remembrances devoted wife, mother, grandmother and condolences be shared at and great-grandmother. She had a sandersonfuneralservice.com. The welcoming, engaging spirit that full obituary can be viewed online on the Sanderson website. ◊



Delisle, also predeceased her. She

was the last of her siblings. A graveside service will take place at Greenwood Cemetery in Bristol on Saturday, Dec. 30, at 10 a.m. After the service, we will meet at Victory Baptist Church in Waltham until 1 p.m. Please bring

Arrangements are in the care of Stephen C. Gregory and Son Cremation Service. Please visit www.gregorycremation.com send online condolences to her family. ◊

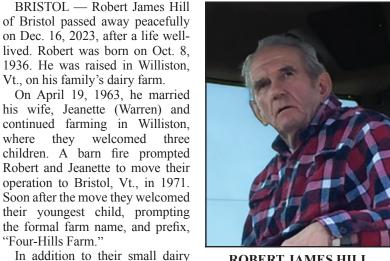
Randall Owen Hobbs, 64, of Rutland

RUTLAND — Randall Owen Hobbs, age 64, of Rutland, died Dec. 19, 2023. He was born June 13, 1959, in Proctor, the son of Patricia A. Trudeau and James Bennett Sr.

He was predeceased by his father. He is survived by his mother, Patricia Trudeau, six sisters, six brothers, many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Randall served in the Army from 1976-1983, loved NASCAR racing and doing small engine repair.

A memorial service and celebration of his life will be held Saturday, Dec. 30, at 2 p.m., at the American Legion Post 50, Castleton Vt.



Robert James Hill, 87, of Bristol

ROBERT JAMES HILL

the farm. Robert's strong work ethic was the foundation for his land stewardship, business sense, and animal husbandry, which allowed the farm to grow and sustain multiple generations, who are now continuing his legacy.

Robert is survived by his wife

of 60 years, Jeanette; their four children, Ronald, Joanne (Dan), Brian (Chanin), and Kevin (Amy); six grandchildren, Elizabeth, Britney (Cody), Megan, Bradley, Johnny and Sarah; one greatgrandson, Greyson; and many loving nieces and nephews. Robert is predeceased by his parents and siblings.

A celebration of life will be held at the Vergennes Eagles Club at 67 New Haven Road, Vergennes, Vt.,

on Sunday, Jan. 7, from 1-4 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Robert's name to Elderly Services Inc., 112 Exchange Street Middlebury, VT 05753, or Addison County 4-H Foundation, 23 Pond Lane Suite 300, Middlebury, VT

The family would like to thank Brian and Sheila at Evergreen, Elderly Services Inc in Middlebury, Carlene and Donna for their dedicated care and support of Robert.◊

Edward Arthur Schneider, 81, of Kirksville, Mo.

KIRKSVILLE, Mo. — Edward Arthur Schneider, 81, passed away on Dec. 16, 2023, at his home with his wife, Carol, at his

Vt., on his family's dairy farm.

"Four-Hills Farm."

herd, Robert purchased registered

cattle for his children to show in 4-H.

He believed in promoting future

generations of youth to be involved

in agriculture. His investment

in fostering youth in agriculture

paid off, he was able to spend his

life working side by side with his

children and his grandchildren on

The son of Edward T. and Lillian M. (Johnson) Schneider, he was born Dec. 11, 1942, in St. Louis, Mo. On Aug. 21, 1965, he married Carol Ann Sears of Middlebury, Vt. at Mary Immaculate Church in Kirksville, Mo.

Ed is survived by his wife, Carol; three children, Darren Schneider and his wife Sheila of Winona, Minn., Andrea Schneider of Bradenton, Fla., and Gregory Schneider of Lee's Summit, Mo.; three grandchildren, Reed Schneider, Grant Schneider, and Mia Schneider; one sister-in-law, Ellen Meisenheimer; a niece, Denise Bell; and a nephew, James (Ann) Schmitt.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his father-inlaw and mother-in-law (James and Helene Sears); his sister, Donna Schmitt and his brotherin-law, Harvey Schmitt.

Ed graduated from Jennings High School (St. Louis, Mo.) in 1961. As a high school athlete, Ed became the first Missouri high school track and field athlete to win individual state championship titles in both the 880-yard run and mile run at the same championship. His that event.

Following his high school career, Ed chose to continue his academic and athletic pursuits at Northeast Missouri State Teachers College (now Truman State University) in Kirksville, Mo. There he became a five-time, all-American in both track and field and cross country.

collegiate crowning achievement was capturing the individual NCAA College Division Cross Country championship in 1964. Ed's title was the first ever individual national championship earned by a Truman State University athlete. His individual effort contributed to his team's national runner up finish at the 1964 championship. In addition to his cross-country exploits, he was the second-place finisher in the 1500m and also achieved a fourth-place finish in the 880 run at the NCAA Championship Track & Field Championships in 1964.

One of his favorite memories was anchoring his teammates to a Drake Relays championship in the 4 x 880 relay in 1965. His talent and accomplishments earned him invitations and opportunities to compete in both national caliber



SCHNEIDER

and world class competitions as a collegiate athlete. Fifty-nine years after his collegiate career ended, Ed still holds both the Truman State school records in the indoor mile (4:10.2) and outdoor 1500m (3:46.8). Ed graduated from Truman State with a Bachelor of Science in Education Degree in 1965 and a Master of Arts Degree in Education in 1970.

Ed taught Elementary Physical Education at Kratz Elementary School Ritenour School District in St. Louis, Mo. He moved to Riverview Gardens High School in St. Louis County, where he instructed Driver Education courses and began his cross country and track and field 880 performance set a new state coaching career. In his six years championship meet record for as a high school coach, two of his track teams and three of his greatly cross-country teams placed in the top ten at 4-A Missouri state high school championship meets. He coached individual state champions in both cross country and track and field.

In 1974, he returned to Northeast Missouri University State (Truman State University) as an instructor in physical education and as a coach of cross country and track and field. His cross country teams won four MIAA (Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association) conference championships, three NCAA regional titles, and twelve of his teams qualified for the NCAA Championships. His 1994 and 1995 teams finished third in the nation, and his 2001 team captured a fourth place finish. His cross country athletes achieved individual all-American status twenty times in national meet competition.

As a track and field coach, Ed led Truman State squads to six MIAA indoor and outdoor team championships. Individual athletes earned fifty-four NCAA all-American honors under his watch, including James Walton, an individual national champion.

Seventy of his track and field athletes won individual titles at the MIAA indoor and outdoor conference championships. In 1990 his teams were eleventh at the NCAA indoor meet and sixteenth at the outdoor NCAA meet. He coached two athletes that participated in Olympic competition. Games Armstead won a gold medal as a member of the United States 4 x 400 meter relay team at the 1984 Olympics and Brian Dzingai represented Zimbabwe in the 200 meters (4th place) at the 2004 and 2008 Olympic Games.

After thirty-one years of coaching

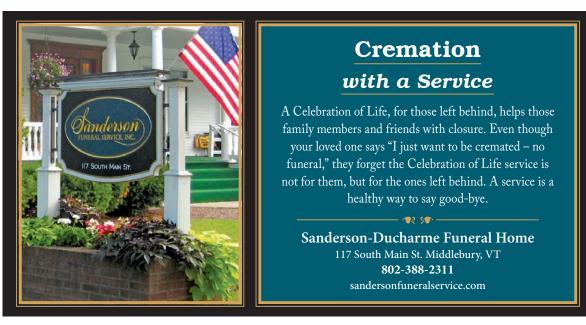
at Truman State, Ed retired in 2005. Ed was honored by his enshrinement into five Halls of Fame. He was elected into the Jennings High School Hall of Fame (1961) and the Truman State University Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006. He was elected as a charter member of the NCAA Division II Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame (2000), the MIAA Hall of Fame (2012), and the Missouri State High School Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame (2002). In 1988, Ed was named Honorary Referee of the prestigious Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa. In 2006, Truman State University appointed Ed as an Instructor Emeritus in Exercise Science.

Ed loved his family. He enjoyed attending activities in which his children and grandchildren participated. Ed was an avid outdoorsman, thoroughly who enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was a tremendous steward of his land and the wildlife that his property attracted. He enjoyed watching and attending sporting events. Ed will always be remembered for his lifelong attachment to running and the running community. He valued and appreciated the many relatives, students, athletes, and friends whose lives touched his.

Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 5, at Davis-Playle-Hudson-Rimer Funeral Home in Kirksville, Mo.

A Mass of Christian burial will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6, at Mary Immaculate Catholic Church in Kirksville. A private interment will be in the Mary Immaculate Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Ed can be made to the Edward A. Schneider Men's Cross Country Scholarship Fund at Truman State University or personally plant a tree in memory of Ed. To express condolences to his family online, please visit www.davisplaylehudsonrimer. com. ◊





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AFTER TWO YEARS leading schools in the Marshall Islands, Nicole MacTavish is settling in as the new superintendent of the Patricia Hannaford Career Center.

Independent photo/John Flowers

Career Center

(Continued from Page 1A) sunshine and vast Pacific Ocean lapping at your front door.

MacTavish arrived in Addison County this past summer to take up her role as superintendent of the Career Center. On Monday she reflected upon her 7,103-mile trek from Kwajalein to Middlebury this past January to interview for the PHCC job.

"I was coming from a place where the only clothing I owned was flipflops, sundresses and shorts," she said. "So I had to stop in Hawaii... and try to find a business outfit. And that was not really a place where you buy business clothes, either."

ensemble, the interview went well, and MacTavish is thrilled to be leading the county's vocationaltechnical center. She's part of the first all-women leadership team at PHCC that includes Assistant Superintendent Wendy Pratt and Joy Verplanck, assistant director of adult education & curriculum.

"We've been thrilled with this transition," MacTavish said. "It's been great for our family. It's a beautiful place to live and everyone in Middlebury has been so welcoming."

In Kwajalein she oversaw a school system that served around 250 children in grades K-12 on an island that's roughly six square miles. Among those students was her 14-year-old son, Try. He was enjoying school in Kwajalein but needed some new educational opportunities, according to MacTavish. Her husband, John, is a former military aviator (he flew EA-6B Prowler airplanes) and then became a tech engineer. He's currently readying himself for a new career — repairing and maintaining sailboats.

MacTavish grew up in the Seattle area. Her resume includes stints as chief academic office of the Reynolds School District in Fairview, Ore.; deputy superintendent of Richland School District 400 in Washington state; administrator/educator with the Nampa School District in Idaho; principal of Redmond High School in Oregon; assistant director Child, Youth and School Services, USAG Stuttgart, Germany; and associate principal of the Oak Harbor School District in Washington state.

"We had lived (in Kwajalein) for two years and just loved it, but it was time to come back to America," she said. "I was looking for whatever the next thing was going to be for my family and myself. I targeted my job search to what my passion is, which is CTE (Career and Technical Education)."

MacTavish applied for several specifically targeting communities with schools that could offer a "good transition for my son. Going from a very small community to a huge urban community wasn't going to work."

She came upon the PHCC job posting, and that was it.

"It was like the perfect job," she said. "I reached out to the (coordinator of the) search and said, 'This is my number one choice.' And we took it from there."

Her impressions of the Career Center only got better during her first tour of the campus.

"It was very clear, from the moment I walked on this campus, that the culture here was tight, that it was a warm, amazing and supportive place for kids,' MacTavish said. She ended up being PHCC's top choice and was anxious to get started.

Once settling into her new office at 51 Charles Ave., her first major task was to fill the PHCC's other administrative vacancies.

couldn't be happier about having landed both Verplanck and Pratt. Pratt is beginning her second chapter with the PHCC, having previously served as the center's curriculum coordinator and math

"I was able to hire her back," MacTavish beamed.

coach from 2015 to 2022.

Almost miraculously — given the shallow labor pool in our region — MacTavish had no faculty positions to fill, other than a teaching assistant vacancy. The PHCC currently has 40 full- and part-time employees heading 20 different programs, ranging entertaining, because Hawaii is from culinary arts to automotive technology. The Career Center's courses are open to students from But she found the right Middlebury, Mount Abraham and Vergennes union high schools and has an adult ed curriculum, as well. **IN-DEMAND CAREERS**

> MacTavish is pleased with PHCC's diverse programming and is looking to boost offerings that are in highest demand — both by students and businesses looking to hire. Right now, she said, the biggest demand in our area is for graduates ready to enter the hightech manufacturing field.

> "When I'm out and about, it's the number-one thing that I get asked about. And high-tech manufacturing is everywhere in Addison County," she said, citing Collins Aerospace in Vergennes and Mechanical Advantage in Middlebury as just two examples.

"There's a desperate need for people to go into this field," MacTavish added, noting the prolific "help wanted" listings for manufacturers of food, beverage, wood, food and other jobs.

MacTavish and her colleagues

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are seeking new collaborations with area businesses, offering students a strong educational base and real-world experiences that could lead to an employment pipeline for Addison County industries.

The center has successfully applied for grants, and is seeking others, to boost its high-tech manufacturing programs. And MacTavish is excited about the recent hiring of Kyle Trudo to run the PHCC's Industrial Design and Fabrication course.

"He has an extensive background in manufacturing," she said of Trudo.

"I want to get the manufacturing program out of the silo, and I want it to be a cross-curricular program, because I want the students to be able to design and build," she added.

Momentum is also building in the auto industry's transition from fossil fuels to electricity, and MacTavish wants PHCC students ready to play a part in that evolution. The Career Center won a federal grant last year through U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders that will help the center "lean into green technology," according to MacTavish.

Students now have an electric vehicle to work on, as well as a "switch lab," which is essentially a "build-it-yourself" kit for EV education.

MacTavish is glad to see consistent student interest in PHCC programming. The current student head count at the center is around 340 — a number that's remained consistent in recent years, according to MacTavish.

"My goal is that every kid in Addison County has the opportunity to take one of these amazing courses," she said. "The stuff we do here is so cool, and a complement to a regular K-12 education."

She believes Vermont — with its network of career and technical centers — is ahead of the national curve in its gameplan for CTE. MacTavish noted that throughout most of the nation, CTE is simply part of conventional high school, and is thus always competing for resources.

"At a comprehensive high school, you might only have three or four CTE programs. But when you have a technical center, as you do in Vermont, you can have all kinds of programs for kids. And it also gives you the opportunity to get really close to the economic drivers in the community where you are, which helps you understand what programs are important to the community."



from the Giving Fridge, one of the offerings of "Holidays on the House." The program, organized by Middlebury nonprofit The House, is aimed at providing college students with food and activities over winter break.

Photo courtesy of Annette Franklin

Holidays

(Continued from Page 1A) particularly difficult for students following the deaths of two of their classmates. "She expressed her concern and that she was looking for someone to direct funds to so that we could create something for students."

Franklin began developing a program aimed at meeting the needs of students staying on campus during the two weeks of winter break. With that, Holidays On the House was born.

As of Tuesday, The House had raised around \$13,000 to finance the initiative, which aims to support students in two areas: meals and community-building activities.

FREE MEALS

One of the goals of the program is to provide students with at least one hot meal a day, along with other treats throughout the break. The House is partnering with a handful of local eateries to achieve that goal.

Throughout winter break, students can enjoy a free coffee and baked good at Otter Creek Bakery and Haymaker Bun Company, as well as a complimentary meal at one of several restaurants in town. Partnered eateries will keep a tab of all meals provided, with each student offered a set number of meals over break.

Meals from the Giving Fridge, a charity prepared meal program that aims to make nutritious, local food accessible to more people, will also be delivered to students on campus twice a week.

In addition to providing students with food, Franklin is hopeful the collaboration will offer a boost to local businesses.

"Winter break can either be feast or famine. Either people come and they want to bring their entire family out for dinner, or they're all having dinner in, and the restaurants are open but there's no one coming in," Franklin said. "My thinking was to try to encourage them and to bring business to them, and also to try to make connections between students who have never gone into those restaurants before."

COMMUNITY

The House has also coordinated a variety activities for students to take part in throughout the break. This past week, the nonprofit hosted a spaghetti dinner at Haymaker and was planning to hold a craft night for students and community members.

"(The events) are just another opportunity for students to be able really want to make sure that this to gather and to gather in a different happens every year."

space," Franklin explained.

When the Independent spoke with Franklin last week, The House had connected with 21 students staying on campus and was expecting to serve a few more over the break.

Franklin said the program has so far been well received by students, some of whom have shared the challenges they've faced this semester and difficulties returning home or purchasing food over

"We're all here in our houses with rooms full of food, and you don't think about students on a big campus like that experiencing hunger, but it's a real thing. It's often right in front of us and we don't see it," she said. As Holidays on The House

continues to unfold, Franklin said she's looking forward to gathering with students and community members for group activities.

The House director is hopeful the new offering will continue in future years.

"It's amazing how this program has just kind of come up, and I'm excited to think about ways to do it in the future," Franklin said. "I



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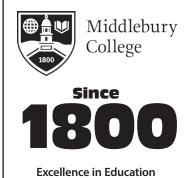


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Chronology 2023

A Year In Review

(January from Page 1A) into an alleged teen drinking party factoring into the equation.

Four months after announcing that Addison Northwest School District 6th-graders would attend middle school at Vergennes Union High School, ANWSD officials determined the change would take place in the fall of 2024, as opposed to the fall of 2023. Among the reasons for the delay: teachers and staff needed more time to prepare for the new educational model, already in place in the Addison Central School District (ACSD).

Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, resigned from the ACSD board in January to focus on statewide educational policy; he was the newly appointed chair of the House Education Committee. The school board appointed Ellen Whelan-Wuest to replace Conlon until the March elections, at which time she would be free to run for the final year remaining on Conlon's original three-year term.

Conlon wasn't the only Addison County lawmaker to get tapped for a leadership post for the 2023-2024 biennium. Rep. Diane Lanpher, D-Vergennes, was named chair of the House Appropriations Committee; Rep. Amy Sheldon, D-Middlebury, was picked to helm the newly created House Environment & Energy Committee; Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury, was picked to lead Senate Government Operations; and Sen. Chris Bray, D-Bristol, was granted another term as steward of the Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committee.

January brought news of four building scenarios for upgrading Middlebury's Ilsley Library, ranging in price from \$5.5 million to \$23 million, according to very early estimates. Options included renovating the 100-year-old library building, renovating it while complementing it with an annex somewhere nearby, renovating and expanding the structure on site, or building a new structure. Library officials organized numerous public comment sessions to get feedback.

The recently expanded Ethan Allen Express passenger rail neighborhood through Addison County the campus Middlebury and would add 2,000-2,500 riders per month to the Ethan Allen. Comparing ridership to prepandemic numbers during the extension added more than 5,000 riders in July, 3,000 in August, 3,424 in September, 3,785 in October and 3,930 in November.

Chabot announced he wouldn't use "Addison County Hope & seek re-election to a second term. "Politics isn't really my bag, and change and transition management is," Chabot told the Independent. "Everyone knows it was never my intention to be mayor for life. It from substance use disorder and was just to assist (City Manager) other addictions. The organization



January 10

HEATHER BALLARD PROUDLY holds up the newest addition to her family — Jaxson Thomas McCormick, the first baby born at Porter Hospital in 2023. Little Jaxson arrived on Jan. 3 at 7:51 a.m. weighing six pounds, 12 oz., to parents Heather Ballard and Nate McCormick of Middlebury and siblings Sophia and MyKayla. Welcome to the world, Jaxson!

Independent file photo/Steve James

Ron (Redmond) and the council to get things stabilized after 2020."

The ACSD board declined to warn a petitioned referendum seeking feedback on two separate options to amend the ACSD charter in a way that would allow a bigger public role in closing local schools. But the panel did agree to hold its own vote in February on whether host towns — or the combined electorate of the seven member ACSD communities should be given the right to vote (and potentially veto) any future proposals to close any district school due to declining enrollment or other reasons that might make a school unsustainable.

Faced with mounting complaints service, which began rolling about late-night partying at off-College previous August, proved it was student housing, the Middlebury catching on with riders, including selectboard strengthened the town's those catching the train at the noise ordinance. Noise complaints Vergennes/ can now trigger a police response Ferrisburgh stops. Toni Clithero, after 11 p.m. and before 7 a.m. on the VTrans Amtrak Grants Program Fridays, Saturdays and "special manager, told the *Independent* that holidays (such as, New Year's Eve Amtrak had projected ridership on and July 4), which is two hours the Burlington-Rutland extension earlier than the previous noise ordinance trigger of 1 a.m. through 7 a.m. on those days.

The Turning Point Center of Addison County secured a \$1 federal fiscal year of 2019, the million federal earmark through U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy; the nonprofit was seeking the money to transform the former St. Mary's Catholic School at 86 Shannon In Vergennes, Mayor Matt St. in Middlebury into a multi-Recovery Community Center." The Turning Point Center is one of 12 peer recovery centers in Vermont that offer support for individuals and their families seeking recovery



February 9

A FEW OF the 38 firefighters who responded to the Old College Farm Road fire on Saturday morning emerge from the smoke as they move gingerly on the icy scene. The thermometer read almost 20

Independent file photo/John S. McCright

and its recovery programming are currently wedged into 3,300 square feet at 54A Creek Road.

Just when it appeared the COVID-19 pandemic might end a more than 50-year tradition of legislative breakfasts in Addison County, the Addison County Farm Bureau and Bridport Grange announced plans to resurrect the sessions — albeit in a more limited fashion — two breakfasts per month, instead of one a week,

through the legislative session.

From Bristol came other signs of a return to normalcy following the pandemic. Officials confirmed a return of the annual "Pocock Rocks" festival on Main Street, and resurrection of the Bristol Farmers Market on the town green.

February

The Patricia Hannaford Career Center community celebrated the hiring of a top administrator in February. Nicole MacTavish a U.S. Army education program quality analyst working in Kwajalein Atoll, one of the Marshall Islands — accepted the job and would begin her duties on July 1. She was hired to succeed interim Career Center Superintendent Timothy P. Williams, who had been hired in August 2022 after a previous effort to replace former Superintendent Dana Peterson proved unsuccessful.

The town of Middlebury in February earned a "Neighborhood Development Area" designation from the state of Vermont for a large swath of property in its core village area. It's an important classification that should serve as a catalyst for the construction of more local affordable housing, while giving the community priority consideration for state grants.

In Montpelier, lawmakers were (See February, Page 9A)





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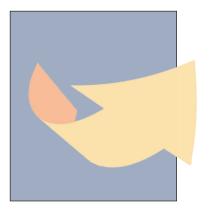
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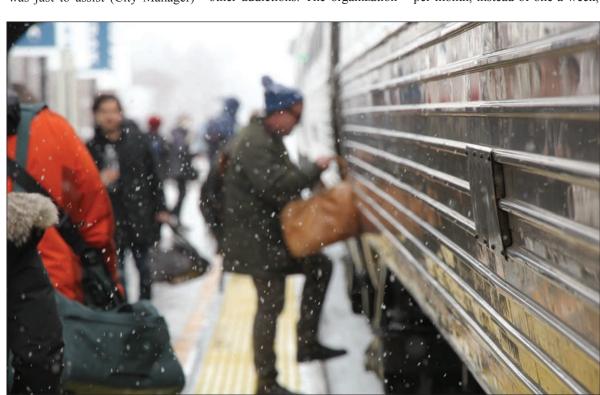




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January 26

THE EXPANDED ETHAN Allen Express rail service is drawing a growing number of passengers, including at its Middlebury stop, shown here.

Independent file photos/Steve James

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(February from Page 8A)

busy working on a number of bills

— including legislation aimed at

guaranteeing paid family leave.

Leading that effort was state Rep. Robin Scheu, D-Middlebury, who saw the bill as a way to assist Vermonters needing to take care of

an infant, sick family member or

more controversial. Members

of the Addison County business

community turned up the heat on Bill S.5, also known as the Affordable Heat Act. The bill was aimed at bending the curve on climate change in Vermont

through major investments in weatherization and the transition to green heating systems in homes and businesses. As originally crafted, S.5 called for, among other things, establishing a Clean Heat Standard that would've required importers of

fossil heating fuels into Vermont to reduce pollution over time. Fossil

fuel importers would have been

asked to help subsidize cleaner heat

options — primarily for low- and

middle-income Vermonters — such

as weatherization and heat pumps.

That provision drew particular

criticism from area heating fuel companies. In response, the authors

of S.5 agreed to make then bill a

The Addison Central School

District board agreed to change

the ACSD charter in a manner that

will make the future shuttering of

a district school more arduous.

Article 14 of the ACSD charter had

given the ACSD board exclusive

rights to close a district school,

if such a measure were approved

by at least 10 of the panel's 13

members — aka, a supermajority

vote. But the board in February

added an extra wrinkle to the

charter stating that the closure

process will also require a majority

vote of the combined electorate of

Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury,

Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and

Weybridge before any school

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optic internet services. The

lucky, initial customers were

located in Cornwall, Middlebury

and Salisbury. Plans called for

installation of 100 more miles of

fiber optic lines during 2023 to

bring service to more of Cornwall

and Salisbury, along with portions

of Orwell, Shoreham, Whiting and

Sugarmaking got off to an early

start in February, thanks to freezing

temperatures at night followed by

40-plus-degree days that prompted

February was a month during

which the upcoming Town

Meeting Day municipal and school

board races came into focus. Some

particularly interesting ones: Four

candidates emerged for three spots

on the Vergennes City Council,

the sap to flow.

County

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those fleeing domestic violence. Another bill proved to be far





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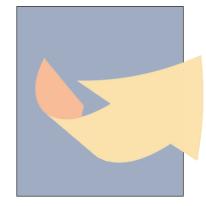


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Chronology 2023

A Year In Review



February 2

VICTORIOUS MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE Log Rolling Club member Audrey Welsh keeps her balance on a colorful timber floating in the shallow end of the college Natatorium Sunday afternoon as a competitor from the University of Vermont gets dunked.

Independent file photo/Steve James



by substantial margins.

Voters in the Middlebury area decided a nine-person race for four spots on the Addison Central School District board. Those making the cut were incumbent Ellen Whelan-Wuest of Cornwall (just appointed in January); Tricia Allen and Jason Chance, both of Middlebury; and incumbent Suzanne Buck of Bridport.

Sadly, there were no takers for four vacant seats on the Mount Abraham Unified School District board, seats representing Bristol (2), Monkton (1) and New Haven

In Vergennes, residents picked a new mayor, Chris Bearor (who ran unopposed), and decided a four-person race for three spots on the city council. Two incumbents, Sue Rakowski and Ian Huizenga, and newbie Cheryl Brinkman were elected, while Don Perley finished out of the running.

In Middlebury, residents reelected incumbent selectboard members Dan Brown and Brian Carpenter to new three-year terms, and incumbent Isabel Gogarty to a two-year term.

Incumbents also breezed to new terms in Bristol; John "Peeker" Heffernan and Michelle Perlee ran unopposed for the selectboard.

In addition to endorsing their FY'24 municipal budget, Middlebury voters backed proposals to invest in a new, \$3.5 million municipal water holding tank; to change the town charter in a manner allowing future town treasurers to be appointed, instead of elected; and agreed to a purchase the former Maverick service station at 82 Court St. for \$295,000, a property the town needs for a future realignment of the Court Street/Monroe Street/ Charles Avenue intersection.

Middlebury Union High School landed a new principal in March — though the person hired needed little introduction to the community. Caitlin Steele was awarded the gig after having taken the job for a test drive following the sudden resignation of Justin Campbell in January. Steele has been with the ACSD since 2016, when she was hired as director of teaching & learning. She was promoted to assistant superintendent of teaching & learning in July 2021. Steele was the top choice from among three finalists for the job.

Ripton also confirmed a new principal: Bridport School teacher Megan Cheresnick, who agreed to helm Ripton Elementary beginning July 1.

While Middlebury and Ripton both snagged new school leaders, the town of Bristol learned it'd be in the market for a new elementary school principal. John Bratko announced he'd take an immediate leave of absence for the remainder of the academic year and sever ties with the school after that. Bratko had just begun his tenure as Bristol Elementary's principal in July of 2022, and was the fourth administrator to lead the school

(See March, Page 10A)



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March 9

RYAN MCNULTY, ASSISTANT general manager of the Middlebury Snowbowl, spent part of Wednesday morning clearing the upper deck of the base lodge after this week's storm. About 24-plus inches fell at the Snowbowl, as well as in mountain towns throughout Addison County.

Independent file photo/Angelo Lynn

while two people stepped up for one available seat on the Addison Northwest School District board. Nine candidates announced for four available spots on the Addison Central School District board.

It was a month that saw Joanne Corbett announce she'd step down as executive director of Elderly



March 9

JAIME McCALLUM TURNS away from the action of the Weybridge town meeting Monday evening in the Weybridge Elementary gym to share a moment with his daughter Tessa, who pauses her own notetaking to connect with her dad.

Independent file photo/Megan James

Services Inc. after a 33-year run. Elderly Services is a muchrevered nonprofit that delivers counseling, comprehensive educational programming, entertainment and daycare to around 80 elders at its own spacious Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center at 112 Exchange St. in Middlebury.

Valentine's Day featured the launch of "Gather" at 48 Merchants Row, a 1,400-squarefoot space in which folks are invited to congregate, enjoy food, chat with neighbors, do laundry, and benefit from entertaining and therapeutic programming — all for free. It's a project of the Cornwallbased Bread Loaf Mountain Zen Community, which signed a 2.5year lease for what was once home to the Bourdon Insurance Agency. Gather would become a particularly important spot for the community's houseless population.

Middlebury College marked the centennial of its annual Winter Carnival, a three-day-event filled with skiing competitions, snow sculptures, a grand ball, music and parties. The tradition was established in 1923 and has changed in scope and popularity through the years.

March

March is synonymous with "Town Meeting Day" in Vermont, and Addison County residents dutifully fielded a variety of fiscal year 2024 municipal/ school budgets, special purchases, elections and referenda in their respective towns.

school and town budgets, mostly

County taxpayers passed all their

since 2018. Jason Ouellette got the word

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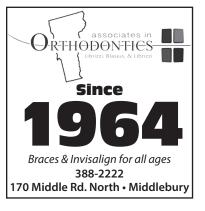
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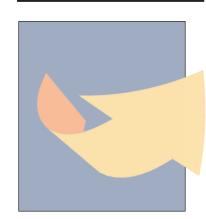
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Chronology 2023

A Year In Review

(March from Page 9A) "interim" removed from his Vergennes police chief title. The city council formally OK'd his promotion to top cop, a position from which George Merkel had retired last fall.

But Vergennes officials also learned, very tragically, that the city would need a new fire chief. After 45 years with the city fire department — the most recent 14 as chief — Jim Breur succumbed to a long battle with cancer.

Middlebury police agreed to take on dispatching services for the Addison County Sheriff's Department, an agreement that some local law enforcement officials hoped would lead to a common dispatching system for all the area's emergency responders.

In Bristol, the selectboard was taking stock in the village's aging water distribution system — some of it 117 years old and in need of replacement. The board estimated around half the water lines needed to be swapped out, a massive undertaking that will come at a significant cost to users.

Lincoln school leaders drafted a \$4.6 million spending plan to cover FY'24 public education expenses for the town's new, Prek-12 independent school district. Local voters would get a chance to decide the spending plan in April.

Monkton residents began discussing the possible purchase of a 445-acre parcel that would be designated a "town forest." The Monkton Town Forest Committee, established back in 2019, vowed to research the potential purchase, involving property at the southern end of Monkton, near the Bristol town line.

A handful of Addison County organizations — including Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN) — continued their efforts to develop a communitybased commercial kitchen and tortilla factory to serve as a space for residents to grow their foodrelated businesses, whip up valueadded products or gather with one another over a meal. Joining the effort was the Addison Allies Network, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the county's migrant community.

Nikki Campbell and Hannah Roque, wife and stepdaughter, respectively, of former Addison Independent photographer Trent Campbell, teamed up to author a booklet called "Stroke Stories." It's a handy, 20-page publication that offers links to important healthcare resources for stroke survivors and their families, as well as poignant stories from patients and caregivers who continue to navigate the road to recovery. The two women committed to authoring the booklet to share what they'd learned following a series of three strokes



March 2

one back in 2018.

Development's

Recovery and

THT building project.

Officials at Middlebury's Town

Hall Theater got some great

news. The performing arts hub

on Merchants Row was awarded

a \$500,000 grant to help pay for

a 7,000-square-foot addition and

public plaza. The grant came

through the Vermont Agency

of Commerce and Community

Program, and it would help defray

an approximately \$7.5 million

April

beginning of April in Addison

County, when the body of 17-year-

old Rebecca Ball was recovered

on April 4 in a wooded area on the

west side of Otter Creek, north of

Belden Falls, in Weybridge. The

discovery ended a massive search

that began when the Middlebury

teen was reported missing on

March 29 and that brought together

Middlebury and Vermont State

police forces, other agencies and

a large group of citizen volunteers.

Authorities believed Ball's death

was an accident, as the teen, who

had shown a history of "walking

off" when she was upset or angry,

spent multiple nights outdoors

in below-freezing temperatures

without sustenance or warm

clothing and likely succumbed after

Community

Revitalization

PARENTS WATCH AS a group of first- and fourth-grade kids try to slide en masse down the sledding hill behind the Middlebury Rec Center on Sunday afternoon. Ample snow combined with a spirit of adventure resulted in great fun.

Independent file photo/John S. McCright



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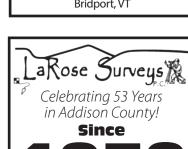
April 6 A tragic discovery marked the

SOPHIE JOHNSON, OUTREACH Coordinator for the Addison County River Watch Collaborative, points to a part of the Barnes Brook. The collaborative has launched a campaign focused on addressing pollution in the Middlebury watershed and increasing community awareness of the stream. Independent file photo/Marin Howell

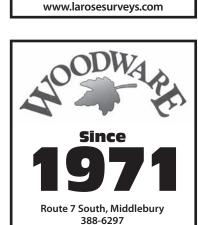
the front page in April, after College officials in September of Middlebury College alum and 2021 announced the institution former Vermont Gov. Jim Douglas of Middlebury filed a 79-page lawsuit challenging college officials' 2021 decision to change the name of the historic structure, formerly known as Mead Memorial Chapel. Douglas argued that the name change broke an agreement between the institution and former Gov. John Abner Mead, the college alum who funded construction of the building and asked that it be

The Middlebury Chapel made named in honor of his ancestors. would remove Mead from the building's name, citing Mead's role in the state's eugenics movement as prompting the decision.

In other college-related news in April, Middlebury College senior and Middlebury Fire Department volunteer firefighter Emily Jones ran her way to a world record in front of around 120 friends, fellow firefighters and other supporters. (See April, Page 11A)



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April 27

NIGERIAN ART AMBASSADOR Ibiyinka Alao shares with Ripton Elementary School students the stories behind his colorful paintings. The artist was visiting Addison County for a nine-day residency and spoke at seven area schools as part of ongoing collaborations with Middlebury College biology professor Greg Pask.

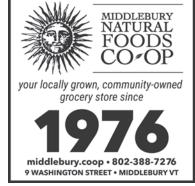
Photo by Greg Paskl



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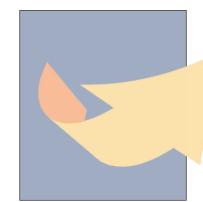
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Chronology 2023

A Year In Review

(April from Page 10A) To accomplish the feat, Jones ran a mile around Middlebury College's Dargone Track while wearing 60 pounds of firefighting turnout gear and breathing through a respirator, all in eight minutes and 25 seconds. Jones's time crushed the former Guinness Book of World Record of 11:00 for a female runner.

In Cornwall, members of the Mary Baker Allen chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) were busy breathing new life into the formerly dormant Samson Memorial House, a 108-year-old building in the center of town. The building, owned by the local DAR chapter, had seen less and less use over the years as the group's membership dwindled to a point where it no longer had enough people for monthly meetings and special events. However, more recent efforts to recruit new members and transfer members from healthier DAR chapters had proven successful, and in April the local group was preparing to once again welcome community members to the historic structure, particularly during an open house the following month.

The search for a new superintendent to lead the Addison Central School District seemed to progress in April, when district officials identified and began interviewing two finalists for the position: Suzanne Gruendling, director of policy implementation for the Essex-Westford School District; and Barbara Anne Komons-Montroll, top administrator of the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union in Vermont.

However, the ACSD board ultimately decided to pause its search for a new superintendent and begin looking for an interim district leader instead. The decision came after Komons-Montroll withdrew her application following the first round of interviews. She did not elaborate on the reason for withdrawal, though ACSD stakeholders had raised concerns about a recent U.S. Department of Justice investigation into the response of the Twin Valley School District (part of the supervisory union the administrator leads) to complaints of student-on-student harassment based on race and sex. Komons-Montroll's departure left Gruendling as the lone candidate for the job, and ACSD board members ultimately decided not to offer her the position.

Lincoln residents packed Burnham Hall on April 12 to discuss and vote on the Lincoln School District's first spending plan. Though it wasn't the district's first annual meeting, the gathering was still a momentous occasion: Lincoln voters elected by voice vote three members, including one new member, to serve on the school board, and they adopted by a wide margin by a standing vote a \$4.6 million spending plan for the school district's first year of operation, which would begin July

Elsewhere in the 5-town area, the Mount Abraham Unified School board in April heard concerns



May 25

PATRICIA HANNAFORD CAREER Center students head into the woods in Wright Park where they felled more than 100 trees that are being cleared for a multi-use trail that will link the Belden Falls trailhead with an important shrubland in the Middlebury park.

Independent file photo/Steve James

people of color.

School-related news continued to fill the front page in April, after the county's three unified school districts teamed up on a countywide bus contract. Officials were hopeful the "strength in numbers" approach would reap a better deal for student transportation than continuing to broker individual deals, however the districts' request for busing contract proposals yielded just one bid from Betcha Transit/Student Transportation of America, which has served as the transportation provider for each of the districts for decades. While their first effort did not yield many bids, district officials remained optimistic that their collaboration could prove to

be fruitful in the years to come. In Vergennes, city council members in April took steps toward creating a citizen panel to work with the city's police department. The council on April 11 began the process of forming the committee by agreeing to start recruiting up to nine members for the panel, as well as by reviewing and tweaking a revised committee charge written by City Manager Ron Redmond. Council members eyed the Community Engagement Committee as a potential bridge between the department's officers and the citizens they serve. Potential duties of the committee outlined in the draft committee charge included holding regular meetings to "review and provide feedback" on "regularly provided reports" on the "number and types of citizen complaints and compliments received," the types and volume of calls for service, and the department budget.

May

The Middlebury selectboard in

term.

June 1

JOE DEGRAY CUTS his last head of hair — belonging to Armond Brisson, one of his oldest customers — after a barbering career that began 65 years ago. "Joe's Barber Shop" in Middlebury, owned by Shelley Bryant, will continue to bear Joe's name.

Independent file photo/Steve James

from around a dozen community members after a student of color at Bristol Elementary School was twice called a racial slur. Residents called on school officials to take immediate and extensive action in addressing racism throughout

the district and ensuring all students feel safe and supported, such as by incorporating an antiracism course into the district's curriculum and hiring (within the next five years) more teachers and staff who are Black, Indigenous or



May 4

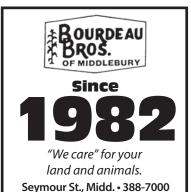
OK, THE WARMER weather can return, the annual May Day celebration has taken place at the Waterworks Property in Bristol. The Beltane celebration, sponsored by Vermont Family Forests, took place a day early this year, on Sunday, April 30. The three dozen or so people who attended first enjoyed some rousing music from a first-class quartet of musicians before carrying in a May pole, dancing around it and enjoying a good time.

Photo by Jonathan Blake



Gregsmarketvt.com





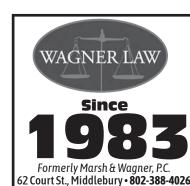


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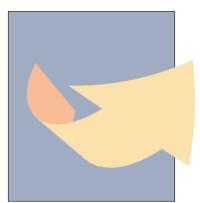
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in the post. The committee also bolstered the school's leadership team by tapping Bill Huggett, then acting principal at BES, and Anne McKinney, a literacy coach at the elementary school, to serve as coassistant principals. In Vergennes, councilors unanimously confirmed

tasked with searching for Bristol

Elementary School's next top administrator selected Brandon resident Aaron Boynton to serve

interim Vergennes Volunteer Fire Department Chief David DiBiase as the permanent head (See May, Page 12A)



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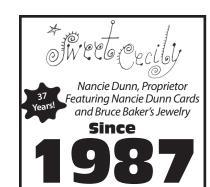


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Chronology 2023

A Year In Review

(May from Page 11A) of the department. DiBiase had been serving as interim head of the department since March, when longtime Chief Jim Breur succumbed to cancer. Breur had named DiBiase the department's first deputy chief in 2022.

Plans for a new regional transfer station hit the front page in May. The Addison County Solid Waste Management District purchased land in New Haven to host the facility, which is slated to open sometime in the next year and sit on roughly 5.4 acres at 65 Campground Road, close to Route 7. Once complete, the transfer station will offer a place for community members to bring their residential trash, recyclables and, eventually, household hazardous

Also in May, people started talking about former Middlebury Union High School Principal Campbell's January resignation after a Chittenden County newspaper published a story speculating on his reasons for doing so. As former MUHS coaches Jill and Pat Dunn traded accusations with the Addison Central School District over Campbell's investigation of a drinking party at the Dunns' home, the Addison Independent wrapped up a months-long investigation into the case. The Dunns alleged that Campbell had fabricated evidence of the underage drinking party that led to the firing of the two MUHS coaches — Jill as girls' tennis coach and Pat as assistant boys' basketball coach.

Campbell had cited interviews with three MUHS students who he said had told him about drinking at the party. The Dunns hired a private investigator who recorded brief interviews with the three students in which they denied having talked with Campbell about the party. Campbell's resignation, effective immediately in January, came just hours after the Dunns were informed by an ACSD lawyer that an investigation substantiated their claims that Campbell made up the interviews.

Multiple attempts to reach Justin Campbell were fruitless.

The Dunns told the Independent that the alleged drinking party was a pretext for their firing, but that school officials did not renew their contracts because they complained director. After acknowledging the fabricated evidence, the school district investigated the case again, and determined that the Dunns' contracts were not renewed for reasons beyond the testimony of the three students, but they declined to give details because it is a personnel matter.

Jill Dunn's attempt to get federal regulators to investigate her claim that she had been unfairly treated because of her gender did not go anywhere.

Meanwhile, in Bristol, Steven Heffernan and other co-owners of GHR Metal Recycling were working to coordinate a proper military burial for Allan Moch, a the first tiny home, also referred Vietnam War era veteran whose



June 22

IN ANTICIPATION OF a speech by an anti-trans activist at Vergennes Union High School on Tuesday evening, several hundred people met up outside the school to make posters in support of transexual people and then marched to the city green for the city's first Pride rally.

Independent file photo/Steve James

trunk of an abandoned car in the business's Pittsford scrapyard. Heffernan had spent nearly a year trying to ensure Moch was given a serviceman's burial and hadn't had any luck when the *Independent* spoke with him in May. Challenges of the effort included getting in touch with Moch's family, whose permission would be needed for a funeral home to claim Moch's remains.

In May, Middlebury resident Ken Scupp completed the United Way of Addison County's "Race for the Rest of Us." While the philanthropic "race" only consisted of 0.5 kilometer, it marked the end of an arduous, medical marathon for Scupp. Seven months prior to the race, Scupp had received a heart transplant, an operation that's allowed him to live an active life after several months during which his survival was in grave doubt.

The congregation of Shoreham's St. Genevieve Church was also celebrating in May, after parishioners won a major round in an ongoing fight to keep the 146-year-old place of worship open. the Dicastery for the Clergy of the Holy See, based at The Vatican, about their boss — the activities reversed a 2020 decision by Bishop of Burlington Christopher J. Coyne to close St. Genevieve's, a decision Coyne made in part based on the ongoing decline in the number of St. Genevieve parishioners and the need for substantial renovations to the building. Parishioners Randall and Kathleen Brisson in the spring of 2022 appealed Coyne's decision, and a year later, the Vatican's Dicastery ruled in the Brissons' favor.

Efforts to create more affordable housing in Addison County continued throughout the region in May. The Patricia Hannaford Career Center hosted an open house on May 26, showcasing to as a "right- sized" home, built remains were discovered in the by students in collaboration with

group called HomesFirstVT. In the 5-town area, Monkton officials were looking to develop a new housing committee that would identify options for creating more affordable housing in town. Over in Lincoln, the planning commission was exploring potential adjustments to zoning regulations that would create more housing opportunities in the town's four village districts as part of the panel's work with a \$9,000 Bylaw Modernization Grant it received from the Vermont Department of Housing & Community Development.

And with the end of the school year quickly approaching, human services providers in Addison County were anticipating a decline in free meal options for school-age children whose access to meals declines once school is let out for the summer. Changes in demographics, recent bumps in household income, low staffing and other factors were expected to reduce the number of places hungry kids could get free meals over the summer.

June

In June, Addison County farmers were still assessing the damage caused by a mid-May frost, which devastated apple, grape and other fruit crops throughout the state. Shelburne Vineyard, which owns and operates Lincoln Peak Vineyard in New Haven, lost an estimated 50% of its overall crop in the freeze and some grape varieties at the vineyard's New Haven location experienced upwards of a 95% reduction. Later in the month. Gov. Phil Scott asked that the U.S. Department of Agriculture to issue a disaster designation for the state of Vermont in response to the frost.

The declaration would increase

the availability of financial aid for growers throughout the state.

June marked the beginning of a new chapter for Joe's Barber Shop in Middlebury, after founder and longtime barber Joe DeGray hung up his barber's shears at the age of 90. DeGray's retirement marked the end of a 65-year career filled with cutting generations of Addison County residents' hair, as well as the hair of famous poet Robert Frost, actor Burgess Meredith and other celebrities.

Others in Addison County also announced they'd step down from their respective positions. Mary Manley said she'd depart Middlebury's from Henry Sheldon Museum after 25 years serving as an administrator at the organization.

Barnaby Feder in June prepared to step down after 11 years leading Middlebury's Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, though he planned to return to the place of worship as a congregant. And in Vergennes, longtime Vergennes Union High School math teacher Nancy Ambrose bid farewell to the high school after a 43-year career.

But June wasn't all goodbyes. Some in the county decided they'd stick around for awhile longer. Such was the case in the Addison Central School District, where district officials unanimously endorsed Tim Williams to serve as the ACSD's interim superintendent for the 2023-2024 school year. Williams, a former educator from Pennsylvania, had spent the past year as interim superintendent of the Patricia Hannaford Career Center.

In Bristol, an orphaned, black bear cub was rescued in June after a group of local minors shot and killed the bear's mother on Memorial Day. Vermont Game Warden Dale Whitlock caught the cub and took it to the Kilham Bear Center in Lyme, N.H. The young bear had been on its own for a little under a week when it was caught, not straying far from where its mother was killed.

The 5-town area made the front page again in June when state officials visited a new crop of affordable housing units taking shape in Bristol. The Firehouse Apartments development would provide 20 mixed-income units, with the first tenants set to move in this September. Addison County Community Trust and Evernorth, a non-profit organization committed to providing affordable housing throughout Vermont, Hampshire and Maine, collaborated on the housing project.

Hundreds of community gathered members outside Vergennes Union High School on June 20, when Walt Heyer, an advocate against gender-affirming healthcare for youth, spoke via video during an event hosted at the high school. Over five dozen community members listened to Heyer's presentation inside the auditorium, while hundreds of other community members gathered outside of the school to make signs and parade to the

(See June, Page 13A)

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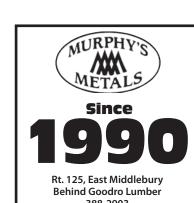


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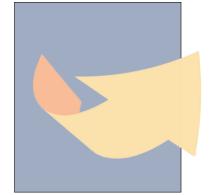
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June 15

DURING FRIDAY'S COMMENCEMENT ceremony at Vergennes Union High School, seniors, from left, Flynn Bolduc, Scott Botala, Eli Brace and Kyra Bradford look expectantly to the moment when they will get their diplomas.

Independent file photo/John S. McCright



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Chronology 2023

A Year In Review



July 13

DESPITE CHALLENGING WEATHER at the start of the week, the 44th annual Festival on the Green kicked off with great live music and some other fun performances in Middlebury. Dancer Brendalíz Cepeda whips up the crowd, her bandmates and her red skirt on Tuesday evening under the tent on the town green as the Puerto Rican band Bombajazzeando played soulful jazz.

Independent file photo/Steve James

July

foot, three-story addition would

look once completed.

(June from Page 12A)

neighbors.

march.

July opened with a bang, but thankfully no one injured. Middlebury and state police cordoned off a portion of Seymour, Elm and Maple streets in Middlebury on July 1 as they negotiated with a man who had fired a rifle from the window of his Seymour Street apartment. The standoff ended around 8 p.m., when Vermont State Police shot teargas into Paul Allard's apartment, then busted in, took away Allard's .3-06 rifle, and took him into custody without further incident. Police said it appeared that Allard was having an emotional crisis of some

The regular rhythm of the year was restored as the fabulous Fourth of July parade in Bristol (preceded by the annual outhouse races), followed by a wonderful week of plein air music in Middlebury at the Festival on the Green.

After more than six months of mounting tension with the selectboard and the resignation of four other town officials, Goshen Town Clerk Rosemary McKinnon resigned her position after 15 years on the job. Her move followed the departure of two selectboard members, the road foreman and the town treasurer, most of whom cited the current three-member selectboard as the reason. Assistant Town Clerk Marci Hayes, whose job was tied to McKinnon's, left that position at the same time McKinnon left hers.

Vermont State Police's Addison County force got a new leader; Lt. Tom Mozzer, 48, succeeded Lt. Cory Lozier, who was named commander of the state police's Williston barracks. Mozzer has a quarter century of experience in law enforcement.

Former longtime state Rep. and Middlebury Selectperson Betty Nuovo died on Tuesday, July 4, at the age of 91. Nuovo, who gave a lot of herself to her community, August 10

4-H MEMBERS SKIP over puddles outside the show ring on a soggy opening day of the Addison County Fair and Field Days on Tuesday. The rain overnight and then later in the day didn't affect the judging, but forced postponement of several other events including the Demolition Derby, which was rescheduled for Wednesday.
Independent file photo/Steve James

was recalled as a dutiful, kind and meticulous lawmaker who proved a tireless advocate for marginalized Vermonters. A lawyer by trade and a humanitarian at heart, Nuovo's keen eyes were often enlisted to scan legislation for any ambiguities, potential loopholes or just plain mistakes, and she was particularly outspoken in her support for same-sex unions, equal rights for women, the environment, and for services to lift up those in

Farm stands are a familiar roadside attraction in Addison County. The simple set-up offers consumers a convenient way to purchase locally grown produce and other products directly from area growers whenever they spot an

open stand. But what if that wellknown model could also be used to connect community members with the work of local artists? That's the idea behind the new Plank Road Art Stand and Gifts, run by Bristol resident and artist Brenda Myrick. The art stand operates out of a converted pony trailer parked in front of Myrick's Plank Road home. The roadside treasure trove is filled with paintings, hand-blown glass and gifts created in Addison County. Passersby can poke into the art stand and purchase pieces by leaving a check or cash in a cash box or making a payment through

Middlebury Police Chief Tom Hanley in July confirmed he'll retire from the force later

this year after more than three transformational decades service to the department and the community. His contributions included establishing a bias-free policing policy with respect to Addison County's migrant worker population, helping create the PD's first policies and procedures manual to create a new culture within the department, installing a "community policing" system, boosting hiring standards, spearheading efforts to build a new Middlebury PD headquarters, and overseeing the transition to better technology and equipment. Middlebury police also have access to a mobile command unit and has its own K-9 team — two things the department didn't have pre-1991.

Addison County was spared the brutal flooding that hit central Vermont in early July, but the rains started to fall at mid-month and Middlebury Fire Chief David Shaw was seeing during the week of July 17 water levels in county rivers rising to record levels. Deep brown waters in Otter Creek rushed over waterfalls and spilled into farm fields and recreation The recently completed \$2 million project aimed at safeguarding East Middlebury from an at-times unbridled Middlebury River appeared to pay off, as the village was spared widespread damage. People were worried, however, that all the standing water would lead to worse mosquito infestations than usual. They didn't know what would be coming just a few weeks

After several years increasingly more pointed discussion of renovations to Ilsley Library, officials at the Middlebury library late in July revealed images created by three architectural teams showing what an expanded and renovated Ilsley could look like. The teams were competing to win the final contract for the big

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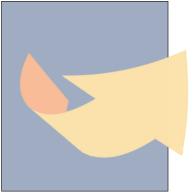
August

It was already a tough year for Vermont farmers as August started. They were dealing with a May frost that devastated apple, berry and fruit crops, and heavy rains in July eroded fields, hurt soil fertility and stressed crops during prime growing season. Then the rains really came. And it wasn't just the

farmers that were hurting. A summer's worth of rain fell on parts of Addison County on Aug. 3 and 4. There was so much water that just didn't have a place to go. In Middlebury, water pooled so high on Seymour Street under the railroad overpass that even boats couldn't get through. Route 116/ Case Street was washed out by water evacuating Dow Pond and it took a segment of town water line with it — some residents were under a boil water notice for six weeks. Municipal wastewater pumps that were submerged by flooding would

(See August, Page 14A)







July 27

AFTER DRENCHING RAIN during the second week of July, and just before last week's deluge, Addison County residents endured high winds, hail and a tornado warning on July 13 that left their marks on the landscape. Workers cut up and removed a large willow tree that toppled onto a Buttolph Drive home in Middlebury as a result of the high winds.

Independent file photo/Steve James



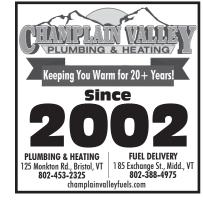
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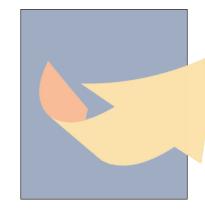












Chronology 2023

A Year In Review

(August from Page 13A) cost \$500,000 to repair, a town official estimated. Water in the police station prompted officers to evacuate.

Not just Middlebury, but also Ripton, Lincoln and Salisbury saw major damage to roads and culverts, sinkholes appeared, and landslides stuck in several places. Lower Notch Road in Bristol was closed. Flowing water decimated the Lincoln Library driveway. There were power outages in many places, and folks trapped by the water had to be rescued.

Despite the rains, Addison County Fair and Field Days still came off as planned. Cows were shown, cars were crashed into each other, children laughed, pigs raced, and almost everyone ate at least a little bit of junk food.

Amy and James Muir both have jobs, yet for the past six years, they've been unsuccessful in finding permanent housing while living with their two children in a transitional apartment provided by John Graham Shelter in Vergennes. Then their fortunes changed when Habitat for Humanity approved their application for a house being built in the Vergennes neighborhood Booth Woods. In August they told us how much this meant to them.

About a month before students were scheduled to return to Middlebury College campus for the start of the 2023-2024 school year, college officials offered some of them a big incentive to stay away. At the beginning of the month, the college sent emails to rising juniors and seniors offering a \$10,000 stipend to the first 30 students who opted to take a voluntary leave of absence for the fall and winter. The reason for the incentive: the college was over-enrolled after some accepted students put off starting school during the COVID-19 pandemic, and now Middlebury didn't have room to house them all.

Porter Medical Center officials in August said they are seeking state approval of a fiscal year 2024 budget that projects \$140 million in expenses, reflecting a \$23 million increase compared to the current year. They attributed the increase to the cost of hiring visiting nurses and inflation in general.

After Town Hall Theater thanked Steve and Beth Dow for their years feeding Middlebury at The Diner, a demolition crew knocked down the three-room former diner on Merchants Row in a matter of hours. Town Hall Theater, which has owned the structure since 2018, cleared the site in order to expand the theater to make way for more rehearsal and storage space that will enable THT to become a regional performance hub.

Later in the month, the THT announced that Middlebury College had donated \$1 million



August 24

MIDDLEBURY FIRE CHIEF David Shaw poses with one of the town's two Technical Rescue Team boats, which have seen extensive use this summer and were originally purchased with grant funding, as has been related equipment. Independent file photo/Steve James

to it's \$7.8 million drive to raise funds for the new theater and arts

The newest Vergennes City Council member was appointed in early August. Emily Rossier, an educator who also has experience working in city government, replaced Zoe Kaslow, who stepped away from the board to pursue a graduate degree out of state. Rossier, 45, will serve until Town Meeting Day in March.

The Guilbeau family of Austin, Texas, was among those seeking to lay down new roots in Addison County but they couldn't find a conventional home to buy. So they bought the Chipman Inn in Ripton instead and now are running a hotel business in the 195-year-old structure they also call home.

Middlebury Union Middle School's first-ever dean of climate and culture resigned from her job after only one year. Esther Charlestin, who is Black, cited two alleged, racially-charged incidents — and what she called an "underwhelming" response to those incidents from Addison Central School District reasons for her departure.

The ninth annual Middlebury Filmmakers Festival (MNFF9) hosted a record number of movie makers during its Aug. 23-27 run. This year's crop of 82 visiting filmmakers hailed from as far away as Indonesia and as near as here in Vermont — home to Mount Abraham Union High School grad Sierra Urich, whose documentary "Joonam" was one



September 21

of the most highly anticipated offerings at MNFF9. Downtown

Middlebury, on a small scale, played its annual, late- summer

role of "Hollywood East" for

an eclectic collection of newly

minted filmmakers, established stars and movie fans. An amazing 118 films — a mixture of features

and shorts — were screened at six

Shortly after the film fest we

reported that MNFF9 broke all

previous records for attendance

and receipts. Organizers sold 237

festival passes, up 12% from the 212

passes sold for MNFF5 (the biggest

festival before the pandemic). Plus

another 250-plus passes were

given to visiting directors, festival

honorees and volunteers, which in

turn boosted traffic at all the film

venues. Festival pass revenue was

up 49% from 2019, in part due to

a bump in the price of the pass.

This year's pass receipts were up

110% compared to 2021, held with

rigorous pandemic restrictions.

Attendance — measured by people

in seats, with of course some

people seeing more than one film

during the five-day event — was

4,150, which was up roughly 37%

from last year, when 3,050 seats

Ripton's Baxter Harrington

had some impressive results as he

represented the United States at

the 2023 World Junior Skyrunning

Championships in Italy. A rising

senior at Middlebury Union High

School, Harrington, 17, competed

were filled during MNFF8.

Middlebury venues

ACORN'S TOUR DE FARMS, one of Vermont's oldest cycling farm tours, returned to Shoreham and Orwell for its 15th year of celebrating local food. At the Golden Russet Farm Will Stevens shows off garlic drying in the rafters.

Photo by Lee Krohn Photography

September

vertical climb). Oh my!

Our Salute to Rescue Workers in September showed how giving service to the community can be a family affair. In Sprague Huntington's family of four in Starksboro, there's a 75% chance you'll come across an Emergency Medical Technician. Huntington herself is a member of the Starksboro and Bristol rescue squads. Her sons, Graham, 21, and Leo, 19, are also both EMTs. Like Sprague and her sons, Cornwall's Frankovic family of three is also entrenched in the Vermont volunteer first responder scene. In fact, the family is 100% first responders. Aven Frankovic and her father, Tommy, both serve on the fire department. Her mom, Megan, is an EMT with Cornwall First Response. In fact, Megan's grandfather was a driver for Orwell First Response back in the day.

Speaking of first response, word came in that the Bristol Rescue Squad was coming off a busy month. In August, the agency responded to around 100 calls, the highest monthly total in its history. And this reflects a larger trend

(See September, Page 15A)











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September 14

PUPS OF ALL ages and sizes had a blast this past Sunday, Sept. 10, at "Woofstock," a major fundraiser for Homeward Bound, Addison County's Humane Society. A total of 72 dogs and 168 humans participated in the event, which included the ever-popular pool party for pooches at the Middlebury town pool.

Independent file photo/Steve James

among 226 athletes from 31 countries in races that stretched











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Chronology 2023

A Year In Review





in recent years.

(September from Page 14A) within the organization, which has

seen its annual call volume increase

In the absence of federal relief,

the United Way of Addison County

established an "Addison County

Responds: Flood Relief Fund" to support Addison County residents who've experienced home and/

or property damage from this summer's rainfall and need financial

assistance. This fund allowed

individual households to apply for

up to \$1,500, though a steering

committee has the discretion to

Not enough people know that famed abolitionist, orator, journalist and founder of the U.S. Civil Rights movement Frederick Douglass

brought his anti-slavery message

to Middlebury during the summer of 1843. It was the first stop in the New England Anti-Slavery

Society's "100 Conventions" tour,

a multi-state odyssey aimed at

sowing abolitionist leanings within

communities deemed receptive to

such a message. Douglass returned

to Middlebury in September, if

only in spirit, when dignitaries

unveiled a plaque in Court Square

Middlebury visit of 180 years ago.

"Clifford/Twilight Symposium,"

anniversary of Alexander Twilight's

Middlebury

Douglass's

College's

commemorating

make larger grants.

THE CENTER OF Middlebury became a parking lot on Sunday as 3,000 auto enthusiasts came to view scores of vintage vehicles on display at the Better Middlebury Partnership and the Addison County Chamber of Commerce's second annual Middlebury Car Show & Fall Festival. 90-year-old Bill Mraz of Middlebury gives his dog Edi a ride in his 1933 Dodge Coupe that boasts only 80,000 miles on its odometer (less than 1,000 miles a year).

Independent file photo/Steve James



October 5

KINDERGARTNER ELIZABETH HECK clearly loves smashing a paper plate of whipped cream in the face of Bristol Elementary School Principal Aaron Boynton in front of a whole school assembly this past Thursday. She was one of 15 students who got to pie the principal and two assistants as a reward for gaining the most points for good behavior and other positive things at the school.

Five years and several setbacks

after first launching their plans for

a major expansion and renovation

of Vergennes Residential Care, a

home for seniors just off the city

green, Charlotte residents Dan and Rebecca Hassan finally lined

up the financing for what is now

a \$25 million project. The couple

announced in September that they will start transforming the existing

18-bed senior housing facility,

The plaque unveiling coincided graduation from Middlebury College in 1823. Twilight is credited with being the first person which commemorated the 200th of color to graduate from an American college.



October 12

A WOMAN KICKS back on a bench in Bristol village on Monday afternoon and soaks up the beautiful fall foliage. Independent file photo/Steve James a 200-year-old property at 34 North St., into an interconnected 53-room, four-building care home capable of accommodating up to 82 seniors with modest means. It will also triple the business's employee count from 18 to an estimated 48. Tom Thompson, who has been leading Porter Medical Center for around three years, said he would step away from his role as president and chief operating officer of the Middlebury health care hub as of Sep. 18. He will focus his time and energy on a pressing family health matter. UVM Health Network's

interim basis. The departure of another local leader, Middlebury Police Chief Tom Hanley, had been expected. This month long Middlebury selectboard unanimously selected Sgt. Jason Covey to be the new police chief. Covey joined the MPD 23 years ago as a patrolman and officially began his new duties on Sept. 18.

Bob Ortmyer stepped in on an

Around that same time the town of Salisbury officially welcomed a new interim town clerk — longtime resident Allen Hathaway, who succeeded Sue Scott. Recently retired from Autumn Harp, Hathaway agreed to run for a term

of his own when the town clerk's job comes on the ballot next March.

Tragedy struck at mid-month when news circulated that a pre-teen youth had shot and killed a Waltham woman during a fight. The juvenile watching a scuffle involving two women in a Waltham home on the evening of Sept. 15, picked up a gun that was apparently dropped by one of the women and shot her multiple times, Vermont State Police report. Michelle Kilbreth, 48, was killed by gunshots to her torso. Addison County State's Attorney Eva Vekos has not yet charged the youth with

a crime. Middlebury Regional Emergency Medical Services said it wants to eliminate its annual Town Meeting Day funding requests in the 10 communities it serves. MREMS, as the county's largest ambulance service is known, would replace that funding with multi-year contracts that will, in the short term, reflect some sizable percapita rate increases. This would allow the nonprofit to recruit and retain rescue personnel as well as more promptly replace ambulances and equipment when they become outdated. It won't be clear how towns will respond to the change until selectboards prepare their budgets for the coming year.

The inventive minds of Addison County in September got another place in the community in which to unleash their creativity. The Makerspace at Middlebury College reopened in its new home within the Johnson Memorial Building, and members of both the college

and broader town community are (See September, Page 16A)





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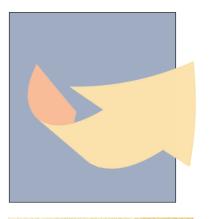
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Chronology 2023

A Year In Review

(September from Page 15A) invited to use the space and the tools it offers to pursue projects they're passionate about.

Like most things, the future of agriculture in Vermont lies in the hands of younger generations. Today, many of those young Vermonters are leaving the state and pursuing careers outside of farming. With this in mind, the Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition is exploring ways to get more local youth engaged in various aspects of agriculture. The coalition is increasing its workforce development initiatives and recently launched the Lake Champlain Sustainable Agriculture Education Program, which will pair high school students in Addison County with a local farm for a twomonth internship.

The shuffle continued on the Vergennes City Council. For the second time in two months the **November 2** Vergennes City Council got a new face in September and planned for another new member in the near future. Former Vergennes City Councilor Mark Koenig returned to that body after other council members picked him from among four applicants to replace the recently resigned Ian Huizenga. At the same meeting councilors learned they would have to backfill another vacancy when the board's newest member, Emily Rossier, said she was stepping down. Rossier's resignation marked the council's third since June, when Zoe Kaslow resigned to attend graduate school out of state. In August, the council appointed Rossier, the only candidate to step forward, to replace Kaslow.

October

It wasn't our imagination. Information released by local and state mosquito experts showed the bloodsucking pests were in fact much worse than usual in 2023 after all the warm-weather rain and flooding. For example, the Lemon Fair Insect Control District reported the number of mosquitoes it had caught by early September in its eight traps was on track to reach 105,000. The previous high old, 9-bedroom Means Mansion count for a year came in 2021: That at 51 Seminary St. found new number was 64,827 of the bugs.

There was happier news on two housing fronts, not usually a source of comforting information. In Vergennes a planning commission proposal to change the city plan to ease zoning restrictions in the district that runs along Main Street in the city's northeast quadrant received a warm reception at a city council meeting. The simple change proposed would allow considerably more housing units on one particular parcel once zoning laws could be altered to reflect the change. A developer announced he was prepared to build 130 units of workforce housing when that change became law. Later in the year, the council agreed to ease zoning even further to allow a couple more properties to be developed into residential units

November 2 AROUND A DOZEN luminescent jellyfish take to the streets of Bristol on Tuesday night to dazzle trick-or-treaters and community members with a colorful performance. The group, which calls itself

the Bristol Jellies, was made up of Bristol residents and a couple

Jason Covey, Sqt. Vegar Boe, and Sqt. Nathan Hayes.

to help relieve the city's housing

from Starksboro.

Middlebury was also in line for more housing: The 208-yearowners ready to redevelop the once-opulent, but now decaying, home into two high-end condos. The owners also plan to add more units in new barn-style buildings that will replicate the former outbuildings that once dotted the property's 3.08 acres.

Meanwhile, a lack of housing for the less fortunate combined with a related crime and vandalism spree tested downtown Middlebury throughout the summer. Those issues came to a head in October, when new steps arrived to try to solve the difficult problems. Some members of a homeless community living near the west end of Cross Street Bridge were alleged to have smashed business and car windows and doors, entered vehicles and stolen cash and items, trespassed, threatened and harassed residents

and visitors, and committed other offenses. Some business owners complained and sought more effective law enforcement, and many citizens and agencies organized to do their best to help those in need. A task force was formed to help resolve the issues.

Photo courtesy of Karen Swanson

RETIRING MIDDLEBURY POLICE Chief Tom Hanley was joined by members of his force on stage at

Town Hall Theater this past Thursday, Oct. 26, for an open house recognizing his more than 32 years of

service to the community. Shown, from left, are Sgt. Casey Covey, Officer Kevin Emilio, Hanley, new Chief

It was a sad day on Oct. 5. Former Middlebury College professor, author and Middlebury selectboard member Victor Nuovo passed away. The highly respected member of the Middlebury community had lost his wife of 70 years, Betty Nuovo, 90, an equally respected member of the community, on July 13.

Bristol and its Stoney Hill business park got a shot in the arm in October. Williston's AllEarth Renewables, which makes solar trackers and other green energy components, announced it would be moving to the West Street site when construction on a 25,000-square-foot building was completed, probably in early 2024. Around 20 employees will come

along, according to owner David Blittersdorf.

Independent file photo/Steve James

While the Stoney Hill business park nears completion on Bristol's Firehouse Drive, community members are celebrating the opening of a new affordable housing development across the street. An official grand opening of the Firehouse Apartments was held in October. The new housing development is the result of a partnership between the town of Bristol, private developers and housing nonprofits Addison Housing Works and Evernorth. Partners have financed the project with \$8,649,000 from a mix of private and public funding sources, including the American Rescue Plan Act, the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board and the Vermont Community Development Firehouse The Program. Apartments complex consists of 20 mixed-income units just east of the town's fire station - specifically, two duplexes and a block of town homes with one- and two-bedroom units.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced in October a new major disaster declaration related to the severe storms and flooding that struck Addison County from Aug. 3-5. In that round of flooding, which followed others in July, Middlebury received more than six inches of rain, and the adjacent towns of Ripton and East Middlebury more than three inches. The declaration finally made FEMA Public Assistance funds available to local municipalities to pay for flood

damage repairs. Porter Medical Center struck a new three-year labor agreement with its nurses, a deal that provides raises of 10% in year one, 5.5% in year two and 4.5% in year three.

Vermonters are accustomed to witnessing spectacular fall foliage. Each year, trees bathed in vibrant shades of red, orange and yellow become a familiar backdrop to autumnal scenes throughout the state. This fall, however, the Vermont landscape has looked slightly less colorful. While there is still some beautiful foliage, many leaves are dawning muted, brownish hues or have yet to change color at all. Some blamed this year's lackluster fall foliage display on the wet weather we had

this summer. A spate of teacher illnesses and a persistent lack of substitute educators and paraprofessionals prompted Mary Hogan Elementary School in October to ask the Addison Central School District central office and the community at large to help solve its workforce dilemma. Mary Hogan Principal Jen Kravitz said the majority of students were thriving due to the care and dedication of the adults around them, but several classrooms were struggling with significant social, emotional and behavioral needs.

It was the kind of story you hate to hear about: A southbound Amtrak train struck a car at a Route 7 railroad crossing in Ferrisburgh on Oct. 10. Fortunately, troopers reported that no one was seriously

(See October, Page 17A)



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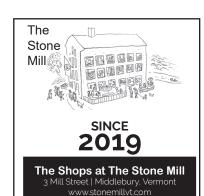


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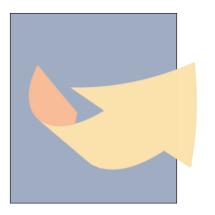




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November 23

ON SUNDAY THE Addison Volunteer Fire Department held its sixth all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast for 2023 in the fire station at Addison Four Corners. Shown here, senior firefighter Buster Grant flips some blueberry pancakes. Independent file photo/Steve James

Chronology 2023

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(October from Page 16A) injured during the accident, which closed Route7 for about 45 minutes.

That same week, we heard about a tragedy that sadly claimed the life of a former Addison County resident. Honoree Fleming, a former Middlebury resident who raised her family here before moving to Castleton to teach at the state college there, was killed while walking on a rail trail in the Rutland County town. Authorities are still looking for her killer.

With affordable and workplace housing a critical need for Addison County and Vermont as a whole, some advocates are working on a plan to expand housing in town centers in a way they say is "gentle." An Oct. 20, presentation by state officials and architects in Vergennes and a following tour through city neighborhoods offered one possible path forward, both in the city and statewide — the "Homes For All" project. It would take a "gentle infill" approach to building more housing in existing neighborhoods.

The same edition had stories about how John Graham Housing & Services was seeing demand for its services go up, while the Charter House Coalition was putting limits on the length of stays of people who weren't actively improving their houseless situations.

${f November}$

"Teen charged in fatal shooting" is not a headline we ever want to write, but there it was in our Nov. 2 edition. Earlier that week a 14-year-old Burlington

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December 14

THEATRE GROUP LTD will perform "Night Fires," a winter solstice dream play directed by Marianne Lust, at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater this Friday through Sunday. Shown in a Tuesday rehearsal Ellie Sachs-Wilkinson going full-on hummingbird. Independent file photo/Steve James

youth shot and killed, apparently inadvertently, a Shelburne youth

while they were both in a car parked outside a Bristol home. The youth pled not guilty to seconddegree murder, manslaughter and aggravated assault, and the case began its journey through the court system.

In better news, the Independent published details on two major childcare projects that will add about 100 new slots in the Middlebury area. On Weybridge Street an expansion of the Otter Creek Child Center will boost its service capacity by 77 to 139 youngsters, and by January the shire town's Congregational Church plans to open its Red Clover Child Center and serve two dozen children.

Bristol's Hannah Zeno went on TV's "Wheel of Fortune" in early November. When Zeno spoke to us she couldn't reveal how well she did. Spoiler Alert: She romped.

Middlebury College went into the public phase of a \$600 million fundraising campaign, which it labeled "For Every Future." College officials said the money would be used to enrich students' experiences at the college and prepare them for their futures, including by increasing financial aid, internships and "experiential learning."

The Vergennes City Council rescheduled a bond vote for new fire trucks and scaled back its amount. Instead of voting on Dec. 5 on \$2.35 million for two new trucks, residents were set to vote on Dec. 19 on a \$1.75 million bond on one new and one used truck.

Middlebury edged closer to a major Ilsley Library renovation bond. Library leaders told the town selectboard they had settled on a two-story makeover of the building with a possible vote in May. The full price tag could approach \$15 million, they said, but library officials said they hope grants and government funding will lower the cost to taxpayers.

Chris Sabick joined the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum as an intern in 2023. In November, Sabick was appointed as the LCMM's executive director after a widespread search eventually looked inside. Fire made sad news in Monkton:

A pre-dawn blaze at Queen Bee's Snack Bar destroyed the popular local eatery and left the owners' scrambling to recover.

Meanwhile, the Bristol Fire Department announced plans to help it and other local agencies better respond to such incidents. The department will build an onsite training structure consisting of four 40-foot-long Conex containers (think shipping containers), with the fourth resting on top of the other three. Firefighters can thus gain invaluable hands-on experience, department leaders said.

The new Lincoln School District hired its first superintendent: Amy Cole, who has extensive experience in Vermont and elsewhere, but comes to the Green Mountain town directly from Hawaii, where she was an educator at a private

Teams that win three straight championships are said to have accomplished a three-peat. What is it when a team wins six straight? A sixpack? Call it what you will, but the Middlebury College field hockey team made it six straight NCAA Division III championships (and six consecutive NESCAC titles) in November.

The Independent has been tracking local deer harvests for more than 20 years. In 2005, the Department of Fish and Wildlife banned shooting bucks with fewer than two antler points; after a rules change that limitation still applies in most areas. This rifle season hunters weighed more bucks in Addison County — 676 — than in any year since then. The previous record was 647. That's a lot of

After a secretive search that produced three finalists, two of whom remain anonymous, late in the month the Addison Central School District board hired Wendy Baker to be the new ACSD superintendent. Currently a grant writer and business owner, she has experience leading schools in Vermont, New Hampshire and New York. Baker is set to begin her new job in July.

December

Yes, Virginia, and Vermont, there is a Santa Claus, and he is truly magical. So magical that the Jolly Old Elf appeared simultaneously in Vergennes and Middlebury on Dec. 2 to kick off annual holiday season events in both communities.

Meanwhile Christmas tree farms were mostly doing well despite 2023's difficult climate challenges, notably a late frost and then summer flooding. Some farms were dealing with damaged crops, but prices were stable, and there appeared to be enough inventory for all who celebrate the holiday.

Some in local communities were questioning whether youths accused of serious crimes should be welcomed in towns' schools. Administrators said yes, they should, and plans were in place to support the students and ensure the safety of all. It also turned out state law was not only on the schools' side, but also required schools to educate the youths in question.

The Middlebury Snowbowl created plenty of buzz among area skiers with significant improvements, most notably lighted trails to allow night skiing for the first time. Enthusiasts were quick to take advantage of the new amenities.

School boards around the county were hard at work crafting budgets under new sets of funding laws that included complex new pupil weighting systems and different levels of cap increases, all while state officials warned that spending statewide and low town property assessments could spike residential taxes up by an average of around 18%. Early indications were that local rates wouldn't rise by that much, but administrators and board members were working hard on spending plans.

Vergennes voters on Dec. 19 by a count of 90-64 backed a bond of up to \$1.75 million to buy two fire trucks, one a used latter truck and the other a heavy rescue unit that could double as a pumper unit, which officials said might be bought new or used. City officials estimated the bond at most could add a little more than a penny to the tax rate, but that estimate assumed all the towns the city department serves as a first responder chipped in as they have historically.

And as of the vote date the Vergennes City Council and the Ferrisburgh selectboard were still struggling to agree on what the town should pay the city to be the first responder for West Ferrisburgh and some of the rest of the southern half of the town. On Dec. 19 the Ferrisburgh selectboard agreed to a city council proposal to enter into mediation to help bridge a gap of more than \$44,000.

At the council's first meeting in December it also welcomed its newest member after a summer and fall of a series of resignations due to family, educational and work reasons. The council appointed military veteran, current Army National Guard instructor, and experienced aviation technician John Montgomery, 55, to fill the latest vacancy. Montgomery is currently working for Tri-Valley Transit as well as the National Guard.



December 14

TOWN HALL THEATER Executive Director Lisa Mitchell and Middlebury College President Laurie Patton mark the symbolic start to the next phase of the Middlebury arts institution's growth, as they take part in a THT addition groundbreaking on Tuesday.

Independent file photo/Steve James

veteran, Lindsey Fuentes-George, said she would not run again in March after two terms on the board, saying she wanted to make way for new blood on the panel. But another board veteran, Farhad Khan, said he would seek reelection.

The long-running Legislative Breakfast series got a new coordinator: Beth Morse, daughter of recently deceased longtime host Jim Morse, agreed to take the reins of the Monday morning winter gatherings that bring the county's state representatives together over coffee and pancakes. On Dec. 15 and 16 more than

two inches of rain hit the county — and more than three inches came down in some locations elsewhere in Vermont — causing flooding in some areas. Mercifully the damage was not as bad as in the summer floods, but many schools, including in Addison County, either closed on Dec. 17 or opened late, and officials also closed many roads around the state.

Another incident of racism at a county school — a Bristol School student Elementary used the N-Word in speaking to another — caused soul-searching among school officials and led to many residents meeting with the MAUSD board to seek more robust anti-racist educational efforts within the district. The board listened carefully.

In a neighboring school district, a new superintendent was ready to take charge: The Lincoln School District hired Amy Cole, 57, to take over the district reins as of Jan. 1. Cole comes to Lincoln from Hawaii, but has extensive leadership experience in New England, including 18 years in Vermont school systems.

Who was that Brit with spiky hair and leather pants spotted first in Vergennes thrift shops and in eatery 3Squares, and then at the Middlebury Snowbowl? Many were convinced it was veteran rocker Rod Stewart and his wife. Another publication reported it was, with the singer allegedly seeking a New England White Christmas. That report even reached at least one English tabloid. But alas, no, it wasn't Stewart, who was on tour in Europe.

As far as not Rod, we wish we'd never seen your face. You made a first-class fool out of us. (OK, we kid — we don't feel the same about you as you sang about Maggie May, and hope you enjoyed your

About a year ago a group of county residents, following a template created first in Michigan, established 100+ Women Who Care Addison County. Their plan called for members to donate \$100 every three months and then to meet quarterly and decide collectively

In Middlebury, one selectboard to which registered nonprofit the money should go. How did it work? The new organization, with support from a foundation, contributed \$97,200 to a dozen nonprofits. Well done.









to see what's to come in 2024

We're excited



December 7

WILLIAM WERNER FASTENS a tree onto a customer's car at Werner Tree Farm last week. The Middlebury tree farm lost a substantial portion of its crop due to heavy rains this summer, though other county tree farms were less affected by the extreme weather.

Independent file photo/Steve James



HUNTER SHAWN GERO shot this 120-pound doe in Cornwall during muzzleloader season and reported it at Backwoods Gun & Tackle in Bridport.

Photo Courtesy of Backwoods Gun & Tackle

Deer season

(Continued from Page 1A) soon to draw final conclusions about the 2023 results, but that Addison County's results appear to be in line with those statewide.

"Overall our rifle season harvest is going to be up a little bit from last year, so a pretty good rifle season. I think our total buck harvest from all the seasons is going to be pretty close to last year," he said. "Unfortunately, our overall deer harvest is looking like it will be down maybe 10%. And obviously if the buck kill is the same, that's going to be hunters shooting fewer does.'

DEER QUALITY

Locally, there were 11 bucks topping 200 pounds taken in rifle season, one over youth weekend, and three more in the early portion of archery season.

Lyle Webb on Nov. 1 used a bow and arrow to shoot a 236-pound, 10-point buck in Ripton, one of the largest buck taken since the Independent has reported on the deer harvest.

Also during archery season in October, two hunters bagged big bucks in Orwell: Chris Hanson took a 221-pound, 8-pointer, and Jason D'Avignon shot a 203-pound, 8-pointer.

But Independent's calculations, the average weight of a buck taken to an Addison County wildlife reporting station in rifle season was 143.6 pounds, below the historic average of around 147 or 148 pounds seen during the past decade and continuing a drop in weight seen in last year's rifle season buck average weight of 144.9 pounds and in 2021's 144.37-pound average.

Fortin said he's not yet run this year's weight and antler data that department biologists have collected, but wasn't surprised to hear the Addison County statistics. He said F&W officials are concerned about deer health and believe the lower weights could be linked to overpopulation, especially in agricultural areas along Lake Champlain — with the numbers of deer also helping to explain the county's strong harvest numbers during rifle season.

"It tracks with what we're seeing. Basically, deer health is declining, mostly in (Wildlife Management Unit) F1, the closer to the lake part of the county," Fortin said. "Basically, there are too many deer, and that's starting to have an impact ... The consequence of that is we're seeing smaller body weight and smaller antler size."

The department's deer experts will be considering measures to lower population.

"We haven't reduced deer numbers, so there's no reason to expect improvement in health," he said.

Fortin talked about fewer does being shot — controlling the doe population is the most effective way of limiting the overall herd count. He said, without being specific, that could mean F&W taking steps to encourage hunters to shoot more does.

"It puts us in a tough place where we're going to have to start forcing the issue," Fortin said. "I don't know how we're going to do that."

He acknowledged one move the department could make is a change of date for Youth/Novice Weekend.

That weekend originally was scheduled the Saturday and Sunday before rifle season, but has more recently been moved into October. From 2017 to 2021, for example, that weekend's take in Addison County ranged from 105 to 142 deer. After the change, in the past two years it averaged 91 deer locally.

"We are definitely considering moving it back," Fortin said. "We really didn't expect this big of an impact from the earlier timing." **MULTI-YEAR SCAN**

The county numbers as tracked by the Independent over the past eight years are:

• In 2023, 1,074 deer (676 rifle, 93 youth/novice, 145 archery, 160 muzzleloader).

• In 2022, 1,141 deer (636 rifle, 89 youth/novice, 234 archery, 182 muzzleloader).

• In 2021, 1,133 deer (590 rifle, 121 youth/novice, 214 archery, 208

muzzleloader). • In 2020, 1,745 deer (647 rifle, 105 youth/novice, 528 archery, 464

muzzleloader). • In 2019, 1,324 deer (594 rifle, 142 youth, 258 archery, 330

muzzleloader). • In 2018, 1,345 deer (571 rifle, 110 youth, 274 archery, 390

muzzleloader). • In 2017, 1,189 deer (554 rifle, 110 youth, 161 archery, 264 muzzleloader).

• In 2016, 1,064 deer (573 rifle, 94 youth, 206 archery, 191 muzzleloader).

The following archery and muzzleloader hunters brought deer this year to be weighed the local stations. They are listed along with their town of kill, pounds if a doe, and pounds and points if a buck.

LINCOLN GENERAL STORE ARCHERY: Carter Antos-

Ketcham, Starksboro, male 48 pounds; Connor Garnsay, Lincoln, doe 83; Anthony Curtis, Lincoln, buck 90; Wilbert Clark, Lincoln, doe 95; Stanley Sargent, Lincoln, doe 100; Josh Cousino, Lincoln, doe 107; Edward Lafayette, Lincoln, doe 114; Dave Cavoretto, Lincoln, buck 120 pounds-2 points; Nathaniel Newman, Huntington, buck 136-6; and Jackson Desautels, Lincoln, buck 185-8. MUZZLELOADER: Geoffrey

Booth, Lincoln, buck 110-2; Gary Barclay, Lincoln doe 120; Michael Donnelly, Starksboro, doe 127; Kurt Naser, Lincoln, doe 132; Lucius Cousino, Lincoln, doe 133; Mark Cousino, Lincoln, buck 140-6; Cale Pelland, Lincoln, buck 143-8; and Edward Lafayette, Lincoln, doe 107.

WEST ADDISON GENERAL

ARCHERY: Charles Cushman, Panton, doe 110; Christopher Thompson, Bridport, buck 126-5; Christopher Mulliss, Addison, doe 100; Maverick Payne, Addison, doe 100; Kody Ploof, Panton, doe 105; and William Vaughan, Addison, buck 130-4.

MUZZLELOADER: Mark Torrey, Addison, doe 106; Maxwell Flynn, Waltham, doe 95; Rockie Whitney, Addison, doe 107; Aiden Putnam, Addison, doe 100; Matthew Norton, Addison, 120 doe; Brendon Huestis, Bridport, doe 130; Daniel Bishop, Weybridge, doe 125; Timothy Flynn, Waltham, doe 110; Herbert Glidden, Bridport, doe 127; and Jacques Litch, Addison, doe 120. **BACKWOODS GUN &**

TACKLE

ARCHERY: Rayce Burnham, Cornwall, buck 140-4; and Nathan Huestis, Bridport, doe 88.

MUZZLELOADER: Hanson, Cornwall, doe 121; Tristan Stearns, Cornwall, doe 114; Brian Blake, Cornwall, doe 96; Paul Deering, Bridport, buck 178-7; Kirk Ringey, Cornwall, buck 157-8; Richard Shimel, Bridport, doe 140; and Nathan Fleming, Addison, buck 120-5.

Also, Shawn Gero, Cornwall, doe 120; William Keefe, Ripton, buck 115-2; Cory Steady, Shoreham, doe 114; John Hutchins, Sudbury, doe 110; Daniel Bishop, Weybridge, doe 108; Joseph Cyr, Weybridge, buck 93-7; Amos Ranney, Bridport, doe 84; Destiny Gero, Cornwall, male 75; and Jacob Badman, female 65.

RACK 'N REEL.

ARCHERY: Larry Marcelle, Bristol, doe 117; Timothy Blanchard, Starksboro, doe 112; Jeremy Lattrell, Shelburne, buck 117-8; Sean Hamel, Bristol, doe 107; Andy Gendreau, Monkton, doe 123 and doe 120; Brian Webb, Ripton, buck 103-2; Hans Bruning, Middlebury, doe 104; Alan Bessette, Ferrisburgh, buck 181-8; Gabriel Sands, Weybridge, buck 113; and Harold Masterson, Lincoln, buck 120-3.

Also, Frank Raymond, Middlebury, buck 121-4; Adam Norris, Monkton, buck 126-6; Lee Lapell, Benson, buck 145-6; Timothy Flynn, Waltham, doe 130; Shawn Miller, Waitsfield, buck 139-6; Eugene Bradford,

"Unfortunately,

down maybe 10%.

the buck kill is the

— Nick Fortin

And obviously if

like it will be

to be hunters

does."

shooting fewer

Pinnell, Monkton, buck 162-7; Lyle Webb, Ripton, buck Dylan our overall deer 236-10; Peterson, New harvest is looking Haven male 52; and Michael Coyle, Ferrisburgh, buck 189-6.

Also, Jeffrey Charlotte, same, that's going Giknis, 146-5; buck Griffin, Steven Williston, doe 100; Tyler Cousino, Weybridge, doe 99; Christopher Fortin, Shelburne, female

buck 182-8; Patrick Fitzgerald, Huntington, doe 110; Scott Brace, Vergennes, doe 118; Craig Rochon, Shoreham, doe 108; John Mlcuch, Gingras, New Haven, doe 104.

Also, Cory Jennings, Hinesburg, doe 85; Thomas Huestis, Weybridge, doe 120; Jason Vincent, Bristol, doe 123; Daniel Bourgeois, Hinesburg, doe 102; Ayden Trombley, Cornwall, buck 122-4; Miles Russell, Hinesburg, buck 164-7; Richard Kemp, New Haven, doe 134; Michael Ellis, Panton, buck 138-6; Eric Dalley, New Haven, buck 62-2; and Luc Charlebois, Bristol, buck 126-6.

Also, Patrick Blaise, Panton, buck 153-9; Bonnie Spencer, Leicester, doe 110; Phillip Russett, Enosburg, doe 102; Craig Rochon, Shoreham, doe 110; William Vaughan, Addison, doe 117; Andy Gendreau, Ferrisburgh, buck 184-6; Corey Haight, Charlotte, buck

184-8; Michael Collette, Addison, doe 130; Benjamin Kivlen, Bristol, doe 110; and Blake Bowen, New Haven, doe 95.

Also, Bradford, Eugene Ferrisburgh, doe 88; Dylan Bradford, Ferrisburgh, doe 105; Eric Rossier, Waltham, doe 128; Jordan Stearns, Middlebury, female 65; Robert Clark, Ferrisburgh, doe 95; Todd Seguin, Weybridge, buck 142-4; Brooke Perlee, New Haven, buck 174-8; Jacques Litch, Orwell, buck 161-4; Timothy Blanchard, Addison, buck 161-6; and Michael Bingham, Middlebury, male 62.

Also, Frank Raymond, Addison, doe 128; Kevin Carter, Bridport, buck 109-5; Robert Larose, Middlebury, doe 140; Reiss Hendee, Starksboro, doe 92; Eric Ferrisburgh, doe 102; Jonathan Campbell, Addison, buck 149-8;

Bradley Wells. Starksboro, doe 98; and Travis Kilburn, Ferrisburgh, buck 114-4.

Robert Also Jimmo, Lincoln, buck 103-2; Derek Whitcomb, New Haven, buck 114-6; Daniel Bushey, Ferrisburgh, doe 99; David Rheaume, New Haven, buck 145-8; Jacob Rochon, Ferrisburgh, doe 85; James Payne, Cornwall,

62; Paul Gaboriault, Huntington, 175-7; and Caylib Gaboriault, Ferrisburgh, doe 106.

MUZZLELOADER: Hotte, Bridport, 100 doe; Brendon Huestis, Bridport, doe 130; Shawn New Haven, doe 98; and Roger Lacey, Williston, doe 95; Kurt Mishkit, Ferrisburgh, female 74; Eugene Bradford, Ferrisburgh, doe 98; Timothy Flynn, Waltham, doe 118; Andrew Cousino, Lincoln, doe 108; Matt Leonard, Ferrisburgh, doe 95; Steve Correia, Addison, doe 130; and Benjamin Newkirk, Weybridge, doe 110.

> Also, Tyler Kimball, New Haven, doe 99; Jonathan Titus, Charlotte, doe 120; Dustin Tierney, Bridport, doe 121; Eli Brace, Ferrisburgh, doe 103; Todd Huestis, Ferrisburgh, doe 96; Stephen Aruzza, Middlebury, doe 123; Francis Trombley, Ferrisburgh, doe 110; Christina Baldwin, Waltham, doe 112; Todd Huestis, Ferrisburgh, doe 100; and Jacob Trombley, Ferrisburgh, doe 111.

Also, Joseph Hill, Panton, male 82; Jody Conant, Weybridge, doe 101; Zachary Thompson, Lincoln, buck 129-2; Gary English, Salisbury, doe 111; David Horton, Cornwall, male 68; James Akerman, New Haven, doe 120; Brady Lloyd, Salisbury, doe 92; Bryan Harrington, Essex, buck 168-8; Ryan Zeno, Panton, doe 115; Brett Flegenheimer, Bridport, male 62; and Peter Scott, New Haven, buck 121-4.

Jonathan Also, Jennings, Addison, doe 101; Kevin Haight, Waltham, buck 132-4; Christopher Hansen, Monkton, buck 153-7; Charles Cushman, Panton, buck 107-5; Brian Hayes, New Haven, doe 123; Rowan Nelson, Weybridge, doe 115; Phillip Hardway, Addison, 112-6; Matthew Shepard, Pomfret, buck 138; Stanton Pratt, New Haven, buck 140-3; and Robert Leggett, Middlebury, doe 150.

Also, Liana Wilks-Dupoise, Brandon, doe 97; Dewey Barrows, Ferrisburgh, doe 104; Johnathan Thresher, Salisbury, doe 104; Jeremy Lattrell, Lincoln, doe 114; David Bissonette, Williston, buck 140-7: Charles Rockwell, Bristol. buck 170-6; Christine Paquin, New Haven, doe 120; Scott Blaise, Ferrisburgh, doe 110; Peter Funk, Cornwall, doe 121; and Dalton Smith, New Haven, buck 148-6.

(See Hunting, Page 20A)



JACKSON DESAUTELS SHOT this 185-pound, 8-point buck during archery season in Lincoln and reported it at the Lincoln General

Photo Courtesy of Lincoln General Store



South Starksboro, VT Homeowner **Recommends Bristol Electronics**

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Magician

(Continued from Page 1A) illusionist.

Who knows?

The important thing is that at age 77, Verner continues to find coins in people's ears and is fostering a sense of wonder that he exports to all corners of world, thanks to a collection of creative colleagues working through the non-profit Magicians Without Borders, or MWB. The group is now busily training a new generation of magicians committed to giving audiences, primarily children, a few moments of joy during their darkest days. Verner has spent more than 20 years playing to packed houses at hospitals, places of worship, and refugee camps — way stations for orphans, widows and fractured families whose homes have been cratered by natural disasters or by indiscriminate bombing in places like Bosnia and Ukraine.

It's a small dose of humanity in the face of human's inhumanity to human.

Verner and his spouse, artist Janet Fredericks, founded MWB in 2002. The magician's well-worn suitcase of tricks has logged a lot of frequent flyer miles to places like Thailand, Ghana, India, Ethiopia, El Salvador and Iran. Anywhere where smiles and hope are in short supply, and where a little leger de main can — as the legendary Harry Houdini once put it — convince minds young and old that the seemingly impossible is possible.

"Magic is a universal language — whether you're in China, India, the Middle East, Africa, or wherever," Verner said during a recent interview at his Lincoln home.

During the past 21 years, Verner and Fredericks have traveled to 47 counties, where they've performed for an estimated 1.5 million orphans and refugees and counting.

And it's a medium that requires no translation.

"Magicians only do three things: They make things appear, disappear and change. That's all they do," Verner said.

The most recent stop on Verner's magical mystery tour was Ukraine—his fourth trip entertaining folks in that war-town land, which Russian forces invaded on Feb. 24, 2022.

Flying into Ukraine isn't allowed, so Werner touched

down in Krakow, Poland, in early November. Before taking a nine-hour bus ride into Ukraine, he performed around 10 magic shows over four days for some of the approximately 200,000 Ukrainian refugees who've found peace in Krakow.

Following the shows in Poland, Verner made his way to Lviv, in western Ukraine, which has become somewhat of a safe haven for those fleeing the shooting and shelling. There, empty mansions and other abandoned buildings have been repurposed for those displaced by violence, he noted.

Verner performed several shows at "recovery camps" held at now-defunct holiday resorts in Lviv, where those scarred by war could heal both body and mind during a seven-day stay. These camps are being sponsored by the "Ukrainian Children's Action Project," a non-profit that assists children and mothers affected by the ongoing conflict, he explained.

"(Participants) get individual and group therapy, along with movement, play and art therapy," Verner said. "These camps are really wonderful."

Wonderful places, but also an environment in which people are constantly processing pain.

Verner recalled his first visit to a Lviv recovery camp.

"When I arrived, the director of the camp said, 'Gee, I don't know if this is a good day for a magic show," Verner said. "She told me one of the moms had just heard her husband was killed. The camp was feeling very sad."

It was a cathartic ambiance that Verner has seen often during his MWB travels, but one he's had success lifting — if only briefly — during his shows.

"I asked, 'How about if I just hang out with the kids and play with them?" Verner proposed to the camp director. "I have some little magic tricks in my pocket.

"Let's take the temperature and see what you think," he suggested.

After only a short while it

After only a short while, it was clear that Verner's friendly style and magical overtures were creating a thaw among the approximately 70 campers. He was granted permission to do a full show — to great effect.

"After the show, (the director) came up to me and there were tears running down her face," he recounted. "She said, 'This is the happiest the kids have been. It was



LINCOLN RESIDENT AND longtime magician Tom Verner delights some young Ukrainian children with a performance during his recent trip to that war-torn country. Verner is a co-founder of the non-profit Magicians Without Borders group, through which those affected by natural and man-made disasters are given a few smiles amid the tremendous hardship they're enduring.

Photo courtesy of Tom Verner

perfect."

At another camp, children rushed onto the stage to hug Verner after his performance, with many asking to have a picture taken with him.

On another occasion, Verner encountered a little girl with no hair, no energy, receiving chemotherapy.

"Her mom was standing at the other side of her bed. I came in and started doing some magic for her," he said. "She started smiling and almost started to laugh. Her mom began crying, just to see her little kid be a kid and have some energy.

"I'm performing for the kids," he continued, "but the moms get to see them laughing, playing and being part of this magic show."

Small oases of joy in what was sadly an otherwise chaotic and soul crushing landscape in Ukraine.

As his bus pulled into the Lviv train station, Verner saw a heart-rending, almost Rockwellian scene play out — one that's been repeated throughout the world for as long as disputes have been decided by killing.

"A guy with a duffel bag over his shoulder saying goodbye to a young woman and a couple of kids, and they're all crying," he said solemnly. "And you just know what they're thinking. That this could be the last time they see each other."

Ukrainian officials have been secretive about the nation's casualty numbers. But U.S. intelligence sources recently placed the nation's death toll at close to 70,000, with as many as 120,000 wounded.

It's estimated that 315,000 Russian troops have been killed and wounded since the war began.

"Every family in Ukraine right now knows someone who was killed or a family of someone who was killed," Verner said. "The sadness is so much heavier now. There's a weariness, a discouraged kind of feeling."

That stands in sharp contrast to

Verner's last Ukraine visit in May, when he sensed more optimism.

"There was all kinds of progress," he said of battlefield victories and financial support from the West. "Now, the offensive they launched has been bogged down by mine fields.

"It's terrible being in Ukraine right now," he said ruefully.

Altogether, Verner performed 22 shows during his latest three-week MWB sojourn in Poland and Ukraine. He arrived back in Vermont on Nov. 22 — the day before Thanksgiving.

He'd like to return to Ukraine, perhaps next spring.

But in the meantime, he'll be conjuring other projects to keep himself busy. Among them:

• Ongoing magic training for nine groups of disadvantaged teens throughout the world who'll hopefully pay forward the gift they're receiving from MWB. More magicians to use their special talents as a balm for those suffering in the world's hotspots.

One of those nine groups includes 10 young Ukrainians, who're being mentored by MWB member Carlos Lopez of Colombia.

"We know from these nine groups of kids we have around the world that learning, practicing and performing magic builds self-confidence, discipline, focus and self-esteem," Verner said.

• A program called "Warrior Wizards" that's seen Verner perform magic for vets throughout the region, including at the White River Junction Veterans Center. He's looking to train a veteran to take on the Warrior Wizards gig, believing a vet would be more relatable to fellow vets.

"They could make a little money, spread some joy and deal with their own trauma in some way," he said.

• A magicians' training course Verner and Fredericks initiated at Lincoln Community School this past fall. Verner noted the COVID pandemic exposed and exacerbated behavioral problems in schools, and he believes learning magic tricks and performing them can give some children diversion and direction.

Verner and Fredericks have taken six Lincoln students under their wing. They'll complete the magic course in June, but were able to give their classmates a show at a school assembly last week.

Verner and Fredericks give a lot of themselves through MWB, including time, expertise and resources.

What do they get in return?

"It feels like there's so much suffering and darkness in the world right now — Gaza, Ukraine and in our own country, with the political divisions. It feels so overwhelming. To be able to do something (uplifting) feels so wonderful," Verner said. "I feel really blessed that I have this little suitcase that I can take on an airplane and just go and bring some laughter and joy to these kids and their moms."

For more information about MWB, go to magicians without borders.com.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



Thank you for contributing to the Vergennes Lions Club Online Auction



Four Lions spent approximately 120 hours soliciting and preparation/presentation to make the auction a success. Generous donations from local businesses generated approximately \$7,460.00 from the actual auction. Local businesses donated gift cards and merchandise as well as community members donating items to be auctioned. We would like to thank both our donors and our shoppers. All proceeds go into programs in our local area. The Vergennes Lions appreciate your support!

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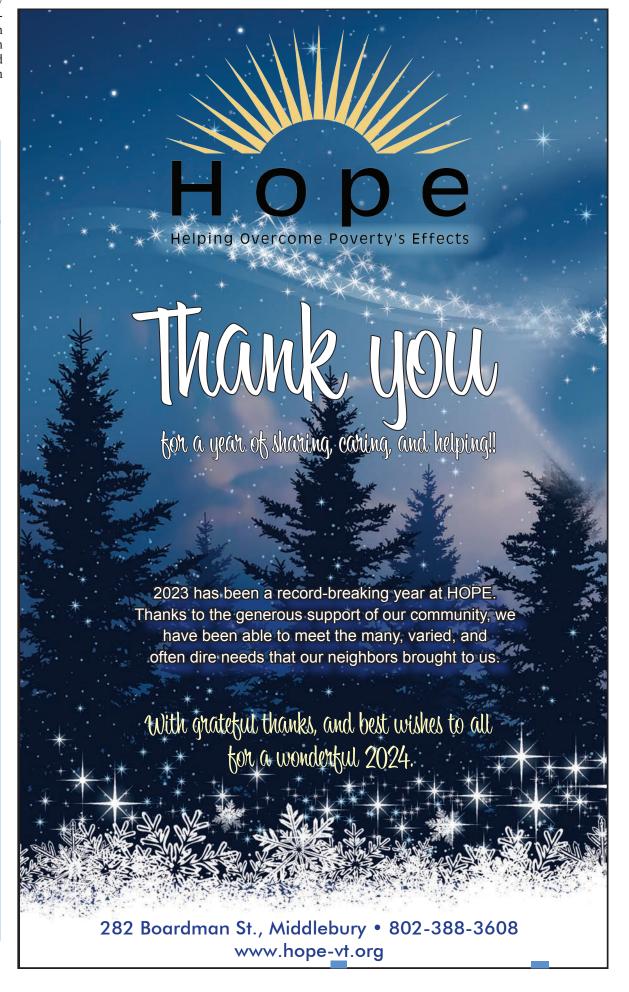
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Rosie's Restaurant

Shannon Jacobson Shaw's of Vergennes **Shear Cuts Snake Mountain Sandwich Shoppe Sons of American Legion Vergennes Starry Night Café Step-Up Photography Stine Orchards Subway of Vergennes Sweet Hill Farm Ten Stones Emporium The Bridge Restaurant The Publyk House The Stove Depot Thorpe Auto Thoughtful Expressions VT - Mary Blacklock Vermont Wood Products Three Squares Restaurant United Ag & Turf UPS of Middlebury Vergennes Area Rescue** Vergennes Car Wash, Topper Inc **Vergennes Opera House Vergennes Police Department Vermont Discount Store Vermont Farm Table Vermont Teddy Bear** Village Café & Tavern Village Green Market & deli Wag On Inn **Waterfalls Day Spa** Wayne's Tire **West Addison General Store Whistle Pig Woodchuck Cider Woodland Woodworks** Wowtoyz **Yate's Orchard**

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Minibeasts

(Continued from Page 5A) 2-inch larvae that absorb oxygen through the skin and have an appendage that serves as a snorkel. In springtime, they transform into non-biting, nectar-sipping "mosquito hawks" that hover in shady places or flutter on screen doors at night. One of the most strikingly beautiful insects, the black-winged damselfly, also called ebony jewelwing, spends winter stalking prey as an aquatic nymph before transforming into an elegant adult during the growing season.

Turn over a rock in a winter stream, and you will likely find stonefly or mayfly nymphs which,

Jim Towle

Lindy Towle

along with the water penny (riffle beetle larva), have flattened shapes, which allow them to cling closely to rocks in fast water. This 1- to 3-millimeter space around the rock, the boundary layer — where friction between rock and water slows the current significantly becomes thicker in winter because cold water is more viscous.

Generally, mayflies herbivorous, stoneflies and carnivorous. Sifting through submerged vegetation, however, you may encounter a nymph of one of the giant stoneflies, genus Allonarcys, which feed largely on plants and plant debris. The 2-inch nymphs may take several years to mature.

Donna Touhev

Bernie Andrews

And then there are marvels of nature that outdo the most stalwart winter-lovers among us: aweinspiring adult winter stoneflies that creep along the frosty snow in search of mates. On sunny days from January through April, the nymphs emerge from streams and transform into tiny (1/2-inch) adults with dark brown to black exoskeletons that absorb the sun's heat. Their body fluids contain a natural antifreeze of sugars,

Less likable, perhaps, are black flies, of which New Hampshire and Vermont each harbor more than

proteins, and glycerol.

50 species. Some overwinter as eggs that hatch into larvae in early springtime. Others overwinter as larvae, forming pupae from which adults emerge in April and May. The tiny larvae have bulbous butts that they anchor to submerged objects using silk threads, sticky saliva, and more than 100 hooks

arrayed in a radial pattern. Sievelike hairs projecting from each side of the head strain food including algae, tiny animals, and plant debris from the water. Only a few species of black flies bite people.

While we two-legged denizens of the North Country pride ourselves on being hardy and adaptable to the vicissitudes of Jack Frost, we don't hold a candle to the intrepid six-legged critters that prowl the streams of winter.

Michael J. Caduto is a writer, ecologist, and storyteller who lives in Reading, Vermont. He is the author of "Pond and Brook: A Guide to Nature in Freshwater Environments." Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: www.nhcf.org.

Hunting

(Continued from Page 18A)

Also, Lee Lapell, Benson, doe 117; Robert Bachand, Fayston, doe 100; Adam Loven, New Haven, buck 105-7; Ethan Hallock, Ferrisburgh, doe 110; Jacob Choiniere, Bristol, doe 101; Jay Rogers, Ferrisburgh, male 77; John Cole, Ferrisburgh, doe 120; Darcy Spear, Lincoln, buck 156-9; Andrew Raymond, Ferrisburgh, doe 118; Jeffery Brown, Addison, doe 127; Conrad Marsano, Middlebury, doe 118; and Jonathan Lapell, Fair Haven, buck 130-5.

JERUSALEM COUNTRY **STORE**

ARCHERY: Joshua Paquette, Bristol, male 68; Dudley Leavitt,

Lincoln, doe 108; Timothy Blanchard, Starksboro, 130; David Cavoretto, Lincoln, doe 155, doe 100, and doe 138; Edward Lafayette, Lincoln, doe 98; and David Jerome, Starksboro, doe 131.

Roger Also, Thompson, Huntington, doe 114; Brian Peters, Warren, doe 111; Robert Wener, Starksboro, doe 118; Marcie Delibac, Fayston, doe 126; Bayly Larock, Hinesburg, doe 70; Paul Morse, New Haven, doe 120; Devin Belisle, Starksboro, doe 109; Nolan Whitcomb, Starksboro, buck 94-4; and Shawn Miller, buck 109-4.

MUZZLELOADER:

Shepard, Starksboro, doe 129; Cody Purinton, Jericho, female 61; Matthew Coleman, female 61; Bayly Larock, Lincoln, doe 102; Jay Martin, Starksboro, doe 131; Anthony Porter, Weybridge, buck 167-8; Roland Haskins, Starskboro, doe 85; Eric Larose, Lincoln, doe 128; and Roland Haskins, Huntington, buck 111-6.

Also, Brian McCormick, Bristol, doe 130; David Patterson, Lincoln, doe 103; Heath Butler, Starksboro, buck 106-3; Ben Smith, Starksboro, doe 114; Gavin Conrad, Lincoln, doe 103; John Chanberlain, Lincoln, doe 116; Matthew Coleman, Hinesburg, doe 131; David Jerome, Starksboro, buck 166-9; Joshua Kruger, Bristol, doe 111; and Jeremiah Gracie, Lincoln, buck 106-2.

BUXTON'S STORE

ARCHERY: Chris Hanson, Orwell, buck 221-8; Jason D'Avignon, Orwell, buck 203-8 and doe 135; Timothy Little, Orwell buck 190-8 and doe 120; William Forbes, Orwell, 157-7; Matthew Anderson, Orwell, doe 138; and Christopher Abbott, Shoreham, buck 138-5; Jeremy Audet, Orwell, doe 125; Harland Hall, Orwell, doe 125; and Daniel Bedard, Cornwall, doe 120.

Also, Fletcher Crane, Sudbury, buck 120-7; Renee Plouffe, Salisbury, doe 119; Dan Herriman, Middlebury, doe 110; Wayne Symon, Shoreham, doe 110; Charles LaDuc, Orwell, buck 110-5; Douglas New, Leicester, doe 110; Kevin Brown, Orwell, doe 104; and Cory Steady, Weybridge, doe 95.

MUZZLELOADER: Austin Bruno, West Haven, doe 150; John Lowell, Benson, doe 146; Darren

Ouellette, Shoreham, doe 136; Charlie Hill, Benson, doe 128; Nevada Davis, Shoreham, doe 106; David Horton, Orwell, doe 98; Taylor Patterson, Shoreham, buck 162-8; Stephen Blaise, Pittsford, buck 136-4; Robert Douglas, Shoreham, buck 135-8; and Evelyn Palmer, Orwell, buck 135-8.

Kaitlyn Gaboriault, Also, buck 131-3; Andrew Orwell, Warren, Bridport, doe 130; Bethany Alger, Orwell, doe 130; Jacob Clifford, Orwell, doe 127; Paul-Matthew Quesnel, Leicester, doe 127; Hayden Martin, Sudbury, doe 125; Benjamin Alger, Orwell, doe 114; Matthew Bourgeois, Whiting, doe 110; Tyler Steady, Cornwall, doe 105; Caleb Young, Sudbury, doe 105; Seth Harvey, Castleton, doe 100; and Joseph Nartowicz, Orwell, doe 100.

C&S HUNTING SUPPLIES

ARCHERY: Justin Rubright, Starksboro, doe 112 and buck 122-2; Jordan Stearns, Middlebury, buck 115-4; Scott Jarvis, New Haven, buck, 110-4, and doe 118.

MUZZLELOADER: Hans Bruning, Middlebury, buck 111-8; Lyle Webb, Ripton, doe 120; Shawn Frost, Leicester, doe 112. GREEN MT. TRAILS END

ARCHERY: Ethan Bromley, Starksboro, doe 128; Nathan Perry, Lincoln, doe 103; Richard Malzac, Middlebury, buck 150-6; Ronald Aldrich, Bristol, doe 95; Leonard Desjadon, Cornwall, buck 173-9; Paula Aldrich, Bristol, doe 109; Wilbert Clark, Lincoln, doe 91; and Donald Pepe, Whiting, buck, 131-5.

MUZZLELOADER: Thomas Lathrop, Starksboro, doe 118; Cole Meader, Starksboro, doe 93.



(Additional Memory Tree Names)

Robert W. Laberge, Sr. James D'Avignon, Sr. Patricia D' Avignon Laura L. Laberge Marilyn L. Laberge Robert Guertin, Sr. Donald Laberge Brian Piorek Mary Laberge (2) Paul Bark Charles Laberge **Edward Burke** Miriam Burke Beatrice Laberge Charles F. Laberge III Rebecca DiPanni Thomas Laberge Cheryl Chizmadia Charles Ouellette Steven P. Laberge Robert P. Shennan Simone Ouellette Ethel Sherman John Zaluki Robert P. Sherman, Jr. Lorraine Zaluki Sheila Sherman Roger Bassett Andrew Sherman Brian P. Oski Rael Mayer Glenn W. Oski Ferdinand Mayer Maureen C. Oski Leonard Bergeron Nancy Pietruszkiewicz Marie Rose Bergeron Lynn W. Hinman Monique Bedard Tom Billings Rear Admiral Allen G. Schnable Harold Kelley James Farrell Harold E. Seaburg Elaine Farrell Gertrude L. Seaburg Richard Bullock Bruce Seaburg Diane Torrev James Oski, Sr. Glenice Oski **Duane Torrey** Ted Okerlund David W. Oski Stanley P. Atwood Nat Barsky James S. Thayer Sandy Atwood Lynn B. Ryalls John Thayer

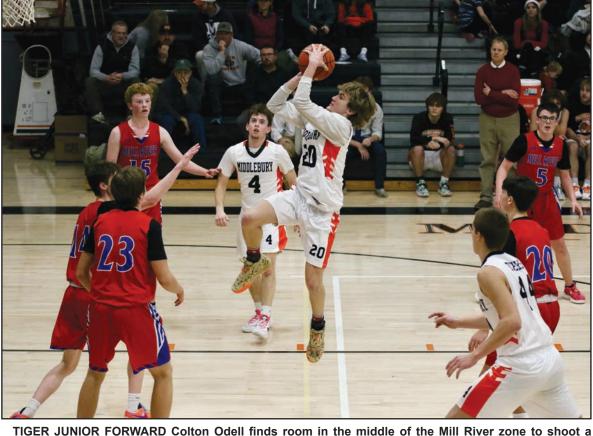




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floater during Saturday's MUHS home basketball game. Independent photo/Steve James



TIGER SENIOR GUARD Carter Paquette gets a step on a Mill River defender as he nears the paint during Saturday's home basketball

Mill River tops Tiger boys in basketball clash

Minutemen went on a 12-0 run in the fourth quarter to secure a 55-42 victory over MUHS

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — Visiting Mill River Union High School on Saturday broke open a close boys' basketball game against Middlebury with a 12-0, six-minute fourth-quarter run that sparked the Minutemen's 55-42 victory.

The Tigers played hard on defense and actually forced 10 of MRU's 23 turnovers in the final eight minutes, but scored only four points in the final seven minutes, all after as the 2-2 Minutemen's big surge, in which Sasha Auer hit back-to-back threes and Ryan Smith chipped in two layups and a free throw. Solan Farmer's free throw capped the 12-0 run, which

pushed MRU's lead to 55-38.

Coach Chris Altemose's inexperienced team — only senior forward Noah Doherty-Konczal saw meaningful minutes this past winter — dropped to 0-4 despite what he called steady effort on the Tigers' part.

But, he said, the Tigers' play and execution has thus far been inconsistent, understandably given their lack of varsity seasoning.

"The effort is there. It's a young crew. We don't have a lot of varsity experience. It's going to take us some time to gel," Altemose said. "I thought despite the outcome this was a better performance for us." Still, some of the same problems

cropped up, he said: Offensively the decision-making and shotmaking are works in progress.

"We struggle to execute together for good shots, and when we get the good shots we struggle to finish them," the coach said.

On the other end of the floor, Altemose said the Tigers have the ability and desire to play good defense, but are still learning concepts of team defense.

"Most of us are OK on the ball. We've got to get better off the ball. It's a collective effort," he said.

The good news? Altemose said the Tigers flash potential, and did so again on Saturday.

"There were a handful of

possessions where we did execute. We got good ball movement and multiple touches and great shots, the first quarter specifically," he said. "Actually, against every one of our opponents we've come out, and in the first quarter it's like we know what we're supposed to do. We come out and we do it, and we compete ... And then it just gets away from us. Obviously being able to sustain that effort longer is going to be the challenge."

Saturday's first quarter was promising. The Tigers' man-toman defense looked tight, and they took a 6-0 lead in the first two minutes on buckets by junior Cam Whitlock, after classmate and

backcourt mate Tassilo Luksch's offensive rebound; junior forward Kyle Stearns, on a power move inside; and senior guard Carter Paquette, on a drive that penetrated MRU's 1-2-2 zone.

The Minutemen hit three threepointers, two by guard Michael Wierzbicki, in a 9-3 counter-surge in which Paquette sank a three for MUHS.

The Tigers then closed the period by outscoring MRU, 8-4, to lead by 17-13. Four players got a bucket apiece as Altemose subbed freely: Stearns, Doherty-Konczal, senior swingman Milo Rees and sophomore forward Cooke Riney,

(See Basketball, Page 2B)

In girls' hoops

Tigers win, VUHS loses one

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — In limited high school girls' basketball action late last week, Middlebury pulled away late to prevail at Otter Valley for its initial victory of the season, while Vergennes suffered its first setback.

Mount Abraham (3-0) was idle between Dec. 20 and 26, but was set to play on Wednesday in Fair Haven's annual holiday tournament along with the Otters — the Eagles against Burr & Burton and the OV versus the host Slaters. On Friday in and **Miley Lape** added eight points

Fair Haven, the Eagles will play the apiece, but it wasn't enough to Slaters and the Otters will take on the Bulldogs in the second round. TIGERS VS. OTTERS

On this past Friday night, the Tigers snapped a fourth-quarter tie with a late surge to defeat the host Otters, 43-34.

Solstice Binder's career-high 28 points were instrumental as MUHS (1-3) posted its first win of the

Matelin LaPorte led OV with 12 points, and Breanna Bovev

Sports (Mostly)

prevent OV from dropping to 1-2 heading into the Slater tournament. **COMMODORES**

On this past Friday, visiting Williamstown dealt Commodores their first loss after they had rolled to three big wins; the final vs. Williamstown was 44-38. Natalie Beliveau led Williamstown with 17 points, and Meliah Hutchinson added 11.

Ashtin Stearns scored 16 to lead the Commodores, and Ava Francis chipped in nine points.

MUHS boys' hockey falls in OT

By ANDY KIRKALDY

the Middlebury Union High School boys' hockey team, 6-5, in overtime, giving the Tigers their first loss of the winter.

The Tigers took a 2-1 record into their annual holiday tournament, starting on Wednesday at the Memorial Sports Center. They were scheduled to take on Brookline, Mass., on Wednesday afternoon in the first round in a game played after deadline for this issue. The Tigers will play either Stowe or Harwood at either 3 or 7 p.m. on Thursday depending on

Wednesday's results.

Colchester on Saturday defeated scored two goals late in the first 1/6 Amherst at Midd....... period and one early in the second before the Tigers got rolling, scoring three straight times in the middle period to tie the game. The goals came from Toby Draper, assisted by Jordan Schroeder; Gabriel Quesnel, assisted by Brady McDonough; and on a power play at 13:36 Kellan Bartlett from Ouinn Collins and Quesnel.

Bartlett and Draper gave the Tigers the lead early in the third, but the Lakers got one back tying the game with 12 seconds left helping to keep us in it," said in regulation on a power-play goal.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS Girls' Hockey 12/27 BBA at MUHS Boys' Hockey 12/23 Colchester vs MUHS6-5 (OT) 12/27 Brookline at MUHS.....Late Boys' Basketball 12/22 Mt Abe vs MSJ..... 12/23 Mill River vs MUHS...... 55-42 12/23 OV vs Springfield75-35 12/23 Williamstown vs VUHS 60-56 12/27 OV at BrattleboroLate 12/27 Twinfield at VUHS.....Late 12/27 Mt Anthony at Mt Abe Late Girls' Basketball 12/22 Williamstown vs VUHS 44-38

12/22 MUHS vs OV43-34 12/27 Mt Abe at FH Tourney..... 12/27 OV at Fair Haven......

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS Girls' Hockey 12/28 TBD at MUHS......1 or 5 PM

1/6 MUHS at Stowe4:15 PM

Boys' Hockey 12/28 TBD at MUHS......3 or 7 PM 1/6 Hartford at MUHS......7 PM Boys' Basketball 12/29 OV at Mt Abe7 PM 12/29 MUHS at Harwood......7 PM 1/3 VUHS at OVUHS......7 PM 1/3 Mt Abe at Randolph......7 PM 1/5 MSJ at Mt Abe7 PM 1/3 MUHS at Fair Haven7 PM 1/6 OV at Bellows Falls 1 PM Girls' Basketball 12/28 VUHS at Northfield6 PM 12/29 OV at FH Tourney5:30 PM 12/29 Mt Abe at FH Tourney......7 PM 12/29 St. Albans at MUHS......7 PM 1/3 VUHS at Mill River7 PM 1/5 Fair Haven at MUHS7 PM 1/5 Mt Abe at OV7 PM Dance 1/6 MUHS Hosts.....

COLLEGE SPORTS Women's Basketball 12/29 Midd at Stevens3 PM 12/30 Midd vs N. Paltz at Stevens....7 PM

1/3 Wellesley at Midd2 PM 1/5 Midd at Hamilton..... 1/6 Midd at Amherst......3 PM Men's Basketball 12/29 Midd at Brandeis..... COLCHESTER — Host On this past Saturday, the Lakers 1/5 Hamilton at Midd......7 PM Men's Hockey 12/31 Midd at Hobart 1/2 NEC at Midd

> 1/6 Endicott at Midd....... Colchester then netted the game-

Women's Hockey

1/5 Midd at Wesleyan

1/6 Midd at Trinity

winner at 1:26 of overtime. Tiger goalie TJ Baron made 32 saves. "TJ played great in net Coach Jordan Stearns in an email.

Brooks was great, but where's Ray?

Cornwall burgher Roth "T" Tall, consummate Baltimore Oriole fan, opened the Rotary Club meeting at Rosie's Restaurant last Oct. 4 with a eulogy for Brooks Robinson, who had died

the previous week at 78.

T cited Robinson's greatness as a baseball player — 23 seasons with the same team, 15 times an All-Star, 16 consecutive Gold Gloves, American League Most Valuable Player in 1964, and AL and World Series MVP - and also his impeccable character:

His generosity of spirit is represented in the oft-quoted observation of sportswriter Gordon Beard who said in 1979,

"In New York, they named a candy bar after Reggie Jackson. Here in Baltimore, we name our children after Brooks Robinson."

That Brooks was a great player is beyond dispute. The effusive commentary that followed his death often included comparisons to other Hall of Fame players at his position, third base, most commonly his contemporaries George Brett and Mike Schmidt, but also Wade Boggs and Chipper Jones.

Given my age, I would include Eddie Mathews of the Braves, who established third base in the 1950s as a spot for a power hitter, though he was also excellent with the glove.

Brooks Robinson was certainly an admirable player and person, but I found myself frustrated, then infuriated by these discussions of Brooks and the greatest third basemen in the long

> history of the game. I was upset because of the absence of great players,

worthy players, Cooperstown Hall of Famers themselves, who were not mentioned in these discussions. In all the articles I read (and I did my due diligence!)

I never heard the name Ray

KARL Dandridge mentioned even **LINDHOLM** once, so certainly not Judy Johnson, Jud "Boojum" Wilson, or Oliver "Ghost" Marcelle

either, who all played in the Negro Leagues during baseball's segregation.

Dandridge (1987), Johnson (1975), and Wilson (2006) are in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. Many believe that Marcelle, a wizard in the field like Robinson, should be.

If you Google "Hall of Fame thirdbasemen," as I did, you discover that there are 18 players at that position so honored, the fewest of any position on the diamond. Then you are given a listing of those players: Dandridge, Johnson, and Wilson for some inexplicable reason are excluded. Eighteen white guys!

Let's give Dandridge his due.

Like Brooks Robinson, any estimate of Dandridge begins with his fielding. His Hall of Fame plaque begins "Flashy but smooth third baseman, a brilliant fielder

with a powerful arm." Hall of Famer Monte Irvin, who played for 10 years in the Negro Leagues and eight years in the Major Leagues, said of Dandridge, his teammate on the Newark Eagles: "Here was this little (5'7", 175 pounds) squat bow-legged guy who could play third base like Pie Traynor, Brooks Robinson, Mike Schmidt, Graig Nettles, or anybody else you could name — just a great, great player. People would pay their way into the ballpark just to see him

Sarah Langs, writing for MLB.com, explained that "Dandridge is considered by many to have been the best defensive third baseman in the history of the Negro Leagues, if not baseball history as a

Dandridge was an extraordinary hitter too. His lifetime average was .355 in his eight Negro Leagues seasons, .348 in his eight seasons in Latin America, .318 in four seasons in AAA minor league baseball, and .321 in games he played against white major leaguers in the off-

Negro league historian John Holway quoted Larry Doby (like Irvin, he played with Dandridge at Newark) who made a specific comparison to Brooks Robinson:

"You couldn't put Brooks in there with Ray in hitting."

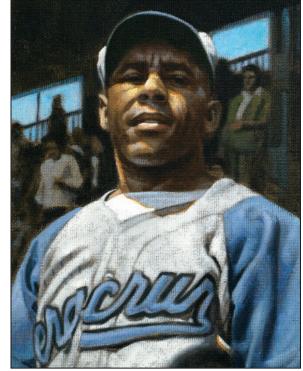
Born and raised in Virginia, Dandridge signed at 19 in 1933 with the Detroit Stars. From 1934 to 1939, he played in Newark for the Newark Dodgers, who merged with the Brooklyn Eagles to form the Newark Eagles of the Negro National League, one of the most celebrated of Black teams.

He was selected to play in three East-West All-Star games in his six years in Newark, and in the late '30s, he joined Willie Wells, Dick Seay, and Mule Suttles to form the Eagles' "million

dollar infield." His career in the 1940s was spent almost entirely in the Mexican League playing for the Vera Cruz Blues and the Mexico City Reds. The racial climate and the money were better there than in the States. Dandridge became a legend south of the border and earned

a place in the Mexican Hall of Fame (inducted in 1989).

In 1944, he returned to the Newark Eagles for a single season, batted .370, and was selected by fans to play in the



BASEBALL HALL OF Famer Ray Dandridge is depicted in 1948 when he played for the Vera Cruz Blues of the Mexican League. Dandridge is generally considered the greatest of the Black third basemen of the pre-integration era.

Art by Graig Kreindler, used by permission of Jay Caldwel

East-West All-Star game, played in Chicago's Comiskey Park before 51,743

Of his performance, Fay Young of the Chicago Defender wrote: "Ray (See Lindholm Page 3B)

Basketball

(Continued from Page 2B) the latter two off the bench.

The momentum carried into the first three minutes of the second period. MRU's Smith opened with a three-point play inside, but the Tigers scored the next five points to take a 22-16 lead: a Riney putback; Doherty-Konczal's lay-in on Rees's one-touch pass on a ball going out of bounds, arguably the play of the game; and a Luksch free throw.

Then their attack went stale, with seven turnovers in the period, at times due to over-penetration against the zone. While the Tigers went scoreless for four minutes, at the other end Smith scored seven points and set up Jack Boulger for a pretty transition hoop in a 9-0 run that gave MRU a 25-22 lead. Whitlock put the Tigers back on top briefly by driving for a bucket and then feeding Stearns in transition, but two Smith free throws gave the Minutemen the lead at the break, 27-26.

Whitlock hit a jumper to put MUHS for the last time to open the second half, but MRU took charge with threes from three players and a hoop inside to go up by 38-30 at the period's midway point. Riney converted two offensive boards in the final few minutes, but the Tigers still trailed by 43-34 after Solan Farmer, as time wound down, became the fourth Minuteman to hit a three in the quarter.

Tiger junior forward Colton Odell gave the Tiger life in the fourth with back-to-back hoops in the first minute, and at 43-38 it was anyone's game. The Minutemen then claimed it as theirs with their 11-0 run, which made it 55-38 with two minutes to go. Luksch hit a free throw and a trey to create the final score.

Smith led MRU with 22 points, and Auer (15) and Wierzbicki also reached double figures for Coach Tim Gallipo's team.



MUHS SOPHOMORE FORWARD Cooke Riney shoots a short jumper over Mill River's Ryan Smith during Saturday's Tiger home basketball game on Saturday. Independent photo/Steve James

Riney scored 10 points to lead MUHS, and Paquette finished with

Altemose is confident the Tigers will improve, but said it will be important for them to maintain perspective.

"They're great kids. They're working really hard," he said. "I just hope they keep their heads up during our growing pains."



MUHS JUNIOR GUARD Tassilo Luksch tries to strip the ball from a Mill River player during Saturday's Tiger home hoop game. Junior Colton Odell moves in for the double-team. Independent photo/Steve James





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Mt. Abe boys notch their first hoop win

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — In high school boys' basketball action late last week, Mount Abraham split two games, with the victory the Eagles' first of the season; Vergennes also won one and lost one, with the setback the Commodores' first; Otter Valley picked up a one-sided road win; and Middlebury lost away from home.

The Tigers also hosted Mill River on Saturday; see story on Page 1B.

On Dec. 20 visiting Winooski outscored the Eagles by 18-6 in the first quarter on the way to a 47-39 victory over the Eagles. Chris Buker led three Spartans in double figures with 15 points.

Ian Funke tossed in a gamehigh 19 points for Mount Abe, and Aricin Griffin contributed six points and five steals.

On Friday the Eagles broke through for their initial victory, prevailing at Mount St. Joseph, 68-57, behind balanced scoring. Funke (17 points), Hayden Lutz (12) and Griffin (11) all scored in double figures for Mount Abe, which led at the half by 11 and held serve after intermission. Jake Bessette tossed in 20 for the Mounties.

The 1-3 Eagles were scheduled to host Mount Anthony on Wednesday after deadline for this

COMMODORES

On Dec. 20 the Commodores picked up their biggest win to date, knocking off Division II Fair Haven, 52-43. VUHS led throughout and received doublefigure scoring from four players: Oakley Francis (12 points, 8 rebounds), Ryker Mosehauer (12 points), and Ryan Wright and Spencer Gebo (11 points apiece).

Joe Buxton led the 2-1 Slaters with 15 points.

On Saturday host Williamstown edged the Commodores, 60-56. Details of that game were not available.

The 4-1 Commodores were also set to host Twinfield on Wednesday after the deadline for this issue. Otters

On Saturday the Otters took leads of 25-8 after the first-quarter and 44-13 at halftime in a 75-35 victory over host Springfield.

Nine Otters entered the scorebook in the big victory, led by Lucas Politano's 15 points and Mark Jackson's 13 points. Drew Pelkey (12 points) and Logan Letourneau (11) also reached double figures, and Conor Denis chipped in eight.

James Gultekin led the Cosmos with 19 points.

The Otters took a 3-1 record into a scheduled visit to D-I Brattleboro on Wednesday. **Tigers**

On Dec. 20 host U-32 defeated the Tigers, 70-54. The game was close in the early going, but the Raiders surged in the second quarter to go up by 14 at the break, 34-20, and held on from there. Caelen Zeilenga led three Raiders in double figures with 32 points.

Noah Doherty-Konczal scored 10 points to lead the Tigers, and Tassilo Luksch and Cooke Riney added nine points apiece.

MUHS carried an 0-3 record into Saturday's home game with Mill River.



TIGER SOPHOMORE FORWARD Cooke Riney grabs rebound during Saturday's MUHS home basketball game as junior teammate Colton Odell boxes out a Mill River player.

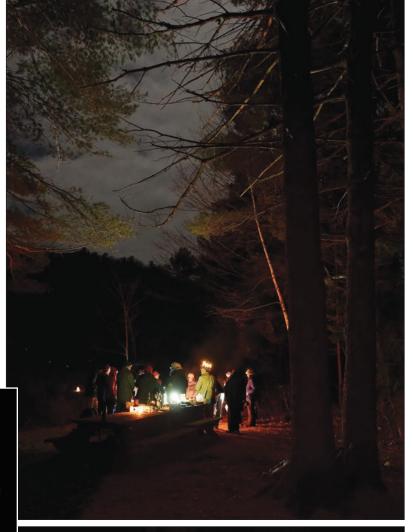
Independent photo/Steve James



Winter solstice

A GROUP OF hardy souls tromped through the dark woods at the Waterworks property in Bristol this past Thursday night to take part in a traditional Winter Solstice celebration. A series of luminaria lit the path from the parking lot off Plant Road. Don Stratton of Bristol led songs around a fire, and some folks brought their own lights.

Photos by Jonathan Blake







Lindholm

(Continued from Page 1B)
Dandridge was the fielding star for the East. He made three outstanding plays and was the key man in the infield. He also topped the hitters with two singles and a double." In his three East-West games, Ray batted .545.

Dandridge has been called "the greatest third baseman never to play in the Major Leagues." In 1949, at age 35, he was signed by the New York Giants organization and assigned to their top minor league team, the Minneapolis Millers.

For the Millers, in 1949, he was terrific: he batted .364, and was named Rookie of the Year (at 35!). The next year, he hit .311, was the league MVP, and led the Millers to the American Association championship. In 1951, he batted .324 and mentored his 20-year-old teammate Willie Mays.

Despite this remarkable performance, Dandridge was never called up to the big-league club, nor was his contract sold to another team. Giants' leadership cited his age or his popularity with Minneapolis fans in explaining this neglect.

Monte Irvin cited an implicit "quota" system in the early days of baseball's integration. The Giants had their two Black players: that was enough.

In his Hall of Fame induction speech in 1987, he admitted that he wished that he could have "just put one foot into the Major Leagues (even) if I didn't stay but just one week."

Was Ray the equal of Brooks? Maybe.

He certainly deserves to be in the discussion.

Karl Lindholm is a retired Assistant Professor of American Studies at Middlebury College. His special interest is baseball's Negro Leagues. This fall he taught a course titled "Segregation in America: Baseball and Race." He can be contacted at lindholm@middlebury.edu.









Happy New Year and

cheers to many more!

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SATURDAY

Best Night in Bristol. Sunday, Dec. 31, 3:30-11 p.m., downtown Bristol. Come to Bristol for an afternoon and evening of ringing in the New Year. As the date draws closer, check out bristolbestnight. org for details.

New Year's Eve fireworks and skating in Middlebury. Sunday, Dec. 31, 6:30 p.m., Middlebury Rec Park. Usher out the new year with fireworks, then head on into Memorial Sports Center and enjoy an hour and a half

of free skating.

New Year's Eve Dance in Middlebury. Sunday, Dec. 31, 6:30 p.m.-midnight, VFW, 530 Exchange St. Dance to the tunes of DJ Triple B. Light snacks and desserts on offer, as well as party favors. Tickets \$10. Open to

New Year's Eve with Mihali in Middlebury. Sunday, Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Ring in the New Year at Town Hall Theater with Mihali, Vermont-based solo singer, songwriter, guitarist, artist, and Twiddle co-founder. Join THT on New Year's Eve and bring the whole family. Ring in 2024 early with a countdown somewhere between 9:30 and 10 p.m., and the price of an adult ticket includes a champagne toast. Tickets \$40 adults/\$20 children under 12, available at townhalltheater.org.

MONDAY an

First Day Walk in Ferrisburgh. Monday, Jan. 1, 9 a.m., Button Bay State Park. New Year's Day birding trips are a tradition held by many in the birdwatching community as they begin to fill their annual bird lists. Otter Creek Audubon Society has combined that tradition with the more recent tradition of First Day Hikes held at state parks across the country.

TUESDAY

Gary Margolis and Arianna Moulton in Middlebury. Tuesday, Jan. 2, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Father and daughter duo Gary Margolis and Ariana Moulton will read from their respective collections, "What It Means to Be Happy" and "I've Been Meaning to Tell You," in the research room at Ilsley Public Library. This event is part of the monthly VBS/ Ilsley Library Vermont Authors Series.

jan **FRIDAY**

First Friday Age Well meal in Middlebury. Friday, Jan. 5, 11 a.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Doors open at 11 a.m. Meal served at noon of glazed ham pathy sweet potatogs are pathy sweet potatogs. ham patty, sweet potatoes, green bean blend, birthday cake and milk. \$5 suggested donation. Advanced tickets required — order by Tuesday, Jan. 2, at 802-377-1419. Bring your own place setting. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Free ride may be provided. Call Tri-Valley Transit at 802-388-2287 to inquire.

Knights In Italy spaghetti dinner in Bristol. 11 School St. Meals available for dine-in or take-out menu includes spaghetti with sauce, garlic bread, salad and dessert. Cost: \$12 adults/\$6 children 12 and under/\$30 family. No pre-order necessary. All proceeds will go toward furthering the Knights' mission of aiding the community in a variety of ways, including a donation of winter coats to 5-town schools.

SATURDAY

jan

jan

American Red Cross blood drive in New Haven. Saturday, Jan. 6, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., town gym, 78 North St. All will be entered for a chance at a trip for 2 to Super Bowl LVIII in Vegas. For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org and enter NEWHAVENVT, or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

Youth Ministry Bingo in Vergennes. Saturday, Jan. 6, 5 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 South Maple St. Doors open at 5 p.m., Bingo starts at 6 p.m. This is a family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. This event is sponsored by St. Ambrose and St. Peter's Youth Ministry to benefit the on-going program costs.

SATURDAY

Bingo in Vergennes. Saturday, Jan. 13, 5 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Doors open at 5 p.m., Bingo starts at 6 p.m. A family-friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. Sponsored by St. Peter's Cemetery Committee to benefit the ongoing efforts for cemetery improvements.

Roast Pork Supper in Vergennes. Saturday, Jan. 13, 5-6 p.m., Vergennes United Methodist Church, Main Street, across from the Opera House. Preorder and take-out only. Menu includes roast pork, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, vegetable, applesauce, roll and dessert. Cost \$12. To preorder call 802-877-3150 before 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11.

Contra dance in Cormall. Saturday, Jan. 13,

7-9:30 p.m., Town Hall, Route 30. Dance away the winter chill at the Cornwall Contra Dance. Lausanne Allen will be calling. Live music Red Dog Riley. Tickers \$5 to \$10 or pay what you can.

SUNDAY

Breakfast Buffet in Vergennes. Sunday, Jan. 14, 8-10 a.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Omelets to order, scrambled eggs, French toast, bacon, sausage, fruit, plain and blueberry pancakes, maple syrup, sausage gravy on biscuits, corn bread, home fries, mini muffins, juice, milk and coffee. Adults \$12/children 8-12 \$7/immediate family \$32 (maximum). Offered by Vergennes Knights of Columbus to support their community service

SATURDAY

dec

Hocus Pocus Magic Show in Vergennes. Saturday, Jan. 20, 2 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. Fun, engaging and great-for-theentire-family magic fun, comedy, and surprise by magician Blaine Goad. Great for all ages. Tickets \$10 adults/\$5 kids/\$25 family of 4. More info at vergennesoperahouse.org.

ONGOING EVENTS

ARTS, CRAFTS & IDEAS

Middlebury Writers Workshop.
Second and fourth Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.,
Meeting Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. A respectful, engaged group of writers welcoming all skill levels and genres. Look closely at each other's work and help cultivate, inspire strengthen our individual craft. All are welcome. For more info contact Andrea Chesman at andreachesman@gmail.com or Masha Harris at masha.harris@gmail.com.

The Makery Sewing lab. Thursdays, 5-9 p.m. The Makery at Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. Get your questions answered and learn new skills from our kind and talented Mentors. All levels are welcome from never used a sewing machine to advanced pattern making. Limit of 4 participants. Registration required. Free, \$5 Drop-In Fee or Membership Cards. Select what works best for you. More info at hannafordcareercenter.org/the-makery.

The Makery Woodworking lab. Thursdays,

5-9 p.m., The Makery at Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. Use Makery tools and equipment to work on projects. Get your questions answered or learn new skills from our kind and talented Mentors. Tool Training pre-requisite required. Limit of 5. Pre-registration is required. Free, \$5 Drop-In Fee or Membership Cards. Select what works best for you. More info at hannafordcareercenter. org/the-makery.

Otter Creek Poets in Middlebury. Virtual through Ilsley Public Library, Thursdays, 1-3

Pins and Needles in Brandon. Tuesdays, 5:30-7 p.m. Brandon Free Library, 4 Franklin St. Shape Note singing. Second Sunday of every month, weather permitting, 2-3 p.m. Middlebury College, Mitchell Green Lounge, McCullough Student Center, Old Chapel Way. Contact: Facebook/Middlebury Shape Note Singers, MiddleburyShapeNote@gmail.com or David Rosenberg, rosenber@middlebury.

Stitch 'N Spin in Monkton. Third Sundays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge Rd.

edu, 802-989-4387.

Undercover Quilters and Crafters in Bristol. (formerly the Undercover Quilt Guild). 1st Mondays at 7 p.m., 3rd Mondays at 10 a.m., St. Ambrose Church, 11 School St. Bristol. All crafters welcome. More info contact Marian Baser (ladybaser@mac.com) or Stacie A. at 802-453-7709 or show up at a meeting. Bring along some handwork to do while we meet

something for show and tell.

Writers group in Vergennes. Second Thursdays,11 a.m.-noon, Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Facilitated by local author Lottie Wilds. Sessions include writing exercises, critiques, prompts, homework, etymology other skill-building techniques. For those 18 years and older.

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Art On Main. 25 Main St., Bristol, 802-453-4032, aom@gmail.net.

Brandon Artists Guild. 7 Center St., Brandon, 802-247-4956, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Edgewater On The Green. 6 Merchants

Row, Middlebury, 802-989-7419, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m., or by appointment. 802-989-7419. On exhibit: "Reflections," emerging artists juried exhibition, Dec. 1-Dec. 31; "Home for the Holidays," Dec. 7-Jan. 9.

Edgewater On The Falls. 1 Mill St., Middlebury. Tuesday-Saturday, 802-458-0098, a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., or by appointment. 802-989-7419. On exhibit:

"Home for the Holidays," Dec. 7-Jan. 9. **Henry Sheldon Museum.** One Park St. Middlebury. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 802-388-2117, henrysheldonmuseum. org. On exhibit: "Stellar Stitching: 19th Century Vermont Samplers," May 13-Jan. 13; "From Homespun to Couture: Fashion in Historic Middlebury," Sept. 8-Jan. 13; "Holiday Trains: 30 Years of Polling Down the Tracks." New 24 30 Years of Rolling Down the Tracks," Nov. 24-Jan. 13; "From the Sheldon Archives: 1950s Campus Theater Movie Programs" Virtual

Exhibit at henrysheldonmuseum.org.

Jackson Gallery At Town Hall Theater. 68
S. Pleasant St., Middlebury 802-382-9222, townhalltheater.org Open Mon-Fri, 12-5 p.m. Accessibility Services.

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. Basin Harbor Rd. Ferrisburgh, 802-475-2022, LCMM.org. Remotely Operated Vehicle shipwreck tours, Thursdays, 10 a.m., July 13-

Middlebury College Museum Of Art. 72 Porter Field Road, Middlebury. museum.middlebury. edu/exhibitions, 802-443-5007 to make reservations. On exhibit. "Derrick Adams:

reservations. On exhibit: "Derrick Adams: Sanctuary," Jan. 26-April 14; "David Plowden: Portraits of America," Jan. 26-April 14.

Northern Daughters Gallery. 221 Main St., Vergennes, 802-877-2173, Saturdays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and by appointment, 802-877-2173. On exhibit: "Last Call," Nov. 4-Dec. 31.

PhotoPlace Gallery. Park Street, Middlebury. photos@photoplacegallery.com, 4500. On exhibit: "Portals: Windows, Mirrors and Doors," Jan. 5-26.

Rokeby Museum. 4334 Route 7, Ferrisburgh, 802-877-3406. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m., May

Sparrow Art Supply. 52 Main St. Middlebury, 802-989-7225 Wednesday-Saturday. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.-4 p.m., info@ sparrowartsupply.com. On exparrowartsupply.com. On lost 12 legiday Market New 17 legs 13 Holiday Market, Nov. 17-Jan. 13.

he Corner School Resource Center. 75 Old Post Office Rd., Granville.

Vermont Folklife Center. 88 Main St, Middlebury, 802-388-4964. Vision & Voice Gallery. Wednesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

LIVE MUSIC

Steve Sawyer Trio in Middlebury. Sunday, Dec. 31, 2 p.m., The Residence at Otter Creek

Mihali in Middlebury. Sunday, Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater Twelfth Day Woodwind Quintet in Middlebury.

Saturday, Jan. 6, 4 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society. Michael Chorney and Freeway Clyde in

Lincoln. Saturday, Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m., Burnham Takács Quartet in Middlebury. Friday, Jan.

19, 7:30 p.m., & Sunday, Jan. 21, 2 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center.

Live Music in Middlebury. Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m., 51 Main.

Davye Huckett in East Middlebury. Thursdays, 6-8 p.m., Waybury Inn.

Open Mic in Brandon. Thursdays, 6-8 p.m.,

Red Clover Ale.

Rick Hawley in East Middlebury. Fridays, 6-8 p.m. Waybury Inn.

The Big Pick with The Earls of Bristol in Bristol. Fridays, South Mountain Tavern

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Join in a New Year tradition

NEW YEAR'S DAY birding trips are a tradition held by many in the birdwatching community as they begin to fill their annual bird lists. Otter Creek Audubon Society has combined that tradition with the more recent tradition of First Day Hikes held at state parks. Join them on Monday, Jan. 1, at 9 a.m., at Button Bay State Park.



Rain barrel project aims to conserve watershed

Ferrisburgh Central School students raise \$1,700 by selling their art

FERRISBURGH — The 5thand 6th-graders at Ferrisburgh humanities lens. As a part of the their end of the year celebration. study, the school started a service

learning project of designing and 12 to 19. Teacher Tony Francescutti decorating rain barrels that they Central School have been studying auctioned off this month to support water through a science and a a local watershed organization and

The online auction ran from Dec.

led the effort.

Students worked in small groups this fall to create the rain barrels in hopes that local families would purchase them and help support

their goals. Each barrel had its own theme and message. One was called "Lake Champlain Shipwrecks," another was "Fish Kingdom," a third was "Sea the View."

The rest were: "Lake/Life Winter," "Love the Lake Year-Round," "Of Light and Life," "Lake Barrell Acrostic Poem: The Season," "Sea the View," "Summer and Winter," "The Valley View," "Under the Sea," "Watershed" and "Champ!"

Some of the rain barrels brought bids as high as \$200.

The rain barrels are made of recycled, food-grade, 50-gallon drums that were donated by Aqua ViTea in Middlebury. Paint was donated by student families. Students drilled and installed the spigots.

The 5th- and 6th-graders ended up raising \$1,700 and all rain barrels got a bid. FCS Principal Rae Donovan said a portion of the proceeds will fund the kids' end-ofyear trips and celebrations and part of it will go to a local watershed/ conservation organization, though they are not sure which one yet.

"The kids will research and decide on a local watershed organization to donate to," Donovan told the Independent.

one of our own Lincoln residents. Burnham Presents proudly Michael Chorney's welcomes Freeway Clyde to the stage on Saturday, Jan. 6, at 7:30 p.m., at Burnham Hall.

Lincoln

Mikkelsen at 453-7029

LINCOLN — Get your tickets

Michael Chorney, Tony Award winning composer and arranger, is one of Vermont's most prolific artists. After working for years on the score for the eight-time Tony Award-winning Broadway hit, "Hadestown," he longed to develop an ensemble approach to music making. He found it back in Vermont and put together a group of the region's most intuitive players

and Freeway Clyde was born.

ensemble composed of guitarist and composer Michael Chorney, Jeremy Fredrick on drums, Will Andrews on trumpet and synthesizer, guitarist Taylor Haskins, Matt LaRocca on viola, electric guitarist Zack DuPont and Pat Ormiston on

electric bass. Doors open at 7 p.m. and music begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is on a sliding scale — general \$15 to generous \$20/\$25 or pay what you can. Refreshments will be available

during the break. **SAVE THE DATE**

The Ladies Aid Industrial invites you to their Ladies Holiday Gathering on Wednesday, Jan. 3, at 1 p.m., at Burnham Hall. Join them for an afternoon of fun, fellowship and refreshments. Wrap an inexpensive gift to exchange and bring a friend.

REMINDER

The library will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25, Tuesday, Dec. 26 and Monday, Jan. 1.

Freeway Clyde is a seven-piece Until next time ... Merry Christmas And Happy Holidays!

Watershed grants available

MONTPELIER — The 2024 Vermont Watershed Grants Program is now accepting applications for projects that protect, restore and enhance the state's lakes, streams, rivers, and ponds, including Vermonters' ability to understand and enjoy these treasures. Applications are due no later than Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024.

Program grants are available to municipalities, local and regional government agencies, sporting clubs, non-profit organizations, and water-related citizen groups. Projects that seek to directly protect or restore fish and aquatic wildlife habitat are strongly encouraged. Examples of past funded projects include streamside vegetation restoration, the removal of old dams and replacement of culverts to improve fish passage.

For 2024, \$70,000 is available to fund three categories of projects. The three categories and the maximum amount for each project type are: education and outreach (\$5,000), planning, assessment, inventory, monitoring (\$3,500) and on-the-ground implementation (\$10,000).

Vermont Watershed Grants Program is a joint project of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and the Department of Environmental Conservation established by legislature and funded by sales of the Vermont Conservation License Plate.

"When Vermonters purchase a Conservation License Plate, they are helping to protect healthy streams and lakes as well as conserving wildlife and important habitats for future generations," said Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Christopher Herrick. "Proceeds from the sale of Conservation License Plates fund the Watershed Grants program and help support the Fish and Wildlife Department's Nongame Wildlife Fund."

The Watershed Grants application guide and application forms are available on the web at: tinyurl. com/VT-watershed-apps. Note that the application location has changed from past years.

Information to obtain the Vermont Conservation License Plate is available on the Department of Motor Vehicles website: tinyurl. com/Vt-conserve-plates.



THE OLDER STUDENTS at Ferrisburgh Central School last week auctioned off rain barrels they decorated. Money from the auction will, in part, support a conservation organization.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Mount Abraham Union High School

Joseph Darling

Mt. Abraham Union High School introduces Joseph Darling as our Student of the Week. Joe lives in Bristol with his mom, Cathy, an English teacher and his dad, Tom, a 6th-grade teacher. He has an older brother, Arden, who graduated from Mt. Abe and is currently in Vienna, Austria, pursuing a master's degree in Economics.

Joe enjoys school and has earned high and highest academic honors every semester. He appreciates taking classes that allow him to get outside of his comfort zone as well as meet new people and experience new things. His favorite classes have been Latin with Mr. Eberhardy and Ceramics with Mr. Strobel. He has also been a member of the Band and Jazz Ensemble all four years of high school as the bassoon player. He has been recognized with the Music Leadership Award in 10th and 11th grades and attended the District Music Festival three times and All State Music Festival in 2023, where he served as the second bassoon.

Joe participates in cross country, as well as indoor and spring track and field. In 2022, Joe was the Division II State Long Jump Champion. In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Joe is the vice president of the senior class, a member of the Scholars Bowl and the Mt. Abraham Clay Club.



Joseph Darling

Joe has been a soccer referee for the last four years. He officiates high school games as well as club soccer games around the state. He enjoys running and going on walks on the trails around Bristol. Joe is also a member of the Green Mountain Curling Club, does pottery two days per week and enjoys graphic design and music production

Joe said that being open to new experiences is the most important lesson he has learned in high school. "Being an open person is how you make friends and experience new things," he said. "Now is the time in your life to try as many things as possible to see what sticks and I don't think I should squander that." He plans to attend college after graduation.

The Mt. Abraham community wishes Joe all the best with his future endeavors.

Otter Valley Union High School

Aiden Decker

Otter Valley Union Middle and High School's Student of the Week is Aiden Decker. Aiden lives in Whiting with his mom, her boyfriend, and his twin brother and sister, along with their dog Millie.

Aiden's favorite part about school is being around all of his friends. He is a people person so being around everyone is what he enjoys and Aiden is making sure to get as much time as he can with everyone during his last year at OV. His favorite class is Pre-Calc. Math is his favorite subject and he enjoys the way Mr. Peduto teaches in addition to the class environment as a whole. His favorite teacher is Mrs. Kretzer as he spends a lot of time in her classroom. She has helped Aiden with schoolwork and college applications. Aiden is consistently on the honor roll, has been the team captain in soccer and basketball, earned the

OVUHS respect award, and many other academic and athletic awards. Aiden is involved in varsity soccer and basketball. He also plays AAU basketball with Valley Elite.

Aiden has worked at Naylor & Breen Builders and Winning Image Graphix. Both helped him develop new skills and presented him with opportunities and experiences that he is grateful for.

In his spare time, Aiden hangs out with friends and family or plays

The most important lesson that changed the way that Aiden looks at things is his realization that time is always ticking away. You have to live in the moment and make the best of everything, he says. The advice that Aiden would give to the underclassmen is to make the most of the time you are given. That means doing your best in class, at practice, even at home. Cherish the time that you have and make the most of every moment. Make as many memories as you can and don't hold back. Always strive for, and to be, better.

After his senior year Aiden plans on going to college, although he is as yet undecided where. As a first-generation college student he is really taking his time to make sure to find the right fit.



Best of luck to all Addison County students! If you are interested in advertising in Student of the Week contact advertising@addisonindependent.com

Students of the Week from all area high schools are entered into a raffle

to win a \$100 gift card to The Vermont Book Shop. The winner will be chosen at the end of the school year.

Students of the Week are chosen by school teachers and administration

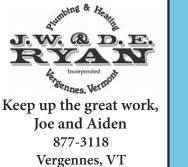
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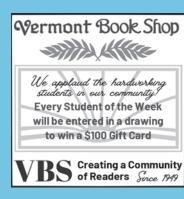
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Aiden Decker

OVUHS



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Spotlight on Vergennes

Vergennes Lions wrap up successful 2023

VERGENNES — 2023 was a very successful year for the Vergennes Lions Club. It started out, under the leadership of President Debbie Brace, with a scholarship fund drive and a car raffle with both exceeding their goals. Memorial Day, which is organized and run by the American Legion, was also a success with the Leo Club helping with popcorn sales.

In addition to the many fundraisers the club has, its many projects include building ramps on people's homes, eye testing school children throughout the Addison Northwest District Schools, helping pay for eye exams and glasses for those in need, helping with hearing receiving the awards was former aids for needy folks, donating to Bixby Library, Boys and Girls Club, John Graham Shelter, Special Olympics, Addison County Elderly Services, Addison County Counseling Service, Wayland's Wish at Addison County Home Health and Hospice, emergency fuel needs by those in need, Rescue Squad, scholarships for four VUHS seniors going on to college, etc.

One of the highlights in the spring were four very deserving civic leaders being presented with Melvin Jones Awards, named after the 1917 founding leader of Lions Clubs International. One of those

FORMER VERGENNES POLICE George Merkel, 2nd from right, and Liz Ryan, 3rd from left, were two of

the four people to receive a Melvin Jones Award by the Vergennes Lions earlier this year. With them from

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left to right are Larry Simino, Tim Ryan, Patty Merkel, and Debbie Brace.

police chief George Merkel for his tireless efforts to strengthen the police service in Vergennes and area. Much credit went to the chief for bringing a department known for chewing up chiefs up to a very professional organization. He was also recognized for working with school students, Addison County Diversion Program, and others.

The second recipient was Liz Ryan for her work with Sweet Charity, getting folks to donate items and then working to help women in our communities. The third recipient was Gerrianne Smart for her many years of work to help

Photo by Paul Bessette

restore and reactivate the Vergennes Opera House. The fourth recipient was Tim Cowan, a 15-year Lion who has served as president and has led club efforts to serve Vergennes.

As the new Lions' year started, President Macky Gaines took over leadership with a plea to the membership to try to get new members. For 69 years, Lions have served the greater Vergennes area, and more members are needed to carry on the many projects.

One of the projects that has expanded over the years is the support of the Vergennes Community Food Shelf. At this point, most churches and organizations in our community help in this effort. There have been food collection days in the spring as well as near Thanksgiving with the Rotary Club helping.

For the first time, the club did an online auction, which proved to be very popular and successful. It has planned to continue this in the future. The recent "Cash for Christmas" raffle was very successful with the winner, Adam Paquin, taking home over \$3,000, with the club also earning \$3,000.

The final project of the year was the Toys for Kids (Christmas) which took place this past weekend at the Addison County Home Health and Hospice facility on Meigs Road in Vergennes. Four hundred and sixty children received at least two toys, as well as mittens, hats and scarves. Sincere thanks go to the hundreds of people who donated so much. In addition to thanking ACHHH staff members Maureen, Jamison and Emma, chairperson Sue Haves expressed her thanks to WOW Toys, Vermont Teddy Bear, Green Mountain Foster Bikes, Vergennes Police Department (donated bike helmets), Rack 'n Reel and the Vergennes Rotary Club for their donations of toys. Lion Sue also recognized and thanked Kinney Drugs, Shear Cuts and Zen Dream Space, Jackman Fuels, Gaines Insurance, Ferrisburgh Bakeshop and Deli, Tractor Supply, Dollar General and One Credit Union for having collection barrels out for collecting the toys, as well as the American Legion Auxiliary and Addison County Eagles Auxiliary for donating toys and money.

In addition, with the assistance of the Vergennes Rotary and the Shelter. kindness of the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad, 30 children stopped by on Sunday to pick out gifts for their parents or caregivers, and to wrap them. Parents who have received these gifts in the past say that their kids want them to open these presents first on Christmas morning.

So, thanks to all who helped make 2023 a very successful year, and we look forward to your help in 2024. You certainly make the Vergennes area a special place to live. Thank you!

Grants may impact cityscape

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The Vergennes City Council last week approved a grant application to fund a project that could change the appearance of the city's central green.

At City Manager Ron Redmond's suggestion, councilors supported a proposal for city officials to seek a \$196,000 Downtown Transportation Fund grant from the Vermont Agency of Transportation. The application for this grant is due Feb. 19.

The grant would fund a series of improvements in and around the green, including upgrades to landscaping, sidewalks, and electrical and lighting fixtures, plus new signs and downtown lampposts.

Redmond told the council he and other city employees had encouraging discussions with VTrans officials about the Downtown Transportation grant. It would require a 20% city match of \$49,000, he said, which could come from the city's Water Tower Fund.

He said it wasn't often one could find sources of government grant funding with that low a required local match.

"It's always nice to find 80% money," Redmond told the council.

Redmond began looking into the grant when an original funding source became unrealistic. It was to be paid for by the state Sales Tax Reallocation Program for which Vergennes Grand Senior Living owners Dan and Rebecca Hassan had applied in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic threw a wrench into their plans.

Essentially, four years ago, state officials agreed to allow sales tax receipts on construction materials used for the Hassans' senior living project on the city green, then budgeted at around half its eventual price tag of about \$25 million, to pay for \$181,000 in site improvements for the North Street property and the adjacent green. The original split for that funding was \$46,800 for a permeable project driveway and \$134,180 for city green upgrades.

Fast-forward to the present, with work just underway after a long struggle: The driveway will cost

about \$124,000, Redmond said, leaving around \$57,000 for the city. And the Hassans had worked hard to obtain project financing.

Redmond said Vergennes officials thus decided to waive the city's right to a share of the sales tax allocation. A note here: The Independent was unaware of this arrangement before recent reporting and incorrectly stated in recent articles the city would still reap this benefit; the reporter apologizes for the misleading information.

Redmond said at the Dec. 12 meeting that city officials decided it'd be more important to support a project that would, when completed, pay substantial property taxes, as well as supply homes for about 80 seniors and more jobs for the community.

"It was a good decision," he said. But that choice still left the question of how to fund the work on and around to upgrade the green, he told the council.

Redmond said the answer was the Downtown Transportation Fund application.

The proposed work includes:

- \$20,000 in landscaping that would remove bushes from around the Macdonough monument in the center of the green to allow easier access to the monument and create more room for city bandstand audiences. Redmond said this is a proposal on which public feedback would be welcome.
- \$50,000 in upgrades to the sidewalks around the green.
- \$80,000 in upgrades to the electrical service and lighting on the green. Redmond said this would especially benefit the city's farmers market and annual Vergennes Day.
- \$70,000 to replace lampposts. Redmond said new lampposts would be sturdier and cast more light, and that feedback from residents and business owners on their design would be welcome.
- \$25,000 for new wayfinding

He expects to have a compelling application prepared by Feb. 19.

'We've been talking with vendors and getting quotes so we can show we're shovel ready," he

Vergennes Police Log

Vergennes police said the • Took a call from a concerned Middlebury Police Department's toy drive created a surplus, and that agency handed the toys to the city department to distribute.

Between Dec. 18 and 24, Vergennes police also rolled out for eight motorized patrols, two property watches and 14 traffic stops; fingerprinted nine job applicants; conducted two VIN inspections; and:

On Dec. 20:

• Began looking into the theft of 11 items from Kinney Drug

VERGENNES — Thanks to the Store by an unidentified woman. generosity of another agency and Police have picked up a packet its community, Vergennes police of information from the business, on Dec. 20 and 21 delivered toys no doubt including store video as to children at the John Graham well as a list of stolen goods, to help with their investigation.

> citizen that a child was apparently trying to run away from an adult as they walked on Green Street. Police determined it was a grandparent and grandchild, and there was no problem.

· Responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident on Green Street and found the parties had already exchanged information and left the scene.

On Dec. 21:

• Were told that someone had littered on a Hopkins Road property.

• Took a report that a former Vergennes Union High School student had made a threatening call to a current student.

On Dec. 22 directed traffic around a disabled vehicle on West Main Street.

On Dec. 23 were told a Valley Vista client had refused entry into the rehab facility. Police took no action because they learned the girl's parents would pick her up.

On Dec. 24 heard from a South Water Street resident that water was flowing out of a neighbor's basement. Police notified the owner, who found someone to go in and shut off the water.

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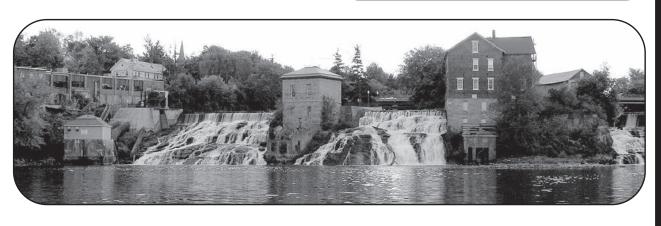
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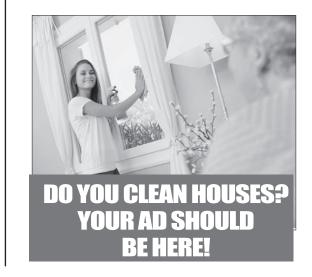
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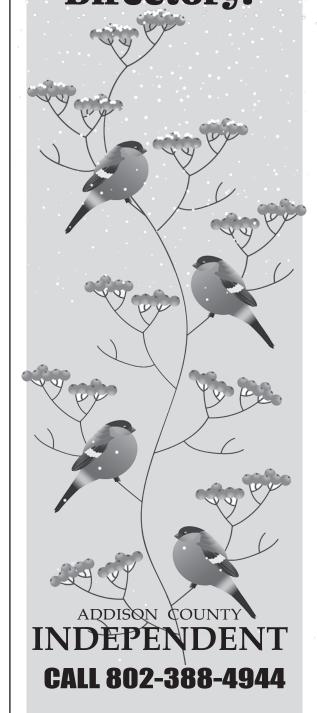
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Help Wanted

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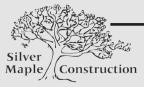
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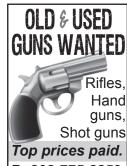
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Vt. state climatologist brings a diverse background to job

By EMMA COTTON,

VTDigger.org BURLINGTON — In the days and months after the July floods that devastated much of Vermont, Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux's

inbox filled with requests. During that July storm, the skies opened, drowning some parts of Vermont with up to 9 inches of rain in 48 hours. Afterward, government officials and members of the media turned to Dupigny-Giroux, Vermont's state climatologist, to understand the storm's link to a globally changing climate.

In an interview with radio and TV nonprofit called Vermont Public, she described plumes of water vapor that had risen from the Atlantic Ocean and headed west to the Green Mountains — a product of warm air temperatures. To a VTDigger reporter, she explained the role that Vermont's mountains can play by cooling humid air to create clouds. With the Washington Post, she spoke about the odds that so many inches of rain would fall on Vermont.

In recent years, Vermonters have struggled to adapt to a climate that appears to be changing swiftly. In addition to the July storm, swings between wet weather and drought conditions have presented farmers and loggers with steep challenges. Vermonters have faced more frequent heat waves — a phenomenon that is particularly dangerous to people living outside. And haze from wildfire smoke has brought poor air quality to Vermont.

According to the most recent Vermont Climate Assessment, a report that Dupigny-Giroux co-authored, Vermont's climate is expected to become wetter and warmer, particularly this time of year. Winter temperatures have warmed 2.5 times more quickly than the average annual temperature since 1960, the Dupigny-Giroux has served as

Vermont's state climatologist for almost half that period — 27 years — all the while holding a reputation among those in her field as an uncommonly decorated scientist. During those years, the increasing urgency of climate change has cast a brighter light on Dupigny-Giroux's role. As a result, more people in Vermont are using her work to guide their own.

"Times have just changed," she told VTDigger. "I guess, the more that your capacity and expertise is visible, the more folks remember to pull you in."

A CLIMATOLOGIST

Dupigny-Giroux's (44-page-long) resume shows her path to professorship at UVM. Born in Trinidad, her education began on the small Caribbean island, which she has said helped her foster an appreciation for geography and its relationship with history.

She went on to study physical

geography at the University of Toronto, where she published her undergraduate thesis on the textural variability of the soil of a forest.

Then, she went on to pursue her master's degree and doctorate at McGill University. For the former, she studied climatology and hydrology, and researched the patterns of rainfall and runoff in the drainage basins of Trinidad. For the latter, she earned her doctorate in philosophy, focusing on climatology and Geographic Information Systems.

She began lecturing at McGill in 1994 and has been teaching ever since, becoming a full professor in the University of Vermont's Department of Geography and Geosciences in 2014.

Before she was appointed in 2020 to the Vermont Climate Council, a body charged with recommending ways to reduce Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions, government officials tapped her as an outside reviewer to be a final set of eyes on a project.

"I wouldn't necessarily be part of the conversation of having it built from the get-go," Dupigny-Giroux said. "Now, I'm in on the ground level with a lot of the conversations."

As state lawmakers met in October to prepare for the upcoming session, which is likely to be dominated by conversations about flooding, she was there to help them put the event into context. She presented charts with colorful bubbles depicting the various risks that climate change is most likely to pose to the state: heavy precipitation, wet snowstorms, extreme heat, drought.

"This is about lessons learned, right?" she said to members of the Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs Committee, responding to their comments about her introductory slide, which featured a large pencil. "We're going to take you back to school here."

She's well positioned to be that guide. Dupigny-Giroux's research focuses on climate variability, historical climatology, climate literacy, severe weather and systems that help people monitor climate, such as remote sensing and satellite imaging. Along with her position as a professor of climatology at the University of Vermont, she has collected a long list of accolades.

Among them: she has co-authored each of the five National Climate Assessments as well as the 2021 Vermont Climate Assessment; spoken at the United Nations' COP26 meeting in Glasgow, Scotland; traveled to the White House to talk about local climate solutions with President Joe Biden and served as the president of the American (See Climate, Page 11B)

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Addison County Parent/Child Center

We are seeking a van driver who will transport children, youth, and parents to our center from around Addison County.

VAN DRIVER JOB OPENING

Addison County Parent/Child Center

Strong candidates must have a clean driving record and experience with children and families.

Great working environment and benefits. This is a 20-hour position with hours split between mornings and afternoons.

Please contact Donna Bailey at dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org



Addison County Parent/Child Center

Join the Parent/Child Center Team CHILDCARE WORKER/PARENT EDUCATOR

Childcare Staff Position: We are seeking a childcare worker who will work with children and parents in our therapeutic program. This is a full-time position with generous benefits. We are a therapeutic childcare program that supports children birth through 5 and their

Strong candidates must have knowledge of child development, family systems, excellent communication skills, and want to work with young families. Flexibility and collaboration are a must. Experience with children and families wanted: a minimum of a Bachelor's degree preferred.

Please send a resume and cover letter, along with 3 references to Donna Bailey at dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org

Climate

(Continued from Page 10B) Association of State Climatologists from 2020 until 2022.

Julie Moore, Natural Resources Secretary, pointed to her analysis for Vermont Emergency Management that proved critical as the state made its case to the Federal Emergency Management Agency that Vermont should be awarded aid for flooding events that caused damage beyond a discrete point in time on July 10.

"She's this wonderful conduit for that information then, connecting the programs at (the agency) and other parts of state government," Moore said.

across Groups Vermont, ranging from regional planning commissions to the Vermont Climate Council, have leaned on her research.

"I don't think people understand that. The data and information that she creates is critical to our work, to our understanding," said Chris Campany, executive director of the Windham Regional Commission and a fellow member of the Vermont Climate Council. "It just establishes important baseline information for anybody who's trying to think about, you know, what does climate change mean for Vermont?"

A DEMANDING JOB

Most state climatologists take on the role in addition to a professorship at the state's flagship university, and it's usually the less demanding of the two roles, Dupigny-Giroux said. For her, the position has grown in scope, particularly after her appointment to the Climate Council in 2020, a notoriously time-consuming position.

She handles the workload of the separate roles by combining them as much as possible — something that also appears to benefit her students and various Vermont officials.

"So what I try to do is to make sure

all of the interactions, all of the stuff that I teach — are actually serving the same thing," she said.

For example, in one of her classes, which concluded at the beginning of 2023, her students worked with federal, state and local government officials to design a hazard mitigation plan for the town of Underhill. Campany, with the Windham Regional Commission, also contributed to the class, offering students a perspective on planning for climate change at the municipal level.

"The important thing to remember here is that service and applied climatology run on relationships," Dupigny-Giroux said at the time.

As the state climatologist, one of her responsibilities is to create those relationships, she said.

"How do I just make sure that resources, understanding, knowledge, research, the most cutting edge whatever, is being shared in all different directions?" she said. "Because that's what our state climatologist is supposed to

Within the Vermont Climate Council, some of that relationship building has required time and care. Conversations among council members, who come from a wide variety of backgrounds, often became tense, particularly as councilors drafted the first Climate Action Plan in 2021. The document served as a blueprint to reduce emissions for state lawmakers and agencies, but councilors disagreed about the recommended actions and even the premise that reducing greenhouse gas emissions should be

the document's primary focus. The council also grappled with racial equity when some councilors said that white members had tokenized and ignored councilors who are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous that all of the pieces — the research, and people of color), even though

people of color are more likely to be exposed to environmental harms. Outside groups also criticized the council for failing to engage people of color in its conversations.

"The fact that all of this started during (COVID) means you have a different experience of working with people and getting to know people than if you had met and just had coffee and pastries, and just sort of chit chatted and hung out for a little bit," she said.

She worked to bring new perspectives into the conversation, drawing from her own experience and from the experiences of people she worked with through her research.

"We don't all have the same privilege," she said. "And we need to respect that and try to move forward with the best science that we can, making sure that everybody can leave a particular meeting feeling appreciated and not dismissed by others who have different types of privilege."

SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

Moore, of the Agency of Natural Resources — the highest-ranking environmental leader in state government — said Dupigny-Giroux would sometimes call her after a meeting with a set of questions that would prompt Moore to think more broadly.

"You get so into the weeds and the specific issue at hand, and she's really good at reminding me and helping me to pull back and not lose sight of the bigger picture," Moore said.

Dupigny-Giroux recognizes that an increasing number of agencies and organizations are turning to focus on environmental justice and marginalized groups, she said.

"We have to remember that peoples are at the front of all of this," she said.

Middlebury man arrested four times

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury had fallen on North Pleasant Street police arrested a local man four times last week for various offenses, including assault.

On Dec. 20, police cited David K. Ricklefs, 53, of Middlebury for disorderly conduct by electronic communication. Police alleged hed posted threats on Instagram targeting a local business on Dec. 20.

Middlebury

Police Log

Then, on Dec. 23, police cited Ricklefs for disorderly conduct, following an incident at Two

Brothers Tavern on Main Street. Also on 23 23 he was cited for simple assault after having allegedly assaulted a woman at the Sweet Cecily store on Main Street.

Finally, on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, Middlebury police cited Ricklefs for disorderly conduct, after investigating an alleged assault at the Otter Creek Bakery around 8:30 a.m.

In addition to making daily checks on the houseless population that has been camping under the Cross Street Bridge, Middlebury police last week:

- Took to Porter Hospital a person who was experiencing a mental health crisis in the Jayne Court area on Dec. 18.
- Cited Megan Smith, 54, of Weybridge for driving with a criminally suspended license in the Park Street area on Dec. 18.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS (MREMS) with a patient who had been experiencing a mental health crisis in the Abbey Pond Road area on Dec. 18.
- Met on Dec. 18 with local parents in need of holiday gifts for their children.
- Assisted an Ossie Road family having a problem with a child on
- Helped an elderly woman who

on Dec. 18.

• Met with a local business owner on Dec. 18 who was concerned for the safety of his employees after a recent interaction with a local man who he believed was having mental health issues.

• Investigated an assault complaint at the intersection of Park and Main

streets on Dec.

 Investigated a two-vehicle crash, m i n o r injuries, at the

intersection of North Pleasant and Main streets on Dec. 18.

- · Enforced the town's winter overnight parking ban downtown on Dec. 19, 21 and 22.
- Assisted MREMS with an intoxicated woman in the Otterside Court area on Dec. 19. · Helped a Washington Street
- business serve a no-trespass order on a man who had been causing a disturbance on Dec. 19. • Investigated a theft complaint at
- a Route 7 South business on Dec. 19.
- · Checked on the welfare of an intoxicated person in the Otterside Court area on Dec. 19.
- Responded to a mental health call at the Abbey Pond trailhead on Dec. 20.
- Responded to a report of a loose cow near Painter Road on Dec. 20.
- Responded to a report of a suspicious man in the Marble Works complex on Maple Street on Dec.
- · Received a report of graffiti in the Bakery Lane area on Dec. 20.
- Investigated a report of possible unsafe firearms practice off Airport Road on Dec. 20.
- Served a no-stalking order on a local resident on Dec. 20.
- · Collected and distributed Christmas gifts in town on Dec. 20.

 Responded to a reported fight between students on a school bus that had been traveling along Route 7 South on Dec. 21. Police separated the students, who were sent home.

- · Assisted Vermont State Police with a traffic stop at the intersection of Monroe Street and Fairview
- Circle on Dec. 21. • Searched in vain for a man seen hitchhiking on Quarry Road on the
- dark, cold night of Dec. 22. · Checked on a woman who had been velling on Main Street on Dec. 22. Police said the woman refused
- · Received a complaint from a Park Street business owner about a man who had been experiencing
- mental health issues on Dec. 22. · Helped two parents involved in a custody dispute in the Court Street
- area on Dec. 22. · Responded to a tractor-trailerversus-car crash on Exchange Street on Dec. 22 at around 6 p.m. The car's driver sustained injuries and
- was taken to Porter Hospital. · Assisted with a child custody exchange at Mary Hogan Elementary School on Dec. 22.
- · Received a complaint about a barking dog in the Happy Valley Road area on Dec. 23.
- · Stood by while a houseless person was admitted to the Charter House emergency shelter on North Pleasant Street on Dec. 23.
- · Helped a person who was experiencing a mental health crisis
- in the Court Square area on Dec. 23. • Returned a found cellphone to its owner on Dec. 23.
- · Investigated a theft complaint in the Exchange Street area on Dec. 24.
- Responded to a complaint about a man allegedly "yelling about Satan" at a Main Street Church on Dec. 24.
- · Were informed of the theft of a large donation box from Hannaford's Supermarket on Dec. 24.

TOWN OF MONKTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Monkton Development Review Board will hold the following hearings on Monday, January 22, 2024, beginning at 7:30 P.M. The hearings will be held in person at the Town Office, located at 92 Monkton Ridge. The hearings will also be available via Zoom and login information is below.

1. Preliminary Plat Application #24-901 of Steven Palmerico for a 1-lot 7-Unit Planned Unit Development (PUD) located at approximately 325 Pond Rd (Parcel ID 05.215.021.000) in the RA-5 Zoning District.

An electronic copy of the applications can be obtained by emailing zoning@ monktonvt.com. A hard copy of the application is available at Town Hall by appointment. Please call 802-453-3800 to make an appointment.

Remote Access: Join Zoom Meeting

https://zoom.us/ * Meeting ID: 802 453 3800 * Passcode: 1762

Phone In: 1-646-558-8656 * Meeting ID: 802 453 3800 * Passcode: 1762

STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL DIVISION

Addison Unit Docket No.: 23-CV-02766 Case Title: Vermont Land Trust et al. v. Kerry Kurt et al. SUMMONS AND ORDER FOR PUBLICATION

THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO Defendant Keenan Kurt a/k/a Sovereign-Naan Keenan-Phillip Of-Allodium 1. YOU ARE BEING SUED. The plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you. A copy of the Plaintiff's Complaint against you is on file and may be obtained

at the office of the Clerk of the Court, County Court House, 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, Vermont. Do not throw this paper away. It is an official paper that affects your rights. 2. PLAINTIFF'S CLAIM. Plaintiff's claim is for violation of a conservation easement and trespass arising out of construction of unauthorized dwellings on

land subject to a conservation easement held by Plaintiffs. 3. YOU MUST REPLY WITHIN 42 DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS. You must give or mail the Plaintiff a written response, called an Answer, within 42 days after the date on which this Summons was first published, which is December 21, 2023. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff's attorney located at: Justin B. Barnard, Esq., Dinse, P.C., PO Box 988, Burlington, VT 05402-0988.

You must also give or mail your Answer to the Court located at: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit - Civil Division, 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, Vermont, 05753.

4. YOU MUST RESPOND TO EACH CLAIM. The Answer is your written response to the Plaintiff's Complaint. In your Answer you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Complaint. If you believe the Plaintiff should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say

so in your Answer. 5. YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IF YOU DO NOT GIVE YOUR WRITTEN ANSWER TO THE COURT. If you do not send the Plaintiff and the Court your Answer within 42 days, you will probably lose this case. You will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the

Plaintiff everything asked for in the Complaint.

6. YOU MUST MAKE ANY CLAIMS AGAINST THE PLAINTIFF IN YOUR REPLY. Your Answer must state any related legal claims you have against the Plaintiff. Your claims against the Plaintiff are called Counterclaims. If you do not make your Counterclaims in writing in your Answer, you may not be able to bring them up at all. Even if you have insurance and the insurance company will defend you, you must still file any Counterclaims you may have.

7. LEGAL ASSISTANCE. You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you cannot afford a lawyer, you should ask the Court Clerk for information about places where you can get free legal help. Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still give the Court a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose

ORDER The verified Complaint or Affidavit filed in this action shows that service cannot be made with due diligence by any of the methods provided in Rule 4(d)-(f), (k), or (I) of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure. Accordingly, it is ORDERED that service of the Summons set forth above shall be made upon the defendant, Keenan Kurt, by publication as provided in Rules 4(d)(1) and 4(g) of those

This Order shall be published once a week for two weeks beginning on December 21, 2023, in the Addison County Independent, a newspaper of general circulation in Addison County, and a copy of this Summons and Order as published shall be mailed to the Defendant, Keenan Kurt, if an address is known.

12/15/2023 David R. Fenster Superior Court Judge

WARNING ANNUAL MEETING, FIRE DISTRICT #1 EAST MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT

The legal voters of Fire District #1 in the Town of Middlebury are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Sarah Partridge Community House, 431 East Main Street, East Middlebury on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 5:00 PM to transact the

FIRST: To hear, discuss and act upon the reports from the Prudential Committee the Treasurer/Collector of Water Rents, and the Auditor.

SECOND: To hear reports from the Fire Department, the Historical Society, the Sarah Partridge Library, and the Town of Middlebury.

THIRD: To elect Officers of the District as follows:

- A Moderator
- A Clerk
- A Treasurer/Collector of Water Rents
- An Auditor A Member of the Prudential Committee to serve for three years

FOURTH: To vote a tax on the taxable property within the District sufficient

to defray maintenance and other expenses of the Sarah Partridge Community House, the Sarah Partridge Library, the Curtiss Recreation Area, and the Harry Goodro Recreation Area. FIFTH: To see if the voters of the Fire District will give the Prudential Committee

authority to borrow money on the credit of the District to make emergency repairs on the water system.

SIXTH: To transact any other business that may properly come before the

Dated at East Middlebury, Vermont December 14, 2023 Jason Larocque, Chairperson

TOWN OF BRISTOL **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Bristol Development Review Board will hold the following hearings on January 9, 2024, beginning at 7:00 P.M. The hearings will be held in person at the Town Office, located at 1 South Street. The hearings will also be available via Zoom and login information is below.

Permit #23-402: Francis & Diane Heffernan at Plank Road (Parcel #060124-1) for a Preliminary Plat approval for a 7-lot subdivision per Bristol Unified Development Regulations Article IX, Section 930.

Permit #23-400: DMV Properties, Inc. located at North 116 Rd (Parcel #030111) is requesting Final Plat Approval for a 5-lot subdivision per Bristol Unified Development Regulations Article IX, Section 930

Copies of the complete zoning applications are available for review at the Bristol Town Office during regular business hours.

TOWN OF SALISBURY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Salisbury Development Review Board (DRB) will hold Public Hearings in the Town Office (25 Schoolhouse Road) at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, o consider the following:

Application 2023-15

An application from Property Owner Moosalamoo Club Inc./Applicant Fran Davis, (Parcel ID #13XQ153), for a Waiver and Site Plan Review, in connection with a proposed permit to raze and reconstruct Cottage C-6, located at 6 Moosalamoo Road, in Lake Shore District 2, (LS2), in which the proposed reconstruction is considered an increase to a non-conforming structure.

This application is pursuant to §2.4.4, §3.7, §3.8, and 4.0.5 of the Salisbury Unified **Development Regulations** Participation (either oral or written) is a prerequisite to an interested person's right

and §4471. These hearings will be conducted with in-person and remote access. Those wishing to participate remotely must obtain the necessary remote access codes. Access codes (for on-line or phone) are available by contacting the Salisbury Town Clerk during regular business hours prior to 3:00 PM on January 16, 2023.

to take any subsequent appeal from the DRB's decision. See 24 V.S.A. §4465(b)

Thursdays from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Application materials are available for inspection in the Town Office during regular business hours.

The Salisbury Town Office is open on Tuesdays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and

Anna Scheck DRB Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF ADDISON

The Addison Planning Commission meeting will be held on Monday, January 15, 2024 at the Town Clerk's Office at 6:30 PM.

1. To approve the meeting minutes for November 20, 2023.

To transact any business found necessary before the board.

To allow time for public comment interaction at the end of the meeting. Continue to work on updating & reviewing the Zoning Regulations & public hearings.

Continue with the Municipal Grant for updating the Town Plan.

We have a rough draft to work from to review the Zoning Regulations. *Plans are to set a possible date for the public hearing in January or February 2024.

Continue to work on Town Plan which is a project in progress.

Adjournment - stating time.

*Deliberative Session if needed - after the meeting. We are planning to have a work meeting after the regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 15, 2024 at Addison Town Clerk's Office at 6:30PM.

Starr Phillips, Secretary

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD

Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 7:10 p.m. Town Office Conference Room 77 Main Street, Middlebury, Vermont 05753 (Videoconference information provided below)

PUBLIC HEARING and INFORMATION MEETING on PRELIMINARY PROPOSED TOWN GENERAL FUND BUDGET (Includes capital project funds) for FY25 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

Your comments, suggestions and input are important and appreciated. If you can't make the meeting on the 9th, we invite you to submit your input via e-mail, kramsay@townofmiddlebury.org, or mail, 77 Main Street, Middlebury, Vermont 05753.

Town's website, www.townofmiddlebury.org, at the Town Manager's office, 77 Main Street, or by calling 802-458-8000.

Copies of the proposed budget may be obtained from the

If you need special accommodation to attend this meeting, please contact the Town Manager's Office as early as possible.

> Please visit the link below to join the webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85048188093

Or Telephone: Dial+1 646 558 8656, Webinar ID: 850 4818 8093



For breaking news and updates wherever you are!

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MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT

Sales for 12/21/23 & 12/26/23 COST BEEF LBS. /LB

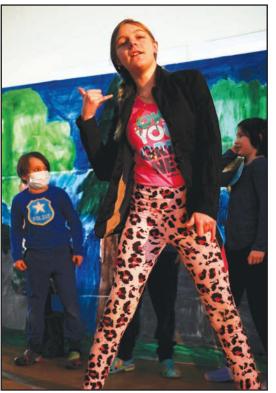
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Total Beef - 144 Total Calves - 247 We value our faithful customers. Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs. call 1-802-388-2661







Little * actors * who * could

STUDENTS AT THE Bridge School,

STUDENTS AT THE Bridge School, an independent elementary school in Middlebury, performed the original play "The Little Mushroom that Could" for parents and friends on Dec. 14. The play, which included a few songs, was written by students and involves the theft of a magical mushroom. Cops and detectives track down the thieves and — spoiler alert! — all ends well. Our photographer gave it two thumbs up!

Pictured at a dress rehearsal, clockwise from above, are girls singing in the chorus, from left, Lou Quakenbush, Lily Mason and Matilda Heitkamp; guards Amelie McCue, left, and Clil Tzuriel; detectives, from left, Theo Halter, Cooper Heitkamp, Ethan Claflin, Viviana Billings, Marianthe Voorhees and Wyatt Ashelin; Viviana Billings doing splits; cops, from left, Wyatt Ashelin, Maxwell Newton, Phoebe Downs, Gus Halter and Newton, Phoebe Downs, Gus Halter and Calvin Quakenbush; Iris Bassett dancing and Clil Tzuriel in the middle.

Independent photos / Steve James











THANKS!

readers · advertisers · community

2023 HAS DELIVERED PLENTY OF CHALLENGES, FROM NATURAL AND HUMANITARIAN DISASTERS, TO LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS AND SOCIAL TRAUMAS NEAR AND FAR. BUT THROUGH IT ALL THE RESILIENCY OF CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITIES HAS SHONE THROUGH AND PROVEN ITS POWER.

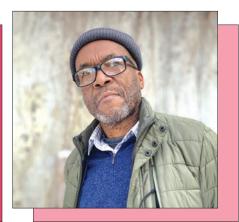
THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT IS PROUD TO SERVE OUR COUNTY WITH TIMELY, DEDICATED NEWS AND MARKETING SUPPORT THAT WE HOPE CONTRIBUTES TO THE STRENGTH OF THIS INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY.

WISHING ALL OUR READERS, ADVERTISERS AND SUPPORTERS A HAPPY AND **HEALTHY NEW YEAR.**

- THE LYNN FAMILY, AND ADDISON INDEPENDENT STAFF



















ARTS+LEISURE

The Addison Independent • December 28, 2023





















123 LOOKING BACK AT A YEAR'S Review WORTH OF ARTS & LEISURE

ight years. It's been eight years of publishing the Arts + Leisure section of the Addison Independent. Again and again, I am beyond impressed by the incredible work and talent we see right here in Addison County, which makes this tabloid section a joy to put together.

> Over the past 12 months, 52 issues and over 800 pages, we featured the work of more than 49 local artists, actors, musicians, filmmakers, adventurers, authors, photographers, craftspeople and more; saw more than 61 exhibits and 33 film events; suggested 283 don't-miss events happening right here in Addison County; learned about Middlebury College's rewilding efforts from our own Master Gardener Judith Irven and 28 more from the University of Vermont Extension's Master Gardeners. We spoke with 10 authors about their most recent books; analyzed a poem each month with Susan Jefts; and featured family-friendly events with a monthly MiniBury page. Oh, and we followed the hot real estate market with a look at 34 properties listed this year — one of which became my family's new home this summer!

2023 enjoyed mostly in-person events, which



Oliver, Ida, Elsie and Massimo Parini at their new home in Weybridge.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CALEB KENNA

was awesome! Virtual attendance still remains a tool many live concerts employ, but gosh, it sure is nice to be back in the live audience. We welcomed more music series events this year, including the newly established Burnham Presents in Lincoln, as well as the reinvention of the Salisbury Summer Music series as the Otter Creek Music Festival. Unfortunately, we also saw several scheduled events cancelled or rescheduled due to the unprecedented rains and flooding.

Regular annual events like the Middlebury

New Filmmakers Festival, Foodaroo, spring and fall open studio weekends, and the Opera Company of Middlebury's performances were punctuated by the 15th anniversary of the Town Hall Theater, 60th anniversary of Point Counterpoint, and a good handful of provoking plays by Middlebury College Theater as well as Middlebury Acting Company's Staged Reading Series.

Phew, and that's just to name a few. Isn't it amazing how much our little corner of Vermont creates? Flip through this section and take a look back at 24 features from 2023.

What's coming next in 2024? Well, you keep creating, and we will too! We're excited to continue publishing the Addison Independent's Arts + Leisure section and rely on your support and participation to help make it an engaging, creative and fun companion every Thursday. Your subscriptions and donations make it possible for us to keep up this focused work on our arts community. Thank you!

— Elsie Lynn Parini, Arts + Leisure editor

Want to learn more about how you can donate to the Addy Indy? Visit addisonindependent.com/support



HAPPY NEW

MAY 2024 BE FULL OF PEACE, JOY AND

ARTS+LEISURE

Art Exhibits To Remember

HERE'S A LOOK BACK AT SIX EXHIBITS FROM AROUND ADDISON COUNTY FROM 2023. CHEERS TO A GREAT SEVEN YEARS, NODA, WE'LL MISS YOU!



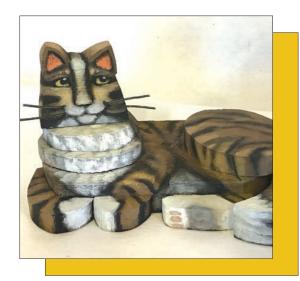
Edgewater Gallery

"Inner Landscapes," a new collection of paintings based on an exploration of botanical forms by Sara Katz was on view in January at Edgewater Gallery at the Falls, 1 Mill St., Middlebury. In this series the forms dance with bold colors and dynamic compositions filled with movement and energy.



Sparrow Art Supply

MACRO | micro, an artful interplay of dimension, detail, proportion, perspective, and point of view, was one of Sparrow Art Supply's many exhibits this year. This early-fall show featured both monumental masterpieces and intricate miniatures. "MACRO | micro" features work by over 40 local artists, spanning all mediums, including painting, photography, fibers, collage, and more.



Art on Main

Bristol's downtown gallery Art on Main opened a new exhibit in April. "3D On and Off the wall" features diverse works by member artists Gail Martin, John Arthur, Scott Crocker and Robin Kent, exploring scale and the third dimension in metal, wood and collage. Each of the four member-artists explore the third dimension in a unique way.



Jackson Gallery

"Extraordinary Ordinary" landscapes and portraits by Molly Hawley were exhibited at the Jackson Gallery in the lower level of Middlebury's Town Hall Theater in late fall. With an extraordinary sensitivity to light, color and texture, her landscapes invite the viewer to see beyond the edges of the composition.



Sheldon Museum

This summer, the Henry Sheldon Museum presented a series of lunchtime gallery talks, held every other Wednesday, that highlighted its current exhibition, "Artists in the Archives: Unseen Neighbors." Each presentation focused on a particular artist's collage that explores themes with which members of our community have grappled historically, including race, difference, sexuality and gender.

"THE LAST SEVEN
YEARS HAVE BEEN A
TRUE GIFT, IT HAS BEEN
A JOY TO REPRESENT
AN OUTSTANDING
GROUP OF ARTISTS."

 Co-Founders Justine Jackson and Sophie Pickens.

Northern Daughters

"Last Call" at Northern Daughters Fine Art Gallery in Vergennes broke all of our hearts, as we will have to come to terms with the Main Street gallery closing its doors after seven years. The final exhibit features the work of Anne Cady, Bonnie Baird, Maria Flores Galindo, Chelsea Granger, Julia Jensen, Rose Umerlik, Hannah Sessions, Pamela Smith, Carla Weeks, and Hannah Secord Wade.



Alyx brings magic

"Alyx Magic" presented a matinee performance at Vergennes Opera House on Jan. 28. The show was geared specifically for families with children. "Performing for adults is fun, but watching children smile, laugh and experience wonder feels like really important work," she said. "I love nothing more."



Skiers challenged

The Camel's Hump Challenge celebrated its 36th year. The event is a rigorous ski touring experience where backcountry skiers traverse the perimeter of Camel's Hump. Each year this community event raises funds and awareness for Alzheimer's Disease and related dementia. The goal this year was \$81,000.



Theater 1-2-3

Bristol Gateway Players resurrected Theater 1-2-3 this February with oneact plays, open to all. "If you show up you get a part," leader Carl Engvall said. "I want to make it easy for people interested in theater." The group presented "Roll Over, Beethoven" by David Ives, and "Medea" by Christopher Durang at the end of the month.



Haymaker honor

The James Beard Foundation announced at the end of January its 2023 Restaurant and Chef Awards Semifinalists. And guess who made the list? Haymaker Bun Company here in Middlebury. Congratulations to Caroline Corrente, chef-owner! Though Haymaker didn't make it to the awards ceremony in Chicago, this is quite an accomplishment!



Orwell Buglers

Joe Andriano and Andy Buxton are the Orwell Buglers and chatted about their adventures in podcasting Orwellian news. The podcast launched its first episode in the spring of 2022 and released its 14th show in March. "We saw a need to share some Orwellian news," the duo explained.



FROBERTAN

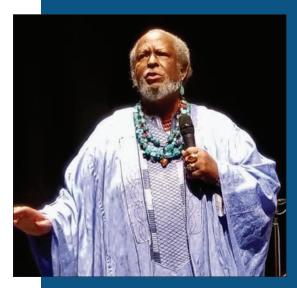
Brandon artist Fran Bull shared her life's journey. In the 1980s she was represented by a New York gallery, but found she needed to "tell other stories through art." So she moved to Brandon and met her partner Robert Black.

Together, FROBERTAN brought the art installation "We're all at a party called life on Earth" to the Jackson Gallery.



New Salisbury music

Joshua Glassman took the reins from Glenn Andres and transformed the Salisbury Summer Series into a music festival model. Glassman hosted free music by Point CounterPoint Camp at the church from June through August. New this year, was the inaugural Otter Creek Music Festival, held July 24-30 and Aug. 2-6.



'400 Years'

Francois Clemmons performed "400 Years," a concert of the American Negro Spiritual, the historic musical form that is the core of his life and legacy in music. The concert was hosted by the CVUUS in Middlebury. This was perhaps a "Farewell Concert," as Clemmons finds concert performance challenging at this stage.



Hooks in history

Rokeby Museum opened a special exhibit featuring 15 hooked rugs reproduced from the "I Am a Black Woman" series by Elizabeth Catlett. Guest curator and third-generation rug-hooker Maddy Fraioli suggested Rokeby Museum showcase this exhibit "Lift Every Voice."



Beethoven's 'Fidelio'

David Weinstock previewed several performances for the Addison Independent this year, including the Opera Company of Middlebury's production of "Fidelio" — Beethoven's only opera. "Not only is the music as powerful as you'd expect, but the 19th century politics are also hauntingly current to us today," Weinstock said.



Author makes way

Angela Burke Kunkel published her third children's book, "Make Way," this summer. She works as the Vergennes Union High School librarian when not writing. She described "Make Way" as a "dual picture book and biography; detailing the creative journeys of Robert McCloskey and Nancy Schön." Her fourth book may be coming soon.



Local DJ turns it up

Serena Kim, co-owner of the Swift House Inn and Jessica's, is also a DJ. She's been at it since she was a kid and picked it back up last fall with a '90s night at 51 Main (now Crooked Ladle) in Middlebury. Kim was responsible this year for kicking off the live music at the eighth annual Foodaroo festival in Middlebury's Marble Works.



Back into photos

Eric Killorin picked up a camera for the first time in decades this past March, and started photographing Addison County (and beyond). "I like to take industrial, scientific and abstract images. My preferred medium is black and white, high contrast images," he said. And he's not afraid to avail himself of the myriad tools AI offers these days.



A trio of masters

Mary Lynn O'Shea, Judith Rey and Rena Diana held an open house at O'Shea's home-studio in Weybridge this summer. Visitors came to see the newly renovated space and peruse artwork from all three artists. Each artist shared their story and why art is important to them: "It's a suggestion"... "It takes me to another place"... "Most of all the sheer volume of color."



Landscape creeping

Wyatt Robinson painted the Middlebury College Recycling Center Silo. The mural has a "rough" top edge which allows his intricate design of Vermont flora and fauna to reach higher in some places. Middlebury French Language School alumna and project donor Cookie Tager, 80, spurred this project.



Music in Lincoln

Rain, floods and humidity made the summer music scene just a little bit damp this year. The Ripton Community Coffee House came back in its original location on the third Saturday of the month, after being displaced to the Burnham Hall during the pandemic. But Beth Duquette left her post co-directing RCHH after over 20 years, to team up with her husband Mark Mulqueen and launch Burnham Presents, a new music series in Lincoln.



Yoga for Every Body

"Yoga For Every Body" is a slogan that the Otter Creek Yoga Studio started using in the early summer. "You know there is a great big population of humans who can all benefit from postures and breathing practices," said Joanna Colwell. "How do we make this space more welcoming and more reflective of the community."



60 years at PCP

Point CounterPoint, on the shores of Lake Dunmore, celebrated six decades of nurturing young musical talents with an anniversary celebration at the end of September. Alumni weekend welcomed back former campers and faculty, which culminated in a concert at the Salisbury Congregational Church.



Maiden Vt returns

Almost four years have gone by since Maiden Vermont, central Vermont's women's a cappella chorus that specializes in barbershop style harmonies, has appeared on stage. But the chorus returned to the Middlebury Town Hall Theater for performances in early October.



Second Sight

The world premiere of Ryan Mangan's "Second Sight" took the stage at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater just before Halloween. A cast of 13 Middlebury Community Players, under the direction of Kim Moyer, recreated the thrill and mystery of restless spirits first invoked by the Eddy Brothers.



Duo exhibits together

Don Ross and Caleb Kenna exhibited their work at Kenna's studio in Brandon beginning just after Thanksgiving. These two local photographers have shared the last decade exploring their mutual interest in photography, travel, food and ideas, and came together for an impressive, large-format show.



'Polaroid Stories'

Naomi lizuka's play "Polaroid Stores" was presented by the Middlebury College Department of Theater, directed by Alex Draper. Described as "a visceral blend of classical mythology and real life stories told by street kids," "Polaroid Stories" features 10 actors playing characters ranging from Echo, Eurydice, Orpheus and Narcissus to Skinhead Girl, Kaos, Melody and Disappear. "Like their mythic counterparts, these modernday mortals are engulfed by needs that burn and consume."



Memories feed art

Anna Fugaro shared some of her life's story as an artist in advance of her most current mixed media art exhibiting at the Ilsley Public Library in Middlebury. "I am living through old emotions that start to bleed again — to become flesh again," Fugaro explained. "I dig out all these feelings and then create my art."



'Learning Together'

Middlebury Studio School held an exhibit at the Jackson Gallery in Middlebury that highlighted the school's mission to "promote the creative process and community through art and craft education for people of all ages and abilities." "Learning Together" showcased more than 40 works in all sorts of mediums.





HOMEWARD BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society



Bella is a super sweet 3-year-old who recently raised a litter of six boys! She was a very patient and attentive ner new home where she can be pampered. Bella loves attention and affection. He would do best in a home



Patty

with other cats in the past and doesn't seem

to like dogs. She would probably do okay with



Cassie is a 20-pound Jack Russell and we think she would do best in a very quiet home with one person. She is scared of strangers when first being introduced, but warms up quickly especially if high-value treats are nvolved. Cassie is housebroken and crate trained. She should live in a child-free home. She does not get along with other dogs.



other pigs in the previous home and would make an amazing companion for another pig looking for a friend, or would do great as a solo pig with the proper attention and interaction from her humans.

Little Silverstein

Little Silverstein is a 5-month-old male Teddy Bear mix Guinea pig, who is a bundle of fun and bound energy! He lived with other pigs n his previous home, and despite s size as a smaller pig, he likes vould do best as either a solo pig, or as a buddy for another pig, but it is

recommended that they initially be housed separately. Silverstein would do best in a home without small children as abrasive handling and loud noises frighten him. Though initially shy around new faces and situations, when Silverstein warms up he reveals his funny, charismatic, adventurous, and endearing personality. He is full of wiggles and whiskers as he embraces life with curiosity and discovery.

Want to learn more?

Call or check our website. We may have a pet for you! 802-388-1100 | HomewardBoundAnimals.org 236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT

sponsored by SPARROW ART SUPPLY

hased hancial ntrolled iese, has significant l, the most ssuming a ip. appointonexecutive to Martin TRAL
Share p
1400
1380
1360
1340

ACROSS

- 1. A way to injure
- **5.** Mutual savings bank
- 8. Rock TV channel
- **11.** Large number of fish swimming together
- **13.** Military mailbox
- 14. Female of a horse
- **15.** Category
- **16.** City
- **17.** Breezed through
- **18.** Officer who bears a mace
- 20. Tax collector
- **21.** "Cheers" actress Perlman
- **22.** Pauses before acting
- **25.** Extracted information from a wave

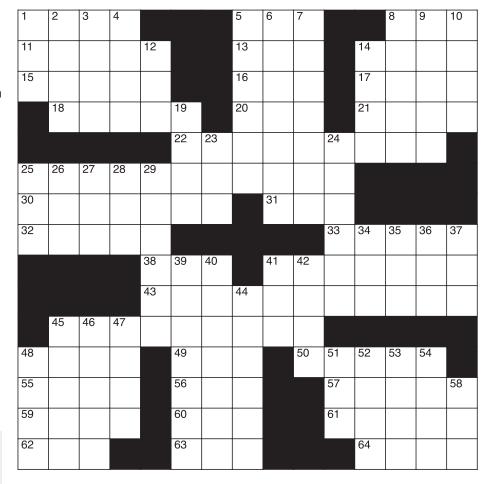
- **30.** Tendency to revert to something ancestral
- **31.** No seats available
- **32.** Nocturnal rodents
- **33.** Moves gently to and fro
- 38. Not good
- 41. A way to ready
- **43.** One who makes something better
- **45.** Things associated with American history
- **48.** Ancient Phoenician fertility god
- **49.** A continuous portion of a circle
- 50. Volcanic craters
- **55.** Units of electrical resistance
- **56.** Gamble on
- **57.** Ethiopian town
- **59.** One point east of

northeast

- **60.** Polynesian garland of flowers
- **61.** Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- **62.** State of fuss
- 63. Keyboard key
- **64.** Partner to relaxation

DOWN

- **1.** "The world's most famous arena"
- **2.** Polite interruption sound
- **3.** Private school in New York
- 4. Refuse of grapes
- **5.** __ Tomei, actress
- **6.** Adult beverages
- **7.** Supporter
- **8.** Papier-__, art material



2 7 8 5 8 6 4 6 3 1 7 5 4 8 1 3 9 6 4 9 7 8 3

Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

- **9.** Forests have them
- **10.** Most ancient Hindu scriptures
- **12.** Downwind
- 14. Marketplace
- **19.** Flowering plant genus
- **23.** Street where nightmares happen
- **24.** Admirer
- **25.** Dip lightly into water
- **26.** When you hope to get there
- **27.** Partner to cheese
- **28.** Egg

- **29.** A way to disqualify
- **34.** South American plant
- 35. Fold-away bed
- **36.** Debbie Harry album "__ Koo"
- **37.** Swedish krona
- **39.** Displaying warmth and friendliness
- 40. Official orders
- **41.** Bowling alley necessity
- **42.** Stray
- **44.** About milk

- **45.** Expressed pleasure
- 46. Caribbean dance
- **47.** If not
- **48.** __ fide (Latin)
- **51.** Swiss river
- **52.** Hebrew calendar month
- **53.** One easily swindled
- **54.** Point that is one point south of southwest
- **58.** Small island (British)

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 14.



52 Main St Middlebury, VT 05753 (802) 989-7225

Tuesday-Saturday 10:30 AM - 5:30 PM Sundays in December! 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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Happy Holidays!

We hope you're having a magical December!

Thank you for shopping with us this holiday season.

We wish you a happy and healthy new year!

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE THROUGH NEW YEAR'S EVE:

Tuesday-Saturday, 10:30-5:30, Sunday 11-3 Closed January 1-4 for our annual inventory assessment!





CONANT SQUARE GALLERY

4 Conant Square in Brandon For more info call 802-558-0874.

"Seldom Seen," a new exhibit featuring local and statewide artists Fran Bull, Carolyn Shattuck, Tom Merwin, Sandy Mayo, Joan Curtis, Bob Hooker and Dorothea Langevin. This exhibit is a holiday cornucopia of unique art, books and accessories. On view through Jan. 5, 2024, with an Artist Talk on Saturday, Jan. 6, at 4:30 p.m.

EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street. Middlebury

Visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com for more info.

"Home for the Holidays." A group exhibition of small works by Vermont artists including Victoria Blewer/ Joe Bolger/Jane Davies/William Hays/Woody Jackson/Sara Katz and guest artist Carrie Ade. On view Dec. 7 - Jan. 9, 2024.

EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

Visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-989-7419 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com for more info.

"Reflections" will feature the work of the 23 artists selected from a group of emerging artists throughout the U.S. who submitted entries in both 2-D and 3-D. This is an exciting opportunity for Edgewater's audience to be introduced to the perspectives of a new generation of artists. The show will feature each artist's interpretation of the theme in paint, photography, clay, wood and mixed media. Jurors: John and Gillain Ross. On view Dec. 1-31

NORTHERN DAUGHTERS GALLERY

221 Main Street, Vergennes

Visit northerndaughters.com or call 802-877-2173

"Last Call." This is the final exhibition at Northern Daughters, and will feature the work of Anne Cady, Bonnie Baird, Maria Flores Galindo, Chelsea Granger, Julia Jensen, Rose Umerlik, Hannah Sessions, Pamela Smith, Carla Weeks, and Hannah Secord Wade. On view Nov. 4-Dec. 31. The gallery will close at the end of December 2023.

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit photoplacegallery.com.

"TBD," is a juried photo exhibit that DESCRIPTION. Juror NAME selected approximately 35 images for exhibition in the Middlebury gallery, and 40 more for the online gallery. On view **DATES**.

SHELDON MUSEUM

1 Park Street, Middlebury

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 16



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Friday and Saturday

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ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, someone you care about or admire could come under scrutiny this week. Whether it is deserved or not, this

person will be in the hot seat and can use your support.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, you could project an intensity this week that has other people running for cover. Consider adding a little sugar to your presentation. You'll still get your point across.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Gemini, make an effort to gain greater control over your finances. Develop a budget and stick to it. Soon you'll enjoy a new level of financial freedom.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Cancer, see what is going on with friends this week, as you are likely in the mood to have some fun. You'll never know what's on the agenda unless you

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, you may run into a little interference with a project due to someone's ego getting in the way. This person seemingly is not a team player and it could affect your plans.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Visualizing what you want is not a waste of time, Virgo. In fact, it can help you map out a plan of attack to accomplish your goals. Start making a to-do list.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, a personal relationship that was derailed will get back on track this week. After some conflicts, it finally

> seems like you're both on the same page once more.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, do not let it get you down if you're paired with someone on a project who is not your first choice. Focus on the task at hand and you

may find you work well together.





SAGITTARIUS: Nov.

23/Dec. 21. Sagittarius, even if your life seems to be a mystery right now, you do not have to figure out all the answers right away. Take time to mull things over.

CAPRICORN: Dec.

22/Jan. 20. Try to put yourself in someone else's shoes this week, Capricorn. When you're so focused on your life you may miss how it affects others around

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/ Feb. 18. Aquarius, start coming up with some new ideas to keep your brain busy. You might need to delve into a different career or a new hobby to challenge yourself.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March

20. Pisces, after some initial upheaval this week, your life starts to calm down a little. There may be one lingering issue that needs to get worked out, but you'll handle it.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

DEC. 29 — Paula Poundstone, comedian (64)

DEC. 30 — LeBron James, basketball player (39)

DEC. 31 — Jacques Cartier, explorer (d)

JAN. 1 — Satyendra Nath Bose,

mathematician, physicist (d)

JAN. 2 — Abbie Eaton, racecar driver (31)

JAN. 3 — Anna May Wong, actor (d) JAN. 4 — Michael Stipe, singer (63)

DEC. 28-JAN. 13 2023-2024 2023-2024



SUNDAY, DEC. 31

STEVE SAWYER TRIO IN

MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Dec. 31, 2 p.m., The Residence at Otter Creek, 350 Lodge Rd. Free and open to the public.

BEST NIGHT IN BRISTOL. Sunday, Dec. 31, 3:30-11 p.m., downtown Bristol. Come to Bristol for an afternoon and evening of ringing in the New Year. As the date draws closer, check out bristolbestnight.org for details.

NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS AND SKATING IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday,

Dec. 31, 6:30 p.m., Middlebury Rec Park. Usher out the new year with fireworks, then head on into Memorial Sports Center and enjoy an hour and a half of free skating.

FROM VENICE TO VERMONT IN BRANDON. Sunday, Dec. 31, 7 p.m.midnight. The Brandon Inn. 20 Park St. Barn Opera's annual New Year's Eve gala returns, More info and tickets at barnopera.com.

NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH MIHALI IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Ring in the New Year at Town Hall Theater with Mihali, Vermont-based solo singer, songwriter, guitarist, artist, and Twiddle co-founder. Join THT on New Year's Eve and bring the whole family. Ring in 2024 early with a countdown somewhere between

9:30 and 10 p.m., and the price of an adult ticket includes a champagne toast. Tickets \$40 adults/\$20 children under 12, available at townhalltheater.org.

MONDAY, JAN. 1

FIRST DAY WALK IN FERRISBURGH.

Monday, Jan. 1, 9 a.m., Button Bay State Park. New Year's Day birding trips are a tradition held by many in the birdwatching community as they begin to fill their annual bird lists. Otter Creek Audubon Society has combined that tradition with the more recent tradition of First Day Hikes held at state parks across the

TUESDAY, JAN. 2

GARY MARGOLIS AND ARIANNA MOULTON IN MIDDLEBURY.

Tuesday, Jan. 2, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Father and daughter duo Gary Margolis and Ariana Moulton will read from their respective collections, "What It Means to Be Happy" and "I've Been Meaning to Tell You," in the research room at Ilsley Public Library. This event is part of the monthly VBS/ Ilsley Library Vermont Authors Series.

SATURDAY, JAN. 6

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB SNOWSHOE IN RIPTON. Saturday,

Jan. 6, Long Trail and Burnt Hill. Strenuous snowshoe from Middlebury Gap to the Burnt Hill trailhead of 6-7 miles with about 1,000 to 1,500 feet elevation gain. Trail breaking and trail finding will be required. Be prepared for a full day in the cold. Contact Ellen Cronan at 908-595-2926 for details. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

TWELFTH DAY WOODWIND QUINTET RECITAL IN MIDDLEBURY.

Saturday, Jan. 6, 4 p.m., Champlain Valley Únitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. The Borderland Woodwind Quintet will present a program to mark the end of the holiday season, with a mix of pieces written for woodwind quintet. A highlight of the program will be selections from Handel's oratorio "The Messiah."

MICHAEL CHORNEY AND FREEWAY CLYDE IN LINCOLN. Saturday, Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. Come hear musician and composer Michael Chorney's latest project, Freeway Clyde, a group of the region's most intuitive players. Admission general to generous \$15/\$20/\$25 or pay what you can. Info and tickets at burnhampresents.org.

SUNDAY, JAN. 7

"A COMPASSIONATE SPY" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Jan. 7, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. A gripping real-life espionage thriller about controversial Manhattan Project physicist Ted Hall, who infamously provided nuclear secrets to the Soviet Union. The story is told through the perspective of his loving wife Joan, who protected

his secret for decades. Tickets \$14 advance/\$16 at the door. Part of the MNFF Selects series. More info at townhalltheater.org or middfilmfest. org/selects.

TUESDAY, JAN. 9

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN

GOSHEN. Tuesday, Jan. 9, Blueberry Hill to Hogback Mountain. Beautiful Views from Hogback Mountain, easy snowshoe with a little elevation gain, 2.5-mile loop. Need microspikes or snowshoes. (Trails are maintained by The Moosalamoo Association, a nonprofit, which suggests a small donation from trail users.) Contact Morris Earle at morrisearle@gmail. com for more information and to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

SATURDAY, JAN. 13

BANJO WITH JIM SHAW IN

MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Jan. 13, 1 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Jim Shaw, retired professor of physics and astronomy, will give a talk about the history, types, playing styles of banjos, along with a demonstration of three different banjos. He will treat us with music and sign along, with some tunes 200 or more years old.

CONTRA DANCE IN CORNWALL.

Saturday, Jan. 13, 7-9:30 p.m., Town Hall, Route 30. Dance away the winter chill at the Cornwall Contra Dance. Lausanne Allen will be calling. Live music Red Dog Riley. Tickers \$5 to \$10 or pay what you can.

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091

MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753

Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org, for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 388-3062.

MCTV Channel 1071 Friday, December 29

Through the Night: Public Affairs

7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 9 a.m. Gov. Scott Selectboard, Public Affairs 10 a.m.

Montpelier Happy Hour 3 p.m. 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service 5:30 p.m. Transition Town Jericho **Enabling Renewable Energy** 6:26 p.m. Integration

7:30 p.m. Gov. Scott Saturday, December 30 Through the Night: Public Affairs Transition Town Jericho 5:30 a.m.

Renewable Energy Integration 6:26 a.m. 7:30 a.m. Gov. Scott Selectboard, Public Affairs 10 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service

4 p.m. 5:30 p.m. **Fckankar** Energy Week 6 p.m. 7 p.m. 7:30 p.m. Catholic Mass Press Conferences Montpelier Happy Hour 9 p.m. Sunday, December 31 Through the Night: Archives 8 a.m. Abled and On-Air Catholic Mass 9 a.m.

9:30 a.m. Press Conferences Memorial Baptist Service 12:30 p.m. Transition Town Jericho 1:26 p.m. Renewable Energy Integration

Congregational Service 4 p.m. 6:30 p.m. Eckankar Catholic Mass 7 p.m.

Transition Town Jericho 7:30 p.m. 8:26 p.m. Renewable Energy Integration 9:30 p.m. Gov. Scott

Monday, January 1 Through the Night: Archives
5 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs
10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs

4:30 p.m. Special Programming 9:30 p.m. . Eckankar 10 p.m. Special Programming Tuesday, January 2

Through the Night: Public Affairs 5:30 a.m. Montpelier Happy Hour 6:30 a.m. Public Affairs

9:30 a.m. **Fckankar** Selectboard, Public Affairs 10 a.m. 4 p.m. Congregational Services Selectboard, Public Affairs

Wednesday, January 3 Through the Night: Public Affairs 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard

Selectboard, Public Affairs 7 p.m. Thursday, January 4 Through the Night: Public Affairs

5 a.m. Selectboard Congregational Services 8 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 12 p.m

Montpelier Happy Hour 8:30 p.m. 9:30 p.m. Eckankar Dr. John Campbell 10 p.m.

Channel 1091 Friday, December 29

Through the Night: Arts Performances All Things LGBTQ 5 a.m. VYO Shorts, VYO Concerts 6 a.m. 8 a.m. Classicopia "Breaking Twitter"
Cooking Show: Thai Curries 8:44 a.m. 9:30 a.m. Poets & Authors School Board Meeting/s 10 a.m. 11:01 p.m. Me2 Burlington Concert 3:44 p.m. "A Christmas Memory" 5 p.m. 5:48 p.m. How To Make a Wreath 6 p.m. Poet Sydney Lea 7:10 p.m. "A Christmas Memory

St. J Athenaeum 2023 Holiday Concert 9:15 p.m. All Brains Belong

8 p.m.

5:42 p.m.

Saturday, December 30
Through the night: Arts Performances How to Make a Wreath 5 a.m. 5:10 a.m. "A Christmas Memory 6 a.m. All Brains Belong VT All Things LGBTQ 7 a.m. School Boards, Special 8 a.m. Programming 4:30 p.m. All Brains Belong

Sydney Lea

6:33 p.m. Lampshade Poets 7:34 p.m. VYO Shorts Avant Dance - Seasons 8 p.m. 9:15 p.m. VYO Shorts - The Lost World 10:01 p.m. "A Christmas Memory"

Sunday, December 31 Through the night: Special Programming North Country Comm. Chorus

5:33 a.m. Caledonia Christian School 2023 Christmas Concert 6:22 a.m. St J Academy Winter Concert St J Atheneum Holiday Concert 7:30 a.m. School Board Meeting/s, Community & School Holiday Concerts, other Special Programming Sydney Lea 8 p.m.

All Brains Belong Vermont 9 p.m. 10:30 p.m. Lampshade Poets Monday, January 1
Through the night: Arts Performances

8 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 9 a.m. 9:30 a.m. "A Child's Christmas in Wales" Special Programming
Green Mountain Mahler Festival 6:30 p.m. "A Christmas Memory" 8 p.m.

Tuesday, January 2 Music in the Morning 5 a.m. 6:30 a.m. Yoga

7:30 a.m. Cooking Show: Thai Curries All Things LGBTQ 9:10 a.m. Harwood Winter Concert

School Boards, Concerts 10 a.m. Middlebury Community Wind 9 p.m. Ensemble 10:07 p.m. Green Mountain Mahler Festival Wednesday, January 3 5 a.m. Music in the Morning Chair Yoga 7 a.m.

School Board Meeting/s 8 a.m. Middlebury Community Wind 3 p.m. Ensemble 4:30 p.m. Green Mountain Mahler Festival All Brains Belong 6 p.m. Authors and Poets 7 p.m.

Thursday, January 4 5:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Food & Cooking Programs 6:30 a.m. Poets and Authors 7:30 a.m. Ethan Allen Homestead The Story Matters 10 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 12 p.m.

Kingdom Mountain Dulcimers Dec. Dance at North Chapel 12:50 p.m. 1 p.m. The Story Matters Prydein - Bagpipe Rock Concert All Brains Belong Vermont 1:30 p.m. 3 p.m.

4:15 p.m. Yoga 5:15 p.m. Yale Alley Cats A Cappella

Singing Group Lyndon Institute Winter Concert 6:30 p.m. The Story Matters 7:30 p.m.

Kingdom Mountain Dulcimers 8:50 p.m. Dec.r Dance at North Chapel 9 p.m. Avant Dance



A LOOK INSIDE ADDISON COUNTY HOMES FOR SALE

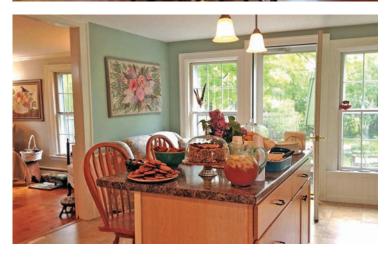
Colonial in Cornwall fit to call home

Come and see this 1816 Center Hall Colonial. Beautiful grounds/gardens with a fenced-in patio for privacy, majestic maple trees and views of the Green Mountains. Currently used as a business, it could easily be converted back to a home with minimal effort. Large Kitchen and enormous game room, which could be made into a master suite. There are three baths throughout the home. Upstairs you will find 3 bedrooms and an in-law apartment with a separate entrance. This house has been lovingly cared for and updated. Ample parking for up to 12 vehicles and a large barn too! Don't miss out on a slice of Vermont. Eight minutes to Middlebury College and town.



This week's property is managed by RE/MAX North Professionals, The Gridley Group, in Middlebury. More info at midvthomes.com.







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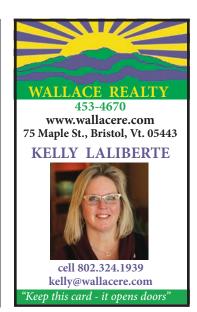
ads@addisonindependent.com



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24 Hazel Drive, Bristol

3BR, 2.5BA gambrel farmhouse on 2 acres on the outskirts of Bristol Village. The original 1930s house was fully renovated and additions were later added to further modernize the home. The large kitchen opens nicely to the dining area and living room, and a sunken family room with stone hearth sits at the back of the home. A first floor bedroom includes a ensuite bathroom, and there are 2 BRs and office on the 2nd level. Purchase can include Pine Tree Gardens, with 5 greenhouses and farm store sitting on this property. Other exterior features are a 4 bay garage and the in-ground pool. Be sure to check out the 3-D virtual tour on our website! MLS No. 4959743 | \$ 699,000







78 Bristol Cliffs Drive, Bristol

This 3 Bedroom home has been in same family since construction in 1978. The spacious kitchen is open to the dining area, and brings in the natural light from the sliding door off the back deck. At the front of the home, the living room is grounded by pine flooring and features a bay window with southeastern exposure of the front yard and circular driveway. The 2.4 acre lot offers level land for gardening, and the surrounding natural tree buffer enhances the privacy of the lot. With a little vision, this house can easily become your home with new flooring, paint and your personal touches. Be sure to check out the 3-D virtual tour on our website! MLS No. 4978964 | \$ 385,000







wr more information, contact one of our agents:







Danelle Birong Broker/Realtor®



Orion Lazo Agent/Realtor®



Tammy Petersen Agent/Realtor®

B MLS GOAL HOUSE

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DEC. 28, 2023

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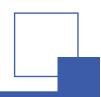
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UPCOMING



Freeway Clyde performs for Burnham Presents in Lincoln on the first Saturday of the New Year

The first Saturday of the New Year (Jan. 6) brings an excellent show to Burnham Hall in Lincoln for the monthly music series, Burnham Presents. Check out Freeway Clyde, an ensemble led by Tony Award-Winning composer Michael Chorney, on the 6th at 7:30 p.m.

Freeway Clyde is an eletric, omni-genre, seven-piece ensemble creating something fresh — soundtracks for films that have never been made. Together they take poignant folkrooted themes into a universe of collective improvisation and infinite soundscapes. Vintage synthesizers, electric strings, horns, viola and deep rhythm combine for a timeless sound, from velvet to furious.

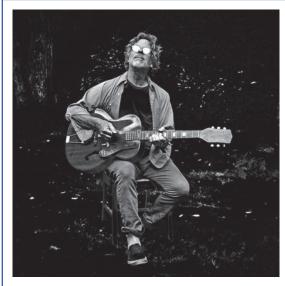
The New York Times described this ensemble as "simultaneously rich and spare, deftly echoing the sounds of traditional folk music while also having an indie-pop flair."

Chorney is one of Vermont's most prolific

and collaborative artists. After working for years on the score for the Broadway hit, "Hadestown" (winner of eight Tony Awards in 2019), he longed to develop a collective, ensemble approach to music making. He found it back in Vermont and put together a group of the region's most intuitive players. Freeway Clyde took off.

"I was first introduced to Michael Chorney's music as a member of the traditional/original/improvisation folk group Feast or Famine," said Burnham Presents co-founder Beth Duquette. "Many vehicles for his inspirations have followed: So-Called Jazz Quintet, So-Called Jazz Sextet, ViperHouse, Magic City, Orchid, 7 Deadly Sins, the Michael Chorney Sextet, and Hollar General.

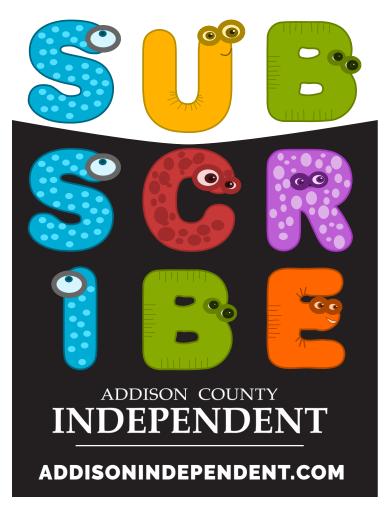
"When Michael Chorney won the Tony Award for his beautiful orchestration of Anaïs Mitchell's "Hadestown," our little town of Lincoln celebrated for an entire month!"



Michael Chorney leads Freeway Clyde on Jan. 6, at 7:30 p.m. in Lincoln. This show will be the first of the New Year for Burnham Presents, held at Burnham Hall.

Duquette and her cofounder Mark Mulqueen are honored and delighted that Chorney is bringing his latest ensemble, Freeway Clyde to the Burnham Presents stage. This will be a show you don't want to miss.

Doors open at 7 p.m.; music begins at 7:30 p.m., for 2 sets. Admission: general to generous \$15/\$20/\$25 or pay what you can. Refreshments will be available at the break. More info and tickets are available at burnhampresents.org.

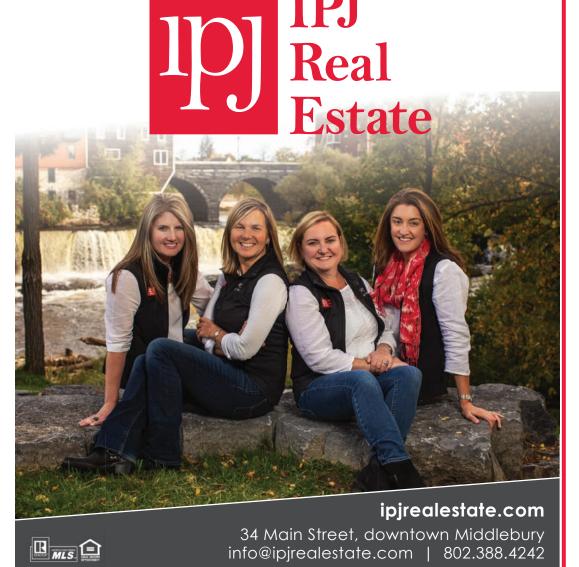




We are grateful for our clients, customers, colleagues and community. We've been able to help our buyers and sellers navigate a rapidly adjusting market, we've been able to support some worthy local causes, and we've been able to enjoy this beautiful state of Vermont.

Our hearts are full!

A happy and healthy 2024~we're looking forward to sharing it with you!



EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

For more info visit henrysheldonmuseum. ora

"From Homespun to Couture: Fashion in Historic Middlebury,"

curated by Eva Garcelon-Hart, features local advertisements, newspapers, fashion magazines, photographs, trade cards, catalogs, and all manner of documentation from the Henry Sheldon Museum's archives, revealing what Middlebury residents wore, bought, and sold during the 19th and early 20th centuries. On view through Jan. 13, 2024.

"Stellar Stitching: 19th Century Vermont

Samplers." Features textiles as a learning tool through needlework samplers made exclusively by young girls in the 19th-century depicting alphabets, numerals and decorative elements. On view May 13-Jan. 13, 2024.

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52 Main Street, Middlebury Visit sparrowartsupply.com or call 802-989-7225 for more info.

"Home Is Where the Art Is," an artisan market for holiday giving featuring creations by over 50 local artisans. On view from Nov. 17-Jan. 13.







