



In the know

Emily St. John Mandel will visit and talk about her award-winning novels. See Arts + Leisure.



Late rally

The Tiger boys led VUHS by 11 late in the game, then the Commodores surged. See sports, Page 1B.



Good citizen

Former lawmaker Gerry Gossens is remembered as a consensus builder. See Page 2A.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Honk for the homeless

AT LEAST A dozen people gathered on the Middlebury town green at the busy intersection of Route 7 and Main Street this past Thursday morning as part of a statewide day of action that combined awareness-raising events in towns with state policy work in the Legislature. Similar Homelessness Awareness Day honk-and-wave events took place in Bristol and Vergennes at the same time. See more photos on Page 2A.

Photo by Jason Duquette-Hoffman

ANWSD board opts for bigger budget

Says most tax increases unrelated

By ANDY KIRKALDY VERGENNES — Residents of the five towns in the Addison Northwest School District in March will vote on a proposed \$28,982,078 spending plan for the 2024-2025 (FY25) school year. If approved on Town Meeting Day, it would increase spending by about \$3.68 million, or 14.5%, over the budget backed by ANWSD voters in 2023. Because of provisions in Vermont’s new education funding law, the extra spending is not expected to have much effect on tax rates, school officials said. But out-of-date property assessments will pose problems for homeowners in all five ANWSD communities through low Common Levels of Appraisals that will push school taxes higher; see chart with this story. Administrators said the budget proposal, which the school board approved on Jan. 17, preserves all educational and extracurricular programs and most of the behavioral and academic intervention positions (See ANWSD, Page 8A)

School funding changes possible

By ANDY KIRKALDY MONTPELIER — It is possible there could be 11th-hour changes to Vermont’s school-funding laws. According to a Jan. 19 letter to the Vermont School Boards and Superintendents associations from the chairs of two key legislative committees, the Vermont Legislature could tweak education funding rules. The two lawmakers — Rep. Emilie Kornheiser, D-Windsor, chair of the House Ways & Means Committee, and Sen. (See School funding, Page 8A)

Mount Abe sees rise in school spending

CLAs will further increase tax rate

By MARIN HOWELL BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Unified School District board on Tuesday adopted a \$37,014,566 budget for fiscal year 2025 that, if approved by voters in March, would increase total spending by \$3,145,666, or 9.29% over the current year. The budget decision followed nearly two hours of discussion, during which Superintendent Patrick Reen said that, while a tax rate cap offered under the state’s new education funding law should help limit the district-wide school tax rate increase, homeowners (See Mt. Abe, Page 8A)

Middlebury finalizes town meeting agenda

By JOHN FLOWERS MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury selectboard on Tuesday finalized a fiscal year 2025 municipal budget and March 5 town meeting warning. The board OK’d an FY’25 municipal spending plan of \$13.6

million (a 5.5% increase compared to this year) that will go before the voters at the March 4 annual town meeting. As reported in the Independent on Jan. 4, the proposed budget would require an \$8,753,310 infusion of property taxes. Town officials earlier this

month forecasted a 5% hike (4.3-cent) in the municipal tax rate to cover the spending increase. Middlebury’s current municipal rate stands at 86.48 cents per \$100 in property value. But the board on Tuesday endorsed a recommendation

by Middlebury Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay to lower the proposed tax rate hike to 2.99 cents, by applying \$133,450 from Middlebury’s local option tax (LOT) surplus. That move will still need the voters’ blessing at the (See Middlebury, Page 11A)



By the way

The Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center is hosting an open house on Thursday, Feb. 1, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. This open house includes the career center’s 51 Charles Ave. and North Campus (372 Mainelli Road) facilities. The open house will provide a glimpse into how career and technical education is delivered to Addison County’s high school students and to adults, too. For more information check out [tinyurl.com/mvjzewfh](https://tinyurl.com/mvjzewfh).

The unemployment rate in the Middlebury area for December of 2023 was 1.7% — unchanged from November, according to the Vermont Department of Labor. Middlebury in December had a workforce of 19,307, or which 330 were seeking jobs. For comparison, the Middlebury-area had a jobless rate of 2.6% in December 2022. The December unemployment rates for Vermont’s 17 labor market areas (See By the way, Page 13A)

Program aids people exploring the county

By MARIN HOWELL ADDISON COUNTY — From serene hiking trails to historic downtown centers, Addison County is filled with numerous natural and cultural destinations waiting to be explored. A new program developed by Middlebury College students and staff at the Ilsley Public Library is designed to help community (See Adventures, Page 13A)

Locals help those with memory loss

Series of ‘cafés’ offer info and compassion

By JOHN FLOWERS MIDDLEBURY — It was seven years ago, at age 50, that Middlebury resident Pamela Smith found herself having what she described as “life-interfering memory loss.” We’re not talking about forgetting an old acquaintance’s name, or who won the 1975 World Series. “I didn’t know who I saw an hour before, I didn’t know what was said an hour ago. I would be driving to an appointment and have to pull (See Memory loss, Page 14A)



LAUGHS AND CHEERFUL applause were plentiful at the Addison County Firefighters Association’s annual meeting in Vergennes on Jan. 17. Above, colleagues congratulate former Orwell Fire Chief Louis Hall, to whom the ACFA’s 52nd Regional Fire School was dedicated. Right, Howard “Buster” Grant, an Addison firefighter for 62 years, sees the senior firefighter of the year award named in his honor.

Photos by Mark Bouvier and Marin Howell

County firefighters rise to the occasion

By MARIN HOWELL VERGENNES — While the temperature was dropping steadily outside of the Eagles Club in Vergennes this past Wednesday evening, Jan. 17, spirits remained high inside the building, where over 160 local firefighters gathered for the 80th annual meeting of the Addison County Firefighters Association (ACFA). The gathering was filled with laughter and hearty applause, as area first responders celebrated past achievements and recognized those who have dedicated their (See Firefighters, Page 9A)



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# Gossens recalled as kind consensus builder

## Former state senator and Salisbury selectman dies at age 90

By JOHN FLOWERS

SALISBURY — The late state Sen. Gerry Gossens of Salisbury was recalled by his friends and colleagues as a smart, witty and moderate lawmaker who always strived to find consensus on issues prior to casting his vote.

Gossens died on Jan. 18 at the age of 90 (see obituary on Page 6A).

A 1956 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a former U.S. Air Force pilot, Gossens joined the Central Intelligence Agency in 1960 and worked there through 1984, serving as Chief of Station in multiple postings across Africa before closing his career as Deputy Chief of Station in Paris.

He moved to Vermont following his retirement and became active with the Addison County Democrats. In 1992, he won a seat in the Vermont House representing the Addison Rutland-2 district. He served in that chamber for two two-year terms before earning a spot representing Addison County and Brandon in the state Senate from 2001-2004.

His public service résumé also included stints on the Salisbury selectboard, Porter Medical Center board, University of Vermont board, and Vermont Legislative Apportionment Board (in 2011).

Gossens's seatmates in the state Senate included Addison Republican Tom Bahre, and then fellow Democrat Claire Ayer, who lived in Weybridge at the time but has since moved to Addison. He succeeded longtime state Sen. Elizabeth Ready, D-Lincoln, in 2001.

Ayer served with Gossens during

his final two-year term in the Senate, the 2003-2004 session. She noted Gossens recruited her to run, and became one of her mentors.

Ayer said Gossens never made her feel subordinate to his legislative seniority.

"I recall at the time thinking, 'I don't want to come in under the wing of the patriarch,' but he wasn't like that at all. He was an



GERRY GOSENS  
2009 photo

old-fashioned gentleman in some ways — opening doors and that sort of thing — but he also was very respectful, respectful of people's intellect, natural talents and gifts."

She also remembered Gossens for his magnanimity.

"In politics, information is power," Ayer said, "and he always was generous with that."

Her most vivid memory of Gossens was quietly restraining her one day from jumping out of her seat to oppose a Senate colleague's take on legislation that came before

the chamber.

"It was a lesson I didn't forget: You don't have to speak on every issue, because it makes your speech more powerful when you hold your fire every once in a while," Ayer said.

Gossens's experience with the CIA occasionally made for fun chatter among senators, Ayer said.

"We all sort of imagined he had this superpower to tell if people were telling the truth," she said with a chuckle.

But more than anything, Ayer will miss Gossens' many qualities as a human being.

"He was a lovely, wonderful, funny man. He had a great sense of humor," she said. "I'm sad he's gone."

Unabashedly left of center, Ready was at times critical of Gossens when he didn't quickly embrace major shifts in the state's environmental or healthcare policies. But Ready said she came to appreciate Gossens for being a moderate who was very "deliberate, who weighed everything" before voting "and always, pretty much, came down on the right side. He was always working with everyone, trying to get consensus and the best policy."

Ready is glad she was able to express her respect for Gossens at a public event, several years after both had retired from politics.

"I apologized for being hard on him and said, 'You didn't deserve that,'" Ready recalled. "I told him, 'I now know what you were trying to do.'"

Gossens, ever gracious and self-  
(See Gossens, Page 3A)



### Out in the cold

FOLKS STOOD OUT on town greens in Middlebury, Vergennes and Bristol this past Thursday morning, Jan. 18, as part of a statewide day of action on homelessness. Sylvie Morrison, right, and John Barstow, below, were among those taking part on the town green in Middlebury. Advocates also displayed colorful flags, above, to illustrate the number of Addison County households, children and seniors living without a permanent home.

Photos by Jason Duquette-Hoffman and Steve James of the Independent



# Used needles, trash dumped in Lincoln

By MARIN HOWELL

LINCOLN — Addison County Sheriff's Department officials have been looking to speak with two individuals they believe are responsible for illegally dumping used needles and other trash in Lincoln last month.

According to authorities and community members in Lincoln, piles of garbage were left at a river pull-off on South Lincoln Road by a couple of people camping in the area in mid-December.

While the site has since been cleaned up, the incident sparked concern amongst some community members.

Aylee Tudek is a Lincoln native who was visiting family in town when the site was discovered.

Tudek said the recent dumping is the latest in a series of similar incidents over the past couple of years in which individuals camping for extended periods of time in spots around Lincoln have left behind food, clothes and trash.

"With that happening and seeing it

become more and more that way, it makes sense that it's now spreading," Tudek told the *Independent*. "If there's no repercussions for that,

then it's going to spread, and if it's becoming established that Lincoln is a place you can go to set up a camp and not get told to leave, then it's welcoming that."

### MID-DECEMBER DUMPING

Law enforcement officers at the Addison County Sheriff's Department were first made aware of the illegal dumping site in mid-December, according to Sheriff Mike Elmore.

"We let the town know to leave it as it was and that we would check on it," Elmore recalled. "The next day we checked on it, and it was cleaned up, so we did not get a chance to look at it."

While investigating the site, law

enforcement officials found a note addressed to the individuals who dumped the garbage, asking them not to return to the location.

"We had some names to look into and we were actually familiar with the people," Elmore said of the note. "In the meantime, the people who had dumped the trash found out it had been cleaned up and they asked for their things back."

Elmore said the items collected at the site were ultimately returned to the people who had left them and then dumped in the area a second time in late December.

Tudek visited the site on Dec. 25 and found that many of the items dumped the first time around had once again been left in the area.

"When I got there, there were piles of garbage bags that had been ripped open, with a combination of old food, clothing, children's toys, jumper cables," Tudek said. "Mixed in with that were tons and tons of needles."

Tudek noted that the needles found at the site are the same as those provided through the syringe exchange programs offered throughout the state, often used for drug injection.

Tudek said she was initially worried about the needles and other trash washing into the nearby New

(See Dumping, Page 3A)

# Ferrisburgh adopts FY 2025 budget

By ANDY KIRKALDY

FERRISBURGH — The Ferrisburgh selectboard on Tuesday adopted a Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (FY25) budget of \$2,658,079, including \$37,495 of nonprofit donations requiring voter approval.

If all were supported on Town Meeting Day, those proposals would increase town spending by a little more than \$203,000, or 8.2%.

That increase would add about 3.6 cents to the municipal portion of the town's property tax rate, according to Town Clerk and Assistant Treasurer Pam Cousino.

While a number of line items increased from FY24, one line item that remained the same — at \$104,676 — was for the town's fire protection contract with Vergennes. But that number is likely to end up being lower, and how much is subject to ongoing talks among town and city officials.

Ferrisburgh pays Vergennes for its fire department to serve as the first responder to all of

West Ferrisburgh and the portion of Ferrisburgh south of Tupper Crossing, just north of the city line.

The selectboard has insisted the amount is too high based on the fact that the city department responds to fewer calls in Ferrisburgh than Vergennes; that the formula used, sharing cost on real estate values, doesn't take into account much of Ferrisburgh's property value being in empty land; and that Ferrisburgh is also funding its own department, unlike the other towns Vergennes serves as a first responder, Panton and Waltham.

The two sides have for months been talking about a new contract with little progress; the city rejected a \$60,000 offer from the town late last year. But the communities recently agreed to mediation, and officials met to work on a new deal on Friday, Jan. 19, with a mediator serving as a go-between.

Selectboard Chair Clark Hinsdale told the *Independent* that the Ferrisburgh selectboard agreed at its Tuesday meeting as

a good-faith gesture to put the higher number into its budget proposal, and agreed to cut the city a check for half the amount, about \$52,000, that town voters approved in Ferrisburgh's budget last March.

Hinsdale said he hoped the issue could be wrapped up soon.

As for Ferrisburgh's budget, some of the main drivers of the higher budget can be found in the town's highway department, for which spending is proposed to rise by \$72,000. The paving line item alone rose by \$94,000 because the road foreman said the department is falling behind its road resurfacing.

That increase was partially offset by projected lower fuel, truck and equipment maintenance.

Voters in March will also be asked to approve spending up to \$225,000 to buy a new "tandem dump truck and related snow removal equipment" for the town highway department. But Cousino said even if the town were to bond to buy the truck that payments were unlikely to begin during FY25.

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# Gossens

(Continued from Page 2A)

effacing, told Ready there was no need to apologize.

“He was very magnanimous,” she said.

Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, followed Gossens’s political career as former news editor of the *Addison County Independent*. Conlon now represents a somewhat changed (due to reapportionment) version of the Vermont House district that Gossens served for four years.

“Gerry was the epitome of a public servant, from a career in the CIA, to chairing the Salisbury selectboard as it navigated the future of its landfill, to serving for years in the Vermont House and Senate. It was a great learning experience for me to have a front row seat to all of it,” Conlon said

through an email.

“It is worth noting that Gerry was one of the Blue Dog Democrats that were often a thorn in the side of leadership as they tended to be a more fiscally conservative group, though socially liberal,” he added.

Fran and Spence Putnam, longtime members and occasional officers of the Addison County Democratic Committee, knew and worked with Gossens during his political career. They issued the

following joint statement:

“We remember Gerry Gossens as a dedicated and highly principled public servant. He considered representing Addison County in the Legislature to be a true public service. Soft spoken, he stood up for his beliefs and was not afraid to take on political challenges. He was generous with his time and mentored many other people seeking to follow in his footsteps.”

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

“Gerry was one of the Blue Dog Democrats that were often a thorn in the side of leadership as they tended to be a more fiscally conservative group, though socially liberal.”

— Rep. Peter Conlon

# Dumping

(Continued from Page 2A)

Haven River.

“Because it’s the headwaters of the New Haven River, it’s above all of the popular swimming locations,” Tudek said. “I live right below (the site) and we swim in our swimming hole every day. If that stuff ended up down there, that would take years for everyone to clean up all of those needles and create pretty serious danger for everybody that likes to enjoy those spots.”

Tudek said she was also concerned that the incident was part of a larger trend of campers leaving trash and other belongings in spots around Lincoln.

She noted that in recent years, there have been several encampments near the Cooley Glen and Emily Proctor trails in Lincoln.

“It’s become a spot that people have found they can camp and get away with not really abiding by the laws that the (U.S. Forest Service) has where you’re only supposed to camp for a certain amount of time,” Tudek said. “People were getting away with being there for extended periods of time. When we got all of the flooding last summer, those camps got destroyed and left a huge mess there.”

Tudek said she has previously found camping gear, clothing and trash left behind in the area,

some of which washed into nearby waterways.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

After visiting the South Lincoln Road site in December, Tudek contacted the sheriff’s department and other law enforcement agencies to again alert them to the incident.

Elmore said he and other sheriff’s department officials were continuing to look into the situation at that point.

“We were working with the (U.S. Forest Service) to figure out where the stuff had been dumped, if that was on national forest property or in the town of Lincoln,” he explained.

The sheriff’s department ultimately determined that the site was located within the town of Lincoln, falling under the local agency’s jurisdiction.

The site was again cleaned up by a community member later that week, and the sheriff’s department has since been working to issue tickets to the individuals responsible for the illegal dumping.

Elmore noted that there is no criminal violation in such cases, but rather perpetrators are issued an \$800 civil ticket.

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District has a contract with the Addison County Sheriff’s Department to investigate illegal dumping incidents around the county.

“Often, it’s a couple of tires that get dumped or a mattress left somewhere and often it’s hard to find who did it,” Elmore said. “Sometimes we’ll come across someone that dumps a bag of trash or two somewhere and we come across a name somehow. We usually give people a chance to clean it up and avoid a ticket. If they don’t clean it up, we’ll start issuing a ticket.”

Elmore explained that each day is a new violation, meaning individuals can be issued an \$800 ticket for each day they wait to clean up the items.

“Ultimately our goal isn’t to penalize people to that extent, it’s just to make sure that the trash gets cleaned up and that they understand why it’s a problem,” he said. “We have a few tools available, and we just try to do the best we can.”

Elmore noted that in some cases, such as the more egregious instances of illegal dumping like the incident in Lincoln, it could be helpful to have additional tools available to law enforcement officials.

“If someone were to dump two bags of trash, they get the same ticket as someone who dumps 15 bags of trash, and it’s kind of ‘why should someone be getting the same ticket for two bags of trash that someone who dumps a whole house worth of stuff,’” he said. “Having an extra tool of potentially a criminal charge would be helpful in some circumstances. I don’t want to address the legislature’s job in creating that, but it would be helpful to say, ‘If you dump this amount, it’s a criminal violation.’”

While the South Lincoln Road site has been cleaned, Tudek said she is concerned about the potential for similar incidents in the future.

She hopes law enforcement officers and community members can work more collaboratively to address such incidents moving forward, as she feels community members took initiative to address the situation and clean up the site this time around.

“The community itself is very responsive and cares a lot about keeping this area clean and enjoyable. That’s an element of Vermont that is why most of us love Vermont and choose to be here and maintaining that is definitely important and the community seems to recognize that,” she said. “I would like to see law enforcement match the community’s care in preserving our rivers and the pristine nature of it.”



USED NEEDLES AND other trash were left at a river pull-off on South Lincoln Road last month, sparking concerns amongst some community members.

Photo courtesy of Aylee Tudek

# Scott says keep the lid on spending

By SARAH MEARHOFF and SHAUN ROBINSON, VTDigger.org

MONTPELIER — In his budget address delivered to the Legislature on Tuesday, Republican Gov. Phil Scott once again implored lawmakers to refrain from increasing state taxes and fees on Vermonters, and keep state spending within current revenue projections.

And similar to his State of the State address earlier this month, Scott again threw up his hands, conceding that Democrats hold theoretically veto-proof majorities in both the House and Senate.

“But I bet many of you do hear, and maybe even share, some of my concerns. More importantly, I’m pretty sure the majority of our constituents certainly do,” Scott continued in his speech.

Hard feelings over last year’s budget showdown — which ultimately resulted in Scott’s veto and

the Legislature’s override — loomed over not only the governor’s speech, but also Democratic legislative leaders’ reactions to it.

Last year, Scott made his objections to lawmakers’ fiscal year 2024 budget known to no avail, vetoing the \$8.5 billion spending plan — which marked a 13% increase in state spending from the previous year, a percentage that Scott deemed unsustainable. Lawmakers responded by overwhelmingly voting to override Scott’s veto.

Kicking off negotiations for this coming year’s budget, Scott on Tuesday implored lawmakers to keep a lid on new spending — though he did not call for substantial cuts to state government operations. The governor ultimately proposed an \$8.6 billion budget, divvied up over the state’s three major pots of money: \$2.4 billion for education, \$2.3 billion in the general fund

and \$353 million for the state’s transportation fund, which did not enjoy the same sunny revenue projections from state economists as the other two funds last week. (The remaining \$3 billion of the proposed spending is backed by federal funds, for the state’s Medicaid program and other social services.)

Legislative leaders also took jabs at Scott for a speech that, in their view, offered much criticism of the Legislature’s spending and policies, but was short on solutions.

Sen. Jane Kitchel, D-Caledonia, chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, told reporters that last year’s overall budget increased by 13% — but that was largely attributable to one-time funding, not ongoing spending. “I’m a Vermonter from way back, and I view myself as very much a guardian of the budget and the decisions and the integrity of the budget, and the sustainability,” she said.



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Guest editorial

UVMHN CEO cites optimism, opportunity ... and urgency

By Sunny Eappen, MD, MBA

As we begin a new year, and as I embark on my second year as CEO of the University of Vermont Health Network, I feel a sense of both optimism and urgency. Optimism, because I think we have an opportunity to make progress on the challenges we share in this region – if we work together. And urgency, because we need to act now to ensure we are best serving our patients and communities, today and into the future.

So I want to offer some important updates on where the UVM Health Network stands, and also to ask for help in making our communities in Vermont and the North Country of New York as healthy, vibrant and sustainable as they can be.

I’ve done a lot of listening and learning in my first year as CEO, and that has shaped four fundamental “pillars” we’re focusing on for our health system:

- We want to create an exceptional UVM Health Network experience for our patients and everyone who works for the health system.
- We’re prioritizing education and research. Our academic health system is making, and needs to continue to make, a real difference across Vermont and in the North Country of New York.
- Stewardship of our communities is about community health, and building public trust and confidence in our health system.
- We also need to achieve operational excellence and financial sustainability to fulfill our mission.

That’s where we’re headed, but we face the same challenges that many area residents are dealing with – inflation, labor costs, workforce shortages and a lack of housing and childcare.

The landscape of providing health care services in a rural setting has shifted. And these challenges have made it much harder for our not-for-profit health system to achieve the margin we need to make investments in our people and in the quality of the health care we provide.

In our fiscal year that ended September 30, we achieved a razor-slim margin, but fell short of our goal by \$47 million. In our current fiscal year, we’re working to close a \$75 million gap that resulted from a number of factors, including the decision by our Vermont regulator, the Green Mountain Care Board, to significantly cut our budget.

The fact is, if we hadn’t received one-time relief funds, the UVM Health Network would have lost hundreds of millions of dollars since 2020. This is not sustainable.

So we’re engaged in a difficult balancing act: We’re working to improve patient access and moving toward a value-based, population health management system, while also operating more efficiently and creating new sources of revenue.

For example, we’re prioritizing access to surgical services at several hospitals, which addresses patient wait times while increasing revenue. We’re improving efficiency for providers and patients – things like expanding eConsult services between physicians; launching self-scheduling for patients in MyChart; and additional measures to reduce the amount of time patients stay in the hospital unnecessarily.

We’re also cutting costs: For example, we’ve reduced expenses by \$20 million, including eliminating 130 open positions... These kinds of cuts create additional obstacles, because we know they have an impact on our people and on our patient-care and patient-experience initiatives.

If we choose to act collectively – as members of our communities, and as a region – we can make real strides in overcoming our shared challenges. Here are some key areas where we need partnership:

- Economic development and growth – We need more residents, more people in the workforce, more businesses. This can happen only through a coordinated, all-out effort that involves government and the private sector. The UVM Health Network is ready to be a partner in this charge.
- Housing – We’ve started to invest in housing for our workforce, but it’s a drop in the bucket compared to what’s needed in our region. We need more, better and smarter housing solutions.
- Finances – The health care affordability crisis affects everyone, and it’s going to take a collective effort to change it. We’re cutting costs and finding new revenues where we can, while limiting impacts on access to care. And we’re pushing hard for a better clinical and financial system that rewards wellness and care outside the hospital.

But we need more voices calling for meaningful health care reform; realistic reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid; and a fair and consistent regulatory environment that helps us meet our mission.

We all share a common interest in the vitality of our communities. That presents a great opportunity to work together. We have everything to gain, and we know what’s at stake: It’s the future of this region, and the quality of life for our children and grandchildren.

Note: Sunil “Sunny” Eappen, MD, MBA, is the president and CEO of the University of Vermont Health Network. Porter Hospital in Middlebury is part of UVMHN.

Budgets require extra study

As Addison County residents review the upcoming school and town budgets ahead of March’s Town Meeting Day votes, we encourage everyone to spend a few extra hours studying the proposals. That’s because the federal gravy train of the past three years is over, yet some of the harmful effects are still hanging on.

The inflation that followed the very necessary infusion of federal aid to sustain the economy through the pandemic — without which the nation would have surely spun into a severe recession with huge job losses — has slowed way down, but still impacts wages and building costs. Health care costs, averaging over 15% annually, continue to ransack budgets despite everyone’s best efforts (see guest editorial above). And, in Vermont, the school taxation formula and rise in property values will cause property tax rates to increase higher than usual this year in most towns.

The impulse for many homeowners is to just say no to higher taxes. But that’s not realistic. Schools and towns need to be frugal, but they also need to keep up with the maintenance costs and pay competitive wages, lest the buildings fall into disrepair, and hard-to-find employees leave. Rather, the goal is to maintain the quality built into the current system, while being sensitive to the public’s capacity to pay.

That inherent tug-of-war will be the focus at Town Meetings and will require residents to have a solid understanding of the underlying forces impacting this budget cycle.

Angelo Lynn

ADDISON COUNTY  
INDEPENDENT

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**Great outdoors**  
SNOW WAS LATE to arrive this winter, but now that it’s here, skiers take advantage of the naturally fallen white stuff that blankets the fields and forests at Rikert Outdoor Center in Ripton this past Monday.

Independent photo/Angelo Lynn

Unhoused in need of ‘safe places’

Second in a series.

My name is Danielle Wallace. I am the executive director of the Turning Point Center of Addison County. I teach the DUI course formerly known as CRASH. I have a bachelor’s degree in Mental Health and Human Services from the University of Maine at Augusta and a master’s degree in Restorative Justice from Vermont Law School.

I am also a person in recovery from substance use disorder. Addison County was not meant to be the place I would raise my daughter. When I came here to stay with my aunt in 2016, I never imagined I would find such a deep sense of community here, one that I thought was a thing of the past.

So, I understand that this sense of community might feel threatened to many of us because of recent stories in the news about people who are unhoused, whose aggressive behaviors seem to be the result of mental illness and addiction. And I share in these community concerns, not just as a responsible neighbor but because my own lived experience with addiction once had me living this reality.

I spent most of my 20s cycling through jail, rehabilitation facilities, and active substance use. My mom and dad went to sleep many nights worrying this would be the night they would get a call saying I had overdosed and died. To an outsider, looking at the behavior of a person struggling with substance use can look completely irrational. Who would ever choose a substance over their children or steal from their family

or repeatedly engage in behavior that could take away their freedom? Making sense of active addiction is nearly impossible. And I absolutely “get it.”

The people who cared for me could not see I hated what I was doing to myself and them, and that I could not figure out how to get out of that black hole of active use. I would wake up every day promising myself that today would be different. Today I would not use.

Today would be the day I would get a real job. Today would be the day I would be the mother my little girl needed me to be. Today would be the day I would call my parents to tell them I loved them and was sorry. Today would be the day I would, “just say no.”

At the end of each of these days, I would try to figure out where it all went wrong. How did my determination to be the person I was raised to be vanish so quickly?

The biggest misconception I had was that somehow, I was going to figure this addiction business out all by myself. I was going to beat the monster alone because no one could possibly understand or accept the chaos that cycled through my thoughts.

My story is not unique, and the isolation and hopeless feelings of active addiction are not unique. Finding a place to belong was an essential first step in my journey to recovery. A place where people could relate to my insanity and share with me how they walked through life without a drink or drug. A place where people saw more than just the negative decisions I made to feed

(See Living Together, Page 5A)

Living Together

Addison County Homelessness Task Force



By Danielle Wallace

Never look a gift sheep in the mouth

Gift etiquette can be complicated. It’s hard to know how much to spend on a coworker’s shower gift, what to get for the person who has everything or how long you have to keep an ugly knickknack on display before you can throw it away and tell the giver your cat broke it.

About 15 years ago, I learned something about gift etiquette that has stayed with me.

One Saturday morning, Mark’s brother Tom showed up at our house carrying a jumbo clear trash bag stuffed full of sheep’s wool. “Here you go,” he said, dropping it on the kitchen floor.

I hesitate to call this the best day ever, as that would diminish the day I sat next to Marisa Tomei in a Shelburne restaurant and also my wedding day. But, as a hand spinner and knitter who is passionate — almost fanatic — about wool, this day was pretty special.

“You got this just for me?” I said, choking up a bit. “Kind of,” Tom said, shrugging. “I found it on the side of the road on my way back from Vergennes. I don’t know what it is, but it looked like the bags of crap you always have lying around, so I figured you might want it.”

How sweet. Now, I enjoy commercially processed wool fiber as much as the next spinner; it’s clean, smooth and ready

to spin. However, I’m more drawn to raw wool, the fleece that has been shorn off the sheep but not yet washed or prepped. A raw fleece, having been attached to a sheep for the past year, is dirty, stinky, greasy with lanolin, and peppered with straw and bits of dung. It takes hours to clean it, prep it, spin it and knit it into a fully handmade item.

If you think that sounds like a good time, you are correct. When I’m indulging in the tactile and olfactory ecstasy of handling raw fleece, my pupils turn to tiny sheep shapes. I want to roll in it like Scrooge McDuck in a pile of money. And this wool was much softer, with more delicately crimped locks, than the fibers I normally worked with. I couldn’t get over it.

“Look at how fine that crimp is,” I kept saying to Mark, who was so overwhelmed by the fineness of the crimp he could not keep looking at it.

I suspected it might be merino, the ultimate in luxury wool. A bag this size — well over 10 pounds — would cost a fortune. How could I have gotten so lucky?

How, indeed? Hm. It made no sense. No one would have purposely thrown a bag of expensive fleece into a ditch. Maybe it had fallen off a truck. If so, the owner was probably

(See Jessie, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Trump scores but no ‘blowout’

Regarding the January 18 *Addison Independent* editorial “Thoughts from Iowa’s caucus”...

In this editorial, Angelo Lynn falls into the trap that most media do when reporting on Trump by not giving the complete picture.

Yes, Trump won 51% of the Iowa caucus votes. *However*, this was not a “blowout” by any means.

When you consider that only 14% of registered Iowa voters actually went to the polls, and of those 14%, half voted for people other than Trump, his win was far from a “blowout.”

David Beverage  
Middlebury

Give up the skin color prejudice

None of us get to choose our colors when we are born. Specifically: hair, eye and skin. Sometimes we can and do choose to change some. Seldom does anyone remark other than positively if we change our hair style or color. Seldom does one choose to mask eye color, but it can be done. Certainly, humans discriminate plenty over other traits such as religion, politics, wealth, intelligence, body type.

So why do we pick skin color to hate so often and so violently?

We truly do all enter this world equal. Maybe that starts to change two minutes later, but there is *no* reason to deny anyone equal opportunity. Give up the skin color prejudice and treat all on their merits. My grandmother used to say “it takes all kinds of people to make the world go around.”

Thank you all for the place you are in.

Alden Harwood  
Addison

Safe injection sites are ‘Looney’

The Vermont Legislature is looking more like a Mel Blanc Looney Tunes than a responsible lawmaking body. The Legislature has already legalized Dope. Now they want safe injection sites.

I find it hard to believe that responsible citizens of Vermont would look favorably on the absurd notion of safe injection sites.

First, I thought illicit drugs were illegal. So now the Vermont Legislature wants to have safe injection sites so the illegal use of shooting up to get high can be done safely. To me, and I am sure to the majority of Vermonters, this is an act of sponsoring illegal drug activity for the purpose of getting high. Yes, the persons shooting up in safe injection sites are safe but what about the good citizens of Vermont driving on the road with these “high” individuals also driving after just shooting up. Don’t tell me this isn’t going to happen because I was hit from behind by a person high on Fentanyl, Norfentanyl and Benzoylcegonine and this person was on his way to the Methadone clinic before it closed. The crash was at 9:30 a.m. In the person’s vehicle were five bottles of Methadone and a case of needles.

Do the legislators believe persons looking to get high are going to just shoot up in the safe injection site during business hours or stay at the site until the high wears off? No! Also the legislators said the price for the sites would come from cash penalties from the drug companies, great! Where is the money going to come from when that runs out?

I would like to know what the Vermont Department of Public Safety thinks about this bill being sponsored by the legislators. Maybe the legislative body should think about the legalization of prostitution because I have not heard of anyone passing away from illegal sex. Besides... think of the money it would bring into the state! Oh... but paying for sex is illegal.

Dennis Cassidy  
Middlebury



# Letters to the Editor

## Ban all flavored, teen-targeting vaping products

My son is addicted to vaping. He started when friends introduced him to a flavored vape product in high school when he was 17 and is now struggling to quit at 24. He's part of Vermont's youth tobacco addiction crisis that demands action — on two fronts. We can immediately remove the enticement for these products to youth by eliminating the sale of flavored tobacco. It's ridiculous to think that flavors like Sour Patch, Fluffer Nutter and Gummy Chews are geared to adults. They are marketed to kids and it's working. A quarter of Vermont's high schools seniors are vaping, and the problem has now seeped into middle schools. When my son started, each JUUL pod provided 500 puffs, the equivalent to a pack of cigarettes. Now, there are products on the market, in the same flavors and colors as taffy, that deliver 4,000 puffs per product. These disposable vapes are now hip for kids with many calling them "dispos." Tobacco shouldn't be appealing. It shouldn't be hip.

It shouldn't be flavored. These nicotine laden pacifiers are wrecking our kids' lives. It's a myth that these products are safe. My son was literally in DTs — Delirium Tremens, a severe withdrawal symptom — when we went on a family vacation to look at colleges in California. He had physical withdrawal symptoms from the lack of nicotine his body was craving. Which brings me to my second request. Vermont legislators should pass S.18, which would prevent the sale of flavored products to prevent kids from getting hooked in the first place. But they also need to do more to help students like my son, who are addicted. Even in high school he said to us, "I shouldn't be doing this, but I can't stop." We wanted help for him, but never got it. Instead, he was punished for his addiction time and time again. He was let go from the National Honor Society, suspended from baseball; received no support, no counseling. To determine whether punishing

kids for their addiction works, you only have to look at my son. Still vaping, seven years later. Taking away the things kids enjoy and removing them from school does not prevent addiction, rather, it likely makes it worse. I urge Vermont legislators to act quickly this year to finally pass this legislation. This issue has been before the legislature for many years. In the meantime, more and more Vermont kids have become addicted. And lawmakers need to do a thorough job. Prevent the sale of *all* flavored tobacco products. Remove menthol cigarette sales as well. We know kids will jump to whatever appealing product is available. And get kids the help they need to quit. Put funding into the Tobacco Control Program that is directed at kids, both prevention and treatment. Vermont kids need this help. They are worth every cent we put into this effort.

Karren Meyer  
Newfane

## Thoughtful planning needed in adding housing

Change happens. It happens in spite of us. Change can be random and with unexpected consequences, or it can be carefully planned for and achieve more predictable results. More housing is the change which is happening in Vermont. The question is, will it be planned so that a balance is achieved between maintaining a desirable quality of life and creating more affordable housing for new workers? Both Middlebury College, the largest employer in the county, and the town of Middlebury have severely bloated lists of jobs to be filled. A younger, and family-oriented workforce is urgently required in this county in order for the economic health to improve and strengthen. We need more folks to fill the number of service, professional, and trade-craft jobs. To recruit new workers, especially younger ones with families, requires new, and affordable housing. Quality of life is necessary for the College to maintain the "historic village" environment which makes them a desirable and unique institution. Quality of life is necessary for the town in order to continue to attract the out of town and out of state visitors who

support the shops, eateries, and lodging facilities we have here. Quality of life is essential for the wellbeing of the people who live here now. Ideally, the college with their reservoir of skilled planning talent, and the town's selectboard representing the people of Middlebury, could reach out to one another and collaborate on building a well-conceived "master plan" for the town's future. There are two issues which are critical for maintaining Middlebury's quality of life, and in building affordable housing: traffic and infrastructure. The growing traffic congestion in downtown and along Route 7, and the lack of public parking which plagues anyone trying to attend a public event in Middlebury are two very obvious examples of the chipping away of quality of life. The destructive flooding from last year demonstrated the fragility and cost of infrastructure repair, replacement, and maintenance. It reminded us how dependent we are on the Federal Government to implement infrastructure projects. The town alone does not have the resources to pay for major work. A good example of the problem involves the long-awaited and necessary installation of a new

water storage tank on Chipman Hill which is now on hold, due to uncertainty of the government providing the necessary funding. Approximately 80 new units of housing are planned for Seminary St. Extension (which could mean an added 160 automobiles within the city limits). Before plowing under new acres, and building more housing in other locations, it would be wise to first have plans in place to deal with the challenges of the Seminary project's influx of cars and people in the town. Middlebury College touted the inclusion of affordable housing when they announced this development, however, as of yet, it is still problematic as to how many of this category of units would actually be built. Also, once 80 new housing units are built, all the utilities installed, streets paved, etc, it is unknown if they will be sold and occupied. "If you build it, they will come?" Planning and caution could lay the groundwork for future affordable housing and strengthening of quality of life in Middlebury. Or, without them could lay the groundwork for the beginnings of urban blight.

Donald Witscher  
Middlebury

# Jessie

(Continued from Page 4A) looking for it. Then again, I told myself, there was no way of knowing who had lost that wool. Clearly, the universe (and Tom) had bestowed it upon me so I could make beautiful things with it. I was just about to bury my face in the fleece when I saw it: a slip of paper peeking out of the bag. Oh, no. On it were notes, including the word "merino" (I guess I know my crimps). And below that were the two things I didn't want to see: the owner's name and phone number. Look, I reasoned, was it my fault she hadn't secured her fleece properly? Did she even know it was missing? Didn't I deserve a huge bag of free merino? Was I morally obligated to let her know I had it? I didn't like my answers, which

were, in order: no, maybe, not necessarily and, dammit, yes. I burst into tears. I called the number, hoping the owner would be so delighted with my honesty that she would tell me to keep the fleece. As expected, she was delighted. But not enough to call us even. She showed up a half-hour later. As it turns out, the bag — one of many — had flown out of her truck on the way to the fiber mill where the fleece was to be spun. She needed that bag to make the mill's minimum order weight. To end a brief but bitter tug-of-war when I handed her the bag but could not force my fingers to let go of it, she promised she'd reward me with some of the new yarn. (Alas, I never heard from her again.) This incident, though tragic, offers a lesson in etiquette to anyone who finds something

valuable lying on the roadside and decides to give it away: For the sake of your recipient's conscience, be sure to destroy any identifying information first.

# Living Together

(Continued from Page 4A) my addiction. Unfortunately, those safe places are not plentiful in our community. Yes, there are places for *some* of our unhoused neighbors to find a warm bed and a meal in Vergennes and Middlebury, but these are very

few and far between indeed. As I learned the hard way, recovery from addiction simply cannot occur under a bridge or in a tent out in the woods. Those of our neighbors living this way need and deserve more. They are not some "faceless few." They are us.

## 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.

# Universal primary care a vital step

In the past few years, we have heard, with growing alarm, the concern that changing demographics in Vermont will soon spell disaster. The Chamber of Commerce, our legislators, our school boards, our businesses, all warn the current workforce crisis will get worse. The steady decline in the number of young children is making the cost per capita of our education system untenable. We don't have enough people to take care of our elders, our youngest, or those in need of mental and physical health care.

It is considered an affordability crisis. We hear variously that income and property taxes are too high, the cost of housing and utilities is too high, the cost of food is too high, the cost of health care is too high. So often, when we talk about complicated and challenging situations, someone will say: "Well it's no silver bullet but ..." and proffer a potential solution such as offering people a \$10,000 bonus to move here or marketing Vermont as a great place to live and work.

I'm very appreciative of the current focus on affordable housing. From close to 50 years of working on housing issues with individuals, clergy groups, mobile home park residents, non-profit and community action groups, I know first-hand how life-changing it is to have a safe and stable place to live. If that is a home or condo of your own, it is a wonderful way to help families build an asset base and a strong attachment to a local community.

Increasing the number of units to meet the perceived demand is a wonderful goal. It will also take time, money, and expertise to reach. Creative ways to address downtown and village center zoning, convert large single-family homes into multi-family homes, encourage construction of auxiliary dwelling units, promote shared living settings, all hold hope that we can retain the beauty of our rural environment and still make room for more people to live in dignity.

But this will not happen overnight. As a mother, Quaker, and gardener,

## Ways of Seeing

By Cheryl Mitchell



I don't really like the metaphor of trying to solve a problem by "shooting it with a silver bullet." I have come instead to believe that silver seeds are more productive, more useful, and easier to implement.


One silver seed I'm considering right now is universal, publicly financed, primary care. It is the kind of massive, sweeping and totally sensible idea that public education was when it was first conceived and gradually implemented. In fact, implementing universal primary care might go a long way to improving public education, which has been hamstrung in recent years by huge increases in health insurance premiums. Similarly, it would benefit our local economy, as self-employed persons and small business owners would be spared the increasingly untenable cost of insurance. It might even become part of the elusive lure attracting young families to Vermont.

Having our own primary care doctor, dentist, and even therapist would be beneficial to people of all ages and all income levels. It is more likely that we would take a wellness approach to our physical and mental health if we knew that regular check-ups would not bankrupt us with huge out-of-pocket co-pays.

Initially, there would be some readjustment to caseloads as more people have access to care. However, eliminating extensive paperwork required by insurance companies would also make Vermont a more desirable place for new practitioners. New practitioners would help offset the initial influx of new patients.

Ideally, this will also allow for the kind of deep, unhurried relationships people yearn for in their health care interactions. A long term, dependable relationship between patient and

provider is likely to reduce stress for both parties. We would no longer need to create a huge bureaucracy to determine eligibility, since everyone would be eligible. Decisions about care would be made by patients, their providers and their families, with little intervention by the so-called gate keepers whose current job appears to be denying or delaying care. If we all had primary care, the huge health disparities based on race and income would gradually diminish. We know from the Covid experience that Vermonters can shift practice within weeks if they see the value of doing so. Shifting from a hospital-dominated to a patient-focused health care system could potentially happen quickly. Excess money in the health care industry currently used for redundant administrative purposes could facilitate this transition. A thorough review — beyond what the auditor has already provided — of how funds are currently used would be useful. But we don't need to wait for results of yet another study to sprout this seed. Paradoxically, two contradictory bills are moving through the Vermont legislature this year: S-211, which appears designed to weaken the ability of the Green Mountain Care Board to control hospital costs, and H-59, which creates the beginnings of a universal primary care system. I'll be working on the latter, because I believe that planting the silver seed of universal primary care will attract new families to Vermont, improve our overall health, decrease stress on public education and grow us into more economically vibrant communities. Contact your representatives to advocate for H-59 and universal primary care. Cheryl Mitchell is president of Treleven, a retreat and learning program located on her family's sheep farm in Addison County. She does freelance consulting on issues related to children, families, social policy and farm to community work. She can be reached at cheryl.w.mitchell@gmail.com.



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ADDISON  
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Obituaries

Regina “Ginny” LaFayette Burke, 84, Middlebury native

SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt. — Regina Joyce LaFayette Burke, 84, passed away peacefully after a long illness on Jan. 17, 2024, with her family by her side at McClure Miller Respite House. She was born in Burlington, Vt., on March 3, 1939, the daughter of Mitchell Thomas LaFayette and Isabelle Ann (Thompson) LaFayette.

Ginny grew up in Middlebury and graduated from Middlebury High School in 1956. where she was the junior class marshal, football queen, a yearbook staff member, and in basketball and chorus. She studied elementary education at Castleton State College for two years before getting married and raising a family. Regina married William David Burke at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Middlebury on Oct. 11, 1958. They had three children, JoAnn, John and David, and lived briefly in Oklahoma, Texas, and Colorado during Bill’s career in the U.S. Air Force before settling in South Burlington, Vt. in 1966.

After their divorce, Ginny worked as a Licensed Practical Nurse at Fanny Allen Hospital for over 20 years.

Ginny loved spending time with her extended family at their camp on Lake Dunmore in Salisbury, Vt., while sunbathing, swimming, ice fishing, or playing cards. She



REGINA JOYCE LAFAYETTE BURKE

enjoyed vacationing in Florida, Michigan, and North Carolina. Her favorite trip was to Paris, France, with her daughter JoAnn, son-in-law Rob, and granddaughter Jenna, where they visited the Eiffel Tower, Louvre Museum, and Monet’s house and garden in Giverny. Ginny had many close friends and was a member of the Red Hat club.

Regina is survived by her children and their spouses, JoAnn Gina (Burke) Fisher and John Robert “Rob” Fisher of Asheville, N.C.; John Mitchell Burke and Ann (Rand) Burke of South Burlington; and David William Burke and Karen (Trombley) Burke of Ferrisburgh. She is survived by

five grandchildren, Jenna Burke and spouse Max Swomley of Denver, Colo.; Alexa Burke and partner Grant Davis of Colchester; Mariah Burke of Colchester; Connor Burke of South Burlington; and Isabel Burke and partner Ian McKenna of Brockton, Mass. Also, she is survived by her great-granddaughter, Claire Lafayette Swomley, and several nieces and nephews.

Regina was predeceased by her parents, Mitchell and Isabelle; sister Phyllis Jane (LaFayette) Gremban in 2023 and brother Richard Mitchell LaFayette in 1987.

Her family would like to thank the staff of Gazebo Senior Living, Maple Ridge Lodge assisted living, Elderwood at Burlington, and McClure Miller Respite House for their care of Ginny over the past few years.

A memorial service will be held in the spring, on a date to be determined, at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in South Burlington, Vt. Interment will be at Mt. St. Joseph Cemetery in Bristol, Vt. Please consider a donation in Regina’s memory to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s research.

Arrangements are in care of Stephen Gregory & Son Cremation, South Burlington, Vt.◊

Joan Eloise Kinney, 94, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Joan Eloise Kinney died peacefully on Jan. 13, 2024, at the age of 94, in Middlebury, Vt. She is survived by her sister, Dotty Kay Reese; children Crispin, Patrick, William, and Donna; 10 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Joan was born in 1929 in Lamar, Colo., to Herschel and Leona Lott. After graduating from La Junta High School, she attended the University of Colorado, where she was a member of Tri Delta sorority and earned her B.A. in English. She married her childhood sweetheart, Donald, beginning their marriage in Tacoma, Wash., where he was in flight training for the Air Force. They traveled throughout their marriage, living in Tucson, Ariz.; Morocco; Clovis, N.M.; Boulder, Colo.; Albuquerque, N.M.; Bedford Mass.; Annapolis, Md.; and Ripton, Vt.

While setting up beautiful homes everywhere she lived, Joan earned her teaching and master’s degrees and taught English at Bedford High School for 20 years, where she developed and implemented groundbreaking curriculum, including an inter-disciplinary Humanities course. She was the organist and



JOAN ELOISE KINNEY

Choir Director at St. Paul’s Church in Bedford and “Friend of the Year” of the Maryland Federation of the Arts and an active participant in Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis.

She and Donald lived in their Robert Frost farmhouse in Ripton, Vt., until his death in 2016, at which time she moved to the Residence at Otter Creek in Middlebury, where she made many new and cherished friends. Besides playing bridge and remaining active with PEO, she enjoyed attending services at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church.

Joan shared her passion for music and literature with her

family, inspiring them to become musicians, artists, writers, and lovers of culture and travel. She was an avid Red Sox fan, who proudly wore Mookie Betts’ jersey while tuned into NESN. Her hands were always busy, sewing colorful quilts and knitting prayer shawls for St. Stephen’s congregation members and hats and scarves that adorn the heads and necks of friends and family far and wide.

Her family wishes to thank the many staff and caregivers at Porter Hospital and The Residence at Otter Creek for their loving support and care of Joan in her final years, as well as her dedicated caretaker, Eugene Warner, who has watched over Don and Joan and the Ripton house for the past 20 years.

There will be a memorial service for Joan at St. Stephen’s in Middlebury on April 13, 2024, and a celebration of life at the Residence that afternoon; details will be posted on her memorial link on gregorycremation.com.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites charitable donations to PEO in her honor. Send donations to: Lou McLaren, President Chapter H; 2700 Fuller Mountain Road; North Ferrisburgh, VT 05473.◊

Linda May (Martin) Osborn, 75, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Linda May (Martin) Osborn passed away on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024, at UVM Medical Center in Burlington after a full and joyful life. She was 75.

She was born Feb. 1, 1948, to the late Max and Clara (Campbell) Martin. She would be the eldest of their seven children. She attended the old Bristol High School in 1968 and was part of its last class of students. Shortly after, she met Kenneth (Ozzie) Osborn, they were happily wed later that year. They briefly lived in New Jersey before returning to Vermont with their two young daughters. They spent 40 years together.

She was short, but incredibly strong; an attentive mother, grandmother, and a devoted woman of God. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Bristol, where she was a lifelong volunteer, Sunday school teacher and the president of “Treasure Seekers” for many decades. She was proud to have witnessed the installation of the accessibility lift in the church, which has benefited many in recent



LINDA MAY (MARTIN) OSBORN

years.

Linda found joy working with her hands, both in the stitches and the soil. Fashioning doll clothes and planting tomatoes, it was all the same to her. She was always thinking of the next project. She was an avid collector but prized her dolls and nutcrackers the most. She was an amateur bird photographer and liked watching them alongside house cats Cocoa and Cali, whom

she adored. Above all, she cherished her family: including her husband and her daughter, Laurie Ann Goetz, who were both gone too soon.

Linda is survived by her daughter, Karen Osborn; her grandchildren, Mary and Peter Lynch; her son-in-law, John Goetz; and by her many siblings, nieces, and nephews. She and her hugs will be deeply missed by family and friends alike.

The family would like to thank Project Independence, for connecting her with a community of her peers and the UVM Medical Center ICU staff, for their care and consideration in her final days.

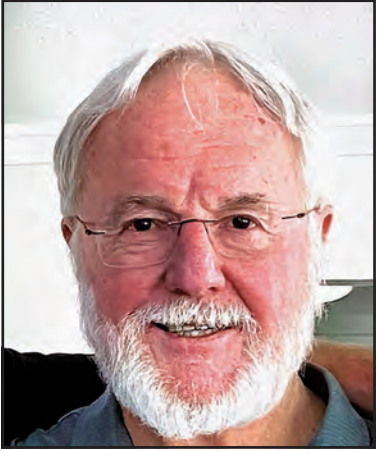
Calling hours will be on Friday, Jan. 26, from 6 to 8 p.m. with a memorial service the following day at 11 a.m., both at the First Baptist Church of Bristol. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church of Bristol, in Linda’s name. Mail to: Care of Nancy Skidmore, 85 Burritt Lane, Bristol, VT. 05443. To send online condolences to her family, please visit www.brownmccloyfuneralhomes.com.◊

Michael William Corey, 72, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Michael W. Corey died unexpectedly Aug. 29, 2023, in Brandon, Vt. Michael will be remembered for his many passions and commitment to his community. His family will remember him as an extraordinary father and husband.

Michael was born in St. Johnsbury Sept. 30, 1950. His family moved to West Rutland, ultimately settling in Proctor. He was the son of William Charles Corey and Mary LeGresley Corey and was the oldest of six siblings.

Michael’s early life was fueled by sports. Graduating from Proctor High School, he excelled in soccer, basketball and baseball, contributing to seven state championship soccer teams. At the University of Vermont, he was a member of the men’s soccer team, graduating in 1973. Michael received a master’s degree from UVM in Special Education and certification in the Consulting Teacher Program in 1979. During his graduate studies, he met his wife Diane Geary, whom he married in



MICHAEL WILLIAM COREY

1979.

Michael and Diane embarked on their teaching careers and settled in Bristol, where they raised their two sons. In addition to supporting many students in overcoming learning and/or behavioral challenges, Michael stayed connected to his passion for soccer through coaching for over 30 years, starting with the girls’ varsity team at Vergennes,

then with the boys’ varsity at Mt. Abraham Union High School in Bristol. He and Diane also ran Summit Soccer School for 25 years.

Michael was also a devoted friend and brother, instigating good times and maintaining strong connections throughout his life. With family and friends, he found joy in sharing experiences, whether skiing, bicycling, watching UVM basketball, traveling or simply enjoying a beer and telling stories.

Michael is survived by his wife, Diane; sons, Devin and Keil; and Keil’s wife Najoua and their son Malik Michael Corey. He is also survived by his siblings, Charles Corey, Robert Corey, Maureen Gibeault and Linda Krone, along with many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father, William and mother, Mary LeGresley Corey, and his sister Sharon Corey from Bristol.

The Corey family will hold a celebration of life for Michael at Tourterelle Restaurant in New Haven on May 18, from 2-4 p.m.◊

Ryan P. Marcotullio of Bristol, a freshman majoring in Mechanical Engineering, was named a presidential scholar for the fall 2023

semester at Clarkson University. Presidential scholars must achieve a minimum 3.80 grade-point average and carry at least 14 credit hours.



In Memory of  
John Chamberlain

May 25, 1941 - January 29, 2004

It’s been 20 years now and I still think of you often. Many of your truck-driving friends have joined you. One of which I was very fond of, Cliff Perry. He bought and drove your truck. He passed away on January 31, 2023. I’m sure you and all your friends will have plenty to talk about. Until we meet again.

Love, your wife,  
Jane

Gerry Francis Gossens, 90, of Salisbury

SALISBURY — Gerry Francis Gossens of Salisbury died on Jan. 18, 2024, in Middlebury, Vt. A man for every possible season and a world traveler, Gerry kept his family laughing, loving, and together for a lifetime.

Gerry was dedicated to the service of his country and fellow humans. Born in Texas in 1933, he moved to Beirut in 1947 when his father took a job with the Trans-Arabian Pipeline. As a high schooler in Beirut, Gerry met his first wife, Nancy James.

A true Cold Warrior, Gerry entered the U.S. Naval Academy in 1952 and graduated in 1956. He then joined the U.S. Air Force as a pilot and intelligence officer before transferring to the Central Intelligence Agency in 1960. He remained with the CIA until 1984, serving as Chief of Station

in multiple postings across Africa before closing his career as Deputy Chief of Station in Paris.

In his “retirement” in Vermont, Gerry served on the Salisbury Selectboard, in the Vermont State House of Representatives, on the University of Vermont Board of Directors, and in the Vermont State Senate. He also met and married his second wife, Margaret “Betsy” Strolle.

Gerry was pre-deceased by Nancy as well as by his three siblings (Charlotte Mitchell, Phillip Gossens, and Peter Gossens). He is survived by Betsy, his three children (Jim, Christine, and Joanne Gossens) and their spouses, two stepsons (Carl and Tom Stolle) and their spouses, and eight grandchildren.

A life well-lived and a great loss, not just to family and friends, but to all.◊

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In Loving Memory of  
Scott Alan Cousino

Oct. 6, 1970 - Jan. 28, 2005

“When someone you  
love becomes a memory,  
that memory becomes a treasure.”

It is hard to believe that it has been  
19 years since that tragic day!  
At times, it seems like only yesterday.  
Over the years, you have been joined  
by many family members.

We Love and Miss (ALL OF) you more  
and more every day!

Until we meet again,  
Your Family  
and Friends

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## Kenneth E. Young Jr., 78, of Leicester

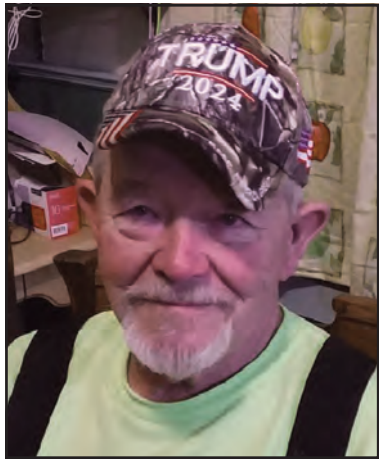
LEICESTER — Kenneth E. Young Jr., 78, of Leicester, passed away peacefully on Jan. 16 at his home surrounded by his family and an abundance of Love. Born in Brattleboro, Vt., on Aug. 5, 1945, he was the son of Kenneth E. Young Sr. and Beverly Shepard Fisher.

His childhood was spent living in the Middlebury area, and while in his early teens his family moved to Brandon. As a teen, Ken, or Sonny as family and friends called him, worked at Rivers’ Store, pumped gas at Kenny Mohan’s, milked cows at the Nickerson farm and handled lumber at Dutton’s Sawmill. He served his country in the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany driving trucks, earned his GED and an honorable discharge.

Once home, Ken was employed at Old Fox Chemical Company in Brandon, where he worked his way up over seventeen years from laborer to plant manager in the commercial fertilizer industry. In the spring of 1983, while manager at Old Fox, he met Anne Ballentine, a recent implant (Flatlander from Cape Cod) when she came looking for organic fertilizer. He looked at his secretary, rolled his eyes, and said under his breath: “Another organic freak...”

“Mr. Chemical” married “Miss Bonemeal” on April 14, 1984. In 1985, they purchased land in Leicester on which they built Foxcroft Farm and a life together. They drove school buses, opened their home to foster children, raised sheep, beef and pigs, grew crops, milked cows, had Belgian draft horses, gave horse-drawn wagon and sleigh rides, built barns, and moved an old schoolhouse to establish a home for their family.

Ken’s commitment and contributions to the local community were demonstrated in a number of ways. As manager at Old Fox, he sponsored the Old Fox Little League Team and attended all of the games with his two oldest sons. He drove a school bus for twenty years, earning the name “Chief” from his



KENNETH E. YOUNG JR.

passengers and providing them with consistent structure and a caring heart. Ken served on the selectboard for the Town of Leicester for ten years, where he contributed a true Vermonter perspective, a conservative approach to spending, and support to the hardworking road crew.

From 2000-2017, Ken worked with his wife Anne on their farm to support the Harvest Program, where he exhibited a strong male role model and father figure to the hundreds of youth who participated in the farm and community service program.

As a high school student at Old Brandon High, Ken had no interest in learning U.S. History, and subsequently quit school when realizing that he needed to pass the class in order to graduate. His interest sparked though in his retirement, and he educated himself through watching documentaries and national news. Ken was a patriot and loved his country. He became a passionate conservative and was eager to share his perspective.

In recent years, his love for his country in which he was raised and had served to support, continued to grow. He had empathy for Donald Trump, even though the two had very different backgrounds and lifestyles. Ken would state: “The only thing different between me and Donald Trump is billions of

dollars.” That being said, he fully supported, with a selfless hope, Make America Great Again and remained loyal to that cause.

Throughout his retirement, Ken worked to maintain the farm property, renovated the barns to include a seasonal rental space and storage rental units, and spent days on his tractors and bucket loader. In between his duties on the farm, he would spend time at Ken Mohan’s Service Center, sharing news, stories, and perspectives with friends.

Ken loved his family and he cared deeply for his friends. He was resilient, resourceful, hardworking, clever, strong, loyal, kind, and had a great deal of common sense. He loved family gatherings, to tell stories and to laugh, and family members loved to share in his joy.

Ken leaves behind his wife, Anne; his four children, Brent (Sotheary) of Brandon, Troy of Pittsford, Amy (Mike) of Leicester, and Adam (Ebbie) of Pawcatuck, Conn., all of whom he was so very proud of, as well as eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He is survived by two brothers, Herb (Nancy) Fisher of Brandon and Gary Fisher (Nancy) of Pittsford; sisters Kathy (Mark) Lancaster of Columbus, N.J., and Cheryl Young, Browns Mills N.J.; and many cousins, nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind two very special lifelong friends, Philip “Sonny” Carrara and Kenny “Burger” Mohan. He was predeceased by his mother, Beverly; his father, Kenneth “Bud”; his stepfather, Herb Fisher; his sister Sandi Sanderson; and Katherine Bertrand, who was like a second mom to him.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his name can be made to Brandon Area Rescue Squad at 1338 Franklin Street, Brandon VT 05733 or Brandon Senior Citizens’ Center Inc. at 1591 Forest Dale Road, Brandon, VT 05733.

A celebration of life will be held on May 18 at 1 p.m., at their home, Foxcroft Farm.◊

## Let’s expand Vermont’s Medicaid program

The cost of health care impacts everyone these days, stressing family wallets, increasing personal debt, and driving up public and private budgets. And while most Vermonters (nearly 97%) have health insurance, about 40% of Vermonters are under-insured, meaning their insurance doesn’t cover basic medical expenses like going to the doctor for routine care.

Over the past decade, policy makers have spent a lot of time debating “health care reform,” with well-intentioned efforts to create accountable care organizations, payment reform and studies to combat patient wait-time and ballooning hospital budgets. While these steps have resulted in some incremental progress and will continue, most people’s access to dental care, mental health services, specialty care, prescription drugs, long-term care, and substance use treatment has gotten worse, especially as we recover from the effects of a global pandemic.

During all of this, one health insurance program has been working well, and even getting better: the Vermont Medicaid Program and its children’s health program, Dr. Dynasaur. Nearly one-third of Vermonters are covered by this comprehensive health insurance program, run and funded through a partnership between the state and federal governments. During the pandemic, thousands more Vermonters received health insurance coverage through Medicaid, thanks to additional federal funding. Now, many of those folks are being kicked off the program due to procedural issues and waning federal pandemic funding.

What if we didn’t kick Vermonters off Vermont’s comprehensive, nationally-recognized Medicaid program? What if we embraced Medicaid coverage for more Vermonters, including youth in their 20s, pregnant individuals, hard-working adults and seniors living in poverty?

What if we do for health care what we did last year for child care — build on a successful state-federal program to reduce costs and expand access to health care for Vermonters, while at the same time increasing key support for healthcare providers?

This is precisely what our bill to establish The Medicaid Expansion Act of 2024 (H.721/S.240) would do. People shouldn’t have to choose between their health and their wallets, so this bill puts affordable health care back where it belongs — in the hands of every Vermonter. This legislation would take a significant stride toward addressing health care affordability and access.

Over the next six years, this legislation would expand access to comprehensive Medicaid health insurance to adult Vermonters earning up to 317% of the federal poverty level, which currently is an annual income of \$95,100 for a family of four. This level of coverage is already provided to children, so the bill would start by expanding this access to young adults up to age 26 and pregnant individuals, and then gradually increase the income eligibility level for all adults.

Importantly, the bill would also create savings accounts for

older adults to prevent the sticker shock of transitioning from comprehensive Medicaid coverage to more expensive Medicare coverage. Simultaneously, the bill would increase reimbursements to providers of primary, mental health, dental and long-term care, as well as make it easier for children and youth to access mental health care without a complicated or stigmatizing diagnosis.

Many of the people who would benefit most from this legislation are the 40% of Vermonters who are currently under-insured and unable to afford medication and urgent, specialty or even basic health care services. By opening up our state’s nationally-recognized Medicaid program to more Vermonters, we would reduce staggering health care costs facing families, small businesses and self-employed individuals, freeing up more of their income for other needs and investments.

For too many years, our health care reform efforts have focused on systems, not people. This legislation would bring the focus back to Vermonters by expanding access to comprehensive health care for thousands of people who are struggling to afford a visit to their doctor. We are ready to do this work for the good health of all Vermonters.

*Sen. Hardy chairs the Senate Government Operations Committee and is a member of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee. Rep. Houghton chairs the House Health Care Committee.*

in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the list.

**Jordan R. Martin** of Middlebury, a SUNY Canton Construction Technology Management major, earned a spot on the SUNY Canton dean’s list during the fall 2023 semester.

**Peter Wolosinski** of Middlebury and **Ian Henderson** of Vergennes have been named to the fall 2023 dean’s list at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn.

**Liliana Luksch**, a Lasell University student from Middlebury, was named to the dean’s list for her academic performance in the fall 2023 semester.

### ADDISON COUNTY

## School News

**Roman Mayer** of Lincoln, **Lewis Suchomel** of Shoreham, and **Talia Cotroneo** of Weybridge have been named to the fall 2023 dean’s list at Roger Williams University

## Lincoln

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

### NEWS

LINCOLN — Lincoln Day Camp, hosted by Lincoln Sports, is a relaxed camp including outdoor adventure, crafts, field games, river play, nature discovery and more! This year, there will be two separate camps, open to ages 4-6 and ages 7-12, operating simultaneously each week.

Camp weeks include July 1, 2, 3 & 5, July 8-12, July 15-19, July 22-26, July 29-Aug. 2 and Aug. 5-9. Camperships are available. Online registration opens in February. Visit [lincolnsports.org](http://lincolnsports.org) for more information.

#### FROM THE TOWN

As a reminder, Jan. 29 at 5 p.m. is the deadline for submitting petitions to include your name on the ballot if you would like to run for office in the local election. Petitions must be signed by 12 Lincoln registered voters and you must submit a consent form as well. There are three positions on the selectboard becoming vacant, and both a school and Town Meeting moderator will be needed. Also vacant are a Lister and Second

Constable. Blank petitions are available at [lincolnvermont.org](http://lincolnvermont.org) or can be picked up any time outside the door of the town office.

Overseas and military voters should submit requests for absentee ballots for the Vermont Presidential Primary election right away. Early voting has already begun.

In Lincoln, we vote on our budgets and other questions from the floor of our annual town and school district meeting. The date for these votes will be Monday, March 4, at 6 p.m. at Burnham Hall.

We vote for our town and school officers by Australian ballot (which means you can vote early or absentee). The Vermont Presidential Primary is a separate election happening at the same time as our local election. Voting for both these elections will be on Tuesday, March 5, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Burnham Hall.

#### REMINDER

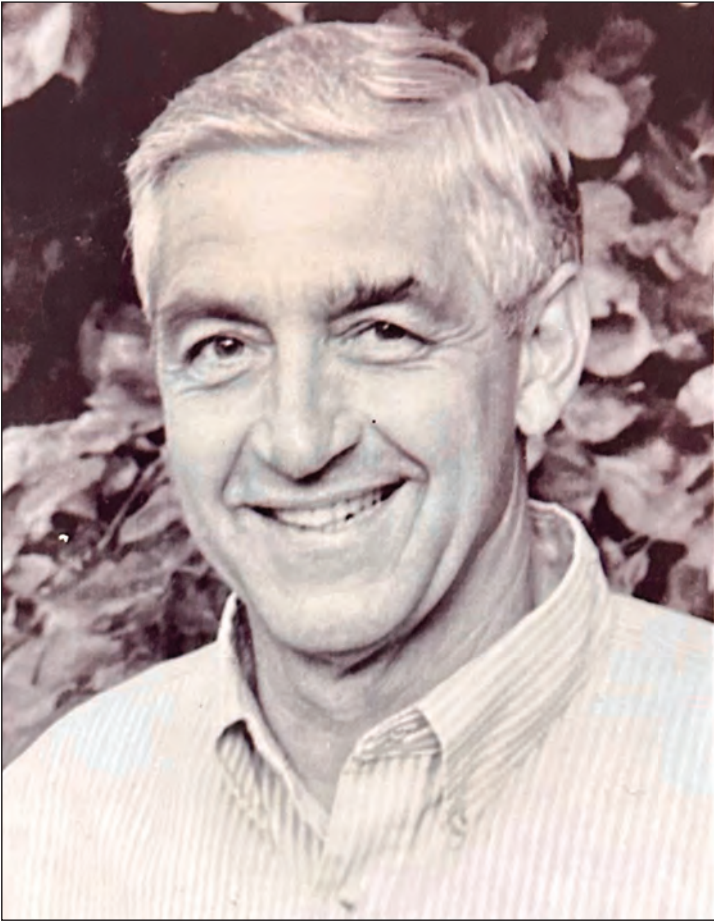
Hill Country Holiday Schedule: Taco Dinner to benefit Burnham Hall on Friday, Feb. 2, from 5:30

to 6:30 p.m. (time different than previously reported). There will be green chicken tinga, carnitas, veggie tacos with meat-free chorizo and all the salsas. Pay what you can. After dinner, join the Contra Dance called by Lausanne Allen at 6:30 p.m. \$5-\$10 donations or pay what you can.

The birthday-party-themed parade starts at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3, followed by lunch and skating at the library at noon. The preschool’s meatball competition and spaghetti dinner will be 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 four and under are free. The variety show starts at 7 p.m. at Burnham Hall.

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.

Until next time ... Never Measure Your Progress Using Someone Else’s Ruler.



In memory of a dear friend who dedicated his life to his family, country and to Vermont:

### Gerry Gossens

1933 - Jan. 18, 2024

A man for every possible season and a world traveler, Gerry was dedicated to the service of his country and fellow humans.

A true Cold Warrior, Gerry graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1956, then joined the U.S. Air Force as a pilot and intelligence officer before transferring to the Central Intelligence Agency in 1960. He remained with the CIA until 1984, serving as Chief of Station in multiple postings across Africa before closing his career as Deputy Chief of Station in Paris.

In his “retirement” in Vermont, Gerry served on the Salisbury Selectboard, in the Vermont State House of Representatives, on the University of Vermont Board of Directors, and in the Vermont State Senate.

*From his friends at Middlebury Town & Gown*

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**2012 TOYOTA RAV 4**  
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# Common Level of Appraisal impacts in ANWSD

At the proposed ANWSD spending level and a 5% cap per Act 127, the school district tax rate would rise 7.71 cents to \$1.6182 per \$100 of assessed property value. This illustrates the tax bill on a \$300,000 home.

Town	CLA last year	CLA this year	Homestead tax rate last year	Homestead tax rate this year	Education tax bill last year	Education tax bill this year
Addison	82.80	72.35	\$1.8612	\$2.2366	\$5,584	\$6,710
Ferrisburgh	86.86	72.60	\$1.7742	\$2.2289	\$5,323	\$6,687
Panton	90.74	75.96	\$1.6984	\$2.1303	\$5,095	\$6,391
Vergennes	79.68	70.78	\$1.9341	\$2.2862	\$5,802	\$6,859
Waltham	82.06	73.79	\$1.8780	\$2.1930	\$5,634	\$6,579

Source: Addison Northwest School District

## ANWSD

(Continued from Page 1A) that had been paid for by temporary, pandemic-era, federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. According to Superintendent Sheila Soule, the budget would keep the full-time equivalency of 7.8 such positions out of the 10.35 current ESSER-funded ANWSD jobs.

Board members almost unanimously said they supported the concept.

“If we don’t have the people to help, especially the younger kids who were isolated for one-and-a-half years and are having real difficulties, then it’s going to be even more expensive in the next 10 or 12 years,” reasoned Mark Koenig of Vergennes. He added it could be possible to phase out the posts gradually during the next three to four years.

The board last week also voted to add \$750,000 of one-time capital improvements and maintenance expenditures into the FY25 budget.

Those funds will pay for more alterations needed to bring district 6th-graders to Vergennes Union High School this coming fall; VUHS roof repairs; upgrades and maintenance to some athletic facilities, including adding handicap parking and improvements to backstops and dugouts; and upgrades to the Vergennes Union Elementary School playground, parking lot and exterior doors.

The ESSER positions and the capital improvements were part of a small percentage of the budget over which board members said they had control, without cutting programs.

Outside of the ESSER positions, the budget also includes one new PreK position and one new behavioral specialist, according to

administrators.

Officials said because VUHS is a smaller high school than most in Vermont, it already also offers fewer academic options than many, but Board Chair John Stroup said VUHS programs would probably be targeted if the board had to cut spending.

“If we do start to make cuts they’re going to come most in places that are most likely to affect high school kids,” he said. “It’s easier for us to make cuts to arts and athletics than a paraeducator or a student behavioral tutor for a student that has significant issues, whether they’re ESSER-funded or not.”

Cost drivers include higher wages for teachers and support staff due to new contracts that brought salaries in line with neighboring districts, a 16% increase in health insurance benefits, a hike in Hannaford Career Center tuition due to that school’s debt load, and higher busing costs.

According to a presentation by Soule, the budget prioritizes continuing to close the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income students, which shows signs of narrowing; supporting student services, multi-tiered systems of support and behavioral programs; enhancing PreK early learning; and supporting the transition of the 6th grade to VUHS.

### TAX IMPLICATIONS

There’s some good news on the school-tax front, but also some less reassuring information.

First, despite the higher proposed spending, because of a tax rate cap included in Vermont’s new education spending law, Act 127, the district-wide tax rate is projected to rise by 5%, or 7.71 cents, from \$1.5411 per \$100 of assessed property value, to \$1.6182.

That cap in question limits a

district-wide tax increase to 5% if its per-pupil spending rises by less than 10%. According to district calculations based on information from the Department of Education, if the budget as proposed by the board is approved on Town Meeting Day, per-pupil spending would increase by 8.99%, safely under the 10% threshold even after the board last week added the \$750,000 for capital improvements.

ANSWD Director of Finance and Operations Elizabeth Jennings explained at the Jan. 17 meeting.

“We’re still capped at 5%, which means our union tax rate would still be \$1.6182,” she said.

According to *Independent* calculations, without the cap, the district rate increase would at least double.

But Jennings has also told the board and the *Independent* that because of the district’s low Common Levels of Appraisals, or CLAs, over which school officials have no control, all five ANWSD communities can expect major school tax hikes no matter what budget amount is ultimately passed.

CLAs, as determined by town-by-town analyses of their real estate sales by the Department of Taxes, compare towns’ property tax assessments to fair market value. Ratios created with that study are then used to adjust school tax rates upwards or downwards to equalize tax collection among all Vermont municipalities.

The bottom line is that including CLA adjustments on top of the district tax rate, ANWSD towns are looking at homestead school tax rate increases of between roughly 32 and 45 cents.

Officials said there’s little they can do to make a meaningful difference in tax rates before CLAs are figured in. Jennings said to have a pre-CLA district rate with no increase would mean drastic cuts, and the resulting rate would still be adjusted upward by 25-30%.

“We’d have to bring it down by \$1.9 million to have a level tax rate,” Jennings said.

At the end of the Jan. 17 board meeting, Chair John Stroup said school officials will have to work hard to explain that spending is not really what’s driving the tax rates so much higher.

“We have a big job ahead of us to talk to people,” he said. “We have a case to make.”

But it remains possible the budget could still be adjusted.

Stroup told the *Independent* late last week he’s put his colleagues on notice an additional board meeting might be needed on Jan. 29 or 31 to take one last look at the spending plan. That’s because there’s talk in the Legislature of possibly adjusting school funding laws on the fly as soon as this week or next (See related story).

But for now, as Stroup summed up before the board approved the budget, (only Ferrisburgh’s Chris Kayhart voted against after questioning whether so many ESSER jobs should be kept) the board wants to preserve the district’s progress, take care of immediate capital needs, and try to address lingering social and academic issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Let’s try to solve some of the problems that we have and keep the programs that are working for our district,” Stroup said.

### OTHER DECISIONS

The board on Jan. 17 scheduled its annual meeting and budget public hearing for Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. at VUHS.

Board members also made decisions on how to handle a projected surplus from FY23, opting not to apply any to tax relief given the 5% cap and limited impact it would make.

They voted to use up to \$19,200 from the district’s Capital Improvement Fund to hire Capital Project Management Services to oversee planned VUES projects, and to move \$558,483 of the surplus into the district’s Education Stabilization Fund. That’s a 4% contribution that’s within previously voter-approved limits. The Education Stabilization Fund is essentially an emergency fund that can be used at the board’s discretion.

The board also opted to seek voter approval in March to put the remaining \$1,172,108 into the district’s Capital Improvement Fund to address future district building needs. Jennings said at last week’s meeting the fund now contains about \$3 million.

## School funding

(Continued from Page 1A)

Cummings, D-Washington County, chair of the Senate Finance Committee — wrote in the letter they’re worried there’s “too much spending” in local budgets in response to a key tax-rate threshold provision in Act 127, the state’s new education funding law.

They pinned down the issue by saying they were “increasingly and seriously concerned” that school boards around the state were taking advantage of a 5% tax-rate cap provision in Act 127 to load up too much spending into their budgets.

That cap in question limits a district-wide tax increase to 5%, but only if its per-pupil spending rises by less than 10%. For example, the Addison Northwest School District qualifies for the cap because its per-pupil costs are projected to rise by about 9%. Without the cap, the district rate would rise by about 17 cents. With the cap, it is projected to rise by less than 8 cents.

Kornheiser and Cummings wrote:

“The threshold was designed to help the few districts who would experience the most extreme reduction in weighted pupils, so they could build a gradual glide path through a few years of difficult budget seasons. The threshold was not designed to stack deferred spending and delayed maintenance costs into a few short years.

“It was not designed to fix all of our state education challenges or the overall pressures of operating in an inflationary environment. It was not intended as free money — in fact nothing in the education fund is free.”

The Legislature has scheduled a 1 p.m. public hearing on Jan. 25 to discuss the issue. Kornheiser and Cummings wrote:

“We have a great respect for the work of school boards, school staff, and school administrators and understand the significant cost pressures you’re facing ... While we understand that the timing is incredibly challenging, the Legislature will be looking for policy levers to address unintended consequences this year, and into the future.”

It’s important to note that 5%

cap doesn’t limit increases that will result from below-market Common Levels of Appraisals (CLAs), which are applied later in the process. Low CLAs will almost certainly trigger significant tax hikes in ANSWD and other districts locally and statewide, regardless of the cap.

The letter has induced the chair of the ANWSD board, John Stroup, to call for an extra meeting of his board on Jan. 29 to reconsider, if necessary, the budget the board passed last week.

Stroup isn’t pleased about the rules possibly changing this late in the game, when the ANWSD and other boards have been working for months to “make good decisions for kids and taxpayers.”

Kornheiser and Cummings state in the letter the issue is that if too many districts “act solely in their own rational self-interest, those costs will be picked up by property taxes in neighboring towns ... Act 127 was intended to create greater equity between districts — to narrow the range between the haves and have-nots. At this point, given what we hear about how the 5% threshold is being used, it seems to be widening that gulf rather than narrowing it.”

ANWSD, for example, added \$750,000 in one-time capital improvements into its budget proposal at its meeting last week, a move that didn’t affect its tax rate because its per-pupil costs still did not exceed a 10% increase.

But Stroup points out the board simply followed the rules as the Legislature wrote them in Act 127. Still, he said if the Legislature makes rules changes that affect tax rate projections dramatically, the ANWSD board might meet and revisit spending choices on Jan. 29 or 31 if decisions made in Montpelier between now and then make a significant difference for local taxpayers.

Regardless, Stroup said he isn’t happy with the prospect at this point in school boards’ budget processes of the Legislature using “policy levers.”

“This is not a good way to conduct business,” he said.

## Mt. Abe

(Continued from Page 1A)

will still experience a substantial tax hike in the coming year due to a drop in the four MAUSD member towns’ Common Level of Appraisals (CLA), a factor over which school district officials have no control.

### BUDGET DETAILS

The proposed spending plan retains all the personnel and programming offered this year, including nearly all of the positions formerly supported by federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funding.

The FY’25 spending plan also reflects salary increases; anticipated

inflation of construction costs and other expenses; the creation of a handful of positions in the district, including two new administrative jobs at Bristol Elementary School; and an estimated 15.9% rise in health insurance premiums.

With an anticipated \$6,692,836 in outside revenue, education spending is expected to total \$30,321,730 in the coming fiscal year.

Spending per-pupil is expected to decrease by 1.35%, or \$209.33, to \$15,303.49. That figure is based on an estimated 1,981.36 in long term weighted average daily membership (equalized pupils) for FY’25.

That equalized pupil count is an increase of 170.58 over the current academic year’s figure.

Reen explained that the reduction in per-pupil spending should qualify the district for a tax rate threshold provision included in Act 127, the new law that revises Vermont’s education funding formula. Under Act 127, school districts that limit increases in per-pupil spending to under 10% are offered a 5% homestead property tax rate cap.

With the cap, the district’s homestead tax rate is expected to increase 7.5 cents, or 5%, from \$1.4991 per \$100 of assessed property value to \$1.5741. Reen told the board that without the cap, the district-wide tax rate would likely rise by nearly 17 cents, or 11.3%.

The superintendent noted that Vermont legislators are currently weighing whether to reevaluate the 5% tax rate threshold provision, such as by requiring any district that uses the cap to present its budget to a tax rate review committee, a decision that could have major tax implications for MAUSD.

“We are still, even with a level-served budget, above a 5% increase. If the action is taken to require any district that’s utilizing that 5% cap to go before a review board, the risk is if they say yes, we’re eligible, we get the 5%. If they say no, it’s an 11% increase in taxes,” Reen said.

### TAX IMPACTS

According to district estimates, (See Tax Impacts, Page 11A)



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**CAPTAIN SHANE COYLE** of the Ferrisburgh Fire Department is presented with the **Chief Robert Jenkins Line Officer of the Year Award**.

Photo by Mark Bouvier



**EDGAR "BUB" CROSBY Jr.** of the Bridport Fire Department is awarded life membership to the Addison County Firefighters Association.

Photo by Mark Bouvier

## Firefighters

(Continued from Page 1A)

time to serving the Addison County community. Throughout the evening, the association honored new and longtime members of the fire service, as well as remembered former county firefighters who had died in the past year.

The volunteer efforts of local first responders were also commended by state officials in attendance.

Haley Pero, outreach coordinator at the Office of U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, shared a message from Sen. Sanders, thanking Addison County firefighters for all of the work they do to protect their communities.

"When we call 911 in a moment of need, we take it for granted that someone will be there to answer our call. However, this does not happen without you all stepping up to serve your communities, spending many hours training, holding barbeques and pancake breakfasts to raise money, and taking time away from your families, work and other personal commitments," Pero read.

Vermont Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety Dan Batsie told the crowd that he believes the community service modeled by the association is a key part of addressing the complex issues Vermont is facing.

"I walk in here and I see volunteerism at its finest. I look around and I see public service that has been passed down from generation to generation for 100 years, and that reminds me that that's the answer; that community is how we will fix these problems," he said.

The evening's roll call recorded 162 firefighters representing all 17 local departments. Many of those attendees were recognized at the meeting for the contributions they've made to their departments and surrounding community with awards and other accolades.

One firefighter was lauded for several decades of service by having an award category named in his honor. The senior firefighter of the year award was named in recognition of Howard "Buster" Grant, who has served on the Addison Volunteer Fire



**FERRISBURGH FIRE CHIEF BILL WAGER** LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Department for 62 years.

The association also recognized three local firefighters for 50 years of service: Mark Bouvier of Bristol, James Tracy of Weybridge and Larry Blacklock of Addison.

Other awards distributed at the Jan. 17 gathering were:

- Chief James Breur Chief of the Year: Chief Dave Berno (Cornwall).
- Chief Robert Jenkins Line Officer of the Year: Captain Shane Coyle (Ferrisburgh).
- Firefighter of the Year: Firefighter Terry Farr (Bristol).
- Chief Leo "Butch" Dupont Emergency Maintenance Technician of the Year: Captain Morgan Huestis (Bridport).



**WEYBRIDGE FIRE CHIEF BILL SINKS** PRESIDENT'S AWARD

- Howard "Buster" Grant Senior Firefighter of the Year: Firefighter Norm Cota (Starksboro).
- Chief Tom Estey Training Officer of the Year: Captain Corey Pratt (Bridport).
- Youth Firefighter of the Year: Firefighter Benedict Diehl-Noble (Vergennes).
- Life membership: Edgar "Bub" Crosby Jr. (Bridport).
- Life membership: Chief Bill Wager (Ferrisburgh).
- Honorary life membership: Donald "Danny" Uhler (Saranac Lake, N.Y.).
- Friend of the ACFA: Bristol American Legion Post 19.

The Legion received the Friend of the ACFA award in recognition of the support it has shown the Bristol Fire Department over the years, particularly in offering the department a space to hold meetings after the town's former fire house was deemed unfit for use.

"For the first time in our history, the members of the Bristol Fire Department were without a home. That fear and uncertainty that so many of us felt and experienced was quickly relieved by Post 19 when they opened their doors and shared all they had to give with the fire department," the nomination letter read.

Also at the meeting, the association presented Weybridge Fire Chief and former ACFA

President Bill Sinks with the President's Award in recognition of his 22 years of service on the Weybridge department. Sinks plans to temporarily step away from his post to spend more time with family.

"At this time, we're in a great position," he told the crowd. "I feel very thankful to have represented you during my presidency. I encourage you all to work together in any capacity that you can to keep this association going. In my mind, it's the best association in the state."

During the meeting, the ACFA's 52nd Regional Fire School, which will be held at Middlebury Union Middle School on April 20-21, was dedicated to former Orwell Fire Chief Louis Hall.

"This momentous occasion stands as a tribute to Chief Hall's remarkable 36-year tenure at the helm of the Orwell Fire Department, where he exemplified unwavering commitment, courage and an impassioned drive for progress," ACFA Training Committee member AnnaJo Smith told those in attendance.

As the meeting came to a close, the sound of cheerful applause was replaced with silence while the room stood for the Retirement of the Colors. ACFA members grabbed their coats, exchanged parting words with their neighbors, and so concluded another busy year of serving Addison County.

## Police asking for leads on suspicious activity

BRISTOL — Bristol police are seeking more information about recent reports of suspicious activity in the area of Lower Notch Road and Many Waters Way. Police on Jan. 16 received a report of someone attempting to open a locked door in that area.

The individual was seen driving a small white van and didn't appear to be affiliated with a delivery company, according to police. Anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to contact Bristol police at 802-453-2533.

Between Jan. 7 and 20, Bristol police completed 27 car patrols, conducted eight traffic stops and checked security at Mount Abraham Union High School 14 times, at Bristol Elementary School 10 times and at local businesses 11 times.

Police also processed nine fingerprint requests, helped one individual gain access into their locked vehicle and responded to one false alarm that appeared to be activated by a malfunction.

In other recent activity, Bristol police:

- On Jan. 7, told vehicle owners to remove their cars and trucks from Main Street to allow for snow removal.
- On Jan. 8, checked on a person sleeping in a car on Pine Street. Police did not observe any issues or concerns.
- On Jan. 9, received a complaint of a vehicle passing a bus with its red lights activated on Jan. 5 on Route 116 South.
- On Jan. 9, deployed traffic cones on Stoney Hill Road while a disabled tractor-trailer was removed from the area.

## Bristol

### Police Log

- On Jan. 9, responded to a minor two-car crash on Main Street.
- On Jan. 9, responded to a call about the use of a bad check at a Main Street location. An investigation is ongoing.
- On Jan. 9, checked on a bus in the Mount Abe parking lot that was reported to have its lights activated but no one inside.
- On Jan. 11, received a report of a lost dog on Route 116 South.
- On Jan. 13, received a report of a loud "pop" and flash of blue light on West Street. Police determined the incident was caused by a transformer malfunction.
- On Jan. 15, responded to a family fight on Main Street. Police cited Christopher Roy, 29, of Bristol, and April Brennen, 41, of Bristol, for domestic assault.
- On Jan. 15, received a report of someone trying to get into an occupied vehicle on Prince Lane. An investigation is ongoing.
- On Jan. 16, responded to Main Street for a report of someone driving a silver Audi unsafely. An investigation is ongoing, and anyone who witnessed the incident is encouraged to contact Bristol police.
- On Jan. 19, received a report of loose horses on Carlstrom Road, which were retrieved by their owner shortly after.
- On Jan. 20, received a dog found at large on Route 116 South. Police contacted the owner and returned the dog.

## Brooklyn, N.Y. man called police to turn himself in

ADDISON COUNTY — At a few minutes after midnight this past Friday, Jan. 19, Vermont State Police responded to a 911 call from Maleek Drummond, 42, of Brooklyn, N.Y., who was calling from the Ferrisburgh Park & Ride at the confluence of Routes 7 and 22A. Drummond called to turn himself in to police, who had a warrant for his arrest stemming from 2013 charges for possession of heroin and marijuana in Addison County.

Troopers took Drummond to the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility in Rutland for lack of \$10,000 bail.

Also, troopers on Jan. 18 cited Randy J. Gorton, 52, of Bristol for leaving the scene of an accident and driving without a required ignition interlock device. The citations relate to a Jan. 4, when state police received a report of a motor vehicle accident near Route 116 and Carlstrom Road in Bristol at around 10:13 p.m. By investigating police identified Gorton as the driver of the car that had crashed and left the scene. He is due to answer the charges in court on March 18.

Separately, on Jan. 22 at 8:19

## Vt. State

### Police Log

p.m., state police responded to the crash of a commercial tractor-trailer on Route 17 West near the intersection with Gage Road in Addison. Police said that the Volvo VNL760 driven by Arjun Singh, 49, of East Greenbush, N.Y., was headed west on Route 17 when it left the roadway off the westbound side, struck a utility pole and came to a halt on the eastbound shoulder. Singh was not hurt, and the truck sustained minor damage. Route 17 was closed for about three hours while the truck was removed from the roadway.

Troopers were assisted on scene by the Addison Fire Department and MiddState Towing.

On Monday shortly before noon, police closed Forest Dale Road near Churchill Road and Route 73 in Brandon due to a motor vehicle crash. Police reopened the road after less than an hour. Police did not provide any information on the crash.

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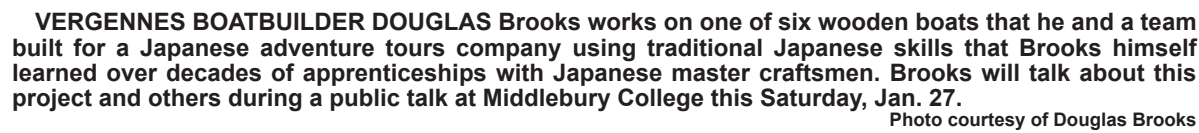
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# Middlebury

*(Continued from Page 1A)*  
March 4 annual meeting.  
Middlebury’s local option tax imposes a 1% tax on rooms, meals, sales and alcohol. The money is earmarked for debt service and maintenance of the Cross Street Bridge. That fund is raising considerably more than is needed for the bridge obligations, so the town each year has been using some of the surplus to pay down infrastructure-related expenses, thus mitigating the tax impact in the municipal budget.

The \$133,450 transfer would be used for the FY’25 debt service on work recently done to a former wastewater treatment building that’s been repurposed for police department and other municipal uses. That debt service would have fallen on local taxpayers, absent the transfer.

Middlebury selectboard Chair Brian Carpenter applauded the transfer.

“Kathleen’s proposal tracks with our historic use of the LOT funds and it still leaves us ample money in the coffers for any proposed or future needs,” Carpenter said. “It’s not an overuse of the funds, either, given we don’t know what’s going to happen with a number of other things.”

In all, the town is proposing to apply \$1.3 million in local option tax surplus to the FY’25 budget. That’s around \$200,000 more than this year. The LOT fund has \$3.1 million in accrued funds, according to Ramsay.

Major drivers in the FY’25 budget proposal include a contracted \$135,661 bump in municipal employees’ wages; a \$60,500 surge in employee benefits, with health insurance costs being a major culprit; a combined \$83,305 increase in equipment maintenance and replacement expenses; and a \$34,016 bump (from the current \$84,960 to \$118,976) in the town’s service contract with Middlebury Regional Emergency Medical Services.

The board also OK’d a 2024 town meeting warning featuring eight articles. Five of them will be fielded at the annual meeting on Monday, March 4, at 7 p.m. in the Middlebury Union High School auditorium at 73 Charles Ave. Chief among those will be the FY’25 municipal spending plan and the proposed transfer of local option tax surplus.

On Tuesday, March 5, voters will head to the polls to take care of the rest of their Town Meeting Day business by Australian ballot: deciding local elections and two bond referenda. The election field will be known after the Monday, Jan. 29, filing deadline. The two bond requests are for:

- Up to \$1.5 million to continue major upgrades to South Street, including installing new sewer mains, sewer service lines, sewer manholes, stormwater mains, stormwater catch basin structures, yard drains, new concrete curb, stormwater treatment systems (as possible), traffic calming bump-outs and final paving.
- Up to \$1.2 million for the complete reconstruction of Bakery Lane, including reconstruction of the roadway to accommodate vehicular and pedestrian traffic while also addressing ongoing drainage issues, and the replacement of the existing water main, gravity sewer system, and pressure force main.

Officials stressed that considerable state and/or federal aid is already in the bank for the Bakery Lane and South Street projects, and Middlebury’s capital fund is expected to cover the balance of those two projects.

Notably missing from the ballot is a \$26 million referendum for a major overhaul of the town’s wastewater treatment plant at 243 Industrial Ave. Town officials initially planned to hold this bond vote on March 5, but recently postponed it until the Nov. 5 general election.

## New housing marks progress

**By JOHN FLOWERS**  
MIDDLEBURY — Officials of Summit Properties, one of the largest housing proposals in the history of Middlebury, gave the town selectboard a progress report on Tuesday.

At a regularly scheduled meeting, members of the Middlebury selectboard unanimously endorsed Summit’s effort to secure Vermont Housing Finance Agency support for the mixed-income, rental housing component of a 218-unit, mixed-income housing project slated for 35 acres of Middlebury College-owned land off Seminary Street Extension.

Summit COO Zeke Davisson told the selectboard the Middlebury Development Review Board has approved preliminary plans for the planned Stonecrop Meadows neighborhood, which now allows the company to prepare a final plan that’ll also need a DRB nod, in addition to other permits.

Phase one of Stonecrop Meadows calls for 45 units contained in 16 duplexes and 29 townhomes. Phase two: 36 rental units. Phase three: 27 units contained in “triplexes,” townhouses and “flats.” Phase four: 48 multifamily units. Phase five: 62 units of senior housing.

Phase one involves for-sale homes, whereas phase two calls for rental units, according to Davisson. If all proceeds according to plan, Summit officials hope to break ground this summer and fall on infrastructure to serve the future development, which “would set us up to begin delivering for-sale homes early in 2025, and also allow us to break ground on the rental project, phase two, early in 2025,” according to Davisson.

In other Stonecrop news, Davisson said he and his colleagues are hoping to offer geothermal heating and cooling systems for the rental units.

## Midd board moves on town issues

**By JOHN FLOWERS**  
MIDDLEBURY — In addition to OK’ing a town meeting warning, the Middlebury selectboard on Tuesday also:

- Picked Amanda Werner to fill a vacancy on the Means Woods Board of Trustees, and reappointed Richard O. McKerr to represent the town on the Addison County Economic Development Corp. board.
- Agreed to pursue a buy-out of a 1.7-acre parcel that borders the Middlebury River, at 52 Ossie Road. Emmalee Cherington, Middlebury’s director of public works planning, explained the property owner wants to sell, and the town can acquire the land at no cost to taxpayers. This is because the property is largely within the FEMA Special Flood

Hazard Area, meaning it’s a good candidate for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant program that defrays the costs of voluntary buyout proposals. That program requires a 25% match, which the state will cover, according to Cherington.

But before the town acquires the property, it will undergo a Brownfield Phase 1 review to ensure there’s no soil contamination, officials said.

Potential new uses for the property, according to Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay: A recreational park, nature reserves, cultivation, grazing, camping, or an unimproved unpaved parking lot. Under terms of state/federal assistance, the land can’t be developed.

# Tax impacts

*(Continued from Page 8A)*  
the proposed spending plan is expected to result in an increase of around \$350, or \$17.66%, for the approximately two-thirds of residents who pay education taxes based on their income.

Reen explained to board members that even if the district receives the 5% cap, MAUSD residents who pay education taxes based on the value of their home will still see a significant increase in their school taxes due to low CLAs in the district’s four member towns.

The CLA, or Common Level of Appraisal, is a ratio that the state uses to make adjustments when assessing education property taxes to make the level of taxation equal among all Vermont towns. If a town’s grand list (list of the value of all its properties) is less than 100 that indicates that fair market value for the properties is higher than the grand list values, so then the tax rate is increased.

Like other Addison County communities, MAUSD’s four member towns have seen a drop in their CLAs due to skyrocketing home prices and outdated property assessments.

Those low CLAs are expected to result in tax hikes in each of the district’s member towns, with homestead school tax rate increases ranging from 14 to 33 cents.

According to district officials’ estimates, the increases would be:

- Bristol, 33.3 cents, or an additional \$333 per \$100,000 of assessed home value.
- Monkton, 32.92 cents, or an additional \$329.20 per \$100,000.
- New Haven, 28.11 cents, or \$281.10 per \$100,000.
- Starksboro, 14.96 cents, or \$149.60 per \$100,000.

Reen told the board that the majority of the increase in school taxes is being driven by the drop in CLAs, rather than district spending.

“Looking at \$333 per \$100,000

(in Bristol) — of that \$333, just under \$90 is a result of the spending decisions that we’ve made that produce this budget. The rest is because of the drop in the CLA,” he explained.

Board members on Tuesday asked whether ongoing town reappraisals in Starksboro and New Haven have the potential to change the CLAs for those towns this year.

Reen said the answer is unclear.

“It’s a matter of timing; is it completed and submitted and whatever process that is to the right people in time for it to have an impact. So, the answer is maybe,” he said.

Board members are concerned about presenting the proposed budget to voters due to the significant tax implications.

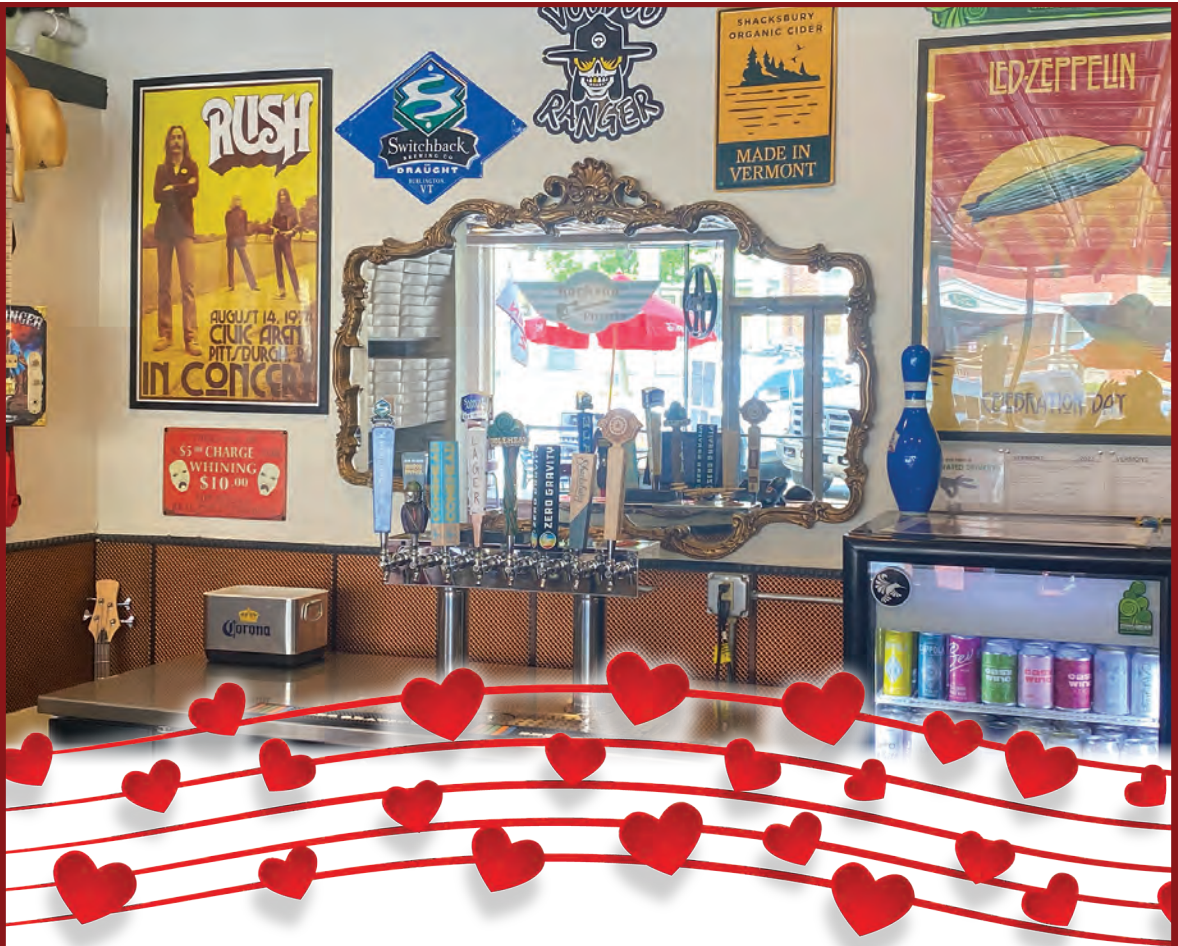
MAUSD board member Sarah LaPerle said she feels district officials should prepare for the proposed budget not being approved by voters in March.

“I think (the budget not passing) is something we need to be really, really honest with ourselves about,” she said. “That’s a really hard thing, to even convince people to understand what’s going on, and then to say, ‘here you go.’”

Reen noted that district officials face challenges in reducing the anticipated tax hike, as avoiding an increase in the homestead school tax rate before CLAs are applied would require major cuts and the resulting rate would still be pushed higher by low CLAs.

“We can cut \$1 million, put the budget out, it’s the exact same impact. Presumably, people would then still say no, and then we have to cut even more,” he said. “To make a dent in that, we’re probably pushing \$2 million, maybe plus.”

Board members on Tuesday ultimately agreed to put the proposed FY’25 spending plan out to voters and evaluate potential spending cuts, if need be, at a later date.



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# Spotlight on Vergennes

## City may apply for downtown grant

By ANDY KIRKALDY  
VERGENNES — The Vergennes City Council at its Jan. 9 meeting discussed, but did not yet approve, City Manager Ron Redmond’s recommendation that Vergennes apply for a 2024 Downtown Transportation Fund Grant.

The grant would fund improvements to the city green, signs for Phase II of the City’s Wayfinding Signage Program and new streetlights on Main Street in the Downtown District. That application was due on Feb. 19. A grant of what could be up to \$200,000 grant would require a 20% city match.

The situation is related to a 2020

Sales Tax Allocation Program award given to the city and to the Vergennes Grand Senior Living project. The original split for that funding was \$46,800 for the project owners and \$134,180 for improvements to the city green and downtown area, but it has been amended. The project owners are also willing to help with grant funding. Redmond is working with state officials and plans a presentation to clarify questions at the next council meeting.

In other business on Jan. 9, the city council:

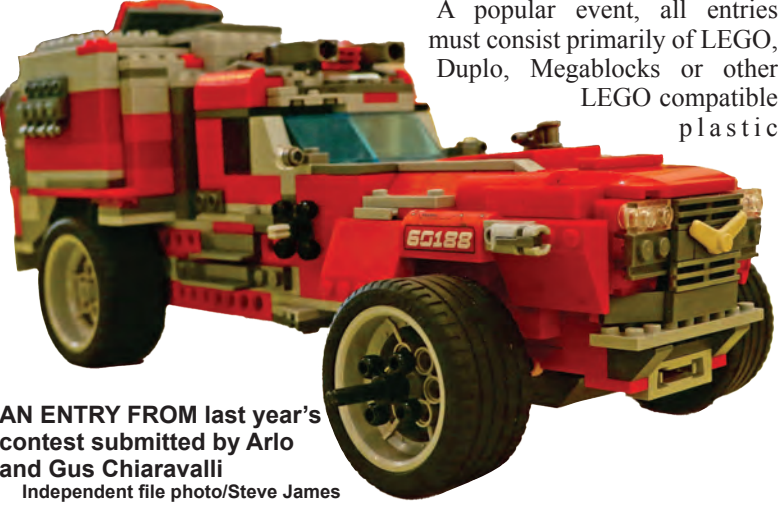
- Heard from Mayor Chris Bearor that he planned to meet with the selectboard chairs of Pantton and Waltham to talk

about ongoing problems being experienced by the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad, which has at times reportedly been unable to provide 24/7 coverage in recent months.

- Were told by Redmond representatives of the engineering company planning the city’s sewer system overhaul would provide a project update at the next council meeting.
- Heard a recommendation from Redmond that the New England Municipal Resource Center be hired to reassess city property.
- Appointed David Austin as the city’s new zoning administrator. See a full story online at tinyurl.com/AustinZoning.

## LEGO contest returns to Vergennes

VERGENNES — Bixby Memorial Free Library and the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vergennes



AN ENTRY FROM last year’s contest submitted by Arlo and Gus Chiaravalli  
Independent file photo/Steve James

will hold their 6th annual Lego Contest and Exhibit on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the library.

A popular event, all entries must consist primarily of LEGO, Duplo, Megablocks or other LEGO compatible plastic bricks and related pieces. They us be original creations, not based on LEGO-designed kits or instructions found online, in a magazine, etc. Each entry is limited to a maximum of 18x18 inches and must be accompanied by a short description.

All entries must be registered by Tuesday, Feb. 13. Entry drop-off will be held at the Bixby from 3-7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22. Doors open t 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24 for contest viewing.

Anyone having questions or not having access to materials can reach out to Anthony Sawyer at [anthony@bgcvergenne.org](mailto:anthony@bgcvergenne.org) or Mary Neffinger at [mary.neffinger@bixbylibrary.org](mailto:mary.neffinger@bixbylibrary.org).

bricks and related pieces. They us be original creations, not based on LEGO-designed kits or instructions found online, in a magazine, etc. Each entry is limited to a maximum of 18x18 inches and must be accompanied by a short description.

All entries must be registered by Tuesday, Feb. 13. Entry drop-off will be held at the Bixby from 3-7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22. Doors open t 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24 for contest viewing.

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## Straub wins big with her chickens

### Ferrisburgh teen receives accolades at regional poultry show

FERRISBURGH — There are quite a few people in Addison County who raise chickens for both eggs and meat, but not many are involved in the Poultry judging circuit. Enter Raina Straub of Ferrisburgh. Straub recently attended the Northeastern Poultry Congress in Springfield, Mass., and came home with some impressive prizes. The congress attracted nearly 3,000 birds entered by people of all backgrounds — breeders, youth, backyard farmers, 4-H’ers.

The 18-year-old Straub competed in five different youth, (age group: 15- to 18-year-olds) divisions, including:

- Poultry Showmanship, where Showmen bring their chicken and perform health checks and are quizzed about poultry by a judge.
- “Youth Skill-a-thon”, where entrants are tested on identifying 10 chickens (Class, Breed, Variety of each bird), and answer more than 60 questions on health, breed info, etc., on poultry — including waterfowl. This quiz also included identifying anatomy.
- Poultry Judging Competition, rating birds and eggs
- Chicken “Agility Test” where birds run through a timed obstacle course.
- The “Open” or adult level bird exhibition for judging. (Straub entered two birds).

She and her bird “Celine,” a black and white Spangled Ko Shamo, got 2nd place in Showmanship, 1st place in Youth Skill-a-Thon, 1st place in Poultry Judging Competition, and 1st place in the Agility Test. She received ribbons and the overall “Top Gun” belt buckle for senior division (15-to18-year-olds) for the high point award in four competitions and also showing birds.

The two additional chickens she showed in the exhibition got

placings: Best of Variety and Reserve Best of Variety.

Straub got her start in 4-H when she was seven years old and was in the Poultry Project for 10 years. While no longer in 4-H, Straub continues to raise chickens and attend fairs and poultry shows. One of her chickens also won

Grand Champion Best in Show at the Addison County Fair and Field Days last summer. She also received a first-place ribbon in Poultry Showmanship at the Addison County Fair.

“Raina loves birds of all kinds and especially loves chickens,” say her mother, Rebecca Edelman.



RAINA STRAUB DISPLAYS the array of ribbons she recently won at the Northeastern Poultry Congress in Springfield, Mass. Her award-winning hen “Celine,” a black and white Spangled Ko Shamo, proudly sits on her arm.  
Photo courtesy of Rebecca Edelman

## Ferrisburgh to enhance green with sculpture

FERRISBURGH — The Friends of Ferrisburgh was recently awarded a \$4,000 Animating Infrastructure Grant from the Vermont Arts Council to design an art sculpture with community input. The organization, in partnership with the Town of Ferrisburgh, plans to install the sculpture on the Town Green in front of the Union Meeting Hall in the near future.

“The grant is an opportunity to bring the community together to imagine not only what the art piece could be but have a larger conversation about the town’s newly designated Village Center,” Friends of Ferrisburgh board member Richard Morin. “Art can be a powerful tool for people to stop and think what spaces can and should be.”

The mission of the non-profit, which was formed in early 2023, is to champion and celebrate the community of Ferrisburgh. The non-profit also runs the Visit Ferrisburgh website.

Beginning in early 2024 the Friends of Ferrisburgh will host a number of community forums to gather input on the proposed design. The organization has partnered with Ferrisburgh artist Keith Wagner for this project.

“I look forward to working with the community of passionate and committed people. Art integrates all of us and can further unify a town, its identity and, in this case, sense of place,” Wagner said.

In addition to being a noted metal sculptor, Wagner is an award-winning landscape architect who has been involved in redesigning iconic downtown areas, such as Burlington City Hall Park.

“We are excited to bring his incredible wealth of knowledge, artistic abilities and love of Ferrisburgh to this project,” Morin said.

In addition to the ongoing efforts to restore the anchor of the green, the Union Meeting Hall, the town is moving forward with plans to install crosswalks and sidewalks

in the center. Ferrisburgh was also recently granted a designated Village Center status, which will open up additional funding opportunities to support these ongoing efforts.

“There is a lot of momentum into making the Town Center more vibrant, and this project will help to move those efforts forward,” Friends of Ferrisburgh President Ashley LaFlam said.

Once a design for the art sculpture is finalized, the organization plans to apply for additional state funding to fabricate and install the sculpture.

“We are excited to take an underused space and make it a showpiece for our community,” LaFlam added.

This project is supported in part by the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts and in partnership with the Friends of the Union Meeting Hall and the town of Ferrisburgh. Send questions to [friendsofferrisburgh@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofferrisburgh@gmail.com).

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### ADDISON COUNTY

## School News

**Benjamin Curtis** of Vergennes was named to the dean’s honor list at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute for the fall 2023 semester. He is a senior majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

**Jack Wyman** of Vergennes was named to Russell Sage College’s fall 2023 dean’s list. Wyman was among the 400 students named to the list.

### Pet of the week

Send us your pet!  
[news@addisonindependent.com](mailto:news@addisonindependent.com)



# Adventures

*(Continued from Page 1A)*

members check out some of those local sites, as well as connect with more of their neighbors. The initiative is called “Addison County Adventures,” and it features several self-guided hikes, scavenger hunts and other activities intended to engage residents with outdoor and community spaces throughout the county.

The young people behind the effort are hopeful the program will help residents and visitors discover more of their surrounding community, as well as encourage them to create new adventures that highlight their favorite parts of the county.

“One of the goals of this program is to have a diverse group of people from within the community create adventures that have different meanings to them and different goals to make it so the database of adventures we have is encompassing of all of the really cool things there are to do in Addison County,” explained Justin

Lucas, a Middlebury College senior who helped develop the program.

While Addison County Adventures, or ACA, is aimed at getting residents out into the community, the program itself can be accessed online through the Ilsley’s website (ilsleypubliclibrary.org). On the ACA webpage, adventurers will find a collection of expeditions divided into four categories: Nature & Ecology, History & Culture, Treasure Hunt, and Community Building.

The Addison County Adventures site currently features five adventures, each one prompting community members to explore a different part of the county. A “Spirit-in-Nature Adventure” guides explorers through two miles of the Ripton trails, while a scavenger hunt through downtown Vergennes encourages history buffs to dive into the Little City’s past.

“Addison County adventures are

self-guided tours, scavenger hunts and expeditions intended to engage Addison County residents and visitors with their natural environment and Vermont cultural landscape,” reads a narrative on the program’s website. “These place-based activities are intended to be both fun and intellectually stimulating and are open to people of all ages.”

Each adventure includes instructions, detailing precise directions to the activity’s starting point, recommended gear to bring along and other tips for prospective adventurers. Featured activities are accessible via Tri-Valley Transit bus routes and include information on how to locate adventures using public transportation.

**COLLABORATIVE EFFORT**

The new program takes inspiration from Valley Quest, a series of self-guided outdoor treasure hunts through the Upper Connecticut River Valley area of New Hampshire and Vermont. Valley Quest is an

offering of the Hartford nonprofit Vital Communities, which aims to encourage civic, environmental and economic vitality in the Upper Valley.

This past fall semester, Lucas and fellow Middlebury College students Zoe Crute, Kyle Hooker and Emily Power were tasked with recreating the Valley Quest program in Addison County as part of their work with the college’s Community Engaged Practicum. Through the course, students collaborate with local partners and organizations on projects to meet that engagement goal.

To develop Addison County Adventures, the team of students worked with Ilsley Adult Librarian Renee Ursitti, as well as partners at Tri-Valley Transit, local Vermont Department of Health offices and several other organizations in the area.

Hooker said students’ collaboration with community partners was aimed at developing a sustainable program with the potential to bring community members together. He said they saw a lack of community connection and isolation, especially heightened since the pandemic among different demographics

“That was the main thing that we were trying to address,” Hooker said. “Our program is aiming to bring people together to do our adventures with friends and family and share them with each other.”

Students are hopeful the program will also help community members connect with local nonprofits and other organizations in the area.

“One thing that I was trying to do with this program was make sure that those organizations heard about it and could become involved and share what they were doing with the local community,” Lucas explained. “To make it so that (community members) can do an activity where they see what the organization is doing, and maybe that will lead to some interest and to volunteering for that organization in the future.”



**MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS** explore Ripton’s Spirit-in-Nature trails, one of several adventures featured in the new Addison County Adventures program. The offering is intended to connect community members with people and places around the county. Photo courtesy of Justin Lucas

# By the way

*(Continued from Page 1A)*

ranged from 1.5% in Woodstock to 3.3% in Derby. The statewide unemployment rate for December was 2.2%, an increase of one-tenth of a percent from the prior month’s estimate. The national jobless rate in December was 3.7%.

Are you helpful with a hammer? Skilled in sewing? Electric with electronics? The Addison County Solid Waste Management District is planning its next “Repair Fair” for April 20, and is recruiting talented fixers to participate. The Repair Fair is a free, family-friendly community event focused on building a community of repair in Addison County. Volunteer fixers help repair broken items brought by participants. Skills in

**particular demand: electronics or small appliance repair, sewing, mending, woodworking, bike repair and more. Don’t know how to fix items but still want to be involved? Additional volunteers can help staff the event and direct participants. All volunteers will be provided with tools if needed and refreshments. Sign up to volunteer at tinyurl.com/48p9eek9. Questions? Email emily@acswwmd.org or call Emily at 802-388-2333.**

Elderly Services Inc. and the Vermont Folklife Center, both based in Middlebury, are among 17 organizations statewide that will share in a total of \$72,100 through the Vermont Arts Council’s Creative Aging grant program, which supports arts-related

instruction, opportunities for social engagement, and community building for older adults. Elderly Services will receive \$3,500 to support a partnership among its senior daycare program, Town Hall Theater and Middlebury Acting Company, in which participants will meet weekly to rehearse and perform a play with script in hand. The Folklife Center is in line for \$4,700 to support a weekly memoir writing group for residents of Middlebury’s Eastview and Residence at Otter Creek retirement communities. “You’re never too old to learn something new, and it’s never too late to embrace your creativity,” noted Arts Council Executive Director Susan Evans McClure. To learn more about Creative Aging Grants visit tinyurl.com/mud44633.

## GROWING PROGRAM

Students have created a handful of activities to get Addison County Adventures up and running. Though, the hope is for county residents and visitors to develop their own adventures through the program, Lucas said.

“My biggest goal was to make it clear that anyone can create adventures,” he explained.

Those interested in contributing an adventure to the program can find a “fillable adventure design template” on the ACA website.

Ursitti said community members are asked to include basic information about the activity’s location and characteristics, but otherwise have free rein over the adventures they submit.

“It’s pretty wide open,” she said. “Students did an excellent job on the template and saying, ‘we really need to have this basis of

information,’ and people can get very creative after that.”

Ursitti said she’s looking forward to having more community members get involved in growing and operating the program.

As Addison County Adventures gets up and running, she said she’s also hopeful it will help highlight and share the various resources the county has to offer.

“For me the goal is for folks to realize all of the wonderful resources we have in our community throughout the whole county,” she said. “These (adventure) categories we have really say it all; we have nature and ecology, we have history and culture, we have ways to connect and build community, and any way the library can help bring the community together, we’re excited to.”

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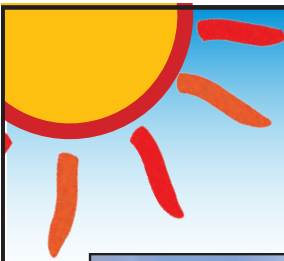
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## Lincoln, VT Homeowner Recommends Bristol Electronics



### Phase I - 2014

For a long time I had been thinking of going solar, but had not pursued it until I talked with a neighbor who just had hers installed. I contracted with her installer and soon had panels on the roof that supplied all of my household electricity, with some extra capacity to supply an on-demand electric water heater I soon put in. I loved not hearing the propane boiler firing up in the summer to keep domestic water hot for the shower I'd be taking 16 hours later. Thrilled with the installation and not having an electric bill. I even splurged and bought my first ever noisy window A/C.

### Phase II - 2016

While my primary heat source has been a woodstove and later a pellet stove, the propane boiler served as my backup. On a December road trip to PEI, I discovered the 25+ year old propane boiler died on me. I'm lucky to have had a monitoring system to notice this and awesome neighbors to feed pellets until I got back. Rather than buy another fossil fuel burning device, I decided to have heat pumps installed. At the time Bristol Electronics didn't install those, but they were very competitive as I shopped around for additional solar capacity. So in February 2016 they were on the roof installing panels that would provide enough electricity year round to supply my heating needs. And, since the heat pump also cools the house quietly on the hottest days, I sold the window unit. Maybe I'm just getting older, but there seems to be more and more of those hot days.

### Phase III - 2019

Since I commute from So. Lincoln to Burlington, I've always felt guilty about all of the CO2 I've been emitting to get to work. I still have 7-10 years before I can even think about retiring, so I decided to make the investment and buy an electric car. And part of that investment was to buy the additional solar capacity to power it. I didn't think twice about having Bristol Electronics do it. My roof was running out of space, and since it has a low pitch, snow coverage was an issue for the last two years. This time I worked with Chris, Stephen, Dave and Trevor to have a ground mount installed that will be easy to clear the snow off of. They did amazing work, despite weather issues, and were actually able to make some long overdue landscaping improvements during the process. I couldn't be happier with my experience with this team!

~ Paul Webb, Lincoln, VT



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# Memory loss

*(Continued from Page 1A)*

over and look at my calendar because I couldn't remember where I was driving to," Smith said during a recent interview. "It was terrifying."

She began telling her primary care provider of her symptoms, which led to numerous checkups and blood draws.

"I was misdiagnosed every three months for two years," she revealed during testimony before the Vermont House's Human Services Committee on April 6, 2022.

A steady diet of new diagnoses and medications finally led to a medical conclusion: She was suffering from Younger Onset Alzheimer's, a memory loss disease afflicting folks younger than 65.

Smith, an exceptionally smart, well-read Middlebury College graduate who worked many years locally as a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, had suddenly lost her independence and many basic skills most people take for granted.

"Emotionally this diagnosis is devastating," she said. "It feels like each time I come to accept a loss, another one follows. Mourning loss is my constant. I had to cope with losing my memories and functional short-term memory. Losing my ability to handle my finances. Losing the career I loved. Losing my retirement dreams. I lost my ability to read books because I can no longer follow or retain a plot. I can't cook alone. I am losing the perception of my vision, so now I will lose my ability to drive even earlier than otherwise expected."

Smith has sadly joined a growing group of Vermonters living with Alzheimer's and a variety of other memory-loss ailments.

According to the Vermont chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, there were an estimated 13,000 Vermonters living with Alzheimer's in 2020, a figure expected to rise by 30.8%, to 17,000, by 2025. In 2017, there were 543 Vermont Alzheimer's patients in hospice care, while 315 Vermonters died from the disease

in 2019.

One in three seniors in this country dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia.

While her progressing illness took her career and her memories, Smith decided to fight back. Her powerful testimony two years ago led to Act 113, which among other things requires the state's Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders to produce an assessment and state plan to help overcome the impacts of Alzheimer's disease.

"You can't destigmatize a condition if you don't acknowledge it exists," said Smith, who has become a sought-out spokesperson for memory-loss initiatives at the state and national levels.

She wants to see Alzheimer's get more attention, and more help directed at those affected by it.

Thankfully, Smith has many allies here in Addison County, including folks at the Department of Health office, Middlebury's two retirement communities, various nonprofits serving the elderly — and at Ilsley Public Library.

Renee Ursitti, Ilsley's adult services librarian, looked into installing a "memory box" at the library. A memory box contains items designed to stir recollections within those afflicted with memory-loss ailments.

"But as I looked into it ... I realized running a memory box as a 'one-off' probably wasn't going to do very much," said Ursitti, who has a grandfather who succumbed to Alzheimer's.

Then, last summer, Suzanne Bennett — the sales and marketing manager at the Eastview at Middlebury retirement community — reached out to Ursitti with the idea of getting Middlebury designated a Dementia Friendly Community, or DFC. A DFC, according to the Alzheimer's Association, is "a city, town or village where people with dementia are understood, respected and supported."

A Dementia Friendly Community can display its support by endorsing programs and services that help those with memory loss



MIDDLEBURY RESIDENT PAMELA Smith, left, chats with a group that includes Nina Bacon, center, and At Home Senior Care Dementia Specialist Donna Lalumiere, right, during last Thursday's debut Memory Café at Middlebury's Ilsley Library. The monthly meetings provide information and socialization opportunities for members of the county's memory loss community.

Independent photo/John Flowers

better navigate the community and retain their independence as long as possible.

**MEMORY CAFÉ**

"What became super clear to me, at our first meeting, was a sense that a community for folks with memory issues is so important, and it's missing here in Middlebury and the wider Addison County area," Ursitti said.

So Ursitti, Bennett and other advocates will soon initiate the DFC process for Middlebury. In the meantime, they're creating amenities that dovetail with the DFC philosophy, including a series of "Memory Cafés," the first of which was held on Thursday, Jan. 18, at the Ilsley's community meeting room.

"Lots of people said, 'We've been wanting to run (a café), but we don't have the space,'" Ursitti said. "Well, the library has a room,

and here we are."

The cafés will include activities, discussion and one-on-one opportunities for the memory-loss community to learn and socialize. Organizers hope the monthly events catch on with all of those affected by memory loss afflictions, including patients and their families, advocates and municipal officials. Their efforts got a big boost last month when Ilsley screened the film "What It Feels Like to Have Alzheimer's," featuring Pamela Smith. More than 60 people attended that screening, which included three pauses for audience discussion.

"We'd also like to provide people with a foundation to create their own community," Ursitti said of the philosophy of neighbor helping neighbor.

Bennett was among the approximately 12 people at the

debut Memory Café. She said it was a few years ago that Eastview Executive Director Connie Leach jumpstarted the facility's effort to enhance services for the memory-loss community. Leach met with two Middlebury College neuroscience students who created a survey shared with the community at large, asking respondents if they thought Middlebury was dementia-friendly, and what kind of improvements the town could make.

Leach successfully applied for a \$1,500 grant through the Walter Cerf Foundation to plan ways of making Middlebury easier to navigate for those with memory loss.

Eastview and the Residence at Otter Creek each have 18 apartments for those with memory-loss residents.

"It's a big effort, with community partners across all

sectors," she said.

Bennett is pleased to see police, rescue, medical, transportation and municipal stakeholders, along with many others, rally around the effort. She looks forward to making progress, which for those suffering from memory loss can be measured in many ways. Just providing a place for folks to commiserate and take comfort is helping.

"The hardest part for me is watching what this disease is doing to my family," Smith told state lawmakers during her 2022 testimony.

"I became determined to have no one else suffer from the isolation we all seem to feel upon diagnosis."

Visit alz.org/vermont or call the 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900 for more information or any questions about Alzheimer's.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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## Commodores rally late past Tigers

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — With 5:20 to go in Saturday’s boys’ basketball game at Middlebury Union High School, the Tigers seemed to be on the way to their second win — they

led, 36-25.

But visiting Vergennes had other ideas.

VUHS clamped down in its man-to-man defense, and five Commodores scored in a game-

closing 18-0 run that gave them a 43-36 victory. They carried a 7-2 record heading into games at Fair Haven on Sunday and Enosburg on Tuesday (See boys’ basketball wrap).

What happened to change things, Commodore Tri-Captain Oakley Francis and Coach Eric LeBeau were asked?

Both pointed to subs coming in late in the third period and early in the fourth and holding their own to give the starters a physical and mental breather. Francis said they reminded the Commodores to move the basketball more patiently at one end and dig in at the other.

“The second string just came in and did their job wonderfully, and it gave us the momentum to come back in the fourth,” Francis said. “We ... were not playing our basketball. And we just all needed to slow down and play our style, which we did.”

LeBeau said the few minutes on the bench gave the starters a chance to reflect on what they needed to do “to get back to the basics” and not play at the Tigers’ quicker pace.

“They gave us a bump, the second string, but honestly having the five guys sit and just kind of center themselves and see the game and kind of relax ... I think

it was good for them,” LeBeau said. “When I sent them back in, they were a completely different basketball team. They were focused on the defensive end, and they were working the ball on offense.”

The better defense helped with the offense, he said, pointing to transition baskets as well as patience in the set offense.

“The harder we work on the defensive end, the more we get to work on the offensive end,” LeBeau said.

The good news for Coach Chris Altemose’s inexperienced Tigers is they were coming off their first win three days earlier, by 16 points over Missisquoi. He was also pleased the team held Division I Rutland to 52 points in the game before that.

“Defensively, we’ve been playing well. This is the third game in a row where I thought we made it really hard for our opponent. We’re doing a good job on the boards,” Altemose said.

But the offense remains a work in progress, Altemose said, he felt his team became tentative when Vergennes began to make its late run.

“It’s super disappointing to blow an 11-point lead in the

(See Hoops, Page 4B)



VUHS FORWARD RYKER Mosehauer rejects this shot by MUHS guard Tassilo Luksch during Saturday’s game between the local rivals in Middlebury.

Independent photo/Steve James

COMMODORE LEVI COGGER, left, and Tiger Camden Whitlock dive for a loose ball as Commodore Oakley Francis looks on during Saturday’s game at MUHS, won by VUHS with a late surge.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Girls’ hockey drops pair of close contests, remains above .500

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Division II Middlebury Union High School girls’ hockey team dropped a pair of games to D-I foes last week and carried a 7-5 record into a scheduled Wednesday game at D-II Harwood.

The Tigers remained in fourth place in the D-II standings after last week’s results. They are next set to host D-I contender St. Albans on Saturday at 5 p.m.

On Jan. 17, host Spaulding improved to 5-4 by edging the Tigers, 2-1. The Tide got goals from Mary Yacavoni and Rylee Pelletier and a dozen saves from Gabrielle Bock. Ella Kozak scored for MUHS, with the first assist

going to Sawyer Witscher. Tiger goalie Ruby Hubbell made 26 saves.

On Friday, visiting Essex outlasted the Tigers, 3-2. The Hornets took a 2-0 lead on a first-period goal from Lucia Minadeo and a second-period strike from Malissa Erickson.

MUHS scored twice in the third period. Kenyon Connors found the net with an assist from Sedona Carrara, and Witscher added an unassisted goal. But Essex got the game-winner from Reese Holcomb.

Essex goalie Sophie Krauss made 14 saves, and the busier Hubbell stopped 26 shots.



MUHS FRESHMAN TENNY Laroche puts up a shot against the defense of T-Bird Lizi Bourdeau on Monday. Laroche led the Tigers with 11 points vs. Missisquoi.

Independent photo/Steve James

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The Vergennes Union High School wrestling team finished fourth at its own annual Commodore Invitational Tournament on Saturday, one place ahead of Mount Abraham.

Perennial state champion Mount Anthony won five weight classes and picked up the team victory with 210.5 points, well ahead of runner-up Springfield (116) and third-place Essex (114.5)

In finishing fourth with 107 points, VUHS received a first-place effort from Jamison Couture at 215 pounds and three second-place results: Tyerelle Lavoie at 165, Payton Lavoie at 175 and Isaac Preston at 190. Also, Stephen Kittredge took third at 120 by fighting back with four straight wins after losing his first match, avenging his lone loss in the consolation final.

Fourth-place Mount Abraham was sparked by Baxter Montgomery’s win at 106 pounds. Coaches also awarded Montgomery with the tournament’s sportsmanship award. Mount Abe’s Kaiden White also had a good day, taking second at 120, while Isayah Isham finished third at 138, and Lincoln Painter was third at 150.



VUHS 165-POUND WRESTLER Tyerelle Lavoie puts a hold on Springfield’s Dimitri Jasinski in their match at Saturday’s Commodore invitational. Lavoie pinned Jasinski and eventually took second in the weight class.

Independent photo/Steve James

Twenty teams attended in all. The top 10 scoring teams were; 1. Mt. Anthony, 210.5; 2. Springfield, 116;

3. Essex, 114.5; 4. VUHS, 107; 5. Mt. Abe, 102.5; 6. Peru, N.Y., 92; 7. Malone, N.Y., 83; 8. ConVal, N.H.,

81; 9. Mt. Mansfield, 71.5; and 10. Fair Haven, 70.

(See Wrestling, Page 2B)

## Shorthanded MUHS girls fall to T-Birds

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — Despite being shorthanded due to a key injury on Monday, the Middlebury Union High School girls’ basketball team showed grit while hanging with visiting Missisquoi until the late going, when the T-Birds pulled away for 45-29 victory.

The Tigers were down by just four at the half and then seven after three periods, but T-Bird seniors Kayla Larabee and Alexandra Bourdeau combined for 14 fourth-quarter points as Missisquoi put the game away to improve to 7-6.

Tiger Coach Eric Carter was happy with his 3-7 team’s play, especially given that Solstice Binder, the team’s leading scorer, rebounder and ballhandler, was limited to a half-dozen minutes. Carter said Binder apparently hurt herself the day before the game, and then after a first-quarter collision with a T-Bird forward, Binder rubbed her lower back and moved gingerly. She made only one brief appearance afterward.

“It was a great effort out of these girls. We get a great effort every day out of them. We’ve come together a lot,” Carter said.

But on Monday there was no

getting past Binder’s absence in important elements of the game. In the second quarter Missisquoi outrebounded them, 12-3, although the Tigers took good care of the ball. Then in the third quarter, the Tigers reversed the rebounding numbers, 13-4, largely thanks to the work of freshman forward Tenny Laroche, but turned the ball over 10 times, thus missing a chance to take the lead despite playing good defense in the period.

Carter thought the Tigers “really showed up” in a team effort, but said many had to assume new roles.

“Our key player was out, and that affected the rhythm of the whole rest of the team,” Carter said. “We had girls bringing the ball up who haven’t been bringing the ball up, and we had girls playing in the post who haven’t been playing in the post. So lucky for them (the T-Birds), and unlucky for us with Solstice going down.”

The Tigers took an 8-4 lead in the first five minutes before Binder had to leave. Binder scored twice and assisted two Laroche hoops in that stretch. But then MVU’s Larabee scored five straight points, and when senior post player Jaylynn Langlois hit inside, the T-Birds led,

11-8, after one period.

The Tigers played well in the second period, except for shooting accuracy. Their 2-3 zone held Missisquoi to eight points, four by forward Lizi Bourdeau, but managed only seven: two Laroche

free throws, a transition bucket set up by freshman point guard Isabel Quinn, a free throw by junior Lexi Whitney, and a jumper from sophomore Skylar Choiniere. The upshot: The T-Birds led at the half,

(See Basketball, Page 3B)



TIGER JUNIOR KASSIDY Brown drives into the lane while Missisquoi’s Alexandra Bourdeau defends during Monday’s game at MUHS.

Independent photo/Steve James



# Panther teams enjoy solid week

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — Overall it wasn't a bad week for Middlebury College athletic teams, as women's basketball picked up a big NESCAC victory, men's hockey earned a home win and tie, women's hockey took two out of three, and men's basketball split two games.

**Women's Basketball**

The women's basketball team blew out host NESCAC foe Williams, 84-43, on Saturday in its only game. The Panthers improved to 12-6 overall and 4-1 in league play, good for third place in the league.

The game at Williams was tied at 15-15 after the first period, but the Panthers outscored the Ephs by 23-4 in the second quarter and 23-7 in the third to take control.

Alexa Mustafaj (33 points), Calie Messina (15 points, 10 rebounds, seven steals and four assists), Kate Tornwini (10 points) and Keeley Baglio (nine points) did most of the statistical damage for the Panthers.

Ariana Gerig (18 points) and Tatum Leuenberger (16 points) accounted for most of the Eph offense.

**Men's Hockey**

The men's hockey team earned a home win and tie. The Panthers are 4-8-4 overall, 2-5-2 NESCAC.

On Friday, Middlebury defeated visiting Colby, 4-1, taking charge with a three-goal second period against the Mules (5-8-3, 2-6-3 NESCAC).

Middlebury opened the scoring on a power play with 4:59 gone in the first period, when Wyatt Pastor tipped in an Andrew Seaman shot.

Jin Lee started the Panther second-period surge at the 8:29 mark. Lee took a pass from Paddy Bogart, went from left to right across the crease and tucked it home.

The Panthers made it 4-0 with two goals in the final 3:07. Nolan Moore rifled a shot from the left dot that pinged off the right post and into the net, and Tucker Lamb lifted the puck over Colby goalie Andy Beran after taking a pass from Pastor.

The Mules' Jake MacDonald scored on a power play at 8:39 of the final period. Panther goalie Jake Horoho made 28 saves, while Beran stopped 11 shots.

On Saturday, the Panthers and visiting Bowdoin (10-4-3, 6-2-3) tied, 2-2. Bowdoin's Jesse Lycan notched the only first-period goal, on a power play at 13:54.

The Panthers scored twice in the second period to take the lead. Mack Revy equalized on a power-play goal at 3:26, with Lee and Andrej Hromic assisting. At 13:31, Dante Palumbo made it 2-1, with assists from Revy and Bobby May.

Polar Bear Isaac Abbot knotted

the score late in the second period.

Middlebury outshot Bowdoin, 28-19, with Horoho making 17 saves and Polar Bear goalie Alex Kozic making 26.

**Women's Hockey**

The Middlebury women's ice hockey team, ranked No. 6 in NCAA Division III, is 8-3-3 after two weekend wins at Bowdoin and a setback at Plattsburgh on Tuesday. The Panthers have taken over first place in NESCAC with a 5-1-2 league record.

On Friday at Bowdoin, the Panthers prevailed, 3-1. They scored first with 17.3 seconds remaining in the first period, when Avery McNerny tucked home the rebound of a Cat Appleyard shot off the right pipe.

Middlebury made it 2-0 with 7:05 gone in the third period, when Appleyard shoveled in a loose puck. Bowdoin broke through at 11:20, when Abigail Ainley wristed a shot through traffic. Middlebury answered on a power play 34 seconds later, when McNerny tipped in an Appleyard deflection of a Cece Ziegler a shot from the point.

Middlebury goalie Sophia Merageas made 31 saves, and Bowdoin's Sally Solotaroff-Webber made 22.

On Saturday, the Panthers completed their sweep of the 7-8-2 Polar Bears with a 2-1 victory that was Coach Bill Mandigo's 650th.

Kate Flynn gave Middlebury the lead 4:50 into the second period. McNerny picked up the puck in the Panther end, skated up the ice and set up Flynn's one-timer from the slot.

Julia Johnson made it 2-0 at 17:17 of the middle period. Her shot was blocked by a defender, but Johnson picked up the rebound and her shot from the right point went in.

Bowdoin made it 2-1 on a power play at 13:49 of the third period, when Ainley poked in a rebound.

Panther goalie Sophia Will made 28 saves, while Bowdoin goalie Abby Matusovich made 29 saves.

On Tuesday, host No. 3 Plattsburgh (15-2-1) edged Middlebury, 2-1, as the Cardinals picked up their second win of the winter over the Panthers, both on their home ice.

All three goals were scored in the second period. Plattsburgh moved ahead at 4:54, when Zsafia Pazmandi tucked a backhand inside the left pipe on a two-on-one break. The Cardinals made it 2-0 with 1:47 remaining in the frame when Ivy Boric blasted in a one-timer from the right circle.

Middlebury's Molly MacQueen responded just a minute later. Cece Ziegler ripped a shot through traffic that fell to MacQueen in front of the net, and she slipped a backhand home.

Lilla Nease made 20 saves for Plattsburgh, and Merageas stopped 28 shots for the Panthers.

**Men's Basketball**

The men's basketball team remained at .500 (9-9), but dropped in the league standings as Panthers won a non-league game, but lost a NESCAC contest to drop into fifth place with a 3-2 league mark.

On Jan. 17, the Panthers went on a 12-0 second-half run to put away pesky visitor Johnson State in an 80-70 win. The Badgers cut what had been an 11-point first-half Middlebury lead to 58-56 with just under 13 minutes to go, but Middlebury held them scoreless for the next 5:09 and led by as many as 14 points down the stretch.

Noah Osher led the Panthers with 23 points, while Lamine Cisse contributed career highs of 20 points, nine rebounds and six assists. Tristan Joseph (18 points and four steals) and Evan Flaks (10) also scored in double figures, and David Brennan grabbed 14 rebounds. Raymond Baka led the 2-15 Badgers with 23 points.

On Saturday, Williams (14-4, 5-0 NESCAC) took over first place in the league with a 91-82 win over the host Panthers. After a close first half, the teams traded the lead early in the second half. Four Panthers scored in an 8-4 run that put Middlebury up, 56-52, with 14:00 remaining.

But Williams answered with a 12-0 run and the Ephs were ahead to stay. The Panthers cut the lead to five with 22 seconds remaining, but the Ephs iced the game from the free-throw line. Alex Lee (22 points) and Hudson Hansen (19) led the Ephs, who snapped Middlebury's four-game winning streak.

Five Panthers scored in double figures: Osher (26), Joseph (14), Cisse (11), and Brennan (10, plus 11 rebounds) and Flaks (10, plus six assists).

**TRACK & FIELD**

The Panther track and field teams hosted the Middlebury Winter Classic this past weekend. The Middlebury women's squad won with 266.33 points, followed by UVM in second (213.33 points) and Amherst in third (65.33). Panthers earning first place were Sophie Nardelli (3,000), Mary Scott Robinson (shot put), Anna Krouse (400), Ciara Dale (600), Tatum Peskin (1,000), Michelle Louie (200), Lilly Wurtz (weight throw), and the 4X200 and 4X400 relay teams.

On the men's side, Middlebury accumulated 140.5 points and finished third overall, behind UVM (171) and RPI (156). Panther men's winners were Caleb Smith (heptathlon) and Sam Opawuyi (triple jump).



**EAGLE 106-POUNDER BAXTER** Montgomery goes airborne to wrap up Peru's Alyn Caden in their match at Saturday's Commodore Invitational; he edged Caden, 2-0. Montgomery, who earned the event's Sportsmanship Award, won the weight class.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Wrestling

(Continued from Page 1B)

The winners at each weight class and the local top-four place-winners and their records were:

- 106: 1. Baxter Montgomery, Mt. Abe, 3-0. Montgomery pinned Springfield's Seth Markwell in the final.
- 113: 1. Josh Stevens, Malone, 2-0.
- 120: 1. Duncan Harrington, Mt. Anthony, 4-0; 2. Kaiden White, Mt. Abe, 2-1; 3. Stephen Kittredge, VUHS, 4-1. Harrington defeated White by a technical fall in the final.
- 126: 1. Logan Davis, Mt. Anthony, 3-0.
- 132 1. Trey Lee, Fair Haven, 2-0. Lee was voted the event's Most Outstanding Wrestler.

- 138: 1. Sebastian Kruegar, Lamoille, 3-0; 3. Isayah Isham, Mt. Abe, 3-1.
- 144: 1. Shawn Gassaway, Mt. Anthony, 3-0.
- 150: 1. Spencer Boucher, Mt. Anthony, 2-0; 3. Lincoln Painter, Mt. Abe, 2-1.
- 157: 1. Chase White, Malone, 3-0.
- 165: 1. Jack Arpey, Mt. Mansfield, 3-0; 2. Tyerelle Lavoie, VUHS, 2-1; 4. Wesley Husk, Mt. Abe, 3-2. Arpey topped Lavoie, 13-4, in the final.
- 175: 1. Anthony Matas, Essex, 3-0; 2. Payton Lavoie, VUHS, 2-1. Matas defeated Lavoie, 11-6, in the final.
- 190: 1. Thomas Murphy, CVU, 2-0; 2. Isaac Preston, VUHS, 2-1.

Murphy edged Preston, 4-3, in the final.

- 215: 1. Jamison Couture, VUHS, 3-0. Couture defeated Rieley Lyford of Randolph in the final, 8-3.
- 285: 1. Ryan Marsden, Mt. Anthony, 3-0.
- Also competing for either VUHS or Mt. Abe, and their win-loss records, were:
  - Thales Artis, Mt. Abe, 0-2 at 113.
  - Hailey Isham, Mt. Abe, 0-2 at 138.
  - Mason Atkins, Mt. Abe, 2-2 at 157.
  - Izaak Wallniewicz, VUHS, 2-1 at 285.



**MOUNT ABE'S HAILEY** Isham duels ConVal's Marcus Jordan in a first-round 138-pound match at Saturday's Commodore Invitational. Jordan won a 7-4 decision.

Independent photo/Steve James

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# Score BOARD

## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

### Girls' Hockey

1/17 Spaulding vs MUHS .....2-1  
1/19 Essex vs MUHS..... 3-2  
1/24 MUHS at Harwood.....Late

### Boys' Hockey

1/17 Spaulding vs MUHS .....3-1  
1/19 Essex vs MUHS..... 6-4  
1/24 MUHS at BBA.....Late

### Boys' Basketball

1/17 Mt Abe vs Enosburg .....62-36  
1/17 MUHS vs Missisquoi.....48-32  
1/18 Fair Haven vs OV .....77-52  
1/20 VUHS vs MUHS .....43-36  
1/20 Milton vs Mt Abe .....56-42  
1/21 Fair Haven vs VUHS .....48-33  
1/22 Fair Haven vs Mt Abe .....62-34  
1/23 Missisquoi vs Mt Abe.....47-39  
1/23 VUHS vs Enosburg.....56-27  
1/23 MUHS vs Milton.....63-52

### Girls' Basketball

1/17 Windsor vs OV.....77-21  
1/19 Colchester vs Mt. Abe..... 37-25 (OT)  
1/19 Enosburg vs VUHS.....48-35  
1/19 MUHS vs OV .....44-28  
1/22 Missisquoi vs MUHS.....49-34  
1/24 Stowe at VUHS.....Late  
1/24 Mt Abe at MUHS.....Late

## COLLEGE SPORTS

### Women's Basketball

1/20 Midd vs Williams.....84-43

### Men's Basketball

1/17 Midd vs Johnson.....80-70  
1/20 Williams vs Midd.....91-82

### Men's Hockey

1/19 Midd vs Colby.....4-1  
1/20 Bowdoin vs Midd .....2-2

### Women's Hockey

1/19 Midd vs Bowdoin .....3-1  
1/20 Midd vs Bowdoin .....2-1  
1/23 Plattsburgh vs Midd .....2-1

# Schedule

## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

### Girls' Hockey

1/27 St. Albans at MUHS ..... 5 PM  
1/31 MUHS at CVU ..... 7:45 PM  
2/3 MUHS at Rice..... 6:40 PM

### Boys' Hockey

1/27 St. Albans at MUHS ..... 7 PM

### Boys' Basketball

1/25 Mt. Abe at MUHS ..... 7 PM  
1/26 OV at Windsor ..... 7 PM  
1/26 VUHS at Missisquoi ..... 7 PM  
1/29 VUHS at Colchester ..... 7 PM  
1/30 Proctor at OV ..... 7 PM  
1/31 Mt Abe at VUHS ..... 7 PM  
1/31 MUHS at Enosburg..... 7 PM  
2/2 Bellows Falls at OV ..... 7 PM  
2/3 VUHS at Milton ..... 11:30 AM  
2/3 Enosburg at Mt Abe ..... 12:30 PM  
2/3 MUHS at Missisquoi ..... 1:30 PM

### Girls' Basketball

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  
1/29 MSJ at OV ..... 7 PM  
1/30 Milton at VUHS ..... 7 PM  
1/30 MUHS at Colchester..... 7 PM  
1/30 Missisquoi at Mt Abe..... 7 PM  
2/1 Springfield at OV ..... 7 PM  
2/2 MUHS at Milton ..... 7 PM  
2/2 Mt Abe at Rutland ..... 7 PM  
2/2 VUHS at Missisquoi..... 7:30 PM

### Wrestling

1/27..... Otter Valley Tourney

### Gymnastics

1/31 Milton at MUHS ..... 6 PM

### MUHS Dance

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

### Indoor Track

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

## COLLEGE SPORTS

### Women's Basketball

1/26 Bates at Midd..... 7 PM  
1/27 Tufts at Midd ..... 3 PM  
1/30 Midd at MIT..... 5:30 PM  
2/2 Midd at Wesleyan..... 7 PM  
2/3 Midd at Trinity ..... 3 PM  
2/9 Midd at Conn ..... 7 PM

### Men's Basketball

1/26 Midd at Bates..... 7 PM  
1/27 Midd at Tufts ..... 3 PM  
1/29 Keene St. at Midd ..... 7 PM  
2/2 Wesleyan at Midd ..... 7 PM  
2/3 Trinity at Midd ..... 3 PM  
2/9 Conn at Midd ..... 7 PM

### Men's Hockey

1/26 Midd at Conn ..... 7 PM  
1/27 Midd at Tufts ..... 4 PM  
2/2 Wesleyan at Midd ..... 7 PM  
2/3 Trinity at Midd ..... 4 PM

### Women's Hockey

1/26 Conn at Midd ..... 7 PM  
1/27 Conn at Midd ..... 3 PM  
2/2 Midd at Wesleyan..... 7 PM  
2/3 Midd at Wesleyan..... 3 PM

Schedules, especially at the high school level, change often due to weather, transportation and officiating availability. Please consult school websites to confirm dates and times.

# Basketball

(Continued from Page 1B)

19-15. The Tigers allowed only four points in the first six minutes of the third period, all scored by Larabee, as Carter switched to a more aggressive matchup zone that gave the T-Birds trouble.

“I think we’re a pretty decent defensive squad,” he said.

But because of their turnovers they lost ground by scoring only three points in that span: two Quinn free throws and one by Choiniere.

They lost a little more ground in the period’s final two minutes despite getting a couple buckets, one in transition from Laroche set up by junior Kassidy Brown, and one from Quinn inside assisted by Laroche.

But at the other end Langlois broke a 3:30 scoring drought for the T-Birds with a post move at 2:00, and Langlois added a four-point play, hitting a three-pointer while being fouled and adding the free throw. As a result, MVU led, 29-22, entering the fourth.

Theoretically, the game was still up for grabs, but Larabee and

Alexandra Bourdeau scored all the points in a 10-0 T-Bird run to open the final quarter, capping it with a three-pointer apiece. It was apparent it wasn’t the Tigers’ night, even with a jumper from freshman Arayla Leggett, a Laroche three and a Quinn layup on an Laroche feed down the stretch.

In Monday’s scoring column for MUHS, Laroche led with 11, followed by Quinn, six; Binder, four; and Choiniere, three.

Larabee finished with 21 points for Missisquoi, followed by Langlois (10) and Alexandra Bourdeau (nine); all three are seniors.

The Tigers do have two seniors, forwards Kaitlyn Brown and Grace Culver, but their roster also lists three sophomores and five freshmen.

“We’ve got a lot of young players who are developing basketball IQ right now,” Carter said.

Even without a winning record, their coach praised the Tigers approach to the season, work ethic and chemistry.

“When the music’s on we’re usually dancing in the huddle,” Carter said. “We seem to be having a good time.”

*“It was a great effort out of these girls. We get a great effort every day out of them. We’ve come together a lot.”*

– Coach Eric Carter



**TIGER SOPHOMORE SOLSTICE Binder leaves the Missisquoi defense in the dust as she cruises in for a layup. Unfortunately, Binder had to leave the Monday’s home game with an injury shortly afterward.**

Independent photo/Steve James



**MUHS JUNIOR LEXI Whitney makes a move on Missisquoi defender Alexandra Bourdeau during Monday’s game in Middlebury.**

Independent photo/Steve James

# Tiger girls top OV; others lose

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY

—Middlebury topped Otter Valley in their Route 7 rivalry game, and that proved to be the only victory for a local girls’ basketball team between Jan. 17 and 23. Mount Abraham and Vergennes dropped Lake Division games on the road, and one of the best squads in the state dealt OV a home setback.

The Tigers also hosted Missisquoi on Monday; see separate story on Page 1B.

**MUHS vs OV**

On this past Friday, MUHS topped Otter Valley for the second time this winter, 44-28. The Tigers pulled away in the fourth quarter. Solstice Binder paced MUHS with 22 points, and freshman forward Tenny LaRoche chipped in eight

points as the Tigers improved to 3-6.

**Matelin LaPorte’s** 10 points led the Otters, who trailed by just 29-24 after three periods. OV dropped to 1-9.

**EAGLES**

Also on Friday, Jan. 19, host Colchester topped Mount Abe in overtime, 35-27, after a defensive battle left the teams tied at 26-26 at the end of regulation. The Lakers outscored the Eagles by 9-1 in the five-minute extra session.

Eagle post player **Mackenzie Griner** led all scorers with 13 points, but four Lakers scored at least seven points, led by Maddy Booska, with nine.

The 6-4 Eagles were set to visit Middlebury on Wednesday after the deadline for this edition.

**COMMODORES**

In another Friday game, host Enosburg eased past VUHS, 48-35. The Hornets’ Lilly Robtoy and the Commodores’ **Ava Francis** tied for game scoring honors with 16 points apiece.

The Commodores dropped to 6-4. Their scheduled home matchup with Stowe on Wednesday was postponed.

**OTTERS**

On Jan. 17 visiting Windsor, Division III’s top team, breezed past the Otters, 71-21. Sophia Rockwood led the Yellowjackets with 31 points, and Audrey Rupp contributed 14 points, 10 rebounds, nine steals and nine assists. LaPorte led OV with six points.

# Tiger wrestlers win half-dozen dual meets

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY

— The Middlebury Union High School wrestling team swept six dual meets last week, moving its dual meet record to 11-1, according to Coach Ethan Raymond.

On Wednesday, Jan. 17, the Tigers went to Mill River along with Vergennes. The Tigers defeated Mill River, 54-6, and VUHS, 36-33.

Six Tiger wrestlers won both

their matches that day: Alex Sperry at 126 pounds, Parker Carl at 132, Jordan Couture at 138, Avery Carl at 144, Tucker Wright at 150 and John Deering at 157. Wyatt Kennett at 165 and Steven Lackard at 190 each split two bouts.

On Saturday, Jan. 20, the Tigers competed in a five-team dual meet in Turner Falls, Mass, and swept four matches. MUHS defeated Holyoke, Mass., 48-24; Franklin

Tech, Mass., 45-24; Chicopee, Mass., 48-18; and Keene, N.H., 46-30. Tiger wrestlers went 25-6, Raymond said, adding up to what he called an “outstanding performance.”

Eight Tigers went 4-0 on the day: Sperry at 126, Couture at 138, Avery Carl at 144, Wright at 150, Deering at 157; Kennett at 165, Lackard at 190, and Kameron Raymond at 285.

## Upcoming Events

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

**Saturday January 27:**  
2:30 - 4:00 PM Public Skating

**Sunday, January 28:**  
2:30 - 4:00 PM Public Skating

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

**Thursday, February 1:**  
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating

**Tuesday February 6:**  
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating

**Thursday February 8:**  
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating

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# Hoops

(Continued from Page 1B)

fourth quarter,” Altemose said. “Congratulations to Vergennes. You’re down 11 in the fourth quarter and you come out and play like you’ve got nothing to lose. They made something happen, and we got on our heels.”

VUHS led after the first period, 10-9, as Francis and sophomore forward Ryker Mosehauer combined for all the points. Four Tigers scored at the other end, including a three from Keenan Chicoine.

The Tigers dominated the boards, 12-2, in the second period, and closed it on an 11-3 run to take a 22-19 lead into the locker room. Guard Tassilo Luksch scored six points during that run, two on the fast-break layups, and sophomore forward Cooke Riney converted four points on offensive rebounds in the quarter.

Senior forward Dev Brisson helped the Commodores tie the game at 24-24 three minutes into the second half, hitting a three-pointer and feeding Francis for a layup, plays sandwiched around a jumper by Tiger forward Noah Doherty-Konczal.

Then the Tigers went on a 9-1 run to take a 33-25 lead after three periods. Riney hit in the post, Luksch hit a three and stole the ball and converted a layup, and Carter Paquette sank two free throws. VUHS went cold, answering with only a Ryan Wright free throw.

A Riney free throw and then a Luksch layup at 5:20 of the fourth pushed the Tiger lead to 11 before the well ran dry.

Slowly, the lead evaporated with a Spencer Gebo putback for VUHS, a Reese Paquette free throw and three-pointer that made it 36-30 at 4:05. A Mosehauer putback, a Francis move in the paint at 1:52 that made it 36-34, and then two Brisson free throws tied the game, 36-36, at 1:31.

Francis then blocked Riney in the post, and Wright scored in transition. The Commodores led for the first time since the second quarter, 38-36. The Tigers missed. The Commodores got the rebounds. The Tigers had to foul. Paquette hit



TIGER FORWARD COLTON Odell lays the ball in during Saturday's game in Middlebury after a no-foul collision with sprawling Commodore guard Spencer Grimm.

Independent photo/Steve James

three of four, and Wright hit a pair to create the final score.

For the Tigers, Luksch led with 13 points, Riney scored nine, and Kyle Stearns chipped in four.

Altemose said the effort is there for his young team, and hopes Saturday’s outing can spark growth.

“That’s the first time this season we’ve been in a close game with the lead down the stretch. So we have to learn how to handle those situations,” he said. “That’s what I just said to them. You want this one to sting. That should hurt a little bit. Monday show up ready to work hard, and let’s make it a learning experience so we can figure out how to win those kinds of games.”

Francis led VUHS with 12,

followed by Paquette, nine; Wright, eight; Mosehauer, six; and Brisson, five.

Francis said intangibles have helped the Commodores this season.

“Just staying composed, keeping our heads the whole time. Runs will come, for and against us. We just keep our heads and keep pushing,” he said

Coach LeBeau pointed to the leadership of his more experienced players and willingness of his players and assistant coaches to work on fundamentals as reasons for the team’s success so far.

“It’s a work in progress just like any basketball team. They’re up and down,” he said. “But I’m pretty happy with them. They’re working on building something.”



VUHS FORWARD DEV Brisson soars in for a layup against host Middlebury on Saturday as Heath Odell, left, and Keenan Chicoine, right, defend.

Independent photo/Steve James

# Panther skiers take third in Maine

WATERVILLE, Maine — The combined Middlebury College alpine and Nordic ski team finished third this past weekend at the Colby Carnival with 729 points, trailing only Dartmouth with 912.5 points and Vermont with 783 points.

In the first day of action, Friday, Jan. 19, the Panther women won the giant slalom with three skiers in the top eight: Mika-Anne Reha was second in 1:46.63, Alexandra Cossette was fifth in 1:47.71; and Emma Hall finished eighth (1:47.89). All times for alpine events were for two runs.

The men’s squad earned third place in the GS. Bradshaw

Underhill paced the Panthers in fifth in 1:43.69.

Nicholas Unkovskoy (ninth in 1:44.19) and Axel Bailey (10th in 1:44.23) also scored points for Middlebury.

In Friday’s Nordic 7.5 kilometer freestyle, Maggie Wagner led the Panthers by taking ninth in 20:11.8. Sofia Scirica was 19th in 20:55.5.

For the men, Logan Moore skied to eighth, in 17:24.1. Mason Wheeler was next in 12th (17:46.4), and Jack Christner was 25th (18:03.9).

In Saturday’s 20K classic race, Moore took fourth place 54:55.7. Christner was seventh in 56:23.9,

and Wheeler was 12th (57:09.2). Their efforts were good enough for a second-place team finish.

On the women’s side, Shea Brams took fifth, in 1:04:00.7. Scirica finished 10th (1:06:51.3), and Mica Bodkins was 15th in 1:07:15.7.

Katie Fynn led the Panther women in the slalom by placing fifth, in 1:39.78. Reha was right behind in sixth in 1:39.84, and their efforts held the team take third despite no other Panthers in the top 20.

In the men’s slalom, Charlie Lang led Middlebury by taking 10th in 1:42.02, but no other skier finished higher than 19th.

# D-I foes top Tiger boys’ hockey

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — A pair of Division I losses last week dropped the Middlebury Union High School boys’ hockey team below .500 for the first time this season at 4-5.

On Jan. 17, host Spaulding scored twice in the third period to defeat the Tigers, 3-1. The Tide’s Evan Peloquin and Carel Paquin scored the late goals to break the game open. Peloquin also scored

in the first period after Eyon Tembreull, from Gabriel Quesnel, gave the Tigers the lead. The 3-5-2 Tide outshot the Tigers, 24-18.

On Friday, visiting Essex erupted for four goals in the third period to defeat MUHS, 6-4. Hunter Driver and Shaym Meyette led the Hornets with two goals apiece, and Richard Villamil and Chris Morgan each scored one. Essex goalie Calvin Noel made 30 saves.

Toby Draper led the Tigers with two goals and an assist, and Gavin McNulty and Ian Sinclair added a goal apiece. Gus Hodde picked up two assists, and Kellan Bartlett and Jordan Schroeder contributed one helper each. Tiger goalie Casey Calzini made 29 saves.

The Tigers were seeking to bounce back at Burr & Burton on Wednesday after deadline for this edition. They will next host St. Albans at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

# Gymnastics duels with Harwood

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — Visiting Harwood prevailed over a shorthanded Middlebury Union High School gymnastics team in a Jan. 18 dual meet, 87.9-58.2.

The Tigers lost despite three individual event wins and personal records (PRs) for Alixis Williams. Coach Natalia Little said two MUHS team members missed the meet, and the Tigers as a result “took six zeros for their spots.”

Nevertheless, she was pleased with the team’s efforts.

“It was a great meet. We were very competitive with Harwood,” Little wrote in an email.

She also noted that non-scoring Vergennes independent Bella Audy established two PRs, and that Tiger Lila Hescock earned a top-six finish on the vault in her first competitive appearance on that apparatus.

Results in individual events were:

Vault: 1. Williams (MUHS) 8.3 (PR); 2. Audy (Ind) 8.1 (PR) 3. Tie: Janelle Hoskins & Taylor Berno (Harwood) 8.0; 5. Addy Gibbs (Harwood) 7.9; 6. Hescock (MUHS) 6.0.

Bars: 1. Berno (Harwood) 6.7; 2. Gibbs (Harwood) 6.3; 3. Williams (MUHS) 6.2; 4. Audy (Ind.) 5.8 (PR).

Beam: 1. Gibbs (Harwood) 7.9; 2. Williams (MUHS) & Audy (Ind.) 7.6 (PR for Audy); 4. Berno (Harwood) 7.2; 5. Hoskins (Harwood) 5.7; 6. Hescock (MUHS) 4.5.

Floor: 1. Williams (MUHS) & Berno (Harwood) 8.0 (PR for Williams); 3. Audy (Ind.) 7.1; 4. Addy Gibbs (Harwood) 6.9.

5. Lila Hescock & Mady Richard (MUHS), 6.7.

All-around: 1. Williams (MUHS) 30.1 (PR); 2. Berno (Harwood) 29.9; 3. Gibbs (Harwood) 29.0; 4. Audy (Ind.) 28.6.



TIGER FORWARD COOKE Riney contests a shot by Commodore forward Oakley Francis during Saturday's hard-fought boys' basketball game at MUHS, eventually won by VUHS, 43-36, with a late run by the Commodores.

Independent photo/Steve James

# Boys’ hoop: Tigers break through; VUHS, Mt. Abe net wins

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — In local high school basketball play between Jan. 17 and 23, Middlebury broke through for its first two wins, Vergennes split a pair of games (not counting its visit to MUHS), Mount Abraham won once in three outings, and Otter Valley lost to a rival on the road in its only contest.

The Commodores also visited the Tigers on Saturday; see separate story on Page 1B.

**TIGERS**

On Jan. 17, the Tigers broke into the win column with a 48-32 victory over visiting Missisquoi. An 18-2 advantage in the second quarter proved to be decisive. The Tigers relied on balanced scoring, led by **Cooke Riney’s** 10 points. Kayden Chevier led MVU with 10 points.

On Tuesday, the Tigers bounced back from their tough home loss

Saturday to VUHS and defeated host Milton, 63-52, leading wire to wire and again getting balanced scoring. “It was a good team effort last night,” said Coach Chris Altemose, whose team has won two of three to improve to 2-9.

**Kyle Stearns** led MUHS with 15 points, Riney chipped in 12, and **Cam Whitlock** added 10. Kayden Geraw led Milton with 14 points.

**EAGLES**

On Jan. 17 the Eagles kicked off a busy week by knocking off host Enosburg, 62-36. The Eagles took charge with a 24-7 first quarter charge by four three-pointers and 14 points by **Hayden Lutz**. Lutz finished with 21 points to lead Mount Abe, and **Ian Funke** added 18. Vaughn Wilde scored a dozen for the Hornets.

On Saturday, host Milton got 25 points from Geraw and 16 from Ben

Godin and pulled away in the third period to defeat the Eagles, 56-32. Geraw hit three threes in the third quarter and Godin scored 13 of his points in the second half.

Funke scored 18 again for the Eagles and grabbed 10 rebounds, and Lutz scored nine with five steals.

O n Monday, visiting Fair Haven took control by outscoring the Eagles, 19-8, in the first quarter and never looked back in a 62-34 victory. **Phil Bean** scored 10 of his game-high 25 points in the opening period, and **Dylan Wetmore** came off the bench to score 16 for the 7-6

Slaters. Lutz and Funke again led Mount Abe with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

On Tuesday, visiting Missisquoi bested the Eagles, 47-19. Mount Abe led after one period. 9-5, but T-Bird Reid Myers scored 12 of his 21 points in the second quarter as

Missisquoi took the lead for good. Funke scored 10 points, and Noah Ladeau added nine as the Eagles slipped to 4-9.

**OTTERS**

In the Otters’ only outing of the week, host Fair Haven led coast-

to-coast for a 77-52 victory. Senior **Joe Buxton** led the 5-6 Slaters, who have played a tough schedule, with 21 points. **Phil Bean** (15 points), **Andrew Parker** (14) and **Sam Kyhill** (10) also reached double figures for the Slaters.

**Logan Letourneau** paced the Otters, who dropped to 8-3, with 17 points. **Drew Pelkey** (12) and **Connor Denis** (nine) were next in the OV scoring column.

**COMMODORES**

On Sunday, host Fair Haven dominated the second half to avenge the Slaters’ earlier loss at VUHS with a 48-33 win. The game had been postponed twice, and administrators said they had few options but to reschedule to Sunday.

The Commodores closed the first half with a surge to take a one-point lead into the locker room, but the Slaters outscored them by 19 in the

second half. Bean scored 13 points, and **Joe Buxton** added nine for Fair Haven, which improved to 6-6. The VUHS defense held them to 29 fewer points than OV.

VUHS bounced back on Tuesday to win big at Enosburg, 56-27, improving to 8-3 in the process. **Dev Brisson** led the way with 14 points, and **Spencer Gebo** and **Ryan Wright** added eight apiece. Five more Commodores scored at least four points, **Levi Cogger** and **Chase Stokes** each grabbed six rebounds, and **Reese Paquette** had five steals.

“It was a really balanced team effort,” said Coach Eric LeBeau. “The guys were focused and played hard.”



# Police respond to drunken men

MIDDLEBURY — Responded to a report of two men drinking alcohol and harassing teenagers at the Addison Central Teens Center off Mary Hogan Drive on Jan. 18. Police took one of the men into protective custody and took him to Rutland for detox services. The other man left when asked by officers.

In addition to making daily checks of Bakery Lane, where some houseless individuals had been staying until recently, Middlebury police:

- Helped mediate a landlord-tenant dispute at a Commodore Way home on Jan. 15.
- Received a complaint about someone shooting a gun in the Halladay Road area on Jan. 15.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS (MREMS) with a patient who was having an anxiety attack on Jan. 15.
- Helped a man on Jan. 16 who had fallen over an embankment on North Pleasant Street and was unable to get back on his feet.
- Restored peace on Jan. 16 at a Commodore Way home where a man had allegedly been throwing some of his possessions outside the house.
- Initiated abandoned property proceedings on Jan. 16 related to

# Man cited for forging a check

VERGENNES — Vergennes police on Jan. 15 cited a Ferrisburgh man for forgery, alleging that he altered the payment line on a check written by a family member who lives in Vergennes.

Cited was Cody Paquin, 31, of North Ferrisburgh. Police believe that he altered a check made out to a power company by a grandparent

to make it payable to himself, and they cited him into court to answer to the charge.

Between Jan. 15 and 21, Vergennes police also conducted eight cruiser patrols, six traffic stops and two property watches; honored five fingerprint requests; responded to a false alarm; and:

- On Jan. 15:
- Monitored a protest at Collins Aerospace on Pantown Road for about two-and-a-half hours.

• Checked out a complaint of dogs barking at a Thomas Circle residence, but found no problem.

• Following a complaint of yelling and other noise coming from an apartment at 45 Armory Lane concluded that some of the yelling was aggressive and directed at a child, and because of that and what police called “other issues” at the residence referred the case to the Department for Children and Families.

On Jan. 16 spoke to two women reported to have been involved in a verbal dispute in the Shaw’s Supermarket parking lot.

On Jan. 17 spoke to a woman and her son who said someone tried twice to force their way into her Walker Avenue apartment during the night. Police said they found no evidence such actions had occurred.

On Jan. 19 heard from a Walker Avenue resident that a box containing a new cellphone delivered in September was empty when she got around to opening it, and she suspected theft.

- On Jan. 20:
- Heard from a man that he was concerned about the welfare of a woman with whom he had a recently ended a relationship; the woman called police to tell him she was OK.
- Referred a report of a dog loose on School Street to the animal control officer.

On Jan. 21:

- Advised the owner of a dog that had been tied to the bumper of a pickup truck at a New Haven Road home that it was too cold to leave the animal outside.
- Took a report than a vehicle parked on Green Street had been vandalized by being scratched with a key or similar item.

**ADDY WEBSITE**  
www.addisonindependent.com

## Middlebury Police Log

- items that a houseless camper had left under the Cross Street Bridge.
- Responded to a report of downed power lines on Upper Plains Road on Jan. 16.
  - Enforced the town’s overnight winter parking ban downtown on Jan. 17.
  - Responded to a domestic dispute in the Main Street area on Jan. 17. Police separated the couple for the evening.
  - Heard from a local resident on Jan. 17 who claimed her airline account had been hacked.
  - Received an allegation on Jan. 17 that a man had fraudulently withdrawn funds from a local church fund. Police said the church had previously given the man financial help. Police had not cited

- anyone in connection with the case as of this writing.
- Heard from a Court Street resident who alleged someone had stolen items from his apartment while he’d been sleeping on Jan. 19.
  - Helped MREMS respond to a medical call in the Court Street area on Jan. 19.
  - Assisted a local resident on Jan. 20 who had made complaints about their spouse.
  - Helped a driver whose vehicle had broken down on Court Street Extension on Jan. 20.
  - Responded to a reported domestic dispute in the Case Street area on Jan. 20.
  - Assisted a person who was having a mental health crisis on Jan. 21.
  - Responded to a report of three drunken men walking near Mary Hogan Drive on Jan. 21. Police found the men, whom they said were talking to each other and not committing any crimes.



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# May is Vermont pinball champ

CORNWALL — Some may think that pinball is a thing of the past, but not Cornwall’s Emily May. May was recently dubbed Vermont women’s pinball champion.

May plays in tournaments at the state and national level. The Vermont women’s state championship is part of the International Flipper Pinball Association, which has active players across the state. May was the top woman in Vermont in a Jan. 21 tournament.

May lives with her husband and young son in Cornwall. In her day-to-day life she is a scientist specializing in protecting pollinators, working with the national pollinator protection group XERCES. When she is not flipping to win pinball championships, she is volunteering locally to help expand pollinator pathways.



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The annual Addy Indy **SUPER SUNDAY CONTEST** kicks off next Thursday, February 1st.

Entry forms will be available in print, online, and at the following sponsor locations:

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# Annual Bixby Lego contest set Feb. 24

VERGENNES — Bixby Memorial Free Library and the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vergennes will hold their 6th annual Lego Contest and Exhibit on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the library.

A popular event, all entries must consist primarily of LEGO, Duplo, Megablocks or other LEGO compatible plastic bricks and related pieces. They us be original creations, not based on LEGO-designed kits or instructions found online, in a magazine, etc. Each

entry is limited to a maximum of 18x18 inches and must be accompanied by a short description.

All entries must be registered by Tuesday, Feb. 13. Entry drop-off will be held at the Bixby from 3-7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22. Doors open t 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24 for contest viewing.

Anyone having questions or not having access to materials can reach out to Anthony Sawyer at [anthony@bgcvergenes.org](mailto:anthony@bgcvergenes.org) or Mary Neffinger at [mary.neffinger@bixbylibrary.or](mailto:mary.neffinger@bixbylibrary.or)

## BIRTHS

Courtney and Philip Savoy of Bristol, Jan. 8, a girl **Courtney Anne Savoy**. Brother Jake Savoy, grandparents Kim, Ben, Marilyn and Gilbert.

## ADDISON COUNTY

### School News Briefs

**Phoebe Hussey**, daughter of Mike Hussey and Carrie Herzog of Ripton and a freshman at St. Michael's College, has been named to the St. Mike's Nordic ski team. Hussey attended Middlebury Union High School for three years and Green Mountain Valley School


for one. She finished second at Biathlon National Championships as a junior and was a member of the New England team that competed at Nordic skiing Junior National Championships as a high school senior. Hussey is a Digital Media and Communications major.

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# Reader Comments

Here's what one reader has to say about us!

A subscriber from Bristol writes:

"Thanks for keeping us informed and entertained!"

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT



## 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](http://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](mailto:martha.seifert@uvm.edu).

## 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](http://www.ilsleypubliclibrary.org/great-puzzle-challenge).  
**Soup and Circus in Vergennes.** Saturday, Jan. 27, noon-3 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. An afternoon of games, magic, food and fun with friends, inspired by St. John Bosco, patron saint of youth and magicians. Enjoy a warm bowl of homemade soup and fresh bread. Games and prizes, juggling feats by Fr. Timothy Naples, and magic show performed by Tom Verner. Open to all members of the community, Catholic or not. RSVP helpful to Sarah Chiaravalli at [herdingkittens@gmail.com](mailto:herdingkittens@gmail.com).  
**Sibling-to-Sibling movie night in Middlebury.** Saturday, Jan. 27, 2-5 p.m., Axinn Center, Old Chapel Rd. Middlebury College's Sib2Sib Program invites all middle school students to a movie screening. Register at [go.middlebury.edu/sib2sib](http://go.middlebury.edu/sib2sib), vote for your movie. Free popcorn and drinks. Dropoff and Pickup at the Axinn Center. More info email [Sistertosister@middlebury.edu](mailto:Sistertosister@middlebury.edu).  
**Crafts and Boatbuilding in Modern Japan with Douglas Brooks in Middlebury.** Saturday, Jan. 27, 3 p.m., Room 229, Axinn Center, Old Chapel Road. Middlebury College Japanese Club Presents Japanese boat builder Douglas Brooks, who will talk about apprentice learning in Japan, how it is at odds with Western notions of learning, and how he replicates apprentice learning in various classes he has done at a variety of colleges and universities. The Vergennes resident will also discuss the state of crafts in Japan today and how people are responding to the loss of craftspeople. Japanese snacks provided.

## SUNDAY

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

## 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 [shelby.kimmel@gmail.com](mailto:shelby.kimmel@gmail.com) to reserve a spot or for more information.

## 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](http://rokeby.org/visit/programmevents).

## 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](mailto:cedar.winslow@bixbylibrary.org) to sign up.

## THURSDAY

**Introduction to Butoh in Middlebury.** Thursday, Feb. 1, 3 p.m., Dance Theater, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. The dancers of Middlebury College class DANC1017 will present "Introduction to Butoh" — led by professor Messi Chavez. All are welcome to this free showing of the students' final project for the winter term. The dancers will explore new movements and possibilities.  
**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](http://hannafordcareercenter.org).



## Bang the drum

**LEARN ABOUT KOREAN drumming in Middlebury on Monday, Jan. 29, from 7-9 p.m., at Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Court.**

Photo Wikimedia Commons

## SATURDAY

**Used book sale in Middlebury.** Saturday, Feb. 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. After a month off, we are stocked and ready to go. Members of the Friends organization may begin shopping at 9:45 a.m.  
**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.

## TUESDAY

**"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.  
**Exhibit talk and tour in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Feb. 6, 6 p.m., Davis Family Library, Middlebury College. Join Middlebury alumnae Bee Ottinger and Karla Baehr for a discussion of representation, feminism, and their experience embracing their sexuality after attending Middlebury in the 1960s. The talk will be followed by a tour of the new exhibition in the library, "The Lesbian House (1972-1973: Photographs by Bee Ottinger, class of 1970)." Ottinger's photographs depict life at the Los Angeles Lesbian House, a halfway house affiliated with the Gay Community Service Center established in 1972 to provide a home for lesbians who had been rejected from their families.  
**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](http://www.gmcbreadloaf.org).

## FRIDAY

**Spaghetti supper in Weybridge.** Friday, Feb. 9, 5-7 p.m., Weybridge School, Quaker Village Rd. Weybridge Fire Department's annual spaghetti dinner to raise funds for the department. Cost \$14 adult/\$10 children/under 5 free. More info contact 802-545-2000.

## SATURDAY

**Winter crafters market in Middlebury.** Saturday, Feb. 10, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., VFW, 530 Exchange

St. Spread the word. The Middlebury Farmers Market Association invites vendors and customers to its upcoming Winter Crafters. Contact Dennielle and Michael Brinkman at [mellowbrookunlimited@gmail.com](mailto:mellowbrookunlimited@gmail.com) for more info.

## 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.

## TUESDAY

**New Haven River Anglers meeting in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Feb. 13, 6 p.m., Marquee Theatre, 65 Main St. Guest speaker Ben Wilcox will talk about "Lessons learned from competition fishing."

## THURSDAY

**Tournesol in Monkton.** Thursday, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m., Russell Memorial Library. Come hear the sounds of a 1930s Parisian café, gypsy jazz tunes, torch songs in the spirit of Edith Piaf, jazz standards and some Latin beats. Free. Part of the 5-Town Musical Library tour.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR

# CALENDAR ONLINE

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# Girls on the Run need coaches for the county

**ADDISON COUNTY** — Girls on the Run Vermont needs coaches. Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that inspires students in 3rd through 8th grade to be joyful, healthy and confident. The 10-week program incorporates movement into its curriculum to empower participants to develop critical life skills, build confidence, cultivate positive connections with peers, manage their emotions, and stand up for themselves and others.

Volunteer coaches use a curriculum to engage teams of girls in fun, interactive lessons.

Locations still in need of coaches in Addison County are: Beeman Elementary in New Haven, Bristol Elementary School, Bristol Recreation/Hub Center, Mary Hogan School in Middlebury, Monkton Central School, Orwell Village School, Robinson School in Starksboro and Vergennes Union Elementary School.

The spring season begins the week of March 18. Teams meet twice a week for 90 minutes and

the program culminates with all teams participating in one of two noncompetitive, celebratory 5K events in Essex and Manchester.

Coaches do not need to be runners. Girls on the Run Vermont (GOTRVT) provides training so volunteers have all of the tools needed to facilitate the season and to have a positive coaching experience. All volunteer coaches must complete a background check. GOTRVT welcomes high school students to volunteer as Junior Coaches. Please visit [www.gotrvt.org/coach](http://www.gotrvt.org/coach) for full details or email [info@girlsontherunvermont.org](mailto:info@girlsontherunvermont.org). GOTRVT is celebrating 25 years in 2024 — a very special season for coaches to participate.

Participant registration opens on Wednesday, Feb. 21, for Northern teams attending the Essex 5K and Wednesday, Feb. 28, for Southern teams attending the Manchester 5K. Join a virtual Q&A session on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 6:30 p.m. More information about the program, registration, and virtual session on Jan. 25 can be found on the Girls on the Run Vermont's website: [gotrvt.org](http://gotrvt.org).



**LESLIE WRIGHT OF Stride** — The Wright Foundation displays the donation from 100+ Women Who Care of Addison County with members of the MUMS 8th-grade girls' basketball team and Middlebury College women's basketball team. Stride supports young female athletes. Photos courtesy of Judy Kowalczyk

## 100+ Women Who Care support non-profits

**ADDISON COUNTY** — 100+Women Who Care Addison County held their first meeting of 2024 via Zoom on Tuesday, Jan. 16, and distributed \$17,500 to local non-profits.

The three finalists for this quarter were the Turning Point Center of Addison County (for recovery support with substance use disorder and other addictions), Bixby Memorial Free Library (to assist with accessibility upgrades) and Stride, The Wright Foundation for Female Athletes (to provide mentorship, gear and learning opportunities to young female athletes). Turning Point Center was the top vote recipient. They received 70% of the available funds. The runners-up both received 15% of the available funds.

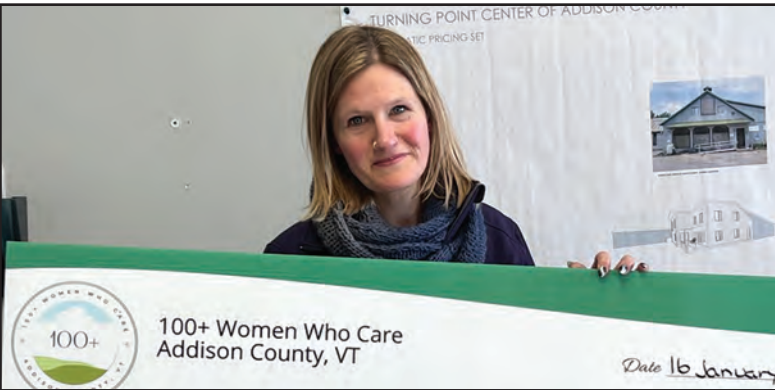
100+ Women Who Care, Addison County is a charitable giving circle that gathers quarterly to choose three nonprofits to receive our collective donations. Every quarter, each member contributes one hundred dollars to go toward local organizations — 175 members gave this quarter, which meant that \$17,500 was available to gift.



**CATHARINE HAYS, MARY Neffinger and Amber Lays of Bixby Memorial Free Library in Vergennes** will use funds donated by 100+ Women Who Care of Addison County for accessibility upgrades at the library.

100+ Women Who Care Addison County has gifted over \$95,000 to Addison County charities since it began in 2023, so the more the merrier. The organization would love to welcome new members who share its commitment to supporting each other and the community. Find them at [www.100wacvt.org](http://www.100wacvt.org) to learn more.

The next meeting will be at Touterelle Restaurant in April 2024, where hors d'oeuvres and cocktails will be served. Please come and gather together for the next vote.



**DANIELLE WALLACE OF the Turning Point Center** displays the donation of \$12,250 given to the center by 100+ Women Who Care of Addison County to help with recovery support with substance use disorder and other addictions.

## COVID tests available at MREMS

**MIDDLEBURY** — Members of the public can stop in at Middlebury Regional Emergency Medical Services headquarters in Middlebury and pick up a free COVID test to take home. The tests, which come two tests per box, are located in the lobby at the MREMS building off South Street next to Porter Hospital at 55 Collins Dr. in Middlebury.

The lobby is open 24 hours a day, but officials ask that people stop in to get a test between pick

up between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m., when the agency can be sure that the distribution table is fully stocked.

There is no limit to the number of boxes one person can take, but please be considerate of others' needs. They are available to everyone in Addison County.

MREMS the county distribution site for the Vermont Center for Independent Living in partnership with the national stockpile of COVID-19 tests.

# STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

## Mount Abraham Union High School

### Nell Harvey

Mt. Abraham Union High School introduces Nell Harvey, our Student of the Week. Nell lives in Monkton with her parents, Emmy and Marikate, and her sister, Grace. She also has two dogs, Bodhi and Zim, and two cats, Ozzi and Nala.

Nell has been on the honor roll all four years of high school, receiving high or highest honors each semester. She thoroughly enjoys French and learning about different cultures around the world. Unsurprisingly, French teacher Ms. Jacobeit is Nell's favorite because she is so invested in lessons and teaches about history, culture and contemporary issues along with the French language. Nell spent her first semester of junior year studying abroad in France, immersing herself in a French-speaking school and living with a local family.

Nell is on the varsity lacrosse and soccer teams and plays club lacrosse year-round. For lacrosse, she was recognized as Second Team All-State as a sophomore and First Team All-State as a junior. She also referees youth lacrosse games and jamborees in the spring. Along with athletics, she plays the saxophone in Jazz Band.

When Nell is not playing sports or in school, she loves to hike, travel and hang out with family and friends. She especially likes to cook new recipes and to try new foods. During the summer, she works at Last Resort Farm in Monkton.

Nell says high school has taught her to seize as many opportunities as she can. "Exploring new things is often daunting, but those moments help us learn so much about ourselves. Before deciding to study abroad, I was both thrilled and terrified at the idea of leaving home for months and not knowing anyone around me. At the end of my semester, I had experienced so many new things and made so many connections with wonderful people. Without setting aside my doubts, I would've never been able to go on such an incredible adventure."

Nell plans to go to college and major in French and Anthropology. She hopes to eventually hold a position in international development or aid in cultural relations. The Mt. Abraham community will miss Nell's strong sense of empathy and inclusivity. We wish her all the best with her future endeavors.



Nell Harvey  
MAUHS

## Otter Valley Union High School

### Luciano Falco

Otter Valley Union Middle and High School's Student of the Week is Luciano Falco. Luciano lives with his parents and two dogs, Finley and Hopper, in Florence. He has two sisters, Alyssa and Isabella, who graduated from Otter Valley.

Luciano's favorite class at Otter Valley is American Studies taught by Mr. Hall and Mrs. Kretzer. He says this is mostly because he loves American history. He has been an honor roll student, inducted to the National Honor Society, class president for two years and an active part of the student council.

Luciano has played football, basketball and baseball all four years of high school. He served as captain of OV's football team both his junior and senior years.

Outside of school Luciano has worked for the last four years, volunteered at the Proctor skating rink, and been involved in the mentoring program at Otter Valley for the last two years.

In his spare time he likes to hang out with his friends, go to the gym, play sports and golf.

Luciano says the most important lesson he has learned while in high school is to hold onto close friends because you will never know when they will be gone.

After high school Luciano is getting an internship with an electrical company and he plans on starting his own business.

Otter Valley wishes Luciano the best in all of his future endeavors.



Luciano Falco  
OVUHS

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**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.

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Public Meetings

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

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Help Wanted

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## Recovery Coach

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**Turning Point Center of Addison County**

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Card of Thanks  | <input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted       | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personals       | <input type="checkbox"/> For Sale          | <input type="checkbox"/> Cars               |
| <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               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost 'N Found** | <input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent      | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles        |
| <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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption        |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Rentals   |

\*\* no charge for these ads    Spotlight with large ✓ \$2

Keep up to date with all the action, read **Arts + Leisure** every Thursday in the Addy Indy!

## WE ARE HIRING!

FULL TIME POSITIONS



### APPLY NOW!

**CDL Drivers with Ag Background**  
**Warehouse & Outdoor Workers**  
**Experienced Agriculture Equipment Operators**

**Requirements:**

- Clean driving record
- Willing to learn and handle multiple tasks
- Positive Attitude
- Willing to work long hours in the spring
- Agricultural background

**Benefits include:**  
★ Medical, 401k, & Vacation days ★

**TO APPLY:**  
**88 Seymour St., Middlebury**  
**Contact Skip Cray at 802-388-7000 or [scray@bbinc.us](mailto:scray@bbinc.us)**

**ADDISON INDEPENDENT**  
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753  
802-388-4944  
[addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com) • email: [classifieds@addisonindependent.com](mailto:classifieds@addisonindependent.com)

### PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

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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

### MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH SCHOOL

#### COACHING POSITIONS

Middlebury Union High School is seeking coaches for the following:

- Varsity Girls' Lacrosse
- JV Girls' Lacrosse
- JV Baseball

**Applicants must possess a strong knowledge of coaching principles with previous coaching experience preferred. Must possess strong organizational skills and the ability to communicate and relate to student athletes.**

**Interested parties should send a letter of interest, resume, and three current letters of reference to:**

Sean Farrell/Athletic Director  
Middlebury Union Middle School  
73 Charles Avenue  
Middlebury, VT 05753

Applications will be accepted until the position has been filled. E.O.E.



## 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).



## SEEKING A SUMMER CAMP DIRECTOR

The Bridge School, an independent school in Middlebury, is seeking a responsible summer camp director who can develop and manage a robust 2024 Bridge School summer program. This hire will lead operations for the entire summer; hire, train and supervise summer counselors; develop, implement and adhere to staff and program policies following Vermont Childcare Program Regulations; manage a high-quality educational program for campers and serve as an ambassador of the Bridge School's mission.

Please email [jen@bridgeschoolvermont.org](mailto:jen@bridgeschoolvermont.org) with your cover letter and resumé to apply!

### ALSO SEEKING SUMMER CAMP COUNSELORS

Bridge School Summer Camp is seeking creative, responsible, and dynamic individuals. As part of an educator team, you will create and implement a high-quality summer camp experience for local elementary school children.

Please email [jen@bridgeschoolvermont.org](mailto:jen@bridgeschoolvermont.org) with your cover letter and resumé to apply!



## 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.gmail.com](mailto:Jon.Deming@vpwd.gmail.com)

## For Rent

**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.

**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 BRIARWOOD APARTMENTS** is currently taking wait-list applications for 2- br apartments. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply- rent based on income- 2 person minimum occupancy. Equal Housing Opportunity. Handicapped accessible. 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.

## EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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."

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## Help Wanted

## For Rent

## For Rent



**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

**METAL STORAGE CONTAINER** box or tractor trailer box with or without wheels, no water leaks. Looks or condition no concern. 802-373-6678.

## AUCTIONS



## MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT  
Sales for 1/18/24 & 1/23/24

COST			
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
Vorsteveld	1780	1.19	\$2118.20
Ethan Allen Farm	1895	1.18	\$2236.10
Correia	1745	1.14	\$1989.30
J. Fifield	1825	1.12	\$2044.00
Goodrich	1615	1.10	\$1776.50
Wilcon Farm	1625	1.10	\$1787.50

COST			
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$
Forbes Farm	107	6.00	\$642.00
Barnes B & W	85	5.80	\$493.00
Savello	90	5.50	\$495.00
P. Livingston	96	5.10	\$489.60
Clifford	97	4.10	\$397.70
J. Fifield	108	4.00	\$432.00

Total Beef - 147 Total Calves - 186

We value our faithful customers.

**Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.**  
call 1-802-388-2661

## TOWN OF BRIDPORT PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Bridport Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, in the Town Office at 82 Crown Point Road, on each and to consider each of the following application:

At 6:15 PM on Application (#23-46) by Mr. John Cannon for a 2-lot subdivision of parcel ID# 04-026 owned by Mr. John Cannon. The property is located at 1526 Forrest Rd., Bridport, VT, 05734

Plans and additional information regarding any such application may be viewed at said Town Office or by calling (802) 758-2483, Ext. 2. Participation in the Planning Commission's proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal on any decision of it on an application.

Adam Broughton, Planning Commission Chair  
Renée Brodeur, Planning Commission Secretary  
Michael Wojciechowski, Zoning Administrator

## TOWN OF FERRISBURGH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

A public hearing before the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Town of Ferrisburgh will be held at the Town Clerk's Office on Wednesday, February 7th, 2024, to consider the following:

7:00 PM Call to order and approval of minutes from the January 3rd meeting.

Application No. 24-007 (Mr. B. Ferris) Single Family Home Shoreland; property ID#19/20/58; 1057 Kimball Dock Road; Shoreland (SD-2) district; conditional use

The above files are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office. Persons wishing to appear and be heard may do so in person or be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications about the above hearings may also be filed in writing with the Board or the Zoning Administrator.

PLEASE NOTE: Participation in the local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

## NOTIFICATION OF PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 8907 and the Administrative Rules on Agency Designation, the Vermont Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) hereby notify the public of the **Application for Redesignation** of Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC).

A 14-day period of public comment is provided for DMH and DAIL to gather information about Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC) as part of the process to decide whether or not the State of Vermont will renew the agency's designation to deliver developmental and mental-health services to adults, children, adolescents and families in Addison County. Comments from consumers, parents, family members and other concerned citizens about your experiences with services provided by CSAC are welcomed. Public comments will be accepted for the two-week period from Thursday, January 25, 2024, until the close of business on Wednesday, February 07, 2024. In particular, DMH and DAIL are interested in knowing:

1. What are the strengths and challenges of the agency?
2. Does the agency work well with other agencies in the community?
3. Do people get the mental health and developmental services that they need?
4. Do people get mental health and developmental services when they need them?
5. Do you have any recommendations for improvements?

Please send written comments or contact us by phone no later than Wednesday, February 07, 2024.

**For Mental Health** Child, Adolescent and Family Services Community Rehabilitation and Treatment, Adult Outpatient, and Emergency Services  
Mail: Department of Mental Health  
166 Horseshoe Drive  
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-2010  
Attn: Puja Senning  
Phone: 802-585-4540  
Fax: 802-241-0100  
E-mail: [Puja.Senning@vermont.gov](mailto:Puja.Senning@vermont.gov)

**For Developmental Services:**  
Mail: Developmental Disabilities Services Division  
Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living  
280 State Drive, HCS2 South  
Waterbury, VT 05671-2030  
Attn: Ellen Booth  
Phone: 802-241-0281  
Fax: 802-241-0410  
E-mail: [Ellen.Booth@vermont.gov](mailto:Ellen.Booth@vermont.gov)

# Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this  
**ADDISON INDEPENDENT**  
on **Page 11B and 12B.**

Act 250 (1)

Addison Central School District (1)

Bridport (1)

Bristol (1)

Ferrisburgh (1)

Vermont Department of Mental Health (1)

Vermont Electric Power Company (1)

State of Vermont (1)

**Email your Public Notices** to [legals@addisonindependent.com](mailto:legals@addisonindependent.com) and Jenna makes sure it gets in the paper

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# ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

January 25, 2024



ACCLAIMED AUTHOR EMILY ST. JOHN MANDEL

## UNDERSTANDS OUR TIMES

*Renowned author Emily St. John Mandel comes here to Middlebury on Feb. 15 for a book reading, signing and Q&A with the community.*

PHOTO / JIAHAO PENG

**SEE STORY**  
**PAGE 3**



# Middlebury Acting Company wants to read your play

## THREE NEW WORKS BY VERMONT PLAYWRIGHTS WILL GET A STAGED READING & FEEDBACK

Got a play that you've written but haven't got a place to have it performed? The Middlebury Acting Company is calling all Vermont playwrights for submissions to its third annual New Play Festival.

Through an open submission process, Middlebury Acting Company, or MACo as it's known, is looking for three new plays for its 2024 New Play Festival. This festival aims to amplify three unproduced, unpublished plays, and this year they're only accepting submissions from playwrights who *currently* reside in Vermont. The selected plays will each receive two rehearsals, dramaturgical feedback and a culminating public staged reading followed by a moderated talkback with the audience.

The goal of this festival is to assist the chosen playwrights in the development of their new plays, and to invite the Middlebury community into the new play development process. Plays

of all genres and styles are welcome!

Selected playwrights will receive a modest stipend.

The deadline for submitting your play is Feb. 26. The festival will take place Aug. 14-17 in Middlebury.

Playwrights may submit only one play. No re-submissions of previously submitted plays. Your play must require five or fewer actors.

Submissions must not have received a professional production or publication before August 2024. Plays that have received previous workshops or readings are eligible. MACo is looking for full-length play submissions — not one-acts or musicals.

Playwrights may submit up to 20 pages of one full-length play. You are welcome to submit any 20 pages from your play. If context is required for the sample you submit, you're welcome to

include a brief bit of context (no more than one page) at the beginning of the sample.

MACo will select a small group of finalists by late March. If selected as a finalist, you will have one week to send in the full script of your play.

There is no fee to submit, but please include the following:

- Playwright's contact information.
- A sample of up to 20 pages of your chosen play. Please include a character breakdown.
- A brief statement (no more than 200 words) describing where the play is in its process, any previous development the play has received, and what element(s) of the script you're especially interested in exploring if selected to participate in the festival.

When you are ready to submit your play, fill out MACo's Google form online at [tinyurl.com/2024Play](https://tinyurl.com/2024Play). If you have questions, send an email to the new play festival director, Gina Stevensen, at [gina@middleburyactors.org](mailto:gina@middleburyactors.org)

# Davis Family Library opens new photo exhibit in atrium

Come see Middlebury College Special Collections' new exhibition "The Lesbian House (1972-1973): Photographs by Bee Ottinger, class of 1970." This show features photographs by alumna Bee Ottinger, and hear Ottinger and fellow alumna Karla Baehr talk on Friday, Jan. 26, at 1 p.m.

After graduating from Middlebury in 1970, Ottinger moved to Los Angeles to pursue her Masters in Fine Arts in Photography at the California College of the Arts. While living in L.A., she learned about the Lesbian House, which became the subject of her thesis. As Ottinger tells it:

"The Lesbian House was a large halfway house on Oxford Street in Los Angeles that provided 15-20 rooms to lesbians in 1972-1973. Anyone could live there, paying very little rent since it was subsidized by a woman who had just come out herself and had recently inherited some money. I took photographs of the women and eventually came out and lived there for a few months."

The exhibit, curated by Ottinger, with support from Special Collections staff, will be on display in the atrium of Davis Family Library through April. Lunch and discussion will be held in Davis Family Library's Special



Join Middlebury College alumnae from the class of 1970 Bee Ottinger and Karla Baehr for their discussion of representation, feminism, and their experience embracing their sexuality after attending Middlebury in the 1960s.

PHOTO / BEE OTTINGER CIRCA 1972, LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

Collections Reading Room (Room 101) from 1-2 p.m. on Jan. 26. Ottinger and Baehr will talk about representation, feminism, and their

experience embracing their sexuality after attending Middlebury College in the 1960s. Free and open to all.



# Author Emily St. John Mandel visits Middlebury, Feb. 15

**H**ere we are in 2024... dare we say post-pandemic?

Maybe, but don't get too comfortable. After such an unprecedented era, that apocalyptic worry hangs around and can feel disorienting.

BY **ELSIE  
LYNN PARINI**

The drive to reorient and reconnect brought Megan Mayhew-Bergman, Michole Biancosino and Minna Brown together.

"We are all focused on rebuilding community after the pandemic," said Mayhew-Bergman, author of three books of fiction and a climate journalist for The Guardian, Middlebury College professor, and director of the Bread Loaf Environmental Writers' Conference. "Minna, Michole and I felt one of the writers the entire Middlebury community could connect with would be Emily."

Emily St. John Mandel, that is.

The renowned author will bring her award-winning work and perspectives to Middlebury College in a special reading and Q&A, followed by a book signing. The event, free and open to all, will be Thursday, Feb. 15, from 7-8:30 p.m., in the college's Wright Theatre.

"Ms. Mandel brings an incredible ability to tackle hard, sometimes apocalyptic themes while weaving in beauty, joy and meaning-making," said co-organizer Brown, who serves as the Climate Action Program Director for Middlebury College. "When approaching topics like climate change, having alternate visions of how we might live together is vital. Her visit to Middlebury is an incredible opportunity for our community to hear about her creative process and how she envisions our future(s)."

"I'm thrilled that Ms. Mandel has agreed to share her work and experience with Middlebury," added co-organizer Biancosino, a Middlebury Associate Professor of Theater. "Her novel has inspired my work at Middlebury College, where I teach a class 'The Plays of Station Eleven,' that examines the ways the author folds several art forms into the story, as well as more broadly how theater can function as a tool for community-building and a catalyst for societal change."

"We're also all interested in the intersection between the humanities and environmental studies," Mayhew-Bergman added. "As a writer, Emily St. John Mandel operates so beautifully in that space. We really see Middlebury as a leader in terms of how a liberal arts institution can train students as thinkers for the era ahead — how to face the climate crisis and political



A book group gathered at The Vermont Book Shop in Middlebury last Sunday to discuss Emily St. John Mandel's novel.

COURTESY PHOTO

era with compassionate and agile thinking. Authors like Emily help prompt and enhance those discussions."

Mandel is author of six novels, most recently "Sea of Tranquility," which has been translated into 25 languages and was selected by President Barack Obama as one of his favorite books of 2022. Her previous novels include "The Glass Hotel," which was also on Obama's list, was shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, and has been translated into 26 languages; and "Station Eleven," which was a finalist for a National Book Award and the PEN/Faulkner Award, won the 2015 Arthur C. Clarke Award among other honors, has been translated into 36 languages, and aired as a limited series on HBO Max. She lives in New York City and Los Angeles.

The opportunity to ask questions of an author of this caliber has not escaped Biancosino.

"This is an exciting opportunity to listen and ask questions to an author who has a pulse on the anxiety of the country in such a beautiful way," she said. "I hope it's a community building event and starts a lot of conversations... Plus gets folks excited to read a bunch of new novels."

In fact, Biancosino held a book group gathering at The Vermont Book Shop in Middlebury last Sunday to discuss Mandel's work; and she'll be teaching a class on Mandel's book "Station 11" at Middlebury Union High School soon. (By the way, The Vermont Book Shop will have all Mandel's books available, should you wish to purchase them.)

"One of the topics I'm curious to hear Emily

talk more about is the love/hate relationship with technology that feels palpable in all of her books," Biancosino said. "I wonder what roll she thinks technology should play in our society?"

"Ms. Mandel is a personal favorite of mine," Brown said. "Her work was incredibly meaningful to me during the pandemic... Her storylines take you out of this world to somewhere... unexpected."

"Emily is definitely in demand because her work speaks to so many people — about how the human spirit persists through darkness,"

Mayhew-Bergman acknowledged, adding that she had a pre-existing connection with Mandel, which helped secure her visit to Middlebury. "I think many of us are inspired by her love of beautiful lines and the natural world — and the way she allows for hope and beauty even during difficult times in her work. That tone really gets to what it means to be a living, thinking, feeling human in this era."

Feb. 15th's event with Mandel is three weeks away; plenty of time to get familiar with Mandel's work

— trust us, once you start, you just can't stop!

"I hope that people take the time to come out and listen to a brilliant author who works at such a meaningful level — so that we can all get a taste of that magic of being in person again, of listening to — and learning from — someone who has created such heart and mind-forward work," Mayhew-Bergman encouraged. "This event is free and is meant to be accessible to anyone who wants to take in literature and beauty and really think about the power of art, the state of the world around us, and the ferocity of the human spirit."

**"THIS IS AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO LISTEN AND ASK QUESTIONS TO AN AUTHOR WHO HAS A PULSE ON THE ANXIETY OF THE COUNTRY IN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL WAY."**

— Michole Biancosino



# ART ON EXHIBIT

## Middlebury College Museum of Art opens new exhibits

### DERRICK ADAMS: SANCTUARY

This exhibit consists of 50 works of mixed-media collage, assemblage on wood panels, and sculpture that reimagine safe destinations for the black American traveler during the mid-20th century. The collection will be on view at the Middlebury College Museum of Art from Jan. 26-April 14.

The body of work was inspired by "The Negro Motorist Green Book," an annual guidebook for black American road-trippers published by New York postal worker Victor Hugo Green from 1936–1967, during the Jim Crow era in America.

"Derrick Adams: Sanctuary" reflects on the plight of working-class black people before and during the Civil Rights Movement, and their determination to pursue the same American Dream afforded to others.

"Derrick Adams: Sanctuary" is organized by Dexter Wimberly and Derrick Adams Studio. The exhibit was originally presented at the Museum of Arts and Design, New York, and was curated with support from MAD's Curator of Collections Samantha De Tillio.

### DAVID PLOWDEN: PORTRAITS OF AMERICA

David Plowden likes to quip that throughout a photographic career spanning 1956 until 2011, he stayed "one step ahead of the wrecking

ball." Although some of his most powerful images indeed depict industries that no longer exist, Plowden's striking photographs are as relevant today as the moment he pushed the shutter on his Roloflex or Hasselblad camera.

The exhibition, on view at the Middlebury College Museum of Art from Jan. 26- April 14, is arranged around the major themes that dominated the artist's body of work: locomotives, steam ships, steel mills, bridges, small towns, and the agricultural landscapes of the Midwest.

Collectively, these photographs form a sort of "portrait" of some key aspects of life in the United States and Canada in the second half of the twentieth century, a period of great economic, social, and environmental change. A concluding section gathers the portraits of a handful of the many individuals Plowden came to know during his photographic journeys across thousands of miles and nearly six decades—people who derived both paychecks and pride from the industries Plowden photographed.

Throughout the exhibition, QR codes will link to recordings of Plowden speaking in September 2022 about the significance of the exhibitions' themes and his vivid memories of taking these photographs.

Much like the interplay of black, white, and gray adds visual variety and depth to his photographs, Plowden's work invites



Derrick Adams, *Upscale and/or Lowbrow*, 2018, fabric, acrylic paint, wood, and paper on wood panel.

IMAGE / COURTESY THE ARTIST AND GAGOSIAN

us to recognize the harmonies, contrasts, and ambiguities that shape society. As the artist acknowledges, the billowing smokestacks of a steel mill symbolized full employment to surrounding communities while simultaneously polluting the air they breathed. The vast, cultivated grain fields of the Midwest yield food and jobs — but likewise remind us of the mass use of pesticides and the displacement or eradication of Indigenous people and ways of life.

While Plowden's portraits are touching explorations of how livelihood can shape the formation of personal identity, when viewed today they are also reminders of how changes to the ways of life depicted have resulted in serious economic, political, and social tensions. Plowden's striking photographs urge us to reflect in a nuanced way on connections between people and across time. Just as the past helped shape life in the present, our actions today will impact the future.

### About the Artist

David Plowden was born in Boston in 1932. Raised primarily in New York City, he also lived at various points during his childhood in France, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and

SEE MUSEUM ON PAGE 14

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Katy Foote



Jenna Hunsinger



Tom Van Sant



Christy Lynn



Jesse Norford



# ART ON EXHIBIT

## DAVIS FAMILY LIBRARY

110 Storrs Avenue, Middlebury  
For more info visit [middlebury.edu/library](http://middlebury.edu/library) or call 802-443-5494.

**"The Lesbian House (1972-1973): Photographs by Bee Ottinger, class of 1970."** Middlebury College Special Collections's new exhibition of photographs by alumna Bee Ottinger. On display in the atrium through April.

## 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.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 15



SUPPORT THE ARTS  
SUBSCRIBE • DONATE • ADVERTISE

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# Cosmic Forecast

**ARIES:** March 21/April 20. Something will occur this week that surprises you, Aries. You may even wonder if it is a trick being played on you. It is no trick, so buckle down for an adventure.

**TAURUS:** April 21/May 21. You have pushed your mind and body quite far over the last several days, Taurus. Now you have to slow down or pay the consequences. Do not add anything else to your list.

**GEMINI:** May 22/June 21. Gemini, you may believe you have discovered a good thing and it could be right. But don't wait too long to act since this good thing has an expiration date. The clock is ticking.

**CANCER:** June 22/July 22. Cancer, you might not be able to control what is happening this week, but you can control how you react to different situations. Keep your distance if an altercation arises.

**LEO:** July 23/Aug. 23. Something you discover about a friend this week could leave you reeling, Leo. The signs have been there for a while and you really should have seen it coming.

**VIRGO:** Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, if you are on the move this week, there is a chance that you will experience some interesting people along the way. At least one person might be a good networking contact.

**LIBRA:** Sept. 23/Oct. 23. More than anything right now, this week you need to relax and unwind, Libra. Take things at a slow pace, and spend more time at home with family than at work.

**SCORPIO:** Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Try not to take any financial risks right now, Scorpio. If you are planning to invest, then you may want to get all of the facts before gambling too much in the stock market.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Nov. 23/Dec. 21. This week you will be back to your best, Sagittarius. Things will work out, so use your positive attitude to the benefit of yourself and others.

**CAPRICORN:** Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Capricorn, even though you are conservative by nature, this week you are ready to take a chance of some sort. Enjoy the journey even if the efforts do not bring you enormous success.

**AQUARIUS:** Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Aquarius, a kind word from you may be all that is needed to bring a smile to someone's face. Do not underestimate the power of a kind and simple gesture.

**PISCES:** Feb. 19/March

20. You don't usually lack confidence, Pisces. But you may not want to push ahead with a project for fear of failure. You should be more adventurous and not worry too much.

We think you need  
to make  
a cozy cowl!

Tues-Thurs 11am-5pm  
Fri 11-7pm, Sat 10am-5pm  
Sun 12-4pm • Closed Mon

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OF WINTER,  
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## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JAN. 26— Lucinda Williams, singer-songwriter (70)  
JAN. 27 — Mikhail Baryshnikov, dancer (76)  
JAN. 28 — Colette, novelist (d)

JAN. 29 — Anton Chekov, playwright (d)  
JAN. 30 — Olivia Coleman, actor (50)  
JAN. 31 — Jackie Robinson, baseball player (d)  
FEB. 1 — Langston Hughes, poet (d)



CALENDAR

JAN. 25-FEB. 11  
2024



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., Ilesley 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.ilesleypubliclibrary.org/great-puzzle-challenge](http://www.ilesleypubliclibrary.org/great-puzzle-challenge).

**"NEXT TO NORMAL" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Jan. 27, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Jan. 25 listing.

**CRAFTS AND BOATBUILDING IN MODERN JAPAN WITH DOUGLAS BROOKS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Jan. 27, 3 p.m., Room 229, Axinn Center, Old Chapel Road. Middlebury College Japanese Club Presents Japanese boat builder Douglas Brooks, who will talk about apprentice learning in Japan, how it is at odds with Western notions of learning, and how he replicates apprentice learning in various classes he has done at a variety of colleges and universities. The Vergennes resident will also discuss the state of crafts in Japan today and how people are responding to the loss of craftspeople. Japanese snacks provided.

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

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN ADDISON.** Monday, Jan. 29, Snake Mountain north face. A moderate hike of 2.2 miles roundtrip and 700 feet of elevation gain on an old VAST trail. The last couple tenths of a mile is a bushwack through very open woods to a large open ridge with expansive views to the east, not the westerly views associated with Snake Mountain. There are also expansive views of the eastern Champlain Valley and the Green Mountains from Mansfield south to Pico Peak. Microspikes or snowshoes required depending on conditions. Meet at the Addison Central School parking lot on Route 17 at Addison Four Corners. Contact Barry Francis at 802-349-9206 for further information and to sign up.

**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/programsevents](http://rokeby.org/visit/programsevents).

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.org](mailto:tickets@townhalltheater.org).

THURSDAY, FEB. 1

**INTRODUCTION TO BUTOH IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Feb. 1, 3 p.m., Dance Theater, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. The dancers of Middlebury College class DANC1017 will present "Introduction to Butoh" — led by professor Messi Chavez. All are welcome to this free showing of the students' final project for the winter term. The dancers will explore new movements and possibilities.

FRIDAY, FEB. 2

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN RIPTON.** Friday, Feb. 2, west side of Frost Mountain. Moderate hike of 4.5

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 26</b> Through the Night: Public Affairs 5:55 a.m. Policy Forum On Baby Bonds 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. Policy Forum On Baby Bonds 7:05 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour, <b>Saturday, January 27</b> Through the Night: Public Affairs 7:30 a.m. Baby Bonds 9:05 a.m. Gov. Scott 10 a.m. Selectboard 12:34 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 6 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Baby Bonds 9:05 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour <b>Sunday, January 28</b> Through the Night: Alliance for Public Media 8:02 a.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 2:25 p.m. Baby Bonds 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 29</b> Through the Night: 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. Baby Bonds <b>Tuesday, January 30</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. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Services 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs <b>Wednesday, January 31</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. Baby Bonds	5:35 p.m. Gov. Scott, Public Affairs 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs <b>Thursday, February 1</b> Through the Night: Public Affairs 5 a.m. Selectboard 8 a.m. Congregational Services 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 7 p.m. Baby Bonds 8:35 p.m. Public Affairs 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Dr. John Campbell  <b>Channel 1091</b> <b>Friday, January 26</b> 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Music In the Morning 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 27</b> 5 a.m. Music In the Morning 7 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Howe Library Book Talks 10 a.m. Word Time With Miss Markee 10:30 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 5:30 p.m. Tai Chi 5:55 p.m. Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble	7:02 p.m. Howe Library Lecture - Landscapes, Connectivity 8:39 p.m. All Brains Belong Vermont 9:47 p.m. OCAS Cabin Fever Lecture Series 10:30 p.m. Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble <b>Sunday, January 28</b> 5:30 a.m. Vermont Youth Orchestra 10 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 5:59 p.m. All Brains Belong Vermont 7:05 p.m. The Life and Work of Snowflake Bentley 8 p.m. Howe Library Lecture - Jeff Sharlett 8:57 p.m. Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble 10:04 p.m. Sundog Poetry Night 11:35 p.m. Tai Chi <b>Monday, January 29</b> 6:30 a.m. Vermont Youth Orchestra 8 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 9 a.m. Authors and Poets 10:30 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 7 p.m. Otter Creek Audubon Society 10 p.m. All Brains Belong <b>Tuesday, January 30</b> 5 a.m. Music in the Morning	6:30 a.m. Yoga 7:30 a.m. Food & Cooking Programs 9 a.m. Sundog Poetry Night 10:30 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 9 p.m. Sundog Poetry Night 10:30 p.m. Snowflake Bentley <b>Wednesday, January 31</b> 5 a.m. Midd Science Cafe 6 a.m. Snowflake Bentley 7 a.m. Chair Yoga 8 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 4 p.m. Snowflake Bentley 4:56 p.m. All Brains Belong VT 6:02 p.m. Sundog Poetry Night 7:30 p.m. OCAS Cabin Fever Lecture 8:45 p.m. All Brains Belong 10 p.m. Authors and Poets <b>Thursday, February 1</b> 5 a.m. Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble 6:07 a.m. Tai Chi 6:32 a.m. Howe Library Book Talk 7:30 a.m. All Brains Belong VT 8:36 a.m. Snowflake Bentley 9:32 a.m. Midd Science Cafe 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi 3:30 p.m. Sundog Poetry Night 5 p.m. Snowflake Bentley 6 p.m. All Things LGBTQ	



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.

**ART OPENING IN BRANDON.** Friday, Feb. 2, 5-7 p.m., Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center St. Come see works by students in Rutland Northeast schools at this annual show.

## 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 or 802-382-9222.

## TUESDAY, FEB. 6

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB: BREAD LOAF SECTION ANNUAL MEETING IN MIDDLEBURY.** Tuesday, Feb. 6, 6:30-8:15 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 7:15, GMC Director of Field Programs Keegan Tierney will present an inside look at the projects that the club and volunteers have completed during recent and unprecedented challenges and will describe the

club's response to the 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. 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."

**EXHIBIT TALK AND TOUR IN MIDDLEBURY.** Tuesday, Feb. 6, 6 p.m., Davis Family Library, Middlebury College. Join Middlebury alumnae Bee Ottinger and Karla Baehr for a discussion of representation, feminism, and their experience embracing their sexuality after attending Middlebury in the 1960s. The talk will be followed by a tour of the new exhibition in the library, "The Lesbian House (1972-1973: Photographs by Bee Ottinger, class of 1970)." Ottinger's photographs depict life at the Los Angeles Lesbian House, a halfway house affiliated with the Gay Community Service Center established in 1972 to provide a home for lesbians who had been rejected from their families.

## 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 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. More at 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.

**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 Flinger 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 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.



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT DOOR

## Rutland's Winterfest back with old favorites and new events

Rutland's Winterfest is back this year with an avalanche of awesome events February 16-25. Winterfest has been a Rutland staple for 21 years and this year's event is on track to be the biggest ever, with more festivities, more folks and more fun! Crowd favorites like the Snow Sculpting competition, night sledding on Center Street, Human Foosball, the Chili Cook-Off, the Real Rutland Feud and more return this year, while new events have been added to the wintry mix.

Come Alive Outside, a Rutland nonprofit, is the new coordinator of Rutland's Winterfest. Collaborating with local organizations to throw a big party is what Come Alive Outside loves to do, so Winterfest was both a natural fit and a welcome addition to their programming roster.



Rutland's annual Winterfest events will be held Feb. 16-25, with the majority of the events held on Saturday, Feb. 17.

COURTESY PHOTO

"We as an organization love to have fun outdoors and include as many people as possible in our events. To that end, you'll find that most Winterfest events are free and accessible to a variety of abilities and ages," said Come Alive Outside Program Manager Haley Rice. "This year, we're focusing a lot of attention on our local teens and tweens because we want them to feel like they're a part of the action, too. With funding from the Region 2 VPLO and help from partners like Rutland County Pride, NAACP, The Restorative Justice Center, The Mint, and Partners for Prevention there is a Winterfest event each day for youth 12+ during the entire winter break."

Winterfest kicks off Saturday, Feb. 17, with a snow-sculpting competition, the Chili Cook-Off, the Vermont Farmers' Market Food Tour, Owls at Phoenix Books, and storytelling and bookmark crafting at the Rutland Free Library. Later in the week, festival-goers can go night sledding down Center Street, play or watch Human Foosball, join the Great Bigfoot Chase, learn some winter survival skills, wear Pjs at the Paramount, watch the Real Rutland Feud, take a writing workshop, go to Wonderfeet on Wednesday, salute the queens at the Fierce Friday Winterfest Drag Show, Skate with Bigfoot, paint Bigfoot at the Chaffee Art Center, stroll through a Story Walk or take in a Trail Tale, and dance with a loved one or a little one. Teen events include rock climbing, a blacklight Nerf War, a teen supper club, and more. Most events are free, and many are for all ages, with some special events only for teens and tweens. Some events are ticketed and require payment.

For more information, visit [comealiveoutside.com/winterfest](http://comealiveoutside.com/winterfest), email [admin@comealiveoutside.com](mailto:admin@comealiveoutside.com) or visit @comealiveoutside on Facebook or Instagram.

**"MOST WINTERFEST EVENTS ARE FREE AND ACCESSIBLE TO A VARIETY OF ABILITIES AND AGES."**

— Haley Rice

## THERE'S MORE!

Get outside, get out of town! If you're feeling the winter blues creep in, check out these awesome outdoor events in neighboring towns.

### FULL MOON SKI PARTY IN HUNTINGTON

**Saturday, Jan. 27, from 5-9 p.m.**

Sleepy Hollow Inn, Ski & Bike Center in Huntington will be hosting an evening of nordic skiing, music food and drink at their Full Moon Ski Party this Saturday, Jan. 27, from 5-9 p.m. Goodie-filled water bottles will be hidden on the ski trails to be found by adults and kids. Tickets at [skisleepyhollow.com](http://skisleepyhollow.com), [info@skisleepyhollow.com](mailto:info@skisleepyhollow.com) or call 802-434-2283.

### JANUARY BIRD MONITORING WALK IN HUNTINGTON

**Saturday, Jan. 27, 8-9 a.m.**

Birders at every experience level join Birds of Vermont Museum staff in recording all the feathery friends living on the grounds. BYO binoculars. Located at 900 Sherman Hollow Rd., Huntington. For more info call 802-434-2167 or visit [birdsofvermont.org](http://birdsofvermont.org). There's another bird monitoring walk on Saturday, Feb. 24 if you can't make this month's event.

### PENGUIN PLUNGE IN BURLINGTON

**Saturday, Feb. 10, 10 a.m.**

Now in its 29th year, the Special Olympics Vermont Penguin Plunge event series supports a movement that works year-round to foster inclusion and acceptance of people with intellectual disabilities (ID) by using the power of sport to showcase their gifts and abilities. Each year, the SOVT Penguin Plunge raises nearly 40% of the operating budget. Join in on Feb. 10 for the chilly dip at the Burlington Waterfront. More info at [specialolympicsvermont.org/penguin-plunge](http://specialolympicsvermont.org/penguin-plunge).



# MiniBury

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## Into the Woods

Middlebury Area Land Trust announced last summer that it would take a hiatus from offering afterschool programs for the fall. The organization's educational director had taken a new job out of state, and executive director Jamie Jo Horton was on maternity leave.

**Good news: MALT afterschool is back!**

This spring, starting Feb. 28, MALT will host its popular outdoor afterschool program for kids in K-3rd grade on Wednesday afternoons. Students meet at Mary Hogan Elementary before riding the bus together to Means Woods where they'll play and explore until 5:15 p.m.

Registration for the Mary Hogan program runs Monday, Jan. 29, at 8 a.m.



through Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 6 p.m. This is a lottery-based system, so no rush to register. Visit [maltvt.org/school-program](http://maltvt.org/school-program) to learn more about the program.

MALT will add a second afterschool program at Cornwall Elementary sometime in the spring.



## LEGO Master?

Does someone in your family love building with LEGO? Now's their chance to show off their creation. The Bixby Memorial Library's sixth annual LEGO competition is back. The guidelines are simple: Use LEGO, Duplo or Megablocks to build an original creation (no kits or instructions allowed!) measuring no more than 18 by 18 inches.

LEGO enthusiasts of all ages, from pre-K to adult, are invited to participate. Register at [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org) by Feb. 13.

## Coming Up

**HILL COUNTRY HOLIDAY IN LINCOLN**

Friday through Sunday, Feb. 2-4.  
The town of Lincoln knows how to make the most of the depths of winter! Head up into the mountains for a taco dinner, contra dance, parade, ice skating, sledding and a jack jump race.

**LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION AT TOWN HALL THEATER**

Sunday, Feb. 11, 12:30 p.m.  
Learn tae kwon do, listen to stories about the holiday, make dragon-themed crafts, watch dance and drumming performances, and more.

See more online

MiniBury.com

THINGS TO DO • MEET PARENTS & FRIENDS  
NEWS FOR FAMILIES • TIPS, TRICKS & TRENDS • CALENDAR



PUZZLES

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ACROSS

1. Winged nut

7. \_\_ Humbug!

10. One who sets apart

12. Circle above a saint's head

13. Unpleasantly loud and harsh

14. Expressed pleasure

15. Feminine given name

16. Company of badgers

17. Popular Dodge pickup truck

18. Witty sayings

19. Leader

21. Autonomic
- nervous system

22. Premolar

27. Atomic #28

28. Holiday decorative item

33. Exclamation of surprise

34. Rusk or cracker

36. Returned material authorization (abbr.)

37. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language

38. Eat

39. Marxist economics theory (abbr.)

40. Ceases to exist

41. Male Arabic name

44. Series of ridges on an organ wall

45. Places where

- bees are kept
48. One-time Yankees sensation Kevin
49. Church office
50. Single lens reflex
51. Pieces of fibrous tissue

DOWN

1. Classify

2. Dismounted

3. Produced

4. Consumed

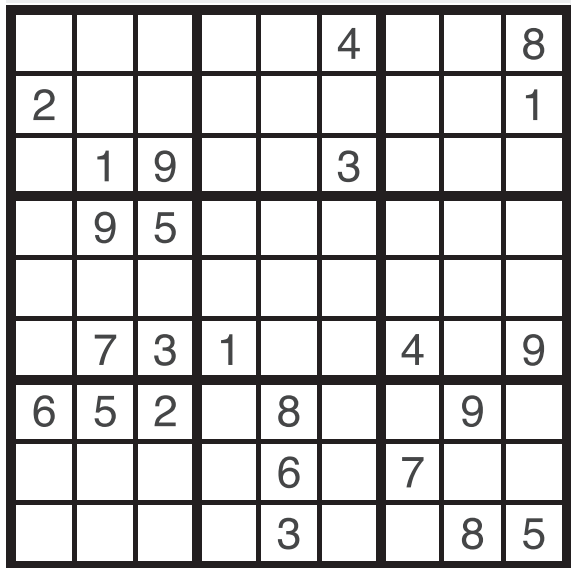
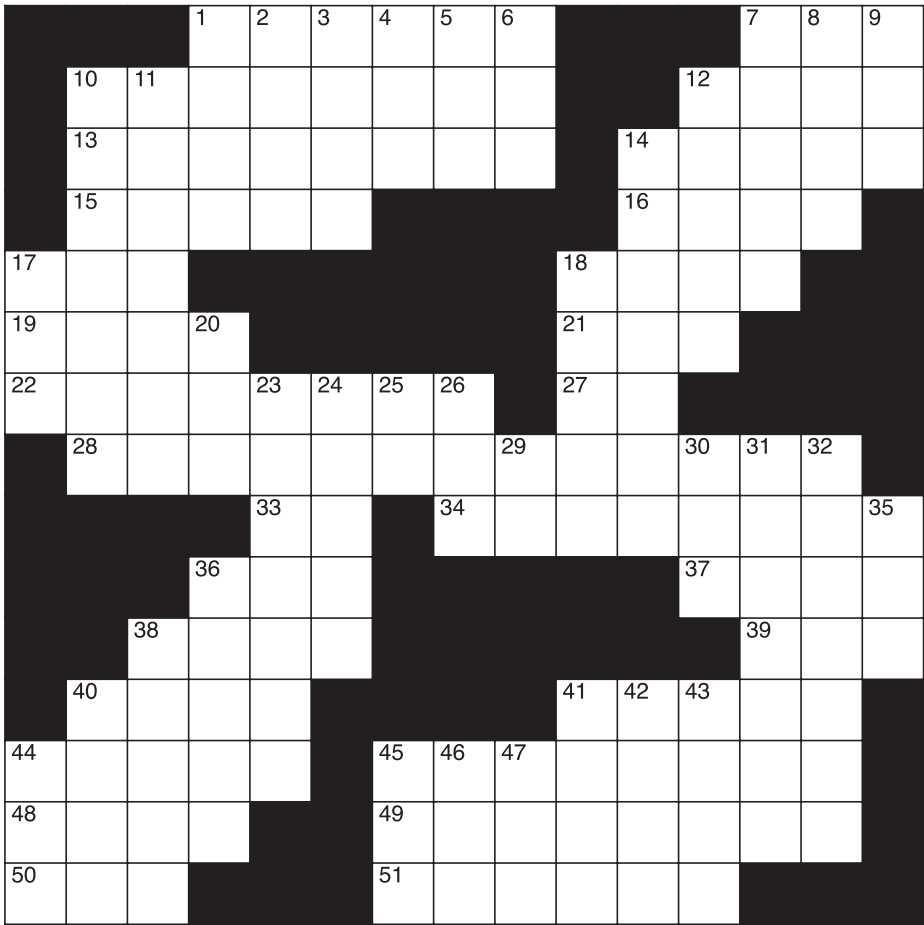
5. Director Howard

6. The products of human creativity

7. Thai monetary units

8. Away from wind

9. Builder's trough



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

10. Relating to Islam

11. It can sometimes ache

12. Small quantities (Scot.)

14. Poisonous plant

17. Laugh at

18. Vogul

20. C. European river

23. Type of cat

24. Exclamation of disgust
25. Stephen King novel

26. Without armies

29. Expression of sympathy

30. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)

31. Previously

32. Illegal drug

35. Kiloelectronvolt

36. Large, flightless birds
38. For smoking

40. Binary

41. Competition

42. Mark resembling an arrow

43. Containers

44. Root mean square (abbr.)

45. Commercials

46. I.M.\_\_\_, architect

47. 007's creator

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 13.

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CANVAS  
PAINTS  
PAPER



# Town Hall Theater hosts ‘Carmen’ live in HD from the METOpera

**O**n Wednesday, Jan. 31, catch the next Live in HD METOpera broadcast. “Carmen” will show on the big screen at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, at 11 a.m.


Acclaimed English director Carrie Cracknell brings a vital 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. Dazzling young mezzo-soprano Aigul Akhmetshina leads a powerhouse quartet of stars in the complex and volatile title role, alongside tenor Piotr Beczala as Carmen's troubled lover Don José, soprano Angel Blue as the loyal Micaëla, and bass-baritone Kyle Ketelsen as the swaggering Escamillo. Daniele Rustioni conducts Bizet's heart-pounding score.

Tickets are \$26 for adults, and \$12 for students. Visit [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org) for tickets and more details.



Aigul Akhmetshina stars in the METOpera's production of “Carmen,” which will screen live in HD at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 11 a.m.



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## Pets In Need

### HOMeward BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society



**Golf**



**Hotel**



**Lima**



**November**



**Kenai**

**Golf, Hotel & Lima** are all friendly but apprehensive cats. They are approximately a year old. They have lived with many cats but have not been exposed to many people. They take a while to warm up but are very sweet. They find comfort in the other cats they came in with and would do well being adopted together with one of them.

**November** is another one of our sweet, but shy cats. He is estimated to be around 2 years old. He has lived with many cats before but has not been exposed to many people. November is a little goofy and makes some funny-sounding meows. He has been protective of his previous housemates and may do well to be adopted with one of them.

**Kenai** is part of Homeward Bound's 3rd Party Adoption listing for privately owned Vermont animals. He is a 4-year-old un-neutered male Pitbull/Husky mix weighing 50 pounds. He is not current on vaccinations and has no reported medical conditions. Kenai aggressively guards his food. His current owner reports that Kenai is very active, friendly to family and visitors, a clown, playful, talkative, and affectionate. He knows basic commands, is crate-trained, and is housebroken. Kenai loves to play in the snow and run in an enclosed area. He is afraid of water. Kenai's play style includes playing rough, chasing anything that is thrown, fetching, and playing with other dogs and cats. He currently lives with a small dog and a cat but has never been around children. Kenai's family would love to see him go to a home that is financially able to care for him properly, and who has the time to spend with him for exercise and mental stimulation. He also needs training around jumping up on people. Having people at home more than away would be beneficial to Kenai as well.

## Want to learn more?

Call or check our website. We may have a pet for you!

802-388-1100 | [HomewardBoundAnimals.org](http://HomewardBoundAnimals.org)

236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT





4606 LAKE STREET, BRIDPORT  
\$899,000

# THE HOME

A LOOK INSIDE ADDISON COUNTY HOMES FOR SALE

## Over 10 acres of lakefront luxury in Bridport

Year-round Lake Champlain property with 800'+ of shoreline on 10.1 acres! As you approach from the long private driveway, you will fall in love with the peaceful setting of this Adirondack-style Heritage log home. The full wrap-around balcony, stone accents, and three levels of living space will immediately attract one to this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath waterfront retreat. The main living level feels grand in size with the soaring cathedral ceilings, the statement fireplace, and windows to the west, yet the arched doorways and warm wood features offer a cozy and inviting ambiance. And let's not forget about the views of the ADKs and lake that can be enjoyed inside and out! The sloped gravel path to the lake will allow access to the shore. 25 minutes to Middlebury, 30 minutes to Vergennes, or head to the New York side or Canada via boat! Check out the 3D tour to virtually walk through this home!

MLS #4956824



This week's property is managed by The Real Estate Company of Vermont. More info at [therealestatecompanyvt.com](http://therealestatecompanyvt.com).









## Winter's cold. The housing market is not!

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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 1-800-669-9777.

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### 4606 Lake Street, Bridport

Year-round Lake Champlain property with 800'+ of shoreline on 10.1 acres! As you approach from the long private driveway, you will fall in love with the peaceful setting of this Adirondack-style Heritage log home. The full wrap-around balcony, stone accents, and three levels of living space will immediately attract one to this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath waterfront retreat. The sloped gravel path to the lake will allow access to the shore. 25 minutes to Middlebury, 30 minutes to Vergennes, or head to the New York side or Canada via boat! Visit our website and check out the 3D tour.

MLS No. 4956824 | \$ 899,000



### TBD So. Lincoln Road, Lincoln

Undeveloped 62.3 acre parcel of mostly wooded land in Lincoln. The parcel's northern boundary follows Cota Brook, a lovely winding creek with waterfalls and swimming holes, and enjoys a western facing slope with view potential. This entire lot is enrolled in VT's Current Use Program, a portion could be removed from the program to accommodate a home site with a fee for the portion being removed. Or, continue to be a steward of the land and spend your time recreating on this beautiful piece of earth. Located within close proximity to several swimming spots along the New Haven River, hiking, elementary school, general store, and both Nordic and alpine skiing within a ½ hour drive.

MLS No. 4971457 | \$ 475,000



for more information, contact one of our agents:



Jill Fraga  
Broker/Owner/Realtor®



Danelle Birong  
Broker/Realtor®



Orion Lazo  
Agent/Realtor®



Tammy Petersen  
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## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

JAN. 25, 2024

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7	4	1	9	3	2	6	8	5





Left to Right: Amey Ryan, Beth Stanway, Courtney DeBisschop, Sarah Peluso

# IPJ Real Estate

## IPJRE Insights Amey Ryan, Owner/Broker

Have you seen price reductions on properties you're watching? Have you noticed that some properties are on the market a bit longer than usual? You're not alone—the market is once again shifting.

Most people think that the market shifts back and forth from a "buyer's market" to a "seller's market" and in some years (decades even!) that has been the case. But now we're in the post-covid era of real estate and the market shift feels quite different!

Why these shifts? As Realtors we use both historical data and market trends to assist sellers and buyers with an initial price point. Adjustments need to be made for several reasons. Maybe the market shifts during the course of selling a property. Perhaps the interest rate impacts what a buyer is able to pay for a property. In other cases, the motivation of a seller might shift over time. It's best to be nimble, recognize when one of these shifts is happening and respond appropriately.

Real estate is hyper-local. Be sure you're working with an agent that lives, works and plays in the market area they are selling.



## PRICE REDUCTION! 16 NEDDE LANE, MIDDLEBURY MLS #4979500 | NOW \$465,000 2 BD | 3 BA | 1466 SF | CONDO

When you think of your next phase of life, are you hoping to simplify your daily routine? Maybe travel more and do less yard work? Do you love the comfort of knowing that you have neighbors watching out for your home while you're away? This is what Battell Hill can offer you! This center, townhouse-style unit offers plenty of space to live comfortably for many years to come. Direct entry into the mudroom from the attached garage. The kitchen is fully-equipped with lots of counter space and cupboards, room for a small table, pantry space and a desk/tv nook. The living and dining rooms are open to one another—it's a space you'll love to host guests in. Enjoy the fireplace through the winter months and bask in the sun from your south-facing deck in the summer (or hop on the TAM from your own backyard)! Upstairs you'll find a large primary suite with two walk-in closets and a private bath with a shower, soaking tub and double vanities. A guest room with a walk-in closet has easy access to the 3/4 bath down the hall. Laundry closet, storage closet and a crawl space for deep storage!

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# MUSEUM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

and New York State. In 1941, Plowden's family bought a farm in Putney, Vt., where he spent extended periods, including attending the Putney School from 1948-1951.

Plowden notably developed a lifelong fascination with trains in Vermont. After graduating from Yale, he worked for the Great Northern Railway for several years. He also studied with the great Modernist photographer Minor White and was closely allied with some of the most influential American photographers of the 20th century, including Ansel Adams, Margaret Bourke-White, and especially Walker Evans.

Plowden supported himself and his family by taking photographs for such publications as Time, Life, Newsweek, and Vermont Life. But his childhood love of steam locomotives led to his true life's work: in 1956, Plowden began photographing these majestic machines. Many were on their last runs, soon to be replaced by diesel and eventually electric trains. Plowden next turned his attention to steamboats and the manufacturing of heavy steel — both of which would likewise soon fall into decline. Until he took his final photograph in 2011, Plowden never stopped crisscrossing the country, photographing the people, places, and machines that helped shape American society.

"David Plowden: Portraits of America" was curated by Jason Vrooman, '03.



David Plowden (American, b. 1932), Locomotive Number 5145 Being Serviced in Roundhouse, St. Luc Engine Terminal, Canadian Pacific Railway, Montreal, Quebec, 1960.

IMAGE / DAVID PLOWDEN



EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury  
For more info visit  
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.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Rd, Middlebury

For more info visit [middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions](http://middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions).

"Derrick Adams: Sanctuary" featuring 50 works of mixed-media collage, assemblage on wood panels, and sculpture that reimagine safe destinations for the black American traveler during the mid-20th century. On view Jan. 26-April 14.

"David Plowden: Portraits of America." This exhibition is arranged around the major themes that dominated the artist's body of work: locomotives, steam ships, steel mills, bridges, small towns, and the agricultural landscapes of the Midwest. On view Jan. 26.-April 14.

TURN YOUR DREAMS OF OWNING A HOME  
INTO A REALITY WITH US



2 Brookside, Starksboro

Starksboro

Built in 2019, this meticulously-maintained home offers the quiet perks of country-living. There are 2 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms as well as a bonus room/office. The first floor offers a kitchen, which is open to the living space. Enjoy the new patio and beautiful fire pit, which are ideal for entertaining and hosting events, parties, and gatherings. On the second floor, you will find a generous primary suite as well as one additional bedroom, an office/bonus room, and another full bath. The heat and air conditioning are provided by high efficiency heat pumps.

MLS: 4977265



7407 Ethan Allen Highway

New Haven

This immaculate 3 bedroom home has plenty of space for everyone. The sun-filled family and living rooms—each with a distinct style—are fully furnished. The traditional dining room features gleaming hardwood floors. The country style eat in kitchen is large enough to carve out space for your laundry and/or a mudroom. This property is zoned Highway/Commercial, which makes this home an optimum choice for a business needing a huge garage/outbuilding. Not only is the outbuilding great for business but it also includes 4 bays with one bay featuring an oversized overhead.

MLS: 4963418



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Come check out this three-bedroom home located in the town of Addison. The location is a perfect spot to commute to Middlebury or Vergennes. You can watch beautiful sunsets from the front deck, or from the bay window located in the living room. There is space in the basement that could be finished off and made into a large family room. Outside you will find plenty of space for gardening and animals.



1513 MOUNTAIN ROAD, ADDISON  
MLS #4978294

\$339,000

A 10+ acre rectangular lot located in Orwell only 17 miles from Middlebury. A wooded sloping lot with a stream and lots of well established trees. A wastewater permit is in the process of being submitted for a 3 bedroom home. Come and build your dream home!

\$75,000



FISHER RD., ORWELL  
MLS #4982892

If you're looking for an affordable property with plenty of land, this unique property presents many possibilities. Ideal for a home business or hobby requiring a sizable garage with 16' ceilings offering the opportunity for a workshop, artist's studio, or indoor recreation area! A finished room on this level would make a great office space. Above the garage you will find the light filled, open design living area, with wood floors and cathedral ceilings. Step out onto the second story balcony to look out over your "back forty". Off the main living area are four bedrooms and a bath. With a bit of TLC you can make this house your home! Being sold "As Is". A draft waste water site plan is awaiting State approval. The permit will be provided, but the system will not be installed.



1696 LELAND RD., SALISBURY  
MLS #4982025

\$275,000

This beautiful 4.68 acre building lot is set back from the road with fabulous views of the Adirondacks. Permits are in place for a 3 bedroom home. The land is a very nice combination of open meadow and woods. Easy commute to town and to Middlebury College.

\$145,000



1300 WEST ST., CORNWALL  
MLS #4982955

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802-989-7522 | [ChamplainValleyProperty.net](http://ChamplainValleyProperty.net)





# COMMUNITY DANCE

## EVENTS

### Middlebury College offers free dance opportunities

#### INTRODUCTION TO BUTOH

The dancers of Middlebury College class DANC1017 will present "Introduction to Butoh" — led by professor Messi Chavez. All are welcome to this free showing of the students' final project for the winter term. The dancers will explore new movements and possibilities. Showing Feb. 1, at 3 p.m. in the Mahaney Arts Center Dance Theater, Room 110.

#### WEST AFRICAN DANCE AND DRUM CLASS

A West African dance and drum class will be held Mondays from 5-6:30 p.m., Feb. 26-May 6 in Wilson Hall (note: April 8 and 15 will be held in Mahaney Arts Center, room 110) on the Middlebury College campus. This course offers a rich taste of African culture that

provides amazing, vigorous, high energy and powerful movement. Let the beat of the drum move your body. Participants will learn songs, rhythms, dances and culture as the group embarks on a journey of dances from the African diaspora.

Class will be accompanied by live musicians to help participants understand the connection between the music and the dance. Connect to community through culture!

Open to Middlebury College students, faculty, staff and community members ages 13 and up. Attend one or all of the classes. Free.

For more information visit [middlebury.edu/college/academics/dance/events](http://middlebury.edu/college/academics/dance/events).



PHOTO / ADAM HOUSTON

## Share the love

Send a special message to your Valentine through the *Addison Independent*. Messages will be published on Thursday, February 8. It's free!

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**DEADLINE:**  
Thursday, Feb. 1

**ADDISON COUNTY  
INDEPENDENT**