



## Up his sleeve?

Master magician Blaine Goad will astonish a Vergennes Opera House crowd. See Arts + Leisure.



## On upswing

The Tiger gymnasts were third at a home meet on Friday, but continue to improve. See Page 1B.



## Ninja training

76-year-old man builds an outdoor gym and trains for a unique dream. See Health & Well-being.

# ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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## Blow out

A TREE CUTTER seems to be lost among the grove of downed trees that were uprooted or just broke along Quarry Road in Middlebury during the intense windstorm this past Saturday morning. It was the second storm in four days during which gusts as high as 90 mph ricocheted along the base of the Green Mountains and throughout the state, knocking out power to thousands — again. See more photos on Page 2A.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

## Middlebury homeless camp numbers ebb

### Advocates prepare for spring return

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — With a mild December giving way to a stormy and colder January, the small contingent of houseless campers under Middlebury's Cross Street Bridge and along the Otter Creek further downstream has at least temporarily left the downtown area in favor of warmer

accommodations — though they've left some of their possessions and a lot of debris behind.

While police are preparing to treat the remnants of the makeshift settlement as abandoned property — a process that still allows owners to retrieve their possessions within around 30 days — area (See Homeless, Page 8A)



## By the way

The Vermont Catholic Community Foundation distributed \$30,000 in a recent round of grants to organizations that help people in need throughout the state, including \$3,000 to the Catholic Migrant Ministry of Addison County and \$1,500 to assist St. Peter's Catholic Church in Vergennes with its meal program for local shut-in residents. "All of our 63 parishes provide food assistance and other outreach to those on the margins," said Ellen Kane, executive director of the foundation. "And that is why it was so important for the foundation to distribute grants to these ministries at a time where the needs are growing, especially families living paycheck to (See By the way, Page 11A)

## Isley project costs rise, May 7 bond vote eyed

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Architects are firming up plans for a major expansion and renovation of Middlebury's Isley Library, with May 7 tentatively flagged for a local bond vote.

Isley Library leaders, along with project architect Chris Huston of ReArch Company Inc., (See Isley, Page 11A)

## Turtles & frogs hanging around in warmer winter

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — Jim Andrews often receives reports of reptile and amphibian sightings from around the state. The Salisbury herpetologist is the coordinator of the Vermont Reptile & Amphibian Atlas, a nonprofit organization that collects and distributes herpetile data to inform wildlife habitat stewardship.

In recent weeks, however, Andrews has received some particularly noteworthy news — accounts of reptiles and amphibians active in late December, a time of year when those creatures have typically gone dormant for the winter.

"We got reports of wood frogs that were moving on the surface; a painted turtle was basking on the ice," Andrews told the *Independent*. "For this particular time period, that's

really unusual."

During Vermont's winter months, reptiles and amphibians find a spot to lay low until spring. Frogs and salamanders nestle under leaves, turtles plunge to the bottoms of ponds and rivers, and snakes seek out mammal burrows or other denning areas below the frost line.

As herptiles wait for the winter months to pass, their metabolic and heart rates begin to slow down. They become lethargic and enter a state of dormancy known as brumation. Typically, reptiles and amphibians begin this process with the arrival of cooler temperatures and frosts in the fall and remain dormant until warmer weather arrives in the spring.

But Andrews noted this winter Vermont experienced spring-like weather throughout (See Turtles, Page 9A)

*"We got reports of wood frogs that were moving on the surface; a painted turtle was basking on the ice. For this particular time period, that's really unusual."*

— Jim Andrews

## Career Center seeks 10.7% spending hike

### Officials cite debt service, fixed costs

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Most Addison County residents on March 5 will be asked to support a fiscal year 2025 Patricia Hannaford Career Center (PHCC) spending plan of \$5,345,539, reflecting a 10.7% increase compared to the current (FY'24) budget.

Career center officials attributed the proposed increase, in part, to

an expected 16% hike in employee health insurance premiums, growing salaries & benefits, a 9% bump in Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust premiums, and ongoing debt service on an \$8.1 million bond that voters OK'd back in 2022 to finance significant renovations to the PHCC's Charles Avenue and North Campus buildings in Middlebury.

(See Career Center, Page 9A)



FIVE MONTHS AGO, the Rev. Co'Relous Bryant moved from the Big Apple to Addison County to helm the United Church of Lincoln. He said he's received a warm welcome from Lincoln residents and is now hoping to invite more of the community into the place of worship.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

## New Lincoln pastor a collaborative leader

### Looks to invite more into the church

By MARIN HOWELL

LINCOLN — Co'Relous Bryant has spent the past few months adjusting to a major change of scenery. This past summer, he left the skyscrapers of Manhattan for the mountains of Vermont, relocating to Addison County to lead the United Church of Lincoln.

Bryant said he's received a warm welcome since joining the Lincoln church and surrounding community. As he settles into his new position, he's hoping to reciprocate that inviting spirit and

welcome more of the community into the place of worship.

"My vision for this church in this town is for this to be a sacred, holy space for anyone that's willing to connect to the divine, (that they) would feel welcome here and safe here and free here to explore their connection to the divine, whatever that means to them," Bryant said during a recent interview. "Because we're the only church in town, it would be terrible if you felt you had to subscribe to this small set (See Rev. Bryant, Page 14A)

## Film documents the fall of Ukrainian city

### Mariupol escapees share their stories

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — A young boy describes the moments after a bomb is dropped on the theater he and his family are sheltering in. A new mother remembers the book her husband gave her during a conversation she feared would be their last. A doctor recounts her hurried escape from a hospital surrounded by Russian troops.

These are among the firsthand accounts shared in "Mariupol: The People's Story," a film that documents the destruction of the Ukrainian city in the months after Russian forces invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. The documentary

tells the story of Mariupol's transformation from a bustling port city of nearly a half-million people to a decimated war zone through testimonies of those that lived through the siege.

Middlebury College will screen the award-winning film on Tuesday, followed by a Q&A with Hilary Andersson, a local filmmaker who produced the documentary.

"The idea was to try to tell a story in a very deeply human way, or allow the people themselves to tell the story, of what it was like to be experiencing this level of (See Film, Page 8A)



ARTEM, LEFT, AND his mother, Viktoria, describe the moments after a bomb was dropped on the Ukrainian theater they were sheltering in following Russia's invasion of the country. Their story is among several first-hand accounts shared in "Mariupol: The People's Story," which will be screened at Middlebury College on Tuesday.

Photo courtesy of Robin Barnwell

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# Windstorm 2

THE JAN. 9 and 10 storm that took down powerlines, uprooted trees and overturned airplanes at the Middlebury airport was followed on Saturday, Jan. 13, with a second bout of 80-90 mph winds in Addison County and across a large swath of Vermont. More than 26,000 Vermonters lost electricity on Saturday, with thousands in Addison County.

Greenwood Cemetery in Bristol, right, lost 22 trees in the first storm, on Saturday the number was above 30, and some monuments were overturned. The earlier storm seems to have loosened the ground around some trees, which made them more susceptible to tipping over with the root ball and all, like this tree off Munger Street in New Haven, below. Homeowner Ashleigh Klein said increasing winds over the past 13 months have wreaked havoc on her woods.

In Middlebury, a line of tall pines along Quarry Road near Case Street broke or toppled over onto utility lines that ran parallel to the street. A tree-cutting service was on scene Saturday clearing out at least 10 trees, then on Sunday the power company came in and closed the road, top photo, for nine hours while line workers put up new poles and strung new wires. The landscape looks markedly different.



Photos by John S. McCright, Reg Dearborn and Ashleigh Klein



# Austin named city zoning administrator

By ANDY KIRKALDY  
VERGENNES — Former longtime Vergennes councilor and planning commission member David Austin became the city's new zoning administrator this past Monday, Jan. 15.

The Vergennes City Council last week unanimously appointed Austin to a two-year term in the post.

Austin replaces Peter Garon, who tendered his resignation from the post late last fall, but said he'd stay on until the end of 2023 to allow the council time to find a replacement.

At its Jan. 9 meeting, councilors also agreed with a proposal to hire Garon on an as-needed basis to assist Austin while he learns the ropes.

Austin will be paid \$30 an hour for his work, \$2 more than Garon had been. Garon will still be paid at least \$28 an hour to stay on during the training period; City Manager Ron Redmond said his pay rate hadn't been finalized.

The council also appointed Garon to a vacancy on the planning commission created when Danelle Birong resigned late last year. That term will end in July 2025. According to state law, Garon, also a former city councilor, can serve as a planner while working as an assistant to Austin without a conflict of interest.

Austin did resign from the Vergennes Development Review Board, to which he was appointed

in 2023 and did so. State law doesn't allow a community's zoning administrators to serve on its zoning board or DRB.

As is also required by state law, a zoning administrator must be recommended to a city council or town selectboard by a municipality's planning commission, and Vergennes planners had done so.

Austin, a former city shop owner who's been working as a business consultant, told councilors he was confident in his ability to do the work.

"I'm familiar with the way the job works, and I think I can do it pretty efficiently," he said.

The city hall office hours for the zoning administrator are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Austin said he'd "use time judiciously" to get most of his work done during those hours, but understands the job "is all about customer service," and pledged "a 24-hour response" to residents and developers.

The council, Redmond and Garon also discussed how best to equip Austin with a cellphone. Austin said that given issues with the Freedom of Information Act, he was hesitant to handle any but the most routine inquiries over his private phone.

Suggestions ranged from a city-issued phone to an automatic forwarding system from the office phones. Redmond said he'd consult with the city attorney.

# Bristol sees progress with capital projects

By MARIN HOWELL  
BRISTOL — Bristol is making headway on several capital improvement projects around town.

The Bristol selectboard on Monday heard updates on some of the work in progress, which include making streetscaping and other improvements to Basin Street and efforts to replace aging water lines in the town's water distribution.

Projects discussed at Monday's meeting included:

**Pine Street Waterline Replacement Project:** In October, crews in Bristol wrapped up a months-long waterline project on Pine Street, which replaced around 2,570 feet of unlined, cast iron pipe that was installed in 1905.

The Pine Street project was the first phase of a larger effort to replace roughly half of the water lines in Bristol's water distribution system, many of which are well over 100 years old and contributing to significant water loss.

Munson Earth Moving of Williston did the Pine Street waterline replacement project, which began in August.

On Monday, Town Administrator Valerie Capels and Steve Palmer of VTM Engineering, who serves as Bristol's Town Engineer, told the selectboard that the Pine Street project was completed without any major hiccups, received positive feedback from Bristol residents and cost less expected.

"We're going to be \$118,000, more or less, under your total bond amount and our estimate for

the project. It really doesn't get better than that from a financial perspective," Palmer told the board.

Bristol voters in November 2022 agreed to bond for up to \$940,000 to finance the Pine Street project. According to the figures shared with the Bristol selectboard, the cost of the design and construction phases of the project currently total around \$804,183.

The town expects to receive a couple of Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loans to help cover project expenses.

Selectboard members on Monday thanked Capels, Palmer and other Bristol officials for their work in ensuring the Pine Street project was successful.

"It's so refreshing to hear that you have a giant project like that that had little to no issues, that you came in under budget in most areas. You couldn't ask for a better way to end that project, especially given the nature of the project in that it was an absolute necessity, that our water lines were far older than what they should be, and this was just the beginning of this kind of process and project," Selectman Ian Albinson said.

**Bristol West Waterline Replacement Project:** Bristol officials have started planning for another major waterline replacement.

The Bristol West Waterline Replacement Project will replace around 10,000 lineal feet of 1905 cast iron waterline on eight streets (See Bristol, Page 3A)



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Jan 18 - Jan 24



# Protestors disrupt Collins shift change

## Point to city firm’s arms contracts

VERGENNES — At least 50 protesters blocked the parking lot entrances to Collins Aerospace on Panton Road in Vergennes on Monday afternoon, Jan. 15.

The protesters said they targeted the plant because it makes parts and software used in helicopters, some of which are used in the military. In 2020, Collins became a business unit of Raytheon Technologies (now RTX), which is a large military contractor.

Monday’s action was brought about in reaction to the Israel Hamas War in the Middle East. Protesters in Vergennes demanded the U.S. government call for a permanent ceasefire to prevent genocide against the Palestinian people, to end contracts with the RTX, and to stop arming the Israeli military.

The protesters timed their demonstration for the afternoon shift change, while picketing to prevent employees from clocking in to work. Protest organizers spoke through megaphones invoking Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s anti-war stances and international lens on racial justice.

“Israeli weapons have killed over 23,000 Palestinians and counting since Oct. 7, roughly the population of South Burlington,”

reads a press release drafted by protester Will Lambek. “Israeli airstrikes, funded by the U.S. including with weapons manufactured in Vermont, have targeted refugee camps and hospitals, and decimated entire neighborhoods. As a result, over 1.9 million Palestinians — more than twice the population of Vermont — are displaced or homeless.”

Protesters, who declined to use their last names or explain how they coalesced for this action, arrived at the plant at around 3 p.m. on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a federal holiday. Lambek said that while protesters were on site until 7 p.m., they “turned around many workers who appeared to be arriving for the afternoon shift.”

Four Vergennes Police officers, including Chief Jason Ouellette, stood by for part of that three-hour period and called it a peaceful anti-war protest. Police took no action during their time at Collins.

Protesters submitted that everyone deserves a life of safety and freedom. They called on elected leaders to “stop this genocidal war,” claiming the “racist violence of this war” is spilling into Vermont, in reference to the recent shooting of three



MORE THAN 50 people protesting the war in Gaza and the Israeli killing of Palestinians blocked an entrance to Collins Aerospace in Vergennes Monday, citing the manufacturing plant’s ties to Raytheon and weapons of war. Police were on hand but didn’t need to take any action.

Photos courtesy of Will Lambek

young Palestinian-Americans in Burlington.

The U.S. government gives billions of dollars to the Israeli military each year, some of which is used to pay for American-made products like those made at Collins in Vergennes.

Collins Aerospace and Elbit Systems of America last fall were jointly awarded a \$16 million contract by the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division to develop a new helmet-mounted display used in the U.S. Navy’s Block 3 F/A-18 Super Hornets and EA-18G Growler aircraft.



# Bristol

(Continued from Page 2A)

on the west side of Bristol. The project is in the design phase, which is budgeted at \$279,409.

Palmer told the selectboard that all of the streets involved in the project have been surveyed and most of the existing water mains have been located. Next steps include determining where to suggest locating the new water mains.

“There’s a couple of streets that we’re probably going to want to try to use the green belts as much as we can,” Palmer explained. “If I use Pine Street as an example, paving costs, at the end of the day, are about \$40 a lineal foot, so it adds up when you start talking 10,000 lineal feet.”

Palmer said the goal is to be ready for a bond vote for the project in November in the hopes of breaking ground on the project in early 2026.

*“There’s eight different streets, we don’t want to be digging up five streets at the same time. We’ll probably do this (project) over two summers, and it’s just going to take some coordination.”*

— Steve Palmer

on the Main Street embankment.

The municipality has received around \$526,400 in grants to help cover the project, which is expected to total \$733,000. The town has already committed \$281,340 for engineering and municipal project manager contracts for the effort.

Currently, the town’s local share of the project is just over \$207,000. Capels noted on Monday that Bristol might need additional funding to cover the project in its entirety.

“At the moment, based upon the projected budgets, the difference between the grant funding and the committed engineering contract and municipal project manager contract, we’ve got about \$452,000 remaining for construction. Over time, that’s probably not going to be enough,” she explained.

**Lincoln Road Riverbank Stabilization Project:** Work is set to start on Lincoln Road this spring and summer when crews from Masterson & Son Excavating will begin correcting two riverbank slides along the New Haven River.

The town has received \$215,000 in grants to cover the estimated \$606,950 in total costs.

During Monday’s meeting, Capels emphasized the importance of getting started on that project.

“It’s pretty critical that we proceed with that because the more that the river undermines the riverbank, it’s going to threaten the roadway,” she told the board.

# Bristol Shaw’s boosts local food shelf

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — The Bristol Have a Heart Food Shelf has served a record number of local families during the past few months, a feat the nonprofit has accomplished with help from the Shaw’s supermarket in town.

A donation program at the Bristol grocery store directed thousands of pounds of provisions to the shelf this holiday season, and a similar effort is underway for other food pantries in the 5-town area.

Have a Heart Food Shelf Treasurer Allison Pouliot said support from Shaw’s has helped the organization respond to an uptick in demand for its offerings this fall and winter.

“In October, we hit our all-time high of 306 individuals that we served, and we thought ‘Oh my gosh, that’s so high,’ and then in November there were 392 people, and then in December (there were) 424 people,” Pouliot said. “Those are by far some of the highest numbers we’ve ever seen in our 30-year history.”

The Have a Heart Food Shelf operates out of Bristol’s St. Ambrose Catholic Church. Once a month, the food shelf distributes packaged bags of food. Distributed commodities include locally sourced eggs, meat and seasonal produce.

Pouliot said the food shelf has served an increasing number of individuals in recent years.

“Since COVID we’ve seen our numbers dramatically increase,” she said. “2022 was about a 20% increase (in distributions) and this year it’s 30%, so it seems like the trend is increasing at a faster rate.”



HAVE A HEART Food Shelf volunteers Anne Gibbons, left, Linda Cormany, Karen McEachon and Donna Fox hand out provisions to local families during the nonprofit’s December distribution day. The organization served a record number of individuals this past holiday season, a feat it accomplished with help from the Bristol Shaw’s supermarket.

Photo courtesy of Allison Pouliot

The nonprofit currently spends around \$4,500-\$5,000 monthly on food for distribution.

This winter, the Bristol Shaw’s supermarket has helped accumulate items for the food shelf to distribute. The store was one of several Shaw’s locations throughout the state to participate in the 22nd Annual Stuff-A-Truck Food & Funds Drive this fall.

The promotion is organized in collaboration with the Vermont Food Bank and collects provisions and monetary donations for community emergency food pantries around the Green Mountain State.

In November, the Bristol Shaw’s team delivered the thousands of pounds of food it collected to the Have a Heart Food Shelf.

“One of the really great things about the Shaw’s program is that in November and December, because of all the food we received, we didn’t have to buy a lot of grocery-type food,” Pouliot said.

While the Stuff-a-Truck promotion has wrapped up for the year, the Bristol Shaw’s is continuing to collect donations for other 5-town food pantries.

Through the program, Shaw’s customers can choose to donate items such as canned vegetables, soup and cereal at check out. Items collected through the program are then distributed to food pantries in New Haven, Starksboro and Monkton.

“I’ve called all of (the area food shelves) to see what the biggest needs are and that’s usually what we target,” Shaw’s Manager Randy Thompson said of the program.

Thompson said the supermarket will continue organizing the promotion as long as local food shelves are in need of provisions. He noted the program has maintained strong support from local shoppers thus far.

“One of the things that’s made this thing so successful is our customers,” he said. “Because there’s been such a positive response

from our shoppers and customers, we’ve been able to continue the program with great success.”

In addition to hosting food drives, the local supermarket has helped support food shelves and other organizations in town through its participation in Nourishing Neighbors, a program of the Albertsons Companies Foundation, which includes Shaw’s stores and other supermarket chains throughout the country.

Through the promotion, a portion of the proceeds from reusable bag purchases at the grocery store are set aside and later given to local organizations that provide meals to school children, seniors and others in need of assistance.

Often those funds are provided in the form of grocery store gift cards, which are distributed to individuals in need. Last year, the Have a Heart Food Shelf received an estimated \$3,800 in gift cards to give to local families through the program.

Pouliot said the Bristol food shelf is appreciative of the support it’s received from the local Shaw’s. She noted the food shelf is exploring additional fundraising opportunities and other available support as it looks to meet the growing demand for its services moving forward.

“We will be having to look for other grant opportunities to continue to fund this whole thing, and we’re always looking at ways that we can save money,” she said. “We’re going to have to start doing a lot more fundraising and keep looking for whatever opportunities we have.”

# Addison County’s Hometown Dealer



Stop in and join us in welcoming Danny Eugair to our sales staff!

Danny grew up in Pittsford and is excited to be part of the G Stone team. He is looking forward to meeting new people and helping customers navigate the buying process.



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Editorials

The #1 risk to the world may not be what you think

Misinformation and its close cousin, disinformation, were recently ranked the top short-term risk (defined as the next two years) facing the world in the World Economic Forum’s Global Risks 2024 report. Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, cited that report and emphasized the need to combat the world’s growing polarization, caused in large part by the intentional use of disinformation.

“This is a time to build trust — to deeper global collaboration more than ever before,” she said. “Europe can and must take the lead in shaping the global response.”

President Leyen is spot on. With AI creating new innovations at lightning speed across the world’s digital platforms, the opportunity to spread misinformation and disinformation across the globe is without parallel. She also rightly understands that America’s system of government, with the Republican party wedded to an ex-president who owes his power to misinformation, is in no position to help.

Indeed, ex-president Trump has convinced more than half of his Republican supporters that President Joe Biden stole the election in 2020, even though more than 70 court cases rejected Trump’s claims the election was stolen and not a single court ruled in his favor. And even though every Secretary of State in the nation, Republican or Democrat, ruled against Trump and verified the election outcomes as accurate, Trump’s constant campaign to torture the truth paid off: he’s convinced Republicans that the lie he told on election day 2020 is no longer a lie.

When that’s possible, truth is spun on its head.

What makes it possible is the constant bombardment of lies from many sources on social media. That is, Trump’s lies would not hold as much sway had he not had so many Fox News and other conservative commentators repeating those lies for him.

Without his support from conservative media, the nation would see Trump for the liar and outlier he is, much as Nikki Haley has been saying as she campaigned in Iowa and now in New Hampshire.

Yet Trump’s use of misinformation and disinformation is child’s play — denying affairs, sexual assaults, suggesting he didn’t incite his followers to attack the Capitol, and even denying he lost the election — compared to what powerful dictators could do in world affairs. Already Russia has used misinformation to blame attacks, indeed the invasion, on the Ukrainians instead of the other way around; China, Russia, Iran and other nations now spread disinformation on foreign and domestic affairs of other countries as a way to change election outcomes or foreign policy decisions; climate news is now being manipulated by oil and gas companies to suggest renewables aren’t as effective or economic as originally said, hoping to weaken support among moderates; news in much of the world has to be thoroughly fact-checked to see what might seem reasonable — as does news, particularly conspiracy theories, from many Republicans in the U.S. Congress. That so many far right Americans actually believe in some of the conspiracies conservative outlets spread is a wakeup call to the power of misinformation.

While climate change is listed as the top global risk over the next decade, and the world court recognizes “climate and conflict as the dangerous duo” facing the world, misinformation is ranked fifth most dangerous risk over the next 10 years, perhaps because they hope the world will have figured out how to mitigate its harm in the near term.

We can only hope. What we know, however, is that when people can’t tell the difference between truth and fiction, democracies break down and authoritarians move in with tough talk convincing voters only they know how to fix the nation’s ills. The truth is, only fools believe them.

Angelo Lynn

Thoughts from Iowa’s caucus

From a contrarian’ perspective, Trump’s 51% blowout of Gov. Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley, Vivek Ramaswamy and others still suggests there were almost 48 percent of Republicans who preferred someone other than Trump.

That Trump’s win was as large as it was expected is no small feat. But Trump also has huge negatives among Republicans, is facing multiple legal challenges over the next year, and panders to his conservative supporters while alienating moderate voters. In short, it’s a primary result that needs perspective.

Moreover, Trump’s tendency to say outrageous things may be OK with the lemmings of his party, but it doesn’t sit as well with independent thinkers, who make up the largest block of American voters.

Consider his comment of a few weeks ago when he was trying to establish a case for presidential immunity to elude any responsibility for inciting the Jan. 6 riot. At that time, he said he could order the assassination of his primary opponent in an election and not be prosecuted because the president has unlimited immunity. Seriously?!

Newspapers and news stations, as well as the late-night shows, played it up, but Republicans have gotten so used to dismissing outlandish and inappropriate talk from Trump that they brushed it off, even though he has also said in plain terms that one of the first things he’ll do if elected is seek revenge on his opponents and those not loyal to him. (If that sounds dictatorial, you’re not wrong.)

But here’s the odd thing: Did Trump not think President Biden might take him up on that suggestion as a way to contain an out-of-control candidate who’s says on Day 1 he’ll be dictator? Or did he just trust President Biden was too beholden to democracy to take such undemocratic and irresponsible actions?

Angelo Lynn

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**It snowed! Finally**  
TUESDAY NIGHT SNOWSQUALLS coated the Middlebury Snowbowl with a 6-inch layer of light, powdery snow, which was a boost for the mountain just a couple of days after the ski area opened its top-to-bottom Worth Mountain chairlift on Sunday. The Snowbowl had been making snow on the Worth Mountain trails for the past month, but several warm spells and rain had melted much of it. Tuesday’s snow was the first significant snowfall of the season.  
Independent photo/Angelo Lynn

Women and the future of farming

This Christmas Day something remarkable happened on our farm: at 4 p.m. chore time three generations of women headed out to the barn to do our milking and feeding chores while three generations of men finished up the dinner and table preparations for our holiday meal. Actually, it isn’t remarkable at all for us (or for many in 2024), but it sure is when seen from the perspective of my grandmother, who was very much present in my thoughts this Christmas Day as I watched my mom and daughter suit up and make their way to the barn. I thought about the farmers across Vermont, the country, and the world who were doing the same thing at that very moment. And while much that goes on on farms is timeless, so much has changed.

My grandmother, born in 1918 on a dairy farm in Pomfret, Vt., loved nothing more than time in the barn with her dad and the cows, but as a female it was not encouraged. Denied a career as a farmer, later in life she wanted to be a large animal veterinarian but was told to focus on smaller animals (she became a human doctor instead!). She was fortunate to have received an education, and the fortitude to pursue a great life of meaning and service with it.

When my husband and I started our farm in 2000, and our cheese operation in 2002, there was no question as to which areas we were drawn: like my grandmother, my heart was with animals and dairy, while my husband was drawn to the microbiology and artistry of cheesemaking. While we share tasks in both areas today, it’s still largely how we divide our

responsibilities. I am grateful that society has evolved to allow us both to pursue wholeheartedly that to which we are naturally drawn. I can say that I have witnessed that evolution over the course of our 24 years as farmers.

In the early 2000s folks who didn’t know us might ask for my husband when looking for the decision-making owner, but that doesn’t happen anymore. Even the group of gentlemen from the deep south of the U.S. who come up to paint barns all summer and were seemingly the last to give up patriarchal assumptions must have granted me “owner status” when they asked me directly last year if we needed any painting done. I thought, wow, that’s progress!

And it’s no surprise: the most recent published Census of Agriculture (2017) reports that women account for 36% of the nation’s 3.4 million farmers. In fact, more than half of all farms, 56%, have a female making some day-to-day decisions on the farm, while 9% of farms were run entirely by women. Of those who identify as beginning farmers (10 years experience or less) a whopping 41% also identify as female. Daughters are now encouraged to carry on their family farming legacy.

Had she decided to pursue a veterinary career, my grandmother would have also seen tremendous change, as over half of new veterinary school graduates across the U.S. now identify as female. This rings true in Addison County: when we started our farm there were

(See Ways of Seeing, Page 5A)

Ways of Seeing

By Hannah Sessions

Solve the homeless crisis one at a time

*Editor’s note: Addison County’s Homelessness Task Force consists of more than 15 participating organizations representing the fields of human services, health care, business, local and state public safety, judicial, and governmental officials, clergy and other advocates. In addition to strategic collaboration and organized “street” outreach, a task force focus is community education and awareness. This is the first in a series of pieces by the task force; the goal of these “Living Together” columns is to provide some of that awareness and perspective so that community members and decision-makers are able to have productive conversations and hopefully arrive at solutions that address the needs of all stakeholders, and especially the unhoused. Our first writer is Tom Morgan, associate director of the Charter House Coalition in Middlebury.*

Homelessness is increasingly visible in Addison County. While the comfortably housed segment of our communities might consider homelessness to be a blight on society, to the unhoused and housing insecure members of our community, homelessness is a devastating reality. Vermont communities will not successfully address the multiple challenges of, or associated with, homelessness unless we do so

collaboratively, compassionately, and with common awareness of what we are facing.

We can start by considering some statistics and then look at the factors and causes of homelessness. Statistically, Vermont has the second highest rate of homelessness per capita in the country. Federal and state officials arrive at that conclusion using a method called a “point in time” (PIT) survey. A PIT captures data across geographic areas and demographic categories on one particular day, which was Jan. 25 in 2023. On that day, the PIT survey revealed that 51 out of every 10,000 Vermonters (or approximately 3,300 individuals) were literally homeless. That rate is an 18.5% increase from 2022, and more than 197% since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Another way to look the magnitude of housing insecurity in Vermont, is that at almost 8,000 Vermonters — including over 2,000 children — experienced some period of homelessness in 2023.

Because the state has been able shelter 96% of the unhoused members of our communities, Vermont also has the lowest rate of “unsheltered” homelessness in the country. But that success is temporary. As the Housing and Homelessness Alliance of Vermont (HHAV) reports, 62% of Vermont’s unhoused population has

(See Together, Page 5A)

By Tom Morgan

Living Together

Addison County Homelessness Task Force

Letters to the Editor

‘Unawareness’ seen as threat

I met a man from Mar-a-Lago, who believes Democracy is an extraneous distraction, as easily misunderstood or ignored as Neo-con, Fascist or Autocrat titles invented by the Eastern elite, who went to school and learned how to read.

History can be pilfered and modified in order to tell a receptive audience what they want to hear, to make them feel good about themselves, or superior, in fact.

It’s hard to argue with superiority, or to offer a second opinion. Second opinions are seen as useful only in healthcare, if you are dying.

Believe it or not, our most prolific national product is prideful unawareness, which seems successful in selling itself.

The second most sought after state is “grievance,” steeped in ignorance, which generates conspiratorial hatred of anything different. “Those other people are destroying my life, threatening my freedoms, skimming my profits.” Self-deception can be reassuring.

In the candidate’s own words: “I would be a dictator for one day,” allowing adequate time to declare himself king.

Churchill may have said, early in the war, “Americans will always do the right thing, after they’ve tried everything else.”

It’s a warm winter. Democracy might be resting on thin ice.

Alec Lyall  
Middlebury

Walking the line of misbehaving

I remember as a youngster doing things I knew were wrong or really frowned upon by the adults in my life. I am thinking that you are in the same boat. You probably found yourself doing something(s) that you considered harmless but you knew darn well that it was really socially unacceptable. Think about it and I am sure you will remember several instances in your lifetime that you were “walking the line.”

I can remember practicing my catching skills by bouncing a ball off the side of a building. What’s the harm? But I really knew that the sound of the ball ricocheting from the wall to be annoying, and the other associated noises and grunts were menacing to the serenity of the neighborhood. However, no one has complained, so I will continue until they tell me I can’t!

Riding my bike down the main street was always fun. Sometimes, some of my friends would join me in this activity dodging, people and animals. It was a lot of fun riding the streets and sometimes attach a playing card with a clothespin to the bike’s frame to make it sound like a motorcycle. People seemed to enjoy our presence, but I guess I do remember some snide remarks hurled in my direction and negative looks. And I do remember hearing some grumbling from pedestrians as I whizzed by! But I’m having a blast and overall, I think some of the people enjoy my presence on the streets so, I will continue until they tell me I can’t!

And no matter what the activity was that I thought up and thought to be lots of fun, people told me I couldn’t do it anymore.

Today, I like to think I’m older and wiser, but it’s difficult to get rid of the old mindset completely, so I will do those things I enjoy that others consider annoying until they tell me I can’t.

When I was a serious adult and a junior high teacher, I liked to hum a silly tune (usually from some commercial such as Band Aids) at the start of the day, and the kids started to complain when I did that because they couldn’t get the tune out of their heads!

Using chalk on the blackboard was always an attention-getter. I could make the most horrible sound of chalk scraping along as I wrote a lesson on the board. The kids would cover their ears and

(See Pinsonneault letter, Page 4A)



# Letters to the Editor

## Lawmakers must act to rein in rising property taxes

Thank you very much for publishing the story “Low CLA ratios seen driving up school tax rates” in the Jan. 11 *Addison Independent*. I have sent the following letter to my representatives in the state legislature:

Folks:

The cost of living increased between 18 and 30% over the last several years. As a retired person this has been quite a challenge.

The cost of living in Vermont is about as high as it gets in all of the United States.

Property taxes in Vermont are outrageous.

Based on the article above, my property tax rates in Ferrisburgh are expected to rise approximately 38%! (\$1.774 / .726) = \$2.444.

Absolutely, positively unacceptable.

Even the people that could afford to live here historically are being squeezed out.

The system is broken. FUBAR is the term that comes to mind.

The vast majority of the state is facing the same problem.

Please find a solution quickly and aggressively. Work with your fellow legislators.

You all may rest assured, every property owner in this town will be watching for your proactivity regarding this issue.

Totally unimpressed. Think about how we got here and do something differently.

Never confuse efforts with results.

I look forward to more press on this issue and how all four of you are working toward and equitable resolution!

Most grateful. (end of letter to state lawmakers.)

Perhaps, all of your readers who pay property taxes should reach out as well?

Legislator emails can be found here: legislature.vermont.gov/

people/search/2024.

Thank you so much for the fantastic reporting.

**Mike Dingman Ferrisburgh**

*Editor’s note: While we recognize that Americans are feeling the pain of rising prices, we challenged the writer on his assertion that the cost of living has risen 18-30%. He found an online inflation calculator that showed prices rising about 22% since 2019. Then he found a story from last year that explained how housing prices in Vermont rose 15% in one year. And Cox Automotive showed new car prices jumping 30% since 2019. And he found a Zillow Home Price Index that asserts that Vermont home values went up 50% since 2019. While the overall cost of living may not have gone up 30%, there are key parts of the economy where prices have risen that much in the past five years.*

## Athletes can both battle and show mutual respect

In response to Karl E. Moyer’s letter that appeared in the January 11th edition of the *Independent* — “battle” defined as a verb means to fight or struggle tenaciously to achieve or resist something. Battle is a perfect word to describe a wrestling match.

In his letter, Mr. Moyer takes issue with the word battle being used to describe a wrestling match. This suggests to me that Mr. Moyer has never attended one. As someone who has attended hundreds of wrestling matches during my son’s career from 2nd through 12th grades, I can say without doubt, that the majority of matches *are* battles. One-on-one competition where the goal is to make your opponent bend to your will is *not* playing. The majority of wrestling matches are hard-fought, and while the victor may smile as their hand is raised, anyone who

witnessed that match does *not* have the sense that the wrestlers were “playing.” They fought, or battled in this case, for every point and every pin earned or denied on that mat.

While Mr. Moyer suggests that the writer demeaned wrestlers and the sport by using the term battle, I’d counter that the writer showed nothing but respect for both. This isn’t to suggest that wrestlers don’t have playful moments on that mat — practices usually incorporate some fun, as do warm-ups, but to suggest that wrestlers are playing during a match is disrespectful and just wrong. To further suggest that by describing a match as a battle, the writer implies a subtle hint as to why society is the way it is, shows that Mr. Moyer has no understanding of what wrestling is all about. Respect is taught from the second a wrestler steps on the mat during their very

first practice and is expected to show respect on and off the mat throughout their career. It’s in the handshake at the start and end of the match between opponents, as well as when the wrestler shakes the opposing coach’s hand — and sometimes the ref’s hand as well — after the match. Respect becomes ingrained in the wrestler as they navigate life — on and off the mat.

Please don’t think that I’m suggesting that any other sport is less than a battle, but since Mr. Moyer specifically mentioned wrestling, that’s what I’ve addressed it here. *Every* athlete battles, whether they’re on the mat, the court, the track or the field, and deserves respect.

A proud (former) wrestling mom,

**Kris Pearsall Bristol**

## Pinsonneault letter

*(Continued from Page 4A)*

complain bitterly as they shivered at the grating sound! What? What awful sound? It wasn’t hurting anyone, just a little annoying from their jokester teacher, so I will continue until they tell me I can’t. And they did!

I know you must have a bag of tricks from which you can pull your own annoying ideas! When my three boys were youngsters, they were fun to annoy. One day, they invited their neighborhood buddy over for dinner. We were having chicken and mashed potatoes and carrots. During the course of the meal, I looked up and told our guest to keep track of his chicken bones, as we will re-assemble the chicken after

dinner. “Daaad!”

Another trick, I call the disappearing dessert trick is almost always quite amusing and a barrel of fun. When all have been served with dessert, create a diversion for one of the guests. When that guest is looking away, quietly and quickly take their dessert and hide it in your lap. The wide-eyed confused look is priceless. When the dessert accidentally hit the floor, then they told tell me I can’t do that anymore.

Now, I am older and I can do anything I want, just like one of my sons told me when he was in sixth grade. “I am in sixth grade now. I should be able to stay out as late as I want to and hang

out with whoever I want to and ride my bike wherever I like!” Hmmm. Well, you can’t think like that anymore!

But seriously, at my age I don’t want to do all those things I’m supposed to be doing like taking my meds on a schedule, watching my diet very closely, taking my blood pressure at regular intervals, and going for a check-up! I don’t have time for all that stuff!

Lastly, don’t talk to me about my evening cocktail, as this is one activity that my wife and I refuse to give up until they tell us we can’t!

**Tom Pinsonneault Orwell**

## Google reveals nations require immigration papers

Now that I am retired, I have time to learn things. Bless Google! So, I made the mistake of turning on the national news. And imagine, immigration first and foremost. Now, keeping in mind I am retired which translates as “old,” I still consider myself a thinking person.

Now, I am no mental giant, but I

had what I thought to be a brilliant idea. Keep in mind at my age, most of my ideas die of loneliness, I googled basic travel documentation needed to enter other countries. And I reiterate, these are different for each country. Passport, Green card, visa or entry document, form4457 for electronics cameras

etc., rabies and other vaccinations, valid drivers’ license/photo ID, permits for certain animals, medications in legal containers.

Enough said if one is a thinking person.

**Cheryl Degraw New Haven**

## Together

*(Continued from Page 4A)*

been sheltered in motels and hotels through so-called “transitional” programs. The remaining 34% of sheltered unhoused community members reside in “emergency” shelters like Charter House in Middlebury and John Graham in Vergennes. Most, if not all emergency shelters around the state are filled to their capacities. So when the \$400 million public funds invested in Vermont’s motel/hotel programs ends as early as April, math suggests that almost 2,000 individuals and families will return to the ranks of the disenfranchised trying to survive without shelter.

Narrating Vermont’s current statistics, HHAV notes some important factors that contribute to homelessness:

- Extremely low housing vacancy rates of 0.5-3% across Vermont. Some estimates are that we need 6,800 housing units immediately.
- End of emergency rental assistance programs that previously helped folks stay housed.
- Increasing evictions due to the end of the 2022 eviction moratorium.

But in a sense, these factors are symptoms of deeper root causes of housing insecurity and homelessness. Contrary to the notion that people lose their housing simply because of their own mistakes or bad luck, the conditions for homelessness in this country are set by multiple intersectional variables. Socio-economic disparity and oppression

have created the ever-widening wealth gap between “haves” and “have nots.” The worse elements of capitalistic forces and greed have contributed to a nation that constructs more expansive garages for privileged people’s vehicles than one- and two-bedroom apartments for poor people’s families. As the disenfranchised watch the privileged become richer, they continue to reach for the mythological ladders of socio-economic opportunity promised by the false narrative of “the American dream.”

The function (or malfunction depending on your perspective) of our criminal justice (or injustice) system is also playing out in our community. On one hand, homelessness is an individual and collective tragedy of human suffering; homelessness is not a crime. On the other, we seem to have a justice (or injustice) system that doesn’t seem able or willing to deter unhoused community members who engage in crime from re-offending and deepening individual and collective suffering. All the while, the jail-to-homelessness cycle (and the foster-care-to-jail-to-homelessness cycle) keeps spinning more people and suffering into our communities.

We witness the result of the factors, root causes and complications of homelessness in our own community. At less than 150, Addison County has a fraction of the unhoused community members that neighboring and other Vermont counties do. And while

less than 10% of the unhoused are also unsheltered, the suffering is no less real for those unhoused people who do have temporary shelter, their lives no less worthy than our own, and their homelessness less intolerable by a state and people who believe everyone should have an opportunity to thrive.

Human service organizations are working diligently to shelter, stabilize and navigate homeless people into more permanent housing arrangements. This work is often hindered by staffing shortfalls, bureaucratic red tape, gaps in our physical and mental health care systems, insufficient substance-use recovery funding and residential options, and limited employment training.

Even with unified maximum effort, the systematic factors and causes of homelessness will not be changed quickly. If we are to effectively address the crisis (and yes, it is a crisis), the most effective approaches will begin with individual connections; one human engaging another in need, building one healthful relationship at a time. Meeting the unhoused and housing insecure members of our communities where they are at. Being present, affording them the dignity everyone deserves, offering them some space and support to stabilize, plan and work on meaningful goals, and progress toward achieving secure housing. Manifesting Vermont values, serving others equitably and compassionately, we can address the daunting challenges of homelessness one neighbor at a time.

*Next week: A local person recovering from substance use disorder provides a recognizable face to a problem that is one part of the housing crisis.*

## Ways of Seeing

*(Continued from Page 4A)*

no female doctors in our veterinary clinic, and now it is 80% female.

This Christmas Day got me thinking about all that has changed, and all that has stayed the same. It’s still the case that farmers milk on Christmas (and their birthdays, and weekends, and when they’re sick, for that matter), because the milk always flows. Any livestock farmer will tell you that it’s still the case that animals’ needs come first and farmers are always on call. As you look across our Champlain Valley and see barn lights on at all

hours of the day and night, that’s the love that farmers have for their animals and the dedication to their businesses and livelihoods. That will never change, but the image of a farmer will, and perhaps already has.

I look forward to how the huge cohort of beginning female farmers will help evolve agriculture in this country. Will we change our concept of what a successful farm looks like? Will we open our minds to regeneration rather than extraction as our ultimate goal? I am optimistic that when we break

down barriers and allow folks to bring their best and most authentic selves to the decision-making table, we will harvest some great rewards.

*Hannah Sessions is a farmer and an artist from Leicester. Raised in Addison County, she co-founded, owns and operates Blue Ledge Farm, a goat dairy and cheese operation, with her husband, Greg Bernhardt. Their two grown kids are in college. Hannah’s paintings are exhibited in Woodstock, Vt., and online.*

## Letters to the editor

The Addison Independent encourages readers to write letters to the editor. We believe a newspaper should be a community forum for people to debate issues of the day.

Because we believe that accountability makes for responsible debate, we will print signed letters only. Be sure to include an address and telephone number, too, so we can call to clear up any questions.

If you have something to say, send it to: Letters to the Editor, Addison Independent, 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753. Or email to [news@addisonindependent.com](mailto:news@addisonindependent.com).



## Addison, VT Homeowner Recommends Bristol Electronics



“We are loving our new heat pump – it’s like our house suddenly got bigger! The room has been warm even on recent cold nights – very impressive.”

— Viveka Fox & Peter Macfarlane, Addison, VT

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Keep up to date with all the action, read

**Arts + Leisure** every Thursday in the Addy Indy!



ADDISON  
COUNTY

Obituaries

Victor Emanuel Mazzarella, 104, of Ripton

NEW LONDON, N.H. — Victor Emanuel Mazzarella passed away peacefully at New London Hospital on Dec. 28, 2023, at the age of 104, 26 days shy of his 105th birthday. Victor “Pete” was born to Vincenzina and Mariano Mazzarella on Jan. 24, 1919, in East Longmeadow, Mass.

Victor was raised in central Massachusetts in a large, loving family. He married Geraldine Bump of Forestdale, Vt., in Springfield, Mass., on April 24, 1943. He served in World War II for 2.5 years and later worked as a compositor in a print shop. After the passing of the G.I. Bill, he started taking night courses at Fitchburg State College and received his Bachelor of Science in Education on Aug. 10, 1956. He continued his education, receiving his Master’s of Education from Westfield State College on June 11, 1961.

After teaching in the Holyoke Mass., district he moved to



VICTOR EMANUEL  
MAZZARELLA

Hyannis, Mass. He instructed teachers and students in graphic arts. During this time he became the principal of the vocational high school, Cape Cod Trade School, where he worked until his retirement. Following Pete’s retirement, they moved to California then back to Cape Cod,

where Gerry predeceased him. They had one son, David.

At the time of his 90th birthday he had published a book, “Atsa Mi Paese,” which detailed his family’s move from Italy to the United States in the early twentieth century, first to Massachusetts then to southern California.

Pete enjoyed fishing, hiking, and music, as well as continuing his examination of the country that his father adopted. His wit and wisdom were absorbed by all who came to know him throughout his 104+ years.

Pete was predeceased by his first wife, Gerry; his son, David; and his second wife, Beverly. He is survived by Carole Bicknell of Middlebury, Vt., whom he thought of as his daughter, and her husband Norman, their family, and nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life gathering will take place at Lyon Brook in New London, N.H. on Saturday, Jan. 20 at 2 p.m. ◇

Scott Evans, 68, of Brandon

BRANDON — Scott Evans, 68, of Brandon, Vt. (formerly Clearwater/Dunedin, Fla.), passed away on Oct. 3, 2023. Born on Feb. 8, 1955, to Albert Evans Jr. and Neva (Sparks) Evans in Berea, Ohio, Scott grew up there with his two brothers, sister, and beloved family dog, Charlie Brown.

Upon graduating high school, he attended Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich., earning his B.A. in Hotel Restaurant Institutional Management in 1977. Soon after, he moved to Florida to support his aging grandfather. He remained in the Tampa Bay region of Florida for most of his adult life, while his parents lived out their retirement years. Through the 1980s and 90s, he worked in several restaurants, including partial ownership in Knockers and the Balloon Palace. He later worked at various home improvement chain stores, then as a handyman for what is now known as PARC Center for Disabilities.

Scott married twice to women with a child, and welcomed his



RITA EMMA (THOMAS)  
HEBERT

stay the night with her to make sure she was comfortable.

If you had the unique privilege

of getting to know the “real” Rita, you couldn’t help but fall in love with her down-to-earth and spunky personality. She relished deep conversations about life and spiritual things. A true New Englander, she had a quick wit and was always ready to shoot back a one liner. She loved to tease and be teased. Up until the very end she kept her sense of humor and most importantly to her, her relationship with her Heavenly Father Jehovah and the bright hope He holds out to all of us in the Bible. She had no doubt we would all be together again on a paradisaic earth. (John 16:22, Psalm 37:11)

A memorial service will be held at 322 W Broad St, Elizabethville, PA 17023 on Jan. 21, at 2 p.m. ◇

Sister Gertrude Myrick, 94, Bridport native

COLCHESTER — Sister Gertrude Myrick (Sister Mary Charles) of the Sisters of Mercy died at McClure Miller Respite House on Jan. 9, 2024. Sister Gertrude was born in Bridport, Vt., on May 12, 1929, the daughter of Floyd and Beatrice (Nantel) Myrick. She received her early education in Bridport, Vt., graduated from Mount Saint Mary Academy, received a B.A. in English and Latin from Trinity College in Burlington, Vt., and an M.S. in Library Science from the Catholic University of America. She also did advanced study in Linguistics at Harvard University and completed the Institute for Religious Formation Program at Saint Louis University.

Sister Gertrude entered the Sisters of Mercy on Aug. 15, 1947, and professed her vows on April 20, 1950. She chose as her motto “My soul magnifies the Lord,” the opening line of the Magnificat, one of her favorite prayers.

She taught in elementary schools at Christ the King and Mount Saint Mary in Burlington, Vt., and Saint Mary’s School in Middlebury, Vt., in high school at Rice Memorial High School and Mount Saint Mary Academy and Trinity College, where she ministered for 30 years. She was an assistant professor of English and held many administrative positions, including academic dean, associate director of admissions, assistant to the



SISTER GERTRUDE MYRICK

president and director of campus ministry. She served on several boards, including Trinity College, Mater Christi School, McAuley Square, and the Trinity Children’s Center. After serving as director of Sister Formation and novice director for her local community, she was the co-director of the national Sisters of Mercy Collaborative Novitiate in Philadelphia for two years. She also served on the VT Sisters of Mercy Regional Leadership Team for fourteen years and most recently was the VT Regional Community Archivist.

She enjoyed vegetable and flower gardening, sewing, studying old coins and stamps to find the rare one, fishing, Sudoku and jigsaw puzzles, Spider Solitaire and reading a good book, as well as playing cards with her friends and

housemates.

Sister Gertrude is survived by her sisters in religion, the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, her sister-in-law, Kathryn Myrick and several nieces and nephews: Larry (Tammy) Myrick, Stephen (Cindy) Myrick, Dennis (Andrea) Myrick, Sue Gilbert, Mary Paquette, Lori Myrick, Karen (Joe) Nunn, Kelli McSweeney, Kristine (Jim) Andrews, Klaudia (Mike) Gray, Kim (Spenser) Laramée, Karla Bondi, Kip (Lori) Myrick, and Kevin Myrick. She was predeceased by her parents, Floyd and Beatrice; her stepfather, Joseph Langlois; her two brothers, Frederick and Robert, her nieces, Kathleen and Nancy, and her nephews, Dana and Stanley Myrick.

A Mass of Christian burial will celebrated on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 11 a.m., in the Sacred Heart Chapel at Mater Christi School (former Mount Saint Mary Convent), 100 Mansfield Avenue, Burlington, Vt., with visiting hours prior to the funeral Mass from 9:30-11 a.m.. Her burial will follow the funeral in the Mount Saint Mary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Sisters of Mercy in support of their ministerial works. Attn: Sister Laura Della Santa, 356 Mountain View Road, Suite 101, Colchester, VT, 05446.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Ready Funeral Home, South Chapel, 261 Shelburne Rd, Burlington, Vt. ◇



SCOTT EVANS

role as a stepfather. He tried to support his first stepchild after their mother lost her battle with cancer. He supported his second wife through some tumultuous times with her child.

Upon the deaths of his parents, Scott moved to central Vermont to be near his oldest nephew, Ian Ross, his wife Roxanne, and their three children, Joyce, Cheyenne and Willow, to whom he became

like a grandparent. In Vermont, he worked for a local home improvement store, and later Olivia’s Croutons, before COVID pushed him into retirement.

Throughout his adult life, Scott was often in service to other beings in his life. Be it the countless customers he helped over the years, his loved ones, or the pets he had throughout his life. Scott was known for his love of the outdoors, a willful spirit, and his pun-filled humor.

Scott was predeceased by his first wife, Cynthia (Amidon) Evans; his sister, Carol (Evans) Ross; and his parents. He is survived by his brothers Keith Evans of Dunedin, Fla.; Richard Evans (Michele) of Clearwater, Fla., and their children Andrew and Aleah; nephews Brogan Ross (Shihan Wang) of Los Angeles, Calif.; and Ian and family of Cornwall, Vt.; second wife, Mary (Price) Evans of Durham, N.C.; and some cousins.

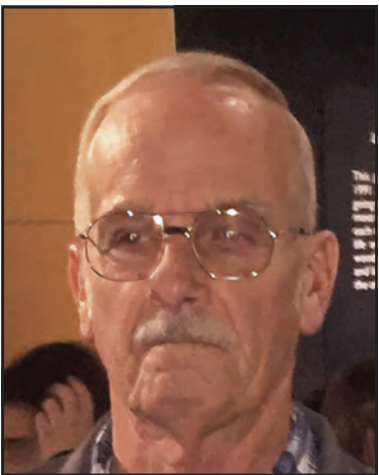
A memorial service will be planned for this coming spring. ◇

David Allen Patterson, 77, of Orwell

ORWELL — David Allen Patterson, age 77, passed peacefully on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024, at Rutland Regional Medical Center, surrounded by family.

David was born in Middlebury on Nov. 8, 1946. He was the son of George and Rita (Jabot) Patterson. He grew up in Orwell, where he received his early education and graduated from Shoreham Academy. He joined the United States Air Force and served until his honorable discharge in January 1970. He began his working career as a truck driver for Ernest Pomainville, along with various part-time law enforcement positions. He afterwards became a self-employed trucker, driving coast to coast for Daily Express Trucking before returning to EPI. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and playing Texas Holdem. He belonged to Brandon American Legion Post 55.

He is survived by his son, Dennis Patterson (Tina Pierce)



DAVID ALLEN PATTERSON

of Forest Dale; a daughter, Penny Patterson (Rob Leno) of Whiting; two sisters, Ruth McGuire and Shirley Hendricks, both of Orwell; three brothers, Paul Patterson of Orwell, Thomas Patterson of Pickens, S.C.; and Kenneth Patterson of Mt. Airey, N.C. His four grandchildren, Amber Ketcham (Josh Edwards),

Courtney Lury (Sebastion), Lexi Orleans, and Taylor Patterson (Kristin); one great-granddaughter and one on the way; several nieces, nephews and cousins; and special friend, Carrie Munger, also survive him. He was predeceased by sister Lorie Barnes, and his parents.

A memorial service will be held on Jan. 23, 2024, at 11 a.m., at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon. A gathering in celebration of his life will follow at Brandon American Legion Post 55 from noon to 2 p.m..

A graveside committal service and burial, with military honors, will take place at a later date in the family lot at Mountain View Cemetery in Orwell.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to Orwell First Response Squad, Orwell, Vt., 05733.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon. ◇

Catharine Anne “Kaki” Eddy, 70, Orwell

ORWELL — Catharine Anne “Kaki” Eddy, 70, an Angel on Earth, passed away Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

Kaki was loved by all and loved everybody. She remembered the birthdates of every person she met and enjoyed making birthday cards and hats for family and friends. She was an absolute joy and will be missed by all, especially her

mother, Mary Anne Eddy, brothers Chuck Eddy (Cathy) and Tom Eddy (Ann), sisters Beth Montello (Nick) and Nell Ellis (Mike), and many special nieces, nephews, and friends.

She was predeceased by her father, Charles Eddy, in 2017.

A private ceremony will be held. In lieu of flowers, make donations to Orwell First Response. ◇



CATHARINE “KAKI” EDDY

Dwight Alan Slayton Jr., 32, of Brattleboro

BRATTLEBORO — Dwight Alan Slayton Jr., 32, of Brattleboro, Vt., passed away Jan. 9, 2024. He was a loving, caring son and father.

Dwight is survived by his father Dwight Slayton Sr. and wife Connie of Sudbury, Vt. He is also survived by his sisters Christina and Jennifer. His children Jakobe,

Cadence, Cameron and Callie were his life.

Dwight was predeceased by his mother, Debbie Slayton (Cram), and daughter Aubree.

A celebration of life will be held on Jan. 21 at the American Legion in Brandon, Vt., from 1-3 p.m. ◇ ◇



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## Fritz Peter Branschofsky, 91, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY— Fritz Peter Branschofsky, accomplished athlete, exacting engineer and world traveler, died Sunday, Jan. 7, in Middlebury, Vt., after a long illness. He was 91.

Born in Vienna, Austria on Aug. 21, 1932, Fritz’s love of mountains was instilled by his parents, Ilona (Reisz) and Franz Branschofsky. At an age when most children are learning nursery rhymes, Fritz had already summited Austria’s highest peak — the Grossglockner — the youngest person ever to do so. But in 1938 the Nazis annexed Austria, obliterating his idyllic childhood. As a half-Jewish “mischling,” he was denied access to academic programs, yet a concerned teacher masked Fritz’s identity, allowing him to accompany his class when it was evacuated to the mountains. This act of kindness not only rescued Fritz from the bombing of Vienna but also stoked his passion for skiing which, as he frequently recalled, excited him more than school. Still, it was his intellectual promise that gained him a scholarship to study in Scotland at the end of the war.

In 1951, the Branschofskys emigrated to Canada, but only Fritz had the language skills necessary to find employment. At the age of twenty, he was both finishing his degree and also supporting his entire family as he began working in the aeronautics industry. Five years later, the family moved to the New York City area, where Fritz advanced his career as a mechanical engineer.

Whether on the slopes or in the water, Fritz was a tremendous



FRITZ PETER BRANSCHOFSKY

athlete. As a young man in Canada, he competed at the national level in water polo as well as ski patrolling at Mont Tremblant. Once in United States, he discovered Mad River Glen. To be close to it, in 1966 he designed and built his beloved chalet in Granville, Vt. Upon taking a management position at Simmonds Precision — later BF Goodrich — in Vergennes, he and his wife, Isabelle, moved up full time. The marriage later ended in an amicable divorce.

A champion of Mad River’s terrain and community, Fritz served as a ski patroller for nearly two decades and became one of the original co-op owners. It was at Mad River Glen that Fritz met his life partner, Vivian. A novice skier, she had injured her knee — a lucky accident. The couple married in 1981 and together launched a life of adventure. They raced sailboats on Lake Champlain, and as half-owners of “Showtime,” had

the winningest boat on the lake in 1988. Their travels often took them off the beaten path - from the top of the world in Nepal to the tip of South America in Patagonia. Whether scuba diving in Papua New Guinea or hot air ballooning in Tanzania, walking the Great Wall in China or taking a turn at 150mph in a race car in Quebec, they pushed far beyond the confines of their small town life, evidenced by an impressive collection of indigenous masks from all over the world.

When Fritz retired in 1997 after 28 years at Simmonds, he helped Vivian grow her gardening business, designing and building her greenhouse and becoming the self proclaimed Vice President of Engineering and Maintenance. He enjoyed interacting with the customers who were charmed by his botanical acumen: “This is what I know,” he told them. “That’s a red one, that’s a blue one and that’s a yellow one.”

Fritz is survived by his wife of 42 years, Vivian Leigh Branschofsky; his sister, Margret Branschofsky; his niece, Julia Lippert and nephew, Jonathan Lippert; and many loving friends who will miss his stylish turns on Fall Line and his extraordinary stories.

A celebration of his life is planned at Mad River Glen this summer. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Fritz’s honor to the Dementia Society of America or your favorite charitable organization.

Arrangements under the direction of Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home. Online condolences at: sandersonfuneralservice.com. ◇

## Peter Donald Quesnel, 81, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Peter Donald Quesnel, a native and resident of Middlebury, Vt., passed away on Jan. 13, 2024, at the age of 81.

Pete attended Middlebury Union High school, where he played football, golf and downhill skied. He graduated in 1960 and then attended Vermont Technical College to study electrical engineering. He was drawn back to the farm and went into business with his father to build Aurele Quesnel and Son, a successful dairy farm where he worked and ran the business for more than three decades.

During this time, he built his family’s home in Middlebury, where his children grew up. He later moved into a career with Benoit Electric and became a master electrician, working throughout the state and retired after 30 years at the age of 80. He considered Benoit his second home and family and was a respected member of their team.

After his time at Middlebury



PETER DONALD QUESNEL

Union High School, Pete continued to support the school as a school board member and was active in many community events.

His recent hobbies included rebuilding antique tractors and talking about getting back on the golf course. There wasn’t anything that Pete couldn’t fix and there wasn’t anyone he wouldn’t help. He enjoyed travelling with his partner, Nancy, and was recently

able to see the Bahamas, Las Vegas and Hawaii. He enjoyed watching all sports in Middlebury, from his children to most recently his grandchildren.

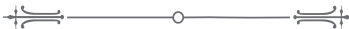
He is survived by his children, Marc Quesnel, Pamela Quesnel Stevens, and Eric Quesnel; sister, Maryann Highter (Ronald); grandchildren, Luke, Elizabeth and Mara; partner, Nancy Ryan; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by parents, Aurele Quesnel and Ruth Dorey Quesnel; his brother, Gerald Quesnel; and his previous wife, Mary Smith.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024, at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Middlebury at 10 a.m., celebrated by Fr. Brandon Schneider. Interment will be in the church cemetery. A reception will follow the Mass.

Arrangements under the direction of Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home.

Online condolences at: www.sandersonfuneralservice.com. ◇



## Roger K. Wright, 78, formerly of Vergennes

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Roger Wright has made his final journey home. On Nov. 9, 2023, Roger passed away unexpectedly in his sleep at his brother John’s home located in Las Vegas, Nev. While Roger spent his younger years on the East coast, he was happiest on the West coast, where he spent the majority of his adult life.

Roger was born May, 28, 1945, at Porter Medical Center to Naomi Affie Myrick and H. Kent Wright. He grew up in Vergennes alongside his siblings. You could say he was a rebel without a cause. He attended Vergennes High School. After receiving his GED, he became a carpenter for a short period of time until he decided to follow in his father’s footsteps and headed out West with his family. This is where he found his true passion for the hustle and bustle of the casino industry. He was a poker dealer for 20-plus years,



ROGER K. WRIGHT

later becoming a poker room supervisor. Roger was also able to check off one of his bucket list items, by playing in The World Series of Poker Tournament.

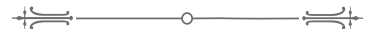
Another one of Roger’s passions in life was sports, and most importantly he was a diehard

Yankees fan. You could find him at games, watching them with friends and family on TV, and later in life due to the loss of vision he began to enjoy listening to the games on the radio. He also enjoyed collecting sports memorabilia; over the years he collected thousands of cards, magazines and more.

Roger is survived by his children, Melissa Wright, Kerry (Joseph) Ask, and David (Michaela Davico) Wright; grandchildren, Madison Ask Joseph Ask II, Weston Wright, and Paxton Wright; brothers John Wright, Edwin (Regina) Wright, Kurt (Kim) Wright and Sunny; and sister Beverly; as well as many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, oldest brother Larry Wright and sister Sharman Wright.

There will be no funeral services. In lieu of flowers, play a good ole’ game of poker and win big. ◇



## Thomas Steven Chasse, 55, of Brandon

BRANDON — It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Thomas Steven Chasse. He passed away on January 10, 2024, at The University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington. Tom was born on April 2, 1968, in Riverside, Calif. Tom was a loyal brother, son, father, grandfather, and friend.

Tom leaves behind his father, Roland Chasse, along with his sisters, Kim Chasse and her partner Tim Hammill, Ann Chasse-Stephenson, brother-in-law, Chris Stephenson, Stepsister, Lynna Taubman, and Stepfather, Alan Denslow. Among those left behind are his children, Tyler Chasse (19), Ethan Chasse (17), Jamie Chasse (15), and Cassandra Jade Chasse (33); his nieces, Erica LeGrow, Krissy LeGrow, Cindy LeGrow, Amelia Stephenson and Adelaide Stephenson, and one grandchild, Nathan who he loved greatly; and many other friends and family.

Tom was predeceased by his mother, Joanne Romeo Denslow, and his grandparents Joseph and Anna Romeo, and Thomas and Emmie-Ann Chasse.



THOMAS STEVEN CHASSE

Tom opened his heart to many and never looked down on anyone. He had lifelong friends who were supportive and dedicated.

Tom enjoyed watching his children play sports, lunch dates with them, and phone calls or texts to stay in touch. Tom was extremely proud of all his children and talked about them often. On a personal level, Tom loved anything dealing with cars whether that was maintenance, rebuilding, or

seasonal upgrades. His brain had an amazing ability to decipher how mechanical things worked whether that was a car engine or a heating and air conditioning unit, he loved to work on both. He also enjoyed snowmobiles, hunting, fishing, kayaking, and hiking. A final blessing was performed bedside by Father Timothy Sullivan, Spiritual Care at University of Vermont Medical Center. No services will be provided.

Tom’s body will be cremated, and a private burial of his ashes will occur at a later date in a wooded area of Vermont where he can rest in peace. Online condolences can be submitted at the Stephen C. Gregory and Son website gregorycremation.com by selecting obituaries.

In lieu of flowers, Tom’s family has asked for any donations to help support the Howard Center of Burlington, Vt., a critical support for mental health throughout the Vermont area or a charity of your choice.

Arrangements are in the care of Stephen C. Gregory and Son, Burlington. ◇

## Obituary Guidelines

The Independent will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family’s choosing. For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Independent offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos

(optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to obits@addisonindependent.com.

Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Wednesday for publication in the Thursday paper. Email obits@addisonindependent.com or call 802-388-4944 for more information.

## Bristol

### Police Log

BRISTOL — Animal incidents have occupied Bristol police in recent weeks. On Dec. 26 police warned he owner of dogs running through a yard off River Road. Then on Jan. 6, police began investigating a report of possible animal neglect on Carlstrom Road.

Between Dec. 17 and Jan. 6, Bristol police completed 40 foot patrols, conducted 35 traffic stops and checked security at Mount Abraham Union High School 19 times, at Bristol Elementary School 17 times, and at local businesses 17 times.

Police also processed 25 fingerprint requests, verified one vehicle identification number, conducted two welfare checks and responded to two false alarms activated by employee errors.

Also, Bristol police:

- On Dec. 18, helped with traffic control on East Street while the Public Works Department cleared a clogged culvert.
- On Dec. 18, deployed traffic cones at a flood on Mountain Street.
- On Dec. 21, looked into a Prince Lane report of disorderly conduct.
- On Dec. 22, began investigating a complaint of threatening on Lawson Lane.
- On Dec. 22, responded to a two-car crash on West Street.
- On Dec. 23, helped a motorist start their vehicle on North Street.

- On Dec. 23, assisted an individual in crisis on Pine Street.
- On Dec. 25, checked on a vehicle that was sitting in a parking lot with its headlights on for an extend period of time.
- On Dec. 26, mediated a dispute on Main Street.
- On Dec. 26, received a report of an erratic driver on Monkton Road. Police didn’t find the vehicle.
- On Dec. 26, responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle on Monkton Road, but couldn’t find it.
- On Dec. 26, logged a report of a hit and run incident on Route 116.
- On Dec. 30, served an arrest warrant on York Hill Road in Lincoln.
- On Dec. 30, began investigating a report of identity theft.
- On Dec. 31, responded to a

- report of a small fire on the steps of a Main Street business. Police determined a Sterno fuel canister was being used and moved it.
- On Jan. 3, responded to a noise complaint on Adirondack View and asked individuals to quiet down.
  - On Jan. 4, assisted a person in need of a ride on Mountain Street.
  - On Jan. 4, received a complaint regarding a motor vehicle on Pine Street. Investigation is ongoing.
  - On Jan. 5, ticketed a minor in possession of tobacco.
  - On Jan. 5, responded to a report of erratic driving on Prince Lane. Police determined the driver wasn’t impaired.
  - On Jan. 6, began investigation of a report of an unknown person walking around houses on West Street in the early morning.



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Film

(Continued from Page 1A)

attacks on civilian populations; what it actually feels like to be at the receiving end of a war crime,” Andersson said of the film.

Andersson has spent around three decades covering conflicts across the globe as a foreign correspondent, producer and documentary maker for the BBC. She now runs Hayloft Productions LLC, producing films that focus on war, criminal justice, climate and other issues. She’s an Addison County resident.

The award-winning filmmaker said she knew early on in the Russia-Ukraine conflict that she wanted to create a film documenting the story of Mariupol.

“In the first few days of the war it became obvious to me, as someone who has covered a lot of wars in my career, that Mariupol was going to potentially become one of the places where the war was going to play out in the worst possible way, because the Russians started moving in on the city and it very quickly started to look like a siege situation,” Andersson told the *Independent*.

Andersson found that the story of Mariupol was a difficult one to tell. A siege on the port city and constant shelling in the area disrupted phone reception, diminished electricity and water supplies, and prevented foreign correspondents from



**LOCAL FILMMAKER HILARY Andersson spent several months in 2022 producing “Mariupol: The People’s Story,” a film that documents the destruction of the Ukrainian city in the months after Russia’s invasion of it European neighbor. Middlebury College will screen the documentary on Tuesday, followed by a Q&A with Andersson.**

Photo courtesy of Hilary Andersson

getting into the city and Ukrainians from getting out.

“The whole place was pretty much shut down, so it was very, very challenging to tell the story, but we found a way,” she recalled.

Prior to the war, Mariupol was a flourishing coastal city with a population of around 430,000. The region was transformed into a battleground in February 2022, when Russian troops began moving into Mariupol, seeking control of

the strategic port city.

More than two months of fighting ensued between Russian and Ukrainian forces, destroying much of the city and killing an estimated 25,000 civilians, according to Ukrainian officials. Russian forces officially took control of Mariupol in May 2022.

The documentary, largely filmed and told by the people of Mariupol, tells the story of what it was like to live through Russia’s attacks on the city during the siege of Mariupol.

Over the course of several months following the start of the war, Andersson worked with the film’s Ukrainian team (Taras Shumeyko and Serhiy Solodko) to connect with Mariupol residents who were able to escape the city, and then with director Robin Barnwell to interview survivors.

The team parsed through over 100 different testimonies from individuals who had survived the bombing of the Donetsk Academic Regional Drama Theatre and a maternity hospital, as well as other attacks.

“We’d already accepted we wouldn’t survive,” Oksana, an anesthetist at Mariupol Regional Intensive Care Hospital, said in the film. “I wrote down my mum’s number and put it in (my son) Nikita’s pocket in case we got separated. So if someone

found him, they could contact his relatives.”

Oksana moved into the hospital to continue working once it became too dangerous to travel through Mariupol. She and her colleagues later snuck out of the building, after Russian troops moved closer to the hospital and started shooting at nearby buildings.

Diana, an artist, also shared the story of her escape from the city in the documentary.

“People were scared of both leaving and staying,” she recalled. “It was the choice between the two ways of being killed; either the quick one or the very tiring and (slow) one if you stay in the city. We decided to leave the day we left. We knew that it was a very crazy decision and we (had) to stick to it.”

The film includes testimonies from several other Ukrainians and their stories of suffering, resistance and survival.

Andersson’s work on the film included helping conduct the interviews with survivors in Ukraine. She noted that some interviews lasted upwards of eight hours.

“They needed to be long interviews because these were very harrowing stories and people would break down while they were telling them,” she said. “These were personal, painful testimonies.



**ALEVITINA, A FORMER television show host and Mariupol resident, recounts how she and her family escaped the Ukrainian city on foot following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022. She is one of several former Mariupol residents who share their stories in “Mariupol: The People’s Story,” which will be screened at Middlebury College on Tuesday.**

Photo courtesy of Robin Barnwell

People had seen horrible things; people dying, neighbors buried under rubble.”

The filmmaker said that the documentary is aimed at shedding light on the experiences of the people of Mariupol.

“It was trying to explain to a global audience what it actually feels like to be in a city like this,” Andersson said. “To try to really bring that home to the audience, what that might feel like if it happened to you or to me. I think the people who told their story did that really well.”

The film was released in November 2022 and has since been screened in cities across the globe. The documentary has won several awards, including an International Emmy and a Peabody Award for “Best Documentary.”

Tuesday’s screening of “Mariupol: The People’s Story” is open to the public and is set for 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Axinn Center 232 at Middlebury College. Those interested in attending the screening can find more information at [tinyurl.com/2kpahzey](http://tinyurl.com/2kpahzey).

Homeless

(Continued from Page 1A)

human services providers suspect the bridge locale off Bakery Lane will continue to be a magnet for houseless individuals.

“I would have to imagine that when the weather improves and springtime comes, that place won’t have lost any of its appeal,” Middlebury Police Chief Jason Covey told the *Independent* on Tuesday. “I would assume they would return there, though you never know. There’s no way to prevent that. If we shut off that spot, what’s the alternative?”

Mother Nature can occasionally dissolve encampments, but the only way to make them permanently disappear is to render them obsolete through the provision of permanent housing, according to local advocates. So representatives of the Charter House Coalition, the Counseling Service of Addison County, the Turning Point Center of Addison County and other local nonprofits continue to explore ways to connect the local houseless population with homes and the services they need. Those services include mental health counseling and treatment for substance use disorder.

Heidi Lacey, director of the Charter House Coalition’s (CHC) Emergency Shelter in Middlebury, said there were five to eight campers at the bridge site last fall. Since then, CHC and its partner agencies have found housing

solutions — either through the emergency shelter or the state’s motel voucher program — for all but two of those folks.

The remaining two people haven’t camped overnight at the site since just before last week’s windstorms, officials believe. But Lacey noted a few people continue to spend time at the campsite during the day, as well as at the Ilsley Library and other public venues.

The CHC shelter and John Graham Emergency Shelter in Vergennes are consistently full. But harsh winter weather has triggered an emergency overflow provision that allows CHC to set up cots for a few additional people. They can come in at 7 p.m. and must leave by 7 a.m. the following day. Some of the erstwhile campers have used this service on cold nights, according to Lacey.

Advocates have seen no evidence of campers on the so-called “Happy Trail” along the Otter Creek off Mill Street, though they’ve seen signs of a small encampment in Means Woods east of Middlebury village.

“We are checking that area, as well as Wright Park, regularly,” Lacey said.

One of the shelters’ foremost goals is to keep people warm during the winter. But that can be challenging — even when there are empty beds.

“People have to be willing to accept the service,” Lacey said, while adding “some folks are just not suitable for a congregate setting, for the safety of everyone involved.”

For those folks, the shelter is still providing regular meals, essential items and referrals. Shelter officials can call first responders, police or CSAC’s emergency team if any issues arise with shelter guests who show the potential for physical violence, substance use disorder, or mental health challenges.

In some cases, shelter officials see individuals they believe might be unable to care for themselves.

“We can file concerns with Adult Protective Services if someone is showing consistent signs of self-neglect,” Lacey said.

But she noted it’s difficult to convince a judge to OK an involuntary committal to a hospital or mental health facility.

“Our hands feel very tied,” she said.

Lacey and Tom Morgan, associate director of the CHC shelter, are part of an Addison County Homelessness Task Force that reformed this past October in response to complaints about houseless folks camping under the Cross Street Bridge. Several business owners packed a Middlebury selectboard meeting last fall to raise concerns about destructive and threatening behavior shown by some of the campers, as well as specific cases of store windows and doors being smashed, illegal dumping, the theft of cash, campfires wafting smoke into outdoor dining areas, threatening, harassment, stalking, car vandalism, public nudity and drinking, trespassing and other infractions.

Task force members and Middlebury police initiated daily checks on the campers to monitor their welfare and guard against potential criminal activity. Complaints lessened following



**COLD, BLUSTERY WEATHER has at least temporarily dispersed a group of houseless folks who’ve been camping under the Cross Street Bridge in downtown Middlebury. Local officials believe they’ll return and hope to have some long-term solutions for their homelessness during the coming months.**

Independent photo/John S. McGrirt

the arrest of one of the campers, 32-year-old Cassandra Chasse, who racked up 30 interactions with Middlebury police during the late summer and fall of 2023.

Business owners acknowledged the successful police work, but voiced frustration that those cited for crimes were quickly back on the streets. Addison County State’s Attorney Eva Vekos noted current state statutes — and the Vermont Constitution — severely restricts judges from holding folks on bail who’ve been accused of misdemeanor offenses.

Lacey is among those who believe there need to be changes to those statutes.

“It should be eye-opening for our community, and it sends a message more needs to be done,” she said. “We need to give our police officers and state’s attorney’s office the ability to follow through before it gets too out of hand.”

**CAR STOLEN FROM GARAGE**

Things did get out of hand recently for a Buttolph Acres family whose vehicle was stolen from their garage — while they were at home

on New Year’s Day. As previously reported by the *Independent*, Middlebury police on Jan. 1 cited Irving D. Rose III, 43, for burglary into an occupied dwelling and grand larceny, after he allegedly stole the vehicle and drove it — with a female companion — to Rutland, where he was apprehended later that day by Rutland police. Police — who were able to find the car due to its Onstar tracking software, said Rose was lodged at the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility for lack of \$10,000 bail.

Officials confirmed Irving has been a regular Bakery Lane camper, as has the aforementioned Cassandra Chasse, who was his passenger in the alleged car theft caper, according to police records.

Vermont State Police have cited Chasse for possession of stolen property in connection with the case.

The car in question belongs to Gail Mannigan and her husband.

“I have never felt more violated,” she said. “I don’t feel safe in my own home, like I used to. It’s not the same.”

Mannigan said the incident has left her feeling violated and frustrated with a legal system that’s quickly releasing some defendants after their arraignment.

“They’re kind of terrorizing this town, and it’s not OK,” Mannigan said. “They stole our car from under our noses. They don’t have any regard for anything or anybody; I can’t say that strongly enough. There comes a point where you have to pay for what you do to people.”

Mannigan is considering a petition drive to raise awareness of the situation while calling for stricter measures against those charged with criminal activity.

“I really feel strongly that I want to do something; I’m just not sure where to start,” she said.

Middlebury police on Tuesday began the process of declaring the Bakery Lane camp remnants as abandoned property. Police posted a note at the site asking the owners of the tents and any other useful items to claim the property. If no one steps forward within a few

days, police can collect the items and hold them for 30 days, after which they can be thrown away, according to Covey.

“Even some of the people who like being (under the bridge) are taking issue with the mess,” he said.

Covey pledged to be flexible on the 30-day period.

“It’s such a delicate situation,” he said. “We just don’t want to ‘swoop in,’ because there are legal precedents to this as well.”

One such precedent dates to the fall of 2017, when the ACLU of Vermont filed a successful complaint against the city of Burlington, which had moved to evict three homeless residents camping on public property while confiscating their possessions.

“It’s not our intent to do that,” Covey said of the action the city of Burlington took in 2017. “But we also recognize that if someone isn’t living (at an encampment on public property) and there are things scattered all over the place, at what point does that become garbage, or littering?”

Police will continue to check on the encampment, and human services providers said they’ll keep working with campers once they reappear on the scene.

“Outreach is number one,” Covey said. “You’re not going to enforce your way out of this. The remedy is allowing people different opportunities for housing, to not live in a tent under a bridge.”

Morgan of the CHC Emergency Shelter often finds himself in the trenches, reaching out to houseless individuals where they are, and at some of the lowest points in their lives. He also interacts with downtown business owners to try and remedy some of their concerns.

Along with troubleshooting current problems, Morgan and his colleagues are readying the challenges that spring will bring.

“It’ll be interesting to see what happens in April, because we’re already seeing faces we haven’t seen before,” he said. “There will be an increase.”

Reporter John Flowers is at [johnf@addisonindependent.com](mailto:johnf@addisonindependent.com).

## Shoreham Rabies Vaccine Clinic

### For Dogs and Cats

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A PAINTED TURTLE basks above the ice in Sharon, Vt. late last month. Warmer temperatures this past December prompted some of the state’s herptiles to stay active later than usual this winter.

Photo by Peter Hollinger

## Turtles

(Continued from Page 1A)

the month of December, prompting some herptiles into activity earlier than usual.

In Addison County, this past December brought little snowfall and abnormally warm temperatures. According to the National Weather Service, the temperature in Cornwall reached 55 degrees Fahrenheit on Dec. 19, a record high for the town on that day.

“We had temperatures that were roughly 45 degrees Fahrenheit, the ground was thawed out, there was no snow cover. So, these guys thawed out and they were starting to move around,” Andrews said. “For that time period, and since we’ve been gathering data, this is the first time we’ve seen that.”

### DECEMBER SIGHTINGS

Andrews noted that while the organization has occasionally observed similar activity during an early spring thaw or warmer stretch in January, the herptile sightings reported in recent weeks are unique.

“We’d never seen it for this particular time period, this late December time period,” he said.

Throughout the last week of December, the Vermont Reptile & Amphibian Atlas heard reports of a wood frog spotted on the Pitch Pine Trail Salisbury, an American bullfrog active in Charlotte and a young painted turtle basking on the ice in Sharon.

Andrews noted that sightings of the wood frog and painted turtle were the first ever reports in the state of those herptiles being active during the last week of December.

“In the case of the turtle, turtles are usually under the ice, and they may move around a bit, but they stay under the ice. But we lost the ice, and we lost the ice covering on most places,” Andrews explained.

### WARMING WINTERS

The herpetologist said the recent sightings appear reflective of a larger trend driven by climate change.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports average winter temperatures throughout the country have increased by around three degrees Fahrenheit since 1896.

And according to the 2021 Vermont Climate Assessment released by scientists at the University of Vermont, the state’s winter temperatures since 1960 have risen more quickly than the overall average annual temperature increase of 2 degrees Fahrenheit, while the state’s freeze-free period has also lengthened by three weeks since then.

This abnormal winter weather can have a negative impact on local herptiles, Andrews said.

“We get a little bit of snow, and then it warms up and we lose it. Then we get a little bit of snow, and the ground thaws out. These irregular patterns are not the same patterns that these species evolved with, and so in some cases, we can get some really mass die-offs,” he said.

Andrews said there’s a variety of ways that irregular winter weather can hurt herptiles, such as a loss of snow cover, which acts as an insulator for hibernating reptiles and amphibians.

“If you have a good snow layer on top of the soil, the ground sometimes doesn’t even freeze. It’s enough of an insulator, so that it keeps the ground at least from freezing very deep,” Andrews said. “When we lose that, and (herptiles) freeze, it can exceed the level of their antifreeze and they die, or it could get deep enough so that those creatures which are deeper in the soil, the ones that are not freeze



A WOOD FROG perches above the snow in Derby, Vt. late last month. The frog was one of several herptiles spotted throughout the state during the last week of December, a time of year when those creatures are typically dormant for the winter.

Photo courtesy of Jim Andrews

tolerant, freeze and die.”

Luke Groff is a herpetologist for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. He said other challenges to herptiles posed by warmer winter weather could include a depletion of the resources animals rely on during hibernation. “When they’re overwintering, a lot of species are dormant or not active but they’re still drawing on resources because they’re still alive, there’s still a heartbeat,” Groff explained. “(With) a warm-up in January, they’re going to draw on those resources faster. It just means they might go through the resources that they stockpile during the fall, and they might not have enough to get through the winter.”

Groff said irregular winter weather could also create other problems for snakes if the creatures leave their dens during a warm-up and it snows while they’re out.

“I could see them being trapped out of their den and then dying from exposure,” he said.

Andrews noted that tough winters have at times led to die-offs among the state’s herptile populations.

“In the past, I would say by and large, they’ve recovered,” he said. “Will they continue to recover? Can they keep up with these changes? I

am concerned about that.”

Andrews and Groff noted that climate change is just one of several threats the state’s reptiles and amphibians are facing.

“These impacts of climate change aren’t happening in isolation. These animals are also impacted by habitat loss, disease, being hit on roads,” Groff said. “I would encourage folks to help out where they can; if there’s a turtle crossing the road and you can help out safely, if you can create or maintain habitats.”

Groff said another way people can help protect species is by not interfering with wild animals.

“Seeing a snake or a turtle basking on a log in the winter, it’s odd, but these are animals that know what they’re doing, they know what their body needs, so I’d recommend leaving wild animals in the

wild,” he said.

Andrews believes the most important thing people can do to help herptiles is to work collectively to tackle the climate crisis.

“We just have to be more aggressive about preventing climate change. It’s going to happen, but the question is to what degree is it going to happen, and that depends on our actions,” he said.

## Vermont State Police Log

**ADDISON COUNTY** — Vermont State Police based in New Haven issued three driving under the influence, or DUI, citations during the past week, in addition to charging a Vermont man in a road-rage incident.

Troopers are also seeking help finding some stolen vehicles and in finding a man who stole some expensive saws.

On Monday, Jan. 15, state police were told of two separate incidents involving stolen cars. A white 2014 Chevrolet Volt with Vermont license plate GYK718 was stolen from a home on Four Winds Road in Ferrisburgh. Additionally, a silver 2010 Subaru Forester with Vermont license plate HYA138 was stolen from a home on Davis Road in Monkton.

Troopers believe both vehicles were stolen sometime Sunday night or early Monday morning.

Anyone with information about the theft of these cars is asked to call the New Haven barracks at 802-388-4919, or leave an anonymous tip online at [vsp.vermont.gov/tipsubmit](http://vsp.vermont.gov/tipsubmit).

Meanwhile, troopers are asking help in a retail theft case. On Jan. 8, state police sought the public’s help in identifying a man who stole two Stihl concrete saws from Aubuchon Hardware on Monkton Road in Ferrisburgh near the gateway to Vergennes. Back on Nov. 26 and 27, the man can be seen on surveillance video walking into Aubuchon

Hardware and then carrying out a saw without paying. Anyone with information on the man is urged to contact Trooper Dobson at the New Haven barracks, 802-388-4919.

Separately, troopers tagged four Vermonters for allegedly driving drunk on Addison County roads.

First, on Jan. 10 at around 10 p.m., a trooper saw a motor vehicle violation on Route 7 near Little Chicago Road in Ferrisburgh and stopped the car. Police ended up citing Kyle D. Bent, 23, of Hinesburg, for DUI.

Then, on Friday, Jan. 12, at around 5:30 p.m., another motor vehicle violation — this one on Route 7, near Round Barn Road in Ferrisburgh — resulted in another traffic stop. The officer screened driver Joseph P. Kelley, 64, of Randolph and took him to the Vergennes Police Department for an evaluation by a Drug Recognition Expert. Police subsequently cited Kelley for DUI-drugs.

Later that evening, at around 8:30 p.m., a trooper pulled over a car driven by Andrew Malzac, 31, of Middlebury, for traffic violations. The trooper took Malzac to the Middlebury Police Department and cited him for DUI.

Later that night at 11:42 p.m., troopers responded to a one-car crash on Route 30 in Cornwall. Police reported Oliver Berlic, 38, of Cornwall was driving a 2017 Subaru Forester when he rounded a corner headed south on Route

30 near Ridge Road, drove off the roadway briefly, and overcorrected, causing the Subaru to spin around and head off the roadway a second time. The vehicle was found lying on its driver’s side, with Berlic uninjured. While speaking with Berlic, troopers reported detecting indicators of impairment, so they screened him and ultimately cited him for DUI.

The road-rage incident occurred in Shoreham on Sunday night, Jan. 14. At around 8:50 p.m., state police received a call reporting the incident, which allegedly culminated in an assault of a juvenile near Route 73 and Main Street in Shoreham. After investigating, police cited Clifford Torres, 34, of Milton, for simple assault.

State police also reported a one-car crash in Ferrisburgh on Sunday morning.

On Jan. 14 at approximately 8:12 a.m., troopers went to the crash on Route 7 near Tupper’s Crossing. Police said Perry Mason, 55, of Colchester was driving a 2008 Honda Accord northbound on Route 7 when his vehicle left the northbound lane and hit trees and a rock formation.

Mason sustained minor injuries and was taken to UVM Medical Center. The Accord sustained contact damage. Route 7 traffic was temporarily reduced to one lane.

The Vergennes Area Rescue Squad and Ferrisburgh Fire Department assisted state police.

## Career Center

(Continued from Page 1A)

The PHCC delivers career and technical education to high school and adult students in 17 Addison County towns, with the majority of its enrollees coming from Middlebury, Vergennes and Mount Abraham union high schools. The center also accepts homeschooled students, as well as those enrolled in private schools and other high schools in our region — such as Otter Valley.

Bond payback for the center’s renovation project — the first major overhaul in 52 years for the PHCC — accounts for 15% of the center’s proposed FY’25 budget, according to documents supplied by PHCC Superintendent Nicole MacTavish.

“It was the right thing to do, and we very much appreciate the voters’ support, but it does really impact our budget,” she said of the debt service, which — when added to contracted salary and benefits increases — makes up 86% of the total FY’25 budget ask.

It should also be noted that PHCC and Addison Central School District educators continue to negotiate a new contract; the current one expires this summer.

“When almost all of your budget is salary and benefits, the dramatic increase of 16% in your health care premium throws everything out of whack,” MacTavish added, noting several career center staffers recently elected to join the PHCC’s healthcare rolls.

“So only 14% of our budget

is what you could sort of call ‘discretionary’ spending, though I’m not sure ‘heating and lights’ is that discretionary,” MacTavish said.

Another contributor to the double-digit budget increase: The absence of a year-end fund balance to offset the property tax impact of the FY’25 budget.

“One-time money used for ongoing expenses ends up with a funding cliff the year after that,” she lamented.

Career center officials have been pursuing grants to take pressure off education taxes, according to MacTavish. She cited recent efforts to secure \$650,000 in federal money for high-tech manufacturing programs, including a partnership with Collins Aerospace in Vergennes.

Federal funding for Vermont’s career centers has declined each year since 2000, MacTavish noted.

PHCC students now have a choice of 22 CTE (career and technical education) courses, including automotive technology, culinary arts, diesel power technology, industrial design & fabrication, and medical professions. And MacTavish announced last week the addition of two more courses for next school year: One is welding and the other is electrical & plumbing.

She said the new offerings reflect student demand, as well as demographic and market research.

“We think these (new courses) are going to be very popular with the students, and there’s also a

huge need in Addison County,” MacTavish said. “If you’ve had any effects from the floods, you know how hard it is to find these kinds of professionals to come and help you when you need the help.”

The PHCC’s current tuition rate is \$26,909; that’s what towns pay to send students there. MacTavish said it’s difficult to pinpoint next year’s tuition rate, as officials are unsure about the FY’25 enrollment and other potential revenue variables. But assuming a flat enrollment and a successful resolution on a teachers’ contract, MacTavish pointed to a potential FY’25 career center tuition of \$31,259, which would mean a 16.16% (\$4,350) increase compared to this year.

“The costs for running (CTE) is pretty fixed; it’s the number of students that’s variable. The more enrollment, the cheaper the tuition,” MacTavish explained.

Currently, 29% (152 students) of MUHS enrollees are taking at least one PHCC class. Vergennes Union has 96 students (33% of its overall population) taking PHCC classes, while 20% of MAUSD students (88) are benefitting from career center programming right now, according to MacTavish.

“Our enrollment is actually doing well. Our students are continuing to see value in the program and are seeking out our programs,” she said. “My hope ... is that every student at all of our high schools has an opportunity to experience CTE at least once.”

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**STRUCTURAL SUPPORT TOWERS** in Ferrisburgh’s Union Meeting Hall have been in place to preserve its structural integrity for a number of years. This spring a number of restoration projects are slated to begin. Friends of Union Meeting Hall hope to have the towers down and the hall open to the public sometime in August.

Photo courtesy of Ashley LaFlam

## Major structural work to begin at the Union Meeting Hall

FERRISBURGH — A long list of much-anticipated restoration projects are set to begin this spring at the historic Union Meeting Hall, bringing about a new era for the nearly 200 year-old building.

“These projects are almost four years in the making,” said Friends of the Union Meeting Hall President Ashley LaFlam. “We knew very early on that there were structural issues with the building, which is why the four structural towers were

installed a number of years ago. We are excited to finally see the work completed and the towers removed.”

Projects will include the repair of broken and rotted roof trusses, replacing broken slate roof tiles, repointing the historic chimneys and installing a new metal snow belt. In addition, sloping floors will be leveled, the steeple piers will be reinforced, and rotted exterior trim will be replaced and painted. The interior of the building will not be open to

the public during construction. Weather permitting, the repairs are set to be completed by August 2024

According to the contractor Miles Jenness of Vermont Heavy Timber “I first became interested in the Union Meeting Hall almost a decade ago and am deeply excited to finally be bringing the restoration to fruition. The meeting hall is beautiful and has a storied history, and I’m honored to be a part of bringing the building back to its place

as a gathering space for the community.”

Jenness has spent the better part of last year working on rebuilding the trusses for Notre Dame. Per LaFlam, “Miles shares a passion for repairing and restoring old buildings. He has been a great supporter of our journey, and we know our building will be in good hands.”

Once the projects are completed, the Friends plan to hold a celebration to welcome the public back into the building.



## Brain Bee Bootcamp to be held Saturday at UVM

BURLINGTON — The Brain Bee Bootcamp will be held this Saturday, Jan. 20, from 9 a.m. to noon at the University of Vermont Medical School. On this day, high school students registered to take part in the Vermont registered Brain Bee will explore the anatomy of the brain and are actually shown parts on human cadaver brains. They will also field practice questions to prepare them for the Vermont Brain Bee competition coming up next month.

It is not too late to register for Saturday’s event. Important information to register and prepare can be found online at vermontbrainbee.com. It’s free.

As of early this week, approximately 30 students had registered from nine high schools throughout Vermont. Laura Vantine, a new teacher at Middlebury Union High School, has become the Neuroscience adviser there and is pleased to have a couple students who are psyched to participate.

After 15 years of successfully hosting the Vermont Brain Bee, Lisa Bernardin, the Vermont Brain Bee Coordinator and Middlebury resident, is especially excited to share her story, “Our Brains: How They Change,” as the 2024 Keynote Speaker.

## The Residence pet food drive set

MIDDLEBURY — Local residents and associates from The Residence at Otter Creek senior living community in Middlebury, are hosting a charitable pet food drive January through March to support the Addison County Homeward Bound PetCORE Food Shelf at HOPE.

The charitable donation drive started Monday, Jan. 8, and will

run through Sunday, March 31.

New and sealed non-perishable food item donations (i.e., canned, dry food and treats) can be dropped off inside the Residence lobby, located at 350 Lodge Road, Middlebury.

For further information on this charitable drive call 802-388-1220 ext. 4855.

## ADDISON COUNTY School News Briefs

**Kaitlyn McNamara** of Middlebury, a senior majoring in Environmental Engineering, was named to the dean’s list for the fall 2023 semester at Clarkson

University. Dean’s list students must achieve a minimum 3.25 grade-point average and also carry at least 14 credit hours.

Four local students have been named to the president’s list for the fall semester at Plymouth State University in Plymouth, N.H. With GPAs of 3.70 or better, **John**

**Woodbury** of Brandon, **Alyssa Whitcomb** of Bristol, **Martha Horne** of Middlebury, and **Janelle Kitchin** of Vergennes received the honor.

# STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

## Middlebury Union High School

### Sienna “CC” Rubright

Sienna Rubright, known to all as “CC,” is Middlebury Union High School’s latest Student of the Week. She is the daughter of Amy and Justin Rubright and has two brothers, Wyatt, a graduate of MUHS who now lives in North Carolina, and Sutton, a member of the Class of 2026. CC is a respected member of our community, valued for her kindness, thoughtfulness and caring attitude. She has pursued a rigorous academic curriculum, including multiple courses in the International Baccalaureate program. Her teachers appreciate her contributions in the classroom and value that she approaches academics with a sense of curiosity and a keen sense of interest in the content.

When asked about her time at MUHS, CC smiles and says, “My teachers have been amazing!” She goes on to say, “Another highlight is having been a member of the inaugural Varsity Volleyball team that had a final record of 13-2.” She admits that she did not know, initially, what she was getting into when her mother signed her up, but in reflection, she is very glad she did. Her position was that of outside hitter and she encourages others to get involved in volleyball as it is a “lifetime sport.” Along with her recent successes in volleyball, CC is the catcher on the varsity softball team for the Tigers and is looking ahead to the spring season with excitement.

One of her favorite activities at MUHS is Best Buddies as it helps to create great friendships amongst students. She loves helping to organize events and lunch gatherings for the club’s members. Soon they will be hosting a bake sale and a movie night. She also enjoyed volunteering as a Peer Leader in the fall.

CC has spent summers working at Waterhouses on Lake Dunmore, where she assisted in the front office and helped orchestrate boat rentals. She has also been employed at Kampersville. As she looks ahead to next year, she is focused on finding a college in Vermont or a neighboring state. She is somewhat undecided about a major but has enjoyed her Environmental Systems and Societies class and may consider that field. We look forward to seeing what lies ahead for CC and wish her all the best.



Sienna “CC” Rubright  
MUHS

## Vergennes Union High School

### Kaelin Sullivan

Kaelin Sullivan, Vergennes Union High School’s Student of the Week, lives in Panton with her Dad, Kevin; Stepmom, Sarah; younger brother, Oliver; and her dog Rufus. Other family members include her mom Stacy and older brothers Jonah and Ryan.

While recognizing her interest in the social aspect of school and liking to spend time with friends, Kaelin certainly has academic strengths, as well. She earned the Science Achievement award in 9th grade, Challenging Oneself in Art award and the Five Guidelines and Achievement award in 10th grade, and the Outstanding Achievement in Technology award and a SAGE scholarship in 11th grade. Her academic interests include CAD, Art and Math. Her favorite teachers at VUHS include Allison Mahoney, Sarah Thompson and Carl Crawford, who she said always care about what they teach and have supported her throughout high school.

Kaelin is an accomplished athlete, competing on the Commodores varsity girls’ soccer and basketball team, both of which she captained this year. “I enjoy participating in varsity sports because it has been something that has been a part of my life for so long and has created new friendships and bonds with others,” she muses. Off the playing fields, Kaelin has participated in the Green Team, Prom Committee (11th grade) and Student Senate.

Outside VUHS, Kaelin works at the Park Squeeze restaurant in Vergennes, and for three years she has volunteered at the kids clinics for both soccer and basketball on Saturdays during those sports seasons.

In her free time she loves spending time with friends and family whether it means going out and doing something or just staying home.

Kaelin says that something she has re-learned each year through high school is that your mental health is more important than stressing out and losing sleep over school. Throughout high school she has always tried to challenge herself by taking hard classes including APs, and she has learned by taking these classes is that one bad grade does not determine who you are as a student or as a person.

“What I would like to pass on to underclassmen is that, even though you may be struggling with school you still make it through to the end,” Kaelin said.

After high school, Kaelin plans to earn a college degree with a major in Interior Design and minor in Business Administration. The VUHS community wishes all the best to Kaelin in achieving her life’s goals.



Kaelin Sullivan  
VUHS

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# Ilsley

(Continued from Page 1A)  
recently updated the Middlebury selectboard on a two-story, \$16.5 million makeover of the 75 Main St. facility, which includes a historic 1924 building and two subsequent additions.

Ilsley leaders have spent more than five years seeking solutions to deficiencies within the current library building. The structure affords inadequate and poorly configured space that isn't meeting the community's service expectations, Ilsley leaders say.

It has low ceilings and support columns; has a poorly lit and under-sized children's area that suffers from ground water leaks, mold and a broken wastewater system that causes offensive odors; needs better amenities for teens and 'tweens; and has areas and resources that aren't accessible to some folks who are physically challenged.

The solution would include a 19,439-square-foot addition while 6,779 square feet of existing space would be renovated, according to the latest information submitted by the team of ReArch and Wiemann Lamphere Architects.

Earlier estimates for the project had hovered around \$14.8 million. But inflation and spiraling construction costs prompted architects to revise the numbers upward.

"The market has been unlike anything we've ever seen," Huston told the selectboard last week.

With that in mind, the latest figuring assumes project costs could escalate by 4.5% (or \$585,475) between now and the earliest groundbreaking opportunity, which Huston said would be this fall — if Middlebury voters were to endorse the project in May.

Huston anticipates having firmer financial details to share by the end of this month.

In the meantime, not all the financial trends are gloomy.

Ilsley Library Director Dana Hart said recent research has left project boosters optimistic about being able to raise around \$6.5 million through grants and private

fundraising.

And Huston said the town will be able to recoup another \$540,196 associated with a geothermal heating/cooling system that's included in the Ilsley makeover. That reimbursement would come through the federal Inflation Reduction Act. The new law, signed by President Joe Biden in 2022, offers incentives for initiatives that battle climate change and promote clean energy.

"We're very excited to be able to leverage this (grant)," Huston said, adding the geothermal system would also produce long-term operational savings for the library.

It should be noted that the town is obliged to bond for the *full* project amount, even if the job at hand should cost taxpayers millions of dollars less due to other revenue sources. Ilsley officials are hoping the library makeover falls into this category.

Assuming federal reimbursement for geothermal and a successful fundraising effort, Middlebury taxpayers' actual exposure could be around \$10 million. Such a debt would add around \$75 annually per \$100,000 in assessed value to a Middlebury resident's property tax bill, according to Ilsley Library Trustee Joe McVeigh's preliminary calculations.

### KEY POINTS

Major features of the proposed new, two-story library addition include:

- Reading rooms and study rooms on the main level. The first floor would also include a community room and children's library. A separate entrance would allow the community room to be used during off-hours.
- Adult, high school and middle school book collections — as well as an outdoor programming space — on the upper level.
- A storage room and support space for Friends of the Library on

the lower level.

Also part of the undertaking: An outdoor event plaza, an accessible sidewalk-level entrance, and a "warm, inciting street façade articulated with mass timber and glass with proportions of new entry derived from the existing library portico."

Additional project information and images can be found at ilsleypubliclibrary.org

Architects, along with Ilsley and town officials, will spend the next

few months refining project numbers as they balance the library's needs with taxpayers' ability to pay off debt. ReArch and Wiemann Lamphere have compiled a list of 11 alternate items that could reduce or expand the final price tag. Among the alternates: s\

- Starting the project in spring of 2025 (add \$390,317).
- Deduct window treatments (save \$53,793).
- Reduce, by half, a proposed garden area on the roof (save \$33,000).
- Deduct an electric vehicle charger (save \$11,554).

- Expand/realign the lower parking lot off Bakery Lane (save \$212,601).

Another optional cost variable involved the use of "mass timber" elements in construction. According to the website thinkwood.com, mass timber involves large wooden structures — such as support beams — that are made of "multiple solid wood panels that have been nailed or glued together, which provide exceptional strength and stability."

These construction elements, according to Huston, are more environmentally sensitive than conventional steel and concrete.

"It's a way to sequester carbon that is our modern building tool kit," he said.

Huston noted the current Ilsley project design includes some mass timber elements. The town could save roughly \$242,000 by

substituting concrete and steel for those features. Or the town could add roughly \$386,000 to the bottom line by going all mass timber for the construction.

The potential \$16.5 million price tag includes a \$100,000 "placeholder" for temporary relocation of library services during the 13 months of construction. Officials acknowledged that number — as well as other expenses falling under the \$1.67 million category of "owner's costs" — will need to be updated.

Ilsley's makeover will be a major undertaking that will involve a primary contractor and several subs. Middlebury selectboard Chair Brian Carpenter noted builders are in big demand right now, and they figure to become even busier during the next year or two. That's because communities have until the end of this year to commit the federal grant money they received from through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). That money — a lot of it earmarked for local infrastructure projects — must be spent by Dec. 31, 2026.

"That's one of the things that's driving some of the guys you'll be using on this type of a project," Carpenter told Huston.

Library officials said they're thrilled with the project as it currently sits on the drawing board.

"This accomplishes our program," Hart said. "We can fit everything we want in there. The layout is fantastic. It's a high functioning, wonderful library."

McVeigh echoed Hart's sentiments, adding the project would probably also pass muster with Middlebury residents who have yet to be born.

"If we're thinking ahead to the future of the town — which is what we think we ought to be doing — I think this would set us up nicely," he said.

As the *Independent* went to press, the selectboard had yet to officially designate May 7 for the Ilsley makeover vote. The board has been busy of late finalizing a fiscal year 2025 municipal budget and a March 5 Town Meeting Day warning.

## ADDISON COUNTY

# School News

**Carly Rougier**, a 2022 graduate of Mount Abraham Union High School, has completed three semesters at the University of Richmond in Richmond, Va. She

successfully has made the dean's list every semester. Her future plans will include a focus in public health services.

## By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)  
**paycheck who just cannot make ends meet with the rising cost of basic needs."**

**Theresa Schwegel** at [theresa.schwegel@mausd.org](mailto:theresa.schwegel@mausd.org)

The Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing has approved grant funding for 12 partner organizations, including the Addison County Economic Development Corp., or ACEDC. The inaugural Grants for Relocation Outreach Work (GROW) program will support local, regional, county-wide or state-wide organizations conducting new resident relocation, recruitment and retention activities. The ACEDC will use its funding to connect with and follow up on generated leads of potential residents and businesses interested in moving to Addison County, and to organize events and/or conduct activities that promote the region to prospective residents and help new residents feel welcome. Grantees will be required to submit monthly reports and deliverables specific to their approved scope of work to track progress and make any adjustments as necessary in their activities to meet GROW program goals.

**It's National Mentoring Month, and Monkton Central School is reaching out to local residents interested in mentoring students. There's a generation of kids who want to learn who you are and how you do what you do. At Monkton Central, students are curious about photography, soccer and computers. Students wonder about the weather, the web, and the world. Monkton school officials note that students are also interested in people's life experiences. Some school mentors have traveled the world, some are farmers, one was a basketball star, and another was an FBI operative. Mentors can be craft-savvy, avid anglers, storytellers, cooks, musicians, or possess other skills. To get started, contact Monkton Central Mentoring Coordinator**

**Average gasoline prices in Vermont have fallen 4.2 cents per gallon during the past week to \$3.19, according to GasBuddy's survey of 626 stations. Prices in Vermont are 17 cents lower than a month ago and 21.6 cents lower than a year ago. The cheapest station in Vermont sold at \$2.89 this week; the most expensive was \$3.43. Meanwhile, the national average price of gasoline rose 0.6 cents per gallon to \$3.04, which is down 1.4 cents from a month ago and 23.9 cents lower than a year ago.**

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All submissions will be entered to win one of three local prize packages. Prize packages will be selected at random and mailed to each winner.



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SUNRISE ORCHARDS WILL use a portion of a recently announced \$86,400 economic development grant to move this carriage barn (in foreground) from Otter Creek Child Center in Middlebury to the orchard in Cornwall and repurpose it as a new farmstand. Sunrise, another local farm and the Vergennes Opera House will share a combined \$464,615 in state grants to strengthen their operations through major capital improvements.

Independent photo/Steve James

# Grants to help repurpose carriage barn and more

By JOHN FLOWERS

ADDISON COUNTY — Two local agricultural operations and the Vergennes Opera House have been awarded a total of \$464,615 in state grants to strengthen their operations with major capital improvements.

Joining the city’s opera house on the Addison County list of Community Recovery and Revitalization Program (CRRP) grant winners are Lucas Dairy LLC of Starksboro and Sunrise Orchards of Cornwall. The three construction projects are among 40 statewide announced last week.

All told, those grant winners will share \$10,595,644, which will fuel spending of \$104.5 million in total on Vermont projects.

Brief summaries from the Vermont Department of Economic Development, which oversees the CRRP, explain the Addison County projects.

Lucas Dairy Farm LLC will get \$154,428 to apply toward the purchase of, and renovations to, the Ledge Haven Farm in Orwell. First-generation farmer Jon Lucas acquired Orwell’s Ledge Haven Farm in Orwell from Tom and Mike Audet last year. He’s pursuing an overall \$2,664,035 plan to help draw down debt from the purchase and make upgrades to the dairy facility.

According to a letter of support from the Addison County Economic Development Corp., the upgrades will include improvements to employee housing, updates for cow comfort and safety, improved fencing, and a land conservation deal with the Vermont Land Trust.

Lucas said the farm is now

known as Lucas Dairy. He began renting the farm in 2016. Now that he’s assumed ownership, Lucas can make improvements according to his own business plan.

Lucas Dairy currently milks 280 cows. Making the cows more comfortable — by replacing barn mattresses and overhauling stalls — should make the animals more productive, Lucas reasoned.

“We want happy cows,” he said.

For its part, Sunrise Orchards Inc. won a \$86,400 grant to put toward installation of cider making equipment, as well as the relocation to Sunrise property in Cornwall of the historic carriage barn that currently stands on the Otter Creek Child Center property

“We wanted to diversify our income stream here at our wholesale orchard.”

— Barney Hodges, Sunrise Orchards

## ADDISON COUNTY Agriculture News

### Ag agency coming to Addison County for a listening session

MONTPELIER — The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM), alongside our many statewide partners, invites those involved with agriculture in the state to participate in its 2024 listening sessions. Officials want to focus on hearing from producers, processors, distributors and service-providers on topics such as: severe weather impacts, grant and programming feedback and business/industry needs.

Between Jan. 25 and March 25, these conversations will cover 11 counties through seven sessions, in addition to another virtual event. Each event will have on-site parking and light snacks provided.

The Addison County in-person listening session will take place Tuesday, Feb. 13, 5-7 p.m., at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, which is at 2 Duane Court in Middlebury (parking at nearby Middlebury Union High School). Co-hosts Addison County Relocalization Network will provide childcare services during this event.

The statewide online event will take place Sunday, Feb. 18, 12:30-2 p.m. To register for this event head online to [tinyurl.com/VtFarmListening](https://tinyurl.com/VtFarmListening).

Head to that same website for more information on the other in-person listening sessions:

- Jan. 25: Orleans & Essex counties
- Jan. 31: Lamoille & Caledonia counties
- Feb. 7: Bennington County
- Feb. 22: Orange & Windsor counties
- March 20: Rutland County
- March 25: Franklin & Grand Isle counties

In 2023 the Agency and partners co-hosted three listening sessions — two in-person for Windsor, Chittenden and Washington counties and one (virtual) statewide session. In each session legislators, Agriculture Agency employees, producers and service providers came together to discuss hard topics including farmer and farmworker housing, disaster relief needs and

(See Ag agency, Page 13A)

### New funding available for meat and produce growers

MONTPELIER — The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM) announces a new grant program targeting Vermont meat and/or produce growers and processors, which will open for applications on Jan. 19, 2024. The new Meat and Produce Agriculture Development Grants (Meat and Produce ADG) program will award funding between \$35,000 and \$300,000 with no match requirement. Applications close on Feb. 26, 2024.

This one-time funding is intended to strengthen the viability and resiliency of Vermont operations

and businesses performing production and processing activities. Approximately \$1,600,000 will be awarded to eligible operations and businesses through a single competitive grant application process. These funds were allocated by the Vermont State Legislature in the 2024 fiscal year budget.

Awards will range from \$35,000-\$300,000 with no match requirement. Eligible operations and businesses will be registered in and operate within the state of Vermont and will conduct or be expanding into produce production, processing

(See Vt. meat, Page 13A)





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# Grants

*(Continued from Page 12A)*  
St. in Middlebury was pursuing an expansion project that necessitated removal of a 130-year-old, 30-foot-by-36-foot carriage barn from the property.  
“It’s in excellent shape,” Hodges said of the barn, which must be moved before the end of March.  
Local contractor Lou Nop will take the lead in dismantling the barn into sections, then reassembling it on a foundation at Sunrise, according to Hodges. The structure will supplant the platform and event tent the orchard has been using since 2021.  
The Hodges installed Sunrise’s new cidery last summer, incurring some debt that the CRRP grant will help offset. Sunrise had for years been co-packing its cider at Brown’s Orchard & Cidery in Castleton.  
“Our cidery has been running since September and doing terrific,” Hodges said. “We also do bulk cider runs for customers like Eden Cidery. We’re using our own apples, but supply bulk cider to other cider makers.”  
Sunrise, with roughly 140 acres in apple production, produces an average of 100,000 bushels annually. Sadly, a bad frost last spring wiped out around 60% of its

crop.  
“It was the single worst frost event we’ve had in our 50 years (running Sunrise),” Hodges said.  
On the brighter side, gross farmstand receipts have grown at around 30% annually since Sunrise introduced that amenity three years ago, according to Hodges.  
“It’s been a great addition,” he said.  
**OPERA HOUSE ADA PLANS**  
Meanwhile, the Friends of the Vergennes Opera House won a \$223,787 grant to fund creation of an ADA-compliant elevator tower attached to the northwest side of the historic Opera House in the heart of the Little City. The so-called “Vergennes Opera House All Access Project,” as previously reported by the *Independent*, also involves regrading and resurfacing the alleyway that leads to the tower site, and adding pavers, new lighting and landscaping that will turn the current alleyway into a “beautiful and welcoming courtyard.” This new courtyard will create an ADA-accessible entrance to both levels of the city hall building that hosts the opera house.  
The \$223,787 grant will help defray the estimated \$1.64 million cost of the project. The Friends

group has been successful in its fundraising efforts, which last year yielded a \$300,000 grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission and \$30,000 through the Vermont Arts Council. That’s on top of \$500,000 in congressionally directed spending, also known as a federal earmark.  
“At almost every event at the Opera House we are asked ‘Where is the elevator?’ and we have to say, ‘Sorry, but there is none.’ Then we must assist or watch patrons struggle to climb the steep staircase to the second floor,” according to a project narrative at vergennesoperahouse.org.  
That lament will soon be a thing of the past — not only for audiences, but also performers.  
“When complete, the Vergennes Opera House will join the ranks of a handful of performing arts spaces in the state that are able to accommodate performers with physical challenges,” reads the project narrative. “The dressing room itself will be reconfigured to include an ADA-compliant restroom.”  
Opera House officials hope to break ground on the All Access Project this spring, with the goal of completing the work in time for the organization’s 2024-2025 season.

# Vt. meat

*(Continued from Page 12A)*  
of produce grown by the same business, raising meat for human consumption, and/or performing slaughter or slaughter-adjacent processing activities. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, infrastructure improvements, equipment and material upgrades, safety and quality improvements, staff and management training, and implementing improved operations management.  
Marketing, agritourism and research projects are not eligible. Non-profit businesses and those producing fiber, hemp, cannabis, growing hydroponically or value-added only processing are not eligible.

All applicants should address one of the following program priorities in their application:  
• Climate Resilience: Funds should help operations remain productive and sustainable in the face of climate change or help mitigate environmental impacts of the operation.  
• Infrastructure, Efficiency & Capacity: Funds should help business efficiency and market access, focusing on investments in infrastructural, operational and labor efficiencies and intentionally increasing capacity.  
• Worker and Food Safety & Product Quality: Funds should address food and worker safety and quality of final

products during production and/or processing to ensure adherence to State and federal guidelines and industry standards.  
Applications will open on Jan. 19 and are due by Monday, Feb. 26, at 2 p.m. Awards will be announced in April.  
For more information visit the Meat and Produce Agriculture Development Grants (Meat and Produce ADG) website at tinyurl.com/VtMeatGrants. This will include the Request for Application (RFA) and application instructions.  
For questions about the Meat and Produce ADG program or the RFA, contact Sarah McIlvennie at sarah.mcilvennie@vermont.gov or 802-261-5866.

# Welch farm weather act hits the floor

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Four U.S. senators, including Vermont’s Peter Welch and Bernie Sanders and Massachusetts’s Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren, have filed a bill they are calling the Withstanding Extreme Agricultural Threats by Harvesting Economic Resilience (WEATHER) Act. The legislation calls for the development of an index-based insurance policy that is more responsive to crop and income losses faced by farmers as a result of extreme weather. This would be especially beneficial to farmers in Vermont following this past summer’s catastrophic flooding, which impacted nearly 28,000 acres of farmland across the state.  
“As we saw during this summer’s brutal floods in Vermont, the consequences of extreme weather events vary from farm to farm. That’s why it’s crucial that crop insurance policies are designed to comprehensively address crop and income losses, especially for small farms so crucial to Vermont,” Sen. Welch said. “My WEATHER Act works to reinvent crop insurance as a worthy investment for Vermont farmers by calling for the implementation of an index-based insurance policy that more adequately compensates farmers for extreme weather-related income losses. This bill works to ensure that all Vermont farmers whose livelihoods have been impacted by extreme weather are given essential resources they need to recover.”  
Sen. Sanders agreed that Vermont farmers have faced a year like no other in recent memory, from the early growing season frost to the July flooding, to the seemingly endless rain all summer and fall.  
“Unfortunately, the current federal crop insurance options are simply not workable for many of the small and diversified farms we

have in Vermont,” Sen. Sanders said. “In the face of more intense and unpredictable weather due to climate change, the federal government must step up to support farmers, food producers, and small businesses. The WEATHER Act is an important step in ensuring the Federal Crop Insurance Program can respond to the needs of farmers in Vermont and across the Northeast.”  
David Howard, Policy Development Director for the National Young Farmers Coalition, supports the proposed law, saying it is a thoughtfully and carefully crafted proposal that would direct the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to collaboratively research and develop an index-based insurance policy designed to support farmers in withstanding agricultural income losses closely correlated with weather conditions.  
“Young farmers across the country are dealing with the increasingly destructive impacts of the climate crisis on their farms every day,” Howard said. “As farmers struggle to rebuild from hurricanes and record-breaking heat waves, and producers throughout the West manage extreme drought and the constant threat of wildfire, it is clear that the impacts of the climate crisis on U.S. agriculture are increasingly severe and demand immediate policy intervention. Young Farmers endorses the WEATHER Act of 2023, recognizing how this proposal can complement existing resources and strengthen support for young farmers in persevering through these impacts.”  
In 2022, major weather disasters caused over \$21 billion in crop losses. In Vermont, last summer’s devastating flooding resulted in over \$16 million in losses and damages. Unpredictable weather events

exacerbate risks associated with farming, necessitating responsive crop insurance policies. However, producers often opt out of crop insurance due to administrative burdens, high premiums, and low payouts.  
The WEATHER Act works to better support farmers facing income losses after extreme weather events by reducing administrative hurdles and ensuring that insurance payouts are based on agricultural income losses. The legislation would direct the USDA to use its insurance R&D authority to research the possibility of developing an index-based insurance program that:  
• Creates a multi-peril index insurance product for farmers based on weather indices correlated to agricultural income losses using data from NOAA, satellites, climate models, and other data sources.  
• Pays out within 30 days in the event of indices exceeding any of the pre-determined county-level thresholds for the following events: High winds, excessive moisture and flooding, extreme heat, abnormal freeze conditions, hail, wildfires, drought, and other perils the Secretary determines appropriate.  
“For years, I’ve sounded the alarm that uninsured farmers need aid to rebuild from floods and other extreme weather events, especially since these crops are their livelihood,” Sen. Warren said. “The WEATHER Act begins to solve this problem by reimbursing farmers automatically if an extreme weather event occurs, rather than the current system that imposes a large administrative burden on farmers, systematically disadvantaging family-run diversified farms.”  
Read more about the WEATHER Act online at tinyurl.com/WeatherAct.

# Ag agency

*(Continued from Page 12A)*  
climate resiliency and planning. In 2024, VAAFM will continue to partner with multiple agricultural and environmental partners around the state to offer more opportunities

for these conversations, and to continue to hear from you.  
If you don’t see or cannot make the in-person session near you, Vermonters are asked to please not hesitate to reach out to Sarah

McIlvennie at Sarah.McIlvennie@vermont.gov. VAAFM also has an anonymous form online, at tinyurl.com/AnonymousFarm, where you can submit feedback and share your experiences.

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Score  
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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls' Hockey

1/10 MUHS vs Brattleboro..... 10-0  
1/13 MUHS vs Rutland ..... 4-1  
1/17 MUHS at Spaulding ..... Late

Boys' Hockey

1/10 Burr & Burton at MUHS .... Postponed  
1/13 Mt. Mansfield vs MUHS ..... 6-3  
1/17 MUHS at Spaulding ..... Late

Boys' Basketball

1/11 OV vs Mill River ..... 61-55  
1/12 VUHS vs Milton ..... 59-57  
1/12 Rutland vs MUHS ..... 52-39  
1/13 OV vs Mt Abe..... 81-42  
1/16 BBA at OV ..... Postponed  
1/16 VUHS at Fair Haven ..... Ppd. to 1/21  
1/17 Mt Abe at Enosburg ..... Late

Girls' Basketball

1/10 MUHS vs Milton..... 46-44 (OT)  
1/10 Fair Haven vs Mt Abe ..... 54-30  
1/10 Missisquoi vs VUHS ..... 48-25  
1/13 Enosburg vs Mt Abe ..... 57-46  
1/13 VUHS vs MUHS ..... 35-32  
1/13 Rutland vs OV ..... 71-8  
1/15 Burr & Burton vs OV ..... 49-26  
1/16 Missisquoi at MUHS ..... Postponed  
1/16 Mt Abe vs VUHS..... 42-24  
1/17 Windsor at OV ..... Late

COLLEGE SPORTS

Women's Basketball

1/12 Bowdoin vs Midd ..... 68-65  
1/13 Midd vs Colby..... 50-40

Men's Basketball

1/12 Midd vs Bowdoin ..... 71-67  
1/13 Midd vs Colby ..... 90-78

Men's Hockey

1/12 Plattsburgh vs Midd ..... 5-0  
1/16 Midd vs Norwich ..... 3-0

Women's Hockey

1/12 Colby vs Midd..... 1-1  
1/13 Midd vs Colby..... 2-0

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls' Hockey

1/19 Essex at MUHS ..... 5 PM  
1/24 MUHS at Harwood..... 5:30 PM  
1/27 St. Albans at MUHS ..... 5 PM

Boys' Hockey

1/19 Essex at MUHS ..... 7 PM  
1/24 MUHS at BBA..... 5 PM  
1/27 St. Albans at MUHS ..... 7 PM

Boys' Basketball

1/18 OV at Fair Haven ..... 7 PM  
1/20 VUHS at MUHS ..... 12:30 PM  
1/20 Mt Abe at Milton..... 11:30 AM  
1/21 VUHS at Fair Haven..... 6:30 PM  
1/22 Fair Haven at Mt Abe..... 7 PM  
1/23 Missisquoi at Mt Abe..... 7 PM  
1/23 VUHS at Enosburg..... 7 PM  
1/23 MUHS at Milton ..... 7 PM  
1/25 Mt. Abe at MUHS..... 7 PM  
1/26 OV at Hartford ..... 7 PM  
1/26 VUHS at Missisquoi ..... 7 PM

Girls' Basketball

1/19 Mt Abe at Colchester ..... 7 PM  
1/19 VUHS at Enosburg ..... 7 PM  
1/19 OV at MUHS ..... 7 PM  
1/24 Stowe at VUHS..... 7 PM  
1/24 Mt Abe at MUHS..... 7 PM  
1/26 OV at Hartford ..... 7 PM  
1/27 MUHS at Enosburg..... 2:30 PM  
1/27 Milton at Mt Abe..... 12:30 PM  
1/27 VUHS at Colchester ..... 12:30 PM

Wrestling

1/20..... Commodore Invitational  
1/27..... Otter Valley Tourney

Gymnastics

1/18 Harwood at MUHS ..... 6 PM

MUHS Dance

1/20 MUHS at Richford..... 1 PM  
1/27 MUHS at Mt. Mansfield..... 1 PM

Indoor Track

1/27..... State Meet at UVM

COLLEGE SPORTS

Women's Basketball

1/20 Midd at Williams ..... 3 PM  
1/26 Bates at Midd..... 7 PM  
1/27 Tufts at Midd ..... 3 PM

Men's Basketball

1/16 Johnson at Midd ..... 6 PM  
1/20 Williams at Midd ..... 2 PM  
1/26 Midd at Bates..... 7 PM  
1/27 Midd at Tufts ..... 3 PM

Men's Hockey

1/19 Colby at Midd..... 7 PM  
1/20 Bowdoin at Midd..... 4 PM  
1/26 Midd at Conn ..... 7 PM  
1/27 Midd at Tufts ..... 4 PM

Women's Hockey

1/19 Midd at Bowdoin..... 7 PM  
1/20 Midd at Bowdoin..... 3 PM  
1/26 Conn at Midd ..... 7 PM  
1/27 Conn at Midd ..... 3 PM



MUHS GYMNAST EMILY Johnson launches off the vaulting apparatus during the Tiger team's home meet at Middlebury Union Middle School this past Friday.

Independent photo/Steve James

Gymnastics continues to show growth

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School gymnastics team finished third behind visiting St. Johnsbury and Burlington on Friday in a three-team meet, and Coach Natalia Little continues to be pleased with the progress shown by her young team.

“The team is continuing to grow in strength, confidence and skill,” Little wrote in an email in

which she noted the team again posted its highest score of the season.

“Each meet they are continuing to get better,” Little said.

St. Johnsbury won the meet by amassing 121.7 points, followed by Burlington (83.12), and the Tigers with 76.4.

Sophomore Alixis Williams once again fared the best individually, with a fourth in the vault her top result. Williams

also finished in the top six on the bars, beam, floor exercises and in the all-around competition.

Little said other gymnasts outside of the top six in events also showed improvement. Nataly Johnson reached personal bests on the vault (7.0) and beam (7.2), Emily Johnson posted a personal best on the vault with a 6.3, and Lila Hescocock earned a personal best on the beam with a 6.0.

The individual event scores were: Vault:

1. Lydia Ruggles (St. J) 8.6.
  2. Amina Savoury (Burlington) 7.9.
  3. Eliska Siebenbrynnner (Independent, Danville) 7.8.
  4. Alixis Williams (MUHS) 7.5.
- Bars:
1. Ruggles (St. J) 8.7.
  2. Siebenbrynnner (Danville) 6.9.
  3. Kasey Haggerty (BHS) & (See Gymnastics, Page 3B)



VUHS JUNIOR FORWARD Tryphene Miguel bolts up the floor with the ball during Saturday's game in Middlebury with Tigers Kassidy Brown, left, and Skyler Choiniere in pursuit.

Independent photo/Steve James

Eagle, VUHS girls win in local rivalry games

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — Mount Abraham defeated Vergennes, and the Commodores knocked off Middlebury as road teams prevailed in rivalry games to highlight recent local girls' high school basketball action.

Elsewhere, the Tigers won a nailbiter, while Mount Abe, VUHS and Otter Valley all absorbed defeats.

MT. ABE-VUHS

On Tuesday visiting Mount Abe used a fast start and a strong finish to subdue Vergennes, 42-24, a result that left both teams with 6-3 records.

The Commodores opened in a 1-2-2 zone, and the Eagles carved it up in the first 3:13 with two threes by Abba Parker and one by Louisa Painter to take a 9-2 lead.

VUHS Coach Billy Waller switched to man defense for the

rest of the way, and it slowed the Eagles somewhat in the first period. But Painter added seven more points, and forward McKenzie Griner (she finished with 20 rebounds) helped the Eagles dominate the boards — they earned a 14-1 edge in the opening eight minutes as they took an 18-4 lead. VUHS managed only a drive by senior Kaelin Sullivan and a pullup jumper by sophomore Ava Francis in the quarter.

The Commodores found their footing on the boards in the second period, and their man defense did slow Mount Abe. But the Eagles still outscored them in the quarter, 10-5, to lead by 28-9 at the half. Five Eagles scored, including a three-point play from Griner. A transition hoop from sophomore leading scorer Ashtin Stearns, a Francis free throw, and two (See Hoop, Page 2B)

Tiger girls' skiers run 1-2, team 2nd; boys are 3rd

By ANDY KIRKALDY

RIPTON — The Middlebury Union High School girls were the top two individual placers in a Nordic ski race they hosted on Saturday at the Rikert Outdoor Center, but their team settled for a second-place finish. Meanwhile, the Tiger boys were third in a bigger field in what was billed as the MLK Classic.

Juniors Ava Schneider and Beth McIntosh ran 1-2 in the girls' race, about a minute ahead of the pack, while teammate Mary Harrington was fourth on the slushy course in what Coach Jay Harrington called difficult conditions.

But the Tigers were shorthanded due to All-State music auditions, according to Harrington. And despite the best efforts of JV callup Anika Heppell, Montpelier's team, which placed four scorers in the top 13, edged the Tigers, 28-36.

Woodstock (41), St. Johnsbury (54) and St. Albans (84) rounded out the girls' field.

Sophomore Matias Citarella paced the Tiger boys by taking

sixth, and senior Baxter Harrington finished 11th overall. Matthew Berg and Aaron Carr-Perlow also scored for the MUHS boys, whose 50 points trailed winner Woodstock (19) and second-place Montpelier (27). Woodstock's James Underwood won the boys' race.

Also scoring as teams in the boys' race were 4. St. Albans, 64; 5. South Burlington, 81; 6. Rutland, 90; and 7. St. J, 99.

Harrington said the teams and their racers, including non-scoring competitors from Vergennes, Mount Abraham and Otter Valley, had to be patient to deal with the elements on Saturday.

“The day was marked by the challenging weather, great camaraderie between teams to overcome the elements, and impressive local and team performances,” he wrote in an email.

“The race adventures started early as the day dawned with very high winds and many tree-blocked (See Ski, Page 4B)



RACERS FROM NINE high schools joined in a mass start for Saturday's MLK Classic Race, hosted by the MUHS Nordic ski team at the Rikert Outdoor Center. Tiger top finishers Matias Citarella (Bib 116) and Baxter Harrington (Bib 111) are in the middle of the group as they head out on what was a slushy course. Photo courtesy of Jay Harrington



# Hoop

(Continued from Page 1B)  
makes from the line by junior forward **Tryphene Miguel** after an offensive rebound summed up the VUHS offense.

Miguel gave the Commodores a lift to open the second half with four steals in four minutes, sound defense inside and assertive rebounding. And Sullivan sank a three and a free throw, Francis scored in the lane, and junior forward **Kendra Jackson** tossed in an old-school hook shot in the lane as VUHS went on a 8-1 run over the first six-and-a-half minutes to cut the lead to 29-17.

Back-to-back drives by Parker and Hazel Guilmette restored order for Mount Abe, but a Miguel putback beat the buzzer, and at 33-19 the Commodores were at least within striking range entering the fourth quarter. And in the first minute Sullivan hit a free throw and fed sophomore Amelia Giroux for a hoop in the paint, and the lead was down 33-22 at 7:05.

Then the shots simply stopped falling for the Commodores, partly because of good defense from Mount Abe, but a few makeable looks also just rolled off the rim.

And at the other end the Eagles began to execute, finding cutters for layups during a 9-0 run over the next five minutes. The surge started with a Painter free throw on a transition foul. Then Parker scored on a feed from senior **Morgan Barnard**, Griner converted an offensive board, Barnard added a layup on an assist from Painter, and Parker fed Griner for a layup to make it 42-22 with about three minutes to go. VUHS sophomore **Faith McCallister** hit a late jumper to create the final score.

Painter and Griner scored 11 points apiece to lead the Eagles, and Parker finished with 10. Senior Piper Guilmette led with three assists, Painter added four steals, and senior forward **Carley Cook** chipped in five rebounds. Both Waller and Eagle Coach Koran Cousino cited Parker’s defensive work on Stearns.

Sullivan’s seven points led VUHS. Next up were Francis (five) and Miguel (four).

Cousino is still looking for 32 minutes of consistency from the Eagles, although she sees signs of progress, especially after a poor entire second half in their loss at Enosburg on Saturday. While crediting the Commodores for coming out stronger in the second half, she also said her team has tended to struggle after the break.

“We are a notoriously bad third-quarter team,” she said. “We have been outscored in virtually every third quarter this season. So we’re working on that, for sure.”

On Tuesday, she said when the Eagles were sharp, they were really sharp, which she saw as a positive, “as long as we get more stretches of being sharp.” She was also happy with the Eagles’ man defense and rebounding, and the fact the Eagles were more often looking inside to their post players and cutters on offense.

Overall, Cousino is looking for a full-game effort.

“We have not strung together 32 minutes of what I would consider the best of we have,” she said.

Waller was disappointed his



MUHS JUNIOR KASSIDY Brown hauls down a rebound during Saturday’s game in Middlebury as Commodore Kendra Jackson, left, and Tiger Isabel Quinn look on.

Independent photo/Steve James

team did not put its best foot forward from the start.

“We played better defense in the second half. We got some pressure, finally,” he said, adding, “Overall, we can’t come out lackadaisical like that.”

Waller credited the Eagles and Parker for removing Stearns from the equation: “I thought that was the key to the whole game.”

Still, the Commodores, who started four sophomores, have already won one more game than a year ago, using a running game and good shooting to fuel their attack.

“When we’re confident and can get out and go in transition, we’re fine,” Waller said. “We’ve got three or four players who can make (three-pointers).”

## VUHS-MUHS

On Saturday the Commodores outlasted the host Tigers, 35-32, in a game marked by late drama. The Commodores took a 14-6 lead after the first quarter as both Stearns and Sullivan hit a pair of three-pointers, and still led by 21-13 at the half.

But the Tigers slowly chipped away at the lead after the break, and finally went up by a point late in the fourth quarter when **Solstice Binder** drove for a layup.

But Stearns responded with a go-ahead three-pointer. The Commodores then drew an offensive foul on Binder that was her fifth, and they held on for the win, adding a free throw to create the final score.

Stearns scored 16 points, Sullivan chipped in eight points, Francis added five, and **Amelia Giroux** chipped in four.

Binder finished with 17 points for MUHS, and forwards **Kassidy Brown** and **Kaitlyn Brown** each scored four.

## TIGERS

On Jan. 10 the Tigers picked up their second win of the winter in dramatic fashion, 46-44 in overtime over visiting Milton. Binder (19 points) and freshman **Tenny Laroche** (11) combined for 30 points as the Tigers overcame a 26-point outburst by Yellowjacket Marlie Bushey.

The Tigers’ Tuesday home game vs. Missisquoi was postponed, leaving them with a 2-6 record.

## EAGLES

On Jan. 10 visiting Fair Haven remained unbeaten and picked up its second win this winter over Mount Abe, 54-30. Isabelle Cole (19 points) and Kate Hadwen (14 points) did most of the damage for the Slaters.

Painter led the Eagles with 13 points.

On Saturday host Enosburg pulled away in the second half to defeat the Eagles, 57-46. Mount Abe led at the half, 25-24, but the Hornets swarmed the Eagles with a 22-9 third period. Lilly Robtoy (16 points) and Lisey Robtoy (15 points) sparked Enosburg. Barnard scored 13 points as the Eagles lost to a team other than Fair Haven for the first time.

## COMMODORES

On Jan. 10 visiting Missisquoi

rode a huge second half to a 48-25 victory over the Commodores. The teams were virtually tied after three quarters, before the T-Birds took charge in the final period. Jaylynn Langlois scored 14 points to lead MVU.

Stearns scored nine as VUHS fell to 5-2 heading into Saturday’s showdown with the Tigers.

## OTTERS

On Saturday night visiting Rutland topped the Otters, 71-7. Anna Moser scored 31 to pace RHS. **Breanna Bovey** scored all eight OV points as the Otters dropped to

On Monday Burr and Burton took a 15-4 first-quarter lead over OV on the way to a 49-26 victory. Josie Powers led the 4-6 Bulldogs with 13 points.

Bovey paced OV with seven points. The 1-7 Otters were set to host Windsor on Wednesday.



COMMODORE SENIOR KAEELIN Sullivan looks to make a play during Saturday’s game in Middlebury while Tiger freshman Isabel Quinn applies defensive pressure.

Independent photo/Steve James

# Panther hoop, hockey teams all net victories

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — In recent Middlebury College sports action, the men’s basketball team won two NESCAC road games, the women’s hockey team tied one and won another NESCAC home contest, women’s hoop settled for a weekend split of two league games, and men’s hockey split two games against traditional non-league rivals.

## MEN’S BASKETBALL

With its two road wins this past weekend, the men’s hoop team evened its record at 8-8, stretched a modest winning streak to three straight, and moved into a three-way tie for third place in NESCAC with a 3-1 league mark.

On Friday, Jan. 12, the Panthers lost most of an 18-point second-half lead, but held on for a 71-67 victory at Bowdoin. Junior guard Noah Osher scored 23 points for Middlebury, giving him 1,001 for his career heading into Saturday.

Middlebury’s lead peaked at 48-30 with 12:20 remaining, when Bowdoin responded with a 19-4 run to cut the deficit to 52-49 at the 7:41 mark. With 1:12 remaining, a Natrel Allen three-point play pulled the Polar Bears to within 66-65.

A three from Osher made it 69-65 with 15 seconds left, but an Allen layup made it a two-point game. Middlebury’s Tristan Joseph then sank the first of two free throws, but missed the second. Panther Lamine Cisse grabbed the rebound and hit a free throw to create the final 71-67 score.

Contributors for Middlebury included Joseph (16 points, five boards), David Brennan (eight points, 10 rebounds) and Cisse (seven points, six boards). James McGowan (14 points), Michael Simonds (13) and Allen (12) led Bowdoin.

On Saturday against Colby (7-9, 0-4 NESCAC), the Panthers prevailed, 90-78, using a decisive second-half surge to break open a back-and forth game. The Mules led, 64-63, with 10:01 remaining, when Middlebury went on a 19-6 run to take an 82-70 lead with 3:14 to go. Osher and Sam Stevens each scored six points in that outbreak. Colby came no closer than nine points the rest of the way.

Osher tossed in 24 points to pace the Panthers, Joseph scored 17, Cisse finished with 12 points and eight rebounds, Brennan chipped in seven points and eight boards, and Stevens and Kuba Cwalini added eight points apiece.

Jack Lawson (22 points) and Max Poulton (20) did most of the damage for Colby.

## Women’s Hockey

The women’s hockey games at Chip Kenyon Arena featured two teams ranked in the top 10 in NCAA Division III, as No. 9 Colby visited the No. 6 Panthers. After a tie on Friday and a win on Saturday Middlebury improved to 6-2-3, while Colby headed back to Maine at 8-3-1.

In the Friday game, Panther goalie Sophia Merageas made 35 saves, including seven in the game’s final 2:08, to help the Panthers earn a 1-1 deadlock. It was the Middlebury netminder’s first appearance of the season after a preseason injury.

Mule goalie Grace Caligiuri made

23 saves, but Jordan Hower beat her with 6:43 remaining in the first period. Panther Julia Johnson cleared the puck up the ice, and Hower tracked it down, raced to goal, and found the bottom right corner from close range.

The Mules knotted the score with 2:15 left in the second period. Breanna Studley broke away down the right side and whipped a shot into the upper left corner.

The Mules hit a pipe in the third period, and both teams found iron with shots in overtime before they settled for the stalemate.

In the Panthers’ 2-0 win on Saturday they got more great goaltending, as Sophia Will worked a 36-save shutout. Caligiuri stopped 28 shots for the Mules.

Middlebury took the lead at 15:36 of the middle frame, when Raia Schluter netted the rebound of a Callia Ferraris shot.

Within two minutes the Panthers made it 2-0. Sabrina Kim took a pass between the circles from Rachel Neyman and one-timed the puck high into the net.

Colby launched six shots in the game’s final 2:22 with its goalie pulled, but Will shut the door.

## WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

The Panther women’s basketball team’s weekend split of two NESCAC home games left the Panthers at 11-6 overall, 3-1 NESCAC. Middlebury is in third place in the league standings.

On Friday, Jan. 12, Bowdoin (15-1, 3-0 NESCAC), ranked No. 13 and tied for first in the league, outlasted Middlebury, 68-65. The Polar Bears led by as many as 13 (53-40) in the third quarter. Then Augusta Dixon and Alexa Mustafaj led a fourth-quarter charge that pulled Middlebury to within two, 61-59, on a Dixon jumper in the lane with 4:48 to go.

Bowdoin scored the next five points to take a 66-59 lead at 0:33. Mustafaj gave Middlebury a chance with a three-pointer and then a three-point play at 0:20, with those points sandwiched around two Bowdoin free throws. With the lead down to 68-65, Dixon stole the ball to give Middlebury a potentially tying possession, but the Polar Bears stole it back to seal the victory.

Mustafaj finished with 23 points and three steals; Dixon scored 22 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and blocked two shots; and Gabby Stuart added seven points and five rebounds. Callie Godfrey (19 points) and Abbie Quinn (18) paced Bowdoin.

On Saturday the Panthers defeated Colby, 50-40. Middlebury led throughout, but the Mules (9-6, 1-2 NESCAC) cut the lead to 45-40 with 2:05 remaining in the game before Dixon’s four three throws helped to close out the Panther win.

Dixon’s 19 points and 13 rebounds led the Panthers, Calie Messina scored seven, and Bethany Lucey chipped in six points and six rebounds. Amelia Hanscom scored 13 for the Mules. Mustafaj, Middlebury’s leading scorer, did not play.

## Men’s Hockey

On Jan. 12 host No. 3 Plattsburgh blanked the Panthers, 5-0. The Cardinals outshot Middlebury, (See Panthers, Page 3B)

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TIGER NATALY JOHNSON stretches full-length during her routine on the bar on this past Friday, when the Tiger gymnastics team hosted a meet.

Independent photo/Steve James



TIGER NINTH-GRADER Lila Hescok reaches high on the beam during the MUHS gymnastics team's meet on Friday at MUMS.

Independent photo/Steve James



MUHS GYMNAST MADY Richard, a sophomore, strikes a pose on the beam this past Friday during the Tiger gymnastics team's meet at Middlebury Union Middle School.

Independent photo/Steve James



TIGER GYMNAST ALIXIS Williams catches some air on the beam during the MUHS team's home meet on Friday. Williams placed in several events to lead the MUHS squad.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Gymnastics

(Continued from Page 1B)

- Ailee Stratton (St. J) 6.6.  
5. Zoe Glentz Brush (St. J) 6.4.  
6. Williams (Middlebury) 4.7.  
Beam:  
1. Ruggles (St. J) 9.65.  
2. Ailee Stratton (St. J) 9.35.  
3. Siebenbrynnner (Danville) 9.3.  
Floor:  
1. Ruggles (St. J) 8.8.  
2. Stratton (St. J) 8.0.  
3. Haggerty (BHS) 7.50.  
4. Glentz Brush (St. J) 7.30.  
5. Siebenbrynnner (Ind. Danville) 7.05.  
6. Alexis Williams (Middlebury) 7.0.  
All-around:  
1. Ruggles (St. J) 35.75.  
2. Stratton (St. J) 31.15.  
3. Siebenbrynnner (Ind. Danville) 31.05.  
4. Glentz Brush (St. J) & Haggerty (Burlington) 30.2.  
6. Alexis Williams (Middlebury) 26.7.

## Panthers

(Continued from Page 2B)

37-26, and goalie Jacob Hearne worked the 26-save shutout. Andrew Heinze started for Middlebury in goal and surrendered the five goals in 21:13 of action while making 13 saves, and Jake Horoho (19 stops) and the Panther defense blanked the Cardinals over the final 38:47. Jake Lanyi's two goals led Plattsburgh (13-2).

On Tuesday the Panthers upset visiting 11th-ranked Norwich, 3-0, as Horoho stopped all 21 shots he faced. The Panthers controlled the first period, took the lead in the second period, and put the game away with two third-period scores.

Matt Myers put Middlebury on top at the 8:48 mark of the middle period. Jake Oblak skated into the offensive zone and sent a cross-ice pass into the high slot that Matt Myers one-timed home off the crossbar.

The Panthers scored again 1:50 into the final frame, when Mack Revy lifted the rebound of a Ryan Pineault shot from the right side high into the net.

Andrej Hromic made it 3-0 at the 12:35 mark, when he shoveled in a rebound of a Paddy Bogart shot past Norwich goalie Sami Molu, who made 21 saves for the 9-5-3 Cadets. Norwich had defeated Middlebury early in the season, 7-1, on neutral ice in Plattsburgh.

After the split of the two games against ranked teams the Panthers stand at 3-8-3.



VERGENNES INDEPENDENT BELLA Audy, who practices with the MUHS gymnastics team, competes on the bars during the Tigers' home meet on this past Friday.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Girls' hockey posts two wins

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School girls' hockey team picked up two wins between Jan. 10 and 16. The Tigers carried a 7-3 record into a scheduled Wednesday game at Spaulding, played after the deadline for this issue. Next up for the Tigers is a 5 p.m. home date with Essex on Saturday.

On Jan. 10, the Tigers blanked host Brattleboro, 10-0. Goalies Michaela Charbonneau (five saves) and Heaven Ross (two

saves) worked the shutout.

Lia Calzini led the MUHS attack with three goals, and Erin Mulcahy scored twice. Adding a goal apiece were Lily Finn (two assists), Sedona Carrara (assist), Quinn Doria, Julia Morrissey and Ireland Hanley (assist).

Beleaguered Brattleboro goalie Nellie Sterling made 34 saves.

On Saturday, the Tigers scored twice in each of the second and third periods to defeat visiting Rutland, 4-1. Sawyer Witscher, from Isla Weaber, and Erin

Mulcahy scored in the second period, which ended with the Tigers up, 2-1, when Rutland's Emma Barclay also found the net. Hanley then put the game out of Rutland's reach with a pair of unassisted goals in the final period.

Tiger goalie Ruby Hubbell made 13 saves, and Rutland netminder Riley Quesnel made 26 saves.

## MacCrellich steps down

By ANDY KIRKALDY

BRISTOL — After spending eight falls coaching different levels of the Mount Abraham Union High and Middle School boys' soccer program, including the past three as the varsity boys' soccer coach, former Eagle player Rider MacCrellich resigned from the post this past weekend.

"Unfortunately for Mt. Abraham, Rider will be stepping away from the varsity boys' soccer post here at the school," Mount Abe Athletic Director Devin Wendel wrote in an email to the *Independent*. "He will be sorely missed in the fall."

MacCrellich resigned in an email to Wendel that the AD shared with the *Independent*. MacCrellich noted his eight years coaching at Mount Abe started not too long after he graduated, and choosing to step down was not easy.

"This has been a challenging decision, and it is not one I take lightly. I started with this program when I was 19, and it has been an incredibly meaningful and defining part of my life. I feel grateful to have been granted the opportunity to grow alongside all the boys I have coached. I'm thankful for all the moments coaching held me accountable to be the kind of man I


so strongly encouraged all the boys to be," he wrote.

MacCrellich also operates his own construction business, and wrote that this commitment was pulling him toward putting coaching aside for now:

"I feel the need to step away to fulfill my leadership role within my business more completely year-round. By no means is this my permanent departure from coaching. I am sure I will find myself back on the field at some point, but at this juncture in my life, I am focused on achieving the professional goals I have set."

MacCrellich added he believes the team is ready to succeed, and that he is grateful to the athletes and their families.

"The boys in this program have immense potential. I am so excited to see them grow and attack the 2024 season with some intensity — get after it," he wrote. "To all of those boys, thank you for the effort and strength that you have put forth; I feel honored to have coached every one of you, and I have great confidence in you as players and as men. Thank you to all the parents for your support and for raising such fun, thoughtful, and conscientious young men."



### Upcoming Events

**Thursday, January 18:**  
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating


**Saturday January 20:**  
2:30 - 4:00 PM Public Skating

**Tuesday January 23:**  
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating

**Thursday, January 25:**  
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating

**Tuesday January 30:**  
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating

**Skate Sharpening available during all events.**



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# SKI BUM?



**Starting Friday, January 19**  
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Do you like to ski? Join the league! Fun, friendly, adult ski races where you can flex your inner competitor! *Only \$25 league fee for the season!*

All skiing levels welcome (as long as you can make it down the Allen)!







# community calendar

## jan 18 THURSDAY

**Homelessness Awareness Day honk-and-wave in Bristol, Middlebury and Vergennes.** Thursday, Jan. 18, 7:30-11 a.m., town greens. Part of a statewide day of action that combines awareness-raising events in local communities with state policy work in the legislature, and more. The Addison County Housing Coalition is holding three simultaneous honk-and-wave events in Middlebury, Vergennes and Bristol We hope you can join us, and spread the word.

**Daddylonglegs in Bristol.** Thursday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m., Lawrence Memorial Library. Three well-known local musicians — Nick Ceballos, David Gusakov and Matthew Witten — create vibrant, sensitive and surprising 21st-century folk music. Free. The first performance of the 5-Town Musical Library Tour.

**“Spiritual Approaches to the Built Environment” film screening in Middlebury.** Thursday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. This film explores the spiritual dimension of the built environment and its impact on everyday life. It is an urgent call for the design professions, religious leaders and the public at large to seek, design and implement holistic solutions to our most pressing problems.

## jan 20 SATURDAY

**Hocus Pocus Magic Show in Vergennes.** Saturday, Jan. 20, 2 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. Fun, engaging and great-for-the-entire-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.

## jan 21 SUNDAY

**All-you-can-eat pancake breakfast in Addison.** Sunday, Jan. 21, 7-11 a.m., Addison Fire Station, jct. Routes 17 and 22A. Menu includes plain and blueberry pancakes, sausage, bacon, home fries, coffee, hot chocolate and orange juice. Tickets \$10 adults/\$7 kids under 12. Funds will be used to purchase equipment. More info at 802-759-2237.

## jan 23 TUESDAY

**American Red Cross blood donation in Vergennes.** Tuesday, Jan. 23, noon-4:30 p.m., Cross Life Church, 1759 Route 7. Blood and platelet donors urged to make an appointment to help alleviate the shortage and help ensure lifesaving medical procedures are not put on hold. Download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

**“Mariupol: The People’s Story” film at Middlebury College.** Tuesday, Jan. 23, 4:30 p.m. Axinn Center Room 232. New Haven filmmaker Hilary Andersson will screen this Peabody- and Emmy Award-winning documentary that gives Ukrainian citizens a voice in telling how they survived the Russian siege of their city in 2022. Anderson will engage in a Q&A after the film. Free and open to the public.

**Book and Author Discussion: Emily St. John Mandel in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Jan. 23, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Middlebury College students will facilitate a discussion of “Station Eleven” and other works by St. John Mandel. Set in the days of civilization’s collapse, “Station Eleven” tells the story of a Hollywood star, his would-be savior, and a nomadic group of actors roaming the scattered outposts of the Great Lakes region, risking everything for art and humanity.

## jan 24 WEDNESDAY

**Writing Through Grief Series in Vergennes.** Wednesday, Jan. 24, 5:30-6:45 p.m. Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. The first in a series of four evening workshops will introduce writing as a companion to grief. What can our writing tell us about our journey. The series of four workshops will take place every Wednesday night from Jan. 10- 31. Space is limited. Email cedar.winslow@bixbylibrary.org to sign up.

## jan 25 THURSDAY

**Amphibians and wildlife underpasses presentation in Monkton.** Thursday, Jan. 25, 6:30-8 p.m., Monkton Central School, 1036 Monkton Rd. Join herpetologists Jim Andrews and Matt Gorton, and transportation expert Chris Slesar, to learn about amphibians and the effectiveness of the wildlife underpasses in Monkton. Tickets and more at donorbox.org/events/541352.

**Addison County 4-H Foundation Annual Meeting in Middlebury.** Thursday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m., UVM Extension office, Pond Lane. For more information, contact 4-H Educator Martha Seifert at 802-656-7547 or email martha.seifert@uvm.edu.

## jan 27 SATURDAY

**Great Puzzle Challenge 2024 in Middlebury.** Saturday, Jan. 27, 11 a.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. In honor of National Puzzle Day (Jan. 29), gather your puzzle team of 1-3 people. Race against other teams to be the first to complete the chosen puzzle. Winner(s) will receive a \$10 gift certificate to Tinker and Smithy. Enter your team at www.ilsleypubliclibrary.org/great-puzzle-challenge.

## jan 28 SUNDAY

**Bingo in Vergennes.** Sunday, Jan. 28, 1:30 p.m., Vergennes Legion, 100 Armory Ln. Doors open at 1:30 p.m.,



## Fresh off the griddle

**JOIN FIRE CHIEF Brad Clark, shown flipping bacon last fall, and the rest of his crew at an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast fundraiser this Sunday, Jan. 21, 7-11 a.m., at the Addison Fire Station, near the junction of Routes 17 and 22A. More details in the calendar.**

Independent photo/Steve James

Bingo starts 2 p.m. Game packets \$15 each for one sheet of three cards for each regular game. No packet limit. Special games are extra and will be sold on the floor for \$1 per sheet. 50/50 Raffle. Bring your own daubers or borrow one of ours. Payouts depend on attendance. Food available. More info: Michelle Eastman at 802-349-6370.

## jan 29 MONDAY

**Learn about Korean drumming in Middlebury.** Monday, Jan. 29, 7-9 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Court. Come learn Korean drumming in this hands-on workshop. Free but reservations required because of limited instruments. E-mail Shelby Kimmel shelly.kimmel@gmail.com to reserve a spot or for more information.

## jan 30 TUESDAY

**Virtual Winter book discussion in Ferrisburgh.** Tuesday, Jan. 30, 6:30 p.m., Zoom. Rokeby Museum sponsors this discussion of “A History of the Village of North Ferrisburgh” led by the author Jean Richardson, a long-time North Ferrisburgh community member and well-known historian and professor emerita of natural resources, environmental studies and geography at UVM. Free. More info at rokeby.org/visit/programmevents.

## jan 31 WEDNESDAY

**Writing Through Grief Series in Vergennes.** Wednesday, Jan. 31, 5:30-6:45 p.m. Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. The first in a series of four evening workshops will introduce writing as a companion to grief. What can our writing tell us about our journey. The series of four workshops will take place every Wednesday night from Jan. 10- 31. Space is limited. Email cedar.winslow@bixbylibrary.org to sign up.

## feb 1 THURSDAY

**Hannaford Career Center open house in Middlebury.** Thursday, Feb. 1, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Main Campus 51 Charles Ave. and North Campus 372 Mainelli Road. Learn about technical/trades education in construction, design, agriculture, theater, engineering, human services, medicine, natural resource management, automotive technologies and more. Info online at hannafordcareercenter.org.

## feb 3 SATURDAY

**Youth Ministry Bingo in Vergennes.** Saturday, Feb. 3, 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.

## feb 6 TUESDAY

**Green Mountain Club: Bread Loaf Section Annual Meeting in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Feb. 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Court. Brief social time followed by the meeting at 6:45. At about 7:30, GMC Director of Field Programs Keegan Tierney will offer an inside look at the projects and accomplishments the club and volunteers have accomplished during challenges and impacts of changes in climate and trail use patterns. Light refreshments. Free and open to the public. More info online at www.gmcbreadloaf.org.

**“Whispers from the Valley of the Yak” book discussion in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Feb. 6, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Lincoln resident Jackie Tuxill will read from and discuss her new memoir, which chronicles her quest to understand her difficult childhood and who she is beyond “wife,” “mother” and “daughter.” Born in 1942 to medical missionary parents in China, Tuxill has traveled extensively, spending time in India, Tibet, Alaska and Europe’s navigable inland waterways.

## feb 11 SUNDAY

**Breakfast Buffet in Vergennes.** Sunday, Feb. 11, 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 programs.

**Lunar New Year celebration and expert talk in Middlebury.** Sunday, Feb. 11, 12:30-6:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. This free event by Addison County BIPOC+ showcases dance, art and crafts from different Asian traditions, and culminates with a 5:30 p.m. conversation with E. Tammy Kim, contributing writer for *The New Yorker* and founding co-host of the podcast “Time to Say Goodbye.” She will talk about transnational Asianness and shifting perspectives on Asian America. Other activities include a tae kwon do demonstration, family-friendly story time and dragon-themed crafts and activities; Chinese fan dance and pungmul drumming; and Chinese calligraphy/ painting demonstration with Yinglei Zhang. Free admission, food available for purchase.

## feb 17 SATURDAY

**Bingo in Vergennes.** Saturday, Feb. 17, 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.

# Lincoln

Have a news tip? Call Dawn Mikkelsen at 453-7029

## NEWS

LINCOLN - Lincoln Sports presents the 60th Anniversary of Hill Country Holiday (HCH) Friday, Feb. 2 through Sunday, Feb. 4. There will be food and festivities for everyone, so come join the fun! On Friday, Feb. 2, at 5 p.m. there will be a Taco Dinner by Erika at Burnham Hall. Eat in or take out. After dinner, join the Contra Dance called by Lausanne Allen at 6:30 p.m. \$5 - \$10 donations or pay what you can.

Make sure to dress in your best birthday party themed attire for the HCH Parade. Line up in the Burnham Hall driveway on Saturday, Feb. 3, at 11 a.m. The parade starts at 11:30. Don’t miss the special preschool performance in front of the Lincoln General Store. The parade will run from Burnham Hall to the Lincoln Library. After the parade, stay at the library for lunch and skating (ice permitting) at noon. Enjoy delicious warm food and desserts to support the library.

Saturday evening’s festivities include the Lincoln Cooperative Preschool’s annual Spaghetti Dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. at Burnham Hall. All you can eat pasta, bread and salad is only \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids and seniors and kids 4 and under are free. 50/50 raffle tickets will be sold before and during the meal.

Do you have the best meatballs in Lincoln? At the spaghetti dinner, find out who has the best meat (or veggie) balls in our community. Awards for Judge’s Choice and

Audience’s Choice will be handed out — you do not want to miss it. Interested competitors please email Andy Soares White, at andrew.j.soares@gmail.com to sign up and for more information.

Rounding out the night is the world famous HCH Variety Show at 7 p.m. at Burnham Hall. All manner of acts and entertainment are welcome. Acts get 5-10 minutes on stage and can include singing, dancing, skits, miming, poetry, playing instruments and much more. To sign up, please email Nate Gusakov at nategusakov@gmail.com.

On Sunday, Feb. 4, don’t miss sledding on Gove Hill at 11 a.m. followed by the First Annual Jack Jump Event. Practice begins at noon and the race starts at 1 p.m. Please park at the library, town office or Burnham Hall. To participate in this event, visit lincolnsports.org to complete the required registration and waiver.

## FROM THE TOWN

Tires are no longer accepted at the Lincoln Recycling Center/ Transfer Station. Tires should be taken to the Addison County Solid Waste Management District (ACSWMD) transfer station in Middlebury.

## REMINDER

An Open Art Studio featuring gnomes will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 24, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the library.

Until next time...Make Each Day Your Masterpiece. Life Is Now. Life Is Not Later On.

## Leo Club thankful for news article

The Vergennes LEOs appreciate the Jan. 11 *Addison Independent* article about our club.

We welcome any teens in Addison County ages 13-18 to come to a meeting. In addition we want to thank our partners in the projects outlined in the article. Especially the donation from the Women of Wisdom for the John Graham Shelter Projects and the Building Trades Program at the Hannaford Career Center for building and transporting the playset to the site.

Additional thanks to the Vergennes Lions, Lion Paul

Bessette for his work with the TREX recycling program and

Lion Kathy Dorman (immediate past district governor) for the support of the founding of the club.

We believe that small steps often garnish big results within our community and by the connections made between people, generations and organizations. It truly does take a village and we are thankful to all the support we have been given!

**Cookie Steponaitis  
Mason Charlebois  
Vergennes LEO Mentors**

## Notes

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- Home Visits
- Pregnancy Prevention Programs
- Parent Training & Child Center

**Community Playgroups**

Middlebury	Vergennes	Lincoln
9:30 Mondays Methodist Church	9:30 Thursdays Congregational Church	9:30 Fridays Lincoln Library

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# CLASSIFIEDS

Public Meetings

**AL-ANON OFFERS HELP** and hope to anyone who has been affected by a loved one's drinking. Middlebury hosts an online meeting Sunday night 7:15pm and a face to face one Wednesday at 1:30pm at CVUUS (2 Duane Court Middlebury near the high school) that you can also access by Zoom. Visit [vermontalananonlateen.org](http://vermontalananonlateen.org) for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** in person meetings are available. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9aa>. For more information visit <https://aa.vt.org/> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-802-AAVT (2288).

**THE TURNING POINT CENTER** of Addison County is open for in-person services, Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm, 54A Creek Road, Middlebury. We are available by phone 24/7 at 802-388-4249.

Public Meetings

**VERGENNES FREE THINKERS** Founded in 1935 on the principle of one alcoholic helping another to achieve sobriety, A.A. is an effective and enduring program of recovery that has changed countless lives. A.A. has always been committed to making its program of recovery available to anyone, anywhere, who reaches out for help with an alcohol problem. The Vergennes Free Thinkers meeting was created in January of this year to maintain a tradition of free expression, conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any beliefs, doubts or disbelief they may have, to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, and/or their rejection of it, without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to deny their own. Meetings are held with a high regard for compassion and inclusion without judgment or exception. If you think we can help, please join us on Thursdays at 6pm by contacting [Vergennes-freethinkers@gmail.com](mailto:Vergennes-freethinkers@gmail.com) for Zoom and in-person meeting information.

Public Meetings

**VERMONT SUPPORT LINE** Are you struggling with a challenging situation? Do you have feelings of sadness, loneliness, isolation, anger, or depression? You don't have to face it alone. Talk with a caring person who understands what you're going through today by calling or texting the free and confidential Pathways Vermont Support Line available 24/7 at (833) VT - TALKS.

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Help Wanted

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Services

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

**More Services - ads can be found on Page 9B.**

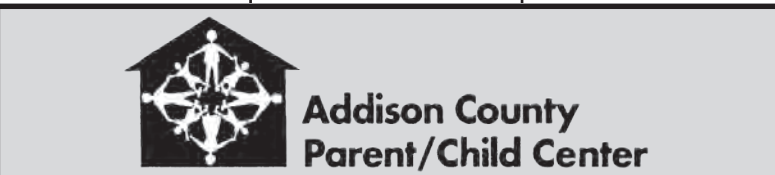
Help Wanted



**Long-Term Spanish Teacher Needed!**

Neshobe Elementary School, Brandon, VT, is seeking an enthusiastic, innovative, and collaborative long-term teacher to fill an anticipated Spanish vacancy. This position works with students in grades 3 - 6 and is part of a larger Integrated Arts Team. Applicants must hold or be eligible for a Vermont Teaching License with appropriate endorsement.

Interested applicants may apply via [schoolspring.com](http://schoolspring.com), job ID 4494581 to Vicki Wells, Principal



**VAN DRIVER JOB OPENING**

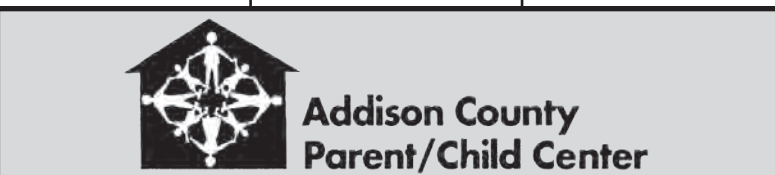
**Addison County Parent/Child Center**

**We are seeking a van driver** who will transport children, youth, and parents to our center from around Addison County.

**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](mailto:dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org)



**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 families.

**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](mailto:dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org)



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[www.nhcl.org/employment](http://www.nhcl.org/employment)

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#### ADDISON COUNTY EARLY LEARNING CENTER, NEW HAVEN VERMONT

**POSITION DESCRIPTION**

As a CVHS long-term classroom support, you will work in an outcomes-oriented team environment to provide individualized support to a specific child and the classroom teaching team for 20-25 hours per week at an agreed-upon schedule. Training and ongoing support will be provided.

Head Start is a federally funded, national child and family development program that provides comprehensive services for pregnant women, children from birth to age five, and their families. Services for children promote school readiness and include early education, health, nutrition, mental health, and services for children with special needs. Services for parents promote family engagement and include parent leadership and social service support.

**REQUIREMENTS**

The long-term support staff must; meet required screenings and complete background checks in compliance with Vermont Licensing Regulations for Center-Based Childcare and Preschool Program Regulations, be at least eighteen (18) years of age, be able to comprehend basic written format, and meet at least one (1) of the following qualifications:

- Has at least a high school diploma OR has completed a GED and completes the Fundamentals for Early Childhood Professionals course or the Vermont Afterschool Essentials Certificate within the first twelve (12) months of employment,
- OR has at least a high school diploma OR has completed a GED and a three (3) college credit course in child or human development or in school-age care and education within the first twelve (12) months of employment,
- And have a commitment to social justice and to working with families with limited financial resources; access to reliable transportation; and physical ability to carry out required tasks.

**Monday-Friday, 20- 25 hours/week**  
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Please submit a cover letter, resume, and three work references to: [hdstjobs@cvoeo.org](mailto:hdstjobs@cvoeo.org). No phone calls, please.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Services        | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings** | <input type="checkbox"/> Trucks             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free**          | <input type="checkbox"/> For Rent          | <input type="checkbox"/> SUVs               |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales    | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Heat         | <input type="checkbox"/> Boats              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden   | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate       | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities   | <input type="checkbox"/> Animals           | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Wanted |
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The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for errors in ads, but will rerun classified ad in which the error occurred. No refunds will be possible. Advertiser will please notify us of any errors which may occur after first publication.



# Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

### Help Wanted

**Part-Time Warehouse**

WowToyz in Vergennes is seeking part-time help in our warehouse, picking and packing orders, labeling and offering general warehouse support. Ideal candidates are organized, dependable and able to work 20-30 hours/week, Mon-Fri.

*Retirees are welcome and encouraged to apply!*

We offer flexible work schedules and competitive wages.

**Proof of COVID-19 vaccinations required for all employees.**

To apply email contact information and work history to: [resumes@wowtoyz.com](mailto:resumes@wowtoyz.com)





### Production Team Members

Vermont Soap is looking for attentive, reliable and responsible people to work in our production department.

This position requires basic computer skills, attention to detail, the ability to sit or stand for long periods of time and the ability to lift up to 50lbs. Must be a team player and also able to work independently.

This is a full time position (Mon-Fri 7-3:30) with paid vacation time, paid holidays, 401k with employer match, and more!

Please send cover letter and resume to [nichole@vermontsoap.com](mailto:nichole@vermontsoap.com).



### Water Treatment & Distribution System Operator

The Vergennes Panton Water District is seeking an individual for the full-time position of Water System Operator.

**Job Description:** This position requires the ability to operate the water treatment facility, read water meters, and maintain and repair the transmission and distribution system. Must be willing to work on a rotating on-call basis. Must have or be able to obtain a 4C State of Vermont Operator's Certificate.

**To Apply:**  
Please email resume and cover letter to [Jon.Deming@vpwd.main1@gmail.com](mailto:Jon.Deming@vpwd.main1@gmail.com)

In print or online, find your dream job with help from the Addy Indy.



[addisonindependent.com/help-wanted](http://addisonindependent.com/help-wanted)

**ADDISON COUNTY  
INDEPENDENT**

### Services

**MELISSA'S QUALITY CLEANING** Services. Residential and commercial. Fully insured. Great rates. Reliable and thorough cleaning. 802-345-6257.

**ODD JOBS; PROPERTY** clean up, junk removal, brush cutting, lawn work. Call us today, we do other jobs too! 802-999-2194, John.

**WE BUY OLD STUFF** Estates, collections, antiques etc. Also hunting and fishing items. Call Erik 802-345-0653.




**Free**

**DIGITAL ACCESS** View obituaries, calendar listings and classifieds online at [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com). Don't miss out on events, garage sales, or opportunities- check out our free digital listings. Looking to read more? Become a subscriber!

**FREE CAT - GENTLE** and friendly. Healthy 12 years old. Son is allergic and is limiting his time home on college breaks. Call or text 802-598-7300.

**Help Wanted**

**LOOKING FOR FARM HELPER** in Ferrisburgh. General farm chores. Experience with equipment not necessary. Room available, if needed. Call Steve at 802-324-9879 if interested.



### Help Wanted



**PART TIME PERSONAL CARE** assistant wanted for 75 year old man, in Addison. To work for 3 hours/day, every other weekend, Saturday and Sunday. There is also a possibility of working one weekday every week for 3 hours. Help with light housekeeping, cooking, and chores. \$25/hour. Contact Ellen at: [eresnik@rcn.com](mailto:eresnik@rcn.com).

### For Rent

**12' X 25' STORAGE SPACES** in Brandon. Call 802-349-4212.

**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

**COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE** - 3000 sq ft - Middlebury. Loading dock. Tall ceilings. Heat and utilities included. \$2,500.00 p/month. 802-558-6092.



### For Rent

**DRY, WINTER/SUMMER STORAGE SPACE** in Addison. Available storage space in my barn for summer/winter storage. The barn is structurally sound and weather-tight with electricity. No heat or running water. The barn is also available for lease. The entrance door measurements are 8' wide by 7' high. For more info: 802-363-3403 or [rochon\\_m@yahoo.com](mailto:rochon_m@yahoo.com).

**MIDDLEBURY SUGARWOOD APARTMENTS** is currently taking waitlist applications for 2, 3, 4 bedroom apartments. Minimum occupancy requirements. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply- Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 [www.SummitPMG.com](http://www.SummitPMG.com).

**MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING** available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

**SPACIOUS 2 BEDROOM** apartment in historic 1860's farmhouse located 15 minutes from Middlebury. Completely renovated with new windows, washer, dryer, dishwasher, etc. Original wide plank flooring and tall ceilings. \$2200/month plus electric, heat, & 1 month deposit. Non-smoking, cats considered. 802-897-5447.

**VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS** is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 [www.SummitPMG.com](http://www.SummitPMG.com).



### Want to Rent

**QUIET, NON-SMOKING,** non-pet-owning, retired couple seeks 2BR house or apartment starting May 1st. First preference Bristol village, 2nd preference Vergennes. References available. Call 419-347-3337 (no texts).

### Wood Heat

**DRY OR GREEN** firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-758-2007.

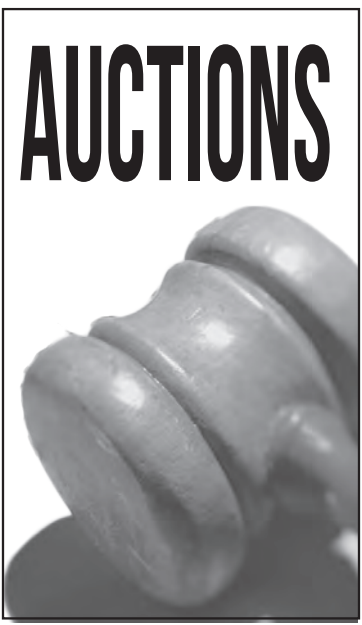
### Att. Farmers

**HORSE BLANKET WASH** and repair. Accepting non-leather (for now) horsewear of all kinds for cleaning and repairing at my Weybridge location. Call or text Sue Miller at 802-377-5945 or email [svdwmiller@icloud.com](mailto:svdwmiller@icloud.com) with "horse" in the subject line for more information.

**WHITNEY'S CUSTOM FARM WORK** Pond agitating, liquid manure hauling, drag line aerating. Call for price. 462-2755, John Whitney.

### Wanted

**OLD & USED GUNS WANTED**  
Rifles, Hand guns, Shot guns  
*Top prices paid.*  
**P: 802-775-2859**  
**C: 802-236-7213**



MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES				
RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT Sales for 1/11/24 & 1/15/24				
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	COST	
Hoy & Hill	1495	1.15	\$	\$1719.25
UVM Creamery	1995	1.13	\$	\$2254.35
Vorsteveld	1935	1.12	\$	\$2167.20
Blue Spruce	1670	1.10	\$	\$1837.00
C. Butler	1620	1.10	\$	\$1782.00
MacGlafin	1665	1.10	\$	\$1831.50
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	COST	
B. Kayhart	91	5.80	\$	\$527.80
Nea-Tocht	90	5.50	\$	\$495.00
M+L Quesnel	105	5.00	\$	\$525.00
Barnes B&W	95	3.425	\$	\$325.38
Correia	102	3.25	\$	\$331.50
Woodnotch	105	3.10	\$	\$325.50
Total Beef - 218 Total Calves - 289				
We value our faithful customers.				
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs. call 1-802-388-2661				

### JOHN GRAHAM HOUSING SERVICES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT/DESIGN BUILD SERVICES

John Graham Housing Services (JGHS) requests Construction Management firms, capable of providing design/build services, to submit proposals for the renovations to three buildings located in Bristol, Middlebury and Vergennes, VT. Qualified applicants will have comparable experience and a bonding capacity of at least \$500,000. To obtain a proposal response form and specific project information, contact Sue Cobb at [scobb@redbirdconsulting.org](mailto:scobb@redbirdconsulting.org). Response forms must be submitted and received by **January 22, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.** Minority-owned, women-owned, Section 3 businesses and locally-owned businesses are strongly encouraged to apply.

## Public Notices

can be found in this  
**ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on **Pages 9B and 10B.**

### IMPORTANT ANNUAL NOTICE REGARDING HERBICIDE USE IN THE MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRIC UTILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY

The Vermont Public Utility Commission has set forth rules under PUC Rule 3.600 pertaining to the use of herbicides in the maintenance of electric utility rights-of-way (ROW). Each spring, herbicide applications may begin on or after April 1st. These rules afford you important rights and duties. Vermont electric utilities maintain electric line rights-of-way with several methods, including the selective use of herbicides on trees and brush. They also encourage low-growing shrubs and trees which will crowd tall-growing species and, thus, minimize the use of herbicides. Methods of herbicide applications may include stump, stem injection, basal, soil, and foliar. Only electric utility rights-of-way that have tall-growing tree species with the potential of threatening the electric utility system are treated.

**If you reside on or own property in Vermont within 1000' of an electric utility right-of-way:**

- Sign up to receive written notification** from your local electric utility of plans to apply herbicide on any ROW within 1000' of your property or the property where you reside. Check nearby poles for tags identifying the utility and/or pole number, complete the form below and submit it to your local electric utility by mail before February 15th, 2024 to be added to the notification list. If determined to be qualified, you will receive notification from the utility at least 30 days prior to scheduled herbicide application.
- You are responsible to make your local electric utility aware** of the location of any potentially affected water supply, and of any other environmentally sensitive area where herbicide application ought to be avoided.
- Watch and listen for public service announcements** in newspapers and radio ads noting upcoming herbicide applications.
- Check with your local electric utility** regarding the vegetation management cycle near your particular line.
- You have the right** to request, in writing, that the utility refrain from applying herbicides in the process of clearing the right-of-way, and the utility may offer alternatives such as herbicide stump treatment or herbicide stem injections.
- You have the right** to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever at no cost to you if the type of lines in the right-of-way are distribution lines, bringing electric service directly to individual customers.
- You have the right** to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever by paying a \$30 administration fee if the type of lines in the right-of-way are **transmission lines** or sub-transmission lines, bringing electricity to or between substations.

For more details, or to ask additional questions, please contact your local electric utility, or one of the following:

(leave blank for local electric co. mailing address and phone)	Agency of Agriculture Public Health & Ag. Resource Mgmt 116 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602 1-802-828-2431	Department of Public Service Consumer Affairs & Public Information 112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05620 1-800-622-4496
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Based on the information above, if you believe you qualify to be notified in advance of pending herbicide applications in the rights-of-way, mail the request below to your local electric company before February 15th, 20

Resident/Property Owner Request to be Added to Herbicide Treatment Notification Mailing List									
Name	Home Phone Number								
Street Address	Work Phone Number								
Town	O.K. to use work number?		Yes	No					
State	Zip Code	(circle one)							
Electric Utility Account Number		Best time to contact you							
Affected Property:	Year-Round Residence	Summer Residence	Commercial Property	Water Supply					
Organic Farm	Land	Other							
Line/Pole Identification:									
Utility Initials		Pole Numbers							
Please fill out this request completely to help us determine if you qualify for herbicide treatment notification.									
MAIL THIS REQUEST TO YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC UTILITY AT THE ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE BEFORE FEBRUARY 15TH, 2024									

## Middlebury women cited for assault

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Stacey Earle, 42, of Middlebury for simple assault, following an incident at a Court Street residence on Jan. 11. Police were called a little after 11 p.m. on that Thursday.

In addition to conducting daily checks of the houseless individuals camping under the Cross Street Bridge off Bakery Lane, Middlebury police:

- Investigated an embezzlement complaint at a Court Street business on Jan. 8.
- Enforced the town's overnight winter parking ban downtown on Jan. 8, 9, 11 and 12.
- Helped an intoxicated woman in the Seymour Street area on Jan. 8.
- Responded to the East Main Street and Lower Plains Road areas of East Middlebury on Jan. 9 after receiving reports of downed powerlines creating a hazard.
- Investigated a theft complaint in the Abbey Pond Road area on Jan. 9.
- Provided traffic control on Case Street on Jan. 10 due to numerous traffic hazards created by the windstorm.
- Assisted a tow truck operator whose vehicle had become entangled in power lines near the intersection of Case Street and (See Middlebury police, Page 10B)

### Full Passport Service

**Addison County Courthouse**

The Addison County Clerk located in Frank Mahady Courthouse is available to accept passport applications and provide passport photos.

**REGULAR HOURS**  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday - 9am to 1pm  
Wednesday - 8:45am to 4:00pm  
Friday - Closed

**APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED.**  
For appointment, go to [www.addisoncountyclerkvt.com](http://www.addisoncountyclerkvt.com) or call 802-388-1966

## ADDY INDY WEBSITE

[addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com)

**STATE OF VERMONT  
SUPERIOR COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION  
ADDISON UNIT  
DOCKET NO.: 23-PR-07677  
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF  
JOAN A. KORDA**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
To the Creditors of: Joan A. Korda late of Bridport, Vermont.  
I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.  
Dated: January 10, 2024  
Suzanne Roorda  
% Law Office of George R. Vince, PC  
PO Box 76, Bristol, VT 05443  
(802) 453-2300  
[George@bristolawvt.com](mailto:George@bristolawvt.com)

Publication: Addison Independent  
Publication Date: 1/18/24  
Address of Probate Court:  
7 Mahady Court  
Middlebury, VT 05753







# ARTS+LEISURE

The Addison Independent

January 18, 2024



Master Magician Blaine Goad will perform his Hocus Pocus Magic Show at the Vergennes Opera House on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 2 p.m. Balloon sculpting is one of Goad's signature features.

COURTESY PHOTO

## Master magician to perform an afternoon of hocus pocus

**A** belated happy birthday to Master Magician Blaine Goad, who turned 76 this past Saturday. Believe it or not, Goad has been enthralled with magic and puppetry for as long as he can remember.

At 8 years old, he unwrapped a very special Christmas gift — a complete magic set! He began to study everything he could find on magic tricks, and he practiced, practiced and practiced.

BY **ELSIE LYNN PARINI**

"I did my first public show in the mid-1950s when I was around 10 years old," Goad recalled during a phone interview last week. "It was at the Springfield Grange; I grew up in Springfield,

Vt.... I was so nervous until people started to applaud."

What seems like a lifetime later, Master Magician Goad will be performing at the Vergennes Opera House on Saturday, Jan. 20. The show will be a special 2 p.m. matinee performance, geared especially for families.

"Last year's January magic show was a huge hit, so we started scouting for a 2024 magic act," said Susan Walsh, Vergennes Opera House Board secretary and member of the Programming Committee. "We were so happy to have found a master magician right here in Vermont and to be able to add a magic show to our season once again."

The Vergennes audience is in for a good show

because Goad is a "Master." He oughta be after nearly 70 years of practice!

After his first gig at the Grange, Goad began to perform at parties, ski resorts, fairs, festivals, schools, churches, libraries, senior centers and pretty much anywhere there was an audience. This work helped to pay his way through college (a Castleton State College grad), after which he became a schoolteacher.

"I loved it!" Goad said about his early experience teaching elementary school in an old, one-room schoolhouse in the tiny Vermont town of Ira. After a few different placements in various schools and academic roles, Goad decided it was time to move on and started up a home remodeling business.

SEE MAGIC ON PAGE 3



# 'Next to Normal' to take the stage at Town Hall Theater

MUSICAL CHALLENGES AUDIENCES TO 'RETHINK WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE WORLD AROUND US'

**D**oug Anderson wants musicals to matter.

"In the last few decades, musicals have taken on serious issues," said director Anderson. "The result, for me, is an almost completely new art form, one that entertains and delights but also challenges us to rethink what's going on in the world around us."

Anderson cites musicals like "Fun Home" (sexual orientation) and "Ragtime" (racial inequality) as powerful examples of this trend. He has staged both as part of the January musical tradition at Town Hall Theater, and he continues that exploration this month with "Next to Normal," which runs from Jan. 25-28.

The central character is an unlikely one for a musical: a mother with bipolar disorder. It's the story of how a family copes with the highs and lows, treatments that work for a time and fail, and the patience and devotion that somehow carry us through.

"Surprisingly, there's a great deal of humor, and the score is littered with beautiful ballads of yearning and love," Anderson said. Ultimately, the piece ends on an uplifting note of hope.

When "Next to Normal" premiered on Broadway, the *New York Times* called it "a brave, breath-taking musical." It was subsequently awarded the Pulitzer Prize for 2010.



Andrew Ritter and Elisa Van Duyne star in "Next to Normal," a musical that will take the stage at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury on Jan. 25-28.

COURTESY PHOTO

**"I THINK IT'S THE BEST MUSICAL THAT MOST PEOPLE HAVE NEVER SEEN."**

— Doug Anderson, Director

"I think it's the best musical that most people have never seen," Anderson said.

Starring in the show is Elisa Van Duyne, a Broadway performer who has settled in Middlebury. "She's absolutely astonishing," Anderson exclaimed. "She embodies this role so deeply, and with such a terrific voice and presence. People won't soon

forget this performance."

Playing opposite her is Andrew Ritter, an actor from the Chicago area who has also settled in the area. "It's such a delight to showcase these professional talents in demanding roles that bring out the best in them," added Anderson.

The couple's son is played by Middlebury College student Jonathan Mount. Rounding out the company are Caitlin Sausville, Philip Caycedo, and Michael Koutelos, returning to Middlebury for his fifth January production. A quintet of superb Middlebury College students form the orchestra, under the direction of Midd alum Ronnie Romano.

"Next to Normal" can be seen at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater from Jan.

**"A BRAVE, BREATH-TAKING MUSICAL."**

— *The New York Times*

25-28. For tickets, go to [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org), call 802-382-9222, or visit the THT box office (Mon-Fri, 12-5 p.m.)

Patrons should know that "Next to Normal" is not suitable for children. The production includes strong language, depictions of acute mental illness, and the complicated grief after the loss of a child.



# MAGIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

All the while, he kept his enthusiasm for magic and puppetry going on the weekends.

Magic has, well, a magic about it, and he finally decided to pursue his dream as a master magician.

It was 1984 when Goad and his wife (and magic act partner) Darlene moved with their two kids to South Carolina. "That's when I went full-time magic, and magic-related things," Goad explained. "Down there, entertainment at company picnics were a big thing, so (Darlene and I) did a lot of corporate work."

Goad also got back into balloon sculpting. "I had stopped because it was getting harder and harder for me to blow up the balloons, but then they came out with these pumps," he exclaimed.

In the late 1990s, Goad did what he called "some clever advertising" to the newly formed NFL Panthers football team, and "by golly, they snatched me up!" Goad said laughing. "The next thing you know, I was working for the Panthers doing balloons sculpting... I worked the games and all the private parties — wow! That was a neat thing. It was really fun."

The Panthers gig ended in 2001, and Blaine and Darlene moved back home to Southern Vermont.

Blaine Goad tends to keep his shows fairly local these days.

"I mostly try to stay within about two hours of driving from my home," he said, noting that's pretty much all of upstate New Hampshire, Vermont, upstate Massachusetts, and upstate New York (mostly the east side). "As the years go by... I'm a portly old gentleman; and nowadays, I prefer to sleep in my own bed."



MASTER MAGICIAN BLAINE GOAD



Master Magician Blaine Goad works with these animatronic monkeys mostly during parades. On Saturday, Jan. 20 he will perform his Hocus Pocus Magic Show at the Vergennes Opera House at 2 p.m.

COURTESY PHOTO

Yes, Goad the Master Magician could retire, but he doesn't want to.

"Magic has been very good to us," he said. "I love it. I want to keep doing it. I still enjoy doing it."

"Performing magic for families and folks of all ages is such great fun," added Goad, who is himself a granddad now. "When I perform, I have the best seat in the house because I get to see the wonder and amazement on everyone's face."

Goad remembers stories of his own grandfather doing magic, as well as his dad. As the third generation magician in his family, Goad is proud to share that his daughter also practices magic and won a Champion Youth Magician competition for North and South Carolina at age eight! And now, his two grandsons are doing magic and puppetry. That's five generations of magicians — ta-da!

The Vergennes Opera House show this

Saturday will include "dynamite magic that will knock your socks off, and things that will delight the kids... oh, and a lot of audience participation." There will be starter magic kits for sale after the show, for anyone interested in practicing their own skills.

Tickets for the Hocus Pocus Magic Show are available online at [VergennesOperaHouse.org](http://VergennesOperaHouse.org) with flexible pricing for affordability. Tickets are \$10 for a single adult, \$5 for kids age 12 or younger, or \$25 for a family of four.

For more information contact the Vergennes Opera House via email at [info@vergennesoperahouse.org](mailto:info@vergennesoperahouse.org) or call 802-877-6737.

"I DID MY FIRST PUBLIC SHOW IN THE MID-1950S WHEN I WAS AROUND 10 YEARS OLD ... I WAS SO NERVOUS UNTIL PEOPLE STARTED TO APPLAUD."

— Master Magician Blaine Goad



**MIDDLEBURY PERFORMING ARTS SERIES**  
WINTER/SPRING 2024 SEASON



January 19 ■ 7:30 PM  
January 21 ■ 2:00 PM

**Takács Quartet**  
\$25/20/10/5

802-443-MIDD (6433) [go.middlebury.edu/pas](http://go.middlebury.edu/pas)





# COMMUNITY DANCE EVENTS

*Middlebury College hosts dance events open to all*

**MOVEMENT MATTERS: GLOBAL BODY IN CONFLICT RESEARCH PRESENTATION**

Over the last year the Dance Department at Middlebury College has researched Conflict Transformation through embodiment. In a presentation on Jan. 23, from 5-6 p.m., the collaborators will share some of what they have learned.

"When we speak of the ills of the world... we are talking about things that happen to bodies." — Sonya Renee Taylor

In dance we are encouraged to practice



SLMDANCES

not knowing the answer, trying something new and asking questions. This approach can build intercultural communication, interdisciplinary problem solving, risk taking, empathy and curiosity. This is conflict transformation.

This event will take place in the Mahaney Art Center Dance Theater, room 110, and is free and open to all.

**PRACTICING CHANGE: THINGS TO BE REPEATED — DANCE COMPANY OF MIDDLEBURY**

The Dance Company of Middlebury presents "Practicing Change: Things to be Repeated" on Jan. 26 and 27, at 7:30 p.m. Performances will be held in the Mahaney Arts Center Dance Theater, room 110.

Directed by Lida Winfield, joined by several special guest artists: Sydnie L Mosley and six Creative Partners and members of SLMDances, including alumna Jessica Lee '13. SLMDances is a New York City based dance-theater collective that works in communities to organize for gender and racial justice. Professor Jeff Buettner's "Sing



"Show And Tell" will be held on Jan. 25, from 5-6 p.m., at the Mahaney Arts Center Dance Theater, room 110. Open to all.

the World into Place" Winter Term course. Music created by Professor's McLean Macionis and Matthew Taylor and Lighting design by Bert Crosby. This original evening of dance and music is centered around the theme of transformation.

Performances are open to the public. Visit Middlebury Box Office for tickets: \$15 for general public; \$10 for Middlebury faculty, staff, and valid ID holders; \$8 for youth under 21; \$5 for Middlebury College students.

A special Show And Tell event will be held prior to the performances on Jan. 25, from 5-6 p.m., in the MAC Dance Theater, room 110. Join the Dance Company of Middlebury, SLMDances and collaborating musicians for an informal evening of process sharing. Students and artists will share the behind-the-scenes process of making, collaboration, questions explored and short excerpts of the final performance.

For more information visit [middlebury.edu/college/academics/dance/events](http://middlebury.edu/college/academics/dance/events).

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Katy Foote



Jenna Hunsinger



Tom Van Sant



Christy Lynn



Jesse Norford



# ART ON EXHIBIT

## EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

Visit [edgewatergallery.com](http://edgewatergallery.com), call 802-989-7419 or email [info@edgewatergallery-vt.com](mailto:info@edgewatergallery-vt.com) for more info.

**"Winter Compositions"** featuring new work by Jim Westphalen and Dale Najarian. Vermont photographer Jim Westphalen studies the unique quality of light, and the contrasting tones of the built landscape against the natural one, that comes with the winter season. Dale Najarian's Shadow series merges the realistic quality of a photograph with the abstract translation of a scene. She explores the perspective that shadows create, and uses figures in motion to capture the ever shifting relationship between light and dark. On view Jan. 9-Feb. 17.

## JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant St, Middlebury

Visit [townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery](http://townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery) or call 802-382-9222 for more info.

**"A New Path: Paintings in oil and watercolor"** features a solo show of work by retired veterinarian Dr. Tom Munschauer. His exhibit shows larger format paintings in oil and watercolor. His strong sense of graphic design and composition are evident in his approach to painting. His imagery includes flora and fauna, landscapes, and anything that might spark his interest. On view Jan. 12-Feb. 17.

## PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit [photoplacegallery.com](http://photoplacegallery.com).

**"Portals: Windows, Mirrors and Doors."** A portal can be an architectural feature (gate, window, doorway, mirror, tunnel) that frames or isolates or adds dimension to an image. In a fictional sense, a portal can become a magical doorway through time and space. Alone or in combination, they hold unlimited creative possibilities for photographers. This juried photo exhibit uses these devices in intriguing ways. Juror Roula Seikaly selected approximately 35 images for exhibition in the Middlebury gallery, and 40 more for the online gallery. On view Jan. 5-26.



SUPPORT THE ARTS  
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[ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM](http://ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM)

# Cosmic Forecast

**ARIES:** March 21/April 20. Aries, you may have an artistic talent that you haven't explored yet. Events this week may spur you on to try something new because inspiration is high for you right now.

**TAURUS:** April 21/May 21. Taurus, your household may not agree on which remodeling changes to make. Unless you come up with a compromise, nothing will get done at all.

**GEMINI:** May 22/June 21. A miscommunication with a loved one could have you trying to make amends soon enough, Gemini. Don't worry, you will easily resolve your differences in time.

**CANCER:** June 22/July 22. Cancer, you might be asked for assistance by a close friend having financial troubles. Be careful about lending out money at this juncture because you don't want to cause issues for yourself.

**LEO:** July 23/Aug. 23. This week you may have a hard time integrating yourself into a group, Leo. Make a concerted effort to be supportive of others. This can be an effective way to get back into the group's good graces.

**VIRGO:** Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Speaking with friends this week could help to address a number of things you're wrestling with, Virgo. Don't hesitate to lean on this support network.

**LIBRA:** Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, when you discover a mutual interest with someone you consider a friend, your bond may grow even deeper. Have fun spending time together.

**SCORPIO:** Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, something important to you doesn't seem to be moving along at the pace you had hoped it would. You might have to be a little more patient in this situation.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Nov. 23/Dec. 21. General malaise may have you wondering if you are sick. It's likely nothing more than stress and fatigue. Keep an eye on symptoms moving forward.

**CAPRICORN:** Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Capricorn, a romantic encounter you have been counting on may not pan out this week, or it may be less exciting than you imagined. Wait a few days before reevaluating things.

**AQUARIUS:** Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Don't put all of your trust in new information this week, Aquarius. It is likely unreliable, so take everything that is said with a grain of salt.

**PISCES:** Feb. 19/March

20. Your imagination is riding high this week, Pisces. Don't hinder it in any way so you can explore all of the creativity that is flowing out of you right now.

We think you need  
to make  
a cozy cowl!

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## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JAN. 19— Dolly Parton, singer-songwriter (78)

JAN. 20 — Questlove, musician, record producer, disc jockey, etc. (53)

JAN. 21 — Plácido Domingo, opera singer (83)

JAN. 22 — Sam Cooke, singer-songwriter (d)

JAN. 23 — Leadbelly, Blues musician (d)

JAN. 24 — Aaron Neville, singer & musician (83)

JAN. 25 — Etta James, singer-songwriter (d)



CALENDAR

JAN. 18-FEB. 13  
2024



THURSDAY, JAN. 18

**DADDYLONGLEGS IN BRISTOL.** Thursday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m., Lawrence Memorial Library. Three well-known local musicians — Nick Ceballos, David Gusakov and Matthew Witten — create vibrant, sensitive and surprising 21st-century folk music. Free. The first performance of the 5-Town Musical Library Tour.

FRIDAY, JAN. 19

**TAKÁCS QUARTET IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. The Takács will present their entire Bartók string quartet cycle, delayed from our 100th anniversary season in 2020. This ensemble has always had a particular association with Béla Bartók, the great 20th-century Hungarian composer whose six quartets are among the pinnacles of 20th-century chamber music. Tickets: \$25/20/10/5 available at [go.middlebury.edu/tickets](http://go.middlebury.edu/tickets) or 802-443-MIDD (6433).

SATURDAY, JAN. 20

**HOCUS POCUS MAGIC SHOW IN VERGENNES.** Saturday, Jan. 20, 2 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. Fun, engaging and great-for-the-entire-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](http://vergennesoperahouse.org).

KING PEDE CARD PARTY IN

**FERRISBURGH.** Saturday, Jan. 20, 6:30 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7. A sandwich supper and then on to an evening of fun and games. King Pedé is a game that involves "trick-taking" such as in Hearts and Spades or Pitch. This is a game of fun and skill so come prepared to use your strategic thinking.

SUNDAY, JAN. 21

**CHAMPLAIN VALLEY FIDDLERS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, Jan. 21, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. VFW, 530 Exchange St. Come and play or listen and dance. \$3 cover, 50/50 raffle, door prize refreshments available. If you know anyone who plays the fiddle or any instrument, have them come and play with us.

**TAKÁCS QUARTET IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, Jan. 21, 2 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. See Jan. 19 listing.

TUESDAY, JAN. 23

**"MARIUPOL: THE PEOPLE'S STORY" FILM AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE.** Tuesday, Jan. 23, 4:30 p.m. Axinn Center Room 232. New Haven filmmaker Hilary Andersson will screen this Peabody- and Emmy Award-winning documentary that gives Ukrainian citizens a voice in telling how they survived the Russian siege of their city in 2022. Anderson will engage in a Q&A after the film.

**BOOK AND AUTHOR DISCUSSION: EMILY ST. JOHN MANDEL IN**

**MIDDLEBURY.** Tuesday, Jan. 23, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Middlebury College students will facilitate a discussion of "Station Eleven" and other works by St. John Mandel. Set in the days of civilization's collapse, "Station Eleven" tells the story of a Hollywood star, his would-be savior, and a nomadic group of actors roaming the scattered outposts of the Great Lakes region, risking everything for art and humanity.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN CROWN POINT, N.Y.** Wednesday, Jan. 24. Enjoy a leisurely walk across the Lake Champlain Bridge and enjoy the ruins and other sites before watching the sunset and full moon rise. Headlamps and microspikes are required. Contact trip leader Ken Corey at [kencorey53@gmail.com](mailto:kencorey53@gmail.com) for questions and to sign up. More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

THURSDAY, JAN. 25

**"NEXT TO NORMAL" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. This theatrical performance explores how one suburban household copes with crisis and mental illness. Winner of three 2009 Tony Awards, including Best Musical Score and the 2010 Pulitzer Prize. Tickets adults \$27/student \$17/generous \$37, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org), 802-382-9222 or [tickets@townhalltheater.org](mailto:tickets@townhalltheater.org). Repeats Jan. 26, 27 and 28.

FRIDAY, JAN. 26

**"NEXT TO NORMAL" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Jan. 25 listing.

SATURDAY, JAN. 27

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN RIPTON.** Saturday, Jan. 27, Spirit in Nature Trails. Easy to moderate hike on the Spirit in Nature trails in Ripton, 3-4 miles maximum, minimal elevation gain. Hiking poles recommended. Depending on conditions, snowshoes or microspikes may be needed. Contact leader Liana Merrill at [merrill.liana@gmail.com](mailto:merrill.liana@gmail.com) to get details and sign up. More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

**"WOOL & WATER" ARTIST TALK IN VERGENNES.** Saturday, Jan. 27, 11 a.m.-noon, Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Curator Michael Glennon will this collaborative data art project that blends fiber art with scientific data to create visual representations of changing water quality conditions in the Adirondacks and Lake Champlain Basin. The exhibit is on display now in the Community Room.

**GREAT PUZZLE CHALLENGE 2024 IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Jan. 27, 11 a.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. In honor of National Puzzle Day (Jan. 29), gather your puzzle team of 1-3 people. Race against other teams to be the first to complete the chosen puzzle. Winner(s) will receive a \$10 gift certificate to Tinker and Smithy. Enter your team at [www.ilsleypubliclibrary.org/great-](http://www.ilsleypubliclibrary.org/great-)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		Please see the MCTV website, <a href="http://www.middleburycommunitytv.org">www.middleburycommunitytv.org</a> , 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.					
<b>MCTV Channel 1071</b> <b>Friday, January 19</b> Through the Night: Public Affairs 5:58 a.m. Female Founders "Creating Culture: How Women are Changing Companies from the Inside Out." 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 3 p.m. Energy Week 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church 5:30 p.m. Female Founders 7:02 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour <b>Saturday, January 20</b> Through the Night: Public Affairs 7:30 a.m. Female Founders 9:02 a.m. Gov. Scott 10 a.m. Selectboard 12:34 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 6 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Female Founders 9:02 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour <b>Sunday, January 21</b> Through the Night: Alliance for Public		Media 8:02 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 9:30 a.m. Press Conferences 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 12:30 p.m. Energy Week 1:30 p.m. Gov. Scott 2:28 p.m. Female Founders 4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Energy Week, Public Affairs <b>Monday, January 22</b> Through the Night: Some from the Archives 5 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 8:30 p.m. Energy Week 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Female Founders <b>Tuesday, January 23</b> Through the Night: Public Affairs 5:30 a.m. Energy Week 6:30 a.m. Public Affairs 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Select Board 12:34 p.m. Female Founders 4 p.m. Congregational Services 7 p.m. Selectboard (LIVE),		Public Affairs <b>Wednesday, January 24</b> Through the Night: Public Affairs 5 a.m. Gov. Scott, Public Affairs 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass, Public Affairs 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Female Founders 5:32 p.m. Gov. Scott, Public Affairs 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs <b>Thursday, January 25</b> Through the Night: Public Affairs 5 a.m. Selectboard 8 a.m. Congregational Services 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 7 p.m. Female Founders 8:32 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Dr. John Campbell  <b>Channel 1091</b> <b>Friday, January 19</b> 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Vermont Youth 9:30 a.m. Food & Cooking Programs 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 8 p.m. All Brains Belong Vermont		10:30 p.m. Poets & Authors <b>Saturday, January 20</b> 5 a.m. Samirah Evans at the Town Hall Theater 7 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 8 a.m. Green MT. Mahler Festival - Beethoven's Ninth Symphony 9:30 a.m. Senior Moments - Erik Nielsen's Beethoven Class 1 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 7:33 p.m. Samirah Evans 9:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 11:30 p.m. Poets & Authors <b>Sunday, January 21</b> 5:30 a.m. Vermont Youth Orchestra 10 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 p.m. All Brains Belong Vermont 7:30 p.m. PechaKucha Night 9 p.m. Samirah Evans 11 p.m. Poets and Authors <b>Monday, January 22</b> 6:30 a.m. Vermont Youth Orchestra 8 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 9 a.m. PechaKucha Night 10:30 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 7 p.m. Otter Creek Audubon Society 10 p.m. All Brains Belong		<b>Tuesday, January 23</b> 5 a.m. Music in the Morning 6:30 a.m. Yoga 7:30 a.m. Food & Cooking Programs 9 a.m. PechaKucha Night 10:30 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 5:30 p.m. Green MT. Mahler Festival 7 p.m. Me2 Orchestra 9 p.m. PechaKucha Night 10:30 p.m. First Tuesdays <b>Wednesday, January 24</b> 5 a.m. Me2 Orchestra 7 a.m. Chair Yoga 7:35 a.m. Tai Chi 8 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 3 p.m. Samirah Evans 4:46 p.m. Ripton Coffee House - Matt Finner Trio 6:03 p.m. PechaKucha Night 7:30 p.m. First Tuesdays 8:30 p.m. All Brains Belong <b>Thursday, January 25</b> 5:30 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:30 a.m. Food & Cooking Programs 7:30 a.m. Poets and Authors 3:30 p.m. PechaKucha Night 5 p.m. Samirah Evans 7 p.m. School Board Meeting/s	



**"NEXT TO NORMAL" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Jan. 27, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Jan. 25 listing.

## SUNDAY, JAN. 28

**"NEXT TO NORMAL" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, Jan. 28, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Jan. 25 listing.

## MONDAY, JAN. 29

**KOREAN DRUMMING WORKSHOP IN MIDDLEBURY.** Monday, Jan. 29, 7-9 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Court. Come learn Korean drumming! Free but reservations required because of limited instruments. E-mail Shelby Kimmel [shelby.kimmel@gmail.com](mailto:shelby.kimmel@gmail.com) to reserve a spot or for more information.

## TUESDAY, JAN. 30

**VIRTUAL WINTER BOOK DISCUSSION IN FERRISBURGH.** Tuesday, Jan. 30, 6:30 p.m., Zoom. Rokeby Museum sponsors this discussion of "A History of the Village of North Ferrisburgh" led by the author Jean Richardson, a long-time North Ferrisburgh community member and well-known historian and professor emerita of natural resources, environmental studies and geography at UVM. Free. More info at [rokeby.org/visit/programmevents](http://rokeby.org/visit/programmevents).

## WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31

**"CARMEN" LIVE IN HD IN MIDDLEBURY.** Wednesday, Jan. 31, 11 a.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. A new production of one of opera's most enduringly powerful works, reinvigorating the classic story with a staging that moves the action to the modern day and finds at the heart of the drama issues that could not be more relevant today: gendered violence, abusive labor structures, and the desire to break through societal boundaries. Tickets adult \$26/student \$12, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org), 802-382-9222 or [tickets@townhalltheater](mailto:tickets@townhalltheater).

## FRIDAY, FEB. 2

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN RIPTON.** Friday, Feb. 2, west side of Frost Mountain. Moderate hike of 4.5 miles round trip with several views of the Adirondacks. Microspikes or snowshoes required depending on conditions. Meet at the parking lot in East Middlebury on the uphill side of Sand Hill Bridge, on Route 125 over the gorge. May end the outing with a stop at the Waybury Inn for a beverage and snack. More info contact Anne Christie at 802-388-4347 (home) or 802-989-9771 (cell). More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

## SATURDAY, FEB. 3

**MILES DONAHUE AND FRIENDS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant

St. The House of Jazz winter offering features Miles Donahue, a Middlebury College music professor, who is fluent in both saxophone and trumpet, and is a celebrated composer and recording artist. He has been hailed as a jazz treasure and one of the best kept secrets of the genre. Tickets \$25 advance/\$30 at the door/\$35 table (includes one drink). More info and tickets at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org) or 802-382-9222.

## TUESDAY, FEB. 6

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB: BREAD LOAF SECTION ANNUAL MEETING IN MIDDLEBURY.** Tuesday, Feb. 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Court. The Bread Loaf Section of the GMC will hold its 49th Annual Meeting with a brief social time followed by the meeting at 6:45. Following the business meeting, at about 7:30, GMC Director of Field Programs Keegan Tierney will offer an inside look at the projects and accomplishments the club and volunteers have accomplished during recent and unprecedented challenges and the club's response to the impacts of changes in climate and trail use patterns. Light refreshments. This event is free and open to the public. More info online at [www.gmcbreadloaf.org](http://www.gmcbreadloaf.org).

**"WHISPERS FROM THE VALLEY OF THE YAK" BOOK DISCUSSION IN MIDDLEBURY.** Tuesday, Feb. 6, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Lincoln resident Jackie Tuxill will read from and discuss her new memoir, which chronicles her quest to understand her difficult childhood and who she is beyond "wife," "mother" and "daughter." Born in 1942 to medical missionary parents in China, Tuxill has traveled extensively, spending time in India, Tibet, Alaska and Europe's navigable inland waterways. Tuxill's fellow Lincolnite, the author John Elder, says that Tuxill's journeys, "offer readers a dramatic counterpoint to their customary worlds, which is the true gift of fine travel writing."

## FRIDAY, FEB. 9

**"STEALING FROM WORK: ARTIFICIAL**

**IRRELEVANCE" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. The very real and not-at-all-automated minds behind the Vermont sketch comedy troupe "Stealing from Work" are back with their new review for 2024, "Artificial Irrelevance." The new show contains sketches relevant for our times, or at least for an evening of distraction and laughs. Tickets \$20, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org) or 802-382-9222.

## SATURDAY, FEB. 10

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE OR SNOWSHOE IN SHELburne.** Saturday, Feb. 10, Shelburne Farms. Hike the Farm Trail from the Welcome Center. Moderately difficult; 4-5 miles. Bring a snack or lunch, water, and dress to the weather in thermal layers. Ankle gaiters and hiking poles are recommended. Be prepared for ice and snow with boot traction, aka microspikes. For details including meeting time and possible carpooling from the Middlebury area, contact Ruth Penfield at 802-458-1116 or [ruthpenfield@gmail.com](mailto:ruthpenfield@gmail.com). More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

**COLBY CREHAN AND MARSH LIGHTS IN LINCOLN.** Saturday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. to Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. Colby Crehan and Marsh Lights plays acoustic folk-grass music with a hyper-literate edge and beautiful execution. The group's strong rapport built over years of performing together makes for a band that can go light and heavy, solemn and joyful, fast and slow. Doors open at 7 p.m., music begins at 7:30 pm. \$15/\$20/\$25 or pay what you can. More info at [burnhampresents.org](http://burnhampresents.org).

**VERMONT MANDOLIN TRIO IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. The trio of Jamie Masefield, Will Patton and Matt Flinner brings together three of Vermont's finest mandolinists for a rare evening of bluegrass, jazz and roots music in the unique setting of three mandolins. Joined by journeyman bassist Pat Melvin, the group performs music of Bill Monroe, Django Reinhardt, J.S. Bach and everything in between. Tickets \$20/\$30 table, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org) or 802-382-9222.

**LC JAZZ WINTER THAW CONCERT IN VERGENNES.** Saturday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. A favorite event of the season, bringing neighbors and friends out from their homes and into the warmth of the Vergennes Opera House. Great music provided by many familiar faces in a 17-piece orchestra with singers to boot. Free will donations benefit the high school music scholarship fund.

## SUNDAY, FEB. 11

**LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, Feb. 11, 12:30-6:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. Lunar New Year is a celebration of family, feasting and good fortune observed by millions of people around the world, particularly in East and Southeast Asia and in diasporic communities. This free event by Addison County BIPOC+ showcases dance, art and crafts from different Asian traditions, and culminates with a 5:30 p.m. talk with E. Tammy Kim, contributing writer for The New Yorker and founding co-host of the podcast "Time to Say Goodbye." A variety of Lunar New Year activities will include 12:30-1:30 Tae Kwon Do demonstration with Master Kellie Thomas; 1:30-3:30 Family-friendly storytime and dragon-themed crafts and activities; 3:30-4:15 Performances and Demonstrations on the THT main stage: Chinese fan dance, Korean pungmul drumming, Chinese wushu; and 4:30 Chinese calligraphy/painting demo with Yinglei Zhang. Free admission, food available for purchase.

## TUESDAY, FEB. 13

**BIXBY BOOK CLUB IN VERGENNES.** Tuesday, Feb. 13, 6-7 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. The book for February is "Under the Whispering Door" by TJ Klune. A delightful queer love story from the author of the New York Times and USA Today bestseller "The House in the Cerulean Sea." Come and discuss. Didn't read or finish the book? No worries! This is a no-judgment book club. Books can be reserved by emailing Martha at [Martha.Sanborn@bixbylibrary.org](mailto:Martha.Sanborn@bixbylibrary.org).



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# UPCOMING MUSIC

## The House of Jazz *A Night at Birdland — The Bebop Years*

TOWN HALL THEATER & JAZZ  
MIDDLEBURY PRESENT MILES  
DONAHUE, STEVE HUNT, LARRY FINN  
AND GERSON LAZO QUIROGA

Following the successful launch of The House of Jazz series back in October with Samirah Evans and Her Handsome Devils, Jazz Middlebury and THT will present the next installment: "A Night at Birdland — The Bebop Years."

On Saturday, Feb. 3, THT will be transformed into a candlelit night club ala Birdland with a choice of table or traditional seating. The evening's swinging Bebop retrospective is curated by band leader Miles Donahue, a Middlebury College affiliate artist in the Music Department and Middlebury Community Music Center instructor, who is fluent in both saxophone, trumpet and piano, and is a celebrated composer and recording artist. Donahue has been hailed as a jazz treasure and one of the best kept secrets of the genre.

Donahue, alongside Steve Hunt (piano), Larry Finn (drums), and Gerson Lazo Quiroga (electric bass), will take audience members on journey of jazz favorites including the work of Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Tyner McCoy, John Coltrane, Herbie Hancock, Horace Silver, Thelonious Monk, and more. The bebop era is uniquely encapsulated in this evening of music appreciation and celebration of American jazz innovation.

"Jazz is an art form invented and developed in America and is less than 100 years old. I hope that people come and enjoy my homage to bebop jazz," Donahue said.

### ABOUT MILES DONAHUE

"Jazz was my music of choice early on and I was fortunate to have close friends who were like minded," reads Donahue's bio on the MCMC website. But Donahue's career took a

new direction having developed lip problems from playing trumpet — this is what led him to alto and later tenor sax; as well as piano.

"Married at 20, I needed to develop a more secure career and piano was one way to do that," Donahue explained. "It also fostered my study of music theory and composition which has been a lifelong passion."

Donahue's jazz career did not begin in earnest until the age of 45, although in the 1960s (in his early 20s) he performed at many venues with his own group that featured Harvey Swartz, Jerry Bergonzi, Charlie Banacos, Nick Goumas and Jack Diefendorf. One of these concerts in 1972, performed with Charlie Banacos and Jerry Bergonzi, became known as the famous Arlington Street Church Concert.

In the 1980s, Donahue did two albums for which he wrote all the original material with New York Philharmonic flutist Paige Brook. These two albums were released on Tioch records.

In 1992, Donahue first major recording as a jazz leader was released on Timeless Records. "Double Dribble" featured Kenny Werner, Bruce Gertz and George Schuller. A review of this recording in *Saxophone Journal* reads: "Very few musicians today have the diversity and hidden talents Donahue possesses. His phrasing of tenor and trumpet, the harmonic sophistication he plays with and his ability to swing with incredible beauty, all lead to a master musician. This is one of the best CDs I've heard in years."

In a *Jazziz* magazine review of "The Good Listener" on Ram records the reviewer says, "like Benny Carter and Ira Sullivan, Miles Donahue is a rare example of someone whose strong personality asserts itself without hesitation whether he's picking up trumpet or saxophone."

"Simple Pleasures," released in 1998 (also on Ram Records), was Donahue's next recording. It featured Kenny Werner, George Garzone,



MILES DONAHUE

Mick Goodrick, Billy Hart and Bruce Gertz.

Given the instability of the record industry, Donahue has formed his own label, Amerigo Records, and released two albums "In the Pocket" (1999) and "Bounce" (2004). These two albums featured Fred Hersch, Joey Calderazzo, Jerry Bergonzi, John Pattitucci and Kurt Rosenwinkle. Combined they comprised 18 originals.

Donahue was on a roll: "Beginning in 2003 and ending in 2013 I released five albums of standards," he said.

Reviewer Steve Greenlee for the *Boston Globe* stated, "This is a massive and impressive project."

In his career so far, Donahue has totaled 17 albums, more than 80 original compositions, written over 18 articles for *Jazz Ed* magazine on the subject of jazz improvisation, in addition to the *Jazz Workbook*.

"I have been privileged to play, teach and compose the music I love," Donahue concluded.

Don't miss your chance to see this bebop jazz concert right here in Middlebury. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org) or by calling 802-382-9222. Table tickets \$35; regular seating \$25/advance and \$30 at the door. THT's Cady Fund offers ticket subsidies to ensure cost is not a barrier to access. This series would not be possible without the sponsorship and partnership of Jazz Middlebury.



# PUZZLES

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### ACROSS

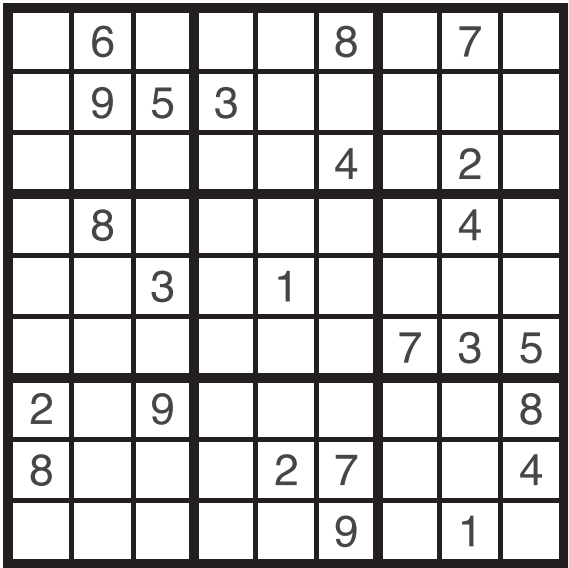
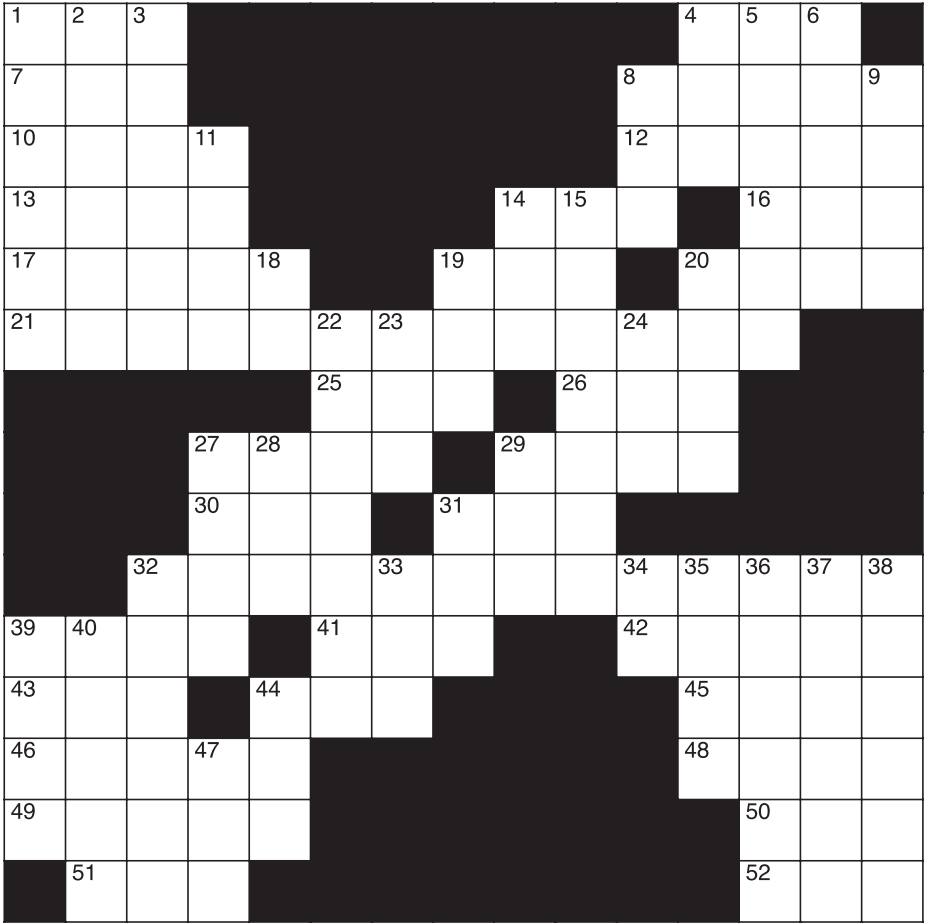
- 1. Microgram
- 4. Where golfers begin
- 7. Each
- 8. Warm weather metropolis
- 10. Coat with sticky substance
- 12. Girl's given name
- 13. Myth (Spanish)
- 14. Ultrahigh frequency
- 16. Former NBAer Jeremy
- 17. Where rockers work
- 19. Your consciousness of your own identity
- 20. Soft-finned fishes

- 21. Localities
- 25. Paddle
- 26. Union
- 27. Member of religious community
- 29. Small shrill flute
- 30. Small constellation in the Milky Way
- 31. They \_\_
- 32. College kid on vacation
- 39. de Armas and Gasteyer are two
- 41. Part of the human body
- 42. A progressive grading
- 43. Sound unit
- 44. Noise some birds make
- 45. Abba \_\_, Israeli

- politician
- 46. Portuguese city
- 48. Be extremely, uncritically fond of
- 49. Resembling old Norse poems
- 50. Ask for out of extreme need
- 51. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 52. Midway between south and southeast

### DOWN

- 1. An insane person
- 2. \_\_ Boothe Luce, American author
- 3. Buttock muscles
- 4. Men's fashion accessory
- 5. "Hotel California" rockers



### 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

- 6. Electronic communication
- 8. Magnetomotive force (abbr.)
- 9. Hostelryes
- 11. A way to resound
- 14. Exclamation: yuck!
- 15. A resident of Indiana
- 18. Exclamation of surprise
- 19. Make a mistake
- 20. Boundary
- 22. Antilles island
- 23. It's used to make furniture
- 24. Clod
- 27. They indicate where places are
- 28. Bobby \_\_, NHL champ
- 29. Prints money
- 31. Honorable title (Turkish)
- 32. Appetizers
- 33. Midway between north and northwest
- 34. Spanish be
- 35. Breezed through
- 36. Grilled dishes
- 37. In a way, excites
- 38. Change mind
- 39. A French abbot
- 40. Popular candy
- 44. Partner to cheese
- 47. Wood or metal bolt

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 13.



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CANVAS  
PAINTS  
PAPER



# What is Guiding Eyes for the Blind?

Guiding Eyes for the Blind provides guide dogs to people with vision loss. Guiding Eyes is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with all services provided completely free of charge. The Headquarters and Training Center is based in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., and the Canine Development Center is in Patterson, N.Y. Guiding Eyes is an accredited member of the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF), the organization that establishes worldwide standards for the breeding and training of guide dogs.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- It takes up to three years and costs approx. \$50,000 annually to breed, raise and train a dog for a person who is blind. Here's a look at some of the facts and figures that make it all possible:
- More than 65 years experience (we were founded in 1954 by Donald Kauth)
- More than 500 pups born annually
- 92% Labrador retrievers, 8% German Shepherds
- More than 10,000 graduated guide dog teams
- More than 1,000 active guide dog teams
- More than 150 guide dogs placed annually
- More than 1,400 volunteers

## BREEDING, PUPPY RAISING, FOSTERING & SOCIALIZATION

### Puppy Raising

Volunteer puppy raisers take pups into their homes at approximately eight weeks old and teach them basic obedience and house manners, while socializing them to everything the world has to offer. Puppy raisers return the dogs at 12-16 months old, and our senior breeding and training staff determine whether the pups are ready for guide dog training or more suited for another career.

Potential raisers attend orientation sessions to learn the skills they'll need to start training puppies. They also have the chance to "puppy sit" as a trial experience.

Raisers attend training classes throughout the time they have their pups.

Guiding Eyes pays for all of the puppy's veterinary expenses and provides a crate and collar.

Puppy-raising regions span 14 states: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Colorado.

### Brood & Stud Fostering

Volunteer fosters provide permanent homes



This is Cara! She is a future guide dog being raised for Guiding Eyes for the Blind (GEB) by Beth and Dennis Smith in Middlebury. You might have seen her in area grocery stores getting used to all kinds of obstacles, people, smells and distractions. She is currently 16 months old and will return to Guiding Eyes in early February for her initial testing and evaluation. If you are interested in becoming a puppy raiser, do a web search for GEB for more info.

**Beth and Dennis Smith,  
Middlebury**

for Guiding Eyes brood and stud dogs. These volunteers provide a safe and loving home environment, keeping the dog on leash when outdoors, and ensuring daily exercise. Like puppy raisers, brood and stud fosters receive training in dog handling, care, and obedience, as well as regular check-ups from our veterinary staff.

### Home & Early Socialization

Home socializers bring two puppies (age six to nine weeks) to their home for three to five days to expose them to new sights, sounds, and people, with training and equipment provided by Guiding Eyes.

Early socializers introduce Guiding Eyes pups

to new environments and experiences within our puppy center for two-hour periods once per week. These repeated positive experiences help build the puppies' confidence.

### GUIDE DOG TRAINING

Guiding Eye guide dogs spend three to four months undergoing formal training with a professional instructor. They learn the skills needed to safely guide a person with vision loss, such as indicating changes of elevation and navigating around obstacles.

### Did you know?

SEE GEB ON PAGE 11





**GEB**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Each guide dog is carefully matched with his or her handler based on pace, pull, personality, and other critical factors. Guide dogs do not know how to cross the street. Their handlers listen to traffic sounds and determine when it's safe. Guide dogs are taught "intelligent disobedience" and will ignore the command to move forward if a car or other dangerous object is in their path.

**RELEASED DOGS**

Guiding Eyes spends months getting to know our puppies and dogs, to make sure they're suited for guide work. Just like people, dogs have different personalities and want different careers. (And for some, that means a career as a pet.)

Dogs that aren't suitable for guide or other service work are released from the program and placed in loving homes through public adoption.

For more information and opportunities visit [GuidingEyes.org](http://GuidingEyes.org).

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Rikku

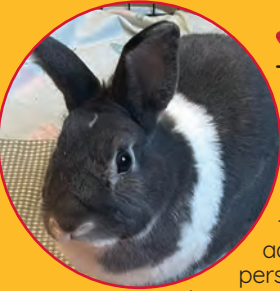
with each other.

**Rikku and Tidus**

**Rikku** and **Tidus** are 8 months old, sweet and playful. We call them the identical twins! They lived together for 5 months before coming to the shelter and love being



Tidus



**Tulip**

**Tulip** is a delightful 4-year-old male Dutch mix. It doesn't take him long to reveal his gentle and soft nature once he warms up to you. He is a little reserved initially but becomes quite tolerant of being held once trust is established. This furry friend adores affection and has a Zen, tranquil personality, making him a pure joy to be around. Tulip is fully litter box trained and would do best as an only rabbit. It is a possibility that with a slow, proper introduction he could learn to live with another rabbit. He could also live with other rabbit-savvy pets! Tulip would be great around calm kids and is seeking a relaxed home with a warm lap to sit on while he is happily munching on his favorite veggies.

**Faeya**

**Faeya** is a 7-month-old female Teddy mix Guinea pig. She is the embodiment of sweetness and comfort in the world of Guinea pigs. As most pigs are, she is shy to new people, but with a heart as warm as her fur, she quickly draws people in with her affectionate nature. Faeya enjoys being held and cuddled against your chest or in your lap. She has lived with 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.



**Frasier**

**Frasier** is a 5-month-old male Teddy Bear mix Guinea pig. He is bashful initially, but once he warms up he loves his people and loves head scratches! He lived with other Guinea pigs in his previous home but was bullied by another pig. He could go home with other pigs, but would need a very slow and gradual introduction, or could do fine on his own as a solo pig. Frasier is playful and curious and loves exploring new things in his environment! He would do best in a home with older children who are experienced in handling smaller animals who scare easily. Loud noises are frightening to such a little creature! To sum it up, Frasier is a lot of love in a compact, petite ball of fuzz! He has a gentle and soft nature and is eager to learn about the big world around him with a dedicated human companion to share it with.

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3 TWIN CIRCLE, MIDDLEBURY  
\$315,000

# THE HOME

A LOOK INSIDE ADDISON COUNTY HOMES FOR SALE

## Cozy and convenient living in Middlebury

This inviting two-bedroom condo at Twin Circles in Middlebury features a well-designed floor plan with a large kitchen complete with modern amenities, including maple cabinets and beautiful Brazilian cherry flooring that flows into the cozy living area. Walk out the sliding glass doors to your deck and enjoy access to the TAM Trails located out back, offering a scenic and relaxing outdoor experience. Also on the main floor is a large half bath right off the foyer. Upstairs, enjoy the comfort of two spacious bedrooms, each with two closets and a full bathroom including a clawfoot bathtub and separate shower. The basement is equipped with plenty of shelves for storage, a washer and dryer for laundry needs, and the convenience of a central vacuum system for easy cleaning. This wonderful condo also comes with a one-car garage space.



**Champlain Valley  
Properties**

*This week's property is managed by Champlain Valley Properties.  
More info at [champlainvalleyproperty.net](http://champlainvalleyproperty.net).*





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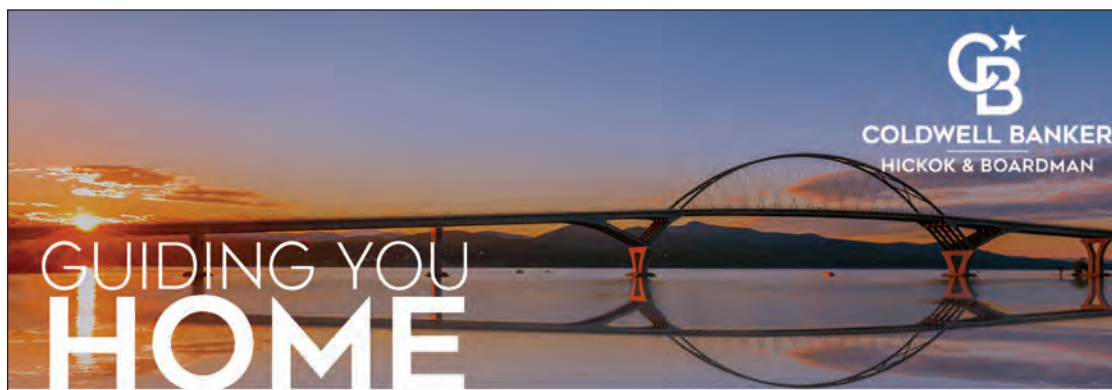
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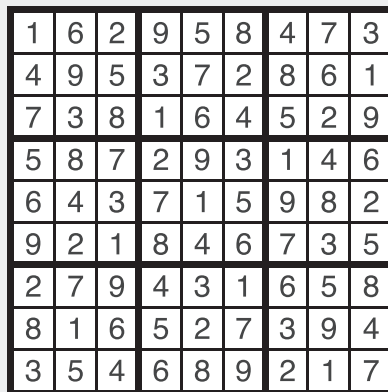
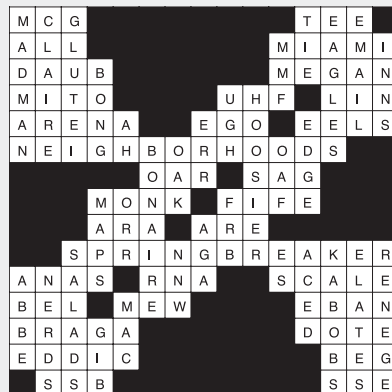
## PUZZLE

SOLUTIONS JAN. 18, 2024

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What a great house! After 40+ years, the current owner is ready to hand over the reins to a new buyer. Is that you? This house is versatile. The main/original section has a large living room with a gas stove/hearth adjacent to the eat-in kitchen. You've got plenty of storage in the kitchen between the cabinets, small island and two pantry closets! Down the hall you'll find a generous laundry room with additional storage and a utility sink. Beyond you'll find two bedrooms, a full bathroom and two connected bonus rooms! In the rear of the house (an extension of the house added by the current owners) is a proper mudroom, a 3/4 bathroom and a large bedroom with two closets, one of which is a walk-in. The house is currently heated by 2 heat pump heads, an oil boiler and the gas stove in the living room. Below ground you'll find a crawl space (with vapor barrier and stone) under the front half and a full poured concrete walkout basement under the back half. Detached, oversized one-car garage and some flat, usable yard space.



Meet "Leonardo Deer Vinci" the wooden deer that stands outside Art on Main in downtown Bristol. A challenge was held to come up with the best name for this new figure, and Middlebury's Tyler Day submitted the winning name. Congratulations!

COURTESY PHOTO

# That deer has a name!

If you frequent Bristol's Main Street, you're probably familiar with the giant wooden deer outside the downtown gallery, Art on Main. Well, the gallery held a "Name the Deer" challenge recently and... we have a winner!

Congratulatioins to Tyler Day of Middlebury!  
He has aptly named the deer "Leonardo Deer Vinci"

"We love the name! We will call him Leo for short!" says Art on Main on their website.

Day had many clever suggestions for the deer including "Salvadeer Dali, Rembrandtler, Stagson Pollack and Bambi Warhol."

Day said he was inspired for his art-related ideas for the Deer Name because, being a Dad of two elementary school boys, he likes to be "punny."

Art on Main had almost 100 names submitted to the contest. Some other great suggestions were "Deer John, Cliff, The Main Deer, Arturo (Art for short), Art I. Deer, Bruce Bucky, Buck-A-Roo, Arty, Spike and Deerleaper."

"Many thanks to all who took part," thanked the gallery. "This was fun! Be sure to come by to say hi to 'Leo' in 2024!"

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# ASK A MASTER GARDENER

DO YOU KNOW YOUR ZONES?



Deborah J. Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from North Adams, Mass., who is part of the Bennington County Chapter.

There are countless things that can go right or wrong in a garden. Some of them are obvious: too much or too little water, diseases, pests and critters that nibble on our plants. Other things that can make or break your gardening efforts are less obvious. It's those little details that can be so very important.

BY **DEBORAH J. BENOIT**

If you've purchased perennial plants or started them from seed, you've likely seen notations such as "hardy to zone 5" or "USDA Zones 4a-9b" on the package or in the product description. This is vital information for gardeners because plants suitable for your U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Hardiness Zone are far more likely to grow successfully for you, barring unusual weather conditions.

The USDA Plant Hardiness Zone map (see page 16) is based on information collected over a 30-year period from 1991-2020 from over 13,000 weather stations across the

"IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO CHECK THE NEWLY PUBLISHED 2023 MAP BEFORE PURCHASING SEEDS OR PLANTS. **THE ZONE DESIGNATION FOR MANY LOCATIONS HAS CHANGED SINCE THE LAST UPDATE IN 2012.**"

country. The map assigns locations a zone number (1a-13b) using extreme minimum winter temperature data. A lower number/letter combination indicates cooler low temperatures.

Knowing the zone for your location and for the perennial plants (including shrubs and trees) you intend to include in your garden are key pieces of information for successful growing. Even if you already know your

location's zone number, it's a good idea to check the newly published 2023 map before purchasing seeds or plants. The zone designation for many locations has changed since the last update in 2012 (for example, from zone 4a to 4b or from zone 4b to 5a).

You can find your location's USDA Plant Hardiness Zone by entering your zip code at [planthardiness.ars.usda.gov](http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov).

While you are plant and seed shopping, you may see some plants labeled as "tender perennials." These are plants that will come back year after year in an appropriate zone but which will not survive freezing conditions. Often such plants are sold or treated as annuals in colder zones such as those here in New England, or they can be brought inside before the first frost to overwinter indoors.

In addition to knowing your zone, it's important when selecting plants and seeds

SEE GARDEN ON PAGE 16



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**OVERVIEW ADDISON COUNTY REAL ESTATE SALES 2023**  
per PrimeMLS as of 12/31/2023

MARKET TRENDS	
<b>305</b> TOTAL SALES IN UNITS	<b>\$466,000</b> AVERAGE PURCHASE PRICE
<b>27</b> AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	<b>98%</b> SOLD PRICE VS. LIST PRICE



% Change from 2022	
Inventory Sales in Units	-8.4%
Average Purchase Price	+4.5%
Average Days on Market	-10.0%
Sold Price vs List Price	-2.0%

Neither Trendgraphics, PrimeMLS, or its member agencies guarantee or is in anyway responsible for accuracy. Data reflects broker-member activity and may not reflect all real estate activity in the Market.

**Our office is located at 32 Merchants Row in the heart of Middlebury.**



GARDEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

to know the length of your growing season. By determining your average last and first frost dates, you can easily calculate the anticipated length of your growing season. Simply count the number of days between the last likely spring frost and the probable date of the first frost in the fall. That is the average length of your growing season.

This is important when selecting annual vegetables and flowers for your location. Look for the number of days to maturity on seed packets.

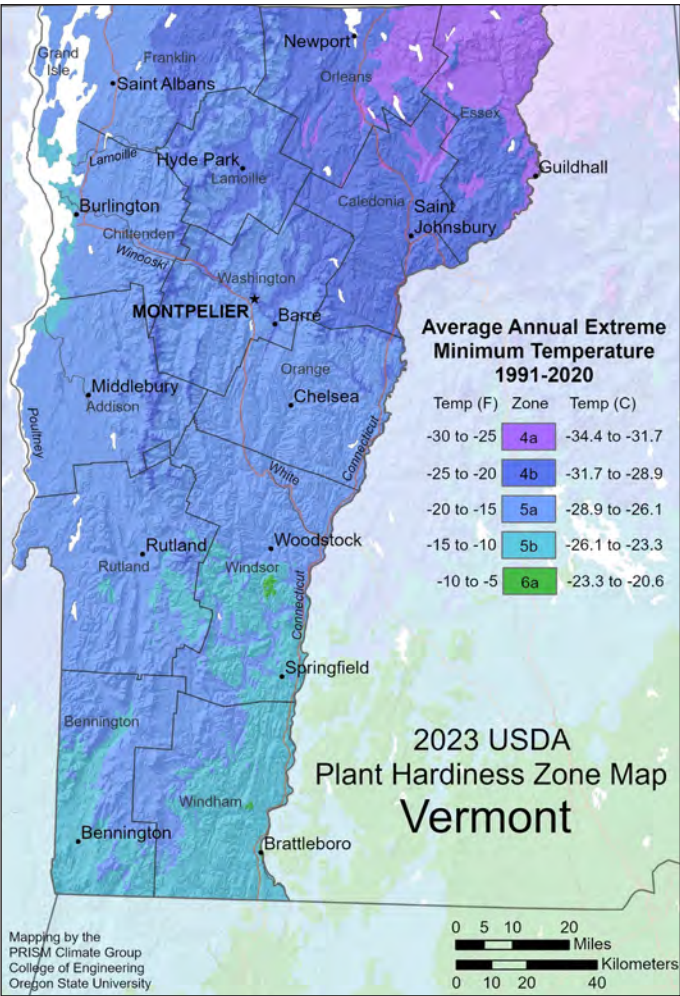
For example, if your growing season is only 100 days long and the tomato variety you want to plant requires 120 days to harvest, you may be very disappointed in the fall when temperatures drop and a freeze puts an end to your plants before you've tasted a single tomato. By selecting a variety with a shorter number of days to maturity, you're far more likely to enjoy the fruits of your garden before cold arrives in the fall.

DID YOU KNOW?

BY KNOWING YOUR USDA PLANT HARDINESS ZONE AND ESTIMATED LENGTH OF YOUR GROWING SEASON, **YOUR PLANTS AND SEEDS WILL HAVE THE BEST CHANCE OF THRIVING.** HAPPY GROWING!

Information concerning last frost dates (in the springtime) and first frost dates (in the fall) can be found by entering your zip code at [garden.org/apps/frost-dates](https://garden.org/apps/frost-dates).

By keeping in mind what USDA Plant Hardiness Zone your garden is in, along with the estimated length of your growing season, you'll be able to choose the perennial plants and seeds most suitable for successful growing in your location.



Gardeners can use the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map for their state to determine their zone and select appropriate plants for their garden.

PHOTO COURTESY OF USDA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

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ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT





## *Inside:*

- Leicester man trains to be an American Ninja
- Make plans for National Healthy Weight Week
- Learn to ride a bike: Everyone's doing it!
- Workshops help Vermonters build health

# *Health & Well-Being*

*A special publication of The Addison Independent | January 18, 2024*



# Pregnancy and Oral Health: Why does it matter?

You should take special care of your teeth and gums during pregnancy. This topic often doesn't get the attention it deserves, but there is a crucial connection between oral health and pregnancy.

Hormonal changes during pregnancy can increase the risk of gum diseases and cause flare-ups of existing dental issues. More than 60% of pregnant patients have gum diseases. Research suggests a link between poor gum health in expectant mothers and adverse pregnancy outcomes, including preterm birth and low birth weight. Even if you don't believe you have any oral problems, it's always good to get a preventive visit to the dentist in early pregnancy. Your dentist can find issues you aren't aware of. If dental problems are left untreated there can be risks to the overall health of the patient.

## Is it safe to get dental care during pregnancy?

Yes, seeking dental care and getting treatment is safe for you unless otherwise determined by your dental professional. Modern dental x-rays do not expose you to a lot of radiation. Please seek oral care as early as possible. If treatments are needed, your dentist can plan those for the second trimester.

## You're covered!

Did you know that pregnant women are covered for most dental procedures for one year after delivering, irrespective of the outcome of delivery? Contact your dental clinic for more information.

## Oral Health Tips for Expectant Mothers: A Healthy Smile for a Healthy Start

- 1. Regular Dental Check-ups:** Schedule dental appointments during pregnancy for professional cleanings and routine check-ups. Inform your dentist about your pregnancy for tailored care.
- 2. Oral Hygiene Practices:** Brush and floss regularly to prevent gum disease. Use fluoride toothpaste and rinse your mouth after eating any meals to keep bacteria at bay.
- 3. Balanced Nutrition:** A well-balanced diet rich in vitamins and minerals, particularly calcium and vitamin D, contributes to strong teeth and bones for both mom and baby. Avoid sugary food or sugar-sweetened beverages.
- 4. Stay Hydrated:** Drinking plenty of water helps combat dry mouth, a common issue during pregnancy. It also aids in flushing away bacteria.
- 5. Morning Sickness:** Avoid brushing immediately after any episodes of throwing up.

## Spread the word!

Share this with your friends, family, and anyone expecting a bundle of joy. Let's join hands in nurturing smiles and ensuring a healthier start for the newest members of our community. Here's to radiant smiles, healthy pregnancies, and a brighter, cavity-free future!

**Dr. Richa Singhania, Dentist**  
Mountain Community Health



# Mountain Community Health

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# Leicester man trains to become an ‘American Ninja Warrior’

By MEGAN JAMES

LEICESTER — David Allan Rose was watching a 65-year-old athlete compete on the TV show “American Ninja Warrior” several years ago, when he had a realization. The senior contestant in the sports reality show didn’t make it very far across the obstacle course, yet everyone made a big fuss over his performance. That’s when Rose, 70 at the time, thought to himself, I can do that.

And he began to train.

Rose, now 76 and living in Leicester, is a natural-born risk taker. At age 20, he

dropped out of college in California, where he was studying engineering, to try his hand at become a jockey. He had never ridden a horse before. He’d never played sports. “My natural skills are building things,” he explained

inside the immaculate Airbnb cabin he built on his Route 7 property and which now serves as his primary source of income.

But back then Rose’s friends teased him about his height, saying he’d make a great jockey. Rose stands 5 foot, 4 inches, “which is actually very tall for a jockey,” he explained. Most jockeys are closer to 5 feet, and they can’t weigh more than 112 pounds. Rose’s healthy weight is closer to 130. When he retired from being a jockey, it was in part because “I was tired of being hungry all the time,” he recalled.

To become a jockey, he spent four and a half years living in a stable in Chino, Calif., exercising the racehorses and training to race himself. Two years into that experience, he was kicked by a horse and sustained several broken ribs and a punctured kidney.

Horse racing is one of the world’s most dangerous sports — for horses and jockeys. But Rose was committed. He spent 21 days recovering in the hospital and returned to work at the stable. When he completed his training, he went on to race professionally all around the East Coast — at places like

Hialeah Park in Florida — for three years.

He loved it.

“That incredible feeling of competing,” he mused while pointing to a newspaper clipping he has framed on the wall of his Airbnb: a photo of himself racing, breaking out from a pack of horses thundering toward a finish line.

“I don’t know what it is inside some people that makes them willing to take risks,” he said.

The next risk Rose took was going back to school at 30 to finish what he’d started. After graduating, he started his own

construction company in California, where he spent the next few decades building houses. But in the 2008 housing crisis, he lost everything — including his own home. “I had to shut

down my company because there was no work,” he said. “It was a very sad time in my life. Everything I’d worked for had disappeared.”

Eventually Rose picked up and drove east, looking for a fresh start. He found himself on Church Street in Burlington and, feeling that Vermont was the most beautiful place, decided to stay. When the Leicester property came up for sale, he bought it, renovating a falling-down shack into a living space for himself, and building the additional cabin to rent out to vacationers.

“It’s taken me 10 years to get my life back,” he said.

Despite Rose’s risk taking — or perhaps because of it? — he has one primary goal in life: to live to be a “healthy 100.” “I just love life and I want to be here as long as I can,” he said. In service of that goal, he has never let up on maintaining his physical fitness.

After he retired from horse racing, Rose continued to exercise regularly. He did aerobics and weightlifting at the gym and started dancing, which he loves. He has taught swing dance all over the area,

“The most successful contestants tend to be small, gymnastics types. Big football player types can’t hold themselves up.”

— David Allan Rose



DAVID ALLAN ROSE exercises regularly, including lifting weights. Part of his regimen entails jumping on his trampoline while lifting 5-pound weights in each hand ... for over an hour.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Natural Beginnings

Vicki is a board certified registered lactation consultant that offers home, phone, or telemedicine visits for mothers who are facing a variety of breastfeeding challenges in Addison and Rutland counties, and some areas in New York State. She also has a prenatal monthly breastfeeding class available on Zoom. Mothers can feel overwhelmed when trying to balance milk production, latching issues, nipple soreness, engorgement, pumping and returning to work, and much more. Vicki is available to help mothers during this transitional period — you are not alone.

Vicki is a provider for BCBS, CBA Blue, Tricare and Vermont Medicaid for home consultations and personal use breast pumps. She also sells Medela and Spectra breast pumps and products.



VICKI KIRBY RN,  
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**AFTER HE STARTED** training to become a contestant on “American Ninja Warrior,” David Allan Rose built an outdoor gym where he works out for two hours every day jumping rope, doing crunches, lifting weights and bouncing on his trampoline.

Independent photo/Steve James

including at Middlebury and St. Michael’s colleges.

Since setting his sights on “American Ninja Warrior,” Rose has built an outdoor gym, complete with trampoline and monkey bars, on his property. He works out for two hours every day. “I want to inspire older people that they can do things like this,” he said.

But “mental belief” is just as important to Rose.

“If you set a goal, the universe will tell you what to do,” he said.

Right now the universe is telling him to jump on his trampoline while lifting 5-pound weights in each hand for over an hour, and to do 100 consecutive leg lifts. He is working toward being able to do 30 pull-ups in a row.

The key to the American Ninja Warrior obstacle courses, Rose said, is upper body strength. He will have to be able to grip on and hang from things while propelling his body forward. It helps that he’s slight of build. “The most successful contestants tend to be small, gymnastics types,” he said. “Big football player types can’t hold themselves up.”

The other key to the competition is mental: Folks are often too nervous in front of the camera to keep their cool. Rose feels confident performing, dancing and racing in front of a crowd. “Visualization is the


key,” he said. Rose is taking his time submitting his application to the TV show. He applied once before the pandemic, and producers contacted him for a follow-up. “But everything fell apart with COVID,” he said. The application is long.

“They want to know everything about you,” Rose said. “They want to know what challenges you have overcome in your life and why you want to be on the show. I spent five hours answering all their questions on the application.” And then you have to submit photos and videos.

Rose is working with a film student from Middlebury College to prepare his audition video, but he suspects it won’t be ready until next year. But that’s OK with Rose, who is focused on the process at the moment. “It’s a way to set a goal,” he said. “To keep

me occupied. Why not?” When he’s not training his body or swing dancing, Rose is often coordinating host families for the international students he brings to the area through ASSE International Student Exchange Program. “I want to be an example to the students to follow their dreams,” he said after leaping down from the monkey bars above his trampoline. “I’m pretty proud that I’m 76 and still following mine.”

“If you set a goal, the universe will tell you what to do.”  
— David Allan Rose





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# Nine steps to a healthier life and a healthier weight

This coming week, Jan. 21-27, is National Healthy Weight Week. During this week, health professionals encourage those trying to lose weight to stay off fad diets, and instead take steps to eat well and live actively, not only to shed pounds now but also to sustain a wellness lifestyle for years to come.

The National Foundation for Cancer Research, which believes that the best way to fight cancer is to prevent it in the first place by living a healthier lifestyle, encourages people to celebrate National Healthy Weight Week in eight simple steps.

## 1. Make exercise fun again

For children, exercise is as natural as breathing. Racing to the bottom of the hill or climbing trees are seen as fun and games rather than an exercise routine. To get into the habit of movement as an adult, find out which kind of exercise is enjoyable. Some people may find a game of basketball to be the motivation needed, while others will find walking outdoors to be a refreshing change of pace. For those who crave a social workout, invite some friends along and make the exercise a social gathering and celebration.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control

recommends 150 minutes of exercise a week — so you might as well spend that time doing something you like. Give dancing, swimming, lifting weights, walking, playing sports or joining a fitness class a chance. You might find yourself looking forward to moving your body.

## 2. Take small steps

Incorporating physical activity doesn't need to be a massive grand gesture. Running a marathon is great, but not if it comes at the cost of your sanity. Adding any sort of movement to one's day is an excellent starting point. Try to walk or bike instead of drive when possible, and opt for the staircase instead of the elevator. Make it a habit to incorporate movement into your day.

## 3. Drink more water

Thirst is often misinterpreted as hunger, causing many people to overeat. Ensuring that one's body is getting enough fluid is hugely important to maintaining a healthy body and weight. Keeping hydrated also helps the body regulate temperature, rid itself of waste, and even keeps the brain more focused. Most adults should be drinking approximately two liters of water a day.

## 4. Get plenty of quality sleep

Sleep helps the body prepare for another day ahead as well as recover from the day passed. Ensuring at least eight hours of sleep each night can even reduce one's risk of many diseases. It can help lower blood pressure and reduce stress levels.

## 5. Relax

Speaking of stress, individuals who battle constant stress may find it difficult to lose weight or even maintain a healthy weight. Practicing yoga or meditation can help relieve stress and make it possible to maintain a healthy weight. For those experiencing chronic stress, speaking to a doctor may be necessary.

## 6. Cut back on alcohol

Alcohol is one of the unhealthiest things people can consume. Not only is it typically full of calories with zero nutritional value, but it also increases one's risk of cancer. People who drink alcohol should limit their intake to no more than two drinks a day for men and one drink a day for women. When pouring

a drink, it is important to note exactly how much of the beverage is considered one standard drink.

## 7. Eat more fruits and vegetables

Adults are recommended to eat 2.5 cups of fruits and vegetables each day. This ensures that the body is receiving all of the nutrients and vitamins it needs. To meet this recommendation, fruits and vegetables should be had at every meal and snack. In incorporating fruits and vegetables, it is also recommended to have a variety of each. Different colored plants have unique nutrients, meaning that eating only strawberries won't give the body what it needs. The increase of

(See Weight, Page 7)



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DAVID ALLAN ROSE built an outdoor gym at his Leicester home where he can hop onto a mini-trampoline then land on a full-size tramp and bop up to some monkey bars, where he swings, climbs and builds upper-body strength. Rose will need that strength when he one day competes on “American Ninja Warrior.” He is proud that at 76 years old, he can follow his dreams.

Independent photos/Steve James

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# Why knowing how to ride a bike is *important*



Riding a bike opens up a whole world of adventure and opportunities, says U.K. company Explore Worldwide in its new “Learn To Ride” report. In day-to-day life, knowing how to ride a bike can help you stay active and fit, whether it’s a leisurely

cycle exploring your local landscapes, or helping you reduce carbon emissions on a daily work commute. Riding a bike can take you places quicker than your feet can and show you more in less time.

Modern cycling has been around for around 130 years, and bikes keep evolving as

our needs change and technology advances. Due to climate change, it’s imperative we use green transport where we can, and with modern life involving a more sedentary lifestyle, it’s more important than ever to get outside and use your body — and

riding a bike conquers all three of these points.

As well as limiting your fitness, travel and adventure opportunities, not being able to ride a bike could even limit your love life. Our survey found that 18% of adults claim they’d find it unattractive if a potential partner could not ride a bike, believe it or not.

James Adkin, Explore Worldwide’s Cycling Program manager, reiterates that riding a bike is an environmentally friendly way to travel that is positive for your health and your local community.

“Travelling by bike is good for nature and good for your own health,” Adkins says. “So many short journeys can be made by bike and so many short car journeys are therefore avoidable. Once learned, you never forget how to ride a bike and it enables you to have so much freedom to explore your local area, make low-impact journeys and enjoy yourself.”

## Weight

(Continued from Page 5A)

fruits and vegetables on the plate can help reduce the amount of processed and red meat at mealtime. These foods have been found to increase the risk of heart disease and premature death.

### 8. Set a goal

Making the mindful decision to incorporate strength training twice a week

helps to hold individuals accountable for their activity. Knowing what is expected from oneself can be the greatest motivation in maintaining a healthy weight. Many people find motivation by setting a future goal. This can mean signing up for a 5K run a few months in advance to kickstart training. It doesn’t matter what the goal is, whether it is being able to do a sit-up by the end of the year or if it is to drop 15 pounds. The most important thing is that health is prioritized.

But that’s not all you can do. TOPS Club Inc., a nonprofit weight-loss support organization, offers another important step to achieving and maintaining a healthy weight:

### 9. Find your support system

Life is better with friends. Grab some pals and establish a healthy routine together. Tell each other your goals, hold one another accountable, exercise together, share healthy recipes, and encourage each other along the way.

## Want to be healthier and feel better? My Health Vermont can help

The My Health Vermont website is the result of a partnership of Vermont organizations dedicated to helping Vermonters get the support they need to take control of their health. It is a partnership led by the state Department of Health and the Vermont Blueprint for Health. Among the partners is Porter Medical Center in Middlebury.

Go online to [MyHealthyVT.org](http://MyHealthyVT.org) to find a list of health support programs that are offered 100% free for everyone.

The organization’s local coordinators can connect you with workshops right in your community. These are led by trained facilitators who understand your needs because many have faced similar health challenges. From building healthy behaviors to quitting smoking to managing pain and other long-term health problems, Vermonters who complete our workshops see big improvements in their health and in their overall well-being.

MyHealthyVT.org provides access to multiple tools such as workshops on a variety of health topics, including an online Diabetes Prevention Workshop.

Online workshops are available to any Vermonter from any location. A computer or smartphone with a reliable internet connection is required. An up-to-date web browser is also recommended.

In addition to workshops, MyHealthyVT.org has other resources, like links to find healthy and affordable foods. Read more about the programs online at [MyHealthyVT.org](http://MyHealthyVT.org).



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## A Guide to Finding the Right Care

Porter Medical Center, a part of the University of Vermont Health Network, provides a variety of health care options to help our local residents find the right level of care in the most appropriate setting.

Local options at Porter include primary care, urgent care and emergency care – all reinforced by a network of providers and specialty services across our region. It’s not always obvious where to go for care, or when, so please refer to this guide to understand the best place to get health care.

If you’re still not sure what to do, call your primary care provider. Even when the office is closed, there is always someone on call who can direct you to the care you need.

In case of a life threatening emergency, dial 9-1-1.

### Think you may have COVID-19?

Visit [uvmhealth.org/coronavirus](https://uvmhealth.org/coronavirus) for more information.

Where	Primary Care	Porter Express Care	Emergency Room
When	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You have a new problem or an old problem flares up</li><li>You need a prescription refilled</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>When the condition doesn't appear life threatening, but you can't wait until the next day or to see your primary care provider.</li><li>You're not in extreme pain</li><li>Open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You have a serious or life-threatening condition</li><li>Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week</li></ul>
Why	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Your provider knows you and your medical history</li><li>You're seen by appointment so there is generally less waiting</li><li>You'll pay the lowest co-pay</li><li>Same- and next-day appointments are available for injuries or illnesses that don't require urgent or emergency care</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Shorter wait times than the ER, as you're seen in the order you arrive</li><li>Access to advanced diagnostic imaging like X-ray machines and lab capabilities to assess your illness or injury onsite.</li><li>Urgent care providers can prescribe medications</li><li>No appointment Necessary</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Equipped with life-saving equipment and providers trained to treat life-threatening illnesses or injuries</li><li>It is always open</li><li>You are seen based on how sick or injured you are. The most serious cases jump to the front of the line, even if they arrive later than everyone else. <b>This will increase wait times for others.</b></li></ul>
Symptoms & Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cough, cold, flu</li><li>Ear infections and sore throat</li><li>Minor injuries like sprains, bumps and bruises</li><li>Rashes</li><li>Urinary tract infections</li><li>Chronic conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, COPD, asthma and allergies</li><li>Immunizations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cold or mild flu symptoms</li><li>Sore throat</li><li>Fever without a rash</li><li>Non-life threatening allergic reactions</li><li>Ear pain</li><li>Painful urination</li><li>Sprains and strains</li><li>Small cuts that may require stitches</li><li>Mild asthma attacks</li><li>Tick bites</li><li>Eye Irritation</li><li>Rashes without fever</li><li>Minor Burns</li><li>Evaluation for Rabies prophylaxis</li><li>Simple foreign body removal</li><li>Ingrown toenails</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Abdominal Pain</li><li>Chest pain</li><li>Difficulty breathing</li><li>Weakness/numbness on one side</li><li>Slurred speech</li><li>Fainting/change in mental state/confusion</li><li>Serious burns</li><li>Head or eye injury</li><li>Broken bones, dislocated joints</li><li>Fever with a rash</li><li>Seizures</li><li>Severe cuts that may require stitches</li><li>Severe cold or flu symptoms</li><li>Vaginal bleeding with pregnancy</li><li>Uncontrollable bleeding</li><li>Severe asthma attack</li><li>Severe allergic reaction</li><li>Poisoning</li><li>Animal bites</li><li>Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea</li><li>Dehydration</li><li>Headache</li><li>Bloody bowel movements</li></ul>
Important to Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>It is recommended to have a primary care provider to monitor your health, schedule regular check-ups and preventative screenings to keep you as healthy as possible. <b>Porter Primary Care offices are accepting new pediatric and primary care patients.</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Porter Express Care is equipped to handle medical problems that need same-day attention but are not life-threatening.</li><li>If your urgent care provider determines that you need a higher level of care, you will be transferred to the Emergency Department.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Always follow-up with your primary care provider after a visit to the Emergency Room to continue to monitor your health / condition.</li></ul>