



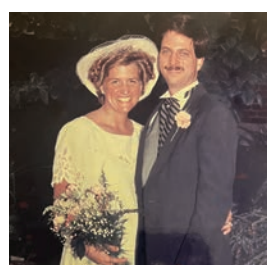
Arts ed

Town Hall Theater's addition makes more room to teach more classes. See Arts + Leisure.



Just short

The MUHS girls' hockey team made the D-II final, but lost a close game to Hartford. Page 1B.



Planning 'I Do'

Eight Addison County couples tell us about planning their nuptials. See Weddings in A+L.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Vol. 79 No. 11

Middlebury, Vermont ♦ Thursday, March 13, 2025 ♦ 56 Pages

\$2.00



Sweets for the sweet

FIVE-YEAR-OLD Harper Baxter and her two-year-old sister, Blaire, scoop up maple syrup on shaved ice at Starksboro's sugar-on-snow party and chili fest this past Saturday. The girls have more syrup and homemade doughnuts in reserve. See more photos on Page 19A. Independent photo/Steve James

Legislation aims to help farms hurt by weather

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont farmers in recent years have had no shortage of extreme weather events to contend with, from a devastating, late-spring freeze in 2023 to excessive rainfall and subsequent flooding over the past two summers. Damaging weather events are costly for farmers, and they're

becoming more frequent and intense as the planet heats up.

State Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury, has introduced a bill (S.60) that would establish a "Farm Security Special Fund" to provide grants for farm losses caused by weather conditions.

State Sen. Steven Heffernan, R-Bristol, is a co-sponsor of the bill, along with senators

Joseph "Joe" Major, a Windsor County Democrat, and Robert Plunkett, D-Bennington.

"I hope farmers are able to take advantage of it," Hardy said of the proposed fund. "If we do have more disasters, I hope it's a resource that they can access and is helpful to them."

Asked what inspired the legislation, Hardy (See Farmers, Page 10A)

Vergennes Opera House good to go on fed funding

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — Backers of the Vergennes Opera House and its planned All Access Project received reassuring financial news late last week.

As reported Feb. 27 in the

Independent, the Friends of the Vergennes Opera House (FVOH), the volunteer group that operates the theater, was worried about the status of \$500,000 of Congressionally approved funding (See Opera House, Page 10A)

Panton sets vote to expand its selectboard

By ANDY KIRKALDY

PANTON — Panton will hold a special election on Thursday, May 15, to fill out the newly expanded selectboard that residents voted in favor of on Town Meeting Day. It will now be five members rather than the previous three.

The current three members — Teresa Boucher, Zachary Weaver and the newly elected Reese Jaring — met on Thursday, March 6, to establish that date for the election, which is technically a special town meeting, according to Town Clerk Kyle Rowe.

Also on the ballot for residents' consideration will be a proposed amendment to the town charter that would allow for petitioned recall votes of elected Panton officials. The warning required for a charter change is 70 days. Thus the selectboard's decision to include the recall measure pushed the vote (See Panton, Page 17A)



REGAN LOUCY, LEFT, a grade 3-5 participant in the Bixby Library and Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes LEGO Contest, poses with her entry, "Library of Wonders." Right, the winner of the Adult & Child category in the LEGO Contest, Keegan and Brian Lisko, built this model of the Vergennes library. Like all the entries, it was built from scratch. Photos courtesy of Bixby Library

Trump's trade policy sowing economic pain

Shifting tariff threats cause uncertainty

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — It remains unclear exactly how tariffs proposed and implemented by President Donald Trump will impact U.S. businesses and consumers, but one thing is certain — the president's ever-changing approach to tariffs has already created a lot of confusion and economic uncertainty — and tension between the U.S. and its northern neighbor, Canada.

Trump's tariff policies change sometimes hour to hour, with several levies being threatened, imposed and then paused in the seven weeks since he took office. Businesses and consumers in Vermont, and nationwide, are left to try and keep up.

"If we have clarity, we could plan for that, but the constantly shifting sands are challenging," said Sean Flynn, co-founder of Silver Maple Construction in New Haven.

Trump last week issued steep 25% tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico, though

the president later announced exemptions that paused many of those levies until April 2. The Trump administration also on March 4 added an additional 10% tax on Chinese imports, on top of a 10% tariff put in place a month ago.

Additionally, 25% tariffs on steel and aluminum imports went into effect on Wednesday. U.S. allies responded soon after, with the European Union and Canada announcing reciprocal tariffs on Wednesday morning.

BEHIND THE TARIFFS

Obie Porteous is an associate professor of economics at Middlebury College. He noted Trump tariffs have received pushback.

"I think one of the reasons that the tariffs have been delayed or paused or exceptions granted is

that there's been a lot of pushback, especially from firms that are using imported inputs," he told the Independent. "The auto industry, for instance, is so used to not having tariffs at the border that they often send a good across the border multiple times before (See Tariff, Page 20A)



A citizen in the Women's Day March in Middlebury Saturday expresses her dissatisfaction with the chaos engendered by our president. See more photos on Page 9A. Independent photo/John S. McCright

LEGO competition at Bixby sparks creativity

Library, club stage 7th annual event

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The seventh annual Bixby Memorial Free Library and Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes LEGO contest inspired 44 entries — built from scratch by creators from kindergartners to adults — displayed on the Bixby's first floor on March 1.

The challenging task of picking winners fell to a distinguished panel of judges — Vermont Frames & Foam Laminates owner Kevin Moyer, Vermont Director of First Children's Finance and Bixby Library Board President Erin Roche, and Bixby Assistant Director & Adult Services Librarian Amber Lay.

The trio had to choose eight age-group victors among a wide variety of entries, none of which could be built using kits, per contest rules.

LEGO creations included a tractor pull, bank robbery, dollhouse, map of Vermont's counties, café, Planet Earth, Mount Vernon, cliff fishing, and miniature village, to name just a few. They were all built with the

brightly colored Lego bricks.

According to Bixby Community Engagement Manager Cedar Winslow, the entrants made the judges' work both difficult and enjoyable.

"The participants amazed both judges and spectators with their originality, presentation, spatial complexity, and vibrant use of color," Winslow wrote in a press release.

The winners were:

- Pre-K: A m o s Roorda, for "The

Spiderman Slasher."

- Grades K-2: Nigel Pluss for "George Washington's Mount Vernon."

- Grades 3-5: Corbin Jimerson-Smith for "Fishing by the Cliffs."

- Grades 6-8: Westin Maheu for "Robbery and your Morning Coffee."

- Teen/YA: Reese Lisko for "Counties of Vermont."

- Adult: Bryan Sawyer for "Planet Earth."

- Adult & Child: Keegan Lisko and Brian Lisko for "The Bixby Library."

(See Bixby LEGO, Page 13A)



Index

Obituaries.....6A-7A
Classifieds.....9B-10B
Service Directory.....7B-8B
Entertainment.....Arts + Leisure
Community Calendar.....5B
Arts Calendar.....Arts + Leisure
Sports.....1B-4B



7 18122 07300 9

No older teens at Vergennes facility

By **PETER D’AURIA**
VTDigger.org
VERGENNES — A Department for Children and Families official said that a planned Vergennes residential youth facility will not include space for older teens, backtracking on earlier plans to expand the campus.

State officials are working on drawing up plans for the Green Mountain Youth Campus, a treatment center in Vergennes for “justice-involved youth” — the department’s term for youths who have been criminally charged.

The program is intended as a more therapeutic successor to Woodside, the Essex juvenile detention center that closed in the fall of 2020. The initial plan, unveiled this past May, called for the campus to include 14 beds and to offer treatment to youths ages 12 to 18 on state-owned land in Vergennes, starting in 2026.

Late last year, however, state Department for Children and Families (DCF) officials said they were considering expanding the facility to 22 beds so it could also house 18- and 19-year-olds.

But in an interview last month, Tyler Allen, the adolescent services director at DCF, said that the state decided to scrap that proposed expansion after hearing concerns from Vergennes officials and others.

Those meetings with stakeholders led the department to determine that a 22-bed Green Mountain Youth Campus would be “trying to serve too many needs, too many ages, too many populations,” Allen said.

The state is now moving

forward with the original 14-bed plan, although Allen said officials have made some other changes as well, including structural design tweaks and expanding capacity for vocational programs.

“DCF changed our position while we did the exploration, because this is all about working with stakeholders and working with multiple perspectives,” he said.

The shift comes as Gov. Phil Scott’s administration is seeking the repeal of Vermont’s “Raise the Age” statute, a law to bring 18- and 19-year-olds charged with less severe crimes into family court and out of adult prisons.

Currently, 18-year-olds charged with misdemeanors and some minor felonies have their cases heard in family court. Lawmakers, however, seem inclined to again delay the complete implementation of the law, which was scheduled to expand to include 19-year-olds in April.

The proposal for an expanded Green Mountain Youth Campus would have allowed the facility to serve some of those older teens. Now, the status quo, in which some youths charged with criminal offenses end up in adult prisons, seems likely to prevail for the near future.

In an interview Monday, Allen said that the changes to the facility design and the governor’s proposal to repeal “Raise the Age” were not connected.

“I could see how somebody might connect those dots, but they are separate from one another,” he said.

In Vergennes, the prospect of housing older youths at the

facility had drawn concern from residents.

Mark Koenig, the chair of a Vergennes committee negotiating with the state about the facility, said that the fact that state officials were considering a larger campus with older youths had come as a surprise.

“Suddenly, it’s not just 18 and under, it’s possibly 19-, 20-, 21-year-olds,” he said in an interview last month.

The proposal was also a complicating factor in their negotiations, he said.

“We can’t buy a car if all you’re saying is it has four wheels, right?” Koenig said. “We’d like to know, is it a Mini Cooper, or is it a semi?”

The committee that Koenig led, called simply the Ad Hoc Committee, has drafted a list of items that state officials could provide that would help Vergennes residents accept the construction of the youth campus.

The most recent draft of that list includes a request for 180 acres of state land for affordable housing, as well as state investments in public safety and infrastructure, among other items.

In December, the city sent a letter to Wanda Minoli, the commissioner of the Department of Buildings and General Services, asking for specifics on the proposed youth facility and who will be held there.

That letter has not yet been answered, Vergennes city officials said.

“We’re kind of in a holding pattern, waiting to hear back from BGS,” Vergennes City Manager Ron Redmond said on Monday.

Bristol to host skateboard film festival

By **MARIN HOWELL**

BRISTOL — While Addison County is still in the midst of a proper Vermont winter, plans are well underway for a weekend-long event that’ll gather local skaters, film buffs and outdoor enthusiasts in Bristol this summer.

The inaugural Gitaskog Skateboard Film Festival will kick off in town July 25-27, inviting folks from in and around the region to enjoy a weekend of skating, camping and watching a variety of skateboard film projects.

“Skateboarding is as wild as the rivers and mountains that surround us, it’s an expression of freedom and community,” Gitaskog Skateboard Film Festival Founder Adam Gray writes on the event’s website. “The videos skaters make are often pure passion projects who’s only purpose is to inspire their friends. We want to see these videos and we want to celebrate this passion!”

Gray, who grew up in South Starksboro, is no stranger to putting on a film festival in Bristol. Around 20 years ago, he and his friends organized a few film festivals at Holley Hall.

“A lot of them went to school for film or they had bands or were making art, so we started first just doing one night, and then it grew into a four-night thing,” he recalled. “So, that was a cool experience that I always look back on.”

Inspiration for the Gitaskog Skateboard Film Festival in part stemmed from that experience, as

well as other skateboard-centric events Gray has attended during the years in Copenhagen, Denmark, and elsewhere.

He said he also wanted to remind people of all there is to enjoy about Bristol.

“One of my friends recently was mentioning how Waitsfield is the coolest town in Vermont, and that really upset me because I was like ‘Waitsfield is not cooler,’” Gray said with a laugh. “I kind of wanted to put my money where my mouth is and try and do events and get involved.”

Gray settled on the name “Gitaskog” for the film festival, which is the Abenaki term for “a large, horned serpent or giant snake,” like Vermont’s fabled lake monster, Champ. The name is a nod to that mythical aspect of the state’s history, as well as chosen in honor of the land on which the film festival will take place, and its people.

Gray plans to reach out to Abenaki tribes to see if they’d like to be involved in the event in some way.

Embracing all that Bristol and surrounding spots have to offer is a key part of plans for the film festival. Gray said that the hope is to offer a range of activities for attendees, from trips to the New Haven River, to a skate jam at the Bristol Hub Teen Center’s skatepark featuring live music.

“The hope is to attract skaters from all over Vermont, but also, I’m reaching out to groups in Montreal, and surrounding states, and down

in New York City,” he said. “It’s so sick here in the summer that the goal is to celebrate that and expose people to that.”

Gray said organizers are still figuring out what the weekend’s activities will look like, but some ideas include a trip to the Warren Skate Park and an unofficial opening ceremony at South Mountain Tavern.

“We’re still figuring that out, but I definitely want to tie it to the area because there’s a lot of cool stuff here,” he said.

To that end, Gray said he hopes to highlight options for camping on nearby state and federal land that attendees can take advantage of.

“At least setting up a map for places to camp, so people can just come up or come down and be here for the weekend and not have to worry if they don’t have the money for an Airbnb or hotel, or if there’s just not enough Airbnbs and hotels,” he explained.

Currently, plans call for viewing films the evening of Saturday, July 26. Gray said the hope is to screen the films outside, setting up a projector at the Hub near the skatepark.

ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS

The film festival is currently accepting skate video project submissions. Those interested in submitting a project can find guidelines for entries and a link to do so at gitaskogfilmfest.org.

Gray noted organizers are looking for slightly longer projects, rather than short video clips made for social media. Aside from that, guidelines for entries are fairly open ended.

“Skateboarding has a long history (See Skateboard, Page 3A)

“It’s so sick here in the summer that the goal is to celebrate that and expose people to that.”

— film festival organizer Adam Gray

Support local advocate with vote for the stroke-awareness award

By **JOHN FLOWERS**

MIDDLEBURY — Nikki Juvan has learned a lot about the human brain and healthcare since her husband, Trent Campbell, sustained multiple strokes more than six years ago.

Juvan quickly put her energy, love and compassion to work on ways to create a better future for Campbell and others recovering from strokes — a sometimes-catastrophic health event that occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or ruptures. When that happens, part of the brain can’t get the blood and oxygen it needs, causing brain cells to die.

In addition to being a dedicated caregiver to Trent, the former AddisonIndependentphotographer, Juvan has collaborated with her daughter, Hannah Roque, on two projects aimed at providing information, guidance and comfort to stroke patients and their loved ones: A website called Stroke Awareness Vermont (strokeawarenessvermont.org), and a booklet called “Stroke Stories,” which provides testimonials and a clearinghouse of information for and about stroke survivors and their families.

Juvan’s efforts have gained statewide and national attention. And you can help her get even more well-deserved recognition. Juvan has been named a finalist for



TRENT CAMPBELL AND NIKKI JUWAN

the prestigious American Stroke Association’s “Stroke Hero Voters’ Choice Award.” The ASA cited her “unwavering support to her husband, a multiple stroke survivor, for over six years, embodying the true spirit of resilience and compassion.”

Her chances of winning the award are largely dependent on the support she receives through online voting at tinyurl.com/4f7hk7xy. Folks can vote for her once per day, through March 18.

The Stroke Hero Voters’ Choice Award celebrates individuals

who’ve shown “extraordinary dedication to improving the lives of those impacted by stroke,” according to an ASA press release, which also notes that “Juvan’s advocacy and her work with Stroke Awareness Vermont have already made a significant impact in the stroke community.”

Folks logging on to strokeawarenessvermont.org can find information and support, including awareness about stroke prevention and recovery, while also helping caregivers navigate the challenges they face.

SUBSCRIBE

LET’S MAKE THIS EASY!

SKIP THE MANUAL RENEWAL PROCESS & SIGN UP TO AUTO-RENEW.

Questions?
CALL SEAN TODAY!
802-388-4944



Subscriber Name _____	Card # _____
Mailing Address _____	CCV _____ Exp. Date _____
Phone Number _____	NAME, EMAIL & CREDIT CARD INFO REQUIRED.
Email Address _____	We will never share your information, we promise.
Credit card info is encrypted and destroyed after the first payment.	

PRINT + DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION
PICK A PAYMENT SCHEDULE THAT WORKS FOR YOU!

☐ **MONTHLY**
\$10/month

☐ **SENIOR**
\$9/month

☐ **YEARLY**
\$120/year

☐ **SENIOR**
\$108/year

THANK YOU!

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Prefer to send a check or cash? That’s great, too! Simply mail your payment with this renewal form to us at 58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753.
You can also subscribe online at: addisonindependent.com/subscribe



\$3.00 OFF

ANYTHING CERTIFIED ORGANIC



(excludes alcohol)
(minimum purchase \$3.00)
(Expires Thursday, 3/20/25)

9 Washington St | 802.388.7276
middlebury.coop

CO-OP WEEKLY SALE 3/13 - 3/19

MNFC Deal



\$.99 ~~\$1.99/lb~~
Organic Cabbage


MNFC Deal



\$7.99 ~~\$10.99/ea~~
Grass Fed Thousand Hills Stew Beef

MNFC Deal



\$1.49 ~~\$2.99/lb~~
Organic Red Potatoes




Scan the QR code or see in-store flyer!



CO-OP
MEMBER DEALS

Members Take an Extra 20% Off



Mar 13 - Mar 19

Bristol’s Dunshee Block changes hands

By MARIN HOWELL
BRISTOL — Bristol’s historic Dunshee Block has a new owner. Justin Sandherr purchased the property from longtime owners Carol and Tom Wells last month. The three-story building is located at 19-21 Main St., on the south side of the street between Wokky’s and Art on Main. It is home to two businesses — Bristol Suites and the Vermont Marketplace.

“Justin has exciting ideas for the future of the business and the building and in collaboration with the local community will now undertake a new chapter for one of Bristol’s oldest Main Street buildings,” the Wellses wrote in a March 1 social media post announcing the change in ownership.

In the post, the couple noted that the Dunshee Block was constructed by Noble F. Dunshee in 1871. Dunshee’s dry goods store originally occupied the first floor of the building, with other businesses and offices upstairs.

“By the late 1990s, the building was in a state of disrepair and in 2000, Tom organized a group of concerned Bristol-area folks (17 investors) and we bought the building and undertook repairs and updating,” the post says. “The group was led by Tom, George Vince, Fred Baser, Robert Fuller and Larry Buck. We took a very tired store (many of you may remember the amazingly unique Barry O’S) and five rather dilapidated apartments and fixed everything up and gave the whole building a badly needed new coat of paint. Happily, the community

investment model worked out well and the building prospered.”

The investor-partners were paid off in 2010, at which point the Wellses took over the building and took on a new phase of development.

“Over time, we converted the apartments to a 10 room country inn known as Bristol Suites with its own distinctive lobby and facilities. Six years ago the Inn came to include its own lobby store, the Vermont Marketplace,” the Wellses wrote. “The rooms in the inn were lovingly furnished and many have full kitchens and other amenities. Most recently, a state of the art fire protection and sprinklering system has been added to the building and yet one more round of repairs and repainting was done to its 150-year-old plus clapboard exterior.”

The Wellses said that restoring the building and establishing its two businesses was a labor of love and supported by a group of employees including current innkeepers Niko Pruesse and Mark Adams, and storekeepers Lily Hinrichsen and Sarah Jean Luke.

The innkeepers and storekeepers will stay on under Sandherr, along with the housekeeping and maintenance staff.

“We could not have had the success we had without the wonderful support of all our customers and guests and the whole community of Bristol. We love you all,” the Wellses wrote.

Look for more in-depth reporting on the Dunshee Block’s next chapter in a future edition of the *Independent*.



Stand up for science

AROUND 60 PEOPLE marched from Bicentennial Hall, the home of biology, chemistry and other science departments at Middlebury College, to Twilight Hall on Friday, March 7, to support America’s commitment to science. The march, one of many around the country that day, comes as the Trump administration threatens massive funding cuts for basic research that could make lives better.

Photo by Mark Saltveit

Skateboard

(Continued from Page 2A)
of making videos, and that’s how the activity is shown,” Gray said of the types of projects they’re hoping to receive. “There’s lots of people out there who own a video camera, and they just film their friends and then they edit that footage and put music, and they make a video for their friends to watch. Even in Vermont, there’s lots of people that have done that.”

Submissions will be accepted through May 23. Gray plans to connect with an established filmmaker or team, such as the Dime Skateshop in Montreal, to screen one of their films at the event.

The film festival has already received a few submissions, and the event is open to entries from skaters and filmmakers outside of the Addison County area.

“One thing we would really like is to have all of the people that are accepted come and be a part of this and celebrate and all of the people that are involved in these projects, like skaters, come and be a part of this weekend,” he said. “So, it kind of becomes a collective event, at least in the sense of sharing these films with everybody.”

Organizers are looking to secure grant funding to support filmmakers in attending the event.

Gray’s hope is to have entry to the screening portion of the weekend be by donation. All profits from the event will go toward the Bristol

Skatepark Project.

Work is underway to remodel the skatepark located next to the Hub and make the recreation area more accessible and inclusive for all users.

The plan involves construction of a new concrete skatepark to replace the current asphalt park, and locals are working with Nor’Easter Skateparks on a design. Organizers would like to see the new skatepark ready within a couple of years.

“The event is really Adam’s brainchild,” Bristol Hub Director Taylor Welch-Plante said of the film festival. “The Hub and Bristol Recreation Department are excited to be supporting him and helping to make it happen. It’s a great opportunity for skaters all around Vermont and New England to showcase the videos many of them have been working on for years. We’re so excited Adam approached us and we are in the position to offer support and help.”

Community members don’t have to wait until this summer to get involved in the event. Gray said the film festival is looking for volunteers, as well as businesses interested in sponsoring the festival or getting involved in another way.

“Just looking for any and all involvement to pull it off, especially as it gets closer,” he said.

More on the Gitaskog Skateboard Film Festival can be found on the event’s website, gitaskogfilmfest.org.

Vermont households can save over \$30,000 on home energy upgrades through 2025 rebates and incentives



Go Green

- Up to \$24,500 back for weatherization
- Up to \$5,000 cash back for a heat pump water heater
- \$350-\$2,000 back for a heat pump
- Wood heat rebates
- Hundreds of dollars off Energy Star appliances
- \$100 back on a smart thermostat

water heater: Income-eligible households can get up to \$5,000 back for water heaters that use heat pumps to make the hot water used in your kitchen, bathroom, and laundry room. Heat pump technology operates more efficiently than fossil fuel equipment and can save money on your monthly energy bills.

From \$350 to \$2,000 back for a heat pump: Transition from fossil fuels to heating with efficient all-electric heat pumps — which double as air conditioners. Get up to \$450 for a ductless “mini split” heat pump that can heat and cool a whole floor or an entire home. Homes with ductwork can get up to \$2,000 back on a ducted heat pump system.

Stay warm with wood heat rebates. Get \$6,000 back for a central wood pellet furnace or boiler. Or consider adding heat to an area of your home with a wood or pellet stove and save \$400.

Get hundreds of dollars off Energy Star appliances: Get up to \$400 off a heat pump clothes dryer, \$400 off a washer/heat pump dryer combo unit, \$25 off a

dehumidifier, or \$100 off a “Most Efficient” window AC unit. Energy Star certified appliances can save money on your power bill by using less electricity. That can also benefit the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Get \$100 back on a smart thermostat: Control your home’s heating and cooling with a thermostat that adjusts to your schedule and your home’s unique needs — and enjoy savings on your monthly energy bills.

Low-income households may qualify for an appliance voucher for up to \$1,200 to replace one qualifying appliance. Additional support for low-income households is also available, including free weatherization through the state’s Weatherization Assistance Programs, and free and low-cost efficient products like LED light bulbs.

There’s no wrong way to bundle these efficiency upgrades. A whole-home approach could combine weatherization and home repair offers (up to \$24,500), and switch to a ducted heat pump

for home heating (up to \$2,000). Combined with a heat pump water heater (up to \$5,000), a new smart thermostat, and some appliance upgrades (about \$600), that home could bundle more than \$33,000 in savings. Another household may find a smaller bundle more suitable, like weatherizing (up to \$9,500) but not needing any home repair fixes, adding a ductless heat pump for heating and cooling (up to \$450), and installing a heat pump water heater (up to \$5,000) for nearly \$16,000 in savings.

Whatever projects you decide to bundle, completing several at once can be more affordable with 0% interest on up to \$25,000 through a home energy loan. No-interest loans are available to help pay for home energy upgrades over time, and low- and moderate-income customers can get 0% interest on loans of five years or less. Longer terms are available with low interest rates for all income levels. Customers of participating utilities may also be eligible for the Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program to pay off their home energy project on their monthly utility bill.

Additional rebates may also be available from your electric or gas utility. Income-based bonus offers and other rebates from your electric or gas utility can offer hundreds — even thousands — of dollars off heat pumps, weatherization projects, and more.

Addison County's Hometown Dealer



36 Boardman St.,
Middlebury VT 05753
802-388-6718
gstonemotors.com

2149 Rt 7 South,
Middlebury VT 05753
802-388-9961
stonecdjr.com



Editorial

Americans must find their voice to halt this train wreck

It’s difficult to grasp how much change Trump has wreaked on America in these past couple of weeks. Even for Americans who read the news carefully, so much happens so quickly that the far-too-common reaction by voters is to tune out the political noise and focus on their personal lives.

That’s understandable, but it’s a grave mistake. Trump is causing real damage to the nation and Americans must find their voices soon if they are going preserve the nation’s democracy.

Already, political scholars have determined the nation is functioning more like an autocracy than a democracy. We have a president acting as a would-be king (and glorying in it), while defying laws, usurping Congressional powers, clamping down on the individual’s right to free speech and cracking down on our country’s free press. Our Republican-led Congress has rolled over and relinquished a central part of the Constitution’s built-in check on authoritarian power. The courts have been slow to react to dismantling of the nation’s government agencies and replacing them with political appointees afraid to speak out against the administration (one of the first steps dictators make when seizing power). Allowing this all to happen is a right-wing, media landscape — led and given cover by Fox News, but now supplemented by Elon Musk’s X and Trump’s own social media company, Truth Social, that lavishes his most ardent fans with propaganda so over-the-top it would make the Kremlin blush. That core group of supporters, plus a public overwhelmed by the chaos of Trump’s first seven weeks in office continue to support some of what the president is doing while being thrown off-balance by Trump’s two most profound political shifts — the threat to our own democracy and to supporting Russian dictator Vladimir Putin while turning our backs on Ukrainian and our European allies.

To say America’s democracy is under threat is no idle comment, and the long-term damage being done to America’s international status is far more serious than the public currently understands. In short, it’s a critical time to be engaged, not to tune out.

Here’s David French, a long-time political analyst who writes for the *New York Times*: “President Trump is doing damage to America than could take a generation or more to repair. The next election cannot fix what Trump is breaking. Neither can the one after that.” French explains that while Democrats and Republicans have always had sharp differences on how to combat the Soviet Union, and later Russia, during and after the Cold War, they never disagreed on the big picture: that the Soviet Union was “a grave national security threat” and that both parties agreed “to a policy of containment to keep Soviet tyranny at bay.”

At no point, he continued, did Americans go to the polls and choose between a candidate committed to NATO and another candidate sympathetic to a ruthless Russian dictator.

Until now. With Trump’s and Vice President Vance’s premeditated attack on Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky, French continues, “Trump has taught our most important strategic partners a lesson they will not soon forget: America can — and will — change sides. Its voters may indeed choose a leader who will abandon our traditional alliances and actively support one of the world’s most dangerous and oppressive regimes.”

“Even if Democrats sweep the midterms in 2026 and defeat the Republican candidate in 2028, that lesson will still hold. Our allies will know that our alliances are only as stable as the next presidential election — and that promises are only good for one term (at most). It’s extraordinarily difficult to build a sustainable defense strategy under those circumstances. It’s impossible to enact sustainable trade policies. And it’s impossible to conduct any form of lasting diplomacy. If agreements are subject to immediate revocation with the advent of a new administration, will any sensible world power rely on America’s word — or America itself? The same principle applies at home. ... A nation cannot effectively serve its people if it is gutting and rebuilding the civil service every four years.”

Trump is also wreaking havoc on the nation’s economy. His tariffs have launched a trade war that is threatening growth worldwide. The conservative *Wall Street Journal* recently quoted a senior official at the International Chamber of Commerce who said the “world economy could face a crash similar to the Great Depression of the 1930s unless the U.S. rows back on its plans to impose steep tariffs on imports.”

Contrary to Trump’s empty boasts that the economy will thrive under his leadership, *Fortune Magazine* reported last week “the economy is headed for a 1.5% contraction in the first quarter ... that marks a sharp reversal from the fourth quarter 2024, when GDP expanded by 2.3%.”

In just a few weeks, Trump’s actions have reversed the strong economy he inherited, and prospects now include a likely recession if the trade war continues, while stock prices and retirement portfolios plummet.

It could get worse. *The Times* warns that if Trump’s misguided America-first policy “ditches the global trading system and a world economic order that once revolved around a U.S. economy that prized open investment and free markets,” Trump is effectively encouraging “more countries to deepen economic ties with China.”

As for Trump’s whacky tariff threats, conservative columnist Brett Stephens wrote on March 11, “Thirteen successive presidents all but vowed never to repeat those mistakes (of the 1930 tariffs and other isolationist measures that turned a global economic crisis into a second world war). Until Donald Trump. Until him, no U.S. president has been so ignorant of the lessons of history. Until him, no U.S. president has been so incompetent in putting his own ideas into practice.”

Stephens predicted that Trump’s trade war won’t end well for the U.S, then argues that the rest of Trump’s agenda — the DOGE purges, threats to our allies, threats to take over the Panama Canal and Greenland by force, the outreach to Germany’s far-right anti-American parties, Trump’s shameful walking away from NATO and Ukraine, and his embrace of Putin — won’t end well either.

“What team Trump has achieved is exactly the opposite (of what it wanted): A Russia that sees even less reason to settle, a Europe that sees more reason to go its own way, a China that believes America will eventually fold and a once-again betrayed Ukraine that will have even less reason to trust international guarantees of its security....

“Trump’s critics are always quick to see the sinister side of his actions and declarations. An even greater danger may lie in the shambolic nature of his policymaking. Democracy may die in darkness. It may die in despotism. Under Trump, it’s just as liable to die in dumbness.”

Forget shock and awe; what we’re watching is the real-life version of dumb and dumber.

Americans’ best hope is to find their voices through frequent demonstrations and rallies and convince Republicans in Congress they’ll lose their seats in 2026 if they don’t stop the train wreck now.

Angelo Lynn



Not rocket science

LOOKING DOWN FROM the top floor of the atrium in Middlebury College’s Bicentennial Hall one sees many paper airplanes stranded on the window ledges on down toward the ground. Were they launched by over the years or just recently. Was it pure scientific research or just bored science majors playing a game?

Independent photo/Steve James

The sweetness of town meetings

Unlike the divisive national political scene which gives me a stomachache and makes it hard for me to speak with my neighbor and another close friend, the Middlebury town meeting was like a gooey chocolate brownie to a sugar addict.

I started knitting a baby hat as I sat down. The three-hour meeting was an experience in kindness, even while discussing the hard questions related to a \$50,000,000 bond for our wastewater treatment plant. All the discussions were productive. Not angry or pointed. No false news. My favorite part of the “scary” wastewater request was an eight-minute video about the condition of the present plant featuring Superintendent Jeremy Rathbun. After the video, as he took to the podium to answer questions, he mentioned, “The last time I walked on this stage was in 1995 when I acted in my senior play, ‘Anything Goes.’” I loved the humanness of the statement.

At one point from the floor, I heard comment, “Our only other option is universal outhouses.”

Emmalee Cherington, Director of Engineering, Heather Seeley, selectboard member, and Jeremy Rathbun thoroughly explained and responded to comments. They convinced me, and, as it turns out, the whole town, to vote for the bond.

The meeting brought me back to the Sixties and an interview with my Newark, Vt., mailman, Ray Walters, who had been delivering mail by horse and buggy in his early years and arrived by sleek black car at our remote Northeast Kingdom mailbox at exactly 11 every morning. Well, except during mud season when the road was closed and we had to walk an extra mile to

meet him. During the interview, when I complimented him about being the best mailman ever, Ray said, “I don’t care what you do with your life. Whatever you do, be the best at it.” That’s what

I thought of when Jeremy was a star at explaining the needs of our wastewater treatment plant, and I felt grateful for the town staff and board here in Middlebury being “the best.”

Newark was the first town meeting I had ever attended. It was

1967. I had been living the whole winter in the small house my hippie husband and I had built. We had no working car and lived eight miles from a store. I grew up in Connecticut, where I had seen voting machines, but had never seen the “democracy in action” of a Vermont town meeting. I was delighted with it. A road commissioner was voted in by ballot. Newark had 64 registered voters, and I think they all attended.

How refreshing today in our contentious country, with the risk of everything that keeps our lives livable changing by the minute, to have Middlebury’s town meeting be sweet — all the townspeople from Susan Shashok, the moderator, to the selectboard members, the town office and public works staff, and the audience. It felt like a taste of spring.

When it was over and I stood up to leave, I glanced down at my knitting. The baby hat was half done and I felt grateful for an infusion of light in my heart.

Sas Carey is organizing her archive of Mongolian materials, so researchers can use the video clips, photos, and written material in the future. See www.nomadicare.org for movies and books from these clips and photos.



Ways of Seeing

By Sas Carey

Here comes the 10:42, right on time!

I’m in church when the Amtrak train, the Ethan Allen Express, rumbles by on Sunday mornings. It used to be at 11:05, right near the end of the service during the last hymn or the closing words. The schedule has changed: now it goes by at 10:42, right in the middle of the sermon or reflection. Every Sunday.

It only takes about 20 seconds and most people don’t even notice it, but I do, every time. It’s not an epiphany or revelation, but I am in a reflective mood on Sunday mornings, and I am thrilled by it and never fail to take note.

It clips on by about 150 yards away. I can hear it coming. I can see it if I sit next to the large, west-facing, vertical windows, speeding over the trestle by the high school, silver engine and about eight slick silver cars. It does not disturb the service — it’s not *that* close, but it’s genuinely audible and visible, if you listen and look.

Every time I hear it, I have all I can do not to run to the window, like a kid, and point and tell the others. I have been unable to avoid revealing to some my excitement. Now there’s a small coterie of us who await it — and discreetly wink or nod to one another as it passes by.

I have lived long enough, and go back far enough, that I remember when passenger train travel was much more commonplace. Even cities of a modest size, like

Lewiston, Maine, where I grew up, had a train station downtown, in Lewiston on Bates Street, just two blocks off Main.

The train station was a hub of activity in the center of town, with a spacious indoor area where you could buy a ticket from a person (a real person, not a kiosk) behind a window and find a seat on a bench in the waiting area or get a bite to eat from a restaurant or snack bar there till your train could be boarded. “*All Aboard!*”

I keenly remember as a boy lying in bed at night in the dark, hearing the train and its honk or whistle as it warned motorists at crossings. We lived in a house about two blocks from Bates College in one direction and about a quarter mile from the train tracks across Main Street down by the river, the Androscoggin, in the other direction.

On occasion — I don’t remember how many times, but more than once, my parents put my sister Martha (three years older) and me on the train by ourselves in Lewiston to go visit our beloved Aunt Connie in Boston. She would meet us as we got off the train at South Station.

The first time, I know I was scared. I was about eight probably, Martha 11. My mother attempted to reassure (See Lindholm, Page 8A)



Clippings

By Karl Lindholm

Letters to the Editor

Carson’s words still ring true

I’d like to share this brief passage from Jill Lepore’s essay “The Shorebird” from her recent book “The Deadline.”

The essay concerns the writer Rachel Carson. Lepore writes:

“When Eisenhower’s new secretary of the Interior, a businessman from Oregon, replaced scientists in the department with political hacks, Carson wrote a letter to the *Washington Post*: ‘The ominous pattern that is clearly being revealed is the elimination from the Government of career men of long experience and high professional competence and their replacement by political appointees.’”

This has been going on for a long time and although the challenge today may be magnitudes greater it brings to mind my father-in-law’s counsel, bellowing astride his John Deere tractor, “Never weaken.”

J Paul Sokal
Panton

Board candidate offers gratitude

Thank you to all who voted for me for the ACSD Board. The term that I just completed was demanding and productive. Let us work together as we go forward.

Brian Bauer
Middlebury

Trump heading us into icebergs

We are participating in a remake of the “Voyage of the Titanic.” Under the guidance of our misguided captain, President Trump, the *Titanic*, the United States of America, is steaming, full speed, towards more than one potential “iceberg.” The captain is being ably assisted by first mate Musk, with the ship’s dog, Vance, there to nip at the heels of our trusted allies of long standing. Meanwhile, the engineers and navigators, the Senate and House Republicans, have forgotten their training and responsibility, oath to uphold the Constitution and manage the budget. What is the iceberg towards which we are heading? It will take several forms.

First iceberg, Trump has decided, without consultation with anyone other than the dictator and mass murderer Putin, that peace between Ukraine and Russia must occur at any price. Trump has made concessions to Putin without reciprocal agreements or guarantees. In order to reach this agreement Trump has not only ignored our longtime and faithful allies but has resorted to petty language and actions that have betrayed the great people of Ukraine and their elected president Zelensky. Trump’s decision to cut off intelligence information and approved weapons supplies is a betrayal of the first order. Fair elections are by definition completely unheard of in Russia. If Trump succeeds in ramming a peace treaty through it is unlikely to be fair or last long.

Second iceberg, government efficiency and cost saving. Government employees have been the whipping boy of right wing politicians for a longtime. Having worked for the last three years as a senior administrator in the USDA Farm Service Agency in Vermont I can certainly see that a program to examine the effectiveness and delivery of services to the general public is never a bad thing. However, to take a meat cleaver approach, with no plan, is a terrible idea. Without effectively assessing what is working and what isn’t, how do you make things better or save money? I had around 40 staff people I oversaw, working for Vermont’s farmers. They were hardworking and dedicated, especially with the flooding we had for the last three years. Most of the staff are farmers or come from farm families. Trump is assisted by his first mate Musk who seems unable (See Roberts letter, Page 5A)

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Periodicals Postage Paid at Middlebury, Vt. 05753

Postmaster, send address change to Addison Independent,
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, Vt. • 802-388-4944 • Fax: 802-388-3100 • Web: www.addisonindependent.com
E-Mail: news@addisonindependent.com • E-Mail Advertising: ads@addisonindependent.com
Editor/Publisher: Angelo S. Lynn

Published every Thursday by the Addison Press, Inc. Member Vermont Press Association; New England Press Association; National Newspaper Association.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: All print subscriptions include online access. 1 Month \$10.00, 1 Year \$120.00. Discounted rate for Senior Citizens and students call for details. 802-388-4944.

Online Only – 1 Week \$3.00, 1 Month \$8.00, 1 Year \$75.00

The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which the typographical error occurred. Advertiser will please notify the management immediately of any errors that may occur.

The Addison Independent USPS 005-380

Letters to the Editor

Rep’s letter misrepresents phosphorus problem

State Rep. Rob North in his March 7 “Legislative review” incorrectly equates phosphorus with dirt. Phosphorus is one of the essential building blocks of all matter. It is one of the 118 elements of the periodic table we all learned about in high school chemistry/science class. Other examples are magnesium, sulfur, potassium, gold, silver, uranium and lead.

The words dirt and soil are more often used interchangeably. In fact, this is the first time I have seen anyone equate phosphorus and dirt as the same. Soil [dirt] is made up of organic matter, minerals, water and air. One of those minerals is phosphorus.

The average phosphorus content of Addison County clay soil [dirt] is 0.065%. Not very much. So, to get a kg [kilogram] of phosphorus out of soil [dirt] into the water system you need to wash 1,538 kg [3,385 lbs.] of soil [dirt] into the water. This is why the 3-acre rule is so important. Because it’s that size of impervious development where massive quantities of storm water runoff, if not properly contained, can overwhelm local brooks and streams. Stream

banks wash out carrying all that phosphorous containing soil into the lake.

A pound of phosphorus will support the growth of 500 lbs. of algae, 500 times its weight. Just to clarify another of Mr. North’s incorrect points, Rutland is very closely connected to the lake by Otter Creek. And the Rutland Fair site is adjacent to and drains into a wetland and an already compromised brook. Perhaps it would be better if the Rutland fair considered moving to a better site.

This portion of the clean water law was designed to make sure that large development projects don’t ignore storm water runoff, stream overflow and lake pollution. Big box stores with their acres of roof and big asphalt parking lots are a perfect example of where the most damage can come from if water runoff is not properly contained and controlled. *Oh*, that’s right, Walmart is going to be building a new super store in Rutland... interesting.

I am also curious why Mr. North did not use the Addison County Fair and Field Days site [in his district] as his example. The

directors of Field Days have done an excellent job managing the Fair and fairgrounds. And while there will be expenses, they appear to be in a good place to handle them. I do agree with Mr. North that it is unfortunate that our fairgrounds are subject to the 3-acre rule the same as large development. It would seem to me that a bill that would provide state financial assistance to the fairgrounds that are on good financial ground and environmental ground, to make the fixes needed might be an adequate solution. But eliminating the 3-acre law entirely seems like overkill.

I do not think that excusing big box stores and big businesses from paying their fair share of keeping our state safe and attractive to residents and visitors alike is a smart idea.

And finally, I encourage Mr. North and others to consider contributing what they can to the Addison County Fair and Field Days capital campaign. See their website at www.addisoncountyfielddays.com.

**Gardner Merriam
New Haven**

Putin is dangerous and a threat to our democracy

President Trump states that it is easier to deal with Russian President Putin than with Ukrainian President Zelensky, possibly because Mr. Trump seems unwilling to listen to anything negative about Putin.

It seems as if Mr. Trump is unfamiliar with Putin’s early years as a KGB secret police agent.

Comparatively little is known about details of Putin’s activities during his years as KGB officer in East Germany, maybe because

people who collaborated with him are afraid of retribution, so almost nothing has come from Russian sources.

However, Putin was also a member of the notorious STASI, the East German secret police and Mr. Trump may find that Putin is a lot harder to deal with. Details have come from ex-Stasi sources. The MDR German TV station has learned that Putin was by no means a minor agent, but instead he operated a network

of spies and counterintelligence agents. Even more important, he recruited and trained students at East German universities, later sending them over the globe as undercover agents, some of whom are probably still active.

Mr. President, please be very careful in dealing with this highly dangerous individual!

**Robert Anderson
Bristol**

Churchill showed best response to existential threat

In October of 1941 Winston Churchill addresses student of the Harrow School:

“Never yield to force, never yield to the apparently overwhelming force of the enemy.”
Brigadier Gen. Anthony

McAuliffe responds to German demands for surrender, Jan. 14, 1945, in the Battle of the Bulge:

“Nuts.”
President Trump to President Zelensky, Feb. 2, 2025:
“You’re not in a very good position ... You’ve allowed

yourself to be in a very bad position ... You don’t have the cards right now.”

**Peter Lebenbaum
Middlebury**

Roberts letter

(Continued from Page 4A)
to say anything constructive about employees without denigrating them. What happens when the services the public expects are no longer available in a timely fashion. Farmers are already feeling the impact with programs cancelled.

Third iceberg, the economy. Having promised to drive down prices of groceries on day one, his actions will lead to higher prices and more inflation. His on-again, off-again tariffs will not result in a surge of companies moving to America to set up factories; it takes years for that to happen. Like Trump’s claims about drilling for oil, I doubt that by the end of his four years many or any new wells will be drilled. And that is without worrying about climate change, which is real and a great

threat.

Fourth iceberg, the fractious and small majority state of the Republican majorities. At this point it seems that the elected Republicans are turning a blind eye to their budgetary responsibilities, enshrined in the Constitution. At what point will they remember their job and realize how much power they have abdicated. I hope it’s soon.

Fifth iceberg, the destruction of USAID, a program that for less than 1% of our budget garnered huge respect and approval around the world, feeding the starving, providing medical treatments, education and other benefits. Thousands, if not millions will die. American farmers have lost a significant market for the grains they grow.

Back to the *Titanic* analogy,

the rich on the upper decks will survive, they are close to the lifeboats, in this example the tax cuts. There are not enough lifeboats and the rest of the American population is locked in steerage. What is really sad is that so much destruction will be done by this President that it will set America and the world back for years and on a very dangerous course.

As a descendant of family that survived the *Titanic* disaster I have hope that Trump will not be able to achieve much of what he’s set out to do. However, he will not be making America great anytime soon, and cowering to Putin is probably the worst thing he’s done, though hard to pick.

**John Roberts
West Cornwall**

Scott’s ed plan ‘puts finances before student needs’

Response to Governor Scott’s Education Plan: Part II–Equity (see tinyurl.com/ScottEdPlan):

Secretary Saunders’s Jan. 22 PowerPoint highlights the following questions:

How can Vermont reduce the inequities in per pupil spending to ensure students with similar needs receive similar resources? How can we align funding and resources with student needs, to drive student outcomes and success?

What’s missing:

These questions put finances before student needs. As long as an administration’s focus is through a financial lens, leadership will be missing out on knowing the students. What does “student need” mean? How is similarity determined?

“All” student needs are currently not being met (as measured by flight to private schools, restructuring IEPs to reflect current resource availability, classroom disruptions). Schools need to be able to educate those who walk in the door, and not fit imaginary needs into pigeonholes. Education requires resources, yes, and flexibility. Where’s the flexibility to take care of the needs that present themselves?

What does student success look like? Aligning resources “to drive student outcomes and success” sounds like 5-year-plan edu-speak absent critical analysis of how real students are actually functioning.

The journey to equity is important — are we clear about what equity means versus equality? AND, if we agree to provide a “robust” education to “all” students, how student needs are identified and addressed should be the drivers. If the focus is purely financial equity, mediocrity will continue.

Secretary Saunders: How can we create more meaningful opportunities for students and support a Whole Child approach to reduce absenteeism, and improve student engagement?

What’s missing: Students will find meaning in school when schools find meaning and purpose in seeing students, listening to students, having time for students, working with student interests to create meaningful standards-based studies. Many, many teachers are already interacting and engaging

students in these ways; the governor’s plan would (and many current structures already) interfere with teachers’ ability to have time and resources to appropriately engage.

Data is important. However, it seems test scores, absentee rates, and graduation rates are the primary sources of data. Those are dipsticks, missing the “whole child” aspect of education. The data-driven focus on “content delivery” has impacted pedagogy by creating a pre- and post-test nightmare for students. Students who are able to will opt out and go to private school. Students who have no choice to opt out won’t show up (absenteeism), or they will act out, and/or they will drop out.

These are NOT arguments for school choice, rather these are arguments for reconsidering how school days and “content delivery” are structured. A robust, thoughtful, student-centered curriculum with dynamic pedagogy will engage students. Students are the most important stakeholders, they are not products on an assembly line.

Secretary Saunders: How can we support effective and cost-effective delivery of special education services in all districts and schools?

What’s missing: How might the governor define “effective” and “cost effective”?

The word “delivery,” while common in government, is a mismatch with students; it smacks of assembly line widget production. Teachers are not attaching parts to passing vehicles. Teachers work with each individual student to attain academic goals; if teachers don’t consider and work with the individual, then students go to private school, drop out, or become disenfranchised learners, hating school — poor outcomes for students and society. Teacher training and attitude, combined with adequate resources, bolstered by attentive, student-focused administrative support are what create effective teaching/special and general ed.

Secretary Saunders: How do we ensure that every student has a highly-qualified teacher in a safe, healthy and welcoming school environment?

What’s missing: What does “highly-qualified” mean? “Highly qualified” teachers can still be

woefully ill-prepared for many student needs, while un- or under-supported by administration. “Highly-qualified teacher” is an unhelpful designation when faced with significant student needs and inadequate systems of response. Where are the resources and flexibility to meet the needs of “all” students who walk in the door?

Additionally, “highly-qualified” suggests significant teacher training and experience. Who’s paying for that?

What does “safe” mean?

Safe from environmental toxins (PFAS in water, asbestos tiles and pipe wrap, lead paint, lead solder, lead in water, etc.)?

Safe from gun violence?

Safe from discrimination?

Safe from implicit emotional neglect?

Safe from physical/emotional abuse (including online harassment)?

We teachers have stories to tell about safety issues and their impacts on the school environment, student lives, and, consequently, student performance. We also have concrete suggestions to create a safe, healthy and welcoming school environment. Who’s listening to the teachers?

The governor’s proposal has generated counter proposals. Legislators, administrators, community members, teachers, parents, students — all of us have skin in this game, whether or not we know it or want it. Any serious proposal must consider and address all of the above posed questions (and I’m sure there are many questions others might pose), if Vermont is to deliver on “robust,” “equitable,” “engaging” education for “all” students.

In the current political and financial reality, we might allow ourselves to become distracted from considering “the whole child” — a consideration critical to fulfilling the governor’s lofty language, critical to children’s well-being, and critical to making Vermont a desirable place to live and work. Change could present an opportunity for improvement. Let’s hold tight to that focus on “the whole child!”

**Christina Wadsworth
Weybridge**

As did our forebears, just say no to fascist tyranny

Our ancestors and their democratic allies in Europe fought a World War to defeat the fascists who had taken over Germany, Italy and Japan. Those fascists believed that their might gave them the right to attack and take over other countries and murder millions of people.

Now 85 years later, we have a President who openly admires and seeks to emulate the worst dictators around the world, past and present,

including Hitler. He is trashing our democratic allies and an alliance that has kept the peace since World War II, so that he can curry favor with an enemy. He is siding with Putin, the fascist, and against an independent and democratic Ukraine. He is trying to sell yet another lie, that Ukraine was the aggressor and somehow the valiant people of Ukraine are to blame for this war. This is an abject betrayal of the values of our republic and

our allies.

Putin, former KGB agent and murderer of many rivals and opponents, wants nothing more than for representative government to fail. He seeks through any and all means to undermine and discredit the western democracies in order to cement his own arbitrary power. Why are we helping him? In what universe does it make sense for our country to assist our enemy in (See *DuPont* letter, Page 8A)

VERMONTSun

HALF MARATHON & 5K, 10K



May 11, 2025 • Lake Dunmore, Vermont
Novice and advanced athletes alike marvel at the beauty of our courses and enjoy the mountains, lakes and streams of Central Vermont.

See our website for course maps, race details and registration.

802-388-6888 • VERMONTSUN.COM

Elderly Services Inc. ESI College

The Story Behind Vermont’s Pollinator Protection Law

Wednesday, March 19, 10-11:30 AM
Congregational Church of Middlebury


What are neonicotinoids? How do they affect pollinator populations? In 2024, the Vermont Legislature passed landmark legislation protecting pollinators, including honeybees. **Andrew Munkres** was a key witness testifying to the legislature during passage of the bill. He will discuss the research on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides on pollinator populations and what the new law entails.

Munkres is a beekeeper and former president of the Vermont Beekeepers Association. From his treatment-free apiary, Lemon Fair Honeyworks in Cornwall, he sells raw honey and honeycomb, nucleus colonies and queens.

What’s Driving Vermont’s Rising Cost of Health Care, and What Can We Do?

Tuesdays, March 25 & April 1
10-11:30 AM
Congregational Church of Middlebury

Vermont now has the highest costs for healthcare and for health insurance in the nation. We’ll explore the drivers of these costs and the efforts to rein them in. We will review Vermont’s statutory regulators, the Green Mountain Care Board and the Vermont Department of Financial Regulation, and explore what legislative and citizen initiatives are under way to address the issue. Instructor: **Bill Schubart** has served as board chair Vermont Public, UVM Medical Center, Vermont Digger, and the Vermont Board of Libraries. He has published several novels set in Vermont and regularly contributes to local print and radio media.



Elderly Services
Supporting Elders and Families since 1981
112 Exchange St., Middlebury, Vermont
802-388-3983
www.elderlyservices.org

Register Now!
elderlyservices.org/esi-collegespring-2025/
or call
802.388-3983

ADDISON
COUNTY

Obituaries

Barbara Ann Nelson, 89, of Leicester

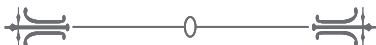
LEICESTER — Barbara Ann Nelson, age 89, passed away peacefully in her sleep on March 4, 2025, at The Pines in Rutland.

Barbara was born in Leicester on Aug. 22, 1935. She was the daughter of Howard and Dorothy (Ryder) Nicklaw. She grew up in Leicester and graduated from Brandon High School, class of 1954, where she was voted most studious. In her earlier years, Barb worked at Rollers by Baker in Forest Dale. She later joined the staff at Nexus Corporation in Brandon, from which she retired in 2008 following many years of service. Known for her quiet strength, she was an avid reader, enjoyed doing puzzles, crosswords, and needlework, was a wonderful



BARBARA ANN NELSON

pie maker and loved music and animals. Barb leaves behind four



Alan W. Holcomb, 80, formerly of Bristol

CALERA, Ala. — Alan W. Holcomb passed away suddenly on Oct. 1, 2024, in Calera, Ala. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Alan was 80 years old and lived a successful life as an insurance agent before retiring in 2017. After retiring, he moved with his wife, the Reverend Patricia Tower Jackman Holcomb to Florida and recently to Alabama.

Alan was an avid fly fisherman and enjoyed tying his own flies. For a number of years, he worked with the Green Mountain “Project Healing Waters” helping to teach the sport of fly fishing to wounded veterans. During the Covid epidemic he took up wood carving and spent many hours since carving



ALAN W. HOLCOMB

signs and images as gifts for family and friends. As a veteran, Alan served two

daughters, Laurie of Essex Jct., Melinda of Rutland, Brenda of Winooski, and Susan of Rutland; along with one sister, Marsha McLaren of Goshen. Two granddaughters, four great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren also survive her. She was predeceased by a sister, Mary Hutchins and a granddaughter, Kaitlyn.

A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date in Forest Dale Cemetery.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in her memory to the Rutland County Humane Society or Addison County Humane Society. Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ◇

tours of duty in Vietnam with the Navy Seabees. He was a lifetime member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, the VFW, and the American Legion.

Alan is survived by his wife, Pat; two daughters, Nancy Myrick of New Haven, Vt., and Mariellen Owens of Clermont, Fla.; and four grandchildren, David Livingston, Paige Myrick, Malik Owens, and Brooklyn Allard. He was predeceased by both his parents, Robert F. Holcomb and Dorothy Blesso Holcomb, and his brothers, David Holcomb and Robert C. Holcomb.

A celebration of life will be held at the American Legion Post 19 in Bristol Saturday, April 5 from 1-5 p.m. ◇

Kevin Thomas Quiet, 71, Vergennes

VERGENNES — It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Kevin Thomas Quiet on Feb. 28, 2025, after a difficult battle with Parkinson’s Disease and Lewy body dementia. A loving husband, father and grandfather, Kevin was surrounded by his family in his final days and hours.

Kevin was born on Oct. 6, 1953, in Concord, N.H., the son of the late Paul and Adele (Colburn) Quiet.

Always dedicated to his community and career, he served four years in the Air Force following high school. This allowed him to gain valuable technical skills, which assisted him in his 40-year career at the former Simmonds Precision, now Collins Aerospace. He spent his career in aviation electronics, testing various components that are used in many of the commercial aircraft we travel on today. He obtained an associate’s degree in general engineering technology on May 17, 2003, followed by a bachelor’s degree of science on March 14, 2014.

As an avid volunteer, Kevin along with his brother Steve, were among the first EMTs for the Richmond Rescue Squad, which their father Paul is credited with founding. He was part of the Bolton Valley Ski Patrol for many



KEVIN THOMAS QUIET

years, eventually becoming a ski patrol instructor. His commitment to safety and service on the slopes was a reflection of his character — always willing to help others and put their well-being first. Often active in his community, Kevin was a Cub Scout leader when his kids were young and after retirement he continued volunteering for meals on wheels, delivering meals to many.

In his free time Kevin could be found traveling with his wife Diane as they enjoyed many cruises aboard Royal Caribbean ships. He enjoyed golfing at Basin Harbor, where he was a member and participated in a company golf

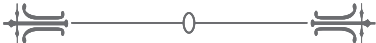
league each year through work. Kevin could be found singing or playing the guitar at home regularly, enjoying the likes of Jack Johnson, James Taylor and John Mayer. He also had a passion for studying the rich history of the Champlain valley, including The Abenaki to the more recent European settlers and the conflicts therein.

Kevin is predeceased by his sister Bonnie Roy and husband Tim; brothers-in-law Bob Clairmont, and Bobby Paradee; and mother-in-law Anita Paradee.

Kevin leaves behind his beloved wife of 27 years, Diane; his daughter Natalie Quiet and husband Dom Wilson, his son Josh and wife Megan Quiet, and his son Dan and wife Alicia Quiet; his grandchildren Maddison, Brayden, Riley and Brendon; his siblings Steven and his wife Mary, Robin Clairmont, David and his wife Judy, Jay and his wife Tawnya, and Jennifer and her husband Jeff; and Charlie the cat.

Kevin’s laughter, wit and unwavering love will be missed but never forgotten by all who were lucky enough to know him.

There will be a celebration of life at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Elderly Services Inc., P.O. Box 581 Middlebury, VT 05456. ◇



Marcia Susan Wheeler, 74, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Marcia Susan Wheeler passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family on March 1, 2025, at the UVM Medical Center in Burlington, Vt., after unexpected complications during her cancer treatment.

Marcia was born on April 2, 1950, in Hanover, N.H., the daughter of Donald W. Wheeler and Velma Watson Wheeler of Woodstock, Vt. Despite her out-of-state beginnings, she was a proud lifelong Vermonter and loved to reminisce about her mid-century childhood in an idyllic small town.

She graduated from Woodstock Union High School in 1968 and attended Boston University for three years. After a break from academic studies to experience life, including backpacking around Europe, she entered the UVM School of Nursing, graduating in 1978. While in her last year of nursing school, she began a serendipitous clinical placement at Addison County Home Health & Hospice and soon realized that visiting nursing was what she was meant to do. Upon graduating as an R.N., she was hired by ACHH&H, beginning a forty-year career there, first as a visiting nurse for twenty years, and then as Director of the Hospice Program for twenty years.



MARCIA SUSAN WHEELER

As a visiting nurse in a rural county, Marcia entered the homes of patients from all walks of life and challenges, learning and appreciating their “stories.” She brought respect and compassion for both her patients and their families as she helped her patients through the process of dying at home on their own terms, with dignity, comfort and peace. It was her privilege to do this.

As Hospice Director she supported a skilled team of clinicians who also shared Marcia’s values and commitment to respectful, compassionate end of life care. Through the decades, Marcia contributed to the congeniality and collaborative culture of the agency she loved. She, in turn, was loved by so many and it is there where many of her closest friendships in life took root. After her retirement these bonds continued to the day of her unexpected death.

Although an intensely private

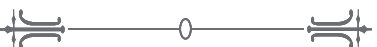
person, Marcia reached out and did endlessly kind deeds for those needing support. She loved and was loved by her own and life partner Susan’s families and had a deep connection with her beloved niece and two nephews. Family get-togethers, road trips short and long, jigsaw puzzles, driving down an unknown country road, summer visits for 35 years to Ogunquit, Maine, attending the Ogunquit Playhouse, and vacations to the Canary Islands and Italy were but a few of her pleasures. She was a constant reader — Louise Penny and Barbara Kingsolver were favorites — and had a particular interest in the Civil War and Native American cultures. Nightly Jeopardy was a must.

Marcia’s mantra both at work and in life, when things were challenging was, “we’ll figure it out.” She always did.

She is survived by her life partner of forty years, Susan Prager; her brothers Kevin Wheeler (Sakorn) of Fremont Calif., and Donald R. Wheeler (Betsy) of Woodstock, Vt.; niece Dianne Wheeler Zenowich (Brian) of Wayland, Mass.; nephews Colin Wheeler of Newark, Calif., and Timothy Wheeler (Taylor) of Salt Lake City, Utah; and great nieces Emily June Zenowich and Lillian Rose Zenowich of Wayland, Mass.

A celebration of Marcia’s life will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made in Marcia’s memory to the Open Door Clinic, 100 Porter Dr., Middlebury, VT 05753 or HOPE, 282 Boardman St., Middlebury, VT 05753. ◇



Ann Marie Clark, 63, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Ann Marie Clark of Middlebury, Vt., passed away peacefully at home on March 2, 2025. Ann was born in Middlebury, Vt., on February 26, 1962, to Betty (Harrington) and Russell Smith.

Ann will be remembered as a loving and cheerful person who worked very hard. She always put others’ needs before her own and she will be greatly missed by all who knew her. For most of her adult life she cared for the elderly and most recently worked as an LNA at East View and previously at the Addison House until it closed, both in Middlebury.

She is survived by her husband, Anthony (Tony) Popp; stepchildren, Charlie (Rochelle), Donovan (Kady), Joshua (Karri), Jennifer (Steve), Travis, Jedediah (Rosie), and Adam (Rebecca); 20 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren; cousins; in-laws; nieces and nephews.

Ann is predeceased by her



ANN MARIE CLARK

parents, brothers John and Russell Jr., stepson Matthew and step-granddaughter Brianna.

Calling hours are on Saturday, March 15, at Sanderson Funeral Home, at 10 a.m. Service at 11 a.m. followed by a reception to celebrate Ann’s life at the American Legion Middlebury. ◇

Obituary Guidelines

The Independent will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family’s choosing. For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Independent offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos (optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to obits@addisonindependent.com.

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




HARE AND THE DOG

260 Court St, STE 3
Middlebury, VT
(802) 458-8060

211 Main Street
Vergennes, VT
(802) 877-6312

www.Hare.dog



Cremation with a Service

A Celebration of Life, for those left behind, helps those family members and friends with closure. Even though your loved one says “I just want to be cremated – no funeral,” they forget the Celebration of Life service is not for them, but for the ones left behind. A service is a healthy way to say good-bye.

Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home
117 South Main St. Middlebury, VT
802-388-2311
sandersonfuneralservice.com

FUNERAL
MEMORIAL
SERVICE
CREMATION
PRE-PLANNING
SERVICES



**BROWN-McCLAY
FUNERAL HOMES**

BRISTOL **VERGENNES**
802-453-2301 802-877-3321
brownmccloyfuneralhomes.com

Shard Villa

Shard Villa is a truly unique historic home for seniors seeking a caring environment set in the beautiful Vermont countryside.

- Around the clock staff providing a warm and caring environment.
- Home Cooked Meals and snacks
- Weekly exercise programs, live music, and other in-house activities
- Beautiful scenic Adirondack views from our new sundeck
- Monthly R.N. health assessments and foot care

~ Rooms Currently Available ~

A Vermont licensed Level III Residential Care Home
1177 Shard Villa Rd. Salisbury VT
802-352-4369 | www.shardvilla.org



Contact Your U.S. Senators



Sen. Bernie Sanders
1-800-339-9834
SRC-2 United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.sanders.senate.gov



Sen. Peter Welch
1-800-642-3193
124 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
<https://www.welch.senate.gov/>
email-peter/

Contact Governor Phil Scott
1-800-649-6825 (Vt. only) • 802-828-3333
109 State Street, Pavillion, Montpelier, Vermont 05609-0101 • www.vermont.gov/governor

Joyce Turner Sargent, 88, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Joyce Turner Sargent, 88, of Middlebury, passed away with strength and peace on Monday, March 10, 2025. Joyce was born in Middlebury, Vt., on January 4, 1937, to Leon and Pauline (Baker) Turner. Joyce was the fourth child of six children.

Joyce married and divorced Charles Sargent of Bristol with whom she had two children, Charles “Bill” and Susan.

Graduating from Middlebury High School in 1954, Joyce had many jobs during high school and after graduation. She worked at Cartmell’s, Foster Motors, the A&W, and on the family farm. Joyce was a trailblazer. She had a long career and became one of the first female supervisors at the Standard Register Company in Middlebury, where she worked for over thirty years.

As a young girl, Joyce loved horseback riding. One of her “wild rides” occurred when a stallion got loose and chased the mare she was riding for some miles, an event featured in the book, “Vermont Diary” by Viola C. White. Admittedly spoiled by her grandparents, aunts and uncles as a child, Joyce also helped in the sugar woods, gathering sap with her yoke and peanut butter collecting cans, did a lot of babysitting, and helped her mother do laundry for Navy men who were students at Middlebury College. As an adult, she enjoyed playing in a candlepin bowling league and being a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, where she worked Bingo games.

Joyce was a lifelong, active and faithful member of the United Methodist Church of Middlebury — a driving force for its rummage sales for many, many years. Joyce loved to take her friends and family on car rides, touring Vermont’s backroads, aiming to find and explore as many new roads as



JOYCE TURNER SARGENT

possible — even if it meant driving through a farmer’s field. One of her favorite traditions was visiting the Nubble Lighthouse in York, Maine, every year with her family — and she has cherished photos of the Nubble with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

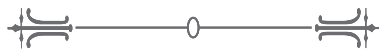
Nothing was more important than her love for and involvement with her family. She loved watching their sporting events and attending every concert, play, recital, and school event. Everyone always knew when Joyce was in attendance, when she’d let out her own special “hoot” to cheer on her loved ones. Joyce always looked forward to visiting new places on trips through work, with the New Horizons Club, or exploring with friends, making it to nearly every state throughout the U.S. She loved camping with her family and friends, most frequently visiting Vermont State Parks, River’s Bend, and the Maine coast. After retirement, most mornings you could find Joyce holding court over coffee at Steve’s Park Diner with an array of family and friends. Later, Joyce liked planning community dinners and putting together puzzles with her friends at

The Meadows.

Joyce is survived by her brother, Richard “Dick” Turner, and sister, Elizabeth “Betty” Laframboise and her husband, Raymond. Joyce is also survived by her children: Bill Sargent and his wife, Tiffany; her daughter, Sue Leggett, and her husband, David “Crocky,” and her stepdaughter, Gail Burrows and her husband, Robert. Gram, Nie, Grandma Joyce, Granny and Jo Jo were names fondly used by her grandchildren, including Casey and Marc McDonough, Heath Leggett, Hallett “Hallie” Sargent, Asa and Allie Sargent, Terri and Matt Chase, Heather and Bob Ramm, Robert “Marty” Burrows, and Hillary Burrows and Chris Chase; and her 10 great-grands: Emmett, Ethan, Abby, Sam, Isabel, Declan, Henry, Briia, Ben, and Noelle. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Barb Martell, and brothers-in-law, Stanley and Leslie “Junior” Sargent, as well as many nieces and nephews. One of her great joys was the closeness of our extended family blending with Bob and Janet Leggett’s family — so many treasured and special memories of one great, big, incredibly loving family!

Joyce was predeceased by her ex-husband, Charles Sargent; her partner, Neil Martin; and her siblings, Alice Turner, Leon “Bob” Turner, and Ruth (Turner) Dow.

Joyce’s funeral will be held at the Middlebury United Methodist Church on Friday, March 14, at 11 a.m., followed by a reception at the American Legion in Middlebury. Please feel free to come to either or both. In lieu of flowers, Joyce would like donations to be sent to Addison County Home Health and Hospice at P. O. Box 754, Middlebury, VT 05753. The staff from Home Health & Hospice and the ARCH Room at Helen Porter provided great care and comfort to Joyce and her family. ♡



Susan Brown/Peck, 76, of Burlington

BURLINGTON — On Friday, March 7, 2025, the world lost a beautiful light. With her children and god-daughter holding her hand, Susan Brown/Peck took her last breath, and our world dimmed. We will never say she lost her fight. She fought harder and longer than many thought possible, and she was tired.

Born Aug. 19, 1948, in Middlebury, Vt., to Irene (Scarborough) and Paul Brown, she grew up in Middlebury and created lifelong friendships. Susan went to Castleton College and Champlain College before working in her family’s auto shop business, Brown’s Auto Parts, in Middlebury. In later years, she worked at a variety of car dealerships, before arriving at her favorite job and work family. Susan’s time working at RE/MAX North Professionals for Bill Desautels and Lee Moffitt, who became her dear friends, was her favorite time, and she loved reminiscing about her time and friends there.

Susan adored her children, Jess and Alex; they were the center of her world, and she was the center of theirs. Her nephew, Paul Brown II, was like another son to her. She was incredibly artistic and was one of the founding members of the Green Mountain Decorative Painters. Many of her friends and family have cherished pieces she painted for them on canvas or wood. She inspired the art in her



SUSAN BROWN/PECK

children. Anyone who knew her knows she loved cats and loved to tell stories about her cats, past and present.

Susan is survived by her two children, Jessica Peck and Alex Peck; siblings Judith Thomas and Paul Brown; nephews Paul (Kate) Brown II and their son Paul, Jon (Kristine) Thomas, and Christopher (Patty) Thomas; her best friend, Enez (Patrick) Dale and her god-daughter Stormy Dale; and of course, her sweet cat, Goose. She was predeceased by her parents, brother-in-law Thomas Thomas, and many fur babies, including her beloved Maxwell.

So many called her “Mom,” and she loved being surrounded by those she loved. She always told us everything was going to be OK, and we are holding onto that as we

navigate this new world without her.

A service will be scheduled at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to your local humane society or animal rescue. ♡

AGWAY
\$10 OFF
YOUR \$40 OR MORE
SEED STARTING
PURCHASE
AGWAY
MIDDLEBURY AGWAY COUPON
Excludes seeds. Includes Seed Starting
Soils Only. Now thru 3/31/25
While supplies last, cannot be combined with any
other sale or offer, in-stock items only.

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY
338 Exchange Street
802-388-4937
Mon. - Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-4
www.MiddleburyAgway.com

ADDISON COUNTY School Briefs

Jacob Paquin of Vergennes has been named to the dean’s list at the University of Southern Maine for the fall 2024 semester. To be placed on the list, fulltime undergraduate students — those who completed 12 credit hours or more, with a minimum of 12 letter-graded (A-F) credits — must receive a grade point average of 3.6 or above.

Brooke Bertrand, a resident of Whiting, was honored for academic achievement by being named to the dean’s list at Delaware Valley University for the fall 2024 semester.

Thomas Wolosinski of Middlebury was recently elected to membership into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at Ithaca College.

Letters to the Editor

Gov. Scott’s education proposal raises questions

Dear Gov. Scott,
After reading your letter in the Opinion section of VT Digger — where you refer to “... quality ... equity ... efficiency ... savings...” as being the foundational characteristics of your new “bold” restructuring of public education in Vermont, I have these thoughts and questions:

1. How is the quality of the students’ education improved by imposing minimum numbers of students per elementary school and minimum numbers of students per classroom in those schools? How do those minimums relate to the on-going and ever-changing dynamics and needs of those students within those classroom populations? How do those standardized numbers across Vermont add to the quality and equity of addressing the individual students’ needs? Was there consideration for more regional and local issues and needs relative to the student populations?

Presumably, this will require more administrators evaluating the on-going issues and constantly juggling the numbers; how is that affecting more efficiency? And where is the savings in adding more bureaucracy and administration as part of your new proposal?

2. Regarding going back to a “means testing” evaluation to determine who qualifies for the free food programs in schools — how does that improve the quality of students’ ability to learn? Are you familiar with Abraham

Maslow’s “Hierarchy of Needs?” Essential to the pyramid of needs for anyone’s self-actualization are the very basic foundational needs regarding clean water and healthy food. Your proposed system of “means testing” will require on-going administration of evaluation of families. To me this means more stress to those in society on the lower and middle rungs of the ladder of income/opportunity. Will this testing be sensitive/responsive to the ever-changing world of employment or other family dynamics that might occur within a given school year? Wouldn’t this “means testing” require more monies to be spent on implementation by bureaucracy, monies which could instead go to investing in the quality of classroom resources, including options like additional aides to address individual needs?

Even if there are “means” to pay, the modern day family can face many challenges and stressors just getting the family “out the door” in the morning. This could contribute to choosing “convenience” processed and pre-packaged and less fresh food options for the students’ meals during the day. While volunteering for a local public school lunch program, I have witnessed the fresh food and well-balanced meals offered, which I have been told are the same meals district wide.

Speaking of districts, how will those larger proposed districts affect the quality of the meals offered? Nutrition is a

huge contributing factor when considering the welfare of our students and their ability to learn. How is it equitable when the potential stigmas of assistance and added bureaucracy for monitoring the program compromise which students have access to the same fresh well-balanced meals? And how much savings is truly realized? And if those proposed larger districts are adopted, how removed will the “means testing” deciders be from the local family dynamics and understanding of the impact of their decisions?

3. Regarding another aspect of savings, many have cited the increasing costs of healthcare for the teachers as a main driver of the increasing costs of elementary school budgets. I have heard no mention in any of the reports about this “bold” plan of how it in any way addresses the issue of healthcare costs for teachers. I totally support healthcare for teachers, but if your plan does not include addressing these costs, how is it a “bold” step in reducing the ever mounting costs of public education in Vermont?

In conclusion, I am not afraid of change. I agree that changes must be made. However, I do not understand how the proposed changes from your plan that I have referenced above will align with your stated goals of improved quality, equity, efficiency and savings for the public elementary school students in Vermont.

Susan Potter Davis
Weybridge

We care about your job as much as you do
Business you can trust,
and quality you can count
*Come experience
the difference*
Welcoming
John Duclos
to the team!

802-388-2500 | M- F 7:30-5, Sat. 8-1
1396 Rte 7 South | Middlebury, VT
distinctivepaintandinteriors.com
Located next to 7 South Sandwich Company

**VERGENNES
GRAND
SENIOR LIVING**
Life is Grand Here

CALL VERGENNES GRAND HOME

Independent Living | Assisted Living | Memory Care

OPENING ON MARCH 18*

LEARN MORE

Located in downtown Vergennes, Vergennes Grand Senior Living offers a vibrant community with engaging spaces and activities to thrive.
**Pending Vermont Assisted Living Residence Provider Approval.*
34 NORTH STREET, VERGENNES, VT
(802) 877-3562 | VERGENNESGRAND.COM

Addison County Home Health and Hospice is hosting Grief Support Groups beginning on March 26th continuing for eight weeks on Wednesdays until May 14th

These meetings will be held **in person** at Addison County Home Health and Hospice headquarters located at 254 Ethan Allen Highway (Rt 7) in New Haven, VT 05472 from 3:00pm-4:30pm.

We welcome all community members whether or not they or a loved one have had care from us in the past. Thanks to generous donors, the groups are being offered free of charge. Rev. Stephen Payne, ACHHH Chaplain and Stephanie Corliss, LICSW, will lead the groups.

*Come and receive practical advice and tools for moving through grief,
and make connections with others in your community.*

Please call the ACHHH office at 388-7259 to complete a brief screening process and to sign up.



254 Ethan Allen Highway, New Haven (Route 7) | P.O. Box 754, Middlebury 05753 | 802-388-7259 | ACHHH.org

Letters to the Editor

Forcing others to fund current use benefits unfair

After the Shoreham Town Meeting on Monday last week and the subsequent Trump address to the joint Congress Tuesday, I am reasonably certain Shoreham is prepared for the steep slide from democracy into tyranny exposed in Mr. Trump’s performance. My family has lived in Shoreham for only 39 years, so I may not have sufficient experience to make this comment.

When I receive the annual Shoreham Town Report, I go right to the Delinquent Taxpayers’ report to see if this year Shoreham Selectfolk have the decency to *not publish* the names of those unfortunate few. Of course, Shoreham leaders are vindictive, ostensibly because they wrongly think we all are, and those names are there. Missing are the names of the property owners, all eight pages, who voluntarily participate in the Current Use program, which this year adds a 12% surcharge to Shoreham *residents’* property owners’ tax liability. I emphasize

residents because you do not have to be a resident of Shoreham nor citizen of Vermont to enlist your Shoreham property in the Current Abuse, er, Use program. I cannot vote to accept or reject this tax, (which is far more additional tax burden than the delinquent taxes) because the state makes up an Adjusted Grand List *just* for Shoreham that substitutes a use value for the far greater Fair Market Value, and that is used to calculate our tax rate. This process essentially imposes a tax on residential property owners without the right to vote on this levy (tribute to land barons). The 2024 Shoreham Town Report doesn’t even bother to make notation of this chicanery, as it has in the past. This sounds a lot like “Taxation Without Representation” which, coincidentally is very germane to Shoreham’s history as the launching point of the American Revolution’s first offensive military victory, the capture of Fort Ticonderoga, May 10, 1775.

Historic giants, like Benedict

Arnold and Ethan Allen, were in the raiding party that attacked Fort Ticonderoga just a few weeks after the American Revolution began in Massachusetts. They launched from Hand’s Cove and took the fort without casualty. We, as citizens of Shoreham, tread hallowed ground, and it’s near sacrilege to demand revenue from our residents without a democratic process.

It’s been 30 or so years we have suffered Current Use levies without consent of the governed. Instead of making the effort to erect a model of democracy atop that shiny mountain of American Democracy built on the foundation of those brave young patriots’ blood, Shoreham has cobbled a mud slide down its slope, to the Pit of Tyranny, piling Irony and heaping Hypocrisy along the way.

Green Mountain greedy
Currently Abuse neighbors.
Clever cannibals!

Sincerely,

Peter Szymkowicz
Shoreham

DuPont letter

(Continued from Page 5A)

our own downfall? Do we want to trade our freedom, as imperfect as it sometimes seems, and live as the Russians do, afraid of speaking out, afraid of our own government? Admirers of Putin should try living there!

The President promotes the big lie that he was wronged and that *they* (fill in the blank) are taking advantage of us, taking what is ours. He relentlessly stokes a sense of grievance and encourages hate, persecution and violence against his enemies. He seeks to abrogate the power of the state into himself, destroying trust in our institutions and eroding the foundation of representative government. He

ignores the rule of law when it stands in his way. His Nazi-saluting billionaire buddy is currently taking a sledgehammer to our government. He vilifies and intimidates the press, unless if fawns on him, and fills the public space with disinformation and chaos. He does this while enriching himself and rewarding the super-rich who surround him. His ways and tactics are those of a tyrant. Though the political party to which he is allied is nominally the Republican Party, his actions and his party’s blind obedience to him are the opposite of republican.

Does our government need drastic reform? Have both political parties failed to represent the interests of working people against

the relentless accumulation of wealth in fewer and fewer hands? And have we subverted the affairs of other countries to enrich our friends and chase phantoms? Yes, yes and yes.

But we cannot give up on representative self-government. We need to continue the never-ending work to make it better. At its worst and most dysfunctional, democracy is still better than any other form of government. We owe it to the millions before us who fought and died to defend and animate the ideals enshrined in our constitution, to continue to fight for those ideals. Complacency is not an option.

Louis DuPont
Monkton

Lindholm

(Continued from Page 4A)

me by saying, “Don’t worry, Martha will show you the ropes,” whereupon I became terrified, hysterical: “The ropes, the ropes! Oh no, not the ‘ropes!’”

I had imagined actual ropes on the train that had to be negotiated, and I knew Martha would *not* show me what to do with the ropes because she didn’t like me (nor I her, not till she left for college). This became a family story, often retold when a new experience occasioned anxiety: “Don’t worry, I’ll show you the ropes.”

Between my junior and senior years at Middlebury College, I spent my summer as a common laborer in a factory in a small town in Switzerland, Brugg. I had spent the previous *eight* summers, from age 13 to 21, working at the golf course at the nearby Poland Spring Hotel. I wanted a radically different summer experience, an adventure, one (my father insisted) I subsidize myself.

I couldn’t speak the language, Schweizer Deutsch — it didn’t matter anyway, the other factory workers were Italian. It was a solitary existence, lonely perhaps, but only for two months. At the end of my shift each day, I rode my bike the two miles from the GeogFischer Machinfabrik into town and went straight to the train station.

Once there, I bought the *Paris Herald-Tribune*, the newspaper for English speakers, and read it through sitting on a bench right where the trains came and went noisily on three separate tracks.

This is where I found comfort and peace, amid all the formidable train sounds, the hiss and screech of the brakes, the whistle blowing, the rumble of the engine, and the people sounds: “*Alle Einstengen!*”



KARL LINDHOLM AND his friend Jon board the Marrakech Express in 1968, one of the persistent memories of train travel that the author revisits.

Three years or so later in the spring of 1968, just out of Middlebury College, I traveled for four months in Europe and North Africa with my friend Jon. We hitchhiked in central Europe but mostly took the train in southern Europe (Italy, Spain) and Morocco, as it was cheap transportation if you went 3rd or 4th class.

We found Morocco wonderfully exotic, an Arab country where the people spoke French! Jon and I had both taken French classes at Middlebury (and performed miserably), so we were all set in Morocco: we knew the language! *Bien sur.*

We were in Morocco for a couple weeks, traveling by train from Tangier to Rabat to Casablanca to Marrakech. As my contemporaries certainly recall, the song “Marrakech Express” by folk-rock supergroup Crosby Stills & Nash, was something of an anthem of the footloose ‘60s.

Singer-songwriter Graham Nash had preceded us by two years. Traveling by train to Marrakech, he became bored riding in first class, so he ventured back to third class: “That was where it was all happening,” he wrote about the experience. “There were lots of people cooking strange little meals on small wooden stoves and the place was full of chickens, pigs and goats. It was fabulous; the whole thing was fascinating.”

Jon and I felt the same way. We were thrilled to be “riding on the Marrakech Express!”

I have taken now to asking friends for their favorite train memory, not just old folks like me, but also young people who have traveled to parts of the world where passenger train travel is vital. Seems like everyone has a good story.

What’s yours?

Karl Lindholm can be contacted at lindholm@middlebury.edu.



EVEN TODAY, DECADES after Karl Lindholm was introduced to the romance of train travel, who doesn’t have a favorite memory of riding the rails.

Independent photo/Steve James

ADDISON COUNTY School News

Brian Thornton of Brandon has qualified for the Fall 2024 dean’s list at Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J.

The following students earned Vermont State University Dean’s List honors for the Fall 2024 semester: **Elizabeth Mullikin** and **Sara Roberts** of Bridport; **Katie Havey** of Bristol; **Ocean Verge** of Ferrisburgh; and **Bri Stevens-Clark** of Whiting; To qualify for this academic designation,

students must maintain fulltime status and achieve a 3.5 or greater semester average.

Edison Li of Brandon has been named to the dean’s list at Wentworth Institute of Technology for the fall 2024 semester.

Drive safely and help your Neighbors!

Join County Tire Center for our 12th annual **Free brakes for food** promotion

Donate: 12 non-perishable food items.
Receive: a Free Brake Inspection and Diagnosis

If you need brakes, we provide **FREE premium brake pads** and **\$50 off labor to install the pads with the purchase of rotors.** If you need pads and rotors for both front and rear brakes, we ask that you donate 12 additional food items for HOPE. Thank you!

No other discounts may be combined with this offer. We do not pad slap.

All donations go straight to HOPE
Dates: Feb. 10 - March 21, 2025
learn more at Hope-VT.org

33 Seymour Street, Middlebury, VT
802-388-7620 • www.countytirecenter.com • info@countytirecenter.com

MUD SEASON SALE

2017 TOYOTA PRIUS
Prime Hybrid, Auto, 86k miles
\$20,995

2016 TOYOTA TACOMA
Double Cab, TRD-Sport, Auto, 4x4, 135k miles
\$23,995

2019 SUBARU OUTBACK
Premium, 4-Cyl, Auto, AWD, 93k miles
\$16,995

2019 GMC SIERRA ELEVATION
5.3L V8, Auto, 4x4, 108k miles
\$27,995

2018 VW BEETLE
Coupe, 4-Cyl, Auto, Only 26k miles
\$22,995

WIMETT TRADING COMPANY
USED CARS AND TRUCKS
802 465 4688

AFFORDABLE, SAFE & RELIABLE USED CARS AND TRUCKS
We also buy cars, locate specialty orders & consider consignments
Call Dave for an appointment

Wimett Trading Company
at the Big White Barn in Leicester
Michael Jackman, 52 Years Experience
David Wimett, 39 Years Experience
Mark Grant, 11 Years Experience
802-465-4688
2668 Route 7 • Leicester, VT 05733 • wimetttradingco@gmail.com

More than a decade of delivering Quality!

2025 Maple Open House

March 22nd, Saturday (9-5 pm)
All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast (9-12pm)
with fresh maple syrup, sausage, homemade home fries and more!
Ol' time music

March 22nd, Saturday (11 - 3 pm)
• **Maple Sap Hot Dogs & chips and Ol' time sap boiling**
• **Maple sap boiling demonstration in our new outdoor evaporator.**
Maple Cream Donuts, Maple Walnut bars, Maple Popcorn & Maple Cotton Candy
Outdoor Affair, Please Dress Warm!

Maple Creemees all weekend!

2025 Vermont Maple Syrup is available!
Don't forget to bring your own container to fill up with Syrup-On-Tap!

884 Route 74E, Shoreham, VT • 802-897-2448 • vermonttradewinds.com

New this year!

"Be the Sugarmaker"
Scan code to sign up!



WOMEN'S DAY MARCH

MORE THAN 100 women, children and men gathered in Middlebury this past Saturday as part of the National Women's Day gathering/rally/march, one of many taking place across the country. Signs held high, the marchers were out to express dissatisfaction with the actions of the Trump administration and to support each other.

Photos by Jonathan Blake and John S. McCright



MNFF
SELECTS

Lost Chances: Neo-Noir Here & Now

Join us for our winter/spring season, exploring four iconic films from the archive—each a unique example of the neo-noir genre.

TOWN HALL THEATER, MIDDLEBURY | TICKETS \$17 | TRAILERS, TICKETS & INFO MIDDFILMFEST.ORG

MIDDFILMFEST

SPONSORED BY



ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT



4-H’ers cook in the food lab

MIDDLEBURY — It might still be winter in Vermont, but for 49 4-H club members, it felt more like summer when they took part in the 2025 Addison County 4-H Foods Day. That’s because the theme for the event was Picnic.

4-H’ers from several counties participated in the fun-filled day, which was held on Feb. 22 at the Middlebury Union Middle School in Middlebury. Most brought a dish and place setting to be evaluated, although 4-H’ers were welcome to participate in the Foods Day labs and buffet lunch without entering the culinary competition.

Susan Bodette, a retired nutrition educator for the University of Vermont Extension Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, presented a nutrition lab on sensory tasting. Staff from the Better Together Dance Company taught several types of dances as part of the exercise lab.

In the food lab, each age group prepared a different picnic-themed dish for lunch, honing their food preparation skills and learning about food safety. Kindergarten through fourth grade students made fruit kabobs. The fifth through seventh graders made vegetable trays and dips and eighth grade and older prepared fried chicken in three different ways, air-fried, baked and pan-fried. The buffet lunch also included dishes made in

advance for the competition.

Volunteers evaluated the dishes while the youth participated in workshops. All participants were presented a 4-H cookie cutter during the awards ceremony.

The top ten placements in each age group in the culinary competition received rosette ribbons with the top three each receiving a prize. Each first-place winner received a 4-H insulated tumbler. The second-place winners were awarded a 4-H apron with third place getting a 4-H oven mitt. The Addison County 4-H Foundation sponsored the rosette ribbons, prizes, giveaways and facilities.

The results were as follows:

Grades K-2 (appetizers): 1. Harper Raymond, Charlotte; 2. Evelyn Benoit, Shoreham; 3. Eddie Gordon, Bristol; 4. Ellen Hodgdon, Bridport; 5. Ellis Chittenden, Whiting; 6. Billie Bowdish, Weybridge.

Grades 3-4 (fruit cobbler): 1. Lucy Bartholomew, Benson; 2. Huxton Joyal, Williston; 3. Corbin Kerr, Shoreham; 4. Case Pope, Shoreham; 5. Claira Lucas, Orwell; 6. Amelia Tudhope, Orwell; 7. Hannah Stocker, Bridport; 8. Emilee Gordon, Bristol; 9. Addie Farr, Richmond.

Grades 5-7 (salad): 1. Robert Whipple, Bridport; 2. Emma Lucas, Orwell; 3. Tom Allen, Vergennes;

4. Sophia Stocker, Bridport; 5. Tenley Chittenden, Whiting; 6. Olivia Tudhope, Orwell; 7. Autumn Thresher, Salisbury; 8. Annie Farr, Richmond, and Sutton Chittenden, Whiting; 9. Ansley Montgomery, Addison; 10. Olivia Gordon, Bristol; 11. Ella Pope, Shoreham.

Grade 8 and up (entrée): 1. Hailey Chase, Bristol; 2. Erin Whipple, Bridport; 3. Alexis Whipple, Bridport; 4. Payton Lucas, Orwell; 5. Makayla Warner, Middlebury; 6. Mackenzie Chase, Bristol; 7. Bella Sears-Lewis, Castleton; 8. Merissa Gordon, Bristol; 9. Sophia Welch, Bridport; 10. Ruby Hubbell, Shoreham; 11. Hailee Allen, New Haven.

4-H’ers who attended but did not enter a dish included Caroline Allen, Vergennes; Brianna Besette and Arya Manti, both from Salisbury; Lucy Bowdish, Weybridge; Wyatt Carter and Fallyn Norton, both from Bridport; Brenna Foran, Lincoln; Beau Joyal, Williston; Casey Lucas, Orwell; and Chace and Summer Petrin, Addison.

In addition, the 4-H’ers donated nonperishable foods and money to the Addison County Emergency Food Shelf in Middlebury.

For information about the 4-H cooking project or Addison County 4-H, contact UVM Extension 4-H educator Martha Seifert at (802) 656-7547 or martha.seifert@uvm.edu.

Farmers

(Continued from Page 1A)

pointed to the extreme weather Vermont farmers have been hit with over the past few years — such as damaging windstorms, deluges, and the mid-May cold snap that decimated fruit trees across the state a couple years ago.

“There’s been quite a few natural disasters that have hit Vermont and impacted farmers around the state,” she said. “Just talking to a lot of my constituents about the impact it’s had on them, particularly smaller farmers that might have less access to bigger programs like FEMA funds or farm insurance funds etc., they’ve had a hard time recovering from all of these natural disasters, so trying to figure out a way we could have a local Vermont fund with quick access to farmers was part of my goal.”

Hardy noted there were already several farm organizations working on the idea. She collaborated with local farmers and organizations like the Vermont Farm Bureau and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont to develop the bill.

“Just hearing from farmers right after the floods, not just the financial but the emotional impact of having to recover from something like that, it really stuck with me and this is something we need to do to make our farms more resilient and help them recover,” Hardy said.

‘A QUICK TURNAROUND’

The bill would establish the Farm Security Special Fund as a permanent program “to provide

financial assistance to farms that experienced qualifying losses due to weather conditions.”

The legislation outlines what would be considered an eligible weather condition, specifically conditions “found to be closely correlated with agricultural income losses” such as extreme heat, abnormal freeze conditions and flooding.

The fund would consist of money appropriated each year by the legislature, as well as a couple other types of funding sources detailed in the bill.

Grants from the fund would reimburse a farm for up to 50% of “uninsured or otherwise uncovered losses due to eligible weather conditions,” up to \$150,000 per year for each qualified applicant farm. Reimbursable losses include wages or compensation, livestock feed replacement costs, and infrastructure or equipment repair and replacement.

“(Funds available) would not cover the full loss, but a portion of the loss, and it would be something to help get back on the road to recovery and potentially a matching fund for other grants they’re applying to,” Hardy explained.

Under the bill, the secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets would come up with a streamlined application for grants. Farms could apply for assistance at any time, and the application process would only close when all appropriated funds for the fiscal year had been awarded.

“The process for applying for the funds would be quick and easy,” Hardy said. “Farmers don’t have a lot of time to apply for grants. Unfortunately, they are required to apply for grants if they need help. The idea is to make this an easy process with a quick turnaround.”

After an application is received and deemed ready for evaluation, it would be assessed by the Farm Security Special Fund Review Board within 10 days. If the review board recommends an award be given, that award would be issued within two weeks of the board’s recommendation.

Language in the bill notes that many existing state and federal programs designed to help farmers are hard to access, administratively burdensome and “not equitably distributed to small- and medium-scale farmers.”

“The intent (of the fund) is that it be easy to access and not burdensome and not take a lot of time because when you’re recovering from a disaster what you really need is capital, among other things,” Hardy explained.

The fund would be administered by the secretary of agriculture in consultation with the review board, which would include the State Chief Recovery Officer or designee, two farmers who’ve received relief funding, and representatives from “three organizations or entities with experience granting relief funds or technical assistance to farmers.”

“Having both the fund and a process where farmers are involved, that was the intent of the bill,” Hardy said.

MORE FARMER OPTIONS

Hardy noted that while the fund is intended to help farms of all sizes, it’s particularly aimed at being a resource for small and medium-sized farms that might not have as many funding options.

The bill states that many Vermont farmers aren’t covered by crop insurance, since federal crop insurance programs “are not designed to serve the needs of smaller scale or more diversified farming operations.”

Lawmakers heard more about the limitations of federal crop insurance and disaster programs from Addison farmer Melanie Harrison of Harrison’s Homegrown, who testified in support of the bill to the Senate Committee on Agriculture.

Harrison and her husband, Patrick, milk 175 organic cows, in addition to raising replacement heifers, managing a boarding and lessons stable with 17 horses and ponies, and stewarding 600 acres of hay, pastureland and forest.

She told lawmakers the farm has seen significant impacts from drought and excessive moisture in recent years.

“In 2022 we experienced the most significant drought of our farming career, with many fields yielding only one small cutting of hay,” Harrison recalled. “Pastures that we normally graze six or more times per year were only able to be grazed two or three times at most, and less than 25% of our average rainfall fell during the growing season — most of that was in September, too late to salvage a full hay crop.”

“Since we had to feed out all of our early cut hay on pasture to get our livestock through the summer, we were left to purchase all our winter forage at a significant expense,” Harrison continued. “Because federal disaster assistance is only available when certain drought conditions are persistent and widespread ... we were deemed ineligible since other parts of our county received rainfall that we didn’t.”

Excessive moisture in 2023 led to a different set of challenges for Harrison’s Homegrown.

“This was the wettest growing season in our farm’s history, limiting field access for grazing and haymaking,” Harrison said. “While we were thankfully able to grow more feed than the previous year, weather-related harvest delays and nutrient dilution left us with a lot of low-quality feed at a considerable expense.”

Harrison noted that while the farm was eligible for some financial assistance from the Vermont Community Foundation and the USDA, its ability to creatively work around the weather and continue grazing despite difficult field conditions meant it wasn’t eligible for other federal disaster programs or crop insurance claims.

“We have found that most crop insurance and risk management products are geared toward mass-produced, monoculture commodity crops, and very few offer affordable, however often inadequate, coverage for the type of specialty production system that we have developed on our farm, precisely to create our own resilience,” Harrison explained.

“By growing ecologically-diverse, organic forage crops, rotationally grazed by organic cattle, and using innovative planting and harvesting techniques, we have designed our farm to withstand a certain amount of weather-related volatility,” she continued. “However, in doing so, we exist outside the mainstream production models that traditional crop insurance and risk management products are created to support.”

UP NEXT

The bill was voted out of the Senate Committee on Agriculture last month on a unanimous, bipartisan vote. Heffernan, who sits on the committee, noted that lawmakers recommended a \$7.5 million appropriation for the fund.

“Everybody that’s in the ag committee was very supportive of the bill,” he told the *Independent*. “It was nonpartisan; it was very good to see.”

Hardy explained that since the bill includes an appropriation, it now must go to the Senate Committee on Appropriations. She noted Major would shepherd the bill through that committee, after which it would head to the senate floor within the next couple of weeks.

“There’s still a ways to go,” Hardy said. “It’s definitely not a done deal, but it’s passed the first hurdle and that’s a good sign, and I think the leaders, both the Republican and Democratic leaders, are supportive of it and I think that’s a good sign as well.”



SEN. RUTH HARDY



SEN. STEVEN HEFFERNAN

Opera House

(Continued from Page 1A)

for its planned All Access Project.

The concerns grew out of the chaos sewn by the Trump administration and what legal experts say is the probably unconstitutional Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

Worries heightened when an email to the official in the National Park Service with whom FVOH had been working went unanswered, according to FVOH president Gerianne Smart.

The National Park Service, the point agency on the funding, has been hard hit by DOGE. And that \$500,000 is about 20% of the estimated cost of the theater’s All Access Project, now set to begin in late spring or early summer.

But finally FVOH’s National Park Service connection got back to Smart on March 6, and the news was good, according to Smart.

“I did hear from our contact at (the) National Park Service today, and he said everything is in good order, and we shouldn’t have any delays or hiccups,” Smart said.

She insisted in February that FVOH remains committed to completing the project, even if that means getting it done in phases if necessary, but it appears now the full effort could proceed as planned.

The long-planned project, estimated at \$1.9 million, will upgrade public access to the second-story theater in Vergennes

City Hall. At the same time it will create for the first time true ground-level handicap access to city offices on the first floor.


The centerpiece of the plans is an elevator tower to be built at the end of the alley that runs between city hall’s west side and St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. Access to city hall will be from the base of the tower, and to the theater from its second story.

The other major element of the All Access Project is creating full ADA-compliant internal access from the theater’s dressing room to the stage and theater levels via an internal lift. Plans also call for an access ramp from the driveway on the building’s east side to the dressing room. Also included is an ADA compliant rest room in the dressing room.

It was in October that FVOH received notice through U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders’s office of the \$500,000 Congressionally Directed Funding grant (an earmark in a larger spending bill). It comes from the National Park Service’s Historic Preservation Fund, and it is the largest single grant the FVOH has received for the project.

FVOH had earlier heard reassurances about a \$300,000 award from the Northern Borders Regional Commission, which was also derived from federal funding. It has also received many foundation grants and individual donations, and is selling naming rights to paving bricks that will be laid in the alleyway.

Concerns remain about what the effect of Trump’s off-and-on threats of tariffs might do to construction costs. The project is going out to bid.



2025 Area RABIES CLINICS

All Clinics are open to all residents of any town. Dogs and cats only. For the safety of all, dogs should be leashed and cats in carriers. You should bring paper proof of previous rabies vaccination(s).

\$20 per vaccine **CASH only** - exact change appreciated.

Bristol Animal Hospital**	Sat. March 15, 9:00 - 10:00 AM
(**Lincoln town clerk on site for Lincoln registrations - \$25)	
Bridport Fire House	Sat. March 15, 10:00 AM - 12 Noon
Monkton Fire Station	Tues. March 25, 6:00 - 7:00 PM
Orwell Fire House	Fri. March 28, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Sponsored by Bristol Animal Hospital, and Valleywide Veterinary Services
Please bring cash - cards and checks will not be accepted.



Bread Leaf View

FARM

Vermont State Maple Open House Weekend

March 22-23, 2025

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

486 Cider Mill Road, Cornwall | 802-373-7000

Plenty of fresh products for sale!

- Maple Cream Donuts
- Maple Fudge & Candies
- Maple Popcorn & Cotton Candy
- and Coffee, of course!



Come walk the sugarwoods trail and enjoy our springtime tradition!

“We have designed our farm to withstand a certain amount of weather-related volatility. However, in doing so, we exist outside the mainstream production models that traditional crop insurance and risk management products are created to support.”

— farmer Melanie Harrison

Harrison and her husband, Patrick, milk 175 organic cows, in addition to raising replacement heifers, managing a boarding and lessons stable with 17 horses and ponies, and stewarding 600 acres of hay, pastureland and forest.

She told lawmakers the farm has seen significant impacts from drought and excessive moisture in recent years.

Hardy explained that since the bill includes an appropriation, it now must go to the Senate Committee on Appropriations. She noted Major would shepherd the bill through that committee, after which it would head to the senate floor within the next couple of weeks.

“There’s still a ways to go,” Hardy said. “It’s definitely not a done deal, but it’s passed the first hurdle and that’s a good sign, and I think the leaders, both the Republican and Democratic leaders, are supportive of it and I think that’s a good sign as well.”

Police cite, ticket Panton resident

VERGENNES — Vergennes police on Sunday, March 9, cited a Panton man for driving without an ignition interlock device. Police also ticketed Travis Rivers, 51, of Panton for driving with a suspended license following a traffic stop on Panton Road.

In other action between March 3 and 9, city police also conducted 12 cruiser patrols and 19 other traffic stops, responded to one false alarm, processed six fingerprint requests, and:

- On March 3:
 - Took a call from a Main Street resident they described as a repeat caller.
 - Dealt with parking problems on Green and North streets.
 - Calmed a verbal domestic dispute at a First Street residence.
- On March 4:
 - Attempted to check the welfare of a Walker Avenue resident who was not at home.
 - Took a tour of Vergennes Union Elementary School.
 - Investigated a reported burglary on Green Street and determined no theft had occurred.
- On March 5:
 - On North Green Street helped a motorist jump start a dead battery.
 - Took phone calls from a Hillside Acres resident; police described this as an ongoing mental health issue.
 - Provided traffic control for a “Walk and Roll” day at VUES.
 - Accompanied the Vergennes Area Rescue squad to Northlands Job Corps to help with a female student who was having a panic attack. Police said they soon learned the student was cooperative, and they were not needed.
- On March 6:
 - Were called about a Main Street parking problem, but learned it was resolved.
 - Were called to Walker Avenue about a noise complaint and determined it was unfounded.
 - Dealt with a parking problem on North Street related to the Vergennes Grand elderly housing project. Police said several vehicles were moved.
 - Handled a threatening complaint on Green Street.
- On March 7:
 - Spoke at length on the phone

ADDISON COUNTY School News Briefs

Community College of Vermont has released its academic honors lists for the fall 2024 semester. A number of local students are included.

Those named to the president’s list with — having a GPA of 4.0 as full-time students include:

Bristol: Miles Burgess and Jacob Denny.

Middlebury: Kirsten Sargent.

Panton: Madeline Degraaf.

Those part-time students with a 4.0 GPA are named to the student honors list and include:

Bristol: Andrea Butterfield, Makayla Lambert, Nicole Marcelle, Sydney Perlee and Christofer Wolak.

Ferrisburgh: Brianna Rafus.

Lincoln: Dillon L’heureux



Email Us!

News Articles

news@addisonindependent.com

Advertise

ads@addisonindependent.com

Vergennes Police Log

with a city resident who reported he was “going through a tough time and had drunk excessively.” Police said he was not home alone, and eventually told him to call back if he needed further help or wanted to talk more.

- Aided VARS at a West Main Street call.
- Were told by a city resident she was “receiving strange emails from her ex-husband.” Police told her how to obtain a relief from abuse order.
- Heard from Collins Aerospace management of an allegation of threatening behavior by an employee towards a supervisor. Police said an investigation is ongoing.
- On March 8:
 - Heard from an agitated female with disabilities that she was locked out of her home. Police learned her caregiver knew of the situation and was able to get the female into her home safely.
 - Helped Vermont State Police by calming a dispute between two neighbors in Waltham who had recently had a child together, one of the neighbors, police said, was refusing to leave the other’s home. Police said they separated peacefully, but they provided one with information about how to contact the nonprofit organization Atria and obtain a relief from abuse order.
- On March 9:
 - Checked on two vehicles parked in Falls Park after dark and found nothing suspicious.
 - Looked into what they called a report of a suspicious incident on Main Street, but found no problem.

CORRECTION: Due to a misunderstanding, the March 6 Vergennes police log incorrectly reported which municipal office a television had been stolen from and returned to. The TV was taken from Panton Town Hall and returned by Vergennes Police to that town’s assistant clerk at the city police station. The reporter apologizes for the confusion.

Stake on Mt. Mansfield logs near-record snow levels

Third-highest snowpack reading recorded since stake was installed in 1954

By HANNAH HEAD Community News Service

VERMONT — The snow stake atop Vermont’s highest peak, Mt. Mansfield, recorded an impressive 103 inches on March 2. It was the third-highest snowpack reading for that date since 1954, when the stake was installed, making this winter one of the snowiest on record.

The snow stake, which is owned and monitored by the Burlington branch of the National Weather Service, has attracted the interest of skiers and weather watchers alike for years. Using a remote camera, the Weather Service measures the snow as it accumulates on the rugged and windy 4,395-foot mountain.

“This early in the season, to have this much snow is exceptional,” said Matthew Parrilla, who has been tracking the snow stake since 2011.

Although the warmer temperatures this past week resulted in a slight drop of the snowpack reading to 97 inches as of March 6, that depth is still running about 29 inches above average.

Parrilla is a software developer with combined interests in skiing and data visualization. He maintains a website that records readings from the snow stake and compiles them in a comparative graph, earning him the title of the unofficial record keeper of the snow stake.

Parrilla monitors the snow stake through the National Weather Service daily hydrometeorological report, updating his website with fresh data as it is captured by a camera trained on the stake, which is read and interpreted remotely.

Snow depth for the season



A SNOWY SCENE on Mt. Mansfield, the state’s highest peak, illustrates this winter’s high snowfall. Photo by Molly Walsh/CNS

usually peaks around the middle to end of March. Parrilla, an avid spring skier, predicts a “long bunch of spring skiing” for snow sport enthusiasts.

It’s definitely a banner year for snow, official forecasters agree.

“We’ve broken a hundred twice this time of year, in 1969 and another time in 1982,” said Marlon Verasamy, a forecaster and observing program leader for the National Weather Service’s Burlington office.

Verasamy attributes the near-record snow accumulation this year to a string of snow systems that have passed through northern Vermont. These systems are the driver of the snowpile, each dumping significant snow. Combined with the consistent pattern of temperatures remaining mostly below freezing, this winter

has created a long, productive period to build the snowpack.

In the past 25 years, the snowpack has only surpassed 100 inches three times. Once in 2001, again in 2017 and most recently in 2019. The highest recorded snowfall accumulation at the stake was 149 inches, which was measured on April 2, 1969, the snowiest season on record atop Mt. Mansfield.

The heavy drifts this winter are happy news for Vermont’s ski areas.

“Definitely a really, really good year for snow,” said Bryan Rivard, director of communications for Ski Vermont, a trade association that represents 20 alpine and 30 cross-country ski resorts across Vermont.

Snow and cold temperatures have been consistent much of the season, and the lack of a significant

wintery warming period has created ideal conditions for building a deep snowpack.

And as the snowpack deepens, it compresses, creating more favorable conditions for skiing, Rivard said.

While snowy conditions have defined the winter so far, Verasamy predicted that the pattern will begin to change and that temperatures will begin bouncing back and forth as spring approaches. However, the season is far from over, and snowpack at the stake is not predicted to peak until the end of March.

“We could see pretty high numbers before the season ends,” Verasamy said.

The Community New Service features student journalists working out of the University of Vermont.

Introducing Town Hall Theater’s new space

MIDDLEBURY — On this coming Tuesday, March 18, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., the public is invited to join the Middlebury Chapter of the AAUW (American Association of University Women) for tours of the expanded Town Hall Theater, which includes new spaces for performances, learning and events.

Following the tours, THT Executive & Artistic Director Lisa Mitchell will deliver a talk on “What the Arts Mean Today.”

Mitchell will draw from her experience across the arts and culture landscape, including her state-level work as Vermont Arts Council field representative for Addison and Rutland counties.

The talk will be held in the new Doug & Debby Anderson Studio, and the adjacent Jean’s Place lounge will be open with a cash bar starting at 6:30 p.m.

Enter the building through the new wing’s entrance at 72 Merchants Row starting at

6:30 p.m. The talk will start at about 7:30 p.m. after the tours.

This event is co-hosted by Middlebury AAUW and the Ilsley Library and sponsored by the Town Hall Theater. Attendees can expect to gain insights into the challenges and opportunities facing the arts today, as well as a look at inspiring examples of the transformative impact of the creative sector — including what’s happening in our own community.

LIMITED TIME

Home Damaged by 2023 or 2024 Floods?

Get reimbursed for qualifying appliances, heating systems, water heaters, and more.*

Income-eligible homeowners and renters:

- ✓ Up to \$10,000 for qualifying heat pumps, wood stoves, furnaces, boilers, water heaters, and appliances
- ✓ Zero-interest financing up to \$30,000

Businesses:

- ✓ Up to \$16,000 for kitchen, HVAC, and refrigeration equipment (on top of standard rebates)
- ✓ Technical assistance

Rental Property Owners (with rental units at or below rent limit guidelines)

- ✓ Up to \$10,000 per rental unit on appliances, in-unit equipment, and central heating systems
- ✓ Technical assistance

Learn more at efficiencyvermont.com/floodrebate

*Funding is subject to availability and eligibility. For the most up to date rebate information visit efficiencyvermont.com/floodrebate.

Efficiency Vermont

efficiencyvermont.com/floodrebate
(888) 921-5990

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
6/30/2025
Apply Today!



www.addisonindependent.com — CHECK IT OUT.

Supported by the Fusion Afterschool Program

Vergennes Union High School

Presents



March 20 at 7:00PM
March 21 at 7:00PM
March 22 at 3:00PM

*Parental Guidance Advised
PG-13 Performance



Music and Lyrics by
Dolly Parton

Book By
Particia Resnick

Tickets are available at:
CUR8 and at the door

Students & Adults - \$12
Senior Citizens - \$10

Director
Bruce Coughlin
Arrangements and
Additional Orchestrations
Stephen Dremus & Alex Lacamoire

Scan the code
for tickets!



BRISTOL FINANCIAL SERVICES

CONGRATULATIONS
on another
successful
production!

36 Main St., Bristol, VT 05443
802-453-2378 • www.bristolfinancial.com

YOUR FOREVER REALTORS,
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
ONE HOME AT A TIME!

*Congratulations
on a job
well done!*

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | **VERMONT REALTY GROUP**

We are a designated agency brokerage.

802-877-2134
www.ReVT4U.com

Insuring what you do

CA
CARTER INSURANCE
Vermont

Supporting the greater
Addison County youth
and civic activities.

2 South St. Bristol
802-453-6054

1396 US-7 Unit 6 Middlebury
802-385-1189
www.carteragencyvt.com

Congrats to
everyone involved!
from all of us

Silver Maple

802.989.7677
SILVERMAPLE.COM

TOWN HALL THEATER
townhalltheater.org

A standing ovation
for VUHS's
production
of 9-5!

72 - 76 Merchants Row, Midd., VT
802-382-9222 • www.townhalltheater.org

COUNTY TIRE CENTER, INC.
FAMILY
MIDDLEBURY
HYBRID/EV

Cheers to a
great show!

33 Seymour St., Middlebury
www.countytirecenter.com
info@countytirecenter.com
802-388-7620

Element Nail Salon

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Pedicures
- Manicures
- Nail extensions
- Massage
- Facials & Waxing

90 Mechanicsville Rd. #6
Hinesburg, VT
802-482-7334
www.elementnailsalonvt.com

Raise the Roof,
Cast and Crew!
We'll be
cheering you on!

FRIEND CONSTRUCTION

Residential &
Commercial Roofing

802-453-2255

GAINES INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.
"Where Personalized Service Matters"

Congrats on an
amazing
performance!

802- 877-2878
154 Monkton Road, Ferrisburgh
Across from Aubuchon Hardware
www.gainesinsurance.com

Bravo!

Plumbing & Heating
J.W. & D.E. RYAN
Incorporated
Vergennes, Vermont

"Serving the Champlain
Valley Since 1887"

802-877-3118

Congratulations
on a fantastic
performance!

J.D. FULLER

PLUMBING & HEATING INC.

John D. Fuller, Master Plumber
802-388-2019

Jackman Fuels, Inc.

Best Wishes to the
Cast & Crew!

JACKMAN FUELS

LP Gas • Kerosene
Ultra-Low Sulfur Heating Oil
Vergennes • 802-877-2661
JackmanFuels.com

JACKMAN'S OF BRISTOL INC.
SINCE 1930
ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

Keep shining
brightly - on
stage and off!

64 Jackman Dr. • Bristol, VT 05443
For information on all your energy
needs, please contact us at:
802-453-2381 • JackmansInc.com

Proud to
Support the
Arts at VUHS!

Vergennes Law, PLLC.
d/b/a Oulmette & Runcie

257 Main Street,
PO Box 7 Vergennes
Phone: (802)877-3372
Fax: (802)877-3723
www.orlaw-vt.com

One CREDIT UNION

Where Our Community is
Always in the Spotlight!

48 Green St. | Vergennes
www.onecu.org

Working 9 - 5
is tough
Congrats on your
hard work!

Rockers Pizzeria

191 Main Street, Vergennes
802-870-7341
RockersPizzeria.com.

BREAK A LEG.
VUHS CAST & CREW

VERGENNES GRAND
SENIOR LIVING

OPENING
MARCH 18

VERGENNESGRAND.COM
34 NORTH ST. VERGENNES

All eyes are
on you, cast
and crew!
Good luck!

Peak View EYE CARE

27 Main Street, Vergennes
(802) 877-2422

ADDISON COUNTY ALIGNMENT & REPAIR INC.
NEW HAVEN, VT

Break a leg!

7409 Ethan Allen Hwy, Ste 1,
New Haven VT 05472
802-723-2227
www.acarvt.com
info@acar2024.com

Bravo!

RE/MAX NORTH PROFESSIONALS

802-349-8646
www.midvthomes.com

the Gridley Group | **MLS**

A. GINSBURG ARCHITECTS

Adam Ginsburg, AIA
Principal

5 South Maple Street
Vergennes, VT 05491

adam@aginsburgarchitects.com
(802) 989-5436

*Your hard
work will shine
- break a leg!*

Newton ELECTRICAL REFRIGERATION AIR CONDITIONING INC

www.newtonerac.com
802-388-1431

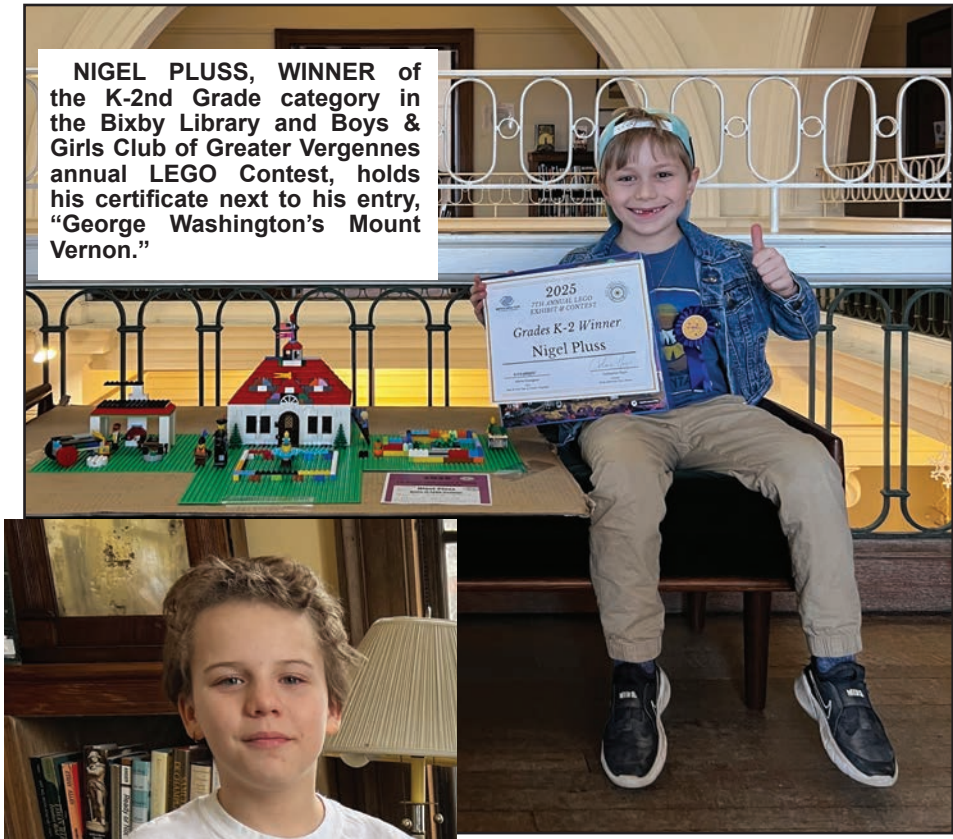
MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Linda's APPAREL
clothing • gifts • jewelry

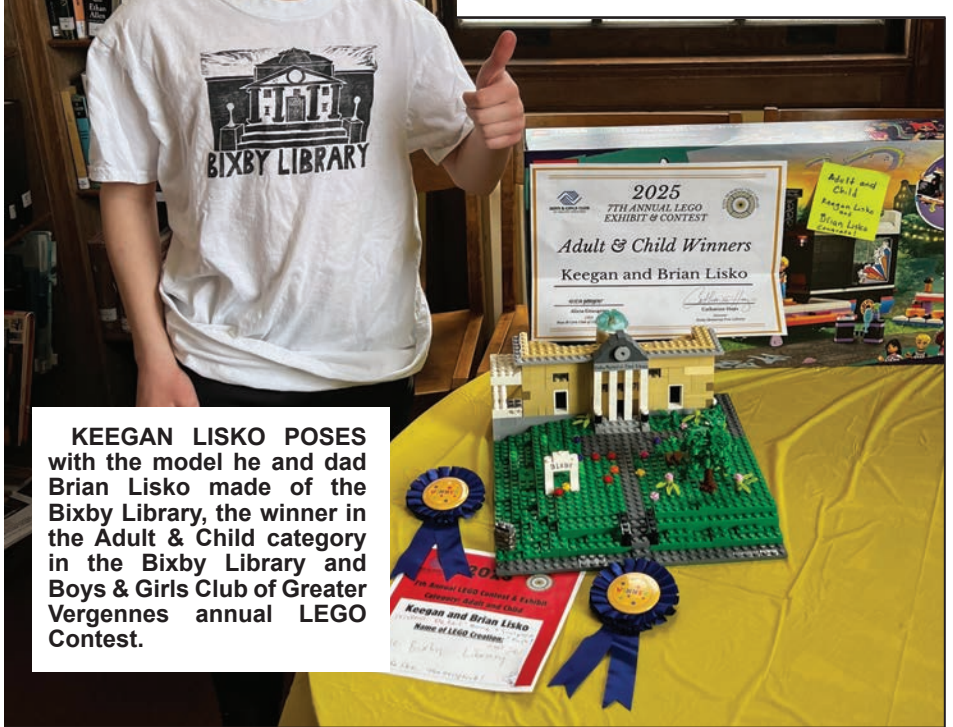
Good Luck
to the Cast & Crew!

802-877-2320

175 Main Street • Vergennes
M-Sat 9:30 – 5:30 • CLOSED Sundays
LindasApparelVT.com



NIGEL PLUSS, WINNER of the K-2nd Grade category in the Bixby Library and Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes annual LEGO Contest, holds his certificate next to his entry, "George Washington's Mount Vernon."



KEEGAN LISKO POSES with the model he and dad Brian Lisko made of the Bixby Library, the winner in the Adult & Child category in the Bixby Library and Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes annual LEGO Contest.



ELLA APUZZO-KIDDER, A Grade 6-8 participant in the Bixby Library and Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes LEGO Contest, poses with her entry, "Ogunquit Favorites."

Photos courtesy of the Bixby Library

Bixby LEGO

(Continued from Page 1A)

• Mixed Ages: Theodore, Franklin and Emily Packard for "Packardville."

Winners received Lego kits courtesy of Roundtree Construction, Winslow said. But, of course, as she wrote in the press release, the annual contest really isn't about winning, as nice as it is for a lucky few to walk away with LEGO swag.

"The Annual LEGO Contest continues to provide a platform for children, teens and adults to flex their creativity and build from their imagination," Winslow said.

She also shared some comments to a written prompt at the contest. When asked why they loved the LEGO Contest, participants and spectators wrote "Because I like to build them!!!" "I get to see the creativity of the local youth!" and "Each creation brings JOY!"

One parent of two participants said a little more. "This is something we look forward to every year," said Sara Donnelly. "They've been building LEGOs all week instead of watching TV."

CHIN UP, IT'S ALMOST SPRING!

HARE AND THE DOG
Legendary WINE · BEER · SPIRITS

Middlebury ♦ Vergennes
www.Hare.dog

AGWAY

\$10 OFF

YOUR \$40 OR MORE
SEED STARTING
PURCHASE

AGWAY

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY COUPON
Excludes seeds. Includes Seed Starting
Soils Only. Now thru 3/31/25
While supplies last, cannot be combined with any
other sale or offer, in-stock items only.

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY
338 Exchange Street
802-388-4937 Open 7 days
Mon. - Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-4
www.MiddleburyAgway.com

CONTACT GOV. SCOTT

Governor
Phil Scott
1-800-649-6825
(Vt. only)
802-828-3333

109 State Street, Pavillion
Montpelier, Vermont 05609-0101
www.vermont.gov/governor



REESE LISKO WON the Teen/Young Adult category in the Bixby Library and Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes annual LEGO Contest for his entry, "Counties of Vermont."

Photos courtesy of the Bixby Library

EAT WITH YOUR HEART CONTENT!

SENTINEL FARMS
Join the Heart Healthy Family
BEEF
Text: 802-377-1066
UnboundGrace.org

Stock your freezer today and save!

Enriching the soils and our individual health through Retro Regenerational Farming since 2005.

Invest in your family's health & peace of mind! Eat Real, Clean, Well-Loved Sentinel Farms Heart Healthy Beef! Our nutritious & delicious, antioxidant-rich clean protein is Raised with Love, harvested with Grace: without fear or stress.

Connect with Retro Regenerational farmer & health advocate, Kerry Kurt RN, MDiv with your questions or to schedule a farm visit.

Farmer Kurt actively responds to our growing human needs at the grassroots level; providing affordable access to healing deep nutrition and farm based, confidence-building youth education.

CALL OR TEXT (802) 377-1066

Visit unboundgrace.org/beef to learn more



WESTIN MAHEU WON the 6th-8th Grade category in the Bixby Library and Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes annual LEGO Contest for his entry, "Robbery and your Morning Coffee."

POST-HOLIDAY CREDIT CARD DEBT?
Vermont Federal Credit Union can help!

0% APR* FOR 12 MONTHS

Transfer existing credit card debt and pay it down faster - while saving money!

APPLY TODAY!
VERMONTFEDERAL.ORG • (802)658-0225

*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. 0% APR for 12 months applies only to the balance transfer. New purchases will receive normal interest rates based on creditworthiness. Offer available on NEW Platinum Credit Cards only. Balance transfers to existing cards or other card types are not eligible for the promotion. Balance Transfer promotional rate is valid on NEW Platinum credit card transfers made between January 1, 2025 and March 31, 2025. A 2% balance transfer fee is assessed and charged at the time the balance transfer is initiated by VFCU. Promotional rate on balance transfers will revert to existing APR after the twelve month period. As of 02/03/25, the rate is as low as 11.20% APR, but may change prior to the end of the promotional period. APR is variable and can change based on the Wall Street Journal Prime Rate plus a margin as low as 3.70% for Visa Platinum cards. Rates are quoted as "as low as" and may vary based on your individual credit. Must be a member of the Credit Union to obtain a credit card. \$5 share deposit required for membership. All loans subject to approval. Offer subject to change or end without notice.

BEETLEJUICE JR.

Beetlejuice JR is a celebration of individuality, acceptance, and the power of friendship. Adapted from the smash-hit Broadway musical, Beetlejuice JR features catchy songs, outrageous characters, and a heartwarming message about family and belonging. Rated PG for spooky imagery, dark humor, and themes of death, the content is presented in a cartoonish, comedic way. Beetlejuice JR is a theatrical party for all ages.

Mt. Abraham Union Middle/High School,
220 Airport Drive, Bristol, VT 05443

March 20 - 22 @ 7:00 pm
& March 22 @ 2:00 pm

Tickets:

\$15 for Adults;
\$12 for Seniors and Children Under 12
Visit tinyurl.com/bjtickets or
scan the QR code for tickets!

Tickets will also be available at the door until sold out.



Scan for
tickets!



**Your hard
work will shine
- break a leg!**

Newton ELECTRICAL
REFRIGERATION
AIR CONDITIONING INC.

www.newtonerac.com MITSUBISHI
802-388-1431 HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

**BREAK
A LEG.**
Mt. Abe cast & crew

**VERGENNES
GRAND** SENIOR LIVING

OPENING
MARCH 18

VERGENNESGRAND.COM
34 NORTH ST., VERGENNES

Bravo!

RE/MAX
NORTH PROFESSIONALS

802-349-8646
www.midvthomes.com

the Gridley Group

A. GINSBURG ARCHITECTS

Adam Ginsburg, AIA
Principal
5 South Maple Street
Vergennes, VT 05491

[adam@
aginsburgarchitects.com](mailto:adam@aginsburgarchitects.com)
(802) 989-5436

**ADDISON COUNTY
ALIGNMENT
& REPAIR INC.**
NEW HAVEN, VT

**Break
a leg!**

7409 Ethan Allen Hwy, Ste 1,
New Haven VT 05472
802-723-2227
www.acarvt.com
info@acar2024.com

**TOWN HALL
THEATER**
townhalltheater.org

**Town Hall Theater
applauds the talented
cast and crew of
Beetlejuice!**

72 - 76 Merchants Row, Midd., VT
802-382-9222 • www.townhalltheater.org

FMAMT
Friends of
Mt. Abraham
Musical Theatre

A 501(c)3
nonprofit
supporting
theatre
at Mt. Abe

Insuring what you do

CA
CARTER INSURANCE
Vermont

Supporting the greater
Addison County youth
and civic activities.

2 South St. Bristol
802-453-6054
1396 US-7 Unit 6 Middlebury
802-385-1189
www.carteragencyvt.com

**Break a Leg, performers,
techs and staff -
we are proud of you!**

**Bristol
Beverage**
& REDEMPTION

Open Mon. - Sat. 9am - 7pm
Sunday 9am-5pm
Redemption Closes 1 Hour Prior
21 Prince Lane, Bristol
453-3990

802 Spirits

**COUNTY TIRE
CENTER, INC.**
FAMILY
OWNED
MIDDLEBURY
HYBRID/EV

**Cheers to a
great show!**

33 Seymour St., Middlebury
www.countytirecenter.com
info@countytirecenter.com
802-388-7620

**Congrats to
everyone involved!**
from all of us

Silver Maple

802.989.7677
SILVERMAPLE.COM

**Congratulations
on a fantastic
performance!**

J.D. FULLER
PLUMBING & HEATING INC.

John D. Fuller, Master Plumber
802-388-2019

**Element
Nail Salon**

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Pedicures
- Manicures
- Nail extensions
- Massage
- Facials & Waxing

90 Mechanicsville Rd. #6
Hinesburg, VT
802-482-7334
www.elementnailsalonvt.com

**Raise the Roof,
Cast and Crew!
We'll be
cheering you on!**

**FRIEND
CONSTRUCTION**

**Residential &
Commercial Roofing**
802-453-2255

yoga grace

Yoga Therapy,
Ayurveda, and Reiki

seeing clients in Bristol,
Middlebury, and virtually

**Good luck to the
cast and crew!**

www.yogagracevt.com

**We're rooting
for you!**

**Scentsations
Flowers & Gifts**

BUY FLOWERS AT THE SHOW, AND A
PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS WILL GO BACK
TO SUPPORT THE SPRING MUSICAL.

10 MAIN ST., BRISTOL
SCENTSACTIONS@GMAIL.NET
SCENTSACTIONS@GMAIL.NET
(802) 453-6622

**BRISTOL
FINANCIAL
SERVICES**

CONGRATULATIONS
on another
successful
production!

36 Main St., Bristol, VT 05443
802-453-2378 • www.bristolfinancial.com

Hats off
to the
Beetlejuice, Jr.
Cast & Crew

**PUTNAM
& MENARD
PLC**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ONE CROSS STREET,
MIDDLEBURY, VT 05753
802.388.7966
WWW.PMLAWVT.COM
Serving our community's
legal needs since 1972

**Three Cheers
for the Cast
and Crew of
Beetlejuice, Jr.!**

With gratitude for the
parents, teachers,
and staff of fabulous
Mt. Abe High School.

~ Betsy Taylor
& Denny May
Enthusiastic members
of your audience

One
CREDIT UNION

Where Our Community is
Always in the Spotlight!

48 Green St. | Vergennes
www.onecu.org

LaRose Surveys

**Jump in the
Line, It's
Showtime!**

25 West St., Bristol, VT 05443
802-453-3818
info@larosesurveys.com
www.larosesurveys.com

**JACKMAN'S OF BRISTOL
INC.**
SINCE 1930
ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

**Keep shining
brightly - on
stage and off!**

64 Jackman Dr. • Bristol, VT 05443
For information on all your energy
needs, please contact us at:
802-453-2381 • Jackmansinc.com

**Simon
says** A place
to play

Squishy stuff
Sparkly things
Things to build
Things to create
Stuffed animals to hug

Come find
it all at
Simon Says.

A GENERAL STORE FOR
KIDS AND FAMILIES

12 Main St, Bristol • 453-6945
www.simonsaysvt.com

Bristol Beat



A BRISTOL ELEMENTARY School student lends a hand in the Bristol Peace Garden. Local students are among a dedicated group of volunteers that help care for the garden, which organizers are hoping to restore later this year.

Photo courtesy of Alice Leeds

Locals aim to restore Bristol Peace Garden

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — For over three decades, the Bristol Peace Garden has been a key fixture of the Bristol Town Green and surrounding community.

Each year the garden awakens with a variety of vibrant plants, including lilacs, peonies, zinnias and chrysanthemums. The garden also brings together Bristol Elementary School students and volunteers from around town, who help tend the plantings throughout the year.

Now, volunteers are looking to tackle a restoration project that will rebuild the garden's wooden foundation, which has started to break down. The team is working to raise the less than \$3,000 remaining of its \$20,000 fundraising goal for the project, which it hopes to tackle this fall.

Volunteers are optimistic the rebuild will ensure the peace garden continues to serve the local community for years to come.

"There are students at Bristol Elementary now whose parents helped create the peace garden," said Phoebe Barash, who helps organize care of the garden. "It's been around for 35 years."

GARDEN HISTORY

A group of Bristol Elementary School teachers came up with the idea for the peace garden in the fall of 1989. Inspired by the Peace Garden in Washington, D.C., they decided to establish a peace garden in Bristol.

Bristol Elementary students helped bring the idea to life, with a group of pupils coming up with the garden's design. The peace garden is constructed in the shape of a circle and divided into seven raised

bed "wedges," each representing one of the seven continents. The plants in each of the wedges are indigenous to their corresponding continent, except for Antarctica, which features white plants to represent snow.

"(The students) all had different concepts and since it was world peace, we decided that the garden would represent all of the world, and so we put together the idea of the circle and pieces of the circle that would represent different continents," recalled Gail Martin, a former educator at Bristol Elementary. "The kids would come down to my room and they all had different ideas, and we tried to combine all their ideas in a way that they all felt included in this idea."

Martin served as a key organizer of the Bristol Peace Garden and helped get the idea off the ground, along with former BES teacher Carol Heinecken. Students and teachers connected with the late David Raphael, a landscape designer, on the project. Community members and parents helped construct the raised beds and brick paths that make up the garden.

"The school was very involved," Barash said. "Every grade level was responsible for one continent."

Bristol Elementary School students continue to play a key role in the garden's upkeep — helping plant flowers, spread mulch and tackle other maintenance each year. Over time, the role of overseeing the garden shifted from BES teachers to other community members.

Today, a group of around 30 volunteers cares for the garden.

Their efforts have been supported by local students and Girl and Boy Scout troops. Other entities in town also help ensure the garden thrives, with the town of Bristol providing funds each year for the purchase of annuals and chrysanthemums.

RESTORATION PROJECT

While the Bristol Peace Garden remains a flourishing part of the community, its foundation is in need of replacement.

"Over the last five years it's been becoming clearer to us that some of the structure of the peace garden is starting to break down," Barash said. "(The wooden timbers) are starting to break down, and one of the continents has carpenter ants in it, and so the damage is coming from the inside out."

Around two years ago, volunteers began exploring how to tackle the project, Barash said. They ultimately got in touch with

Silas Clark of Bristol Collaborative Campus Botanicals, who has experience as a carpenter and offered to complete the project.

The idea is to rebuild the peace garden exactly as it currently stands.

Barash said volunteers also connected with Nick Cantrick, construction technology instructor at the Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center. The project wouldn't quite work for a Career Center class to take on, but Clark and Cantrick are continuing to explore ways to get local students involved — such as with one student or a small group of older pupils helping tackle the project.

Cantrick has helped put together a plan for the task, pricing out supplies from local lumber mills.

"He recommended that we use white oak because white oak is the most sustainable of the timbers and will last the longest," Barash said. "So, that's what we did. We set our scope very high in terms of how much it'll cost us to do this project, but hopefully it'll mean that the new, reconstructed peace garden will last another 35 years."

Volunteers have been raising funds to support the project. They've written grants, secured donations from Bristol businesses and also received a lot of individual contributions. A fundraiser at The Bobcat Café netted around \$300 for the project; the effort received \$2,493 this past fall from 100+ Women Who Care Addison County; and the town of Bristol agreed to put \$10,000 from its unassigned fund balance toward the initiative.

The team is now within \$3,000 of its \$20,000 fundraising goal. Barash said volunteers are confident they'll be able to reach the goal with the help of individual donations and a grant that's being written.

Those interested in supporting the project can do so with a check made out to Bristol Peace Garden and sent to Patty Heather-Lea, 38 Pleasant St., Bristol, VT 05443.

Anyone with questions or an interest in volunteering in the garden can also contact Barash at barash.phoebe@gmail.com.

Barash said the timeline for the project will depend on Clark's availability, but that the effort would likely get underway in the fall.

Mt. Abe releases honor roll

BRISTOL — Mount Abraham Union High School has released its honor roll for the first semester of the 2024-2025 academic year. Students named to the roll include:

GRADE 9

Academic

Highest Honors: Charlotte Desilets, Luke Goodfellow, Samantha Guilbeault, Camille Hamilton, Madison King, Gwen LaPerle, Kai Ludka, Keller Obarski, Olivia Sawyer, Mazin Swepston, Ada Thomas, Edda Twyman and Cameron Vose.

High Honors: Mabinti Bangoura, Waydon Cherington, Margaret Collins, Trinity Croft, Andrew Doherty-Konczal, Adrianna Earle, Lucas Estey, Sam Gallivan, Noah Germon, Sloane Grzyb, Ada Hellier, Willa Kaeck, Elsa Masefield, Anika Morton, Eloise Newman, Mattea O'Bryan, Margaret Park, Eliza Ruble, Callie Rule, Jaret Sturtevant, Sawyer Visco-Lyons and William Warren.

Honors: Abigail Barnes, Saebryn Carter, Nicholas Conley, Tanner (See Mt. Abe, Page 16A)

Bringing Essential Veterinary Care to You & Your Pet!



Addison County
Mobile Veterinary Services

NEW HAVEN RABIES CLINIC

With Dr. Megan Swasey, DVM
Peggy Hoare, Veterinary Nurse
Deb Orvis, Client Services Rep.

Sat., March 22 • 9:00 - 11:00 AM
New Haven Town Clerk's Office

Leashed dogs & cats in carriers - \$25 per pet.
Cash, Check, Credit and Debit accepted
Bring proof of prior vaccinations if available.

(802) 989-3734

meganswaseydvm@gmail.com | addisoncountyvet.com



CHAMPLAIN VALLEY

PLUMBING & HEATING

We meet your needs no matter the season!

- Dependable Delivery
- 24-hour Emergency Service
- Free estimates for new installations and renovations

PLUMBING & HEATING 125 Monkton Road Bristol, VT 802-453-2325	FUEL DELIVERY 185 Exchange Street Middlebury, VT 802-388-4975
---	--

champlainvalleyfuels.com



AFTER MORE THAN three decades, some of the Bristol Peace Garden's wooden timbers have started to break down, as shown here. Volunteers are now organizing a restoration project that will rebuild the garden's wooden foundation.

Photo courtesy of Alice Leeds

Used, & New Books
Puzzles, Board Games
Art & Craft Supplies
Toys & Gifts
Melissa & Doug
Thames & Kosmos

Supply Your Imagination

NEW ITEMS IN STOCK!
Mahalo Lap Cajons, Portable & Versatile
New Line of Shaped & 2025 Jigsaw Puzzles
Great Selection New Release Board Games
100's of New Arrival Used Books!

**Latest Boosters, Sets
Accessories & Books**
Acoustic & Electric Guitars
Ukuleles, Banjos, Mandolins & More
Amps, Pedals, Mics, & Accessories
World Drums & Percussion,
Kalimbas, Kid's Instruments,
Harmonicas, Music Books & More

**Full Range of Art Supplies
Best Selection, Best Prices!**
Kids, Family, Party, Card Games
Cribbage, Chess, Majong, More
D&D Games, Books, Cards & Dice
Co-Op, Strategy, World-Building
Legacy, Campaign, RPGs & More

Mon 10-5, Wed-Sat 10-5, Sun 11-3
1 Main St • Bristol • 453-5982
www.recycledreadingofvt.com

How much money and carbon could you save by switching to Vermont Gas?

VGS

Orwell, VT Homeowner Recommends Bristol Electronics

When I made the decision to install solar panels to power my small farm and residence, there was no doubt that I would turn to Bristol Electronics for help. Having worked with Chris and her team for satellite television service, I was confident that the same professionalism, expertise, quality workmanship, competitive price structure, prompt and courteous service, and continued support would be forthcoming. Such was the case and I couldn't be more satisfied with the result.

Kent Anderson – Orwell, VT

802 . 453 . 2500
BristolElectronicsVT.com
FREE SITE EVALUATIONS

Mt. Abe

(Continued from Page 15A)
Cross, Amelia Desilets, Brayden Fay, Mason Forand, Addison Halby, Eleanor Hurlburt, Milo Martinez, John Meshna, Talin Nelson, Harley Pecor, Morgan Rochon, Payton Shepard, Otto Siegfried, Beckett Stilwell and Sophie Underwood.

Transferable Skills
Highest Honors: Margaret Collins, Tanner Cross, Amelia Desilets, Charlotte Desilets, Adrianna Earle, Brayden Fay, Noah Germon, Luke Goodfellow, Samantha Guilbeault, Camille Hamilton, Willa Kaeck, Madison King, Gwen LaPerle, Kai Ludka, Elsa Masefield, John Meshna, Keller Obarski, Margaret Park, Morgan Rochon, Eliza Ruble, Callie Rule, Olivia Sawyer, Payton Shepard, Jaret Sturtevant, Mazin Swebston, Ada Thomas, Edda Twyman and Cameron Vose.
High Honors: Abigail Barnes, Waydon Cherington, Tinsae Deas, Sam Gallivan, Sloan Grzyb, Addison Halby, Abigail Hurlburt, Bradley LeVangie, Anika Morton, Juliana Murphy, Eloise Newman, Harley Pecor, Otto Siegfried, Sophie Underwood, Sawyer Visco-Lyons and Zoe Zeno.

Honors: Dustin Abbott, Mabinti Bangoura, Calliope Beck, Bayley Burnham, Saebyrn Carter, Nicholas Conley, Coralyn Conrad, Trinity Croft, Andrew Doherty-Konczal, Mason Forand, Ada Hellier, Grace Jenkins, Kolbey Jimmo, Milo Martinez, Talin Nelson, Mattea O'Bryan, Aubrey Rublee, Spencer Sears, Beckett Stilwell, William Warren and Mariyah White.

GRADE 10
Academic
Highest Honors: Rhiannon Andrews, Megan Bowers, Reed Cousino, Thompson Davis, Madeline Diop, Meredith Dufault, Bennett Eberhardy, Ada Fisher, Raquel Harris, Jackson Jennings, Reese Kihm, Lucy Lawson, Henry Orvis, Abraham Ready, Lux Tierney and Oliver Zelonis.

High Honors: Henry Allred, Mason Atkins, Abraham Camara, Clark Crary, Kestrel Edwards, Kassi Garrow, Sadie German, Baxter Montgomery, Lincoln Painter, Sadie

Shepard and Leah Tierney.
Honors: Kayleigh Austin, Brooke Barnard, Rowan Clark, Wyatt Giroux, Sean Golden, Stefan Johnson, Bowen Lutz, Gemma Lyles, Irie Mazur, Truman Sawyer, Natalie Smith and Scarlett Tarmy.
Transferable Skills
Highest Honors: Rhiannon Andrews, Mason Atkins, Megan Bowers, Abraham Camara, Rowan Clark, Reed Cousino, Thompson Davis, Madeline Diop, Meredith Dufault, Bennett Eberhardy, Ada Fisher, Raquel Harris, Reese Kihm, Lucy Lawson, Henry Orvis, Abraham Ready, Lux Tierney and Leah Tierney.
High Honors: Henry Allred, Kayleigh Austin, Avery Chase, Clark Crary, Kassi Garrow, Jackson Jennings, Irie Mazur, Baxter Montgomery, Truman Sawyer and Sadie Shepard.

Honors: Brooke Barnard, Madison Bartlett, Aubrey Coffey, Kestrel Edwards, Sadie German, Sean Golden, Stefan Johnson, Regan LaFreniere, Gemma Lyles, Isobela Osborne, Lincoln Painter, Lily Ryersbach, Levi Smith and Oliver Zelonis.

GRADE 11
Academic
Highest Honors: Jack Anderson, Wyatt Bannister, Lila Brightman, Evan Corrigan, Genevieve Forand, James Graziadei, Louisa Guilmette, Maris LaPerle, Maria Mai Martin Tortosa, Wyatt Moyer, Sofia Power, Cole Putnam, Isla Underwood and Julie Young.

High Honors: Madelyn Brochu, Greyson Desilets, Charlie Germon, Paige Guilbeault, William Gustin, Dylan Layn, Jacob Mikkelsen, Charlie Prouty, Cole Shepard, Gretchen Toy, Addison Wright and June Yates-Rusch.
Honors: Riley Abbott, Carter Antos-Ketcham, Emily Fritz, Morgan Larocque, Skylar MacDonald, Harold Tricou and Lucas Villena.

Transferable Skills
Highest Honors: Riley Abbott, Jack Anderson, Carter Antos-Ketcham, Wyatt Bannister, Lila Brightman, Evan Corrigan, Genevieve Forand, Charlie Germon, James Graziadei, Paige Guilbeault, Louisa Guilmette, Maris LaPerle, Morgan Larocque, Molly Mangini,

Maria Mai Martin Tortosa, Wyatt Moyer, Charlie Prouty, Cole Putnam, Cole Shepard, Isla Underwood, Addison Wright and Julie Young.
High Honors: Madelyn Brochu, Greyson Desilets, William Gustin, Dylan Layn, Jacob Mikkelsen, Sofia Power, Jacoby Senecal, Gretchen Toy and June Yates-Rusch.
Honors: Jamie Chasse, Oliver Cogswell, Cooper Cook, Carly Day, Emily Fritz, Callie Jennings, Nathan Lester, Maverick Livingston, Skylar MacDonald, Connor Nason, Shayne Russell and John Stanley.

GRADE 12
Academic
Highest Honors: Chase Atkins, Lorenzo Atocha, Hailey Bartlett, Rosemary Behounek, Hayley Bromley, Lauren Cousino, Nichole Crowe, Whitney Dykstra, Mackenzie Griner, Hazel Guilmette, Bella Hartwell, Joseph Henley, MacKenzy Jennings, Brailey Livingston, Adeline Nezin, Louisa Painter, Abigail Parker, Alexis Perlee, Nola Roberts, Ivy Schulte, Maya Shea, Esme Visco-Lyons, Allison Wells and Sydney Wetmore.

High Honors: Lily Benoit, Ryan Cross, Nicholas Fox, Ruby Hellier, Connor Peck, Dominic Saunders, Sam Schoendorf, Hazel Stoddard, Idries Twyman and Zoie Whitcomb.
Honors: Safoura Camara, Riley Coffey, Owen Collins, Ruby Connell, JD Jacobs, Chace Jennings, Michael LaRock and Namid Ruiz-Warnock.

Transferable Skills
Highest Honors: Chase Atkins, Lorenzo Atocha, Hayley Bromley, Lauren Cousino, Ryan Cross, Nichole Crowe, Whitney Dykstra, Nicholas Fox, Mackenzie Griner, Hazel Guilmette, Bella Hartwell, Adeline Nezin, Louisa Painter, Abigail Parker, Nola Roberts, Ivy Schulte, Maya Shea, Hazel Stoddard, Esme Visco-Lyons, Allison Wells and Zoie Whitcomb.
High Honors: Jack Barnum, Lily Benoit, Safoura Camara, Ruby Hellier, JD Jacobs, Paden Lathrop and Brailey Livingston.
Honors: Hailey Bartlett, Riley Coffey, Owen Collins, Ethan Dunbar, Caitlyn Marcotullio, Connor Peck, Alexis Perlee, Dominic Saunders, Sam Schoendorf, Idries Twyman and Sydney Wetmore.



Super fans

MUHS STUDENTS SHOWED up in force on Sunday at UVM's Gutterson Fieldhouse to support the Tiger girls' hockey team in its bid for a Division II title. Above, George Devlin brought the brush and face paint and applied it to his friends in the stands before the game. Below, the group of fans showed the spirit that lasted all three periods despite what proved to be a disappointing result for the Tigers. See story on page 1B.

Independent photos/Steve James



VOLUNTEERS WANTED AT PORTER MEDICAL CENTER

Join our volunteer team!



If you're looking to engage in your community, we will find a volunteer opportunity that matches your interests. From GREETERS to CRAFTERS, there are so many ways you can be part of our Volunteer Team

If interested, please send an email to PMC-Volunteers@portermmedical.org or call Kelly Walters at 802-382-3444.

THE
University of Vermont
HEALTH NETWORK

Porter Medical Center

KITCHEN IN VERGENNES COMPLETED BY BRADFORD KITCHEN & BATH, 2024



Candlelight
Cabinetry

DESIGN YOUR
*Dream
Kitchen*

- KITCHEN & BATH DESIGN
- PLUMBING FIXTURES
- CABINETRY & COUNTERTOPS
- HARDWARE & MORE!

CALL US TODAY!
(802) 458-8999

BRADFORD KITCHEN & BATH, LLC

BRADFORDKITCHENANDBATH.COM
Monday-Friday 8-5 • Saturday 8-12 • or by appointment • 18 Creek Rd, Middlebury, VT

Panton

(Continued from Page 1A)
into May.

Rowe said a citizen petition with different language had also sought a charter change, and the board included the measure on the ballot to honor public sentiment.

The decision to include the charter change also means any decision the selectboard makes between now and May 15 must be unanimous. Rowe said the Town Meeting Day vote to expand the board to five members immediately created a five-member board. Thus, technically the Panton selectboard has three members and two vacancies, and all three members must be present to create a quorum. And they must agree on a decision for it to take effect, Rowe said.

Candidates for selectboard must file petitions signed by at least 1% of voters (six); those petitions must be filed on or before April 7. The two positions will be for a one-year term and a two-year term, and candidates must indicate which term they prefer.

Rowe noted in an email to the *Independent* that when residents voted to increase the board by two members they did so for two-year terms, but “in order to offset the election of selectboard members, this first election there will be a 1-year member, and a 2-year member.”

Also, because the May 15 vote is technically a warned town meeting, residents will be allowed to petition to place articles on the May 15 ballot, with the requirement of a petition being signed by 5% of town voters (around 30). Those must be filed by March 29.

The day before the May 15 vote, which will be held at Panton Town Hall from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., the selectboard will host an information meeting on Wednesday, May 14, at 7 p.m. at the town hall.

Two required public forums will also be held to discuss the charter

change. Rowe said those hearing dates will be announced shortly on the town website, and posted at the usual spots in Panton, and in the *Independent* and on Front Porch Forum.

The full text of the charter change will also be posted on the website and Front Porch Forum, he said.

The basics for removal of an elected officer in Panton as outlined on the ballot will be:

- A petition must be filed that is signed by at least 15% of Panton’s registered voters of the town (about 90) seeking the officer’s removal and filed with the selectboard and the town clerk.
- The vote will be held within 45 days unless the petition is filed within 60 days of a town meeting.
- At least as many voters must vote

to remove the officer from office as voted for the officer to attain office, or at least one-third of the registered voters of the vote in favor of the recall, whichever is fewer.

- Only one recall petition can be filed against an officer in a 12-month period.

Rowe added the selectboard has the right to amend the charter change article until 20 days before the vote date, an option the board could use, for example, if good ideas were presented at public hearings.

HALL TAPS OUT

One Panton resident who will not file a petition for election is longtime board chair Howard Hall, who lost a close race for reelection on March 4 to Jaring.

“The voters have spoken,” Hall told the *Independent*.

He said working together with Boucher and Weaver, they improved the town, citing its good employees and equipment and infrastructure, including town hall, the highway garage, town boat ramp, roads and more.

“We left it better than we found



HOWARD HALL

it,” Hall said.

Boucher and Weaver praised their former board colleague. Boucher cited his experience and hard work.

“Howard knows more about running Panton than almost anyone in town. There could be someone out there that knows more, but I’m not aware,” Boucher said. “He has invested more of his personal energies in making Panton better than anybody.”

Boucher also referred to the flak Hall took in the final months of his tenure from residents upset with what they called high town spending and the selectboard’s initial refusal to oppose a major solar array.

“You can disagree with him, but no one can say he didn’t put his heart and soul into what he did,” Boucher said. “It’s a huge loss.”

Weaver also knows Hall as a good neighbor who once helped him find a lost family dog.

“Howard was a huge asset to the town,” he said. “It’s so hard to find dedicated citizens to come on these boards and spend the time it takes to be as thorough as possible with these issues, and he exemplified that. He’s retired, so he certainly had that option, but he went above and beyond.”

Weaver shared what he told Hall, who he called “an incredible friend,” after the Town Meeting Day vote.

“No one can say you didn’t devote yourself to the town of Panton. Just keep that in mind,” Weaver said.

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)
not do a better job protecting Jewish students on campus. The letter, sent Monday, said the schools are under investigation for violations relating to antisemitic harassment and discrimination. Apparently the feds are serious about repercussions; the Department of Ed announced the immediate cancelation of \$400 million in federal grants and contracts to Columbia University “due to the school’s continued inaction to protect Jewish students from discrimination.” A Middlebury spokesperson told VPR that the college is cooperating with federal investigators.

We’ve heard that our readers are trying to get in touch with their representatives in Washington, D.C. All three of our federal reps explain ways for constituents to

get in touch on their websites. For Sen. Bernie Sanders head online to sanders.senate.gov/contact; check out Sen. Peter Welch at welch.senate.gov; Rep. Becca Balint’s main contact page is balint.house.gov/contact. There you will find phone numbers, physical office addresses and options for emailing. Speak up!

Hey dog owners: There are just three weeks left until dog registrations are due (that’s April 1 in most towns). In Middlebury, for example, if your dog was already registered in town last year, you should receive a renewal slip in the mail. Make sure your rabies inoculation is up to date, then pay \$16 per spayed/neutered dog and \$20 per dog that has not been spayed/neutered. Owners’ whose dog is not registered head to the town clerk’s office during

regular business hours, bring a copy of your dog’s current rabies certificate and pay the fee outlined above.

Homeward Bound, Addison County’s Humane Society, was one of three Vermont nonprofits that will receive a \$500 donation thanks to Vermonters who chose to spread the love this February during Efficiency Vermont’s second-annual Valentine’s Day contest. The contest ran for several days before and after Feb. 14 on Efficiency Vermont’s social media sites. Homeward Bound was nominated by Beth Meese of Isle La Motte, who adopted her cat, Mr. Nuts, from the Middlebury shelter. “He was left at Homeward Bound when his previous family moved,” Meese said. “He was there for two months before I brought him home. He’s 12 years old now. We love him to pieces.”

RUBE GOLDBERG

THE WORLD OF
HILARIOUS
INVENTION!

EXHIBIT

LOCALLY SPONSORED BY
Northfield
SAVINGS BANK

**EXHIBIT OPEN THRU
SEPTEMBER 7**

echo
LEAHY CENTER
TOWN OF CHAMPLAIN

Rube Goldberg™, The World of Hilarious Invention Exhibit is created by the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh in partnership with the Heirs of Rube Goldberg.

**RAPTORS
UP CLOSE**

Saturday, March 15

**PHYSICS
PHUN DAY**

Saturday, March 22

**ZACH'S
CONTRAPTIONS**

Rube Goldberg Week with
Zach's Contraptions
Sunday-Saturday, April 13-19



Ravens forage during the winter

By EMILY HAYNES

It’s a familiar sight in winter: An inky-black raven soaring over a landscape white with snow. Though similar in appearance to the American crow, the common raven (*Corvus corax*) is distinguished by its large size, fluffy neck feathers, and long, thick beak. The ubiquitous raven croak can carry for more than a mile. It is throaty and rasping, unlike the American crow’s shrill caw. While the croak is the most recognizable call that ravens use, it’s far from the only one. These intelligent birds can make 33 different vocalizations, which express a whole range of meanings such as deterring

a predator, defending a nest, or communicating the presence of food. Scientists at the University of Vienna in Austria concluded that ravens may even have theory of mind, meaning they’re aware of both their own and others’ thoughts, motivations, and behaviors.

A raven’s intellect is essential in winter when insects, bird eggs, berries, and other desirable foods are scarce. Ravens must be dogged in pursuit of the calories they need to make it to spring. “Right now, they are trying to pack on protein and fat,” said Anna Morris, director of wildlife ambassador programs at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, where she works with an ambassador raven named Stockbridge.

A raven is unlikely to turn up its nose at any opportunity to eat in winter. They’re regulars at compost piles and garbage cans. “You see them a lot in urban areas this time of year,” said Kevin Tolan, staff biologist at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies.

Carcasses, including those of animals killed by cars, illness, or injury, are prized resources in winter. The carcass of a dead male white-tailed deer, for example, could offer more than 200 pounds of meat and fat — some of which a raven could store for leaner times in a hidden reserve called a “cache.” The trouble is, there’s no telling where a raven may come across a carcass, and odds are it could be in another raven’s territory.

Adult ravens live monogamously in pairs, defending their territory from incursions by predators and other ravens, usually “vagrants” without their own territory. Juvenile vagrants work together to make it through the lean months. “You get these roving bands of teenaged ravens who are looking to exploit large ephemeral

food sources, such as carcasses,” Morris explained.

Young ravens puzzle through their first winter without the help of a mate and develop some wily tricks to make it through, as first documented by biologist Bernd Heinrich, professor emeritus at University of Vermont. Heinrich observed ravens emitting a loud yell at the site of carcasses — attracting their peers to join in on the meal. Over the course of four winters, as described in his book *Ravens in Winter*, Heinrich set carcass baits and observed the ravens’ behavior at them to see whether they were indeed communicating the whereabouts of food to their peers. Paired ravens,

Heinrich found, didn’t yell when feeding. In fact, 82 of the 91 ravens who arrived at the baits for four separate group feasts were either nonbreeding juveniles or subadults.

“The paired ravens are fully grown adults,” Morris said. “They’ve been through multiple seasons together. They’re a little bit more savvy about gathering food and food resources.”

Heinrich’s study showed that group feasting is a young raven’s game. The birds attracted to the

carcasses were primarily juveniles without their own territory who, in surveillance flights, had successfully found a meal ticket. They understood that it was a risk to eat in another raven’s neck of the woods, so they called in back-up.

“All these ravens show up together at this food resource, they make a bunch of noise, they attract other ravens, and therefore the group can overwhelm the defensive territorial pair,” Morris explained.

This practice means that each teenage raven gets less to eat at any shared food resource. “If you have to share your birthday cake with your 15 neighbors, you’re going to get less of it yourself,” Morris said. But for birds who are still learning the art of foraging in winter — and who can’t yet rely on the help of a mate or the known resources of their own territory — it’s worth it.

Emily Haynes is a writer currently living in Washington, D.C. An avid birder and hiker, she loves exploring the forests of the Northeast. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.

republic of vermont

wafflefest

@ the Stone Mill

3 Mill St, Middlebury, VT

waffles
coffee
fun

SUNDAY MARCH 16TH
10AM-2PM (or until we sell out!)

- celebrate spring + mud season
- fresh maple syrup
- outdoor fire pits
- rain, snow or shine

homemade yeasted waffles: **\$8.00**
coffee/tea/hot cocoa: **\$2.00**

republicofvermont.com

Middlebury Union High School Class of 2025 Presents

Tickets – \$12



Thursday March 20 – 7pm
Friday March 21st – 7pm
Saturday March 22nd – 2pm

Middlebury Union High School
73 Charles Avenue
Middlebury, VT 05753

Scan
for
tickets!



Based on the Book
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
by Roald Dahl

Adapted for the stage by
Leslie Bricusse & Timothy Allen McDonald

Music and Lyrics by
Leslie Bricusse & Anthony Newley



**Raise the Roof,
Cast and Crew!**
We'll be cheering you on!

FRIEND CONSTRUCTION
Residential & Commercial Roofing
802-453-2255

BREAK A LEG.
MUHS CAST & CREW

VERGENNES GRAND
SENIOR LIVING
OPENING MARCH 18
VERGENNESGRAND.COM
34 NORTH ST, VERGENNES

Congratulations on a fantastic performance!

J.D. FULLER
PLUMBING & HEATING INC
John D. Fuller, Master Plumber
802-388-2019

BRISTOL FINANCIAL SERVICES

CONGRATULATIONS on another successful production!

36 Main St., Bristol, VT 05443
802-453-2378 • www.bristolfinancial.com

Insuring what you do

CA
CARTER INSURANCE
Vermont

Supporting the greater Addison County youth and civic activities.

2 South St. Bristol
802-453-6054
1396 US-7 Unit 6 Middlebury
802-385-1189
www.carteragencyvt.com

Congrats to everyone involved!
from all of us

Silver Maple

802.989.7677
SILVERMAPLE.COM

Bravo to the incredible cast and crew!

Rainbow Pediatrics
802-388-1338
99 Court St., Suite #1
Middlebury, VT
www.acarvt.com
rainbowvt.com

Your hard work will shine - break a leg!

Newton
ELECTRICAL REFRIGERATION AIR CONDITIONING INC
www.newtonerac.com
802-388-1431

Congrats on a fantastic show!

DPI
DISTINCTIVE PAINT AND INTERIORS
802-388-2500
distinctivepaintandinteriors.com

A. GINSBURG ARCHITECTS

Adam Ginsburg, AIA
Principal
5 South Maple Street
Vergennes, VT 05491
adam@aginsburgarchitects.com
(802) 989-5436

TOWN HALL THEATER
townhalltheater.org

Congrats on the delicious performance of Willy Wonka, Jr.!

72 - 76 Merchants Row, Midd., VT
802-382-9222 • www.townhalltheater.org

Bravo!

RE/MAX
NORTH PROFESSIONALS
802-349-8646
www.midvthomes.com

ADDISON COUNTY ALIGNMENT & REPAIR INC.
NEW HAVEN, VT

Break a leg!

7409 Ethan Allen Hwy, Ste 1,
New Haven VT 05472
802-723-2227
www.acarvt.com
info@acar2024.com

COUNTY TIRE CENTER, INC.
FAMILY OWNED
MIDDLEBURY HYBRID/EV

Cheers to a great show!

33 Seymour St., Middlebury
www.countytirecenter.com
info@countytirecenter.com
802-388-7620

JACKMAN'S OF BRISTOL INC.
SINCE 1930
ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

Keep shining brightly - on stage and off!

64 Jackman Dr. • Bristol, VT 05443
For information on all your energy needs, please contact us at:
802-453-2381 • JackmansInc.com

Element Nail Salon

SERVICES INCLUDE:
Pedicures
Manicures
Nail extensions
Massage
Facials & Waxing

90 Mechanicsville Rd. #6
Hinesburg, VT
802-482-7334
www.elementnailsalonvt.com

yoga grace

Yoga Therapy, Ayurveda, and Reiki
seeing clients in Bristol, Middlebury, and virtually

Good luck to the cast and crew!

www.yogagracevt.com

One CREDIT UNION

Where Our Community is Always in the Spotlight!

48 Green St. | Vergennes
www.onecu.org



Maple & CHILI

A March feast

THE SAP WAS boiling and the chili was hot this past Saturday when Starksboro held a sugar-on-snow party and chili fest. Community members came to Robinson Elementary School for eating and fun. Pictured clockwise from right: Blaire Butler licks her fingers clean; Elsa Gilbertson serves up some of her homemade doughnuts; Sylvia Edgar traveled from Monkton to take part in the fun; Patti Barnes keeps an eye on the chili made by her son; twins Hattie and Phoebe Baker scoop up some sweetness; Gilbertson's doughnuts on display; and a serving of sugar-on-snow, complete with pickle.

Independent photos/Steve James

THE
University of Vermont
HEALTH NETWORK

Porter Medical Center

Palliative Support Services Program Palliative Care Department

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Palliative Care Department and Palliative Support Services would like to announce the upcoming training for new Palliative Support Services Volunteers. The training will start on March 27th and conclude on May 8th. It will include scheduled group Zoom sessions on Thursday evenings from 4:30-6pm, as well as two in-person sessions, at Middlebury locations, on April 17th and May 1st.

The training will include conversations with subject matter experts, self-study and dyad learning, connecting with current volunteers, exploring the art of presence, and practices that will increase your own confidence around entering into an intense experience.

WAYS WE VOLUNTEER

Volunteers with this training are matched with folks living with a serious illness as well as, sitting vigil with those that are actively dying. Volunteers are an integral part of the team, they often provide patients and residents with emotional support & companionship, and assist with activities, as well as clerical possibilities, and support various community offerings. Most of our volunteering takes place at Porter Hospital and at Helen Porter Rehab and Nursing.

WHO WE ARE

We support patients, families, friends and caregivers during and after the dying process as we weave comprehensive end of life care services into all that we do.

Louella Richer,
Palliative Support Services Mgr.
Phone: (802) 388-4744

E-Mail: lricher@portermedical.org

[f](#) [in](#) [v](#)
UVMHealth.org/PMC

VERMONT Sun

F I T N E S S C E N T E R S

WE WANT TO THANK our friends and neighbors in Addison county for the tremendous support they have given us for the past 40 years. Vermont Sun Fitness Centers are home to an outstanding group of fitness professionals who are dedicated to the health and fitness of our community, through inspiration and motivation. We are constantly upgrading our state-of-the-art facilities, equipment and programs to help our members achieve their fitness goals.

- Steve and Shelly Hare

CELEBRATING **40**
YEARS



State-of-the-art facilities with a wide selection of fitness machines, classes and equipment to help you meet any fitness goal!

MIDDLEBURY
VERGENNES

VERMONTSUN.COM

802-388-6888

Tariffs

(Continued from Page 1A)

the final vehicle is complete.”

A tariff is essentially a tax imposed on imports from other countries. Porteous explained that tariffs are primarily used to try to protect domestic industries from foreign competition by raising the price to American consumers of foreign-made goods.

He said that appears to be a key part of the motivation behind Trump’s tariffs — to prompt U.S. and foreign firms to make more of their goods in the United States. Porteous pointed to two other potential reasons behind the tariffs: using the levies as an alternative source of government revenue and as a way to put pressure on other countries.

For example, Trump has said tariffs imposed on Mexico and Canada were being used to pressure the countries to do more to curb the flow of the illegal drug fentanyl into the United States.

“Tariffs are often used as bargaining chips to put pressure on other countries to agree to other things,” Porteous said. “This has certainly been an approach the Trump administration has taken both currently and in their first term as well.”

Earlier this week, U.S. stock markets fell amid Trump’s back-and-forth trade policy and concerns his actions might trigger a recession. Trump didn’t rule out the possibility of a recession this year.

Porteous said Trump’s tariff policies have created uncertainty — and possibly inflationary pressure.

“Currently there’s just a lot of uncertainty about what these policies are actually going to end up being and how high the tariffs will be and whether they’ll actually be implemented, and uncertainty can be really damaging economically because it makes it harder to make plans, harder to make investments,” Porteous said. “Firms are probably going to be increasing their prices just because they’re not sure how much their inputs will cost them next month.”

IN ADDISON COUNTY

Businesses like Silver Maple Construction are trying to weather that uncertainty and the possibility of rising costs as best they can.

“If we knew where we were headed it would be navigable, but it keeps shifting back and forth,” Flynn said on Tuesday.

He noted that some of the tariffs discussed would have a potential, direct impact on Silver Maple as those levies target Canadian lumber, which is frequently used in the Northeast’s construction industry.

“If we knew where we were headed it would be navigable, but it keeps shifting back and forth.”

— Sean Flynn

“The vast majority of lumber that we use just in the framing is from Canada, so what we’ve been trying to do is buying ahead as much as we can while we have a pipeline available,” he explained. “It’s not like our projects will go up 25%, it might be 3% because framing isn’t the entire story of the project.”

Still, he said clients might be uncomfortable moving forward with a project amid the economic uncertainty. Also, steel structures are under a tariff, and Silver Maple’s plumbing and heating department is starting to see the impacts of levies.

“We certainly have been doing a lot of warehousing and stockpiling,” Flynn said.

He noted Silver Maple is in a position to do so as it has a large facility and used that approach during the COVID pandemic. Flynn added that the business is also starting to look into the possibility of sourcing lumber from the South.

Peter Matthews is the Charles A. Dana Professor of Economics at Middlebury College. He said that when tariffs get delayed or called off, it creates doubt about whether those levies will ever be imposed and leads consumers and producers on both sides of the border to consider the relationships with their counterparts.

“If Canadian producers, for example, can never be sure about access to the U.S. market, they start to explore other alternatives,” he explained.

Matthews noted that many things rely on cross-border trade at the intermediate level, such as parts for an average car crossing the border multiple times before its completed.

“One of the things we forget is that supply chains in this kind of continental market cross borders, and as trade becomes increasingly uncertain, those supply chains start to fray; the wisdom about having a

supply chain that’s utterly dependent on politics starts to be questioned,” he said. “One of the real concerns here is that even if the tariffs come off and stay off, that we’re going to see some permanent damage to trade. In fact we’re seeing a little bit of that now.”

He pointed to how the Liquor Control Board of Ontario pulled American-made spirits, beer and wine off shelves earlier this month in retaliation to Trump’s tariffs.

“That didn’t change when the tariffs came back down for 30 days in the United States,” Matthews said. “The Canadian response to this situation has been to say, ‘It’s not enough to pull them back down, we need, in some sense, some reassurance that this is going to stop or, above and beyond this, some reassurance that we’re going to abide by the terms of a trade treaty that the previous Trump administration negotiated.’”

Violating those trade agreements creates doubt about the wisdom of entering into agreements with the U.S., Matthews said.

“That doesn’t go away even if the tariffs come down,” he said. “I think the concern of many economists is that the uncertainty here will translate into a permanent reduction in the willingness to engage in trade relations with the United States.”

There’s also concern about how a trade war and other actions taken by the Trump administration will hurt the country’s relationship with Canada.

“We’re doing damage to what isn’t just the biggest bilateral trade relationship in the world, we’re doing damage to a kind of political and social relationship that has flourished for a very long time,” Matthews said.

Porteous echoed that sentiment.

“Canadians are really upset, is my impression, at not only the tariffs but the way the Trump administration has been behaving toward Canada, including these suggestions that Canada become the 51st state, etc., and that we renegotiate all kinds of things that have been stable over many

years in terms of our relationship with Canada,” he said.

Porteous noted that a strained relationship between the U.S. and Canada would have a negative impact on Vermont.

“Definitely for a state like Vermont that is so close and potentially engaged economically with Canada, anything that hurts or puts barriers between us and our neighbor to the north or otherwise damages that relationship, is ultimately going to be bad for us,” he said.

IMPACT ON VERMONT

While a good portion of the levies on imports from Canada have been delayed until April 2, it’s likely those tariffs would be harmful to Vermont businesses and citizens if they’re ultimately put into effect.

“Vermont imports much more from Canada than it exports, and some of those imports really dramatically include a big chunk of our total electricity comes from Hydro-Quebec, a big chunk of the gas that we purchase, a big chunk of the fuel oil that we burn in the wintertime comes from Canada,” Matthews said.

Green Mountain Power President and CEO Mari McClure said in January that the company buys a lot of its energy from Hydro-Québec and that additional power costs resulting from a tariff would go straight to consumers.

Matthews noted that Vermont relies on Canadian imports in a lot of other areas, such as building materials and animal feed. Poulin Grains, an animal feed manufacturer based in Vermont, buys things like corn, oats and specially manufactured items from Canada. Senior Vice President and General Manager Mike Tetreault said the company buys 30-40% of such items from Canada.

“Yes, the U.S. is going to be hurt as a whole. Vermont is going to be particularly badly hit by this, and that’s above and



“Currently there’s just a lot of uncertainty about what these policies are actually going to end up being ... whether they’ll actually be implemented, and uncertainty can be really damaging economically because it makes it harder to make plans, harder to make investments.”

— Professor Obie Porteous

35 or 40% of all the goods and services they produce, and so destroying that market has a huge effect, a much larger effect than the destruction of trade would on the United States,” he explained. “So, Canadians see this as a kind of existential crisis. They don’t see this as a story about fentanyl. They see this as an effort to bring Canada to heel and to punish Canada for some unspecified sin.”

Matthews also encouraged Vermonters to consider what tariffs are ultimately trying to accomplish.

“Asking what a win looks like forces us to ask ourselves at various points along the way, ‘Are we making progress here?’ Otherwise, this becomes a constant story about shifting goal posts and ‘this is not what the policy was intended to do,’ and ‘we have to bear some pain to get to some end,’” Matthews said.

“Thinking more broadly about all of this from the perspective of our friends and neighbors in Canada and thinking more broadly about this in terms of what are we trying to accomplish are probably two things that I would really urge Vermonters to be doing right now,” he concluded.

“One of the real concerns here is that even if the tariffs come off and stay off, that we’re going to see some permanent damage to trade. In fact we’re seeing a little bit of that now.”

— Peter Matthews



North Branch School

20th (mostly) Annual Hockey Tournament

March 14-16, Memorial Sports Center







Special thanks also to Memorial Sports Center, Middlebury Bagel & Deli, Hannaford, Monument Farms Dairy, Champlain Valley Apiaries, Champlain Orchards, The Middlebury Shop, Simon Says, Tata Harper, Aqua Vitea, Shaw’s and all of our referees and volunteers!

See you at the rink!

- School News
 - Legal Notices
- Classifieds
 - Police Logs

Score BOARD

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls' Basketball

D-II Playoffs

3/5 #5 MUHS vs #12 U-3256-28
3/6 #3 Lamoille vs #14 OV67-30
3/7 MUHS vs Mt. Abe54-38
3/12 MUHS vs #1 N. CountryLate

D-III Playoffs

3/5 #9 VUHS vs #8 Winooski55-50
3/7 #1 Oxbow vs VUHS63-45

Boys' Basketball

D-II Semifinal

3/5 #1 Montpelier vs OV89-56

Girls' Hockey

D-II Playoffs: Final Four

3/7 #3 MUHS vs #2 Missisquoi ..4-3 (OT)
3/7 #4 Hartford vs #1 Burr & Burton....3-2
3/9 Hartford vs MUHS2-0

COLLEGE SPORTS

Women's Hockey

NESCAC Final Four at Amherst

3/8 #2 Midd vs #3 Colby3-0
3/8 #1 Amherst vs #5 Hamilton3-1
3/9 Amherst vs Midd1-0

Men's Hockey

NESCAC Final Four at Hamilton

3/8 #1 Hamilton vs #7 Midd.....3-2 (2OT)

Women's Lacrosse

3/8 Midd vs Bowdoin16-3
3/11 Midd vs RPI17-5

Men's Lacrosse

3/5 RPI vs Midd8-7
3/8 Bowdoin vs Midd13-7

3/11 Midd vs Union 12-11 (OT)

Baseball

3/8 Midd vs Rutgers/Newark25-8
3/9 Midd vs Stevens6-0
3/9 Midd vs Stevens10-0

Softball

3/6 Midd vs Clarkson3-1
3/6 Midd vs Clarkson5-1
3/10 Midd vs Castleton8-0
3/10 Midd vs Castleton8-0

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls' Basketball

D-II Playoffs

3/15 Final in Barre.....TBA

COLLEGE SPORTS

Women's Hockey

NCAA D-III Tournament

3/22 TBD at Midd 3 PM
3/28 & 30 Final Four.....TBD

Women's Lacrosse

3/15 Bates at Midd Noon
3/17 Midd at Gettysburg 4 PM
3/19 Midd at TCNJ 4 PM

3/22 Conn at Midd Noon

Men's Lacrosse

3/15 Midd at Bates 1 PM
3/18 Midd vs Babson (MD) 1 PM
3/22 Midd at Conn 1 PM

(See Schedule, Page 4B)



TIGER SOLSTICE BINDER, front, Eagle Louisa Painter, middle, and Tiger Isabel Quinn await a potential rebound during the teams' March 7 quarterfinal at Mount Abe. Binder ended up with 16 rebounds in the Tiger victory.

Independent photo/Steve James

Tiger girls' basketball grounds Eagles; Barre next

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The last time the Middlebury and Mount Abraham girls' high school basketball teams met in Bristol before this past Friday's Division II quarterfinal, the Eagles eked out a 36-33 victory. It was their second closely contested victory of the winter over their county rivals.

At halftime of the March 7 showdown between the No. 4 Eagles and No. 5 Tigers things looked to be trending in the same defensive direction. The Tigers needed Solstice Binder's three-point buzzer beater to send her team into the halftime break trailing by two, 19-17.

But the 16-6 Tigers rewrote the second-half script by scoring 37 more points to pull away for a 54-38 victory.

Binder, a junior forward and co-captain, filled up the stat sheet with 14 points, 16 rebounds, seven steals and three assists. She said there were a couple factors that sparked the Tigers' big second half. One was better offensive execution.

"At half we were just saying our defense, we were playing it really well, but our offense, we were struggling a little bit and we

needed to be more patient, work the ball better and get the passes to our teammates who were open," Binder said.

The other? The Tigers still felt the sting of two regular season losses to the Eagles by a combined total of four points.

"I think we just really wanted to get this win tonight," Binder said. "The last two times we played them were so close. This time we really had to get that win. We were really pumped coming into this game, and that energy just carried us into the second half."

MUHS Coach Eric Carter pointed to balanced scoring — senior Lexi Whitney led four Tigers in double figures with 15 points and added four steals, sophomore Isabel Quinn scored 14, and freshman Louisa Orten contributed 10 points and five assists — and a team-wide effort by the Tigers' in their player-to-player defense and effective full-court press. The Eagles committed an uncharacteristic 21 turnovers.

"It was definitely a team win," he said. "They've come together really well as a team."

Mount Abe Coach Koran Cousino credited the Tigers' work (See Tiger girls, Page 3B)



EAGLE GUARD ABBA Parker attacks the paint against the defense of Tiger guard Louisa Orten during the teams' March 7 quarterfinal at Mount Abe, won by the Tigers.

Independent photo/Steve James



MUHS JUNIOR FORWARD Lia Calzini has a full head of steam during Sunday's D-II girls' hockey final at UVM.

Independent photo/Steve James



TIGER SENIOR GOALIE Ruby Hubbell makes one of her 19 saves against Hartford during Sunday's D-II girls' hockey final at UVM.

Independent photo/Steve James

Hartford edges MUHS girls' hockey in D-II championship game

By ANDY KIRKALDY

BURLINGTON — In the end there was little to separate the Division II Middlebury and Hartford union high school girls' hockey teams this winter.

The Tigers finished 12-8-2, and Hurricanes at 11-9-3 against similar schedules that included a number of Division I opponents.

Both defeated higher seeds on the road to reach Sunday's championship game. The Tigers

knocked off No. 2 Missisquoi, 4-3 in overtime two days earlier, while at the same time the Hurricanes ousted No. 1 Burr & Burton, 3-2. The Tigers had defeated Burr & Burton in the regular season.

And after Sunday's game the Tigers and Hurricanes had met three times this winter, and each team won once with one tie.

But it was the Hurricanes who came out on top, 2-0, in the statistically close game that

mattered the most to both teams, Sunday's showdown for the D-II championship at UVM's Gutterson Arena.

Hartford probably earned the win. The shots favored the Hurricanes by just 21-19, but they created slightly more dangerous chances and cashed in two of them. After allowing nine goals combined in two regular-season games, Hartford blanked the Tigers. Their defense often limited MUHS to shots from longer range,

and the Hurricanes did a good job of clearing pucks from in front of goalie Nella Bowen, who worked the 19-save shutout.

"Credit to them. They played a really solid game," said MUHS Coach PJ Lalonde.

He pointed to Hartford's defensive work in the slot.

"They did do a good job of clearing out. I did think we had quite a few chances in there, but they weren't long-lived. When we

had them, it was cleared out pretty quickly," Lalonde said. "We had a lot of shots from the point."

But the Tigers did manufacture opportunities, he added.

"We had our chances," Lalonde said. "We were super proud of our girls. They played extremely well, and we were in the game all the way through."

The Tigers had a golden chance to take the lead with 4:30 gone in the first period. Sophomore Julia

Morrissey won the puck in the left corner and slid a pass to charging junior Lia Calzini just outside the Hartford crease, but Bowen slid to her left to take Calzini's one-timer off her chest.

But soon the Hurricanes began to press. Three minutes later Tiger senior goalie Ruby Hubbell made a blocker stop on a Zoe Zanleoni blast from the right circle, and MUHS was fortunate when Emma (See Hockey, Page 4B)



panther HOCKEY

Women net NCAA bid

By ANDY KIRKALDY

AMHERST, Mass. — Host Amherst defeated the Middlebury College women's hockey team in Sunday's NESCAC championship game, but both teams — plus Colby (17-6-2), another NESCAC team — are headed for the NCAA Division III tournament. Amherst (21-5-1) and Middlebury are scheduled to host NCAA quarterfinals on March 22.

The Panthers will enter the NCAA tournament with 20-6-1 (See Women, Page 4B)

Men's season comes to end

By ANDY KIRKALDY

CLINTON, N.Y. — The most successful Middlebury College men's hockey season in a dozen years came to an end on Saturday, when No. 1 seed Hamilton defeated the No. 7 seed Panthers, 3-2, in double overtime in a NESCAC playoff semifinal.

Second-year Coach Jack Ceglarski's Panthers finished the season at 13-12-1, giving the program its first winning campaign, since the winter of 2012-2013. Those victories include an upset of No. 2 Trinity a week before in a NESCAC (See Panther men, Page 3B)

VUHS girls' hoop falls

By ANDY KIRKALDY

BRADFORD — The No. 9 seed Vergennes Union High School girls' basketball team won one road game in the Division III playoffs before losing a quarterfinal matchup on Friday, March 7, to top-seeded Oxbow.

On Wednesday, March 5, the Commodores edged host No. 8 Winooski, 55-50, in a game that was close throughout. VUHS led at (See VUHS, Page 3B)



BEFORE THE DUKE-STANFORD basketball game on Feb. 15, the columnist and his wingman did not have to wait in line at Krzyzewskiville.

Photo courtesy of Karl Lindholm



EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD Cooper Flagg is the talk of the basketball world and likely the first pick in the NBA draft this June. Is there any chance he would return to Duke for another year of college play?

Photo by Nicole Nie, Duke Chronicle

Two Vermont pilgrims visit Hoop Mecca

In January, I got a call from my college friend Greg: “Hey Karl, want to see Cooper Flagg in person?” he asked.

“Heck, yes,” I said. He could make that happen. He has a close friend at Duke who has season tickets to all the home hoop contests. I asked brazenly, “Can my son Peter come too?” and he charitably said, “Sure.” So Peter and I had a basketball adventure.

Peter is a true basketball maven and savant. He played for MUHS and then just about every day in college at Middlebury, noon hoops and intramurals, and wrote about basketball for the *Campus* newspaper and an online publication “Nothing But NESCAC.” He lives in Burlington now, works at Winooski Elementary School, and plays pick-up at UVM three or four nights a week.

Peter was a godsend as it turned out. Not only was he good company

but he knew how to get us home when all our flights were canceled on the Sunday after the game when Vermont and the East got dumped on with a foot or more of snow.

He just took a few minutes, tapped some of those numbers and letters on his phone and, voila, we were headed home to Burlington on Monday, though through Chicago, not Washington. Genius stuff.

Duke is ranked the #2 college basketball team in the country with a 26-3 record, heading into the NCAA Tournament (“March Madness”). Cooper Flagg is their best player, leads the team in points, rebounds, assists, steals, and blocks. It is likely he will be named College Basketball Player of the Year and be the first player selected in the NBA draft in June.

The Cooper Flagg story is well known by now, much written about. He’s from the small town of Newport, Maine (population about 3,500), located between

Etna and Palmyra. He should be a senior in high school, like his twin brother Ace, who attends a prep powerhouse just down the road from Duke and will attend UMaine next year. Cooper turned 18 in December but skipped his senior year (he “reclassified”).

Oh yes, the game itself, Duke vs. Stanford. It wasn’t a competitive match (106-70) — Duke is much better than Stanford, but that didn’t really matter: we were there for the experience. To actually see a game in Duke’s hallowed hall of hoop, Cameron Indoor Stadium, after watching so many games on TV was compelling indeed.

There are no tickets to games for Duke students. They are admitted an hour and a half before tip-off, first come-first served. They wait in line for hours in Krzyzewskiville, named after Mike Krzyzewski (sh-SHEF-ski), Duke’s legendary coach who retired three years ago. They stay overnight in tents for big

games.

From watching Duke games on TV, Peter and I didn’t realize that Cameron is small, just 9,314 seats, compared to other big time college arenas (the Dean Smith Center at the University of North Carolina, for example, just a half hour away, seats nearly 22,000). The Duke students, the “Cameron Crazies,” sit, or rather stand, bedecked in colorful garb, in a special courtside section and maintain a raucous din for the whole game.

All the interior spaces of Cameron, the concourses, have a museum feel, adorned as they are with photographs and displays that exhibit Duke’s extraordinary history of basketball success. Cameron was built in 1940 and all suggestions to expand or replace it have been resisted. The intimacy of

the setting is vital to the excitement of the spectator experience.

Now, about Cooper Flagg: he is a complete player, remarkably talented for a player of any age. It really was a joy to see him in person and we had great seats (thank you, Greg and Doren).

The “experts” say he must improve his “handle” (ball handling: dribbling, passing). I didn’t see that. His game is remarkably complete. He shoots righthanded but seems equally adept with his right or left hand going to the basket. My favorite sequence was when he drove to the basket with his left hand and laid a soft 8- to 10-footer off the glass and in — then made the same move from the right side a couple of possessions later.

I think his job in the first half of



Sports (Mostly) **KARL LINDHOLM**

games is to stay out of foul trouble and be available for crunch-time in the second half. He played on the baseline or the wing in the first half, a forward. In the second half he played in the back court, a 6’9” off guard, and was involved in nearly every play, often bringing the ball up himself. He ended up with 19 points, 5 rebounds, 6 assists, and two steals.

He is an expressive player and seems to love playing for this team, which has three other first-years who might opt for the draft this June. Cooper has indicated that he has enjoyed his year at Duke which has raised hopes there that it might not be “One and Done,” and he would return to school for another year. At their final home game, the Crazies chanted hopefully “one more year!”

It’s an intriguing thought. In the chaotic state of big-time college sports, he makes a lot of money (See Lindholm, Page 3B)



WHAT DO YOU GET FOR SHOPPING LOCALLY?
THE WOODWARE CREW BRINGS SMILES AND HELPING HANDS
WITH EVERY FURNITURE DELIVERY!



802-388-6297

www.woodwarevt.com

Route 7 South • Middlebury VT
Hours: Monday-Saturday 9-5, Closed Sundays

FINE FURNITURE

Bristol’s Crum earns ski honor

HANOVER, N.H. — Bristol’s Emma Crum finished among the top competitors at the 2025 NCAA Skiing National Championships, hosted March 5-8 by Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H.

Crum is a junior at Maine’s Bowdoin College and a member of the school’s Nordic ski team. On March 6, Crum skied to a sixth-place finish in the women’s 7.5-kilometer classic race with a

time of 24:43.7. Crum recorded a Did Not Finish in the women’s 20-k mass start freestyle on March 8.

Crum’s sixth-place finish in the 7.5 km classic was the highest-ever finish for a Bowdoin skier at the national competition and earned her recognition as an All-American. She is the third All-American in the Bowdoin Nordic skiing program’s history.

OV boys’ hoop ousted in semi

By ANDY KIRKALDY

BARRE — Another outstanding Otter Valley boys’ basketball season ended on Wednesday just as it did a year ago, in Barre with a loss to a powerhouse Montpelier team in a Division II semifinal.

The top-seeded, 22-1 Solons took charge earlier, spotting the Otters a

6-0 lead before rolling to an 89-56 victory. Montpelier earned its sixth straight D-II finals appearance and the chance on Saturday to win a fifth straight state championship.

The Otters finished at 18-5, with that 18th win a satisfying home quarterfinal victory over rival Fair Haven that featured a dramatic second-half rally.

Carson Cody, one of two Solon 1,000-point scorers, put up his team’s first 17 points in Wednesday’s semifinal as Montpelier erased OV’s early lead and led by 16 points at the half.

The Otters pulled within 10 points in the third period, but then Montpelier decided matters with a 24-0 run.

Cody led Montpelier with 30 points, followed by 19 from Clayton Foster. Conor Denis led OV with 17 points, followed by Drew Pelkey with 11 points, Logan Letourneau with nine, Brody Lathrop with seven and Lucas Politano with six.

OV’s seniors are Letourneau, Politano, Pelkey, Rowen Steen and Addison Boynton.

AGWAY

\$10 OFF

YOUR \$40 OR MORE SEED STARTING PURCHASE

AGWAY

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY COUPON
Excludes seeds. Includes Seed Starting Soils Only. Now thru 3/31/25
While supplies last, cannot be combined with any other sale or offer. In-stock items only.

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY
338 Exchange Street
802-388-4937
Mon. - Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-4
www.MiddleburyAgway.com

SPRING WILL COME (EVENTUALLY)!

We're Pawstitive!

HARE AND THE DOG

MIDDLEBURY, VT
VERGENNES, VT
WWW.HARE.DOG



EAGLE FORWARD MACKENZIE Griner works to get past Tiger forward Solstice Binder on the baseline during the teams' March 7 quarterfinal at Mount Abe. The Tigers won.

Independent photo/Steve James

Tiger girls

(Continued from Page 1B)
on both ends of the court.
“We played them three times, beat them twice. It’s hard to beat a team three times. We all know that,” Cousino said. “They have better offense than we do. We’re a defensive team. Our offense comes out of our defense. But in the second half, we didn’t beat the press the way we did in the first half.”

In that first half the Eagles asserted themselves quickly. Senior forward Mackenzie Griner hit from the paint and senior guard Hazel Guilmette swished a three in the first two minutes. Binder countered with a coast-to-coast layup, and the Eagles led, 5-2, after two minutes. An Orten jumper a minute later cut the lead to one, but Griner sank two free throws two restore the Mount Abe lead.

The momentum shifted briefly as the quarter ended. Binder blocked a shot and raced down the court and pulled up for a long three-pointer at

the buzzer, and it was 7-7.
The Eagles controlled the defensive minded second quarter. The Tigers were having trouble against Mount Abe’s 2-3 zone, which Cousino said was effective against MUHS in their prior loss at Mount Abe. Quinn scored five points in the period on a three-pointer and a putback to keep the Tigers in striking distance.

At the other end Guilmette and seniors Abba Parker and Louisa Painter all scored, and junior Gen Forand led with five points, including a three-point play at 2:09 that gave the Eagles a 19-14 lead. But Binder’s off-balance buzzer-beater — yes, again — from the right side made it a two-point game at the half.

Then the Eagles turned the ball over four times to open the second half, and the Tigers gradually heated up. Binder assisted two Whitney makes in the first three minutes, one in transition and the

other a corner three, and the Tigers led, 22-19. They were never headed again.

Painter cut the lead to one with a jumper in the lane at 4:25, but the Tigers went on a 10-0 run. Orten sank a three, Quinn hit two free throws after a steal, Binder converted a three-point play after another steal, and Quinn capped the outburst with a short jumper.

The Eagles responded with their own 9-3 run. Painter scored in transition, Forand sank a layup on an inbounds play, sophomore Merideth Dufault hit two free throws after an offensive rebound, and Guilmette and Griner capped the run with buckets. In the middle of all that Quinn scored in the post for the Tigers, and it was 34-31 at 7:50. But the Eagles fouled Orten, and she sank two free throws to close the period, and it was a five-point Tiger lead entering the fourth.

Whitney then took charge, hitting three corner three-pointers for the Tigers in the first 3:25 of the fourth period. Senior Cassidy Brown chipped in a free throw for MUHS, while all Mount Abe could muster in the first 3:25 was a Guilmette jumper. The Tiger lead had grown to 46-33 with 4:35 to go, and the Eagles came no closer than 11 points the rest of the way.

Coach Carter said the Tigers talked at halftime about playing with “no fear” in the second half.

“I told them we are not afraid,” Carter said. “I think you could see they were a little nervy in the first half. But the second half they settled in. The effort, the rebounding, all the things that don’t generally show up in the stat book, that was what the difference was.”

Forand led the Eagles with 13 points, adding five rebounds. Painter scored eight points with four rebounds and three assists. Guilmette scored seven points with four assists and five steals, and Griner finished with six points and eight rebounds. Painter, Guilmette, Griner, Parker, Lauren Cousino and Nikki Crowe will graduate from a team that this season posted a 17-5 record.

Coach Cousino praised her team accomplishments and chemistry.

“We had a great season. We

won 17 games. We played tough competition all year. I kept 15 players. I have 15 happy players walking out of the gym every day,” she said. “This team loved each other. They support each other. They’re good teammates, good sports.”

ON TO BARRE

The Tigers had reached the quarterfinal with a Wednesday victory over No. 12 U-32, 56-28. The Tigers’ high scorers were Binder, 19 points; Orten, 11 points; and Skyler Choiniere, eight points.

Next up for the Tigers is a trip to Barre. They were scheduled to meet No. 1 seed North Country (20-1) at 7:45 p.m. on Wednesday after the deadline for this edition. This story will be updated with details from that game on Thursday morning. The winner of that game will advance to the Division II final at the Barre Auditorium on Saturday at 3:45 p.m. They will play either No. 2 Fair Haven or No. 3 Lamoille.

Binder was asked about Wednesday’s matchup with North Country. “We have a tough match ahead of us,” she said. “But if we prepare ourselves I think we can do well. I think we have a fighting chance.”

Coach Carter repeated his mantra. “We’ll bring them what we’ve got,” Carter said. “No fear.”

Panther men

(Continued from Page 1B)

quarterfinal.

On this past Saturday, the host Continentals outshot the Panthers, 53-31, and Middlebury goalie Andrew Heinze stopped a career-high 50 shots, the most saves made by a NESCAC goalie this year. Hamilton in particular controlled the overtime periods, outshooting Middlebury by 18-2 and getting the game-winner from Noah Libel. Libel shot wide, but picked up the carom off the back boards and stuffed the puck inside the right

VUHS

(Continued from Page 1B)
the half by 26-25. Balanced scoring boosted the Commodores, who were led by 13 points from Ashtin Stearns and 10 from Summer Gosliga. Joyce Mampuya and Ashlyn Parris each scored 10 points for the Spartans, who wrapped up at 11-9.

On Friday the Commodores could not get past host No. 1 Oxbow in the quarterfinal round, falling by 63-45.

Lindholm

(Continued from Page 2B)

as a Duke student, NIL money, direct payments to athletes. He likes his classes. He already has a shoe contract with Boston-based New Balance (which has a factory in Skowhegan, Maine, only about a half hour from Newport). Stay or go, he’s in line to make a lot of money.

I think it would be great if he stayed at Duke and could be a college kid playing with his friends and contemporaries before entering the NBA and playing the rigors of an 82-game regular season schedule against men a decade older,

The Olympians improved to 19-2. Abby Longo and Braylee Phelps led four Olympians in double figures with 15 points apiece.

Stearns led all scorers by tossing in 19 points for VUHS, and Georgia Krause chipped in 11 points.

VUHS forward Kendra Jackson is the only senior who saw action this season for the Commodores, who finished 10-12 against a primarily D-II schedule.

some even twice his age, or more (Lebron).

At the end of the Duke-Stanford game in Cameron Indoor Stadium, Peter and I turned to one another and exchanged a familiar gesture that we do when we have witnessed something extraordinary in an athletic event, a beautiful game, say, or a striking sequence.

It’s a light fist bump — we say in gratitude and appreciation:

“Sports!”

Karl Lindholm can be reached at lindholm@middlebury.edu.

BASH at the BOWL

Saturday, March 15, 2025
Middlebury Snowbowl
12pm to 4pm • all welcome

Dual Slalom! MUSIC!

A fun fundraiser for the Middlebury Ski & Snowboard Club!

← Pledge Here! SUPPORT a skier or rider in the MSSC Ski-A-Thon!

COUNTRYSIDE
PAINT & FLOORING

FARRELL

casella

WIND RIDGE
BUILDERS & DESIGN
WEYBROOK, VT 05698-1647

KWCF

Marble Works

MIDDLEBURY SKI BUMS

BreadLoaf
Architects
Planners
Builders

BURLINGTON
BREM CO.

FOLEY
services

Lake Monsters

Smith & McClain
BRANDING COMPANY

Sheehan Construction, LLC

MIDDLEBURY
EYE ASSOCIATES

snowbowl
MIDDLEBURY

FIDDLEHEAD
BREWING COMPANY

middlebury
pediatric
dentistry

WOODCHICK
HARDWARE

COMMUNITY
BARN

SM

SHOP 11
BREWING

West Cambridge
Pediatric & Adolescent
Medicine

Silver Maple
Construction

IPJ
Real Estate

802PRINT

NOP'S
METALWORKS

Newton
ELECTRICAL
REFRIGERATION
AIR CONDITIONING INC.

PERFORMANCE
FOODSERVICE

BTS
BUSINESS TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

Langrock
SPERRY & WOOL

Bread Loaf
VIEW
FARM

HEADPHONE
notte
BREW & BITE

MURPHY
RESTAURANT
CONSTRUCTION

Norwegian
LABS

BLACK BEAR BTO

MCLEOD ARCHITECTS
ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

AWC

TWO BROTHERS BAKERY

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

BREAD LOAF CITIZENS RACE

Saturday, March 15 ■ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Whether you're in it to win it or just want to be part of the fun, celebrate its 50th anniversary with classic skiing on our custom old-school course. Costumes, prizes, barbecue, and more!

rikert
outdoor center

rikertoutdoor.com/citizens-race

Schedule Hockey

(Continued from Page 1B)

Baseball	
3/13 Lyndon at Midd.....	3 PM
3/16 Midd at Cal Lutheran (2)	2 PM
3/17 Midd at Cal Lutheran.....	6 PM
3/19 Midd at Redlands	6 PM
3/21 Midd at Chapman.....	6 PM
3/22 Midd at Chapman (2)	2 PM
Softball	
Games in Clermont, Fla.*	
3/15 Midd vs S. Maine*	9 AM
3/15 Midd vs Montclair*	11:15 AM
3/16 Midd vs Chicago*	9 AM
3/16 Midd vs Endicott*	11:30 AM
3/18 Midd vs Framingham*	9 AM
3/18 Midd vs Knox*	11:30 AM
3/19 Midd vs Salem*	2 PM
3/19 Midd vs Nazareth*	4:15 PM
3/21 Midd vs Wellesley*	9 AM
3/21Midd vs Plattsburgh*	11:15 AM

(Continued from Page 1B)

Bazin fired wide left from the slot soon afterward.

Bazin then made no mistake when she gave Hartford the lead at 7:57. Aubree Vail picked up the puck behind the net and came out on the left side and fed Bazin for a one-timer into the net’s right side.

The Hurricanes earned an 11-6 edge in shots in the first period, and Hubbell and Tiger defenders Quinn Doria, Sedona Carrara, Ireland Hanley and Becka Seeley did well to keep them at bay. Doria dove across the crease to knock the puck away from a Hurricane in the final seconds, and earlier she challenged Bowen with a shot from the high slot.

The Tigers outshot the Hurricanes in the second period, 9-5, with

many of those shots coming during a mid-period power play. Early on Bowen denied Morrissey from the left side, and McKenna Raymond was in position for the rebound, but the puck took a bad bounce.

The power play came at 6:01, and the Tigers peppered Bowen with three shots from Raymond, and one each from Calzini and Hanley, but Bowen handled them all. As the penalty expired, the Hurricanes were whistled for another infraction, but the Tigers took an ill-advised penalty 12 seconds later and lost a chance for another power play.

While skating four-on-four Calzini had a look from the inner edge of the right circle, but the puck slid inches wide of the left post.

The Tigers mustered only four shots in the third period, and the most dangerous probably came in the first minute. Raymond fired a wrister from between the circles, but Bowen blocked it away.



TIGER JUNIOR FORWARD Sawyer Witscher sees her attempt to poke home a loose puck thwarted by the Hartford defense during Sunday's D-II girls' hockey final at UVM.

Independent photo/Steve James

At 5:15 the Tigers were whistled for tripping, and at 6:03 Hurricane Flynn Moreno netted the insurance goal, skating out front from the left corner and tucking the puck home. Bazin got the assist.

Bowen made saves on Calzini and Carrara as time wound down on the Tigers’ season, and soon the Hurricanes were celebrating.

ROAD TO FINAL

In the semifinal on March 7 the Tigers knocked off No. 2 Missisquoi in overtime, 4-3. Calzini scored the game-winner 4:03 into OT with an assist set up by Raymond. Calzini’s strike gave her a hat trick.

The T-Birds three times took one-goal leads in regulation. After

Rory Schreindorfer put Missisquoi on the board 4:26 into the second period, Calzini, from Raymond and Kenyon Connors, knotted the score at 5:44. T-Bird Abigail Wilcox made it 2-1 before the end of the period, but Kate Kozak’s unassisted goal at 2:19 of the third tied the game at 2-2. However, Wilcox restored the T-Bird lead 16 seconds later.

The flurry of offense continued as the Calzini struck just 20 seconds after that goal at 3:15 of the third, with an assist from Carrara, and that 3-3 score held until overtime. Hubbell made 25 saves for the Tigers, and T-Bird netminder Jadyn Lapan made 30 saves.

Graduating from the team will

be Hubbell, fellow goalie Michaela Charbonneau, and Raymond.

Lalonde said a winning record against a challenging schedule and the kind of efforts from the Tigers like they put forth those two final games made for a successful season.

“We actually just highlighted that for them in the locker room, how they had a very tough schedule, and we battled through,” he said. “They have a lot to be proud about. It’s a great group, and it wasn’t the result we had hoped for for them today, but that’s the way it goes. They had a great season regardless of the outcome today.”

Midd women

(Continued from Page 1B)

records.

On Saturday, March 22, at 3 p.m. the Panthers will host a quarterfinal between the winner of a first-round game to be played this Saturday between Endicott (22-4-1) and Nazareth (20-6-1), with Endicott hosting.

On the same side of the bracket at the same time on Saturday the 22nd, Amherst will host a quarterfinal against the winner of a first-round game this Saturday between host Colby and visiting Wilkes (22-4-1).

In other words, if the tournament goes to form, Amherst and Middlebury could meet again in a national semifinal. The site of the final four will be announced once the quarterfinals are completed. The Panthers tied and defeated Amherst in the regular season before losing to the Mammoths in Sunday’s NESCAC final, 1-0. Middlebury has not played Nazareth, but

defeated Endicott twice during the regular season.

In the other half of the bracket Augsburg (23-3-1) will host one March 22 quarterfinal against either Gustavus Adolphus (21-6) or St. Norbert (24-4-1), and defending champion Wisconsin-River Falls will host the other against either Elmira (20-7-1) or Plattsburgh State (20-6-1).

NESCAC TOURNAMENT

On Sunday, NESCAC top seed Amherst edged the No. 2 seeded Panthers, 1-0, for the league title.

The Panthers’ best chances might have come five minutes into the game on a power play, but Mammoth goalie Natalie Stott denied three-consecutive bids to keep Middlebury off the board.

Similarly, Panther goalie Sophia Will denied back-to-back bids on a late-period Amherst power play.

The Mammoths’ Bea Flynn scored the game’s only goal with 5:22 gone in the second period. Flynn converted an Ayla Abban

pass from behind the goal to the doorstep.

Middlebury nearly tallied the equalizer just over a minute later, but Stott denied a Cat Appleyard redirect of a Jordan Hower shot.

Middlebury pulled Will with 1:41 remaining for an extra skater. The Panthers tallied five attempts but the Mammoth defense thwarted each as Amherst hung on for the 1-0 win.

Amherst outshot the Panthers, 28-17. Will made 27 saves.

On Saturday, also at Amherst, the Panthers got 27 saves from Sophia Will, a second-period goal from Kylie Quinlan and two late pad scores in a 3-0 victory over No. 3 seed Colby (17-6-2).

Both goalies did good work until Zoe Pincelli countered late Colby pressure by stealing a puck at the Panther blue line and going in alone on Busky and faking left before tucking the puck back inside the right post at 18:12. Sabrina Kim added an empty-netter. Busky matched Will with 27 saves.

Lamoille tops OV girls 67-30 in D-II playoff

HYDE PARK — Host No. 3 seed Lamoille on Thursday, March 13, ousted the No. 14 Otter Valley girls’ basketball team from the Division II playoffs, 67-30, in a first-round game.


Lamoille led by 25-12 after

one period and 35-20 at the half in improving to 18-3. Scores for individual Lancer players were not reported.

The Otters were led by 10 points from freshman Tegan Boynton, and junior Breanna Bovey chipped

in seven. The Otters wrapped up at 6-15, doubling the program’s victory total from the 2023-24 season.

Only two seniors will graduate from the team, Matelin LaPorte and Sara Loyzelle.




Drive safely and help your Neighbors!

Join Addison County Alignment & Repair for our **Free brakes for food** promotion

Donate: 12 non-perishable food items
Receive: a Free Brake Inspection and Diagnosis


If you need brakes, we provide **FREE premium brake pads and \$50 off labor to install the pads with the purchase of rotors.** If you need pads and rotors for both front and rear brakes, we ask that you donate 12 additional food items for HOPE. Thank you!

No other discounts may be combined with this offer. We do not pad slap.



Owners Steve and Lisa Dupoise

All donations go straight to HOPE
Dates: Feb. 10 - March 21, 2025



learn more at Hope-VT.org

7409 Ethan Allen Hwy, Ste 1, New Haven VT 05472
802-723-2227 • www.acarvt.com • info@acar2024.com

INDEPENDENT DIGITAL marketing

DON'T RELY ON LUCK TO GET FOUND ONLINE

Keep your business at the top of search results with the Addy Indy's Digital Directory Management services — no four-leaf clover required!



GET STARTED NOW!



802-388-4944



digital@addisonindependent.com



addisonindependent.com/independent-digital-marketing



The Ultimate Wood Heat.

Set the thermostat where you want for a more comfortable home.

- **Highest Efficiency Certified by EPA**
- **Peace of Mind** - Keep the fire outside and eliminate the dangers associated with indoor wood heating.
- **Save Money** - Wood is a renewable, inexpensive and often free energy source.
- **Durability** - Long-lasting, stainless steel firebox.

UP TO

\$2000

TAX CREDIT*

On qualifying models and installation



Classic Edge HDX models are U.S. EPA Certified

RIVERSIDE SERVICES

Rochester, Vermont
802-565-0322
riversideservicesvt.com



Outdoor Wood Furnace
CentralBoiler.com

*US Internal Revenue Code Sec. 25(C) effective Jan. 1, 2023, for heating a residence. For more details visit CentralBoiler.com. Consult a tax professional with any questions.

23-0301

community calendar

FRIDAY

mar 14

Lenten fish fry in Bristol. Friday, March 14, 5-7 p.m., St. Ambrose Parish, 11 School St. Menu includes all-you-can-eat fried or baked haddock, French fries, cole slaw, dinner roll, beverage and dessert. Adults \$17/children 9 and under \$9/ immediate family of 5 \$50. More info call 802-453-2488.

Pi Day in Shoreham. Friday, March 14, 5-7 p.m., Shoreham Congregational Church, School Rd. Celebrate the arrival of spring by coming to Pi Day. You can buy a slice of pie for \$4, or add a scoop of ice cream for another \$1. Beverages (coffee, tea, cocoa, or water) are free. There will also be a special raffle for a pie a month for 6 months. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 3 tickets for \$10. The winner will be drawn that evening, but you do not need to be present to win.

SATURDAY

mar 15

Set up and customization of Android phones in Salisbury. Saturday, March 15, 11 a.m., Salisbury Free Public Library, 918 Maple St. If you have a new Android phone and want tips on setting it up, Louis Moore will be here with some tips and tricks for getting the most out of your Android. Coffee and pastries too. Free.

American Legion birthday party in Vergennes. Saturday, March 15, 7-10 p.m., American Legion Post 14, Armory Ln. DJ Jam Man will spin the tunes in honor of the American Legion's 106th Birthday and St. Patrick's Day! Cash bar, light snacks, Open to the public. Admission by donation.

SUNDAY

mar 16

All-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfast in Addison. Sunday, March 16, 7-11 a.m., Addison Fire Station, Junction of Routes 17 & 22A. Menu includes plain and blueberry pancakes, locally made maple syrup, sausage, bacon, home fries, coffee, hot chocolate, and orange juice. \$10/adults; \$7/kids under 12. Benefit of the Addison Volunteer Fire Department. Funds will be used to purchase equipment.

"Four Hebrew Prophets: Amos" lecture in Middlebury. Sunday, March 16, noon, St. Stephen's Church, 3 Main St. In the first lecture in a four-part series on four biblical books, Shalom Goldman, Professor of Religion at Middlebury College, will explore the historical and cultural context of these Old Testament figures and delve into the timeless relevance of their messages. Free and open to the public. Come early for refreshments. Series continues March 23.

MONDAY

mar 17

County Democratic Committee hearing and overview of Governor's education plan in Middlebury. Monday, March 17, 5:30 p.m., Middlebury Police Station 1 Lucius Ln. The meeting will begin with a legislative update followed by Rep. Peter Conlon, chair of the House Education Committee, and Sen. Ruth Hardy, of the Senate Finance Committee, discussing Gov. Scott's proposed Education Reform Bill. Zoom link also available at us06web.zoom.us/j/9061234567

St. Pat's celebration in Monkton. Monday, March 17, 6:30 p.m., Monkton Town Hall, 92 Monkton Ridge. Join Monkton Museum and Historical Society to eat a slice of pizza, tap your toes and enjoy some live music from Addison County's own Blarney Pilgrims. The band's members, a group of locals from Middlebury and Bristol, are eager to share lively traditional Irish tunes in their delightfully informal yet authentic fashion. Donations encouraged for the band.

TUESDAY

mar 18

"Sleeping with the Ancestors" virtual book discussion. Tuesday, March 18, 6-7 p.m., ZOOM. Rokeby's winter book discussion series continues with historic preservationist Joseph McGill Jr.'s account of the Slave Dwelling Project, in which he spends the night in former slave dwellings. The book focuses on all of the key sites McGill has visited in his ongoing project and digs deeper into the actual history of each location, using McGill's own experience and conversations with the community to enhance those original stories. Visit www.rokeby.org for more info, link, and the full book discussion series.

Town Hall Theater tours in Middlebury. Tuesday, March 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72 Merchants Row. Join the Middlebury Chapter of the American Association of University Women for tours of the new Town Hall Theater, followed by THT Executive & Artistic Director Lisa Mitchell speaking on "What the Arts Mean Today." The talk will be held in the new Doug and Debby Anderson Studio, and the adjacent Jean's Place lounge will be open with a cash bar.

"Ticonderoga's Neighborhoods of 1776" in Orwell. Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m. Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Join Fort Ticonderoga Director of Interpretation Cameron Green to explore the community that developed around Ticonderoga on the eve of the

WEDNESDAY

mar 19

Climate Economy Action Center community round table in Middlebury. Wednesday, March 19, 4:30-6 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Join CEAC at its March Community Round Table. This meeting will bring together invited representatives from many organizations working on the clean energy transition and allied issues throughout Addison County. Learn what is happening in our community to meet our county's carbon emissions reduction goals.

THURSDAY

mar 20

Dairy forage workshop in



Arts in focus

Town Hall Theater Executive & Artistic Director Lisa Mitchell will deliver a talk on "What the Arts Mean Today," this coming Tuesday, March 18, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The public is invited to join the Middlebury Chapter of the AAUW (American Association of University Women) for tours of the expanded Town Hall Theater before Mitchell's talk.

Courtesy photo

Vergennes. Thursday, March 20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Vergennes American Legion, 100 Armory Ln. To help dairy farmers prepare for the growing season, the 2025 Organic Dairy Days will feature presentations on ruminant nutrition and high-quality pasture and stored forages. Presenters include Kurt Cotanch, a Vermont dairy nutritionist, Sarah Flack, a Vermont independent grazing consultant, and Jen Miller, Farmer Services Director with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont. \$25 per person includes lunch. Register at go.uvm.edu/2025organicdairy, 802-656-8407 or noncredit@uvm.edu.

Cabin Fever Lecture: Birding Scotland's Great Glen Way. Thursday, March 20, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. OCAS luminary Mike Winslow will tell us about a recent trip to Scotland, and the difficulties of identifying reed warblers.

Beetlejuice JR - The Musical in Bristol. Thursday, March 20, 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School, Airport Rd. Adapted from the smash-hit Broadway musical, "Beetlejuice JR" features catchy songs, outrageous characters, and a heartwarming message about family and belonging. Rated PG for spooky imagery, dark humor, and themes of death, the content is largely presented in a cartoonish, comedic way, with minimal gore or explicit violence. Tickets \$15 adults/\$12 seniors and children under 12, available at tinyurl.com/bjticket and at the door until sold out.

Willy Wonka Jr. in Middlebury. Thursday, March 20, 7 p.m., Auditorium, Middlebury Union High School, 73 Charles Ave. The MUHS senior play this year takes you inside the world of Willy Wonka. Candy, demanding children, Oompa-Loompas and more. All proceeds help to fund Class of 2025 Project Graduation. Tickets \$12, available at gofan.co/app/school/VT15095.

9 to 5 in Vergennes. Thursday, March 20, 7 p.m., Auditorium, Vergennes Union High School, Monkton Rd. Come see VUHS thespians tell the story of three working women who live out their fantasies of getting even with and overthrowing their company's autocratic vice president. Tickets \$12 adults and students/\$10 seniors, available at the door.

FRIDAY

mar 21

Lenten fish dinner in Vergennes. Friday, March 21, 5-6:30 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, South Maple Street. This Knights of Columbus event will include a menu of beer battered haddock, zesty wedges, coleslaw, mixed vegetables, roll & butter, chocolate chip brownie. \$13 adults \$7 children 6-12 (cash or checks). For take-out reservations call 802-877-3352 (Parish Hall) and leave a message with your name, phone number and number of dinners, and please speak slowly. This dinner repeats April 4.

9 to 5 in Vergennes. Friday, March 21, 7 p.m., Auditorium, Vergennes Union High School, Monkton Rd. See March 20 listing.

Beetlejuice JR - The Musical in Bristol. Friday, March 21, 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School, Airport Rd. See March 20 listing.

Willy Wonka Jr. in Middlebury. Friday, March 21, 7 p.m., Auditorium, Middlebury Union High School, 73 Charles Ave. See March 20 listing.

SATURDAY

mar 22

Legislative breakfast in Shoreham. Saturday, March 22, 7-8:45 a.m., Shoreham Congregational Church, School Rd. Join Addison County Farm Bureau for a meal with your neighbors, a chance to connect with your local legislators,

and an opportunity to learn more about the ongoing topics in Montpelier. Make a donation for breakfast; RSVP to Bill Scott at wjscottjr@comcast.net so they can get a headcount for food.

Beetlejuice JR - The Musical in Bristol. Saturday, March 22, 2 and 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School, Airport Rd. See March 20 listing.

Willy Wonka Jr. in Middlebury. Saturday, March 22, 2 p.m., Auditorium, Middlebury Union High School, 73 Charles Ave. See March 20 listing.

CommuniTEA fundraising event in Vergennes. Saturday, March 22, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Gather Vermont, 135 Main St. A traditional afternoon tea sponsored by the Vergennes Partnership to raise money to create and maintain flower baskets on the Otter Creek bridge, downtown lamp posts and bump out gardens lining Main Street. More than \$600 in door prizes. Tickets \$65, available online at www.VergennesDowntown.org/donate or in-person at Gather Vermont, 135 Main. More info at VergennesDowntown.org.

9 to 5 in Vergennes. Saturday, March 22, 3 p.m., Auditorium, Vergennes Union High School, Monkton Rd. See March 20 listing.

Thinking Outside the Blue Bin workshop in Monkton. Saturday, March 22, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge. Curious about items that can't go into your blue-bin recycling but can be recycled elsewhere? Wondering what programs we offer at the District Transfer Station? Come for a free workshop and free refreshments. Register at AddisonCountyRecycles.org, at 802-388-2333, or eco@acswwd.org.

SUNDAY

mar 23

"Four Hebrew Prophets: Obadiah" lecture in Middlebury. Sunday, March 23, noon, St. Stephen's Church, 3 Main St. In the first lecture in a four-part series on four biblical books, Shalom Goldman, Professor of Religion at Middlebury College, will explore the historical and cultural context of these Old Testament figures and delve into the timeless relevance of their messages. Free and open to the public. Come early for refreshments.

MONDAY

mar 24

Writing-based grief support group in Middlebury. Begins Monday, March 24, 5 p.m., Middlebury Regional EMS, 55 Collins Dr. Group meets for 6 weeks through April 28. Writing Through Grief. Advanced registration required. Must commit to full 6 weeks. Maximum 8 participants. Please send referrals to: Mara Dowdall at mdowdall@portermedical.org. Hosted by Palliative Support Services at Porter Medical Center.

MONDAY

mar 24

"Raising Healthy Kids in a Culture of Dependence" in Middlebury. Thursday, March 27, 5-7 p.m., Middlebury Union High School, 72 Charles Ave. Join in a community discussion for parents and guardians of Addison County children. We will hear from special guest Jessica Lahey, author of the New York Times bestselling book, "The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go So Their Children Can Succeed" and "The Addiction Inoculation: Raising Healthy Kids in a Culture of Dependence." More info at unitedwayaddisoncounty.org.

Lincoln

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

NEWS

Music and theater take the stage

LINCOLN — Burnham Presents welcomes Keith Murphy and the Band of Amber to the stage on Saturday, April 5, at 7:30 p.m. at Burnham Hall. Murphy is a noted instrumentalist, and well known for his playing with Nightingale, Childsplay, Boston Revels, Tony Barand, Hanneke Cassel, Yann Falquet, and his wife and fiddler Becky Tracy.

After three acoustic-based solo recordings, Keith turned to a new instrumental lineup for his most recent project, "Bright as Amber," which incorporates bass, drums, and electric guitar. The Band of Amber is composed of Anand Nayak, a Grammy-nominated producer and multi-instrumentalist who crafts beautiful textures on electric guitar; drummer Richie Barshay who has played with the likes of Herbie Hancock, Natalie Merchant, and Bobby McFerrin and Ty Gibbons an acclaimed composer for film and TV, an acoustic bass player and a member of the Vermont indie folk band Red Heart the Ticker.

Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$25 generous admission and \$10 for children 12

and under. Contact the ticketing office at burnhampresents@gmail.com if you are interested in purchasing tickets for kids 12 and under. Youth on laps are free. Homemade refreshments will be available.

Lincoln Community School, its Creative Spark program and Friends of LCS are collaborating with A Very Merry Theater on their upcoming production of Robin Hood. The performance will be held at Burnham Hall on Friday, April 4, with showtimes at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.

There will be a bake sale during the intermission of the 6 p.m. performance. If you are interested in helping run the bake sale table or donating goodies, (or both!) please sign up at htinyurl.com/LCS-robin-hood. Proceeds from the bake sale will go directly to continuing to provide theater arts opportunities to students next year and beyond. Thank you for your support. Please email Cat Mannigan at cmannigan@lincolnsd.org if you have any questions.

Until next time ... Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Free spring education series for elders and their families

MIDDLEBURY — Elderly Services will be hosting a Community Education Series of five informative presentations this spring on topics of importance to both area elders and their families. The series will begin on Tuesday, May 6, and run until Thursday, June 12. All programs are free and open to our entire community.

Session 1 on May 6 will be "Protecting yourself—Combating fraud in the digital age". Hosted and presented by the National Bank of Middlebury Security Team, this seminar will focus on protecting yourself or your elderly loved one

from the growing threats of fraud including computer, telephone and mail scams. The program will provide tips on protecting yourself and your personal information and how to avoid falling victim to fraudsters.

Session 2 on May 15 will be "You're not alone — Caring for your elderly loved one" led by Joanne Corbett, a clinical social worker heading up the new ESI Center for Positive Aging.

Session 3 on May 29 will be "Dementia and home safety — Helping older Vermonters (See Elderly Services, Page 6B)





Addison County Parent/Child Center
info@addisoncountypcc.org • addisoncountypcc.org
388-3171

- Community Playgroups
- Parent Education Classes
- Home Visits
- Pregnancy Prevention Programs
- Parent Training & Child Center

*Helping Young Families
Get The Right Start*



CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES

CO-OP INSURANCE POLICYHOLDERS ANNUAL MEETING

All current policyholders of the Co-operative Insurance Companies are invited to virtually attend the policyholders' annual meeting. The annual meeting will be held on

Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

To register, please visit www.co-opinsurance.com.

Registration must be received no later than noon on 3/28/25.

Reader Comments

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

A subscriber from Hardwick writes:

"I look forward to the paper each week! Thank You!"

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT



Frenemies

AS THE LOCAL rivalry between the Eagles of Mount Abe and the Tigers of Middlebury heated up in the Division II girls' basketball tournament semi-final game in Bristol on Friday, the Mount Abe eagle (identity kept secret under a mask) and the Middlebury Tiger (ninth-grader Elle MacIntyre) sparred briefly between periods. After the game, everyone shook hands and were friends.

Independent photo/Steve James

Japanese knotweed removal program successful

By KATE KELLY
NORTH FERRISBURGH — Non-native invasive plant species have long threatened the health of ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and populations of native plants in the Lewis Creek watershed. Management can be difficult because they are easily spread via seeds, roots, fragments, animals, and humans. Japanese knotweed is a particularly tough plant to remove. It was introduced from East Asia in the late 1800s, and was planted as an ornamental and for erosion control (but ironically, can actually increase streambank erosion). It spreads primarily by its roots/rhizomes, which can break off during a flood then resprout and form a new colony downstream. In 2024, LCA engaged community members and began a long-term project controlling knotweed (without herbicides) in the Lewis Creek watershed. In 2024, LCA and volunteers controlled three populations of Japanese knotweed along Lewis Creek near Old Hollow Road in

North Ferrisburgh, while educating the public and providing them with the knowledge to perform non-chemical knotweed control on these and other riparian properties. Two LCA knotweed removal technicians, supervised by consultant Michael Bald of Got Weeds?, implemented non-chemical control work at the demonstration site over 16 weeks, with the help of 15 volunteers. Almost weekly volunteer knotweed removal and education sessions were offered on site. A management plan for knotweed removal at the demonstration site in North Ferrisburgh, and for two additional sites in Starksboro was developed. LCA also mapped knotweed in a portion of the Lewis Creek watershed using community science tools (iNaturalist). The LCA website now has educational materials about knotweed, the resulting map of knotweed distribution, and directions that detail how to participate in our iNaturalist project. In future years, LCA plans to continue a long-term knotweed



ONE OF LEWIS Creek Association's knotweed technicians maps knotweed in the Lewis Creek watershed.

Photo by Sara Lovitz

removal project in North Ferrisburgh and expand the removal demonstration sites to include sites in Starksboro. LCA will also be continuing our iNaturalist project and we need your help, as we know there are many knotweed patches that haven't yet been mapped. If you see knotweed growing in the

CommuniTEA fundraiser to help beautify Vergennes on March 22

VERGENNES — Gather Vermont will host the CommuniTEA fundraising event in Vergennes on Saturday, March 22, to help beautify the city. The tea will take place at 135 Main St., Vergennes, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. The first of its kind for Vergennes Partnership, the event will raise funds to create and maintain flower baskets on the Otter Creek bridge, downtown lampposts and bump-out gardens lining Main Street. The ultimate goal is to make Vergennes a "must-see" destination known for its stunning flowers and plantings. The CommuniTEA will offer more than \$600 in door prizes. Tickets for \$65 are available online at www.VergennesDowntown.org/donate or in person at Gather Vermont (Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.). Seating is limited so book soon to confirm your place at the table. There will be a gift for all guests, and everyone there will get a sneak peek at the 2025 downtown gardening plan too. Gather your friends or arrive

solo to meet new friends who all have a love of the Little City's downtown. Serving as host, Gather Vermont proprietor Lisa Godfrey has worked with long-time volunteer Kelly Sweeney and the Partnership over the past year to elevate the show-stopping plantings on City Green and other gardens throughout the downtown. The CommuniTEA event provides opportunity to showcase a variety of local shops and more. Prizes include \$100 in Vergennes Green gift certificates, one wellness session each from local practitioners JoAnn Inserra and Michele Brookhaus (each valued over \$150), and a physical therapy session with Addison County Therapies. The menu for the event will include: Tea – A selection of fine black, herbal and citrus teas (herbal crafted by Elevate You Well). Sandwiches – cucumber and radish finger sandwiches. Scones – baked in-shop by lu.lu ice cream.

Chocolates – created in-shop by Daily Chocolate. Cookies & Sweet Breads – An assortment of homemade delights. Cheese & Fruit – A non-traditional tea item simply because we love Vermont cheese. Adding further local flavor to the event, honey made from the beehives at Northlands Job Corp will be served as a condiment along with delicious jams by Job Corp employee Sue McGill under her brand, Grandma's Cupboard. Event sponsors are Daily Chocolate, lu.lu ice cream, Elevate You Well, Strong House Inn, and the Vergennes Partnership. Christine Garrow, the Partnership's new executive director, is excited about the CommuniTEA. "Beyond the all-important fundraising efforts, I'm delighted to work with Gather Vermont for an event that inspires connections and friendships in our community," she said. For more information visit VergennesDowntown.org.

Elderly Services

(Continued from Page 5B)
create a safer environment" presented by Rachel Wiley, MS, Occupational Therapist/The Dementia Collaborative. This session will cover essential fall prevention strategies, ways to reduce the risk of wandering, and key considerations for kitchen safety, medication management, and personal emergency response systems like Lifeline. Whether you're living with dementia or caring for someone who is, this presentation will offer practical tools and strategies to enhance safety and support independence at home. Session 4 on June 5 will be "Tips for managing diabetes in older age" led by Margaret Young, MPH, RDN, LD Diabetes Educator with UVMHN/Porter Medical Center. People with diabetes can effectively manage their disease to prevent further health complications, which can be costly and individuals with

prediabetes can prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. Join us to learn about lifestyle changes proven to help people with type 2 diabetes manage and improve their condition as well as help those with prediabetes to delay or prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes. Finally, session 5 on June 12 will be "Driving and aging — challenges, strategies and things to consider" led by Andrea Spinale from the Vermont Department of Health. Have you thought about what happens if you or a loved one can no longer drive? Join us for an informative session on the challenges older drivers face in Vermont. The program will also cover how to approach the difficult conversation about driving retirement and how to start planning for the future. Sessions are free and open to the public. To RSVP or learn more, call Susan Bruce at Elderly Services — 388-3983 or send an email to rhallman@elderlyservices.org.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
Middlebury Union High School

Kyle Stearns

Kyle Stearns is Middlebury Union High School's Student of the Week. He is the son of Stephanie Stearns of Shoreham and Justin Stearns of Ferrisburgh; his sister Riley is a student at MUMS. Kyle is well known within the MUHS community because of his positive attitude and friendly personality. Kyle served as a captain of the varsity football team in the fall. He says that "helping lead the Tigers to a successful season was a highlight of my senior year!" He says that a key goal he and the other captains shared was to "build by example" by creating a supportive community and friendship amongst the players. Each year, during the winter season, Kyle transitions from football to basketball and plays as power forward for the Tigers. He says he loves both sports and representing the Tigers. Kyle enjoys school and credits Mr. Crodelle for "making me a better math student." He says all of his teachers have been helpful and he appreciates the learning opportunities available to students at MUHS.

He also is glad to have been supported by the likes of Coach Altomose, Coach Nuceder, and Coach Malcolm, each of whom, he says, has contributed to his abilities as an athlete and as a student. Their encouragement has been motivating both on the field and in the classroom. Kyle has a part-time job as a prep cook at a noted Middlebury landmark, Mr. Up's. He credits his uncle and his grandmother for teaching him about cooking. He says steak is a specialty of his. He loves the atmosphere at the restaurant and he takes great satisfaction knowing he is preparing meals for others to enjoy. As Kyle looks ahead to life after MUHS, he plans on studying criminal justice at a small, four-year, liberal arts college in New England where he can continue playing football. He chose this career field as he likes helping others. He envisions that he might one day become a detective. We wish Kyle well in the future.



Kyle Stearns
MUHS

Pi Day celebrated on Friday

SHOREHAM — Celebrate the arrival of spring by coming to Pi Day at the Shoreham Congregational Church on Friday March 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. You can buy a slice of pie for \$4, or add a scoop of ice cream for another \$1. Beverages (coffee, tea, cocoa, or water) are free. There will also be a special raffle — A Pie a Month for 6 Months. The winner will take home the first pie that night, and then will be able to have one pie a month of their choosing for each of the next 5 months, date and variety of pie to be determined by mutual agreement between the winner and the baker. This has a value of \$120. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 3 tickets for \$10. The winner will be drawn that evening, but you do not need to be present to win.

CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS!

BTS
BUSINESS TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

Telecommunications Sales & Service
Data Cabling • Fiber Optic Solutions
Security Surveillance Systems

John and Jim Fitzgerald
www.bts-vt.com • 802-388-8999

Students of the Week from all area high schools are entered into a raffle to win a \$100 gift card to The Vermont Book Shop. The winner will be chosen at the end of the school year. Students of the Week are chosen by school teachers and administration.

Best of luck to all Addison County students!

JACKMAN FUELS, INC.
Serving the Champlain Valley since 1945

Congratulations!!

205 Main Street, Vergennes
877-2661 • jackmanfuels.com

Vermont Book Shop
Every Student of the Week will be entered in a drawing to win a \$100 Gift Card

VBS Creating a Community of Readers Since 1949

Plumbing & Heating
J.W. & D.E. RYAN
Incorporated
Vergennes, Vermont

Keep up the great work,
Kyle

802-877-3118
Vergennes, VT

JOHNSON LAW OFFICES
Congratulations!

Affordable & client-focused legal services

- Business Law • Wills, Trusts and Estates
- Government Contracting • Elder Law
- Property and Tenancy Issues

802-489-5099 or
Brad@LawDCVT.com

28 North Street - Bristol/Village

JACKMAN'S OF BRISTOL INC.
SINCE 1930
ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

Way to go, Kyle

64 Jackman Drive • Bristol
802.453.2381 • JackmansInc.com

Great work, students!

Blue Seal
Farm & Home

57 Alta Wood, Brandon, VT 05733
802-247-9599

Keep your Eye on your future goals!

Open every other Monday 8-4:45 and Tues-Fri 8-4:45

Peak View
EYE CARE

27 Main Street, Vergennes

Keep up the great work,
Kyle!

Rainbow Pediatrics

802-388-1338
99 Court St., Middlebury, VT



Pet of the WEEK

Send us a pic of your pet!

news@addisonindependent.com

Thursday & service Business & DIRECTORY

auto body restoration
auto repair
auto sales & leasing
carpentry/contractors
cleaning services

computers
construction
duct work & duct cleaning
handyman
lawn care

firewood
flooring
landscaping
masonry

AUTO BODY RESTORATION

HILLTOP WELDING AUTOBODY RESTORATION



Metal Fabrications
Agricultural Repair
Commercial Repair

Auto Body Repair
Rust Repair
Collision Repair

Custom Restoration
Welding Supply Sales

We accept all major credit cards | We accept Insurance claims
Follow our projects on Facebook

f 802-453-7345 | 138 Hunt Road, New Haven, VT

AUTO REPAIR

Hometown Service from Your Hometown Dealers!

Factory-Trained Technicians
Servicing all makes
and models



G Stone Motors
36 Boardman St.,
Middlebury
(802) 388-6718
gstonemotors.com



Stone
Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
2149 Rt 7 So., Middlebury
(802) 388-9961
stonecdjr.com

AUTO SALES & LEASING

STONE CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM NEW AND USED CARS AND TRUCKS



Kelsey Treadway
Sales & Leasing Consultant

We will take anything
in trade!

Bus: 802-388-9961
Fax: 802-388-6708
ktreadway@stonecdjr.com
www.stonecdjr.com

2149 ROUTE 7 SOUTH | P.O. Box 748
MIDDLEBURY, VT 05753-0748

CARPENTRY/ CONTRACTORS



Handling all phases of residential and
light commercial carpentry since 1992

Mark Raymond, Middlebury, VT
802-388-0742
raymondrenovationvt.com

FULLY INSURED

CARPENTRY/ CONTRACTORS

Golden Ruler Construction

AFFORDABLE & HONEST

Residential & Agricultural Construction
Old Home Renovations
Custom Homes • Barns
Interior Painting • General Repairs

Call **Jonathan Hescok**
2217 Rt. 74, Cornwall
802-462-3737



VERMONT CUSTOM MOLDINGS

www.vermontcustommoldings.com

Quaker Village CARPENTRY

We have immediate
availability!



Siding, Windows, Garages, Decks & Porches,
New Construction, Renovations and Repairs

Maurice Plouffe • 802-545-2251
1736 Quaker Village Road | Weybridge, VT 05753

CLEANING SERVICES

**Melissa's Quality
Cleaning Services**

Residential & Commercial
GREAT RATES • FULLY INSURED
Reliable & Thorough

802 345-6257

DO YOU CLEAN HOUSES?

**YOUR AD SHOULD
BE HERE!**

COMPUTERS



The **PC Medic** of
Vermont now offers
both on-site and remote
computer services for
your PC.

Call today to see which
type of appointment
you need, and get your
PC running correctly
again!



For an appointment , call The PC Medic of
Vermont at 802-734-6815
www.pcmedicvt.com

CONSTRUCTION

**Vantage
Point
Homes**



Salisbury, VT
989-3974

New Construction
Additions
Renovations
Project Design

Like us on Facebook! f

PREMIUM BUSINESS SHOWCASE AD

Stand out from the competition when you upgrade your
B&S Directory ad with our Premium Business Showcase!

Purchase a quarterly B&S ad package
and get one large, full-color ad for only \$200!

This ad
space could
be yours!

Don't miss this special opportunity to promote your busi-
ness. Contact your ad rep today to secure your premium
B&S package: christy@addisonindependent.com
jennah@addisonindependent.com
katyf@addisonindependent.com
tomvs@addisonindependent.com

Premium Business Showcase ads are 6 inches wide x 6 inches tall.
Regular open rate is \$250+.

DUCT WORK & DUCT CLEANING



Specializing in Duct Cleaning

And Duct Work
for Heating, Ventilation
and Air Conditioning
We use 5,000+ cfm HEPA
Vacuum Cleaning Systems

We can design, fabricate, seal, insulate, clean,
anything to do with your ducted systems.

Buy Local! 802.989.0396

Commercial/Residential • Owner Operated • Fully Insured • Neat & Clean

FIREWOOD

Are you looking for green or
seasoned firewood?

Well we've got it all right here in Addison, VT!

We cut, split, and deliver hardwood
firewood in 12-24 inch lengths.
And we now offer kiln dried firewood!

Contact us today for a quote!



Gevry Firewood LLC
gevyrfirewoodvt@gmail.com
or 802-349-0699

Bissonnette FIREWOOD

Vermont grown & locally harvested



802.777.0031 | nickbfirewood.com

Kiln-dried and delivery available

CHECK US OUT ONLINE AT
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

FLOORING

Wales Floors, Inc.

For a free estimate call 877-8323

Fully insured

Custom & non-toxic finishes

Installation refinishing & restoration of
residential and commercial wood floors

Over two decades experience!



FLOORING

Chris Mulliss FLOOR & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Stripping - Waxing - Buffing
Carpet Cleaning &
Emergency Water Removal

802-759-2706
phone or fax
or

802-349-6050
cell phone



email: cmulliss@gmavt.net
1900 Jersey St., S. Addison, VT 05491

HANDYMAN

Creative Home Repair Services

General Home Repairs

Small jobs welcome!

Decks and Stairways including
Deck Design

Interior Painting including
Sheetrock Repair & Prep

References • Insured



John Forgit

(603) 933-3016 text & voice
Shoreham, VT
johnforgit@gmail.com

LANDSCAPING

Offering year-round property services

Residential and
Commercial

Small Land
Clearing
Firewood
Brush Hogging



SHEPARD
— LANDWORKS LLC —

(802) 989-3617 | Silas Shepard

MASONRY

FINE DRY STONE MASONRY



JAMIE MASEFIELD

CERTIFIED BY THE DRY STONE WALLERS
ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

802-233-4670
jmasefield@gmavt.net

**SPRING WILL
BE HERE SOON!**

**SO GET YOUR SPRING
BUSINESS AD IN TODAY!**



Thursday & service
Business & DIRECTORY

painting
pet sitting
plumbing
property maintenance
renewable energy

roofing
rubbish & recycling
siding
snow removal
surveying

taxes
tree service
veterinarians
window treatments

PAINTING



HESCOCK PAINTING
A friendly, professional,
and affordable family business.
Interior Painting
462-3737 or 989-9107
Kim or Jonathan Hescock
hescock@shoreham.net

PET SITTING




PET CARE SERVICES
DROP-IN VISITS FOR PET CARE
(OR HOUSE CHECKS WHILE YOU ARE AWAY!)
Coverage within 10 miles of Weybridge.
Email Angela: littlepalspetservices@gmail.com

CHECK US OUT
ONLINE AT
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

PLUMBING



J.W. & D.E. RYAN INC.
Plumbing & Heating
Vergennes, Vermont
Timothy C. Ryan, P.E.
Serving the Champlain Valley
Since 1887
877-3118
Main St., Vergennes, VT



J.D. FULLER
PLUMBING & HEATING INC.
MIDDLEBURY
John Fuller, Master Plumber
802-388-2019
Serving Addison County since 1989

RENEWABLE ENERGY



Soak Up The Sun!
Don't spend your hard-earned money
making the hot water or electricity that
you use today—
SOLAR IS MORE AFFORDABLE THAN EVER!
We've been here for you for 43 years —
Let us help you with your solar projects today.



BRISTOL ELECTRONICS
Go Green with us —
Call for a FREE on-site evaluation
802.458.2500
BristolElectronicsVT.com

ROOFING



Michael Doran
as seen at Addison County Field Days!
• Standing seam
• Asphalt shingles
• Slate
Free estimates • Fully Insured
mpdoransr@gmail.com
Phone (802) 537-3555



THINK SPRING!
ADVERTISE YOUR LANDSCAPING BUSINESS WITH US!

SEPTIC & WATER



LINCOLN APPLIED GEOLOGY, INC.
Celebrating 40 Years
Environmental Consultants — Licensed Designers
Steve Revell CPG, LD#178 BJV
Jeremy Revell LD#611 BJV
• Water Supply - Location, Development and Permitting
• On-Site Wastewater Design • Single & Multiple Lot Subdivision
• Property Development & Permitting
• State and Local Permitting
• Underground Storage Tank Removal & Assessment
Toll-Free: 800-477-4384
802-453-4384
Fax 802-459-5399 • Email: jrevell@lagvt.com
163 Revell Drive • Lincoln, VT 05443
www.lagvt.com



Grow Your Business with Us
Reach thousands of local customers every week with a B&S Directory ad.
Low rates, big exposure!
advertising@addisonindependent.com
802-388-4944

SURVEYING



SHORT SURVEYING, INC.
Serving Addison County Since 1991
Timothy L. Short, L.S.
Property Line Surveys • Topographical Surveys
FEMA Elevation Certificates
135 S. Pleasant St., Middlebury, VT
802-388-3511
ShortSurveyingVT@gmail.com



Philo Surveying LLC
Serving all of Vermont!
ALTA Surveys • Full Boundary Surveys and Plat
Commercial and Residential Subdivisions
Light Boundary Work and Boundary Line Staking
Easement Surveys • Elevation Certificates
LOMA Surveys • Topographic Surveys
(802) 782-9273 • Philo Surveying LLC • Charlotte, VT
Philosurveying.com • References available

TREE SERVICE



SARGENT'S TREE SERVICE
349-7459
Over 30 Years Experience
Fully Licensed and Insured
Call for a Free Estimate: 802-349-7459
sargentstreeservice.com

• Tree Removal
• Tree Pruning
• Storm Damage Clean up
• Stump Grinding
Serving all of Addison County

ADVERTISE HERE
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

VETERINARIANS

Bringing Essential Veterinary Care To you and your pets.
Serving the dogs and cats of Addison County
Call for an appointment:
(802) 989-3734
MeganSwaseyDVM@gmail.com
addisoncountyvet.com
**Addison County**
Mobile Veterinary Services
Megan Swasey, DVM
Mobile Veterinarian • Shoreham, VT

WINDOW TREATMENT

Your local source for window treatments from the nation's most popular brands.
Free in-home consultations!



Vermont Window Treatments LLC
M-F: 8am-5pm
Hours by appointment only
Visit our Facebook page or check us out on Instagram!
802-989-1531 | 3333 Case Street, Middlebury
vermontwindowtreatments.com



JACK OF ALL TRADES?
CALL 802-388-4944
OR EMAIL ADVERTISING@
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM
TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS.

Advertise your business on these pages for under \$10 per week.
Call 802-388-4944 or email advertising@addisonindependent.com for details.

CLASSIFIEDS

Cards of Thanks

NEAT REPEATS! When I was in need, Neat Repeats stepped up. Give them your business!

Public Meetings

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

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

OVERTREATERS ANONYMOUS is a 12 step program offering recovery from compulsive eating and food behaviors. For meeting times and general information please visit www.oavermont.org or call (802)863.2655.

Public Meetings

THE TURNING POINT CENTER of Addison County is open for in-person services, Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm, 79 Court St, Middlebury. We are available by phone 24/7 at 802-388-4249.

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

Public Meetings

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

Services

BROWN'S CONSTRUCTION renovations, interior/exterior painting, drywall, plumbing/electrical services. Fully insured w/ 30+ years of experience covering Northern Addison and Southern Chittenden. Call 802-238-4864

CONSTRUCTION: ADDITIONS, RENOVATIONS new construction, drywall, carpentry, painting, flooring, roofing, pressure washing, driveway sealing. All aspects of construction, also property maintenance. Steven Fifield 802-989-0009.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Experienced Project Foreman/Lead Carpenter Wanted!

Are you an experienced Project Foreman/Lead Carpenter in the Addison-Chittenden County (VT) area and looking for a new opportunity to showcase your skills?

Our leading construction company is seeking a talented foreman to join our dynamic team. With a reputation for excellence and a commitment to quality, we offer a rewarding work environment where your expertise will be valued.


We offer competitive pay and a comprehensive benefits package. Please send a resume and brief cover letter outlining your experience to admin@smithmcclain.com.

Come build with us!



Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Water District Superintendent

The Vergennes Panton Water District is accepting applications for the position of **Superintendent of the Water District.**

The Superintendent position is an administrative and technical position for managing the operation and maintenance of the district's water treatment, pumping, transmission, distribution and storage facilities. The position reports directly to the District's Board of Commissioners. This is a full-time salaried position.

Requirements for this position include a Grade 4C Operating Certificate issued by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Water Supply Division, working knowledge of water treatment and distribution system operation and municipal administration. Possession of a valid driver's license.

Salary is commensurate with experience with an excellent benefits package.

To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to:

Bruce MacIntire, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners
PO Box 152
Vergennes, VT 05491

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH SCHOOL

COACHING POSITIONS

Middlebury Union High School is seeking coaches for the following:

- Asst. Varsity Softball Coach
- JV Baseball Coach
- Softball Coach

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

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Town of Shoreham Highway Maintenance Assistant

The Town of Shoreham is accepting applications for a full-time Highway Maintenance Assistant. Applicants should have: a CDL or the ability to obtain one; experience running equipment; mechanical ability. This job offers competitive wages and benefits, including health insurance, retirement plan, and paid time off.

Pick up an application at the Shoreham Town Office, on the town's website (www.shorehamvt.us), or by emailing shorehamtown@shorehamvt.us.

Completed applications can be dropped off at or mailed to:
Town of Shoreham
297 Main Street
Shoreham, VT 05770

Help Wanted



Cashier - Customer Service

Part-time and Full-time Positions available

Immediate Openings available.

Must be able to work until 6pm. Days and Weekends a MUST. Up to 40 hours per week.

Wage commensurate with experience.

Please send Resumes to info@middleburyagway.com or Fill out Application at **Middlebury Agway, 338 Exchange St., Middlebury VT.**

Please no phone calls.

All of our positions offer generous, twice a year bonuses and employee discount on all products.

Middlebury Agway 338 Exchange St. – Middlebury, VT.

NOW HIRING!

T L BODETTE LANDSCAPING & EXCAVATING, INC., a 40 year old established business, **is seeking experienced, motivated, self starters for landscape labor & lawn maintenance positions.**

Duties include spring clean up, mowing, fall clean up, edging, mulching and all aspects of landscaping & excavating. Valid driver's license required. Starting pay depending on experience between \$20.00-\$22.50 per hour. Shirts and sweatshirts provided.

Please call 802-236-7101 to apply.

Equal opportunity employer.

Water Plant Operator

Tri-Town Water District provides and maintains the drinking water system for the towns of Addison, Bridport, and Shoreham. We currently have a full-time Plant Operator position available. Candidates for this position should have basic plumbing and electrical skills. You must also be proficient in high school math and have basic computer skills. This position also performs general maintenance of buildings and property. Employment does require sharing on-call duties and that you have a valid Drivers' License. VT State Water Operator License - Class 4C needs to be obtained within 3 years.

Competitive wages and benefits package including Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement, medical and paid time off; starting pay based on experience up to \$25 per hour.

Send resume to:
Darwin Pratt
Tri-Town Water District No. 1
P.O. Box 85
Bridport, VT 05734
or email: tritownwater@gmavt.net

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities




Volunteer Drivers Needed

RSVP of Addison County is searching for volunteer drivers to help Tri-Valley Transit. Flexible schedule to fit a busy life. There are both local and long-distance trips.

TRI VALLEY TRANSIT

AmeriCorps Seniors

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver give us a call today at 802-468-7056



Addison County Parent/Child Center

Join the Parent/Child Center Team EARLY INTERVENTIONIST

We are seeking an **Early Interventionist** to work with young families as an outreach worker on our highly skilled, creative and energetic team.

You will work in coordination with parents in the home, community, and in our program in Middlebury in order to ensure that children are growing healthy and strong.

Candidates must have a solid understanding of child development, early intervention Part C, family systems, communication skills and flexibility. A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in a related field is required.

Please contact **Donna Bailey** dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org

Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

ADDISON INDEPENDENT
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-4944
addisonindependent.com • email: classifieds@addisonindependent.com

Cash in on our 4-for-3 rates! Pay for 3 issues, get 4th issue free! An ad placed for consecutive issues runs the 4th time for free!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Or, submit your classified ad on our website: addisonindependent.com

DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

- 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad
- \$2 internet listing for up to 4 issues • minimum 2 insertions

RATES

• Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notices | <input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted | <input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers |
| <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

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

Number of words: _____

Cost: _____

of runs: _____

Spotlight Charge: _____


Internet Listing: **\$2.00**

TOTAL: _____

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 Help Wanted Help Wanted



MAPLEFIELDS

Manager in Training Full Time

**Maplefields Addison County
Position Based in Middlebury**

Position Description

The primary role of the Assistant Manager/Manager in Training is to develop and demonstrate the skills necessary to successfully oversee operation of a Maplefields Store in the absence of a manager. This individual is also to assist the Store Manager in the day-to-day activities associated with the store and the development and training of store sales associates, while ensuring that company standards are met at all times. The goal of this position is to be ready to step into a Store Manager role or another leadership role.

**For additional benefits
and further job description apply to:
Maplefields.com/employment**



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.



Oak and Ember Landscapes is hiring key roles!

We are looking for a few candidates to join our team and grow with us! Job openings include **Lawncare Technician, Garden Technician and General Laborer**. We have year-round work available for those interested in working winters and offer paid holidays, sick and vacation days. We also offer a clothing/boot stipend and training reimbursement. We believe in growing the team from within and are looking for long-term team members to train and develop a career in landscaping.

To learn more and apply go to www.oakandemberlandscapes.com/employment

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

addisonindependent.com



ATTENTION FARMERS!!! ANNUAL SPRING DAIRY/FEEDER CONSIGNMENT SALE

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2ND
AT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES BARN
RT. 125, EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT

11AM SHARP

****Something for everybody! Don't miss this opportunity****

ACCEPTING QUALITY CONSIGNMENTS NOW!!!

*** DAIRY TO BE SOLD FIRST -
FEEDERS TO FOLLOW ***

**ALSO CONSIGNING BEEF FEEDERS
ANGUS-HEREFORD & BF CROSSES
ALL BF BREEDS WELCOME!!**

**DON'T MISS THIS ANNUAL SPRING SALE
ALL QUALITY CONSIGNMENTS WELCOME**

****CASH IN ON YOUR OVERSTOCK****

A MUST SALE TO ATTEND!!!

For More Info Call 802-388-2661 (ACCS)
Sale Manager: T.G. Wisnowski & Sons- 802-989-1507
Auctioneer - John Nop www.acccattle.com

REMINDER:
*Annual Machinery Sale Will Be Held Saturday, May 10th
ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS NOW!

Help Wanted

**MIDDLEBURY UNION
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

COACHING POSITIONS

Middlebury Union Middle School
is seeking coaches for the following:

- Baseball
- Boys' Lacrosse
- Girls' Lacrosse
- Softball Coach
- Ultimate Frisbee Coach

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:

Dustin Hunt/Activities Director
Middlebury Union Middle School
48 Deerfield Lane, Middlebury, VT 05753
Applications will be accepted until the position has been filled. E.O.E.

For Sale

2011 38' CAMPER needs little work. \$6500, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

For Rent

ENCORE WOOD STOVE porcelain green with glass door. \$1200 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

FIREWOOD STOVE in excellent shape. \$1800 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918

Animals

If veterinary care is unavailable or unaffordable, ask for Happy Jack® animal health care to treat yeast infections and mane dandruff!!
At Tractor Supply®

For Rent

1000 SQUARE FEET OF RETAIL available with parking on Bakery Lane in downtown Middlebury. 802-349-8544.

5,000 SQUARE FEET available. Exchange Street, Middlebury, VT. 802-349-8544.

Services

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

Free

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

Garage Sales

NEW HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL at 91 Town Hill Rd in New Haven is having a rummage/bake sale on March 15th from 8am to noon.

Opportunities

WOODWORKING/ FURNITURE MAKING CLASSES in Waltham with furniture maker Timothy Clark. For more information- go to <https://www.timothyclark.com/classes/home.html> or Call or Text (802) 989-3204

FULL PASSPORT SERVICE

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

REGULAR HOURS
Monday - 8:30am to 4:00pm
Tuesday - 9:00am to 12:30pm
Wednesday - **Closed**
Thursday - 12:30pm to 4:00pm
Friday - 9:00am to 12:30pm

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED
For appointment, go to www.addisoncountyclerkvt.com or call 802-388-1966.



MARKET REPORT				
ADDISON COUNTY				
COMMISSION SALES				
RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT				
Sales for 3/6/25 & 3/10/25				
COST				
BEEF	LBS.	/LB		\$
Nop Bros	2155	1.70		\$3663.50
J. Macglaflin	1415	1.65		\$2334.75
Goodrich	1733	1.60		\$2776.00
Blue Spruce	1725	1.50		\$2587.50
A. Brisson	1930	1.50		\$2895.00
COST				
CALVES	LBS.	/LB		\$
Vorsteveid	80	12.00		\$960.00
A. Brisson	95	11.00		\$1045.00
J. Fifield	105	10.00		\$1050.00
H. Sunderland	93	10.00		\$930.00
K. Gray	93	8.00 (H)		\$744.00
Total Beef - 151		Total Calves - 164		
We value our faithful customers.				
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.				
call 1-802-388-2661				

For Sale

**ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT**
Serving Addison County, Vt. Since 1946
802-388-4944

For Sale

APPLE

**2 HIGH QUALITY
MONITORS**

FOR SALE

USED

- ✓ Size: Apple 27 inches
- ✓ Resolution: 2560 x 1440 pixels
- ✓ Panel Type: LED-Backlit Monitor
- ✓ Connectivity: Thunderbolt 2 (repaired cable)
- ✓ INCLUDES ADAPTER TO USB-C!

\$400 each
BUY 1 OR BOTH!
EMAIL ELSIE
elsie@addisonindependent.com

For Rent

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

For Rent

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.

Real Estate

VERGENNES, GREAT LOCATION by the Otter Creek Falls and city docks to Lake Champlain. Small, older 4 bedroom house with garage. Rent is \$1,600 per month. Pay your own utilities. Call Robert at 518-546-7424.

Real Estate Wanted

COMMERCIAL BUILDING WANTED Looking to purchase a commercial building, 3,000-4,000 sqft, at least 400 amp electric service and commercial zoning, in Addison County. Please contact: 802-989-5927.

Real Estate

BRANDON, 5 ACRE building lot for mobile home or doublewide. Ready to go with well, water, electric, sewer and cement slab. \$115,000. 802-458-1664.

Att. Farmers

1ST CUT, SMALL square, \$3.25. 2nd cut small square, \$4.25. 802-377-5455.

FOR SALE: SAWDUST bulk dry shavings and green sawdust, pick up or delivered in trailer loads. Call 802-989-0187

HAY FOR SALE Over 1500 square bales of 1st cut hay for sale. \$4 per bale. Also 300+/- bales of 2nd cut hay on tarped wagons - \$4 per bale. Located at 864 Smead Rd, Salisbury, VT. First come, first serve. Call 802-352-4686.

Wood Heat


DRY OR GREEN firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-349-4212.

Att. Farmers

1ST CUT, DRY ROUND bales, 4x5, \$45.00 each. 2nd + 3rd cut balage, 4x4 round bales. \$60.00 Round bales for bedding \$35.00 Quantity discounts available. 802-989-0187.

Whitney's Custom Farm Work

Pond agitating, liquid manure hauling, drag line aerating. Call for price. 462-2755, John Whitney.



Child Find Notice

Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Leicester, Mendon, Pittsford, Sudbury, and Whiting

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union is required by law to locate, identify, and evaluate every student birth through age 21 that may be in need of special education. If you have a child or know of a child that you think has a developmental delay or may require special education who resides in one of the towns listed above, please call (802) 247-5757 x2724.

In addition, RNESU is collecting information for preschool screenings. If you have a child who will be three or four by September 1, 2025, please fill out and return this form to the address below as soon as possible. You can also call (802) 247-5757 x2733. Thank you.

CHILD'S NAME _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PHONE _____

TOWN OF RESIDENCE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S) _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

911 ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Mail to: Rutland Northeast Early Childhood Program
RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION
49 Court Drive
Brandon, VT 05733

TOWN OF MONKTON
SELECTBOARD APPOINTMENTS

Shortly after Town Meeting the Monkton Selectboard begins the process of making appointments to various committees that perform the bulk of the Town's business. Many of these committees are actively recruiting new members and the work they do is vital to the Town of Monkton. This year the following positions will be appointed. Some committees have one or more open positions.

- Town Constable (Monkton Resident)
- Development Review Board
- Recreation Committee
- Emergency Management Director
- Conservation Commission (Monkton Resident)
- Delegates to Addison County Regional Planning Commission
- Delegates to Addison County Transportation Advisory Committee
- Delegates to Addison County Solid Waste Management District
- Energy Committee
- Agricultural and Natural Areas Committee
- Recycling Coordinator
- Tree Warden
- Animal Control Officer
- Green Up Coordinator
- Web Master
- Town Forest Committee
- Maple Broadband Representative
- Town Service Officer
- Fire Warden
- Health Officer

If you are interested in serving in any of these positions, please send an email to Selectboard@monktonvt.com, attend a Selectboard meeting, or reach out to any member of the Selectboard. Except where indicated, you do not have to be a resident of Monkton to apply.

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH
NOTICE OF HEARING

The Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold the following public hearings on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall at 3279 US Route 7, beginning at 7PM. The hearings will also be available to participants remotely via Zoom; the link will be provided on the meeting agenda posted on the Town's website (ferrisburghvt.org).

Application Number 25-013: Alterations to existing single-family residence; Applicants: Rick & Diane Dolliver; 244 North Road; Parcel ID 99/99/99.111; Shoreland District (SD-2); Conditional Use Review.

Application Number 25-018: Convert existing deck into screened porch; Applicants: Peg Kamens and Jim Mendell; 388 Bay Road; Parcel ID 99/99/99.058; Shoreland District (SD-2); Conditional Use Review.

Application Number 25-019: Bathroom addition at second floor of existing camp; Applicants: Kristin & Eric Sleeper; 395 North Street; Parcel ID 99/99/99.119; Shoreland District (SD-2); Conditional Use Review.

Application Number 25-023: Addition to existing storage building; after-the-fact approval for previous additions to storage buildings not built to dimensions of approved permit; Applicant: Mark Franceschetti; 6866 US Route 7 (Peaceful Road Self-Storage); Parcel ID 18/20/71 & 18/20/71B0; Highway Mixed-Use District (HMU-2); Conditional Use Review.

The files for the above applications 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 at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall or by email to zoning@ferrisburghvt.org.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED CODE OF ETHICS -
INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT ORDINANCE

The Middlebury Selectboard will hold a Public Hearing at 7:00PM on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 in the Large Conference Room of the Middlebury Town Offices, 77 Main Street, Middlebury, Vermont 05753, and via Zoom video-conferencing (instructions below) to take public testimony on a proposed Code of Ethics - Investigation and Enforcement Ordinance, as follows:

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT
CODE OF ETHICS - INVESTIGATION
AND ENFORCEMENT ORDINANCE

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY

This ordinance is adopted by the Selectboard of the Town of Middlebury under authority of 24 V.S.A. §1997.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to enact procedures for the investigation of complaints that allege a municipal officer has violated Vermont's Municipal Code of Ethics and the enforcement in instances of substantiated complaints, including methods of enforcement and available remedies.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS

- A. 'Designated Complaint Recipient' means the municipal officer or body designated to receive complaints alleging violations of the Municipal Code of Ethics.
- B. 'Municipal Code of Ethics' means the municipal ethics framework in Vermont established by Act 171 (H.875) of 2024.
- C. 'Municipal Ethics Complaint' means a complaint against a 'Municipal Officer' or 'Officer' alleging a violation of the Municipal Code of Ethics.
- D. 'Municipal Officer' or 'Officer' means:
1. any member of a legislative body of a municipality
 2. any member of a quasi-judicial body of a municipality; or
 3. any individual who holds the position of, or exercises the function of, any of the following positions in or on behalf of any municipality:
 - i. advisory budget committee member,
 - ii. auditor
 - iii. clerk,
 - iv. collector of delinquent taxes,
 - v. department heads,
 - vi. constable,
 - vii. lister or assessor,
 - viii. moderator,
 - ix. planning commission member,
 - x. town manager,
 - xi. treasurer, or
 - xii. trustee of public funds
- E. 'Public body' means any board, council, or commission of the Municipality, any board, council, or commission of any agency, authority, or instrumentality of the Municipality, or any committee or subcommittee of any of the foregoing boards, councils, or commissions.

SECTION 4. COMPLAINTS

- A. Any member of the general public may make a Municipal Ethics Complaint including any person elected, appointed, or employed by the Municipality.
- B. All Municipal Ethics Complaints must be directed to the Designated Complaint Recipient.
- C. The Designated Complaint Recipient will conduct a prompt, thorough, and impartial investigation of all Municipal Ethics Complaint, and confidentiality will be protected to the extent possible.
- D. Municipal Ethics Complaints against the Designated Complaint Recipient must be directed to the Town Manager of the Town of Middlebury.
- E. No person will be adversely affected in either their volunteer or employment status with the Municipality as a result of bringing a Municipal Ethics Complaint.

SECTION 5. ENFORCEMENT

If the Designated Complaint Recipient, or the Town Manager, in the case of a Municipal Complaint brought against the Designated Complaint Recipient,

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



addisonindependent.com/help-wanted

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPRING DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING
FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

The ACSD Early Education team will be offering spring screenings to preschool children from Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge!

The ACSD Early Education Program provides services to children identified as having disabilities or delays in meeting developmental milestones. We also collaborate with area preschool and childcare programs to address the needs of our local preschool children. Screenings help to identify children who would benefit from additional support before entering kindergarten.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's developmental progress, your district early education program is offering screening for children ages 3-5 who are not enrolled in kindergarten. Screening is conducted in a playful environment, and provides information on your child's speech and language development, motor, social and early academic skills.

Two Options to Participate:

Join us at Bridport Central School, 3442 VT 22A, Bridport on Friday, April 4, 2025. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call Linda Barrett 802-758-2331.

OR

Join us at Mary Hogan Elementary School, 201 Mary Hogan Drive, in Middlebury on April 4, 11, and 18, 2025. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call Deb Martin at 802-382-1761.

determines that a violation of the Municipal Code of Ethics has occurred, the Town Manager will take immediate and appropriate corrective action. Municipal Officers who are found to have violated the Municipal Code of Ethics may face the following disciplinary action:

A. ENFORCEMENT AGAINST ELECTED OFFICERS.

In cases in which the Municipal Officer holds elected office, the Selectboard may, in its discretion, take any of the following disciplinary actions against such an elected officer as it deems appropriate:

1. The Chair of the Selectboard may meet informally with the Municipal Officer to discuss the Municipal Code of Ethics violation. This will not take place in situations where the Chair of the Selectboard and the Municipal Officer together constitute a quorum of a public body.
2. The Selectboard may meet to discuss the conduct of the Municipal Officer. Executive session may be used for such discussion in accordance with 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(4). The Municipal Officer may request that this meeting occur in public. If appropriate, the Selectboard may admonish the offending Municipal Officer in private.
3. The Selectboard may admonish the offending Municipal Officer at an open meeting and reflect this action in the minutes of the meeting. The Municipal Officer will be given the opportunity to respond to the admonishment.
4. Upon majority vote in an open meeting, the Selectboard may request (but not order) that the offending Municipal Officer resign from their office.

B. ENFORCEMENT AGAINST APPOINTED OFFICERS. In cases in which the Municipal Officer holds appointed office, the Selectboard may choose to follow any of the steps articulated in Section 5A. In addition to, or in lieu of any of those steps, the Selectboard may choose to remove an appointed Municipal Officer from office, subject to state law.

C. ENFORCEMENT AGAINST EMPLOYEES. In cases in which the Municipal Officer is also an employee of the Municipality, the Town Manager may take any disciplinary action, up to and including termination, in accordance with the Municipality's personnel policy.

SECTION 6. APPEALS

A decision of the Selectboard may be reviewable by the Vermont Superior Court pursuant to Rule 75 of the VT Rules of Civil Procedure. An enforcement action taken against an employee may be appealed in accordance with the Municipality's personnel policy.

SECTION 7. OTHER LAWS

This ordinance is in addition to all other ordinances and policies of the Municipality and all applicable laws of the State of Vermont. All ordinances, policies, or parts of ordinances, resolutions, regulations, policies, or other documents inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY

If any section of this ordinance is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such finding will not invalidate any other part of this ordinance. If any statute referred to in this policy is amended, this policy will be deemed to refer to such amended statute.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance will become effective sixty (60) days after its adoption by the Selectboard. If a petition is filed under 24 V.S.A. §1973, that statute will govern the taking effect of this ordinance

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2025
Selectboard for the Town of Middlebury, Vermont

To view and participate in the Public Hearing:

- When: March 25, 2025, 7PM
- Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84667247171>
- Phone: +1 305 224 1968 US
- Webinar ID: 846 6724 7171

For those wishing to watch but not participate:

Selectboard Meetings are livestreamed to MCTV's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTVVermont> and also broadcast live on Comcast Channel 1071.

Vermont State Police respond to
domestic violence, impaired driving

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police, between March 2 and 10, quieted a few domestic violence situations and cited a couple drivers for operating their vehicles while impaired.

On March 7 around 10:30 p.m. troopers responded to a family fight at a Hillside Drive home in Starksboro. Police said they determined that Colby M. Bevins, 28, of Huntington had caused bodily injury to a family member, though he wasn't on the scene when police arrived. Troopers found Bevins on March 8, took him into custody, and cited him for domestic assault.

The next day, Sunday, March 9, at a little after 2 p.m., troopers were notified of a family disturbance at a home on Route 7 in Leicester. After investigating, police took 79-year-old Wayne Hutchins of Leicester into custody without incident and

transported to the New Haven state police barracks, cited him for domestic assault, and lodged him at the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility with bail set at \$200.

State police were called to Leicester a second time on March 9. At around 20 minutes after 11 p.m. troopers responded to a family fight at a home on Leicester Whiting Road and determined that Gary R. Atwood, 23, of Leicester had caused bodily injury to a household member. They cited Atwood for domestic assault and lodged him at the jail in Rutland for lack of \$200 bail.

While on scene, troopers also spoke with a witness, Daniel C. Wiles, 23, of Brandon, and police observed indicators of impairment. They cited Wiles for refusing to take

(See VSP Log, Page 12B)

TOWN OF ORWELL
REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF
INTEREST AND QUALIFICATIONS
MERP RETROFIT OF TOWN BUILDINGS

The Town of Orwell, Vermont is requesting Statements of Interest and Qualifications (SIQs) for planning, design, and construction services for Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) funded retrofits of four Town-owned buildings. Deadline for submission of questions is March 21, 2025.

Contact information: Andrea Treadway (802) 948-2032.

For complete bid information email: selectboard@townoforwellvt.org.

STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT
DOCKET NO.: 25-PR-01000
IN RE ESTATE OF: PHYLLIS ARMSTRONG
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Phyllis Armstrong, late of Middlebury, Vermont.

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: 03/06/25

Steven Armstrong
20 Canterbury Road, Windham, NH 03087
603-327-7518
sja0112@me.com

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 03/13/25
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

TOWN OF STARKSBORO
REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Town of Starksboro is accepting bids from qualified contractors to manage and build a shaft for a 2-stop vertical lift at the Starksboro old Town Hall located at 2827 Rte 116, Starksboro, VT

Bid specs and submission details available at www.starksborovt.org/bids or email Townadmin@starksborovt.org. Proposals must be submitted to the Town by Monday, April 7th.

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Stewart Construction located in Essex Junction, Vermont is seeking bids from qualified subcontractors for a fast-paced, multi-family construction project off Seminary Street Extension in the town of Middlebury, Vermont. The scopes of work available for bids include but are not limited to: Sitework, Concrete, Structural Steel, Wood Framing, Mechanical/Plumbing, Electrical, Fire Suppression, and Finishes – both interior and exterior. Minority, Women, Small Owned, & Section 3 Businesses are encouraged to respond. Interested subcontractors must not be debarred from receiving State or Federal funding and must be capable of processing certified payroll with Davis Bacon wages.

Please reach out to info@stewart-construction.com for access to the Stonecrop Apartments bid documents; bids will be accepted until March 14th, 2025.

STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT
DOCKET NO.: 24-PR-04531
IN RE ESTATE OF: JANE GARRETT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Jane Garrett, late of Middlebury, Vermont.

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: 03/05/25

Executor/Administrator: Judson E. Hescocck, Esq.
1 Cross Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
(802) 388-7966
judson@pmlawvt.com

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 03/13/25
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT
DOCKET NO.: 25-PR-01037
IN RE ESTATE OF: BERNARD QUESNEL
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Bernard Quesnel, late of Middlebury.

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: 03/11/25

Sandra H. Quesnel
1015 Route 7 N, Middlebury, VT 05753
(802) 388-7525
bquesnel802@gmail.com

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 03/13/25
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent
March 13, 2025



LEARN SOMETHING NEW

TOWN HALL THEATER EXPANDS CREATIVE OFFERINGS FOR ALL AGES

Saskia Jones (left), Lily Wells (center) and Mikhan Ouimette (right) are new students in Eloise McFarlane's "Contemporary Dance Styles" class, which meets Monday evenings from March 3 - May 5. McFarlane is a recent Middlebury College graduate (Feb. 2025). This class is one of the many new offerings at the Seligmann Center for Learning & Engagement at Town Hall Theater.

PHOTO / DAVID DEVINE

W

BY **ELSIE**

LYNN PARINI

Walking up the hill on Merchants Row in Middlebury, heavy machinery and construction sounds remind us that the Town Hall Theater's expansion project is still underway. On Monday, a small crew, smiling in the spring sun, were carefully cutting and hanging slate on the exterior walls — a task that strangely felt something like icing a cake.

A big cake.

While they were hard at work outside, Town Hall Theater staff were hard at work inside

— settling into the magnificent new spaces including the Seligmann Center for Learning & Engagement (CLE) located on the ground level of the new wing.

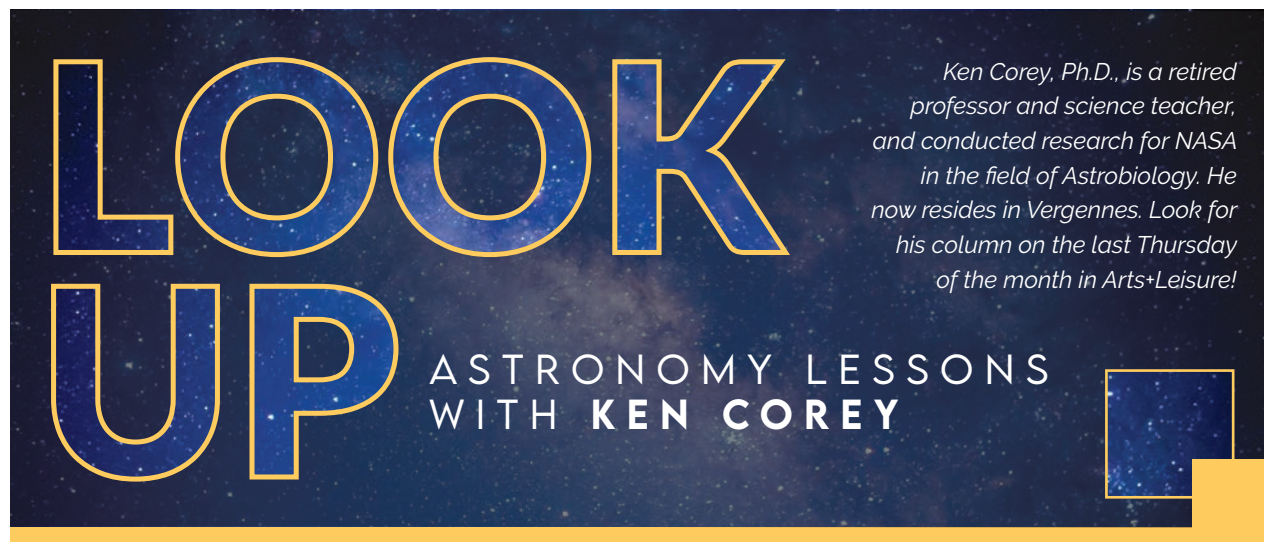
For more than a decade, Town Hall Theater has run an average of 10-12 creative classes and camps in its historic hall, under the leadership of Lindsay Pontius. The 1884 building's limited space and crowded calendar prompted the nonprofit to add the 9,600-square-foot new wing — more than doubling its size and mission-driven impact. At the core of this expansion is the new Seligmann Center, which is just beginning to offer a dynamic range of creative classes for all ages.

"We just launched our classes last week,"

Pontius said during a walk-through interview on Monday afternoon. "Enrollment is still very much open. We're here and we want people to come in and use it!"

As CLE director, Pontius, and her associate, Keziah Wilde, have curated a collection of classes that invite people to pursue and renew passions, and spark new interests, with extraordinary instructors. Classes currently available range from acting with "House of Cards" star Jeremy Holm to songwriting with rocker Clint Bierman of The Grift to fight choreography with the Metropolitan Opera's Joe Isenberg. Comedy, culinary arts, painting, poetry, Moth-style storytelling, natural sciences, and more are on offer as limited or

SEE LEARN ON PAGE 3



Asteroid threats: a closer look at the actual impact

The extra column this month was spurred by the global news of the probability of an impact by asteroid 2024 YR4 in 2032 rising to 3.1%. As of Feb. 26, the probability was downgraded by NASA to near zero, though an impact with the moon has a 1.7% probability in late December of 2032. Rather than sound alarms, let's take a look at some of the history of asteroids, significant impact events, and what is being done to monitor and plan for averting a major impact.

Just a little over a decade ago, a large chunk of space debris entered our atmosphere. The Russian city of Chelyabinsk experienced a shocking event in mid-February 2013, when a fireball streaked across the sky and exploded in a brilliant flash of light. The explosion overhead produced shockwaves that destroyed buildings and injured 1,500 people from flying glass. It was not a nuclear missile as some observers initially thought, but a 60-foot-wide asteroid that exploded 19 miles above the surface. Meteorites of various sizes have since been recovered from Lake Chebarkul. The Chelyabinsk event is considered to be a once in a century event. Check out these websites for more information:

[space.com/19802-russian-meteor-blast-](https://space.com/19802-russian-meteor-blast-photos.html)

[photos.html](https://space.com/19802-russian-meteor-blast-photos.html)

skyatnightmagazine.com/space-science/chelyabinsk-meteorite

While such an event may seem rare on a human time scale, the number of asteroid and comet impacts throughout the Earth's history is countless, particularly during the first couple billion years. During the summer of 1908, an asteroid exploded over a sparsely populated region of Siberia near the Tunguska Nature Reserve. Some local Evenki people who lived more than 20 miles away, witnessed the event and described the flash of light as being brighter than the sun. The asteroid or comet, called a bolide once it enters the atmosphere, was estimated to be 120 feet in diameter and weighed about 220 million pounds. The explosion scorched forests and produced shock waves that killed many herds of reindeer and toppled an estimated 80 million trees. The area of destruction covered 830 square miles; an area larger than the city of Los Angeles (502 square miles). The explosion was estimated to pack an energy 250 times that of the Hiroshima bomb. The Tunguska event is considered a once in three centuries event and is the largest known in recorded history.

Although Earth's atmosphere helps to reduce the number of significant impact events, there is evidence of numerous catastrophic impacts far greater than the Tunguska event, some causing the extinction of large percentages of the Earth's species. Chixculub Crater, a partly submerged 90-mile wide crater in Mexico's Yucatan peninsula was identified as the most likely site of an impact by a 6-mile-wide asteroid. That impact event occurred about 66 million years ago at the end of the Cretaceous Period, a time when the dinosaurs reigned supreme. The cataclysm flung so much debris (including dinosaurs) into the atmosphere that sunlight was blocked, disrupting entire food chains from photosynthetic organisms to life at the top of the food pyramid. More than 75% of Earth's species are suspected to have gone extinct. The geological detective

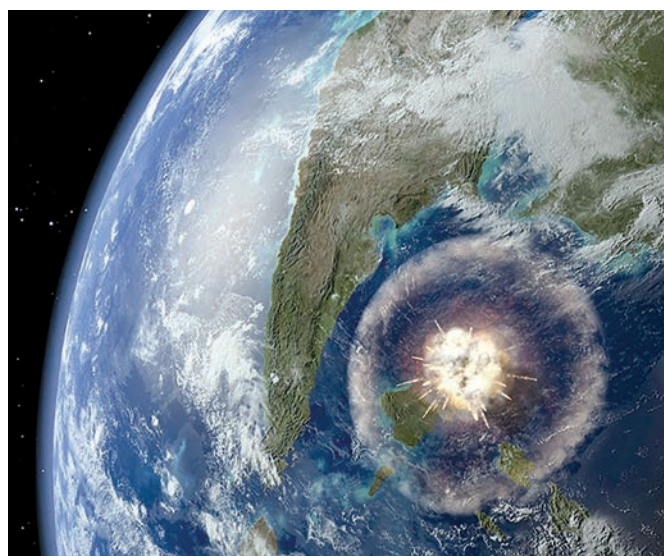
story led by the father and son team of Walter and Luis Alvarez began with a discovery of a clay layer in Gubbio, Italy, that contained an unusually high concentration of the rare earth element iridium at the Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary, a time when the impact event likely occurred. While iridium is rare on Earth, it is common in certain asteroids, suggesting that the crater was caused by a calamitous visit from an asteroid. For the fascinating details of this story, go to en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicxulub_crater#Astronomical_origin_and_type_of_impactor.

About 50,000 years ago, a 165-foot-wide asteroid impact produced a mile wide crater near Winslow, Ariz., a mighty fine site to see. The crater, called Meteor Crater, was studied by Eugene Shoemaker who became a key player in the development of impact awareness. In July 1994, he co-discovered a comet with David Levey that was torn apart into 21 pieces as it was captured by the strong gravitational field of the planet Jupiter. One of the scar sites on the planet was larger than the diameter of the Earth! Comets will be a separate focus in a future column.

Where do these asteroid* visitors originate? The history of their discovery dates to a planet that was hypothesized by Kepler and others to be in the region between Mars and Jupiter, where we now find the main belt of asteroids. Others hypothesized a planet to be in that gap as predicted by a numerical sequence (Titius-Bode Law). William Herschel's discovery of Uranus in 1781, found that the planet was close to what was predicted by that law, lending credence to the idea that 'something' was in the gap between Mars and Jupiter. On the first day of 1801, the first asteroid, named Ceres, was discovered by Italian astronomer Giuseppe Piazzi. Its orbital path was in the predicted zone between Mars and Jupiter. Ceres is now considered to be a dwarf planet, the only such body in the asteroid belt.

The main belt of asteroids contains literally millions of them. About 200 are greater than 100 km (~60 miles) and 700,000 to 1.7 million are greater than 1 km (0.6 miles). Hundreds are large enough to cause mass extinction events and hundreds of thousands could destroy cities. Asteroids are categorized by composition; some are rich in heavy metals, some are rocky, siliceous bodies, and others carbonaceous. The orbital paths of the asteroids vary widely; from those that stay in the orbit between Mars and Jupiter to those that have orbits that bring them between Earth and Mars, and even some that cross the orbital path of Earth. The 'Near-Earth Object' (NEO) program is a NASA initiative that works on discovering and monitoring asteroids and comets that pose a threat to Earth. Orbital paths of potentially hazardous objects based on size and trajectories are also monitored. NASA's

SEE LOOK UP ON PAGE 12



Artist conception of Chicxulub crater shortly after an impact that resulted in a mass extinction which included the dinosaurs.

IMAGE / JOE TUCCIARONE/SCIENCE SOURCE

LEARN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

longer-term series. Rolling enrollment and drop-ins are welcome too.

"We have a chance we've

never had before with this new expanded space," added Pontius. "We want to curate the events, foster a sense of belonging... We have an opportunity... and we're not going to miss it."

With 36 classes and immersive experiences planned from March through the summer, THT is already tripling its learning and engagement opportunities.

"I'm excited for this idea that our programs can be something that youth can look forward to," said Wilde, who interned for a year with THT before graduating from Middlebury College and accepting the role of CLE associate director in December. "We want youth to feel like this is their homebase; a space that is full-time here for them with classes that are foundational for their experience in middle or high school."

Wilde will be joining Pontius for a trip to Scotland to attend the Edinburgh International Children's Theater Festival in late May.

"We are going to learn," said Pontius, who smiled and then said, "and maybe, hopefully, bring an International Children's Theater Festival here someday."

The dreams and aspirations for CLE continue to expand when you descend to the lowest level, where you'll find the Silver Maple Scene shop. This is a space where students can also engage with technical education. For example, learn how to build a Bluetooth speaker or take part in set design and construction.

STEAM is an acronym Pontius and Wilde are focusing on in their development of programming. What is STEAM? Well think STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)

"WE WANT YOUTH TO FEEL LIKE THIS IS THEIR HOMEBASE; A SPACE THAT IS FULL-TIME HERE FOR THEM WITH CLASSES THAT ARE FOUNDATIONAL FOR THEIR EXPERIENCE IN MIDDLE OR HIGH SCHOOL."

— Keziah Wilde,
CLE Associate Director



The Contemporary Dance Styles class stretches into the new space at the Seligmann Center for Learning & Engagement at Town Hall Theater on Monday evening.

PHOTOS / DAVID DEVINE

and then add "A" for "Arts," of course, and you get STEAM. What this looks like in practice, are classes that teach sound design, set building, technical direction, and generally foster pathways to careers in the performing arts.

Pontius calls this "collaborative theater arts."

Need some examples? Hollywood big screen actor Hadley Robinson got her start at THT. Robinson has appeared in films like Greta Gerwig's "Little Women" and George Clooney's "The Boys in the Boat." Former THT student Lana Meyer is now the Director of Education for the Alvin Ailey Dance Company, and Gianna Kiehl has played roles in "The Diplomat" and "Hanna."

THT is building on this strong foundation with even more professional training opportunities for youth and adults.

"At THT, we are thoughtfully diversifying and expanding our offerings for all ages. Notably, a major area of growth is in adult education," added Lisa Mitchell, THT's executive and artistic director. "We envision summertime swing

classes on the new Maloney Plaza, as well as other classroom experiences that culminate on the outdoor Tilly Stage. The positive ripple effect of this new programming, and the impact of these teachers, is awe-inspiring."

Pontius encourages adults to "get out of the house" and "commit to something new."

Find a full list of classes, opportunities and more at townhalltheater.org/learn. Classes have rolling admission — you can still sign up to join the classes that just started last week.

Pontius has a far-reaching goal to be able to have a "pay what you can" model in the future, but for now there are scholarships (both full and partial) for anyone in need. Email lindsay@townhalltheater.org to ask for assistance.

"I'm working to figure out ways to find funding so that everyone can come," she said.

Wouldn't that be amazing?! Once Pontius cracks that nut, well, we'll all have our cake, and can eat it too!

UPCOMING MUSIC

Swing into spring with the Bixby Library's Freda Fishman Stroh Free Concert Series

Returning for its second year, the Bixby Library in Vergennes will kick off the Freda Fishman Stroh Free Concert Series on Saturday, March 22, from 12:30-2 p.m., with lively French-inspired jazz and swing tunes from Tournesol.

Tournesol's six-piece ensemble — featuring violin, accordion, and vocals — will transport you to the 1940s and '50s with timeless classic by Django Reinhardt, Edith Piaf, and

soothing Bossa Nova rhythms.

Following the French-inspired tunes of Tournesol, the series turns toward Vermont's musical roots, as Atlantic Crossing showcases the rich legacy of traditional New England music.

Last year, an unexpected illness required Atlantic Crossing to adapt quickly for the Bixby's Spring Concert Series. With less than two hours to pull together a new ensemble, the group — joined by pianist Aaron Marcus — delivered an unforgettable improvised performance that earned rave community reviews.

Now, Atlantic Crossing returns to the Bixby on Saturday, April 19, from 12:30-2 p.m., ready to debut their full, dynamic sound. From foot-stomping reels to soulful ballads, Atlantic Crossing brings Vermont's rich musical traditions to life.

Celebrate the joy of live music at the Freda Fishman Stroh Free Concert Series, made possible by a generous grant from the Vermont Community Foundation's Freda Fishman Stroh Memorial Fund. Visit bixbylibrary.org for more information.



Tournesol will perform a free concert at the Bixby Library in downtown Vergennes on March 22. Following this performance, Atlantic Crossing will perform at the library on April 19. Both concerts will take place from 12:30-2 p.m., and are free and open to all.

COURTESY PHOTO

MORE TUNES

Bristol musician brings his accordion and banjo to the Starksboro library

Rick Ceballos plays the five-string banjo and button accordion, and is the next performer in the 5-Town Friends of the Arts



Winter Into Spring Musical Library Tour. Ceballos will perform on Thursday, March 20, at the Starksboro Library. All performances will start at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free; donations are optional.

Rick Ceballos will perform on the five-string banjo and button accordion on Thursday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m., in the Starksboro Library.

COURTESY PHOTO

Through the years, Ceballos has gone down many musical paths. The Bristol resident's music resonates with the vitality and excitement he learned in Maine dance halls in the 1970s. He gathers songs and tunes from France, Ireland, England, Galicia and the United States. Ceballos' original compositions draw and elaborate on the colorful traditions he studies. The stories that surround traditional music and instruments fascinate Ceballos, and he shares these tales with his audience.

MORE AT THE BIXBY

Listen to great stories of global birding adventures at the Bixby

The Bixby Library in Vergennes will host OCAS luminary Mike Winslow's talk on Birding Scotland's Great Glen Way, on Thursday, March 20, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Come hear him recount his birding adventures in Scotland, including the challenges of identifying elusive reed warblers.




JESSICA'S
AT
SWIFT HOUSE INN

Drop by and let Ella the Sommelier take you on a tasting journey every Wednesday throughout the winter.

5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Deep discounts on selections from the cellar.

25 STEWART LANE,
MIDDLEBURY, VT 05753
SWIFTHOUSEINN.COM



ART ON EXHIBIT

EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"New Work for a New Year" featuring new work from Victoria Blewer and Holly Friesen. The winter is a uniquely beautiful time of year in Vermont but it is also a season with long nights, limited sunshine, cold temperatures and a limited landscape palette. Both artists featured at the gallery by the falls provide a panacea to the monochrome through work that is done in vibrant hues that give a contemporary twist to two traditional subject matters. Victoria Blewer — hand colored and mixed media photography. Holly Friesen — wilderness landscapes in acrylic. On view through March 15.

EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-989-7419 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"Shimmer", is Julia Purinton's solo exhibition of new paintings in oil. She presents this body of work at a time that she feels we need to remember the healing abilities of the natural world. An opening reception will be held Friday, March 7, 5-6:30 p.m. On view Feb. 28-April 5.

JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant St, Middlebury

For more info visit townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery or call 802-382-9222.

"Landscape Complexions: Paintings by H. Keith Wagner." Wagner combines free artistic exploration with his more deliberate designer's eye to create balanced compositions that are simultaneously simple and complex. On view through March 15.

JOHNSON EXHIBITION GALLERY

78 Chateau Road, Middlebury

For hours and info visit middlebury.edu/events

"Beyond Walls" featuring works made by artist, image maker, and photographer Hannah Smith Allen, reimagining the U.S./Mexico border. This collection was created during Donald Trump's first presidency, including still photographs, unique screen prints, and Borderlands, an accordion book/sculptural object originally published by the VSW Press in 2021. Also included in this exhibition is "Target Practice," a series of military targets fabricated out of acrylic mirror. The work holds a mirror up to current politics and invites viewers to imagine new possibilities in interpreting, interrupting, and engaging with the American landscape and its political systems. Free and open to all during gallery hours: Sun. 1-7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Saturdays.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 8

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, forcing an agenda right now might backfire. It is best to be patient and let things unfold organically. A few new people may come to your aid this week and support you.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. You might need to reconsider what you have been fighting for, Taurus. A current battle could be particularly hard to win, so you will have to rethink your strategy.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Someone in a position of power might try to convince you that their way is the best approach this week, Gemini. You are determined to stick with what you think is right, but keep an open mind as well.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Cancer, avoid impulsive decisions right now, particularly those that are financial gambles. Poor or selfish actions can deliver consequences that are hard to reverse.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, what you desire could be in direct conflict with what a loved one in your home wants. Instead of trying to force your ideas on them, figure out a way to compromise.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, the universe is calling the shots right now and time is moving at whatever speed is right. It might seem like very slow progress, so you'll need to remain patient.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, this week you might be tempted to put wants before needs. Self-control is needed or you could start spending more than is financially wise right now.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, frustrating exchanges between you and loved ones might leave you retreating to quieter spaces. Any communication is better than no communication, so keep that in mind.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Sagittarius, you can resist a certain situation, but you might need to remain flexible as you do so. Don't fight battles unnecessarily right now. Look for the silver lining if need be.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Capricorn, shortcuts can compromise your personal growth. The pathway to greater success is to work hard and put in the hours necessary to reap the most lasting rewards.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Aquarius, you have more power than ever before, but remember it comes with extra responsibility. Always use your authority wisely and

think through decisions thoroughly.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Pisces, if you hope to make progress, you may have to change tactics. What you have been doing simply isn't working. Start looking at other strategies.

Adagio Chocolates



Check out
our Women-Made
Chocolates as we
celebrate Women's
History Month!

52 Main Street Middlebury, VT 802-382-4000
www.adagiochocolates.com

Middlebury
FLORAL & GIFTS

Lucky You!
Fresh
Flowers for
St. Paddy's
Day!

Flowers, Gifts,
Cards, and More

We Deliver!

M-F 9-5:30, Sat. 10-2 • Rt. 7 South, Middlebury
802-388-2800 • www.middleburyfloralandgifts.com

Notions, threads & more.

Your **LOCAL Store!**
Service & repair.
FABRIC

QUILTERS' CORNER
MIDDLEBURY SEW-N-VAC
260 Court Street, Middlebury, Vt. 05753
802-388-3559 www.middleburysewnvac.com
OPEN: M-F 10-5 and Saturday 9:30-4

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 14 — Simone Biles, gymnast (28)
MARCH 15 — Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Supreme Court Justice (d)

MARCH 16 — Jorge Ramos, news anchor (67)
MARCH 17 — Nat King Cole, musician (d)
MARCH 18 — Queen Latifah, musician/actor (55)
MARCH 19 — Glenn Close, actor (77)
MARCH 20 — Fred Rogers, Television host (d)

CALENDAR

MARCH 13-23
2025



THURSDAY, MARCH 13

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN SHELBURNE. Thursday, March 13, Shelburne Farms. Hike around beautiful Shelburne Farms and see farm animals, great views, and perhaps some beachcombing opportunities. Plan on being out for about 4 hours and 6 miles with minimal elevation gain. Group limit of 8. Contact Helena Nicolay at sqrlma@gmail.com or 802-236-3541 for details & to sign up. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

"THIN MAN" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, March 13, 1 p.m., Middlebury Marquis Theater, 65 Main St. Join fellow community film lovers to watch this month's Middlebury Classic Film Club movie, followed by short discussion of the film. As always, the popcorn is on us.

"ADVENTURES ON A 38-FOOT SAILBOAT" PRESENTATION IN MONKTON. Thursday, March 13, 6:30 p.m., Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge. Longtime Monkton residents Roger Wallace and Susan DeSimone will share their adventure of sailing to the Bahamas in 2022-2023 aboard Pathfinder, their 1983 Bristol, a boat they rebuilt themselves. Come hear their stories about dolphins, rays, turtles and secluded islands.

"THE ABSOLUTE BRIGHTNESS OF LEONARD PELKEY" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, March 13, 7:30 p.m., Anderson Studio Theater, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. In this play by James Lescage, Andrew

Ritter plays every character in a small New Jersey town as he unravels the story of Leonard Pelkey, a tenaciously optimistic and flamboyant 14-year-old boy who goes missing. A luminous force of nature whose magic is only truly felt once he is gone. Leonard becomes an unexpected inspiration as the town's citizens question how they live, who they love, and what they leave behind. A MACo production. Tickets: Standard \$33/budget \$28/generous \$39.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

AUTHOR ELLIE BRYANT IN LINCOLN. Friday, March 14, 4 p.m., Lincoln Library, Rover Rd. Bryant will talk about her book "Willie, Rum Running Queen," the true tale of notorious Prohibition bootlegger Willie Carter Sharpe. During Prohibition she rises from poverty to the heights of fame and fortune in the moonshine business. Eventually, the law catches up to her and she is brought to testify in the Great Moonshine Conspiracy Trial of 1934. Bryant will also share the story of how she came to write this book and give ideas to help you start your own story.

"THE ABSOLUTE BRIGHTNESS OF LEONARD PELKEY" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, March 14, 7:30 p.m., Anderson Studio Theater, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See March 13 listing.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

"LOST NATION" ON SCREEN IN NEW HAVEN. Saturday, March 15, 2 p.m., New

Haven Town Hall, 78 North St. Join us to view Jay Craven's new movie and for a discussion with him after the showing.

"THE ABSOLUTE BRIGHTNESS OF LEONARD PELKEY" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, March 15, 2 and 7:30 p.m., Anderson Studio Theater, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See March 13 listing.

"KING PEDE" CARD PARTY IN FERRISBURGH. Saturday, March 15, 6:30 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7. A sandwich supper and then on to an evening of fun and games. King Pede is a game that involves "trick-taking" such as in Hearts and Spades or Pitch. This is a game of fun and skill so come prepared to use your strategic thinking.

ELECTRIC BEAR IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, March 15, 8-10 p.m., American Flatbread Middlebury, 137 Maple St. Electric Bear delivers heartfelt Americana music tangled in deep roots. With their expansive sonic palate and story-telling lyrics, Electric Bear provides the soundtrack for your journey down the cosmic highway. Come eat, drink, dance and be merry. The event is free, with a \$5 suggested donation.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

FIDDLERS' JAM IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, March 16, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. \$3 cover, 50/50 raffle. Door prize, raffle, Refreshments available.

"FOUR HEBREW PROPHETS: AMOS" LECTURE IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, March 16, noon, St. Stephen's Church, 3 Main St. In the third lecture in a four-part series on four biblical books, Shalom Goldman, Professor of Religion at Middlebury College, will explore the historical and cultural context of these Old Testament figures and delve into the timeless relevance of their messages. Free and open to the public. Come early for refreshments. Series wraps up March 23.

"THE ABSOLUTE BRIGHTNESS OF LEONARD PELKEY" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, March 16, 2 p.m., Anderson Studio Theater, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See March 13 listing.

SOUTH COUNTY CHORUS AND HINESBURG ARTIST SERIES ORCHESTRA IN HINESBURG. Sunday, March 16, 2 and 4:30 p.m., St. Jude Catholic Church, 10759 Route 116. The Hinesburg Artist Series will present its 27th annual concert, under the direction of Rufus Patrick with the inspiring Faure Requiem and selections from Part II and III of Handel's Messiah. Tickets \$25/ children under 12 free. More info at hinesburgartistseries.org.

"NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, March 16, 3 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. While out hunting, Llewelyn Moss (Josh Brolin) finds the grisly aftermath of a drug deal. Though he knows better, he cannot resist the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org, for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 388-3062.			
Channel 1071 Through the Nights: Public Affairs		7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs		5 a.m. Foltz Studio		5 a.m. Sharpe Takes	
Friday, March 14		Wednesday, March 19		6:05 a.m. School Board Meeting/s		5:35 a.m. Tai Chi	
4 a.m. Energy Week		7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service		9:05 a.m. All Brains Belong		6 a.m. Chair Yoga	
5:05 a.m. Under the Dome: Affordability in VT		9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass		10 a.m. State Board of Education		12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s	
5:30 a.m. Senator Sanders		10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs		3:30 p.m. Local School Sports		4:30 p.m. Tai Chi	
7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service		4 p.m. Energy Week		7 p.m. Foltz Studio		5 p.m. Meet Bill Schubart	
10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs		7 p.m. Select Board		8:05 p.m. All Brains Belong Club		6 p.m. Sharpe Takes	
4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service		10 p.m. Energy Week, Public Affairs		Sunday, March 16		6:35 p.m. Local School Sports	
5:30 p.m. Energy Week		Thursday, March 20		5 a.m. Exploring the Extremes of Astronomy		10 p.m. All Brains Belong Club	
8 p.m. Why is Health Care So Expensive?		8 a.m. Congregational Service		10:0 a.m. Statehouse - Education		Wednesday, March 19	
Saturday, March 15		12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs		2 p.m. Local School Sports		6 a.m. Bill Schubart	
6:30 a.m. Energy Week		8 p.m. Energy Week		5:30 p.m. Sharpe Takes		6:30 a.m. Tai Chi	
8:30 a.m. Senator Sanders		9:30 p.m. Eckankar		6:05 p.m. All Brains Belong		6:55 a.m. Chair Yoga	
10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs		12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs		7 p.m. All Things LGBTQ		8 a.m. State Board of Education	
4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service		Channel 1091		8 p.m. School Board Meeting/s		4 p.m. All Things LGBTQ	
5:30 p.m. Eckankar		Through the Night: Music, Arts and Nature Programs		Monday, March 17		5 p.m. School Board Meeting/s	
7 p.m. Catholic Mass		Friday, March 14		5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ		9 p.m. All Brains Belong Club	
7:30 p.m. Gov. Scott		6 a.m. Yoga		6 a.m. Sharpe Takes		10 p.m. Meet Bill Schubart	
9:04 p.m. Under the Dome		7 a.m. Tai Chi		6:45 a.m. Tai Chi		Thursday, March 20	
9:30 p.m. Senator Sanders		7:30 a.m. Sharpe Takes		7:10 a.m. Chair Yoga		5:30 a.m. Foltz Studio	
11 p.m. Energy Week		8:05 a.m. All Brains Belong Club		12 p.m. State Board of Education		6:30 a.m. Tai Chi	
Sunday, March 16		9:30 a.m. Foltz Studio		05 p.m. Foltz Studio		6:55 a.m. Yoga	
6:05 a.m. Under the Dome		10:35 a.m. Statehouse - Education		6:05 p.m. Sharpe Takes		8 a.m. School Board Meeting/s	
		6:30 p.m. School Board Meeting/s		6:40 p.m. Local School Sports		4 p.m. Foltz Studio	
		Saturday, March 15		11 p.m. Sharpe Takes		5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ	
				Tuesday, March 18		8 p.m. Foltz Studio	
						10 p.m. Sharpe Takes	

cash left behind and takes it with him. The hunter becomes the hunted when a merciless killer named Chigurh (Javier Bardem) picks up his trail. Also looking for Moss is Sheriff Bell (Tommy Lee Jones), an aging lawman who reflects on a changing world and a dark secret of his own, as he tries to find and protect Moss. An MNFF Selects Neo-noir series offering. Tickets \$17 individual film/\$60 series pass, available at townhalltheater.org.

ALL AGES CONTRA DANCE IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, March 16, 3 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Free, non-gendered, all-ages contra dance to live music. No experience or partner needed. Bring your family and your neighbors. Dances will be called and taught by Richard Hopkins. Please park at MUHS and remember to bring your soft-soled indoor shoes.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

"SLEEPING WITH THE ANCESTORS" VIRTUAL BOOK DISCUSSION. Tuesday, March 18, 6-7 p.m., ZOOM. Rokeby's winter book discussion series continues with historic preservationist Joseph McGill Jr.'s account of the Slave Dwelling Project, in which he spends the night in former slave dwellings. The book focuses on all of the key sites McGill has visited in his ongoing project and digs deeper into the actual history of each location, using McGill's own experience and conversations with the community to enhance those original stories. Visit rokeby.org for more info, link and the full book discussion series.

TOWN HALL THEATER TOURS IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, March 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72 Merchants Row. Join the Middlebury Chapter of the American Association of University Women for tours of the new Town Hall Theater, followed by THT Executive & Artistic Director Lisa Mitchell speaking on "What the Arts Mean Today." The talk will be held in the new Doug and Debby Anderson Studio, and the adjacent Jean's Place lounge will be open with a cash bar.

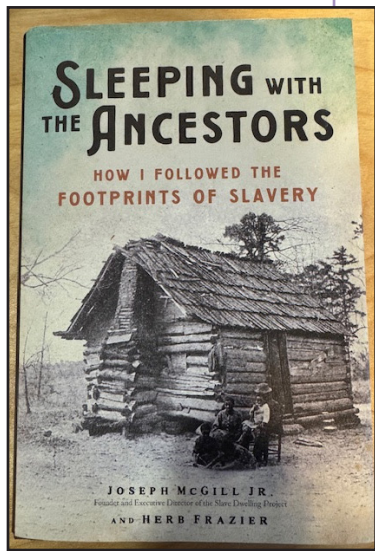
"TICONDEROGA'S NEIGHBORHOODS OF 1776" IN ORWELL. Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m. Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Join Fort Ticonderoga Director of Interpretation Cameron Green to explore the community that developed around Ticonderoga on the eve of the American Revolution. Part of Orwell Shoreham Libraries Keynote Speakers Series.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

"THE DAWN OF IMPRESSIONISM: PARIS, 1874" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday,

TOP PICK

THE ROKEBY MUSEUM IN FERRISBURGH WILL HOLD THE FINAL **WINTER BOOK DISCUSSION ON TUESDAY, MARCH 18**, FROM 6-7 P.M., VIA ZOOM. REGISTER ONLINE THEN LOG-ON TO DISCUSS "SLEEPING WITH THE ANCESTORS: HOW I FOLLOWED THE FOOTPRINTS OF SLAVERY." VISIT ROKEBY.ORG TO REGISTER (IT'S FREE).



March 19, 1 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. The Impressionists are the most popular group in art history — millions flock every year to marvel at their masterpieces. But, to begin with, they were scorned, penniless outsiders. 1874 was the year that changed everything — the first Impressionists, "hungry for independence," broke the mold by holding their own exhibition outside official channels. Impressionism was born and the art world was changed forever. Tickets: \$15

available at townhalltheater.org.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

"HIS GIRL FRIDAY" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, March 20, 1 p.m., Middlebury Marquis Theater, 65 Main St. Join fellow community film lovers to watch this month's Middlebury Classic Film Club movie, followed by short discussion of the film. As always, the popcorn is on us.

CABIN FEVER LECTURE: BIRDING SCOTLAND'S GREAT GLEN WAY. Thursday, March 20, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. OCAS luminary Mike Winslow will tell us about a recent trip to Scotland, and the difficulties of identifying reed warblers.

BEETLEJUICE JR - THE MUSICAL IN BRISTOL. Thursday, March 20, 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School, Airport Rd. Adapted from the smash-hit Broadway musical, "Beetlejuice JR" features catchy songs, outrageous characters, and a heartwarming message about family and belonging. Rated PG for spooky imagery, dark humor, and themes of death, the content is largely presented in a cartoonish, comedic way, with minimal gore or explicit violence. Tickets \$15 adults/\$12 seniors and children under 12, available at tinyurl.com/bjticket and at the door until sold out.

RICK CEBALLOS IN STARKSBORO. Thursday, March 20, 7:30 p.m., Starksboro Public Library, Route 116. The 5 Town Winter Into Spring Musical Library Tour continues. Rick Ceballos gathers songs and tunes from France, Ireland, England, Galicia and the United States. His original compositions draw and elaborate on the colorful traditions he studies. Admission is free with donations welcome.

SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 12

timothyclark.com/classes/home.html
More info

Build the Cod Rib 12
June 8 -13
TIMOTHY CLARK
CABINETMAKER / CHAIRWRIGHT

SUPPORT THE ARTS

Your subscriptions, donations and advertising allows us to have dedicated coverage of the arts scene in Addison County.

Thank You!

SUBSCRIBE | DONATE | ADVERTISE

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

The Absolute Brightness of LEONARD PELKEY

by James Lecesne
Directed by Terry O'Brien

March 13 - 16 & March 21 - 23

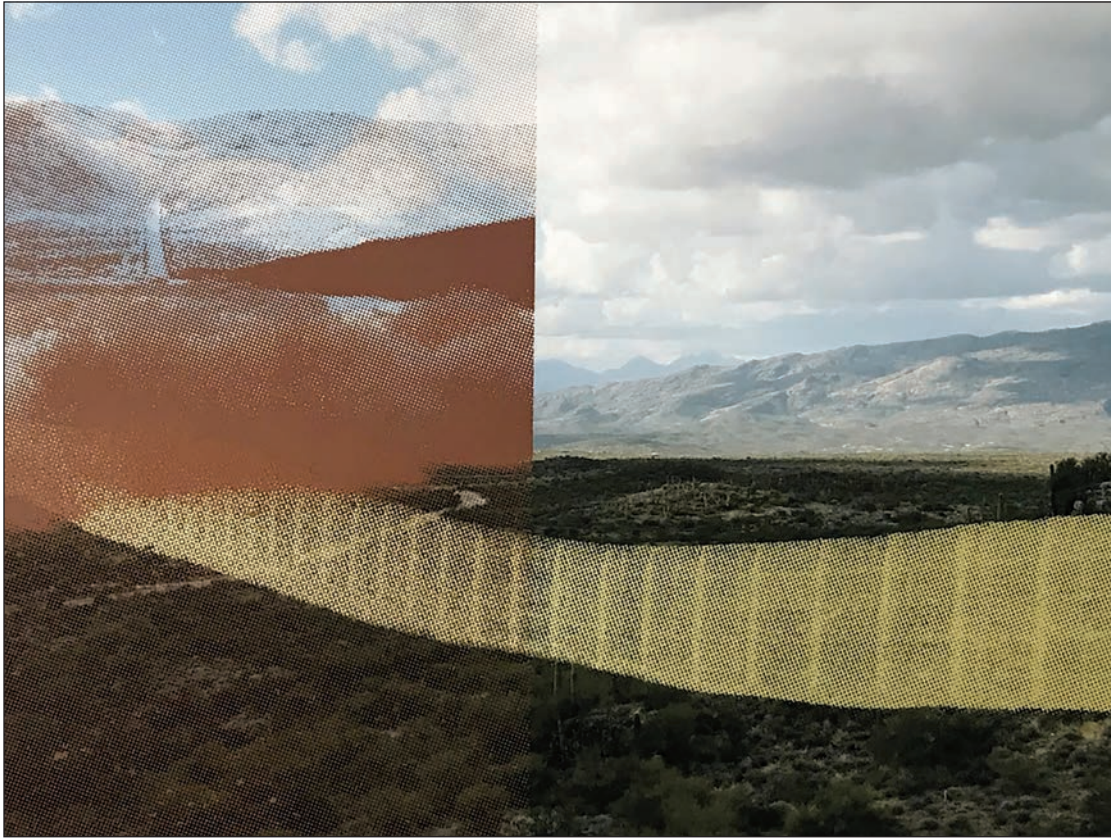
Town Hall Theater

Tickets & info: 802-382-9222
townhalltheater.org



MACO
MIDDLEBURY
ACTING
COMPANY

ART ON EXHIBIT



'Beyond Walls' by Hannah Smith Allen.

Beyond Walls: works made during Trump's presidency

The Johnson Memorial Building Exhibition Gallery will host a collection of works by artist, image maker, and photographer Hannah Smith Allen, reimagining the U.S./Mexico border. "Beyond Walls" opened Tuesday, March 11, at the Johnson Exhibition Gallery on the Middlebury College campus.

"Beyond Walls" features works made during Donald Trump's first presidency, including still photographs, unique screen prints, and Borderlands, an

accordion book/
sculptural
object originally
published by the

VSW Press in 2021. Also included in this exhibition is "Target Practice," a series of military targets fabricated out of acrylic mirror. The work holds a mirror up to current politics and invites viewers to imagine new possibilities in interpreting, interrupting, and engaging with the American landscape and its political systems. Free and open to all during gallery hours: Sun. 1-7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Saturdays.

Note: The college will be on break from Friday, March 14 through Sunday, March 23. The Johnson Gallery will have limited hours during this time.



READ THE ADDY INDY

SUBSCRIBE

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

K. GRANT FINE ART

37 Green St, Vergennes
For more info visit kgrantfineart.com.

"Mortal Coil," featuring works by Misoo Bang, Austin Furtak-Cole, Suzy

Spence, Kalin Thomas, Mollie Ward, and Corrine Yonce. This six-person show explores the human experience through the lens of self-possession, connection, and vulnerability, all rooted in the physicality of the body. On view through April 26.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Road, Middlebury

For more info visit middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions

"Rania Matar: SHE." The photographs of Lebanese Palestinian American artist Rania Matar — captured through car windows, in abandoned buildings, snow-strewn fields, or floating in the Mediterranean Sea — tell the stories of young women through portraits taken throughout Lebanon, France, Egypt, and the United States. On view Feb. 14-April 20.

"MuseumLAB: Teaching with the Collection."

Each year, professors in departments ranging from Classics to Economics teach hundreds of students in the largest classroom on campus: the Middlebury College Museum of Art. Discussing art produced throughout history and around the globe offers students perspective on the topic at hand — and space to reflect on their own place in today's complex world. On view Jan. 17-April 20.

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit photoplacegallery.com.

"Portraiture: Unveiling Identity" explores portraits that transcend the surface, revealing the often-hidden dimensions of identity. Juror Jeff Curto selected approximately 35 images for exhibition in the Middlebury gallery, and 40 more for the online gallery. On view March 7-28.

SPARROW ART SUPPLY

44 Main St., Middlebury

For more info visit sparrowartsupply.com

"All That Glitters." Featuring nearly 40 local artists, this New Year showcase highlights eye-catching metallics, iridescence, and the play of light, with works that span subtle, soft glints to bold, radiant statements. On view through April 5.

PRINT OR DIGITAL



WEDDINGS



A SPECIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT
MARCH 13, 2025



*Let Us Host
Your Event*

72-76 Merchant's Row | Middlebury, VT 05753 | 802-388-1436



Historic & Modern Spaces For Every Occasion

Featuring stunning new rooms overlooking the Otter Creek River
Plus, a new public plaza with an outdoor stage, and space for
food trucks



- Weddings
- Cocktail Parties
- Dinners
- Fundraisers
- Late-Night Events
- Meetings & Board Retreats

All served by a catering kitchen
and full bar service

For inquiries contact
erin@townhalltheater.org



PLANNING A WEDDING IS FUN, STRESSFUL, REVEALING, HUMBLING ...

... and a test of the partnership that will blossom from the big day forward.

Parents, siblings, great-aunts, friends, venue operators, wedding planners, co-workers — it seems like everyone has advice for how to plan *your* wedding. Let's add one more to the mix — neighbors. We asked some of our Addison County neighbors to share some memories about their wedding. The hope is that future brides and grooms will get a useful tip for their wedding planning, and that the memory will expand their thinking on what a wedding day can be.

GOOD LUCK IN YOUR WEDDING PLANNING!



Our memory:

Erik and I got married at my parents' house and the reception was where I spent all my time growing up. One of my favorite memories was walking from where we had the wedding to the reception with family and friends. Another favorite memory was watching my parents and Erik's parents dancing later in the night and the joy and love on their faces and how grateful I was to have them as role models for what loving, strong, respectful, and joyful partnerships are.

A piece of wedding planning advice:

**JEN KRAVITZ &
ERIK REMSEN**
MIDDLEBURY
SEPTEMBER 13, 2008

Plan for comfortable shoes you want to dance in so you can enjoy it - and get some flip flops for your guests so they can have comfortable shoes for dancing. We got a lot of different colors and sizes and just left them out for people to grab as they needed something comfy.

ON THE COVER

After their 1994 wedding at East Middlebury's Waybury Inn, Mark and Jessie Raymond take turns stuffing wedding cake into each other's mouths. Read more about their wedding on Page 6.

Photos by Sue Leggett

Beautiful, elegant and timeless, pure maple syrup gifts are the perfect way to say "thank you" to your family and friends for celebrating your special day.

Our family-run Vermont Maple Farm offers:

- Personalized gifts
- An assortment of fine glass bottles and custom labels or hang tags
- Quick turn-around on orders
- FREE SHIPPING on orders over \$200

We take pride in working directly with you to make a custom product you and your guests will love and appreciate!

To inquire further contact us at info@breadloafviewfarm.com or call (802)349-1755.

breadloafviewfarm.com




JESSICA'S
AT
SWIFT HOUSE INN

The ideal venue for wedding rehearsal dinners.
Call 802-388-9925 to start planning.



25 Stewart Ln.
Middlebury, VT 05753

802-388-9925
www.swifthouseinn.com

 @swifthouseinn

FAITH & ERICK GONG
MIDDLEBURY
JULY 20, 2002

Our memory:

The most memorable part of our wedding was walking down the aisle of the church and seeing all of the people who had gathered from across the country to celebrate this moment with us. They represented so many aspects of our lives: family, friends from various stages, co-workers. And for this one day they were all together in one place because Erick and I loved each other and they loved us. It was overwhelming! I just floated through the ceremony, buoyed up by the joy of all that love!

A piece of wedding planning advice:

Look at the wedding planning process as an opportunity to practice a skill you'll have to use throughout your marriage: listening respectfully to the many opinions of people who care about you, but ultimately making the decisions that best reflect the two of you. And don't sweat the small stuff, by which I mean flowers, decorations, food, etc. To paraphrase Maya Angelou: People will forget your centerpieces, but people will never forget how your overflowing love made them feel.



We heard from the daughter of a minister that his advice to couples was to practice putting on/off the wedding rings so they would not have to struggle pushing the rings on their fingers during the ceremony and be embarrassed.



From handcrafted delights to small event catering, we'll help make the most of your most special gatherings!

TUES-SAT 7AM-4PM
SUN 8AM-2PM
(802) 388-3371
OtterCreekBakery.com
14 COLLEGE ST
MIDDLEBURY, VT



Wedding Cakes

Cupcakes

Pastries

Breads

Catered Meals



Specializing in Beautiful Florals for your Vermont Wedding

Contact us today to set up your free consultation
802-388-2800
designs@mfandg.com / middleburyfloralandgifts.com

Mon – Fri: 9am – 5:30pm | Saturday: 10am – 2pm
Closed Sundays & all major holidays
1663 Route 7 South, Middlebury, VT 05753



AMTUL & FARHAD

KHAN
MIDDLEBURY
JULY 12, 2002

Our memory:

Ours was a classic arranged marriage. (We never knew or met each other before our wedding, except for a brief five minutes about a week before we married.) So, one special memory? Following our country's traditions, the first time after our Imam (Priest) performed the wedding, and we exchanged our "I Do's," we got to see each other. The anticipation, the surprise, the anxiety, the stress, before seeing each other? you name it.

A piece of wedding planning advice:

Keep it simple (ours was lavishly overdone). Don't get married on one of the hottest days of the year 🥵. Get to know each other a little more than we did.



JANE & JOHN

SPENCER

ADDISON
OCTOBER 13, 1973

Our memories:

Jane: What I Wore

We had decided on a small October wedding with just immediate family and a few friends. We planned a simple ceremony in a church in the town in Pennsylvania where I grew up, followed by a catered luncheon at my parents' house. I didn't want to wear a traditional white wedding dress, but I wanted to wear something special and unique. I settled on a tweed suit that I found at The Mayfair, my then favorite women's clothing store on Church Street in Burlington.

The suit was French, which I thought was very special, and it was beautifully tailored with a luxurious crimson silk lining. Woven into the chestnut and cream tweed were subtle threads of yellow, purple, blue, orange, green and red. I loved that the fabric contained every color of the rainbow and thought it expressed a wish for our life together to be full of color and a varied array of interesting experiences. More than fifty years later, that has been proven to be true, so the suit had it right!

John: Nervous

As a young man on the day of my wedding I was nervous. My best man and I were standing outside of the church, me checking my watch and waiting for the minister to call us in to get situated at the altar. I paced the garden in back of the church to ease my anxiety as the hour to begin the ceremony came and went, and no bride arrived.

For the next 30 minutes, I walked back and forth about a hundred times, wearing a path in the grass and

wondering if she had stood me up. I thought about the things in my life that might possibly be turned upside down and wondered how I would weather the storm.

Finally the minister called us into the church. I brought my anxiety with me but my worries dissolved when I saw my bride walking down the aisle toward me.

There were no cell phones then, of course, so she couldn't have called to let me know she would be late. Her maid of honor had been in an accident; she was OK, but wouldn't be able to make it to the ceremony and this is what had held her up. Jane whispered this explanation to me as best she could when she arrived at the altar.

By the way, she still often keeps me waiting. I've had a lot of practice over the years, and have become a very patient man.

A piece of wedding planning advice:

Advice from Jane

Choose vows that are meaningful to you and, even if it's difficult because you are nervous, do your best to connect with what you are saying during the ceremony. You don't have to compose the vows, but what you say should reflect your true sentiment. A little planning and reflection beforehand can go a long way. We went with the usual vows that the minister provided (minus the word "obey," which was standard at that time) and they have served us well, but more thought would have provided a richer and more personal experience.

Advice from John

We had a very small wedding with just a few friends and family to keep it simple. I would advise keeping it simple but bringing together as many of your friends as you want to share the occasion with you. I would not get hung up on details but concentrate on having a celebration of the occasion. Do something that you would enjoy doing with all your guests.



A Groom told us that his advice is for the groom and the bride to each say their vows *out loud* before the wedding. That way the words won't sound unusual and cause them to mumble during the ceremony.



JESSIE & MARK
RAYMOND
MIDDLEBURY
DECEMBER 10, 1994



Our memory:

When Mark and I got married in December 1994, we were short on money but long on family and friends, and the Waybury Inn didn't have room to seat all of our guests for dinner. We decided to pull a fast one: Our invitations said we were getting married privately and would join our guests afterward for an hors d'oeuvres reception at the inn — but in reality, we showed up and held a surprise ceremony right there.

The plan worked great, although we failed to anticipate one factor: The reception was in full swing by the time we arrived, and let's just say there was a distinct celebratory atmosphere during our vows. Things only got merrier when our wonderful but nervous justice of the peace, Charlotte Birchmore — who probably didn't perform too many weddings, especially not in the middle of a party, or with hecklers — accidentally pronounced us "man and husband." The crowd loved it.

A piece of wedding planning advice:

If you are planning a big wedding and reception, try not to get sucked into the minutiae. Instead, focus on having a great time. Your guests aren't going to remember what your table decor looked like, but they will remember if they had fun. (And I can confirm that the more sober ones will remember if the JP pronounces you "man and husband.")

A piece of wedding planning advice:

Seven years after we first met in St. Paul, Minn., we had planned what is now called a destination wedding over Thanksgiving weekend to be at a Nordic ski resort in northern Minnesota, where we had enjoyed long weekends with our music and dance community. The wooden center had burned down after an electrical fire over the previous winter, but the owner told us it would be ready for the big weekend in November.

A friend working on the crew in the fall suggested that we check in with the owner on the progress, who assured us everything was on track, but when my cousin told me to look at the website in mid-October, we saw only knee high concrete walls. We scrambled to find an alternate location, and our friends suggested YMCA Camp du Nord in Ely, Minn., which could host us for the weekend. We called it, "The Wedding at the End of the World!"

Our advice, listen to your friends and family!

Our memories:

Our wedding was a weekend long event of building community, with our families having Thanksgiving on Thursday, a hike and then a concert of friends playing on Friday, a women's group followed by the wedding and a square dance on Saturday, and a farewell brunch and canoeing on Sunday. One of Andrew's music friends with a beautiful tenor voice, during the final brunch, raised his voice in song to lead us spontaneously in the traditional song, "Bright Morning Stars," and everyone joined in:

Bright morning stars are rising,
Bright morning stars are rising,
Bright morning stars are rising,
Bright morning stars are rising
Day is a breaking in my soul.



KRISTIN BOLTON &
ANDREW MUNKRES
CORNWALL
NOV. 25, 2000





Little Pressroom

Your wedding is our business!

We specialize in all materials,
from invitations to party favors.

- printed: (traditional, formal, custom)
 - save the dates
 - invitations
 - RSVPs
 - place cards
 - signage
 - thank you notes
- custom memorabilia:
 - glassware
 - napkins
 - drink koozies
 - centerpieces
 - bubbles
 - party favors

18 Creek Road | Middlebury, VT
(802) 388-2337 | info@littlepressroom.com
www.littlepressroom.com





Cole's Flowers

*Weddings, Events
& Everyday Occasions*

4th Generation Florist

Visit our new location!
18 Creek Rd, Middlebury 

[ColesMiddleburyFlowers.com](https://www.ColesMiddleburyFlowers.com) **802.388.4003**

**SALLY & RICK
KERSCHNER
FERRISBURGH
JULY 5, 1975**

Our memory:

This year we will celebrate our 50th anniversary.

We still agree that it was a perfect wedding celebration. It was very home-grown. Sally's Dad was a minister so he performed the ceremony in the historic church that was founded in 1711. Sally's brother is an organist and provided the music, including his adaptation for organ of Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man" as the processional. A family friend was the photographer. The Church Ladies did the reception.

Since the Bride was preoccupied with studying for her nursing licensure exams, the bridesmaids sewed their dresses and the wedding gown. Rick wore his Army dress blues.

A piece of wedding planning advice:

The involvement of friends and family made the event very meaningful and personal. Rick and Sally urge couples who are planning a wedding to involve all friends and family in the event and to avoid the expectations of involving the expensive wedding industry. Find sites and services that are local in Vermont and that keep the budget affordable and the celebration memorable.



Our memory:

It poured rain all day! But it didn't impact our day or celebration (and I think I read somewhere that wedding day rain is "good luck"?).

A piece of wedding planning advice:

Focus on your personal values and needs and keep them at the center when planning your wedding — and keep it simple (don't spend your life savings on your wedding)!

**HEIDI SULIS &
RON HALLMAN
MIDDLEBURY
AUGUST 16, 1986**



Did you know you can host your special event at the fair?



Addison County Fair & Field Days offers space rentals for weddings, family reunions and other special events.

We promise an affordable, memorable setting with widely customizable options.

addisoncountyfielddays.com/weddings/

**If interested please call Katie
at 802-545-2557 or email fielddays@gmavt.net!**



EAT . STAY . EVENTS
SPECIALIZING IN WEDDINGS IN EVERY SEASON

STUNNING VIEWS
LOCAL FOOD
VERMONT CHARM
RUSTIC ELEGANCE
ENDLESS MEMORIES

We still have a few open dates for 2025 at a discounted rate and are now booking for 2026. Think of us for your rehearsal dinner, welcome party, or post-wedding brunch.



Photos courtesy of Meagan Emilia Photography

PUZZLES

sponsored by SPARROW ART SUPPLY

ACROSS

- 1. Unsheared sheep
- 5. Rock TV channel
- 8. Streetcar
- 12. Concerning
- 14. Expression of recognition
- 15. Greek goddess of youth
- 16. An iPad is one
- 18. Adult beverage
- 19. Manning and Wallach are two
- 20. Makes a petty verbal attack
- 21. Tyrion Lannister's nickname
- 22. Pointed ends of pens
- 23. Wristwatches
- 26. Body part
- 30. Made a mistake
- 31. Adjusted

- 32. Turkish honorific title
- 33. Yell
- 34. Historic Alabama city
- 39. Cub
- 42. Type of sea bass dish
- 44. To call (archaic)
- 46. Unfortunate
- 47. Separate oneself from others
- 49. Hero sandwiches
- 50. Former OSS
- 51. Open spaces in a forest
- 56. Innermost brain membranes
- 57. Fortune
- 58. Hunting expedition
- 59. Doomed queen Boleyn
- 60. Peyton's little

- brother
- 61. Type of wrap
- 62. Scottish tax
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. An increase in price or value

DOWN

- 1. Works of body art
- 2. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 3. A desert in Asia
- 4. Eat greedily
- 5. Doomed French queen
- 6. Beat
- 7. One who survives on blood
- 8. As a consequence
- 9. Counted on
- 10. Acquired Brain Injury Behavior Science

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13		14				15			
16					17	18				19			
20						21				22			
				23		24				25			
26	27	28	29					30					
31								32					
33										34	35	36	37
				39	40	41		42	43				
			44	45				46					
	47						48						
49						50				51		52	53
56						57				58			
59						60				61			
62						63				64			

		2			1	4		7
							5	
	5				9			
				7			8	6
		4			5			
			2					
5			8	6		9		4
	8			9			3	
	7	3	1			8		

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

- 11. Unclean
- 13. One who does not drink
- 17. Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago
- 24. __ student, learns healing
- 25. Bacterial skin infection
- 26. Expresses surprise
- 27. What one says on a wedding day
- 28. Crony
- 29. Where you entered the world

- (abbr.)
- 35. Unit of length
- 36. Side that is sheltered from the wind
- 37. More (Spanish)
- 38. Autonomic nervous system
- 40. Violent troublemakers, originally in Paris
- 41. Statements that something is untrue
- 42. Greek alphabet letter

- 43. Suspends from above
- 44. Popular types of cigars
- 45. Girls
- 47. U.S. philosopher and logician
- 48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
- 49. Relaxing spaces
- 52. From a distance
- 53. Form of Persian
- 54. Amounts of time
- 55. Trigonometric function

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 15.



44 Main St
Middlebury, VT 05753
(802) 989-7225

Tuesday - Saturday
10:30AM - 5:30PM

info@sparrowartsupply.com
sparrowartsupply.com
@sparrowartsupply

VISIT OUR GALLERY FOR

ALL THAT GLITTERS

A dazzling display of shimmer, shine, and sparkle!
Featuring work by nearly 40 local artists

NOW OPEN THROUGH APRIL 5!

Visit sparrowartsupply.com to learn more

Featured artwork by Carlie Guinane



ASK A MASTER GARDENER

— PLANT STANDS FOR INDOOR GARDENING —

Each winter, gardeners bid farewell to their outdoor growing spaces and turn their attention to other ways to occupy their days. Magazines and seed catalogs provide inspiration, but there's nothing like gardening indoors to satisfy your inner gardener.

BY **DEBORAH J.**

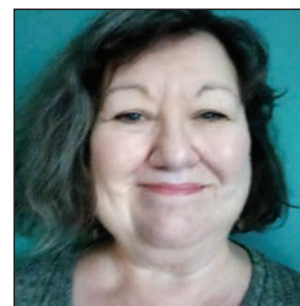
BENOIT

Plant stands with grow lights are a convenient

way to bring your garden inside. They provide a place to gather plants together when you lack space, available windows or sufficient light. With your plants in one place, it's easy to monitor their health and be sure they're receiving sufficient humidity (a common problem with the dry air inside during winter).

Plant stands can be plain or fancy. Some are made of wood and can be embellished to create a piece of furniture that would look good in any room. A homemade plant stand can be assembled from purchased components such as a wire shelving unit and some grow lights.

Wire shelves may appear more utilitarian but add a clean look to your indoor garden and aid in air circulation, which is necessary for plant health. Purchased plant stands make setup quick and eliminate the need to select separate grow lights.



Deborah J. Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from North Adams, Mass., who is part of the Bennington County Chapter.

If you'll be using multiple grow lights, be sure the power strip they're plugged into is away from dripping or splashing water. Consider adding a timer to turn lights on and off for consistent hours of light.

For best results, lights should be positioned close to the top of plants but not touch foliage. A short chain between the light fixture and a hook attaching it to the plant stand make adjustments easy. If the light is in a fixed position, you can always add a book or similar object below plants to move them closer to the light.

To learn more about choosing and using grow lights see go.uvm.edu/grow-lights.

Some indoor gardeners display flowering houseplants such as African violets (*Saintpaulia*) or Cape primrose (*Streptocarpus*) on plant stands. Others may need a place for tender perennials saved from last year's garden. Plant stands can

SEE GARDEN ON PAGE 11



Plant stands are an ideal way to group plants together when space, available windows or sufficient light is lacking, making it easy to monitor the plants' health and ensure that they are getting sufficient humidity.

PHOTO / DEBORAH J. BENOIT

AGWAY Think of Agway when you think of your pets!

Proud to help you provide quality care for all of your pets, we know your animal companions are a central part of your life!

PET FOOD ASK ABOUT OUR Pet Food Club Earn rewards for your purchases!

Quality Brands Including:

Pronature

RAW Bringing Nature Back

HEALTH EXTENSION FOR A Healthy LIFE

HOLISTIC SELECT SELECT ACTIVES

BLUE

Taste of the Wild

IAMS Life's Better

Nutro

Purina

DIAMOND NATURALS

ONE

Merrick

Orijen

Aunt Jeni's Home Made

Eagle Pack

sojos

inception Pet Foods

Signature

WELLNES

WERUVA

Greenies

ACANA

Everything you need for pet support!

TOYS & TREATS

Accessories & Grooming Supplies

Leashes • Harnesses
Collars • Clothing
Food Dishes
Storage Bins
Beds & Baskets

SELF SERVE

DOG WASH

Brushes, shampoos, skin treatment, ointments to keep your pets' coats healthy and problem free!

Kennels, Dog Houses & Carrying Cases
Come in and check the variety we have in stock!

Large & Small Animal Products

Feed • Supplements • Training & Grooming Supplies
Cages, Foods, Treats & Bedding
Bird food, toys and cages
Basics for fish, too!

Wild Bird Supplies

Feeders, Seed & Suet, Houses & Accessories.

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY Open 7 days

338 Exchange Street, Middlebury
388-4937 • www.MiddleburyAgway.com
Mon - Fri 8-6 • Sat 8-5 • Sundays 9-4

Join our email list for preferred customer savings!

YOUR YARD, GARDEN AND PET PLACE™ • www.middleburyagway.com

GARDEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

also serve as a propagation or seed-starting station.

If you're overwintering outdoor plants, particularly those needing "full sun," a plant stand can make sure they receive sufficient light to survive the cold season in good health.

These stands also provide a great place to root cuttings from plants such as coleus (*Plectranthus scutellarioides*) or herbs like basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) and rosemary (*Rosemarinus officinalis*). Information on rooting cuttings can be found at go.uvm.edu/perennials.

Many herbs grow well in pots, and a plant stand can provide the light they'll need to provide you with fresh herbs through the winter and into the warm weather months. When choosing which herbs to grow, consider their mature size and

whether your plant stand will comfortably accommodate them.

This time of year, one of the best uses for a plant stand is for starting seeds for the upcoming gardening season. Providing sufficient light will help prevent spindly, leggy seedlings. From germination to potting up those baby plants, you'll be able to easily monitor their progress.

When it's time to move your indoor garden outdoors, remember that the sun is much brighter than a grow light and can damage plants grown indoors. Be sure to introduce plants to outdoor conditions by slowly increasing their exposure each day over the course of a week or two.

For information on seed starting, see go.uvm.edu/seed-starting.

It doesn't matter if you buy a plant stand complete with state-of-the-art grow lights or build one yourself. A plant stand can keep your inner gardener content through the long winter months and help provide a head start on the upcoming gardening season.



Pet of the WEEK

What is
Pet of the Week?

Here at the Addy Indy we LOVE our pets. We also love publishing here at the local newspaper. So... put them together and you get PET OF THE WEEK, where we publish the news of how fabulous your pets are for FREE!

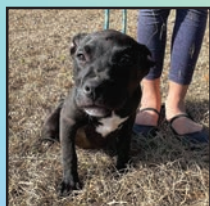
All you have to do, dear reader with opposable thumb, is send a picture to our news team with a short description of your best buds.

Send us a picture
of your pet!

news@addisonindependent.com

Pawsitive Connection Animal Rescue

Rescue • Rehabilitate • Rehome



Finn (M, left) and Raven (F, below), approx. 3 month old black lab mixes. Sweet, playful and friendly, both get along great with their rescue mates.

Finn and Raven will make great companions for any family or individual!

#adoptdontshop

Can't Adopt? Foster!
We pay for everything -
you provide the love!



Spay/neuter, current vaccinations and deworming always included in adoption fee.

pawsitiveconnection.org

pawsitiveconnection2023@gmail.com 🐾 802-382-0081 text/call

Paws To Consider

with Dr. Bri Letaw, Medical Director,
Bristol Animal Hospital



Q: Why is it important to test for tick-borne diseases every year?



A: Tick-borne diseases can take many forms, one of which is an infection that can be within the body but not cause clinical signs right away. If we do not test on a more regular basis, we might not be able to catch the disease in time prior to it causing permanent damage.

Bristol Animal Hospital, 167 Monkton Rd., Bristol
(802) 588-7387 • <https://bristolvtvet.com>

Pets In Need

HOMEWARD BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society



Esme

Esme is a beautiful, long-haired girl. She is sweet but very shy at the shelter. Esme has been an indoor/outdoor cat and may like to live the same lifestyle. She gets along well with other cats and has some experience with dogs.



Megara

Megara is a sweet little girl from New Jersey. She has a little bit of "tortie-tude" and is very spunky and playful. Megara does not seem to get along with other cats and we are unsure about dogs.



Mossimo

Mossimo is a friendly 2-year-old boy from New Jersey. After his home in NJ caught on fire, he was caught as a stray and surrendered to the local humane society before finally being transported to us in Vermont! Mossimo has lived with other cats but we are unsure about dogs. He can be shy but quickly warms up and wet food is the way to his heart! Mossimo is FIV+ and would need to be an indoor-only cat. Positive cats typically have the same life expectancy as those who are negative.



Niko

Niko is a sweet 8-month-old boy. He is very playful but is slightly shy in his new environment. Niko came all the way from West Virginia and is looking forward to finding his new forever home in Vermont! He gets along great with other cats but we are unsure about dogs.



Shamrock

Shamrock is a sweet boy that came to us as a stray. He enjoys being pet and spends most of his days lounging around. Shamrock is very vocal and super affectionate! He gets along with other cats but has a dominant personality. We are unsure if he gets along with dogs. Shamrock is FIV+ and would need to be an indoor only cat. Positive cats typically have the same life expectancy as those who are negative.



Homeward Bound
Addison County's Humane Society



Want to learn more?

Call or check our website. We may have a pet for you!
802-388-1100 | HomewardBoundAnimals.org
236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT

LOOK UP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

wavelengths. NEOWISE was decommissioned in August 2024, but during its tenure, it detected over 158,000 minor planets with over 34,000 new discoveries. Have fun exploring this website about the NEO program. science.nasa.gov/planetary-defense-neo/

To raise awareness about asteroids and the need for a planetary defense scheme, the United Nations made June 30 International Asteroid Day. How well are we prepared to avert an impact event by an asteroid? Movies such as "Armageddon," "Meteor," "Deep Impact," and "Don't Look Up" depict scenarios where impacts by asteroids and comets posed imminent threats to life on Earth. Aversion approaches include assessment of hazards and predictive effects of tsunamis and surface impacts from models and simulations. Go to the following website for a detailed power point of ongoing research about asteroids. ntrs.nasa.gov/api/citations/20180000809/

Project NEOWISE (Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer) was designed to detect and discover asteroids using infrared

[downloads/20180000809.pdf](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/api/citations/20180000809.pdf)

In 2024, NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) used a kinetic impactor spacecraft to collide with the 530-foot diameter moonlet Dimorphos, the first such demonstration of a technique for planetary defense. Dimorphos orbits Didymos, an asteroid about five times the diameter of Dimorphos. Neither asteroid of this binary asteroid system posed a threat before or after the impact demonstration (go to science.nasa.gov/planetary-defense-dart for more details).

Another technique for averting asteroid impacts is the use of a gravity tractor where a spacecraft flying next to an asteroid uses its gravitational pull to change the path of the asteroid. This method would require considerable time given the relatively weak gravity field of the spacecraft. The method of nuclear detonation could produce a large impulse effect, but the concern of radioactive fallout makes it a method of last resort. Continued work on simulations and testing will help with future disaster aversion.

While the probability of a significant impact threat of an asteroid on the Earth is small on a

human time scale, the long arc of time makes the improbable probable. Will we be prepared or will the human race be extinguished on Earth and new places in the solar system be seeded with our presence? It is more likely that we will be the cause of our own demise and not from a major impact event.

NOTE (): The term asteroid, meaning starlight (Gk.) was so named because telescopes at the time could not resolve them to more than a point of light.*

EVENTS:

Total Lunar Eclipse begins just before midnight Thursday, March 13. Watch the Blood Moon unfold or set your alarm for Friday, 2:30 a.m. and watch totality at 2:58. The event may be in and out of the clouds, but it is worth watching and may make for good photos!

March 27 column: "How is it we are here? Supernovae"

Note on Feb. 27 column: The frequency of total lunar eclipses was stated as 2.5 times per year and should have read once every 2.5 years. The on-line version reflects the change.

CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN MIDDLEBURY.

Friday, March 21.
Wander on the TAM.

Leader's choice dependent on conditions. We will cover 4-6 miles. Contact Ellen Cronan at 908-595-2926 to sign up and for further information. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

"CRESTA ALTA" SCREENING AND Q&A IN FERRISBURGH. Friday, March 21, 7 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall, Route 7. "Cresta Alta" by environmental documentary filmmaker and socially-conscious musician Todd Anders Johnson chronicles a journey to Alaska, Iceland, Chile and Peru to document glaciological research expeditions and sustainability. Discussion/Q&A with producer and director to follow. Tickets \$15, available at unionmeetinghall.org.

BEETLEJUICE JR - THE MUSICAL IN BRISTOL. Friday, March 21, 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School, Airport Rd. See March 20 listing.

"THE ABSOLUTE BRIGHTNESS OF LEONARD PELKEY" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, March 21, 7:30 p.m., Anderson Studio Theater, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. In this play by James Lescene, Andrew Ritter plays every character in a small New Jersey town as he unravels the story of Leonard Pelkey, a tenaciously optimistic and flamboyant 14-year-old boy who goes missing. A luminous force of nature whose magic is only truly felt once he is gone. Leonard becomes an unexpected inspiration as the town's citizens question how they live, who they love, and what they leave behind. A MACo production. Tickets:

Standard \$33/budget \$28/generous \$39.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN BRISTOL.

Saturday, March 22, 9 a.m., Bristol Trail Network. This is a great mud season hike because the gravel soils in Bristol drain well so the trail is always open. The 3-mile loop around the village offers a scenic mix of history and geography and takes 2.5-3 hours. The elevation gain is under 100 feet, but there are some steep sections and uneven terrain. Sturdy shoes and poles are recommended. Excellent options for snacks/lunch in Bristol before or afterward. Contact Porter Knight at knight@gmavt.net or 802-343-3920 for more information. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE OR CROSS-COUNTRY SKI IN RIPTON. Saturday, March 22, Brooks Rd. Cross country ski, depending on snow cover. 8 miles round trip as a ski and 4 miles round trip as a walk. Contact Morris Earle to register and for more information at morrisearle@gmail.com or 802-734-0984. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

BOOK CLUB ON THE TAM IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, March 22, noon-2 p.m., Otter Creek Gorge, Northern Trailhead, Morgan Horse Farm Rd. Join MALT and Ilsley Public Library to discuss "Flight Behavior," by Barbara Kingsolver. We will meet in Otter Creek Gorge underneath an ancient and beloved oak tree (the large oak with a swing), a short walk away from the northern parking lot on Morgan Horse Farm Rd. All ages are welcome. Light refreshments provided. No bathrooms on site; please plan accordingly. Free. Club continues Saturday, March 22. More info and registration at maltvt.org/events.

BEETLEJUICE JR - THE MUSICAL IN BRISTOL. Saturday, March 22, 2 and 7 p.m., Mount Abraham

Union High School, Airport Rd. See March 20 listing.

"THE ABSOLUTE BRIGHTNESS OF LEONARD PELKEY" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, March 22, 2 and 7:30 p.m., Anderson Studio Theater, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See March 21 listing.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

"FOUR HEBREW PROPHETS: OBADIAH" LECTURE IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, March 23, noon, St. Stephen's Church, 3 Main St. In the final lecture in a four-part series on four biblical books, Shalom Goldman, Professor of Religion at Middlebury College, will explore the historical and cultural context of these Old Testament figures and delve into the timeless relevance of their messages. Free and open to the public. Come early for refreshments.

"THE ABSOLUTE BRIGHTNESS OF LEONARD PELKEY" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, March 23, 2 p.m., Anderson Studio Theater, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See March 21 listing.

MY DENTIST'S SON IN FERRISBURGH. Sunday, March 23, 3 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7. Ferrisburgh Union Meeting Hall will hold its next storytelling session. The group will explore the joyous moments that appear in our lives with supportive reflections by those who attend. For more information, visit mydentistsson.com.

CHORAL EVENSONG IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, March 23, 4 p.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. Late 19th and early 20th century English music by Edward Elgar, John Ireland and T. Tertius Noble will be featured in Evensong, a meditative offering by the Choir of St. Stephen's.

FILM SCREENING

Classic Film Club wraps up next Thursday

Ilseley Public Library in partnership with Middlebury Marquis Theater and the Classic Film Club, will present the final film in the winter session on March 20, at 1 p.m. Join fellow community film lovers to see the films at the Marquis Theater in downtown Middlebury, followed by a short discussion of the film.

This winter session ran from Jan-March, with the theme: comedies of the '30s and '40s. The March 20, screening will feature "His Girl Friday" — a 1940 American screwball comedy film directed by Howard Hawks, starring Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell and featuring Ralph Bellamy and Gene Lockhart.



WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT DOOR

Get ready for the Cabin Fever Follies in Waitsfield

The Valley Players will present the 37th Annual Cabin Fever Follies one night only on Friday, March 21, at 7:30 p.m., at the Valley Players Theater, 4254 Main Street (Rt. 100), Waitsfield. In case of cancellation due to weather, the "snow date" is Saturday, March 22.

This beloved community event features your friends and neighbors performing their hearts out to shake off those winter blues. Singing, fiddling, banjo playing, improv comedy, clowning, poetry, storytelling and magic are just some of the acts scheduled to be presented. The World Famous Raisinettes will share your thoughts and messages to the audience for a small donation, strutting across the stage to the beat of the classic Motown song "I Heard it Through the Grapevine." The event is hosted by Valley Players Board members Doug Bergstein and Susan Loynd.

There will be limited table seating (tables of 10) for pre-show dining (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) and individual seating on risers. A prize will be given for the best table decoration/theme each night — the audience is encouraged to bring their own decorations however no live flame is permitted. The event is BYOB and the audience is asked to "pack-in and pack-out." For tickets and more information go to valleyplayers.com or call 802-583-1674.

ONE NIGHT ONLY

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, AT 7:30 P.M.

\$150 for a table of 10

(only 7 tables available!)

Individual seats on risers: \$15 each

Valley Players

4254 Main Street, Waitsfield

802-583-1674

valleyplayers@madriver.com



The World Famous Raisinettes (above) perform at the annual variety show, Cabin Fever Follies, at the Valley Players Theater in Waitsfield. This year's show will play one night only — Friday, March 21.



ORWELL NEW LISTING!
499 MAIN STREET
MLS #5031268
5624 SF | 0.25 AC | \$599,000
5 BD, 2 BA residential unit plus
commercial storefront

What once was a small town country store is now a blank canvas for you! The largely open space is compartmentalized in a way that makes it versatile and adaptable for a multitude of uses. With approximately 2500 square feet of space on the main level and direct access to basement storage, the options are numerous. Plenty of parking in front of the building and good "main drag" exposure for a business opportunity. The residential unit has 5 bedrooms and two bathrooms on two floors. Currently rented, the property offers immediate cash flow.



BRIDPORT
237 HOLSTEIN DRIVE
MLS #5024116 | \$1,450,000
3 BD | 1.5 BA | 1956 SF | ~240 ACRES

240 acres, a variety of barns and outbuildings, and a lovely 3 bedroom renovated farmhouse perched for the views. The barns and land are versatile - what are your farming plans?



CORNWALL
2420 ROUTE 30
MLS #5026303 | \$695,000
1392 SF | 3.44 ACRES

A unique opportunity to invest in a small commercial property that combines functionality with a residential home. Outdoor storage building ideal for various business operations!



WALTHAM
155 BURNHAM DRIVE
MLS #4967225 | \$450,000
15.28 AC

House livestock, store your equipment, or convert the space into workshops or studios. These farm barns on 15+ acres offer you so many possibilities; bring your dreams to life!

ipjrealestate.com

34 Main Street, downtown Middlebury
info@ipjrealestate.com | 802.388.4242



REAL ESTATE

IT TAKES MORE THAN LUCK!

Our dedicated sales team can connect you with Addison County homebuyers, sellers & professionals.



CONTACT US TODAY TO LEARN MORE!

ads@addisonindependent.com



creative real estate solutions
IRENE POOLE, REALTOR®



802-989-5563 | IreneVTRE.com

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."

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.

the REAL ESTATE COMPANY of VERMONT

Whether you're looking to sell or ready to buy, let one of our professional and knowledgeable agents get to work *for* YOU!



Jill Fraga
Broker/Realtor®



Danelle Birong
Broker/Realtor®



Tammy Peterson
Salesperson/Realtor®



www.theRealEstateCompanyVT.com

THREE MAIN STREET | BRISTOL, VERMONT 05443
802.452.6161






Make the dream of home ownership a reality.
We can help. Contact us today or apply online.
Lindi Quesnel | Community Lender | NMLS #968279




National Bank of Middlebury
nbmvt.com • 1-877-508-8455
Bank NMLS #403372

Member EOE FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

VT LAND 250+/- acres



- *Hardwood forest
- *Pond site
- *Trout stream



**Panoramic view
in beautiful
Brandon, Vermont**

**This property is 250 +/- acres of undeveloped land.
Located on Cobb Hill Road in Brandon VT.
\$1,300,000.**

This unique property is located at the far northern end of the Taconic Mountain Range in Brandon, Vermont. Views from the top include the Taconic, Green and Adirondack Mountain Ranges, as well as the Champlain Valley and Vermont Valley. The timber on this property is primarily a mix of high value hardwood species, dominated by sugar maple and northern red oak. Located at the end of a dead end road, this parcel offers great privacy.


Info & photos: Taconicsend.com

IN-TOWN RANCH IN CONVENIENT LOCATION

24 Mountain View Lane, Vergennes, VT 05491


Discover this charming property perfectly positioned near schools, shopping and restaurants. Embrace the sought-after ranch-style layout and classic hardwood flooring, awaiting your personal style to make it shine. Ideal for those seeking a prime location and a canvas for creativity in a beloved neighborhood. Embrace the potential of this well-located gem in the heart of the "Little City".

\$315,000 **MLS: 5028699**





Sean Dye,
802-338-0136




Nancy Larrow,
802-989-9653




Susan Burdick
802-989-9058



Cory Foote
802-349-7101



Galina Mencilr
802-353-5370



Genevieve Smyth
802-497-7374

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES **VERMONT REALTY GROUP**

We are a designated agency brokerage.

802-877-2134 • WWW.REVT4U.COM
YOUR FOREVER REALTORS,
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS ONE HOME AT A TIME!





GUIDING YOU HOME

We take enormous pride in consistently outperforming the market averages - but even more importantly, our clients' expectations with a 99% satisfaction rating.

Contact us today to experience it for yourself.





Cornwall | \$649,000
Michael Johnston
(802) 846-9518



Waterbury | \$389,000
Heather Morse
(802) 861-4766



COLDWELL BANKER
HICKOK & BOARDMAN

268 Main St, Vergennes | HickokandBoardman.com | 802-863-1500


PUZZLE

SOLUTIONS

MARCH 13, 2025

ADD YOUR PIECE!
BE THE NEXT SPONSOR OF THE PUZZLE PAGE.

EMAIL CHRISTY@ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM TO FIND OUT HOW.



T	E	G	G			M	T	V		T	R	A	M					
A	B	O	U	T		A	H	A		H	E	B	E					
T	A	B	L	E	T		R	U	M	E	L	I	S					
S	N	I	P	E	S		I	M	P	N	I	B	S					
						T	I	M	E	P	I	E	C	E	S			
H	I	P	B	O	N	E				E	R	R	E	D				
A	D	A	P	T	E	D				D	E	Y						
H	O	L	L	A						S	E	L	M	A				
						L	A	D		C	H	I	L	E	A	N		
						C	L	E	P	E		H	A	P	L	E	S	S
						Q	U	A	R	A	N	T	I	N	E			
S	U	B	S			C	I	A		G	L	A	D	E	S			
P	I	A	S			H	A	P		S	A	F	A	R	I			
A	N	N	E			E	L	I		S	A	R	A	N				
S	E	S	S			S	S	R			R	I	S	E				

8	3	2	6	5	1	4	9	7
6	4	9	7	2	8	3	5	1
1	5	7	4	3	9	6	2	8
3	1	5	9	7	4	2	8	6
2	6	4	3	8	5	7	1	9
7	9	8	2	1	6	5	4	3
5	2	1	8	6	3	9	7	4
4	8	6	5	9	7	1	3	2
9	7	3	1	4	2	8	6	5

2025 MID-WINTER COLORING + DECORATING CONTEST

Color and decorate this frosty picture however your heart desires!

Use the one here, make photocopies, or grab a printable version from addisonindependent.com/contests.

Once your chilly masterpiece is complete, **submit it:**

By Email:
contests@addisonindependent.com

By Mail or In Person:
Addison Independent, 58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753

Deadline for Entries:
Monday, March 17th

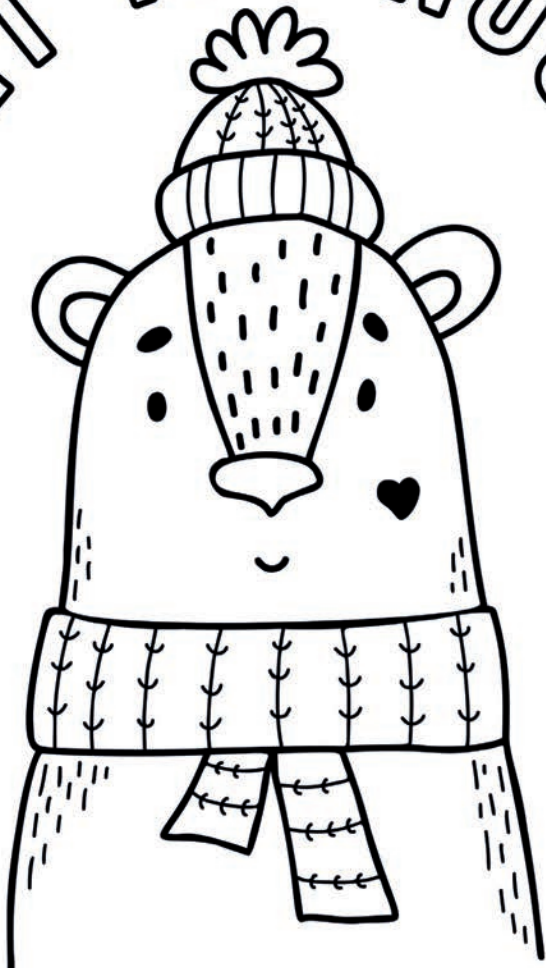
Two lucky winners from each age group will win a snow-tastic prize from our wonderful contest sponsors. Winners will be announced in the March 20th edition of the Addison Independent.

Swing by our office between 9 AM and 4 PM to collect your artwork and prizes by March 31st.

Many thanks to our sponsors:



LET IT SNOW!



Name: _____ Age: _____

Parent/Guardian's name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Age Group: ☐ under 5 ☐ 5-6 ☐ 7-8 ☐ 9-11 ☐ 12-15 ☐ 16-Adult



Proud sponsors
of the Addy Indy's
Coloring Contest!

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY
338 Exchange Street, Middlebury • Mon. - Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-4
802-388-4937 • www.MiddleburyAgway.com

Open
7 days!



Open daily
for **curious**
minds of
all ages

Vermont's Science +
Nature Museum
echovt.org





Everything you
need to draw,
paint, color
and express
yourself.

COLORBRUSH
Watercolor Brush & Marker in One!
Set of 12

a GENERAL STORE for
KIDS and FAMILIES

12 Main St. Bristol • 802-453-6945
www.simonsaysvt.com





Show us your
masterpiece!
Enter the contest for
a chance to win a
Sparrow Gift Card!

**SPARROW
ART SUPPLY**
MIDDLEBURY, VT

