



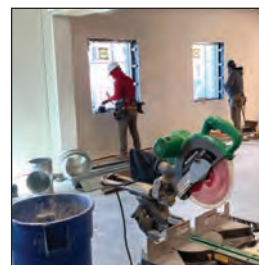
Jazz soiree

Havurah of Addison County is presenting a benefit afternoon jazz concert. See Arts + Leisure.



Frozen four

The Panther women's hockey team earned another trip to the NCAA D-III semifinals. See Page 1B.



Housework

A big rehab remakes a Weybridge home. Read about it & other ideas in our Home Improvement section.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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\$2.00

USDA stops funding for schools buying local food

\$1.7M that would go to Vermont farmers is not a priority

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — The U.S. Department of Agriculture this month canceled two programs supporting the purchase and distribution of local food, including an initiative that provided funding for Vermont school districts to buy and serve food from area farms and food producers.

The hit to those Vermont producers: \$1.7 million. “Our farmers will definitely feel it, to not have those school

“It’s hard to feel very confident about that purchasing continuing without that (USDA) funding structure in place.”

— Jessica Purks

sales,” Jessica Purks, ACORN Food Hub Operations and Logistics Manager, told the *Independent*.

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM) learned on March 7 that it would no longer be receiving anticipated federal funding for those two local food purchasing — the Local Food Purchase Assistance and Local Food for Schools and Child Care programs.

Local Food for Schools, or LFS,

has provided funds to Addison County schools to purchase local food through the ACORN Food Hub, and community members were expecting to receive additional funding through a second round of the program later this year.

“Schools were making up at least a quarter of all of our sales on the online market, which is a pretty significant slice of the pie considering we serve so many different customer groups,” Purks said. “That slice only existed as big as it was because of the LFS funding we received.”

LFS, described as a partnership with the state Agency of Agriculture (See *Buy local*, Page 7A)



Fuel to the fire

SUGARMAKER WILL WERNER works up a sweat in his family’s Middlebury sugarhouse last week while fueling the evaporator that was boiling his maple sap into golden, delicious maple syrup. The maple season has been a stop-and-go operation this year as temps swing above and below freezing. Independent photo/Steve James

Skatepark progresses in Bristol

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Progress is rolling along on efforts to transform Bristol’s skatepark at a cost estimated at \$800,000, including deconstruction of the current park.

The Bristol selectboard in June 2023 agreed to allocate up to \$140,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to renovate the skatepark, and a major fundraising push is planned.

Community members are working to revamp the skatepark next to the Bristol Hub Teen Center on Airport Drive, aiming to create a long-lasting recreation area with an eye toward accessibility and inclusivity.

The goal is to construct a new concrete park that, if all goes to plan, could be completed in the next couple of years. Community members on April 3 will gather at the Bristol Hub Teen Center at 6 p.m. for a final design meeting with Nor’Easter Skateparks, the firm with which locals are working to design a (See *Skatepark*, Page 11A)



In the groove

SENY DAFÉ OF the West African drumming & dance ensemble Jeh Kulu teaches Mary Hogan fourth-graders some new moves as part of a week-long residency at the Middlebury elementary school last week. See more photos on Page 8A.

Independent photo/Steve James

ESI wraps up energy renovation

\$3.2M project already paying nice dividends

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Workers are putting the finishing touches on \$3.25 million in renovations to Elderly Services Inc.’s (ESI) headquarters off Middlebury’s Exchange Street. The project is already paying big dividends for the nonprofit, which hosts one of the most successful and admired adult daycare programs in the Northeast.

Improvements to the 20-year-old building have included repairing and replacing roofing, siding and (See *ESI saves energy*, Page 13A)

ACSD preps for decisive meeting on Ripton school

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Addison Central School District board will hold a special meeting on Monday, March 31, to discuss — and potentially decide on — the future of Ripton Elementary School (RES).

It’s a meeting that’ll be held in open session, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Middlebury Union High School library, according to board Chair Barb Wilson. (See *Ripton teachers*, Page 9A)

Legislators talk budget standoff, fed funding

By JOHN FLOWERS

SHOREHAM — While public education reform has been generating most of the headlines from the Statehouse, a budget adjustment act standoff between Gov. Phil Scott and the Legislature and the status of federal funding were the hot-button topics at this past Saturday’s legislative breakfast in Shoreham.

The budget adjustment is undertaken by the Legislature during the fiscal year to ensure state expenditures track with the latest revenue figures. The budget correction recently passed 87-51 in the House and 18-12 in the Senate. Both chambers have Democrat majorities, but — unlike this past biennium — they are not veto-proof.

Scott on March 14 vetoed the proposed budget adjustment, and a state hotel-motel voucher program benefitting unhoused Vermonters looms large in dispute between the executive and legislative branches of government.

“Expanding the free ‘hotel/motel program’ moves us backwards, reversing important (See *Homeless*, Page 3A)



By the way

If you’ve tried to park behind Ilsley Library and found that municipal lot blocked off, you’ve probably realized it won’t be long before Middlebury’s public library will be under construction. The emergence of the temporary “Mini Ilsley” in the Duclos building on Main Street is further evidence of the work ahead. And here are some new updates from Ilsley Director Dana Hart: The ReArch Company began (See *By the way*, Page 11A)

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THE VERGENNES GRAND Senior Living driveway is busy on March 20, as the complex welcomes the first of its residents. Construction on the structure’s final phase is still ongoing.

Independent photo/Steve James

Retirement home has a ‘Grand’ opening

City complex welcomes first guests

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — Seven years after Dan and Rebecca Hassan first thought of expanding the 38-bed Vergennes Residential Care elderly living home in the city’s downtown into the 88-bed Vergennes Grand Senior Living complex, the first residents moved into the new facility on March 20.

By the end of this week, around 24 more residents should be living in their new home on North Street, just across from the Vergennes city green.

Some will live in Vergennes Grand’s 23-bed memory care unit. Up to 40% of the residents will be supported by Medicaid

and share rooms to ensure affordability. That’s a central goal for the Hassans in Vergennes and in their several other senior living properties in Vermont and New Hampshire.

“Our mission, our model, is to serve the forgotten middle, seniors who have some money, but not enough money, and some who don’t have any — low or no income,” Dan Hassan said. “And they deserve the kind of dignity you get in old age in a place like this.”

Other residents, like the first two to move in last week — former Addison residents Jane and Phil (See *Senior living*, Page 14A)

Middlebury student-athlete raising funds for Bosnia

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury College junior Alem Hadzic has always had a strong connection to his Bosnian heritage.

“I’m a first-generation college student. My parents were refugees from the Bosnian War,” he said during a recent interview. “They came to this country as refugees and started a new life here, and so I’ve always grown up in an environment where I am directly exposed to the culture of Bosnia, traditions, as well as the history of it, especially with the war that went on.”

Originally from Skokie, Ill., Hadzic said he grew up visiting the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina each summer, where some of his relatives live.

“Even though I don’t live there, I understand from a solid lens how life is there and the difficulties that can often happen in the country,” he told the *Independent*.

With that in mind, Hadzic has launched a fundraising effort aimed at supporting the country’s people. He’s looking to raise \$10,000 for the Red Cross in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a constituent of the international humanitarian network that works to help respond to current needs in the European country and address the aftermath of the Bosnian War.

He’s started a GoFundMe campaign, which had raised almost \$3,000 as the *Independent* went to press on Wednesday. Hadzic is also looking to raise funds through a couple other initiatives — running the 2025 RBC Brooklyn Half Marathon in May and organizing a soccer tournament on campus.

He said the multipronged fundraising effort blends his love for Bosnia with a couple of his other interests: sports and medicine.

Hadzic is a pre-med student studying molecular biology and biochemistry at the college. Outside of the classroom, he volunteers at Porter Medical Center in the

emergency department. Hadzic also plays forward on the college’s varsity men’s soccer team.

He said he initially reached out to several organizations with the fundraising idea and ultimately got connected with the Red Cross.

“I was lucky enough to be the first member of the Bosnian diaspora to have an initiative like this for the Red Cross,” he said. “It’s been a wonderful experience. It’s been a lot to set it up, but now that we’re running, it’s really amazing.”

Hadzic is working to coordinate a 3-versus-3 soccer tournament on campus that would engage the student body and raise additional funds for the Red Cross. He said he’s still ironing out the details but hopes to host the tournament on a Saturday in April. The event would be open to Middlebury College students and potentially the broader community, if possible.

He’s also preparing to run the RBC Brooklyn Half Marathon this spring. The 13.1-mile race runs throughout the New York City borough and will take place on May 17.

What motivated Hadzic to take part in the race?

“Contrary to popular belief, I’m a soccer player, but I hate running,” he said. “But, I think about all the struggles and the difficulties that underserved communities have all across the world. In Bosnia, for example, some communities and families don’t have access to food, health resources, and the Red Cross works to help those individuals.”

“It’s kind of motivation for me,” he continued. “I get the luxury of running a half marathon to represent the people that have more difficult circumstances in their lives to make a positive impact on their lives.”

He noted the race also provides an opportunity to raise awareness



ALEM HADZIC IS hoping to raise funds for the Red Cross for its work in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina through a few initiatives, including an on-campus soccer tournament this spring. Hadzic is a junior at Middlebury College, where he plays on the varsity men’s soccer team.

Photo courtesy of Alem Hadzic

of the cause.

“Last year, there were 18,000 finishers in this half marathon, so if I’m running for Bosnia, if I’m running for my culture, my ethnic identity, that’s a great way to tell people about it,” he said. “You’re running with someone and you just talk to them about what you’re doing and you’ve raised awareness for it.”

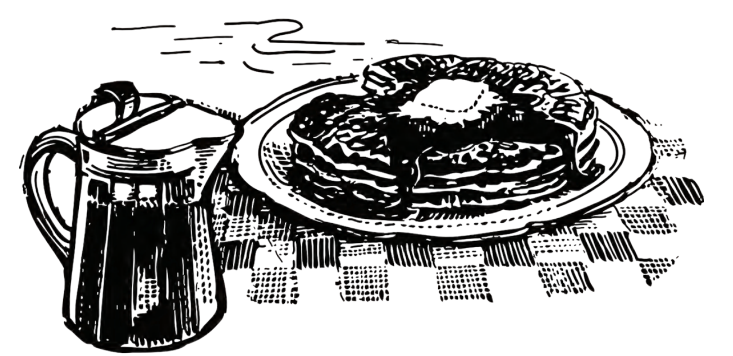
Those looking to stay updated on Hadzic’s fundraising efforts can visit the GoFundMe page and his Instagram page (alemm.mh).

Through the initiative, Hadzic’s looking forward to connecting with people around the world and seeing how social media can be used to inspire change.

“There’s a lot of conflicts that are occurring, and so how can we find ways to engage others and make the world a better place,” he said. “I’ve gotten messages from people from the Red Cross in Fiji, people from all over the world, and it’s very interesting to see how we can connect through that.”

He’s hopeful about the impact of the fundraising effort and glad the contributions of those taking part in the initiative will ultimately go toward supporting families and communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“The more we can raise, the more we can help, the more we can contribute,” Hadzic said.



Sweet sweat equity

FOLKS AT MIDDLEBURY’S Werner Tree Farm are working hard one day last week on this year’s maple syrup crop. Will Werner, above, tends to a steaming evaporator full of sap that is boiling down into syrup while his mom, Cheryl Werner, below, pours some finished product from a metal bucket. The sap, collected directly from maple trees, is often sent through a reverse osmosis machine, which takes out some of the water before going into the evaporator. Boiling takes out more water until the liquid is measured to be about 68% sugar. Then it is ready to package, sell and pour on pancakes.

Independent photos/Steve James



CORRECTION: In the Calendar section of our March 20 edition, page 6B, the date of the chicken ‘n biscuit dinner for Robbie Blaise below the photo was listed as Saturday, March 26. The correct date is Saturday, March 29. We apologize for any confusion.

QUIT FOOLING AROUND, YOU TWO!

HARE AND THE DOG

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MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE JUNIOR Alem Hadzic has always had a strong connection to his Bosnian heritage. He’s now raising funds to support the Red Cross in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Photo courtesy of Alem Hadzic

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Professional journalist to address news sources and reliability in college talk

MIDDLEBURY — What do you think when you hear the phrase “mainstream media?” Come meet a practicing journalist — Olivier Knox — and hear what it’s like to gather information and give it back to the broader world; it’s not as easy as you might think. Knox, senior national correspondent at *U.S. News & World Report*, will deliver the

2025 Robert W. van de Velde Jr. ’75 Memorial lecture Tuesday, April 8, at 4:30 p.m., in Dana Auditorium on the campus of Middlebury College. His topic will be “Actually, you *do* trust the mainstream media.” The answer to the question “Where do you get your news?” has never been more complex and even fraught. President Trump battles the mainstream press,

local news has suffered a steep, decades-long decline, and more Americans than ever are turning to partisan validators rather than traditional news outlets. Olivier Knox has covered politics and foreign policy in Washington for three decades. In his talk, he will pull back the curtain on what it’s like to be inside the ongoing turmoil — and what happens when someone throws their shoes

at the President of the United States. Olivier, whose road to the White House began with a lecture in Twilight Hall at Middlebury College, will also discuss the best path to a career in journalism. Knox has worked at *The Washington Post*, SiriusXM, Yahoo News, and for 15 years with the Agence France-Presse. Throughout his three-decade career, he has focused on Congress and the White House, traveled the world on Air Force One, interviewed presidents and lawmakers and talked to knowledgeable staff as he tried to tell readers and listeners all over the world what was really happening and how it might affect their lives. He has served as the president of the White House Correspondents’ Association.

No stranger to Vermont, suddenly. Shortly after his death, Knox was born in Burlington family members and friends established the Robert W. van de Velde Jr. ’75 Memorial Lecture. This lecture provides an annual opportunity for a searching examination of the confluence of public affairs and journalism. For further information, contact Jim Ralph, Dean of the Faculty, Middlebury College, ralph@middlebury.edu, 443-5320.

Not long after his graduation, he died



OLIVIER KNOX

Homeless

(Continued from Page 1A) progress made towards reforming this failed program, agreed upon by the administration and Legislature just last year,” Scott wrote in his veto message. “After nearly five years of experience, we know this approach is far too expensive and fails our constituents, communities and taxpayers.” A majority of the general assembly is insistent on the voucher program continuing through June 30 — the conclusion of fiscal year 2025. Scott wants the program to end on the originally mapped-out date of April 1. Extending the program through June would cost around \$1.8 million, according to reporting by VTDigger. Democrats and advocates for the homeless are arguing that absent the voucher program extension, almost 600 adults and more than 160 children could lose to motel-based shelter, based on data compiled by the Department for Children & Families last month, according to VTDigger. But the governor has suggested lawmakers instead set aside \$2.1 million for “flexible grants to municipalities, for cities and towns to use however they wanted to respond to people leaving the motels,” according to VTDigger. Many lawmakers oppose the idea, however, contending it would shift responsibility to municipalities and not contribute to a long-term solution to homelessness in the Green Mountain State. “Snow is still falling. Kids are still in school. And without this brief (voucher program) extension, the human consequences will be visible on the streets of Vermont. That’s not fiscal responsibility — that’s moral failure,” Vermont House Speaker Jill Krowinski said through a March 21 press release. “You can end a program. But you can’t end the need.” Local lawmakers on Saturday shared their thoughts on the hotel-motel voucher program standoff. “We agreed with everything the governor asked for his budget adjustment, and there have been negotiations going on,” said Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury. Hardy serves on the Senate Finance Committee. “The governor has rejected all the proposals from the Legislature.” Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, said funding already exists in the state budget to continue the voucher program through June 30. The state’s emergency shelters are mostly full, the state is dealing with a housing crisis, and snow has been known to fall in Vermont well into April. “If this gets vetoed, the governor will essentially be exiting pregnant

women, women fleeing domestic violence, veterans and a number of other categories from hotel-motel shelters they’re in right now,” Conlon said. Sen. Steve Heffernan, R-Bristol, said he had suggested a possible compromise of ending the voucher program on May 31, but that proved a non-starter. He said the voucher program might be attracting homeless residents of neighboring states, including New York, that doesn’t have such an amenity. “Don’t think we don’t care about the homeless, but are they Vermonters?” he said. “I think we should take care of our residents first ... We do get an influx of out-of-state people during (the winter).” Heffernan said he’s asked for details on what percentage of hotel-motel voucher users are temporary transplants. He said the issue is particularly visible in Rutland County, where he contends some New York families settle temporarily in motels while their children attend local schools during the fall and winter, then return to the Empire State in the spring. “I think it’s people taking advantage of fellow Vermonters,” he said. He received pushback on his assertions about the voucher program. “There’s absolutely no evidence the people in the hotel-motel program are not Vermonters,” Hardy said, adding, “everyone who lives in Vermont is a Vermonter.” She called the vouchers a “stop-gap” measure that should be replaced with a path for the homeless to secure jobs and permanent housing. The Legislature in 2023 invested \$50 million in the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the biggest-ever annual appropriation. FEDERAL AID The subject of federal aid for education also spurred debate on Saturday’s breakfast, held at the Shoreham Congregational Church. Shoreham resident Leslie Goodrich asked lawmakers how the Trump Administration’s stance toward public education could affect federal funding for Vermont. President Donald Trump recently signed an executive order to dismantle the federal Department of Education in what he said would return power over education to families instead of bureaucracies. Trump, according to a press release, envisions a new system in which “education authority (returns) to the states, while continuing to ensure the effective and uninterrupted delivery of services, programs, and benefits on which Americans rely” — with

several caveats, including that no education funding will go to “programs or activities” that advance “DEI or gender ideology.” Trump, during his presidential campaign, routinely castigated the trans community and any kind of diversity effort, often referred to as DEI, or Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. He has falsely claimed that children have access to transgender surgery at school. The Department of Defense, under his watch, has scrubbed its website of special citations for accomplishments by people of color — including a story highlighting baseball great Jackie Robinson’s military service. That story was soon restored after widespread backlash, but Trump’s defense secretary, Pete Hegseth, has stated that “DEI is dead at the Defense Department.” “What are we going to be doing to be proactive, rather than reactive, to the crumbling of the infrastructure that we have relied on?” Goodrich asked about federal education and healthcare supports. Conlon, who chairs the House Education Committee, said federal government has “forward-funded” general education funding for the 2025-2026 school year. But the status of federal Title I funding — which assists schools with special education — remains unknown, according to Conlon. “Like everybody, we don’t know what’s going on in federal government and what’s really going to happen; they’ve talked about not cutting funding but pushing it along to states, with less regulation. But without a DOE to manage those funds, I’m not sure how it’s going to work,” he said. Vermont, Conlon noted, receives significant federal healthcare assistance, both for schools and hospital systems. “It’s very clear the Republicans in Congress are probably going to use reconciliation to put forth a federal budget that tweaks some of the rules around Medicaid,” he said. “And little tweaks in the formulas used to reimburse states for Medicaid (patients) will have a huge impact on Vermont, to the tune of tens to hundreds of millions of dollars — and that’s to a healthcare system that’s now fragile, and that’s being generous.” Hardy noted Vermont depends on around \$1.9 million in Medicaid funding, including for its Dr. Dynasaur program that provides healthcare subsidies for the children of qualifying families. “The little tweaks to Medicaid will be devastating to the state of Vermont and every single one of us in this room,” she said. John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

GROW YOUR GARDEN WITH CHARLIE NARDOZZI



Join us for a special event in partnership with the Middlebury Garden Club, featuring renowned garden expert Charlie Nardozzi! Charlie will share his expertise on vegetable gardening, from tried-and-true classics to exciting new varieties hitting the market. The event will conclude with a Q&A session.

RSVP: Shannon Sunderland | 802-483-4657
ssunderland@residenceottercreek.com

Tuesday, April 8 | 1:00 - 3:00 pm






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Editorials

Upset about Trump cutting crucial services? Speak up!

If you’re worried that Trump’s proposed cuts to the administration of Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security will negatively affect the benefits you or a member of your family will receive, you should speak out.

If you’re worried that privatizing the U.S. Postal Service will reduce rural delivery to your mailbox, negatively impact your business and destroy what has been a mainstay of civic life since Benjamin Franklin was first appointed US Postmaster General in 1775, speak out.

If you’re upset Trump is offending our democratic allies in Canada, Europe and throughout the world while cozying up to dictators like

Russia’s Vladimir Putin, and the consequences to America’s national and economic security are dire, speak out.

If you’re concerned Trump is unjustly attacking the courts, defying court orders and threatening the justice system by targeting specific law firms, speak out.

If you’re concerned Trump and Republicans in power in states like Texas are threatening the health of the planet with a radical turn not just toward using more fossil fuels but also hindering the development of renewable energy, speak out.

If you’re a local farmer or parent of a child in school upset Trump cancelled programs that helped local farmers serve healthy food to schoolchildren, speak out.

Because if you don’t speak out now, this Republican-led Congress will believe Americans don’t care about the damage Trump is doing to the country and is, in fact, on the right track.

A way to make a difference is to ensure Republicans in Congress start fearing voters’ reactions more than Trump’s retribution.

One way to express your objections, or outrage, is to be part of area protests. Next Saturday on April 5, a rally called Hands Off, is a non-violent demonstration against Trump policies that are undermining critical services Americans need, as well as our democracy. Several rallies will be held across the state with the one in Montpelier being touted as the bigger event from noon to 3 p.m. Other rallies, as noted in a letter-to-the-editor also on this page, are being held in 10 communities. The closest rally will be held in Brandon from noon to 2 p.m.

For more information go to *handsoff2025.com*. More importantly, make April 5 a day to join other Americans who are also concerned about the direction the country is headed. Mass actions like this not only show Republican congressmen and women what they are afraid to hear at town meetings, but also give other Americans confidence that something can be done to stop the deterioration of services so many Americans need.

We’re only a country “of the people, by the people and for the people,” if we stand up and voice our opinions.

Angelo Lynn

Scott should rebuke Trump

If Gov. Phil Scott is serious about saving money in the state budget, rather than denying a few hundred people shelter for a month or two he’d should challenge Trump’s costly, and often self-serving, executive orders.

Trump’s harmful cuts to the nation’s health care system, community libraries and museums, as well as proposed cuts to Social Security and Medicare services will not only put a big hole in Vermont’s budget, but also increase demand on state services to combat the higher drug use, more homelessness, more critical care patients those federal cuts will surely precipitate.

If anyone knows Trump is lying about his allegations of billions in waste and fraud, it’s the governors of every state who will be bearing those costs when federal funds are lost. Democrats are speaking out about it, but Gov. Scott and a host of other fearful Republican governors have been mum on most of Trump’s lies, misinformation and actions that will hurt their states. Scott, who would only be more popular by challenging Trump, could most help Vermonters’ pocketbooks by leading a nationwide coalition of governors against such idiocy.

And it gets worse day-by-day. This Tuesday Trump issued an executive order that will severely restrict the voting rights of millions of Americans under the false banner of “Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections.” Trump’s order, according to Vermont Sec. of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas, “promotes baseless myths about elections, proposes significant barriers to voting access, and constitutes an unprecedented overreach of federal authority.”

“This order,” Copeland-Hanzas said in a Wednesday press release, “would require every Vermonter to re-verify their citizenship status in person at their town clerk’s office. This would not only create a massive and expensive administrative burden; it would create an unnecessary hurdle for anyone who doesn’t have easy access to proof-of-citizenship documents. To put this in perspective over 21 million voting-age American citizens do not have access to their proof of citizenship. Additionally, over 70 million married people who have changed their name will need additional proof of identity... All told, this requirement could impede well over a third of all eligible American voters.”

Moreover, states could lose federal funding to run their elections if they don’t comply. “If states do not comply with this and the other unreasonable provisions in the order – and the Trump administration knows many can’t or won’t – the order threatens prosecution of state/local elections officials and the termination of federal funding, on which Vermont partially relies to operate our elections,” Copeland-Hanzas said.

“We need to call this Executive Order out for what it is,” she added, “an effort to disenfranchise voters, intimidate elections workers, and defund the functioning of our democracy.”

Gov. Scott should join Copeland-Hanzas and forcefully fight against Trump’s threats. And don’t fall for the debunked misinformation Trump has been citing for years about fake ballots and other election-related nonsense. If you want the facts, go to: *https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/election-info-resources/myth-vs-fact/*, and know that most states also have election systems that have proven the test of time and have been staunchly defended by Democrats and Republicans alike. It’s only Trump who would have you believe otherwise.

Angelo Lynn



The payoff

YOU CAN TELL from the smile on her face that sugarmaker Cheryl Werner is happy to see that the day’s work making maple syrup is just about done. She is doing the “easy” part of the job at her Middlebury sugarhouse last week — turning the spigot so the golden nectar can flow into a metal pail.

Independent photo/Steve James

A fresh look at Queen Esther

We have just passed the Jewish holiday of Purim, a time to commemorate the story of Queen Esther, who saved the Jewish people by persuading her husband that his advisor, Haman, was not to be trusted. Haman had hatched a wicked plan to kill all the Jews in Persia.

Purim festivities mark the arrival of spring, and are often celebrated with a spiel (play) re-enacting the story of Queen Esther’s bravery. There are also costumes, collecting food and other supplies to share with people in need, parades, and delicious triangular pastries called hamantaschen.

In the Purim story, Mordecai, a cousin of Queen Esther, alerts her to Haman’s evil plot, and begs her to petition her husband, King Ahasueras, to save the Jews. The king ends up killing Haman and his associates. Some stories say that throughout the Persian Empire, 75,000 of the “enemies of the Jewish people” are killed. So, when we celebrate Purim, are we rejoicing in a genocide?

Today many American Jews are grappling with the Purim story. We want to honor Queen Esther’s bravery and her desire to keep her people safe. But we don’t believe in celebrating violence. We want to build a world where *everyone* is safe, from militarism, from starvation, from displacement, from ethnic cleansing.

Meanwhile, we are watching in real time as the United States slides into authoritarianism and Fascism. The far-right Heritage Foundation has published a report called Project Esther, that seeks to use the language of fighting antisemitism to stifle student activism and further repress marginalized communities.

On college campuses around the country, students have spoken up against the U.S.’s unconditional support of Israel. Here at Middlebury College last spring an encampment called out for freedom and safety for Palestinian people, and several “Ceasefire Shabbats” brought together students and community members who want an end to militarism.

There are some Jewish students, faculty, and community members who feel deeply uncomfortable with criticism of Israel. I know this because during our monthly vigil on the village green, people sometimes yell at us from their cars. And right in our own community, Rep. Matt Birong of Vergennes has co-sponsored a bill, H0310, that seeks to conflate criticism of the State of Israel with antisemitism. But there are also many American Jews who know, deep in our bones, that our safety and that of our Palestinian siblings is intertwined. Just like we can never be safe when our trans siblings, our undocumented siblings, our unhoused siblings are so threatened every day, we will not be safe until they are also safe.

Recent polling shows that one third of American Jews believe Israel is committing genocide in Gaza. There is a huge generational divide, in that young Jews are increasingly separating their Jewish identity from any kind of connection to Israel. They may have been raised to believe that Israel is a beacon of safety and freedom for Jews, but when they learn about the reality of the Apartheid state and the brutality of

(See Ways of Seeing, Page 5A)

Ways of Seeing

By Joanna Colwell



The education fund is the problem

Voter anger over property taxes has led to angst this winter in the Statehouse. A legislative leader recently urged fellow legislators and all Vermonters to discard “preconceived notions” about the issue. There seems to be a public consensus that our current education finance system is fundamentally flawed. Irretrievably broken. That something brand new is needed. Perhaps. But maybe the “consensus” is a preconceived notion to be discarded.

Our education system — schools, educators, school boards — has worked well over the years, giving Vermont students some of the best outcomes in the country. It’s the education fund that is broken, not the K-12 education system. The education fund has been stretched beyond its original intent to include expenses not related to K-12 schools, as well as services needed by children struggling to meet the challenges of growing up today.

The education fund was created by Acts 60/68 in response to the Supreme Court’s Brigham decision. It has provided all Vermont’s towns an equal chance to finance school spending. Property taxes have been adjusted to account for the incomes of most Vermonters.

The education fund was designed to pay for the education of K-12 students. It was not intended to pay for programs outside the K-12 system, or unfunded

state mandates, or the mental health needs of children growing up in turbulent times, or the full cost of school maintenance and construction, or the impacts of childhood poverty or the social costs of families ravaged by addiction.

In “The Anxious Generation,” Jonathan Haidt presents compelling evidence of an acceleration of mental health issues caused in no small part by the smartphone. Revolutionary new ways of communicating for children and adolescents (and most adults), recreating, and interacting with others has produced unanticipated impacts, many positive but many negative and harmful. Then with COVID-19, the usual educational and social development of kids, especially teens, was disrupted. Learning suffered.

Students frequently need help. Anxiety and depression have become more common among adolescents and even younger children. Educators need help in dealing with the complexities of the unique individuals in their classrooms. Teachers are educators, but increasingly they are also called upon to be social workers, mental health counselors and just someone to talk to.

The question is: Who pays to address the social and health needs of children? For a while, federal money helped — over \$50 million for needed mental health

(See Racine, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Protester’s sign was eloquent

Thank you for publishing John S. McCright’s photo of my favorite protest poster to date: “Ugh, Where Do I Even Begin.” It says it all.

Rux Martin Ferrisburgh

Join protests set for April 5

On Saturday, April 5, there will be nationwide protests against the actions of the Trump administration. These are sponsored by some thirty organizations across the country. The largest one in Vermont will be at the Capitol in Montpelier, from noon-3 p.m. The budget cuts and executive orders being protested will benefit the super-wealthy while harming ordinary people, regardless of party affiliation or ideology.

There will be rallies in large and small cities in blue and red states. There will be Republicans, Independents, Progressives, and Democrats; because people are furious at what is happening to them and their communities. To date 100,000 government employees are being fired all around the country, damaging our economy, cutting our services and inflicting pain to those fired and to the communities they served.

We are all being hurt.

The extent of the actual budget cuts and loss of freedoms is impossible to know, because it keeps shifting, as Trump and Musk get away with as much as they can and backtrack when they must. Medicaid, serving 80 million, is being cut, and with it many health clinics will likely shutter, especially in rural areas. The Affordable Care Act, a lifeline to health for 20 million will be cut. Veterans’ benefits are being cut for those who protected us. Social Security access is harder and there likely will be outright cuts. Free public education is largely protected by the 14th Amendment, yet the Administration is dismantling the Department of Education and cutting school lunches and more. In addition to tax cuts for the rich of \$4.5 trillion, tax revenue owed is projected to drop by \$400 billion for lack of collection capacity by the IRS. The federal debt will soar. Rights and safeguards against government excess are being systematically taken away: control of our own bodies, freedom of speech, and much more.

Raise your voice with us on April 5.

Come to the main rally at the State Capitol in Montpelier or to others in Brandon, Castleton, Bennington, Wilmington, Brattleboro, Chester, White River, Jericho-Underhill, St. Albans, or Barton.

Join us to show Trump, Vance, and Musk that we will not allow our freedoms to be taken away. If we don’t, the time will come when it is too late.

For more information click: HandsOff2025.com then Find Event and look on the map that appears.

Howard Jennings Bristol

Trump echoes Xi’s repression

In the fall of 2012, I signed on to teach U.S. history to high schoolers in Shanghai. Our program sought to prepare Chinese high school students for acceptance to American colleges, to meet the concerns of anxious Chinese parents wanting to prepare their children for bright futures. My colleagues and I soon realized their tuition money did not provide adequate resources for the children, but we began hopefully.

In reviewing my textbook before going to China, in a section covering 20th-century world issues, I discovered a paragraph about the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests of spring, 1989. It included a picture of “Tank-man:” a young man, in dark pants and white shirt, holding

(See Saunders letter, Page 5A)

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

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Letters to the Editor

By pulling together, fascism’s foes can prevail

It is the first day of Spring and in our family chat, my daughter in Istanbul starts off with a happy spring greeting. My sister-in-law shares that “it is a beautiful day in Edinburgh.” Followed by an announcement from my other daughter who is landing in Lisbon that “there was a typhoon at 8 p.m. last night — lots of trees down.” The sun is rising in a clear, blue sky here in Middlebury with windy conditions expected by 9 a.m.

The tussle between winter and spring begins. While summer fades into autumn, spring claws its way out of winter. Like a tug of war with a rope, spring wins. When the earth thaws, when what was dormant awakes, there is a fierce urgency to grow. The sap begins to run; the sugaring season has begun. Until the Maples bud; we taste the sweetness on our tongue.

One doesn’t sugar alone; it is teamwork. The sap is collected, the fire is lit under the sugaring

pan, the bubbling sap must be watched around the clock, the syrup is drawn off. This continues for weeks. The season begins with excitement and ends with exhaustion. Like the tug ofwar, there is usually a winner. And in this drama, it is spring. With so much in flux around us, we are assured that nature will go about its business with no attention to any other drama. We can count on that process. Trees cannot be fired. Of course, they can be vulnerable to the saw, to disease, lightning, wind, and insects. But it takes a lot to destroy a solid Maple.

We believe in Maples. We believe in weather, in cycles, in seasons. We know there are disasters. There are lots of trees down in Lisbon. There are whole neighborhoods turned to ash in Los Angeles. In a natural disaster, our instincts call us to respond, to come together. Wallace Stevens wrote “as if we were all seated together again, and one of us spoke, and all of us believed what

we heard, and the light, though little, was enough.”

In this bleak time, we gather together. We listen to one another’s stories. We respond with kindness and generosity. The destruction of the foundation upon which our country is built is not a natural disaster. It is the outcome of greed, sugared down in the hands of the powerful few. But, in this tug of war, the multitude on the other end is gaining strength. Gathering to protest in public. Gathering to plan in community rooms, in small groups around tables. Speaking, listening, indivisible. To resist. To move on.

Taking a tip from nature. Winter has us in its icy grip. The darkness is deep. But at first light on this new day, we take up our end of the rope — the kleptocrats on the other end — and we pull together. We believe, we must believe, we must convince each other, that spring will win.

**Johanna Nichols
Middlebury**

False peace will not help the people of Ukraine

Editor’s Note: Bristol resident Patty Heather-Lea met the Ukrainian writer of this letter and asked to share it with our readers.

For three long years, we, Ukrainians, have been defending our land. The world, which once guaranteed us the inviolability of our borders, is now turning away and saying: if you want peace, surrender!

But surrendering to the enemy is not peace!

This is voluntary slavery offered to Ukraine by the great powers. Ukrainians do not want to be slaves, they do not want to be refugees or emigrants. Ukrainians want to live as before on their land, in their homes.

People, wake up, peace is not a bargaining chip!

Where has the civilized world disappeared to where living peacefully on your own land is a legal right for everyone?

What is left for people who have been deprived of their homes and the right to life?

Who will accept them on their territory? How long will they be welcome there?

I have so many questions, but I already know the answers.

It is hard to hope when hope is slowly disappearing.

Pray for Ukraine.

Or better yet, contact your leaders to remind them that with their tacit consent, slavery and

captivity are returning.

Such a world can no longer be considered civilized.

I cry bitterly from powerlessness, then put on a smile and go to work.

Every year it is more and more difficult for me to do my job, because I am asking people to believe in what other countries are denying with their actions.

I am tired of keeping faith in people’s hearts because people in my country are losing hope for justice...

Please help me!
Support Ukraine, don’t be silent.

**Olha Lychko-Parubocha
Ukraine**

Racine

(Continued from Page 4A)

services in schools. That money is now gone, but the need continues. The responsibility and costs have been shifted to schools, and the education fund, and the property tax.

This expensive problem will not be fixed with a “foundation” plan with its larger class sizes, more private schools and boarded-up rural schools. State government, together with our local mental health centers and other community partners, has the responsibility to address the mental health needs of all our citizens, including our children. But the state government’s financial responsibility for children’s services has largely been shunted off to the schools.

Mental health services should be a general government responsibility and should be paid from the general fund with its broad-based and more progressive taxes — just like physical health care.

Statehouse discussion has largely focused on governance, financing and reducing spending. Less is being heard about our kids,

their struggles and the quality of their education. The promise is better student outcomes at lower cost. How? Not clear.

The governor has proposed using \$70 million of general fund dollars to take the pressure off the property tax for one year. This is an opportunity to rebalance the education and general funds. The \$70 million could be directed to the community mental health system to provide services to the schools and to start bringing all non-K-12 programs back to the general fund where they belong. And keep them there.

This will not be easy.

Every governor and every legislature since the passage of Acts 60/68 has used the property tax as a piggy bank to balance the budget “without raising taxes,” meaning broad-based taxes. What had been general fund programs and responsibilities were moved to the education fund. And property taxes went up. And up.

There are solutions. Progressive taxes, especially on higher earners who have benefited most from Trump tax cuts. Prioritization within the general fund. More cost-

effective integration of health and human services programs in our schools, as is being done with the community schools pilot program. More accountability from the executive branch for results. More accountability from the legislature for monitoring the executive branch.

The Scott/Saunders proposal — tearing down a good education system and starting over — is a radical approach. It anticipates a \$150 million cut in education spending. How will it be done?

Closing rural elementary schools? That will hurt kids and their families and devastate communities. Larger class sizes? Less attention to individual students. Reduced staff? Fewer supports for students with special needs. No more local school boards? Less involvement from the public. More money for vouchers? Less for our public schools.

That’s the alternative being considered. It started with a preconceived notion that education spending is out of control — when it is the education fund that needs fixing.

Saunders letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

two white plastic bags (perhaps food or water) standing in front of a row of tanks. The videos on TV showed that when the tanks changed direction to go around him, he moved back in front.

This image electrified the world. Chinese authorities have persistently purged access to information about those protests, as well as the numbers killed and injured in using the military to crush the movement. I reported the problem to our administrators, and was assured the publisher would review, and if necessary, “cleanse” textbooks of anything objectionable to the Communist Party. The books arrived late, but I had my teacher’s copy to start with, and the textbook worked well.

We only got up to the mid-19th century by May, but I was generally pleased with the students’ progress. We lacked ESL and other student supports, often reduced to begging the host school for uncontracted technical services. Evidently corners were also cut in the textbook screening: on May 2, we were abruptly informed that a student had found the paragraph and picture and showed it to someone in the host school. And then chaos. Our program was temporarily shut down. All our students (including those sick at home) were interviewed and their textbooks confiscated. I spent the rest of the semester teaching from some hastily photocopied sections of the book, along with material from the

Chinese-censored internet.

Xi Jinping had become president of China that semester. My students celebrated by writing a letter to Xi to share in class, offering good wishes and suggestions. One wanted help for the children of “migrants” from the country who filled the factories and workshops of Shanghai: considered illegal residents, they were not allowed to attend school in the city. From colleagues, I heard that things were changing in the universities of China: “Constitutionalist,” a term used to describe Chinese academics who advocated for following more closely the written Chinese constitution, began to be seen as a negative. So did the term “civil society.” Eventually, under Xi, many foreign programs like ours were shut down.

Over time, I’ve remembered that year as an amazing opportunity to work with engaging students in a fascinating city and country, and to appreciate the freedoms that we in this country often forgot that we had. I still believe the first part of that sentence. The second part has been crushed by what we see now in Washington.

In a 1990 interview, Donald Trump described the horrific actions of the Chinese government in 1989 as “very strong,” complaining that the U.S. was “weak” by comparison in managing public disturbances. In his first term, he was held back by military advisors from violently suppressing protestors.

Now he is deporting them, using dubious legal theories, and in ways reminiscent of the McCarthy hearings and reprisals of the 1940s and 1950s, calls ideas he doesn’t like “Anti- American,” and protestors “terrorists.”

Our government is scrubbing its records of the experiences of women, people of color, gender identity and sexual preferences, and placing tremendous pressure on public schools and higher education to do the same. How ironic, that although Trump seems to see China as an adversary to be confronted and resisted, he is, in his theory of government, copying the Chinese Communist Party.

When Roe vs Wade was overturned three years ago, I was looking forward to the birth of a granddaughter. I had lived my entire reproductive life under the protection of the right to an abortion. With the loss of Roe, I was struck by the horrid sense that my granddaughter would be less free than me. I realize that all our freedoms are subject to context and conditions of all kinds, and so many other Americans face far greater challenges than I have in realizing freedom.

But the loss of reproductive rights feels like the opening blow, culminating in what we now may be in danger of losing. Please, everyone, let’s remember what we know of freedom, and imagine more. Let’s remember that freedom belongs to us all, or it doesn’t exist.

**Dawn Saunders
East Middlebury**

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

militarized borders, many young Jewish people choose solidarity with Palestine over the Zionism they were taught in Hebrew school.

At our Purim celebration in Burlington last week, two young members of our L’Chaim Collective created a spiel to tell the Esther story. Our young playwrights, Coco and Sela, narrated the action as newscasters with a breaking story to share. At the end of the play were the words “Everyone

can be a hero and a villain. Esther saved her people, but she isn’t a hero if she turns around and hurts another community.” And, “That’s why we wrote this Purim spiel. To show that everything has two sides to it, and that the stories we are told aren’t always right. The people in them aren’t always right either. You have to think harder and work harder to understand them as a community. Like many Jewish communities are attempting to do. To really wrestle with our

history, and not just to accept one interpretation.”

Joanna Colwell (she/her) is a certified Iyengar Yoga teacher who founded and directs Otter Creek Yoga, in Middlebury’s Marble Works. She lives in Ripton, where she enjoys taking walks, gardening, and cooking. Joanna started the Yoga Equity Project, which makes yoga classes available and accessible to People of the Global Majority.

Elderly Services, Inc.

Spring 2025 Community Education Series

May 6:

Combatting fraud in the digital age

Learn how to protect yourself from the growing threats of fraud targeting older adults. This session will cover current computer, telephone, and mail scams, including impersonation fraud, check fraud, phishing and more. Learn how to recognize common fraud tactics and discover practical steps to safeguard your personal information, bank accounts, and businesses. We'll provide easy to understand tips on protecting yourself from identity theft, securing your digital banking, and avoiding falling victim to fraudsters.

Presented by: National Bank of Middlebury Security Team
May 6 at 4:30 p.m. at National Bank of Middlebury Community Room

May 15:

You're not alone—Caring for your elderly loved one

Are you worried about an aging relative? Wondering whether to intervene or how to help? We'll discuss these questions and address family roles, paid services, resistance to help, and concepts of safety and negotiated risk.

Presented by: Joanne Corbett Social Worker/Center for Positive Aging at Elderly Services, Inc.
May 15 at 4:00 p.m. at Middlebury Congregational Church

May 29:

Dementia and home safety: Helping older Vermonters create a safer environment

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.

Presented by: Rachel Wiley, MS, Occupational Therapist, The Dementia Collaborative
May 29 at 4:00 p.m. at Middlebury Congregational Church

June 5:

Managing diabetes in older age

In the US, 14.7% of adults aged 18 years or older have type 2 diabetes. For those 65 years and older the percentage is 29.2%. More than 55,000 Vermonters have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, and one out of four Vermonters do not yet know that they have diabetes. Type 2 diabetes is not inevitable. You can manage the disease to prevent further health complications, and take steps to prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. Learn about lifestyle changes proven to help improve the condition as well as delay or prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes.

Presented by: Margaret Young, MPH, RDN, LD Diabetes Educator, UVMHNP/Porter Medical Center
June 5 at 4:00 p.m. at Middlebury Congregational Church

June 12:

Driving and aging—challenges and strategies

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. Learn about the Yellow Dot Program, a statewide initiative that gives first responders quick access to important medical information during a crash or emergency. Discover helpful tips on staying independent, safe, and mobile behind the wheel.

We'll also cover how to approach the difficult conversation about driving retirement and start planning for the future. Don't miss this chance to plan ahead and stay prepared!

Presented by: Andrea Spinale, Vermont Department of Health
June 12 at 4:00.p.m. at Middlebury Congregational Church

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

To RSVP or learn more, call Susan Bruce at Elderly Services:
802-388-3983 • www.elderlyservices.org

Volunteers Make Addison County Shine

Celebrate them with the Addy Indy!

If your organization has volunteers or board members you’d like to honor, we invite you to participate in our National Volunteer Week edition. **It’s free!**

How to Participate:

Submit a Volunteer Spotlight:
Fill out a spotlight form for each volunteer you’d like to highlight by scanning the QR code.

Submit a List of Volunteer Names:
Email an Excel file with your volunteer names to Jenna at jennah@addisonindependent.com

Deadline: Friday, April 18, 2025

On stands April 24th!

Obituaries

Joseph Mario Cassarino, 80, of Monkton

MONKTON — Joseph Mario Cassarino of Monkton, Vt., died peacefully at Green Mountain Rehabilitation and Nursing in Colchester on March 14, 2025.

Joe “Papa” was born in Middlebury on Jan. 24, 1935, to John and Caroline Cassarino. He graduated from Middlebury High School in 1952 and from photography school in Woodstock in 1959. After working briefly on the Rutland railroad, he joined the U.S. Air Force and served honorably for four years.

Joe met the love of his life, Janet, at a barn dance in Whiting, Vt., which he attended after he marched in the 4th of July parade as part of the Color Guard. This began their 65-year journey together.

Joe and Janet were married in 1960 and moved to Springfield, Mass., where he worked for several years at Loring Photography studio before moving back to Vermont. In Vermont he worked at Simmonds Precision, General Electric and IBM, where he retired after a long career in Failure Analysis. In



JOSEPH MARIO CASSARINO

addition to his career, Joe was a long-time member of the American Legion post 27 in Middlebury Vermont.

Joe’s passions were family, photography, music and golf. He could be found at almost every sports or musical event that his children or grandchildren participated in — always with a camera or a video recorder in hand. He has taken thousands of pictures

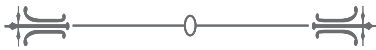
and recorded countless hours of video, leaving a beautiful legacy for his family to enjoy.

Joe was predeceased by brothers, Paul (Madeline) and Alfred (Audrey); and sisters, Agatha Morrow (Frank) and Janet Handy (Bob).

Joe is survived by his wife, Janet (Gebo); his children and their spouses, Paul (Tracie Hier), Maria (Michael Dionne), and Michael (Jennifer Rhodes), as well as his grandchildren, Nicholas Cassarino (Erin Boyd), Joshua Cassarino (Crystal Rivera), Natalie Wimet (Cali Shamburg Wimet), Andrew Cassarino, and Alex Dionne Bahrenburg (Pete Bahrenburg), as well as many nieces and nephews.

In memory of Joe, please take a picture or video, hug the ones you love, and play a round of golf.

Visiting hours will be on Wednesday, May 21, at Brown/McClay Funeral Home in Bristol, Vt., from 5-7 p.m. The funeral will take place on Thursday, May 22, at St. Ambrose Catholic church in Bristol at 11 a.m. ◇



Tricia Marie Comeau, 53, of Addison

ADDISON — Tricia Marie Comeau, surrounded by her loving family, journeyed home to the Lord from her home on Tuesday March 18, 2025. Tricia was a lifetime resident of Addison County having been born at Porter Medical Center on Sept. 6, 1971, at 11:59 p.m., daughter of Alan Stone and Linda (Alexander) Stone.

She graduated from Vergennes Union High School where she met the love of her life, Adrian Comeau. Together they had two children and many fur babies. July 29 of this year will be Tricia and Andy’s 30th wedding anniversary.

Tricia’s passion was making sure nobody went hungry, especially leaving her own kitchen. She loved to cook and her hard work ethic showed through in the hours of dedication that she spent in kitchens across Addison County. Tricia took great pride in her work and worked in schools across Addison County, Northlands Job Corps, UTC Aerospace, Autumn Harp and Middlebury College just to name a few. At Tricia’s favorite and most recent job, she adored watching the



TRICIA MARIE COMEAU

children come through the lunch line.

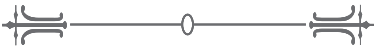
Tricia’s hobbies included gardening and canning with her parents and her daughter. She also loved to paint and painted many of her family’s homes. Tricia also loved riding the Harley with her husband, camping, and taking off on spontaneous weekend getaways. Tricia loved to travel and always found peace by the ocean, always commenting on the smell of the

ocean air. But the thing Tricia loved the most was being with her family, especially her grandson Kayne.

Tricia is survived by her husband, Andy Comeau; their two children, Zachary (Brittany) and Kylie (Cyrus); her grandson, Kayne; her mother, Linda; her three siblings, Penny (Lance), Jeff (Angie) and Cindy (Josh); brother-in-law, Peter and mother in-law, Clara.

Tricia also left behind many loving friends, nieces and nephews. Tricia is predeceased by her loving father, Alan, whom she spent many hours by the jukebox with in Linda’s kitchen. She also is predeceased by her grandparents; her father-in-law, Bernard Comeau; and her beloved Uncle Timmy.

All in all, Tricia had a beautiful life and we could never put into words the impact that she had on this community. Please join us in a celebration of life, which will be held Sunday, March 30, at 1 p.m., at the Vergennes Fraternal Order of the Eagles. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital or the local food shelves. ◇



Wayne D. Smith, 76, of Salisbury

SALISBURY — Wayne D. Smith, 76, of Salisbury passed away at his home unexpectedly on Sunday, March 16, 2025. Wayne was born in Vergennes on June 1, 1948, the son of Guy and Marilyn (Sprague) Smith. He grew up on the family farm in Bridport as a 6th-generation Vermonter. He married Carolyn Wimet after high school, and they moved to the house in Salisbury where they raised their two children. In April 1996 he married a long-time family friend, Diane (Denis) Audet. Together they raised Diane’s daughter and later welcomed grandchildren.

Wayne worked for several farm-related businesses after leaving



WAYNE D. SMITH

Bridport including Red Rose Feeds and Cartmell’s. In his 30s he decided to work for himself and created Wayne D. Smith and Associates. He spent many years taking care of properties around Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake. He also drove school buses for many years and enjoyed his time with various sports teams.

Wayne was active over the years in many organizations, including the VTPA, Addison County Fair & Field Days, and Salisbury Volunteer Fire Department. He served as

Salisbury Town Moderator and Salisbury Town Selectman.

For many years Wayne decorated his lawn with thousands of lights and other Christmas decorations. He referred to it as his present to the community. He continued this until 2023 and enjoyed the visitors who would drive by each year.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Diane; his son Dennis (Beth) of Middlebury; his daughter, Amy (Stephen) of Leicester; his stepdaughter, Renee (Sam) Carpenter of Orwell; his grandson, Sam Smith; and his granddaughters Lily and Phoebe Smith and Becca Carpenter. He is also survived by his sister Minda Bagley, and many nieces and nephews.

Per Wayne’s wishes there will be no calling hours or funeral. There will be a private service for family members at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Wayne’s name to Addison County Fair & Field Days or a local charity of your choice.

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

Eleanor ‘Ellie’ Ruth House Coffey, 84, of Addison

ADDISON — Eleanor “Ellie” Ruth House Coffey, devoted wife, mother and grandmother, passed away peacefully on March 14, 2025, at the age of 84.

Born on Nov. 21, 1940, in Mineral Wells, Miss., Ellie was reared in a multi-generational household alongside her parents, grandparents, and brother, Billy. Her early years were shaped by both love and difficulty, including her parents’ unhappy marriage, abuse by a neighbor, and her mother’s longstanding depression, followed by her tragic loss in a car accident when Ellie was 17. Growing up in a complicated family, Ellie made a quiet but powerful decision to walk a different path from those around her.

Ellie was often seen as the “good girl,” well-mannered, rule-following, and dependable. She was popular in school and masked her pain through her love of tap dance and ballet, then later cheerleading. She and a girlfriend once drove to Memphis to find Elvis at his home and was rewarded with a kiss on her forehead by the King himself. Deeply resilient, with more strength than most ever realized, Ellie bore life’s challenges with determination and never asked for recognition.

As a college student at Memphis State University, she was kidnapped at knifepoint by a stranger. By her wits, she eventually escaped only to be stalked by this disturbed man for several weeks. With the help of the FBI and County Sheriff, whose family housed her for safety, the perpetrator was eventually apprehended and served time in a state mental health hospital.

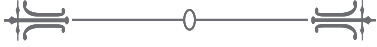
She then transferred to the



ELEANOR “ELLIE” RUTH HOUSE COFFEY

University of Mississippi as James Meredith became the first African American student admitted to the then-segregated university and witnessed the infamous campus riots in 1962. She stood in line at the Ole Miss cafeteria alongside the Civil Rights activist hoping to convey her sympathy, noticing how humbly calm and resolute he remained despite the violence and hatred he regularly encountered.

At Ole Miss in that same cafeteria, Ellie later met Andrew Coffey, a graduate student who would be the love of her life. They eloped six months later as Andy left for basic training and eventually served in the Vietnam War. Thus began a long and devoted partnership that spanned almost 40 years. During Andy’s 26-year career in the U.S. Army, Ellie moved 15 times across the globe, supporting his service to the country while raising their two daughters with deep commitment and love. Much of the parenting fell to her while Andy worked, and she



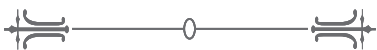
Daniel Preston Ellis, Orwell native



DANIEL PRESTON ELLIS

people return to their life’s passions and provided endless amounts of laughter, friendship, and country music along the way. After all he was a small-town boy at heart, born and raised in Orwell, Vt. He loved anything that gave him a reason to be outside but some of his favorites were hunting, maple sugaring, cycling, hiking, running, swimming, and exploring and adventuring with his two beloved dogs Mildred and Koda. He was also a talented horseman and carpool karaoke singer.

Daniel was preceded in his heavenly journey by his grandfathers, Earl Ellis and Charles Eddy, and his aunt Catherine Anne Eddy. Daniel is survived by



Bryce A. James, 43, Orwell native



BRYCE A. JAMES

(Woodbury) Dudley. He was raised in Orwell, Vt. He attended Fair Haven Union High School and was a 2004 graduate of the University of Vermont, where he was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity. He most recently received his MBA from Southern New Hampshire University. He studied abroad in New Zealand, Argentina, and Spain, where we learned to appreciate the differences in the world. He has called Scottsdale, Ariz., home for the past eleven years.

Whether trekking through bustling cities or quiet corners of the earth, Bryce carried with him

embraced that role fully.

After Andy retired, the couple returned to Mississippi where he could be close to the Veterans Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., and Ellie could reconnect with family. A few years later, Andy fell sick, and Ellie cared for him until his death at 61. His passing left a void in Ellie that she tried to fill with volunteering, dancing, and churchgoing. Her grief turned to depression, which preceded an eventual diagnosis of Alzheimer’s.

For 10 years, Ellie faced the slow and painful progression of the disease, which altered how she connected with the world and those she loved. It brought her to Addison to live with her oldest daughter, Julia, and her family. Yet it never erased the love she had for Andy nor her girls at the core of who she was.

Self-described as “forever a Mississippi girl,” she will be remembered for the lives she touched, the warmth, affection, and humor she carried, and the steady light she brought to a complicated world.

Ellie leaves behind daughters, Julia Erin Coffey and Jennifer Ashley Coffey; grandchildren Jessa Walker Ellis, Mathilde Eleanor Jacobsen, and Johannes Finn Jacobsen; sons-in-law Dr. William Ellis and Hakon Jacobsen; nephews James Michael House, Lawrence “Larry” Magdovitz II, and Dr. Joel Berry; and niece Beth Ann Magdovitz Hayes.

A future celebration of life ceremony will be held in Oxford, Miss. Donations can be made to Ellie’s favorite cause, Sierra Club Foundation. ◇

the “greatest parents a kid could have ever asked for” Michael and Nell Ellis, his older brother Michael Ellis Jr. and his dearest love and wife Nicole Morse-Ellis. Additionally, Daniel is survived by his grandmothers Joan Ellis and Mary Anne Eddy as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins, and nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers Daniel would ask that you consider making a donation to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to help others with blood cancers have more good days doing things they love with those they love. Further, he would ask that you not worry about monetary gifts and instead consider giving life to others by donating platelets and blood at your local blood donation centers.

A Celebration of Life for Dan will be held Thursday, March 27, at 11 a.m., at the First Congregational Church of Orwell, 464 Main Street, Orwell, Vt. Visitation will be on Wednesday, March 26, from 5-7 p.m. at Ready Funeral & Cremation Service, Mountain View Chapel, 68 Pinecrest Drive, Essex Junction, Vt.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Ready Funeral & Cremation Services, Mountain View Chapel. To send online condolences to the family please visit www.readyfuneral.com. ◇

the values of community, humility, and generosity instilled in him by his family and those in his hometown of Orwell.

Bryce is survived by his father, Steve of Orwell; mother, Deb and her husband Ted of Colchester; and his brother and sister-in-law Darren and Carie, and his nephew Kyle all of Orwell. Bryce is also survived by many aunts, uncles and cousins as well as a vast network of friends and colleagues all over the world. Bryce was predeceased by his stepmother, Lynn James, grandparents Walker and Ruth James, and Charles and Bessie Woodbury.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday June 21, 2025, at the home of his father Steve in Orwell, Vt. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Hospice of the Valley. Donations and condolences to the family can be made online at www.hov.org/donate/. Bryce was passionate about helping animals at local animal shelters wherever he was in the world. Feel free to make a donation in his memory to your local animal shelter.

His story does not end here — it lives on in the places he explored, the people he cherished, and the debates he engaged in. ◇

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ADDISON
COUNTY

Obituaries

Kathleen Ann Krayewsky, 69, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — Kathleen Ann Krayewsky, 69, of Vergennes, Vt., passed away early in the morning on Feb. 1, 2025, at the Helen Porter Nursing Center in Middlebury. The cause of death was brought on by complications of a rare systemic muscle disease she battled for nearly thirty years.

Born in the Bronx, New York City, on Feb. 16, 1955, Kathleen was the daughter of John and Patricia (Cawley) Baxter. She was a graduate of John A. Coleman High School in Kingston, N.Y., and the State University of New York at New Paltz.

After moving to Vergennes in 1992, Kathleen became an active member of St. Peter's Catholic community. For years, she devoted herself to the church's administrative office, registering children for the sacraments, and organizing and teaching religious education classes. Kathleen found great joy in maintaining the flowers at St. Peter's, especially during Christmas. Kathleen was also a passionate, talented quilter. In 1976, she cherished her time alongside forty-one dedicated women and friends to create the Ulster County Bicentennial Quilt, which is still on display at the McDonald DeWitt Library in Stone Ridge, N.Y. Her children were



KATHLEEN ANN
KRAYEWSKY

each blessed to receive a specialty quilt she made, and also share a wonderful Christmas quilt that rotates amongst them each year.

As a second generation American with Irish roots, Kathleen had an affinity for genealogy and created an extensive family tree. She greatly enjoyed reading history, experienced memorable travels abroad in Europe, welcomed the companionship of animals, and loved living in Vermont. The changing colors of the seasons, a sunrise, a summer breeze, or a rainy day to read brought her great comfort and joy.

As a mother, her tireless support

and logistical efforts over decades for sports, concerts, and events for her children was profoundly impactful. Kathleen was a devout Catholic, a caring and kind soul who always provided a listening ear and sound advice when requested. Her kindness and generosity was felt and will continue to be felt by many in both tangible and intangible ways. Throughout her long battle against a rare disease, Kathleen never complained and could always find happiness. Her faith, an instrumental component of her life, made her an indomitable spirit. Kathleen will be sorely missed.

Survivors include four children: Richard and his wife Kelly of New Haven, Vt.; Matthew of Westchester County, N.Y.; Kate Nave and her husband KC of La Grande, Ore.; and Joseph of Minneapolis, Minn. She also leaves behind three grandsons, Henry, Jack and Hank; and a brother, John Baxter and his wife Kathia of East Windsor, N.J.

A burial service will be held at St. Peter's Cemetery in Vergennes, Vt. on May 13.

Arrangements under the direction of Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home, Middlebury, VT. Online condolences at www.sandersonfuneralservice.com. ☐

David Raul Del Piero, 63, formerly of Cornwall

BURLINGTON — David Raul Del Piero, age 63, of Burlington, Vt., passed away on March 11 after a courageous battle with cancer. Dave's life was defined by love, friendship, and generosity towards others.

David was born on Aug. 15, 1961, in Oakland, Calif., to Mary (Mossman) Del Piero and Raul Del Piero. In his early years, the family moved to Cornwall, Vt., where Dave grew up. He graduated from Middlebury Union High School and went on to earn a degree from the University of Vermont. His love for all things mechanical was evident from a young age, starting with automobiles and eventually leading him to take up flying. Before finishing college, Dave took to the skies in a small Piper Warrior single-engine airplane, an experience that ignited a lifelong passion for aviation.

After graduating, Dave's enthusiasm for flying flourished as he embarked on a diverse and accomplished career in aviation. He began as a pilot with local commuter Bar Harbor Airlines and flew for major carriers including PanAm and Northwest Airlines; and flew as a captain for Leisure Air, USA 3000, EOS, and Qatar Airways. Over the years, Dave



DAVID RAUL DEL PIERO

served as captain on numerous wide-body charter and private flights, transporting professional sports teams, celebrities, and royal families around the world.

When Dave wasn't crossing the globe, he was hiking, skiing, or boating with friends and family. His love for architecture also led him to design and build beautiful, distinctive homes in Burlington and Waitsfield, including a cabin near Sugarbush where his family could enjoy skiing and entertaining visitors year-round. He loved the company of his numerous friends and family. Above all, Dave cherished the moments spent with

his wife, daughter, and beloved canine companion, Rocket.

Dave was known for his warm smile, quick wit, and the joy he found in sharing a freshly poured espresso or beer with nearly anyone he met. He was always cheerful, supportive, and eager to lend a helping hand to friends and neighbors. Dave was a loving husband, a best friend, a loyal companion, and a devoted father who treasured every moment with his family.

Dave is survived by his wife, Heather Ferrell, and daughter, Abigail Del Piero, both of Burlington, VT; his brother, Paul Del Piero (Debbie) of Austin, Texas; and extended family members from the Curtis, Del Piero, Kenyon, and Mossman families, all of whom he cherished deeply. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Christina.

A private burial will be held at the family plot at Woodside Cemetery in Westminster, Mass. A celebration of Dave's life will be held at the family cabin in Waitsfield, Vt., this summer.

Donations in Dave's memory may be made to the Makerspace program at Mater Christi School in Burlington, Vt. ☐

Join the Conversation About the Future of Vermont Dairy

VERMONT — The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets is hosting a series of listening sessions across the state to hear directly from dairy stakeholders, farmers, and processors about the future of the dairy industry in the Green Mountain State. These sessions will allow those involved in Vermont's dairy industry to express their thoughts, concerns, and ideas about what's ahead for Vermont dairy.

Among the upcoming listening sessions, the only one in Addison County is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at American Legion Post 23 at 49 Wilson Road in Middlebury. VAAFM leadership looks forward to engaging in conversations with the dairy community that can lead to new, actionable ideas. Each meeting

will include a working portion focused on putting ideas into short-term, near-term, and long-term priority levels. At the conclusion of these listening sessions, VAAFM will be using the anonymous ideas and data provided to develop a report that can support future dairy policy discussions, efforts, and initiatives.

In-person listening sessions began in early March and will continue through the end of April. Virtual sessions will be offered for particular dairy focus groups such as young/beginning dairy farmers, goat and sheep dairy farmers, dairy processors, and a general dairy audience. For a full list of listening sessions, head online to agriculture.vermont.gov/future-vermont-dairy-listening-tour.

Buy local

(Continued from Page 1A)
and Vermont food hubs to provide local food to Vermont schools at no cost to the schools, was funded through a cooperative agreement with the USDA.

This month the feds terminated that cooperative agreement as well as another one supporting the Local Food Purchase Assistance program, which provided grants for purchasing and distributing local food across underserved communities.

USDA said it was ending its role in those local food purchases because they were no longer a priority.

In January, Vermont had signed agreements with the Biden administration to continue operating both programs. Those agreements totaled \$1,720,160 in funding, with about \$1.2 million earmarked for a second round of the LFS program.

The programs were scheduled to begin implementation later this year but won't continue now that those agreements are no longer in effect.

FREE FOOD FOR SCHOOLS

Through the LFS program, every school district in Vermont received free local food through their area food hub from September 2023 to June 2024. Over 100 Vermont farms and food producers sold food through the program, engaging with schools in each of the state's 14 counties, according to the Agency of Agriculture.

Vermont school districts were assigned to a food hub and allotted a certain amount to spend on local food, in proportion to enrollment. The Addison Central, Addison Northwest and Mount Abraham Unified school districts were assigned to the ACORN Food Hub, as was the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union.

The food hub hosts an online market and offers local supply chain support to "aggregate, market, and distribute food products from producers and farms around Vermont's Champlain Valley."

Purks noted that initially ACORN had just one school engaging with the food hub after it opened in 2022.

"It was really short lived, but during that time when they were ordering from us — pretty much every week for four months — we had farmers selling to schools for the first time because we were able to facilitate sales through the food hub," she recalled. "It was exciting for us. It was exciting for the producers that were seeing those sales; schools order a decent volume of produce."

That collaboration ultimately fizzled out, and it wasn't until the LFS program got underway in late 2022 that the food hub saw local schools regularly purchasing goods again.

"With that, we saw 75% of our producers that work with us selling to schools," Purks recalled. "I think we had 35 farms suddenly selling to schools, and many of them for the first time because the funding was now there for the school to make those purchases and the food hub and distribution resources were there to facilitate that for the school."

Purks noted that before LFS began, area schools didn't have an easy option for purchasing local food.

"It was either a direct relationship with a farmer, and then that takes a lot of time; it can be inefficient for the school to handle that, it can be inefficient for the farmer, and just generally more complex," she explained. "But working with us, a school could order from up to 50 producers if they wanted to ... on our platform and get it all delivered, so it's really easy."

When the first round of funding through LFS was released, Purks said ACORN saw a lot of engagement from the four local school districts assigned to the food hub. The food hub had never before engaged with those districts, in part because of the money.

"With that financial barrier removed, the schools had a wide opening to start purchasing local food and bringing local food into their kitchens, which is amazing," Purks said.

We're not talking about a huge subsidy.

Through the program, local school districts were allotted funds ranging from \$3,771 to \$6,213 to purchase through the food hub. Purks said the districts spent down 99% of the awarded funds.

"All of our schools used it up and loved it and learned about new local food that they'd never used before in their kitchens," she said. "Farmers were stoked, many farms making sales for the first time to schools."

'AGE-OLD HURDLE'

ACORN was looking forward to the anticipated second round of funding through the LFS program, which would have expanded the offering to include early childcare programs.

"(It) would have brought triple the amount of funds for our local school districts to purchase local food, plus additional funding to support the early childhood education facilities," Purks said. "Now that we're not getting that funding, it's a huge blow to our farmers."

Purks noted that the ACORN Food Hub works with farmers and food producers of all sizes.

"Some of our small farms really benefited from getting into the schools, and it was an in that they would not have had otherwise, unless it was us and this combination of the food hub in partnership with the LFS program," she said. "It's hard to feel very confident about that purchasing continuing without that funding structure in place."

The ACORN team this past fall brought on Abby Kelso as the Food Hub account manager. The addition would support the organization's growing relationship with schools.

"We don't have a farm-to-school coordinator, a farm-to-school liaison like some bigger teams do, and so (Kelso's work) is to nurture those school relationships because it was really starting to take off with this LFS funding," Purks said.

She said Kelso will continue that work now that the funding has been terminated, though it might be less robust than the organization had originally hoped.

Purks noted that some schools are still purchasing from the food hub, though in much smaller quantities and only from one district.

"We've gone down from four (school food authorities) purchasing regularly from us and in

much bigger quantities from more types of producers to one (school food authority) purchasing kind of intermittently," she said. "It is going to a few schools in that district."

She said that the LFS program gave school districts a low-stakes opportunity to try out purchasing local food and working with the food hub.

"Now that we've done that, all of our districts that we worked with for the first round said they would continue purchasing with us again, they wanted to, especially if the funding was there," Purks said. "The relationships have been established and the rapport is there and the desire to purchase is there, but now that age-old hurdle of funding and affording the local, organic option comes in again"

Purks acknowledged that similar initiatives are still available to schools, such as the Local Foods Incentive Grant program, which more schools might pivot to in order to support local food purchasing.

ACSD STILL BUYING LOCAL

Steven Marinelli is food services director for the Addison Central School District. He said the LFS program allowed the district to work with ACORN and buy local foods from farmers around the area, which it will continue to do.

"Although losing this funding places a negative impact on local food purchases, we at ACSD are committed to working and purchasing from our local growers and producers," he said. "We will also continue our partnership with ACORN to receive locally sourced produce and goods. The good news is that this does not impact the local school initiative, which provides more reimbursement funds for schools that meet percentage thresholds of local purchases."

Marinelli said he's hoping the Trump administration might look at more ways to incentivize local purchasing.

"I would like to see the administration allow schools to use their commodity dollars to purchase local. Right now we can purchase produce grown within the United States with commodity dollars through DOD (Department of Defense)," he said. "From what I have heard from the Agriculture Secretary is that she does support local foods in schools. So let's hope this is just a shift in more effective ways for school districts to access local foods. Time will tell! As stated before, ACSD will stay committed to support our local farmers and producers."

Purks added that food hubs around the state are getting together to assess the impact of the programs ending.

"When you look at the numbers, it's pretty incredible the reach that this program had," Purks said.

In a March 13 press release, VAAFM said that over 120 Vermont farms and food producers participated in the two programs.

Purks noted that the majority of participating producers are small businesses and many qualify as socially disadvantaged farmers — such as producers growing in rural environments or women-owned operations.

"The setbacks for these small businesses will be significant," she said.

Marcia Wheeler celebration of life

MIDDLEBURY — A celebration of life for Marcia Wheeler, who passed away on March 1, 2025, will be held at the Middlebury Inn on Friday, April 11, from 3- 5 p.m.

ADDISON COUNTY School Briefs

Bee Eckels of Vergennes was named to the 2024 fall semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston. To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

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Dance beat

STUDENTS OF ALL GRADES at Middlebury's Mary Hogan Elementary School learned to drum and dance during a residency by the Je Kulu drums & dance group last week. The Burlington group features artists from Guinea, West Africa. Shown here are fourth-graders broadening their minds and talents. Directly above are the Jeh Kulu ensemble, Ismael Bangoura, left, Seny Daffe and Assane Coly. Pictured during a session with fourth-graders are, clockwise from top right, Joseph Kafumbe; Will Gillespie; Daffe flips his drumstick in front of Coly; fourth-graders dancing including Nevaeh Chaplin, left, and Char Pierro; and Liam Liberty.

Independent photos/Steve James



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Bowl Bash raises \$18K!

THE MIDDLEBURY SKI & Snowboard Club held its annual Bash at the Bowl celebration on a Saturday in late March under sunny skies and springlike temps. Not only was the Bash a great time and drew a huge crowd gathered here at the Middlebury College Snowbowl base lodge in Hancock, but more than 40 corporate sponsors helped raise more than \$18,000 to support the club’s scholarship fund. That fund enables families, who might otherwise not be able to do so, get their children equipped and on the snow for the season. “We cannot express enough how grateful we are, MSSC President Holmes Jacobs said.

Photo provided

Ripton teachers

(Continued from Page 1A)
Ripton Elementary is the smallest of ACSD’s seven elementary schools, and RES officials and community members have been working to avert the school’s closing. But the numbers tell a foreboding story. RES was slated to serve around 28 total K-5 children this fall. Only three of those students would have attended grades K-1, which is far fewer than the district’s minimum of at least 10 students per class (across two grades). Those three Ripton K-1 students will instead attend neighboring Salisbury Community School next year.
Still, officials had hoped RES could continue to serve students in grades 2-5 this fall. At one point, there appeared to be enough children (11) for both a grades 2/3 class and a grades 4/5 class.
But as reported by the *Independent*, some parents of students in next year’s grades 2-5 class have requested their children be sent to other ACSD schools, due to concerns about RES’s stability and a desire to keep siblings at the same school.
Ripton Elementary boosters received additional disheartening news this week with the announcement that all three of the school’s veteran classroom teachers will be moving either into retirement or other jobs

Ripton Elementary boosters received additional disheartening news this week with the announcement that all three of the school’s veteran classroom teachers will be moving either into retirement or other jobs within the ACSD, beginning this fall.

within the ACSD, beginning this fall.
Wendy Baker, superintendent of ACSD schools, confirmed on Monday that RES educators Susan Ogilvie, Charlotte Holmquist and Melissa Giroux won’t reprise their roles for the 2025-’26 academic year.
The three educators combined have logged more than 65 years at RES, a school that — barring an eleventh-hour infusion of more students or some other game-changer — could shutter permanently or take an undefined hiatus when classes end this June.
Baker outlined the potential options in an email sent to the Ripton community Tuesday afternoon. They include:
• Operating the school with low enrollment in 2025-26 with an entirely new teaching staff.
• Approving parent requests to transfer their children to their school of choice, or to a school of the board’s choosing.
• Transferring all grades 2-5 students to a single school to allow for a “deeper analysis” of potential future options for RES.
• Allowing ACSD voters to “consider whether it is time to close the school.” The district’s founding articles of agreement (tinyurl.com/36st45mk) lays out the process for school closures,

mergers, and what might be done to keep at least some vestige of public education going in Ripton.
Baker said additional options might surface during the March 31 special meeting. The school board will need to weigh, among other things, the ACSD’s class-size policy and its stated mission of providing equal access to a quality education for all students.
Ripton has operated at least one local school for the past two centuries.
If this year proves to be RES’s last hurrah, it will have ended its run with three tenured educators.
“For 15-16 years, the staffing in that school has been remarkably consistent,” Baker said. “Regardless of the situation (going forward at RES), that will now be shifting. The transitioning of senior staff at this point underscores the need to think differently; it means the education of children in Ripton is entering a different era. And that’s what we’re continuing to sort out.”
Ogilvie, with more than 30 years teaching at RES, is the most senior of the three current Ripton educators. She’s decided to retire

when classes end this June.
If there’s a silver lining to Ogilvie’s retirement, it’s that it’ll avert a RIF notice for another teacher within the ACSD, according to Baker.
“We want to ensure that everyone who *can* have a job, *does* have a job,” she said.
Baker stressed Ogilvie’s retirement has been in the works for a while.
“This is not related at all to Ripton’s current situation,” she said of the timing of Ogilvie’s decision.
Holmquist, who’s been an RES educator for more than 20 years, will transition to a special educator’s job next year within ACSD. She already has a special educator’s license in addition to her teaching certification.
Meanwhile, given that Ripton’s K-1 students will be sent to Salisbury this fall, ACSD officials are looking for a different assignment within the district for Giroux, who currently teaches RES’s youngest students and has been at the school for around 15 years, according to Baker.
John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

HomeShare Vt. launches raffle

SOUTH BURLINGTON — HomeShare Vermont has launched its 2025 Experience Vermont Raffle, with prizes including local getaways and unique experiences, to raise funds in support of the nonprofit’s mission to create more opportunities for people to access homesharing in Vermont.
For over 40 years, HomeShare Vermont has helped individuals stay in their homes, find affordable housing and strengthen local communities through shared living arrangements. In exchange for reasonable rent—an average of \$360 per month — guests may provide services such as companionship, meal preparation or help getting to and from appointments.
Each ticket purchased directly supports HomeShare Vermont’s mission to help more Vermonters find affordable housing through mutually beneficial shared living arrangements. Winners can explore the best of Vermont with packages that include stays at historic inns, local dining experiences and outdoor adventures.
Prizes include:
• Two-night stays at Middlebury Inn, North Hero House, Bristol Suites, Millstone Hill in Barre and Blind Tiger Burlington, plus a one-night stay at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee.

- A solo Vermont City Marathon entry with perks including an e-bike rental and a meal at Savu, or a team Vermont City Marathon entry with a Pascolo Ristorante gift card.
 - Experience Montpelier Package: Dining at Sarducci’s, shopping at Woodbury Mountain Toys and Bear Pond Books, Lost Nation Theater tickets, and a behind-the-scenes tour of Barr Hill Gin.
 - Burlington Night Out Package: Tickets to a Flynn Theater performance and a dining experience at Honey Road/The Grey Jay.
 - Fun in the Northeast Kingdom: A family membership to Craftsbury Outdoor Center and a meal at The Cork & Fork in Hardwick.
 - UVM Athletics Package: Tickets to UVM Men’s and Women’s Basketball, Men’s Ice Hockey, plus a Bluebird Barbecue gift certificate.
 - HomeShare Vermont’s 2025 Experience Vermont Raffle is made possible with the generous support of the M&T Charitable Foundation, the University of Vermont Medical Center, Langrock Sperry & Wool, Efficiency Vermont, Northfield Savings Bank, Countryside Paint & Flooring and Quantum Leap Capital.
- For more information on the raffle and to purchase tickets, visit www.homesharevermont.org/2025-experience-vermont-raffle/.

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Woman cited for domestic assault

BRISTOL — Bristol police on March 2 responded to a report of a domestic assault on Morgan Horse Lane. After investigating, police arrested and cited Debra Gorton, 57, of Bristol for domestic assault.

Between Feb. 16 and March 15 Bristol police completed 46 foot patrols and seven car patrols, conducted 56 traffic stops, and checked security at Mount Abraham Union High School 25 times, at Bristol Elementary School 30 times and at local businesses 19 times.

Police also processed 28 fingerprint requests, verified a vehicle identification number, responded to one 911 call that turned out to be accidental, facilitated the return of one lost wallet and responded to one alarm activated by an employee error.

In other recent activity, Bristol police:

- On Feb. 16 took a late report of a crash on Prince Lane.
- On Feb. 16 received a cell phone found on West Street.
- On Feb. 16 responded to a motor vehicle complaint on Upper Notch Road. Police found the vehicle and had it moved.
- On Feb. 17 helped the Bristol Public Works Department find the owners of two parked vehicles that were interfering with snow removal.
- On Feb. 17 responded to an animal complaint in Blaises Mobile Home Park. An investigation is ongoing.
- On Feb. 18 assisted with discussing the proper installation of a child car seat.
- On Feb. 18 responded to a parking issue at the intersection of South Street and Pumphouse Drive.
- On Feb. 19 helped Maplefields with a trespass order.
- On Feb. 19 hosted a birthday party for a young member of the

Bristol Police Log

community.

- On Feb. 20 responded to a parking problem on West Street.
- On Feb. 20 assisted Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School with a truancy concern.
- On Feb. 20 received a report of a vehicle that was repossessed from Taylor Avenue.
- On Feb. 21 responded to Monkton Road for a reported cow in the roadway. The cow was returned to pasture before police arrived.
- On Feb. 21 issued a parking ticket on Mountain Street.
- On Feb. 24 Bristol’s community resource specialist helped a member of the public get resources.
- On Feb. 24 received a report of the theft of tools from a vehicle on Maple Street. An investigation is ongoing.
- On Feb. 24 received a late report of a motor vehicle crash on Prince Lane.
- On Feb. 25 helped with an injured deer on Meehan Road.
- On Feb. 25 received a report of an ongoing parking issue on South Street and issued tickets.
- On Feb. 26 enforced the town parking ordinance on South Street.
- On Feb. 27 responded to a barking dog complaint on Mountain Street. Police brought the dog to station until the owner could be located.
- On Feb. 27 responded to a complaint of horses loose on Carlstrom Road. Police reported that the caller was able to return the horses to their pasture.
- On Feb. 27 found a lost dog on West Street and returned it to its owner.

- On March 1 received a report of the theft of political signs from a yard on Pine Street.
- On March 3 mediated a disagreement between a child and parent on Firehouse Lane.
- On March 4 enforced the town parking ordinance on Mountain Terrace.
- On March 4 responded to a motor vehicle complaint on Mountain Street.
- On March 5 mediated a disagreement between a child and parent on Firehouse Lane.
- On March 5 helped someone with transportation.
- On March 5 issued a warning for a dog loose on North Street.
- On March 5 checked on Main Street for the report of a suspicious person. Police did not find any suspicious activity.
- On March 5 cited Violi Seaasons, 45, of Bristol for violating a condition of probation.
- On March 7 assisted Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School with a truancy concern.
- On March 7 helped someone to resolve social media harassment.
- On March 8 cited Norman Michaud, 67, of Leicester for driving with a criminally suspended license and without a required interlock device, following a traffic stop on West Street.
- On March 9 responded to Main Street for the report of someone consuming alcohol in public. The person was gone when police arrived.
- On March 11 received a delayed report of a minor parking lot crash.
- On March 11 participated in a Cub Scout adventure on Mountain Street.
- On March 11 received a report of a theft on West Street.
- On March 11 responded to Prince Lane for the report of individuals attempting to enter a

Middlebury driver cited for DUI

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Gina Sherwood, 41, of Middlebury for suspicion of driving under the influence. The citation follow a stop on East Main Street on March 17.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Were informed someone had stolen a package from a Seymour Street residence on March 17.
- Served court diversion paperwork to a person involved in a theft from a MacIntyre Lane business on March 17.
- Helped a local resident whose dog had run away from the North Pleasant Street area on March 17.
- Responded to a reported fight in progress involving “several” intoxicated individuals” on Court Street on March 18. Police reported no injuries or arrests in the incident.
- Looked into a report of an altercation in the Boardman Street area on March 18. Police determined no physical fight had occurred.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS on a medical call to the Residence at Otter Creek on March 18.
- Checked the welfare check of the tenants of a Seminary Street home after receiving a report of “suspicious activity”

Middlebury Police Log

there during the evening of March 19.

- Received a report of vehicles allegedly passing a stopped school bus on Route 7 South on March 19.
- Spoke with a man who said he’d been harassed in the Main Street area on March 19.
- Responded to a dispute between Sugarwood Court neighbors on March 19.
- Searched in vain for an alleged drunken driver on South Pleasant Street on March 20.
- Assisted with a juvenile issue at Middlebury Union Middle School on March 20.
- Were informed of the theft of a package from a Jackson Lane home on March 20.
- Quickly found a man dealing with memory loss issues after he had wandered into woods off South Street on March 20.
- Responded to a car-versus-cyclist accident at the intersection of Deerfield Lane and Middle Road on March 21. Police reported no serious injuries and said the incident remains under investigation.
- Assisted an Addison County Sheriff’s Department deputy at a DUI stop near Kelton Drive on March 21.

- Checked on the welfare of a Shaw’s Supermarket customer on March 21.
- Investigated a possible embezzlement case at a Mainelli Drive business on March 21.
- Received a report that someone had scratched a vehicle while it was parked on Washington Street on March 21.
- Assisted a Court Street resident who reported hearing noises outside her home during the evening of March 22.
- Responded to a car-versus-deer accident at the intersection of Routes 7 and 125 on March 22.
- Checked on a report of suspicious behavior near the Residence at Otter Creek on March 23. Police said they found nothing amiss.
- Checked on the welfare of a man who had fallen asleep in his parked car off Route 7 North on March 23. Police said the driver was OK and not impaired.
- Coordinated services for a person who was experiencing a mental health crisis at a Route 7 North location on March 23.
- Helped a motorist with a flat tire on Route 125 East on March 23.
- Investigated a report of suspicious activity in the Jayne Court neighborhood on March 23.

closed business. Police did not find any forced entry and reported that no one was found near the business.

- On March 13 helped someone with transportation from Airport Drive.
- On March 13 removed a traffic hazard from the roadway on North Street.
- On March 13 issued a ticket to someone under the age of 21 in possession of tobacco.
- On March 14 assisted Bristol Elementary School with a truancy

concern.

- On March 14 following a traffic stop on Burpee Road arrested Shawn Turner, 39, of Starksboro. Police determined that Turner had two active warrants from Washington County and Chittenden County for failing to appear for previous court dates.
- On March 14 helped a community member get resources.
- On March 15 following a traffic stop on South 116 identified a passenger as Ashley Pelkey,

37, of Bristol. Police determined Pelkey had two active warrants for failing to appear for previous court dates and turned Pelkey over to the Addison County Sheriff’s Department.

- On March 15 responded to South Street for a noise complaint. Police reported that the person turned their music down.
- On March 15 responded to West Street for a suspicious call, but police did not find any suspicious activity.

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Skatepark

(Continued from Page 1A)
remodeled skatepark.
“We’re just really excited about this project,” Bristol Hub Director Taylor Welch-Plante told the *Independent*. “As someone that’s been kind of dug into this for a couple of years, I’m really excited that things are moving forward, and it’s feeling like we’re going to have a concrete skatepark, which is so huge.”
The Hub is working in collaboration with the Bristol Recreation Department and the Bristol Recreation Club on the skatepark project. The rec. club owns the property on which the skatepark is sited.
PROJECT BACKGROUND
The town’s skatepark was created in 2000.
“Over the course of time small improvements have been made, and small additions of more asphalt, repainting, different things have been rebuilt or moved,” Welch-Plante said. “But ultimately, it is a skatepark of asphalt, wood, skatelite and steel, which are not really designed to be outdoors or permanent. I think over the 25 years it’s been here it’s been really well established that this is a very important, permanent feature of our community and surrounding communities.”
Welch-Plante noted the skatepark’s significant role during the pandemic, when many residents used the facility as a source of entertainment and an outdoor gathering spot.
Work on the skatepark, such as developing a new section for younger users, emerged as one of the projects supported by the community and recommended for funding by Bristol’s ARPA Advisory Committee.
Residents unanimously backed the decision to move forward with construction of a concrete skatepark at an initial town-wide meeting about the project last year.
“(That decision) is awesome, but adjusts the overall costs and

planning of the park significantly,” Welch-Plante explained. “But it will ultimately lead to a permanent and easier to use and really great asset to the community.”
SKATEPARK DESIGN
The town released a Request for Proposals for the design of a new skatepark and picked Maine-based Nor’Easter Skateparks.
Nor’Easter has held a couple of design meetings with local residents in recent months. Welch-Plante said around 30 people attended an introductory gathering this past January, during which Nor’Easter co-owners Chris Hogan and Keith Powers explained the process and attendees had an opportunity to ask questions.
Nor’Easter also posted a virtual survey ahead of the meeting that allowed community members to offer feedback. The survey drew around 30 responses.
At a second design meeting this past February, residents reviewed and commented on three potential designs.
“That was great; there was a lot of conversations about how the overall park is going to be laid out,” Welch-Plante recalled.
She noted one goal of the project is to include cement paths from the sidewalk to the skatepark and from the Hub’s existing sidewalk to the nearby pavilion, to increase access to the area.
“To make it so that, (for) community members that are coming with their kids and strollers or maybe walkers, it’s easier to get to that place and be able to sit down and watch their grandkids, or maybe they’re using a wheelchair that can go on the skatepark and so it’s easier to get there,” she explained. “Just trying to increase accessibility in general.”
Welch-Plante said community members have been discussing the dual role the pathways will likely play — as a place for residents to walk and for skaters to ride on — and how to balance those uses.
Other topics that have come

up at design meetings include the skatepark’s visibility from the road.
“One of the things we’re really excited about for the skatepark is it’s going to act as its own art piece; a set-in-the-ground, permanent art piece that’s going to be amorphous and beautiful and rolling and blend with the environment as best it can,” Welch-Plante said. “So, we’re really excited for that to be something that can be seen from the road.”
She said residents have discussed where the highest features of the park will be, and if those structures would block the view from the road and ways to navigate that aspect of the design.
“We want to highlight this really cool commitment that the community has made to this culture of people that is often underserved or pushed off,” she said.
FUNDRAISING
At the upcoming April 3 meeting, Welch-Plante said community members will review a final design incorporating residents’ feedback and have one more opportunity to offer input and edits.
After that, town officials will have access to final designs and construction documents for the new skatepark. Welch-Plante said the next phase of the project will focus on fundraising, with the goal of having a good portion of needed funds secured before releasing an RFP for the building process.
Welch-Plante noted fundraising is already underway to cover the \$800,000 projected cost, with the Vermont Community Foundation and local residents having chipped in. The town has also applied for a grant through the state’s Land and Water Conservation Fund, a process that included a partnership with the Bristol Recreation Club to explore the granting of a public access easement if funds are awarded.
Those interested in supporting the project can donate through the Bristol Recreation Department’s website or by sending a check to the town of Bristol with “skatepark donation” in the memo. The team

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)
mobilizing onsite on March 17; you might have noticed a fence going up around the construction zone perimeter. The Better Middlebury Partnership is working with local organizations and artists to design canvases to decorate the fencing. This week, Clay Point Associates supervised abatement of asbestos tiles in the bathroom of the 1977 addition. Selective demolition (inside the building) began this week, and geothermal well drilling has begun in the upper parking lot. Next week: Demolition of 1988 and 1977 additions, which will take most of the month of April to complete.
The Vermont Department of Labor (VDOL) is announcing supports for Vermont’s federal employees, contractors, and other workers affected by the recent federal government transition. Federal workers affected by mass firings might be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. The VDOL has created a resource page for former federal workers with specific guidance and instructions on how to file for benefits, along with additional information to support the reemployment process. To learn more, visit labor.vermont.gov/resources-former-federal-employees. Former federal workers are also encouraged to explore job opportunities with the state of Vermont. There are open positions across a variety of state agencies that may align closely with the skills and experience that displaced federal workers already possess. A full list of employment opportunities is on the State of Vermont Careers site at careers.vermont.gov.
The Mount Abraham Union High School softball team has enjoyed great success during the past decade, and part of the recipe has been an annual spring training trip to the Ripken Experience in Myrtle Beach, S.C. As always, the team is looking to contributors to ensure all members can handle the financial outlay of the trip. With that in mind, the team is fundraising, an effort that will include a waffle breakfast this Sunday, March 30, from 7-11 a.m. at the Bristol American Legion Post 19 off Airport Road. There will be a raffle and silent auction at the waffle breakfast. Please make donation checks out to Mt. Abraham Softball, and send them to 200 Airport Drive, Bristol, VT 05443. Contributions accepted through April 18. The

also welcomes in-kind donations, such as materials for the new park.
She said the team has some other plans for fundraising as well. Profits from the inaugural Gitaskog Skateboard Film Festival being held in town this upcoming July will go toward the skatepark renovation project.
Community members plan to host music events and skate jams that could help raise additional funds for the effort.
“We’re really excited to work with everyone and all the creative people in and around Bristol and the other towns and make some really fun things that celebrate all the successes of the skatepark and how much it’s

goal is \$10,000. The team will be in Myrtle Beach during the week of April 21, which is school break.
With the warming temperatures, melting snows, and the Vernal Equinox, spring is arriving. That means amphibians are beginning to awaken from their winter slumbers to head for nearby pools, with breeding on their mind. All this means it’s time for the Salamander Soiree in Salisbury. For more than 20 years, Otter Creek Audubon Society and the Salisbury Conservation Commission have sponsored organized nights when interested citizens can help salamanders, frogs and toads safely cross on Morgan Road to get from their upland wintering sites to the swamps and wetlands where they’ll breed. Two organized nights will be held this year, scheduled according to weather conditions. To be placed on the email notification list, please email Heidi Willis (redsprings@myfairpoint.net). If you were on last year’s list and wish to remain, please email to confirm. More detailed information about location, notification, etc. will then be sent. Families and children (who are prepared to walk carefully) are welcome to witness this ancient spring migration.

idea that it can draw people down here and highlight what a beautiful area Addison County is and how great Bristol and Middlebury and Vergennes are,” Welch-Plante said.
“We’re just really excited about making this a center where people see it as a place to travel to hang out at skateparks, but that is not really what it is right now and that’s a really cool change,” she continued. “Outdoor recreation is such a huge pivot-point of the culture of Vermont, so bringing more opportunities where there are these public, outdoor resources where people can recreate at really low costs and explore this action sport is going to be really good for all the communities.”



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Spotlight on Vergennes

Commodore Club gains momentum

By ANDY KIRKALDY
VERGENNES — After the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes announced last week that it will go on hiatus, an at-least-short term alternative has quickly emerged to fill the afterschool void for city-area families.
On weekday afternoons from Monday, March 31, to Friday, April 18, the Vergennes Recreation Department will sponsor the “Commodore Club” from 3 to 5:30 p.m., with extended hours on April 9 of noon to 5:30 p.m.
The Boys & Girls Club board has agreed to provide the club’s Armory Lane headquarters to the rec department and its Recreation & Programming Coordinator Martha DeGraaf for use for the Commodore Club, according to club Board Co-Chair Sadie Jones.
This program is free of charge and registration for residents of the five Addison Northwest School District is now open at vergennesrec.org under the “Programs” section.
DeGraff, a former longtime home-based childcare provider and the host of the rec department’s outdoor summer Commodore Camp program, will be the main adult presence at the Commodore Club. Vergennes assistant clerk Sandy Rooney, whose job description also includes working with the recreation program, will also help out as needed, DeGraaf said.
DeGraaf said she approached the Boys & Girls club board quickly with the Commodore Club idea after the board announced on

March 17 it would pause operations — due to financial reasons, and to give the board time to work out a sustainable path forward, Jones told the *Independent*.
DeGraaf said she also consulted with ANWSD afterschool and Fusion program coordinators Asia Kruse and Kristin DeGraaf, respectively, before moving forward with the proposal.
In a press release about the program, Martha DeGraaf wrote the “Commodore Club will offer students in grades 5 through 12 from Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Panton, Waltham, and Addison a safe and engaging space after school,” adding the rec department and ANWSD programs “are stepping up to ensure our youth continue to have access to meaningful, supervised afterschool opportunities ...
“The Commodore Club reflects the community’s shared commitment to supporting our kids with recreational programming, leadership development, and community engagement.”
DeGraaf said she has ideas for programs, but would wait until those kids start showing up and sharing their interests — and she has a chance to tour the building and see what materials are available — before she starts creating offerings that possibly could building off the Commodore theme.
“My plan is to meet the kids who show up on the first day, and then I would really like to work on some community-led and child-led programs, to see what they are

into,” she said. “And then determine what’s going to happen from there.”
DeGraaf said that’s how in 2023 she created Camp Commodore working with ANWSD to help families give children opportunities early and late during ANWSD’s summer vacations, when there were programming voids. Those who have seen children dressed as pirates walking around the city on treasure hunts have seen Camp Commodore in action, for example.
“I saw this (the Commodore Club) as filling a gap, just like what Camp Commodore was created for,” she said. “I really wanted something to get out to families and parents quickly that there would be something and give everybody three weeks to figure this out.”
Could the Commodore Club go on longer?
DeGraaf is willing to consider that possibility, but only if the logistics and finances can be worked out. And she has no interest in leaving her job, which she says she loves.
“I don’t know where the board is at,” she said. “I’m just filling this gap.”
On the other hand, she added another thought:
“When you combine what I have with Vergennes Recreation, and what the Boys & Girls Club has, I see endless possibilities,” DeGraaf said. “There are a lot of things that can happen.”
Those with questions about the Commodore Club may reach to DeGraff at 802-877-1011.

Hit the road and sprint into spring on Saturday, April 5

As the seasons change, for many it is time to get outside and start moving.
The non-profit Better Tomorrow Projects will sponsor the Run into Spring 5K walk/run in Vergennes on Saturday, April 5. The event will start at 11 a.m. at Vergennes Union High School, 50 Monkton Road.
The 3.1-mile walk/run will benefit the Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports organization.
Registration is \$15 and stick around for snacks and prizes.
Email stroup.maddie@gmail.com or bettertomorrowprojectsvt@gmail.com for more information and to sign-up.



Pro-post office

A WAVE OF protests against possible changes at the U.S. Postal Services has been sweeping the country, and this past Thursday, March 20, it crested in Vergennes. That afternoon, a large group of people outside the Vergennes Post Office held homemade signs decrying possible plans by President Trump to shrink and possibly privatize the USPS. This hard core of protesters was still there when the newspaper showed up.

Independent photo/Steve James

Waltham man cited several times

VERGENNES — Vergennes police last week — for the fourth time in recent weeks — arrested Jacob D. Burmania, 30, of Waltham twice and cited him into court to answer to multiple citations for burglary, unlawful mischief and violating conditions of release.
The latest round of citations began with an alleged condition of release violation in Vergennes on March 20, for which Burmania was cited to appear in court on Monday, March 24. According to Vergennes police, Burmania failed to show for that court date.
On March 21, police cited Burmania into court to answer further conditions for an alleged city burglary, adding the further charges of unlawful mischief, and violation of two conditions of release. Those citations were added to his no-show Monday court date.
After the latest round of break-ins allegedly committed by Burmania, Mayor Chris Bearor called the *Independent* last week and praised the work of the Vergennes Police Department. But Bearor added

Vergennes Police Log

Vergennes-area business owners are becoming increasingly frustrated with what he and business owners believe are Burmania’s lax prosecution and persistent violation of his conditions of release. Bearor said he planned to call the state’s attorney next.
Between March 10 and 23, Vergennes police also conducted 33 cruiser patrols, a foot patrol, 27 traffic stops and two VIN inspections; responded to two false alarms and one 911 hangup call; processed two fingerprint requests; and also:
On March 10:
• Began investigating the theft of delivered package containing a phone case from a White Street home. Police said a man wearing a red hoodie was seen on the porch.
• At the Main Street station evaluated a driver for being under the influence of drugs, work done on

behalf of Vermont State Police.
• Cited a driver for operating with a suspended license, failing to honor a stop sign, driving an unregistered car, and failure to stop a vehicle when required for law enforcement. The moving violation were observed on Main Street, and the driver was cited after pulling into the Hillside Acres parking lot.
• Took a call alleging an attempted fraud from a South Maple Street address; police are not sure if the call was legitimate.
On March 11 looked into a report of a parking problem on North Street; the offending vehicle was gone when police arrived.
On March 12:
• Checked out a report of two men fighting at the intersection of Main Street and McDonough Drive. Both were gone when police arrived, but an investigation is ongoing.
• While helping out VSP with a disabled vehicle within the intersection of Plank Road and Route 7 in Ferrisburgh, learned the operator had allegedly committed domestic assault in Ferrisburgh. Vergennes police then took him into custody on behalf of VSP.
On March 14 attended a meeting at Vergennes Union High School to discuss a truancy case, and while there assisted with a medical emergency.
On March 16:
• Helped VSP with an accident involving a car and a dirt bike at the intersection of Satterly and Middlebrook roads in Ferrisburgh.
• Calmed a family fight on First Street and provided resources to both parties. Police said nothing criminal occurred.
On March 17:
• Served an abuse prevention order to a First Street resident.
• Referred two reports of loose dogs to the dog warden.
(See Vergennes, Page 13A)

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ESI saves energy

(Continued from Page 1A)
windows; installing 193 new solar panels; and introducing a geothermal heating and cooling system to wean the structure from fossil fuels.
“We wanted our building to reflect our values of energy-efficiency and environmental stewardship, while improving our internal environment for our elderly participants and reducing our operating expenses,” ESI Executive Director Kristin Bolton told the *Independent*.
The building renovations kicked off in February 2024, when the nonprofit was awarded a key \$1,785,000 grant through the Vermont Agency of Human Services

Home & Community Based Services program, according to ESI spokesman Ron Hallman.
Additional funding includes \$400,000 through the federal Inflation Reduction Act and \$76,000 in Green Mountain Power/Efficiency Vermont incentive funding.
Bolton is confident the federal assistance is solid and not at risk of being withdrawn by a Trump administration that’s been taking a cleaver to federal programs.
Also stable is a staggering \$791,000 in capital gifts and pledges citizens and business have made to the project. Those donations ranged from \$10 to more than \$100,000,

according to Bolton, who’s grateful for every single penny.
She’s also appreciative for all the pennies that aren’t metaphorically leaving the ESI building in the form of energy costs.
The insulation upgrades have resulted in an 80% (that’s not a typo) decrease the percentage of air leaking from the structure. More warmth will stay in during the winter, and less cool air will escape during the summer, saving money while guaranteeing maximum comfort for the elderly and sometimes frail folks who spend many hours of quality time each week at Project Independence. The adult day-care

program, established in 1981, currently serves around 150 people each year with enriching programs, entertainment, companionship and good food.
“We have a pretty big electricity bill, as you can imagine, running elevators, a 15,000-square-foot building, having a commercial kitchen, a cooler and a freezer,” said Bolton, who noted the solar panel installations alone have reduced ESI’s monthly electricity bill by around \$1,000.
Workers finished installing the building’s new geothermal system on Feb. 28. It’s too early to gauge its impact on energy bills, but Bolton is expecting good news on that front, as well.

“We ... anticipate being able to have the temperature in the building well-regulated and comfortable for older people,” she said, noting the building’s prior energy and insulation shortcomings had created some hot and cold zones.
“It was uncomfortable at times,” she said, adding the current system — segregated in a small utilities section — “does it all” for heating and cooling.
Bolton reiterated her appreciation for the outpouring of local support for the renovation project.
“People in the community start to get older themselves and realize, ‘This is the kind of help we all need,’” Bolton said. “We’ve got to keep this place available for all of our needs, and not just the adult day care.”
SLATE OF SERVICES
In addition to Project Independence, Elderly Services Inc. offers a suite of services that include eldercare counseling, geriatric needs evaluation, geriatric mental health counseling, long-distance caregiving, family caregiver support groups, aging education programs, volunteer opportunities, and ESI College — a lifelong learning program with educational courses for independent adults age 60 and over.
A dedicated staff of around 60 full- and part-time workers and a cadre of volunteers ensure ESI programs go smoothly. Among the helpers is Andrew Munkres, an experienced builder who’s representing ESI’s

interests in the renovation project. Munkres, during a brief interview, detailed what’s been an eventful road to the many fixes that folks will *feel*, more than see.
In addition to making regular checks on construction progress, Munkres was present at all contractor meetings and was called for advice whenever workers encountered unexpected challenges inside the 20-year-old building.
In an ideal world, workers would’ve had free rein to overhaul a vacant ESI building, Munkres said. Instead, they had to chip away at construction while the structure was in use. If Project Independence were to shut down, ESI would lose roughly \$10,000 a day in income, he said.
Every time a fan coil had to be replaced during construction, giant holes were chopped into the ceiling. The units — around 8 feet by 6 feet by 8 feet — were taken out and substituted for a new one.
“The original contractor who had built the building had lost the plans,” which made things difficult when an engineer was asked to certify the roof’s load-bearing capacity for the solar panels, Munkres explained.
Fortunately, officials found the engineer who had designed the ESI building and got a set of plans through him.
It was bumpy road, but ESI officials are thrilled with where it’s led.
“We had a great team,” Munkres said. “(The project) came out even better than we planned.”
OTHER FUNDING CONCERNS
Yes, funding appears secure for ESI’s building renovations, but officials are concerned about potential cuts to Medicaid — a federal healthcare subsidy that helps many Project Independence clients afford the service.
Trump administration officials have stated there’ll be no cuts to Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid benefits. At the same time, those officials have alleged rampant waste and fraud within federal entitlement programs — without citing evidence they put the waste and fraud at \$521 billion per year.
“The press is lying again,” reads

Vergennes

(Continued from Page 12A)
• Took a late report that a motorcyclist had driven on the sidewalk to dodge a downtown red light.
• Cited Albert Perkins, 33, of Vergennes for domestic assault and interference with access to emergency services following an alleged incident at a city home.
On March 18:
• Took a report from city office staff in Vergennes that there had been a man making the staff uncomfortable and being disruptive to their daily duties. Police asked the staff to call if the man returned and caused further issues.
• Tried unsuccessfully to find a reported erratic driver on Route 22A and Monkton Road.
• Heard that a juvenile had run away from the middle school on Monkton Road, but learned the was safe at her mother’s home.
On March 19:
• On Panton Road cited a motorist driving with a civilly suspended license and without a required ignition lock device. required.
• Investigated a report of a woman in Shaw’s Supermarket shoulder-checking another woman, causing injury. Police said charges could be filed at the end of the investigation.
• At a First Street traffic stop cited Ronald D. Gorton Jr., 54, of New Haven for driving with a criminally

suspended license and without a required ignition lock device.
On March 20:
• Advised a Country Commons resident to treat a request for an Uber Eats gift card as spam and report it without responding.
• Dealt with a minor two-car accident on North Street.
• Responded to a noise complaint issue at a Hillside Acres apartment.
Police advised the tenants to speak to the landlord about their disorderly downstairs neighbor.
• Spoke with an individual who said he had not been paid for moving work done earlier in March for Northlands Job Corps. Police advised him to speak with the security office and talk to police again if not satisfied.
On March 21:
• Took a call from a concerned citizen about an elderly woman apparently not dressed properly for the weather, but it proved to be a false alarm.
• Served a relief-from-abuse order on a city resident.
• On March 22 went to a Main Street residence to help a juvenile experiencing a mental health crisis. The juvenile was transported to Porter Hospital.
On March 23:
• Cited Jack M. Lyons, 20, for domestic assault and interference

with access to emergency services after allegedly he placed a family member in fear of injury and smashed the family member’s phone. He was cited to appear in court on March 24 after being issued conditions of release by a judge, and he was transported to Porter Hospital for a voluntary evaluation.
• Dealt with a dog-bite case on Victory Street. Police said a dog there ran up to man and bit him, but did not cause injury. Police spoke to owners of the dog, who said they are building a fence in their yard soon.
• Spoke with a Second Street resident who said he was being harassed by a neighbor, but refused to discuss the case with Vergennes police because he believes they “are all corrupt and would only speak with a State Trooper.” Police said the man had mental health issues, and the officer left the scene.
• After around 3:30 a.m. found an elderly man missing from Walker Avenue at risk of freezing to death on the city green. A relative staying with the man said he was fine around midnight, but gone at 3:30 a.m., when the relative woke up. Police found him in the bandstand in a state they described as hypothermic while wearing a t-shirt and jeans in a wind chill temperature of about 6 degrees. Police said he was transported to the UVM Medical Center.

V E R G E N N E S

Planning & Environment
Linkages (PEL) Study

THANK YOU, ADDISON COUNTY!

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The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT), in partnership with the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), thank the residents of northern Addison County for taking part in the Vergennes PEL Study, a four-year planning and environment linkages (PEL) study of potential solutions to manage the impact of truck traffic on the residents and businesses of the greater Vergennes area.

A special thank-you to everyone who participated in the PEL study process, those who attended public meetings and spoke with us at Addison County Field Days and Vergennes Day, as well as the following organizations and individuals:

Addison Housing Works · Vergennes Partnership · Northlands Job Corps · Collins Aerospace · Bixby Memorial Free Library · Linda’s Apparel · Kennedy Brothers · Malabar · 3 Squares Cafe · Black Sheep Bistro · Stone Block Antiques · Lu.Lu Ice Cream · Ryan Plumbing & Heating · Strong House Inn · Rockers Pizzeria · La Garagista Winery · Comfort Hill Kennel · Basin Harbor Resort · Champlain Valley Christian School · Addison County Legislators · Addison County Chamber of Commerce · Addison County Economic Development Corporation · Vermont Truck & Bus Association · Vergennes and Ferrisburgh Departments of Public Works · the Mayor, City Manager, Planning Commission, and City Council of Vergennes · the Selectboards and Planning Commissions of Addison, Waltham, New Haven, Ferrisburgh, Weybridge, and Panton · Residents of West Main Street, Church Street, MacDonough Drive, Maple Street, Comfort Hill, Route 17, Hopkins Road, and many other locations throughout northern Addison County · and Members of the PEL Study Technical and Policy Committees.

AOT and ACRPC invite members of the public to view the recommended alternatives and ask questions of the PEL Study team members at a final in-person public open house to be held:

Wednesday, April 2, 2025
3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
American Legion
100 Armory Lane, Vergennes, VT 05491
or for more information: www.vergennespel.com



Senior living

(Continued from Page 1A)
Grace — will be couples ready to let someone else mow lawns and scrub floors. That’s what Phil said as he and Jane were settling in that Thursday afternoon — with plenty of help from their children and their significant others, as well as Vergennes Grand staff members.
“I hope this is our last home,” said Phil, the 82-year-old former longtime Addison fire warden and firefighter.
Jane served for decades as the Addison town clerk. They had been living nearby with one of their children, and both Graces sounded ready for the next step, even if the hustle and bustle of the move was a lot to take in.



“I feel I’m floating,” Jane said.
Certainly the Graces and other Vergennes Grand residents will have plenty of amenities to enjoy: TV rooms, a hair salon, a workout room, a color-shifting fireplace in the dining room, a deck that runs along the south side, and an arts and crafts and activities room. Pets are welcome, assuming they’re vaccinated and people-friendly.
Dan Hassan wanted to buy and expand the former Vergennes Residential Care operation because of its downtown location.
“It’s another amenity, probably the biggest amenity,” he said.



AMONG THE FIRST residents of Vergennes Grand Senior Living were longtime Addison residents Jane and Phil Grace. Jane was known as one of the state’s longest tenured town clerks in Addison, and Phil served that community for years as its fire warden. Both said they were happy to be moving into their new home.
Independent photo/Steve James

“When families come to visit, they can go out for a cup of coffee with mom or dad, or just go into the park. They have a concert on the park every (week). They can participate, be part of the community. That’s why I said earlier this is a very special project for us.”
DETAILS
The Hassans said artwork for the walls is on the way as the finishing touch for the 58-bed Phase One, to the rear of the complex. That phase includes design elements that echo the original 1825 home, such as an original beam from the home over the fireplace.



VERGENNES GRAND SENIOR Living owners Rebecca and Dan Hassan on March 20 were excited to welcome the first residents into their long-awaited downtown Vergennes facility. The Hassans had been working on the project for seven years.

Independent photo/Steve James

Workers are closing in on finishing Phase Two — restoration and renovation of the 1825 home and the 38-bed addition. That original home will have clapboards, unlike the rest of the 50,000-square-foot complex, plus other historically sensitive elements.
The Hassans are expecting full occupancy by this summer, including those residents supported by Medicaid subsidies, most of whom will share apartments.
Rebecca Hassan said they developed the roommate model to make their properties affordable to those receiving Medicaid.
“People, when they run out of money, don’t have to leave. That

was a real heartbreaker where we used to work in high-end retirement communities.”
Dan Hassan added even though they project to be full this summer and have a waiting list, many on that list are paying deposits to have priority in the future. So walk-in room isn’t out of the question.
The Hassans had spent the past two weeks training the staff, which currently stands at 52, counting executive director Matt Chabot, the former Vergennes mayor and city manager. He and Hassan are happy with the current staff, which they expect to expand to 72 fulltime equivalencies when the building is finished and full this summer.
As for finances, it takes a \$1,000

refundable deposit to get on the Vergennes Grand waiting list.
Costs depend on whether residents seek independent living, or require assisted living and whether rooms are shared, with memory care the most expensive. Monthly fees range from \$4,700 for a shared unit combined with independent living to \$10,000 a month for memory care. Fees are all-inclusive. Meals, activities, utilities and more (in many cases, basic supervision) are included. Residents also have no property taxes or maintenance costs or insurance to worry about.
YEARS IN THE MAKING
Dan and Rebecca Hassan were happy to finally welcome the Graces and another half-dozen guests last week, and maybe up to another two dozen this week on the way to 88-resident full occupancy.
It’s been a bit of a bumpy road to last week from when the Hassans first thought about acquiring the former Vergennes Residential Care property from Addison residents Tim and Barbara Buskey, who’d purchased the property and business from original owners Don and Theresa Clark. The Clarks in 1965 founded Vergennes Residential Care.
Dan Hassan first had the vision of expanding the property in 2018. In 2019, when they bought the Buskeys’ business and property, their plans were ready to roll.
It wasn’t the first time he proposed a big idea to add to their other senior living properties in Vermont and New Hampshire, Rebecca Hassan said.
“We have a running joke,” Rebecca Hassan said. “Whenever Dan says to Rebecca, ‘Just hear me out,’ I know I’m in trouble.”
“Dan had a vision,” she added. “He saw the home behind it that the Clarks were running as an apartment building, and said we have to be able to buy that house, too.”
They did, and also bought the home just west of the property, giving them the land they needed for a zoning permit for Vergennes Grand. They were awarded one in 2020.
Neighbors appealed that permit. Negotiations that included a few design changes and bigger setbacks were eventually successful.
“We’ve been part of enough developments to know that it’s not a smooth ride. You have to go through the local approvals, and that’s its own challenge,” Dan Hassan said. “You’ve got to do it right when you do it in an urban neighborhood. I guess you can call Vergennes urban development in a sense, because you’re in a downtown setting where it’s very dense, close neighbors. And while they were very supportive of us, they had real concerns, which did slow us down for a while.”
But the pandemic saw an \$18 million project price tag grow to \$25 million. Financing became an issue.
“And then we hit COVID, and we had to recapitalize, because it took too long. Our original capital structure didn’t stick through COVID,” Dan Hassan said.
Conventional financing remains the largest piece of the financing pie, but a group of about a dozen local investors proved to be critical to pushing the project over the finish line, Dan Hassan acknowledged.
“They saved it,” he said.
Now, as they see their first residents move in and workers putting the finishing touches on the final phases, the Hassans are feeling happy and thankful.
“We look at each other every now and then, and it’s like, ‘Am I going to wake up? Am I dreaming?’” Dan Hassan said. “It’s that kind of feeling. It just feels great.”

March 30 DOCTORS’ DAY



Check out more artwork from local schools online

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PANTHER SOPHOMORE KATE Flynn's shot nestles in the upper left corner during Saturday's NCAA D-III quarterfinal's second period. Her strong forehand goal proved to be the game-winner as the Middlebury women's hockey team advanced to this weekend's Frozen Four in Wisconsin.

Independent photo/Steve James



MEMBERS OF THE Middlebury College women's hockey team celebrate their NCAA D-III home quarterfinal shutout win on Saturday by mobbing goalie Sophia Will, who is somewhere in the crowd.

Independent photo/Steve James

Panther women defeat Nazareth, 1-0, head to NCAA Div III frozen four

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College women's hockey team will make its 12th trip to the NCAA Division III final four this weekend after defeating Nazareth University, 1-0, this past Saturday in a quarterfinal matchup.

The Panthers will be seeking

their fifth NCAA title and first since 2022, when they became the only women's hockey program at any NCAA level to complete an undefeated season.

On Saturday, sophomore forward Kate Flynn zipped home the game-winner in the second period, and junior goalie Sophia Will made 23 saves behind strong

Panther defense as Middlebury advanced.

Middlebury Coach Bill Mandigo was pleased with his 21-6-1 team's effort against 21-7-1 Nazareth, a team that played with a fast pace.

"It was a great game. Both teams played really well," Mandigo said. "Nazareth is really,

really good, and I thought our kids played hard, and they did the things we asked them to do. They blocked shots, they got the pucks in deep when they needed to.

"Kate stepped up with a big-time goal" Mandigo added. "And once again, having Willy (Will) in the back of the net, it's kind of a safety net back there. She played

great."

Defending NCAA champion Wisconsin-River Falls (24-3-2) will host the final four. The tournament draw pits the Panthers against a familiar foe, NESCAC champion Amherst (22-5-1), at 4 p.m. on Friday. River Falls will then take on Augsburg (24-3-1) at 8 p.m. Friday's winners will meet

at 4 p.m. on Sunday for the title.

The Panthers did not face either of the western teams this winter, but met the Mammoths three times. On Jan. 17 in Kenyon Area the teams tied 1-1, and on Jan. 18 host Middlebury, prevailed, 3-1. Amherst won on home ice in the NESCAC final, 1-0, on March 9.

(See NCAA, Page 3B)

Middlebury men's lax takes two wins

Team ups record to 4-4 after tough early competition

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College men's lacrosse team rolled to a pair of wins in the past week and evened its record at 4-4 against what has

been a tough early schedule. The Panthers are ranked No. 15 in NCAA Division III.

The Panthers will next host NESCAC opponent Wesleyan at 1 p.m. Saturday. The Cardinals are

ranked No. 6.

On this past Saturday the Panthers took the lead in the first quarter and led the rest of the way in a 13-8 victory over host and (See Mens' lax, Page 2B)



MCKENNA RAYMOND

Three Tigers named girls' hockey all-stars

MIDDLEBURY — Three members of the Division II finalist Middlebury Union High School girls' hockey team were named Lake A Division All Stars, and one was recognized as the league's Player of the Year.

High-scoring senior forward McKenna Raymond earned that distinction in voting by the schools' coaches.

Joining Raymond as all-stars were two Tigers who earned Second-Team Lake A Division honors.

They are junior forward Lia Calzini and senior goalie Ruby Hubbell.

The trio helped the Tigers to two playoff wins and a 12-8-2 record against a schedule that included a number of Division I teams.

Panther baseball wins four of five

Head into NESCAC part of schedule with 9-7 record

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College baseball team won four of five games in the past week— including their last four in a row — to improve to 9-7 as the Panthers head into the NESCAC part of their schedule.

Middlebury will travel to league foe Amherst this weekend for a three-game series. Weather permitting, the Panthers will face the Mammoths at 4 p.m. on Friday, and then play a Saturday doubleheader beginning at noon.

MIDD AT REDLANDS

On March 19 host Redlands improved to 15-7 with a 7-6 walk-off win over the Panthers.

The Panthers took a 1-0 lead in the second inning. Brian Olson walked and eventually scored on an Aiden Han sacrifice fly. Redlands responded with three runs in the third. The Panthers scored two in the fourth on singles by Anthony Pellagrini and a Carter Chi triple, but Redlands scored three in the bottom of the inning to take a 6-3

lead.

The Panthers drew even in the sixth. Joe Basso and Han walked, and Chi was hit by a pitch to load the bases. Runs scored on a Nathan Samii RBI groundout, an Owen Fox single and a wild pitch.

But Pellegrini took the pitching loss in the bottom of the ninth when Redlands rallied on a single, a wild pitch and a two-out game-winning single.

CHAPMAN ON MARCH 21

This past Friday the Panthers rallied from a 9-2 deficit after seven innings to defeat host Chapman in the first game of a three-game series, 12-10. A seven-run ninth inning sparked the comeback.

The Panthers picked up their first run in the sixth, when Samii's sac fly plated Chi to make it 7-1. Chapman added single runs in the next two innings to stretch the lead to 9-2. In the eighth, Kyle McCausland launched a two-run homer, and the Panthers added an unearned run to make it 9-5.

In the top of the ninth two walks

and a Fox single loaded the bases for McCausland. He singled, and two runs scored, one on an error. With two outs, a walk loaded the bases, and Will Ashley singled in two runs. Chi tripled in two runs to break a 9-9 tie, and Han singled in Chi to cap the rally.

Kunal Handa earned the win by tossing scoreless seventh and eighth innings. Charlie Kutz allowed one run in the ninth and earned a save.

MARCH 22 TWIN BILL

On Saturday, the Panthers swept two from Chapman, 7-6 and 10-5. Chapman fell to 5-15.

In the first game Middlebury scored twice in the sixth to erase a 6-5 Chapman lead. After that rally, Panther relievers Jacob Sherf and Reed Hyde combined for three scoreless innings, with Hyde getting the save. Owen Tross went six innings and allowed five runs to earn the win.

The decisive rally began when Chi singled and Olson walked. Ben (See Baseball, Page 2B)

Score BOARD

COLLEGE SPORTS

Women's Hockey

NCAA D-III Quarterfinal

3/22 Midd vs Nazareth.....1-0

Women's Lacrosse

3/19 Midd vs TCNJ.....18-7

3/22 Midd vs Conn.....12-3

Men's Lacrosse

3/22 Midd vs Conn.....13-8

3/25 Midd vs Springfield.....20-6

Baseball

3/19 Redlands vs Midd.....7-6

3/21 Midd vs Chapman.....12-10

3/22 Midd vs Chapman.....7-6

3/22 Midd vs Chapman.....10-5

3/25 Midd vs Plattsburgh.....3-2 (10)

Softball

Games in Clermont, Fla.*

3/19 Midd vs Salem.....10-2

3/19 Midd vs Nazareth.....5-3

3/21 Midd vs Wellesley.....7-6

3/21 Midd vs Plattsburgh.....6-4

3/25 Midd vs Skidmore.....2-1

3/25 Midd vs Skidmore.....10-2

Schedule

COLLEGE SPORTS

Women's Hockey

NCAA D-III Tournament

Final Four at Wisc-River Falls

3/28 Midd vs Amherst.....4 PM

3/28 Augsburg vs W-River Falls.....8 PM

3/30 Final.....4 PM

Women's Lacrosse

3/29 Midd at Wesleyan.....Noon

3/30 Midd at Hamilton.....Noon

4/5 Midd at Colby.....Noon

Men's Lacrosse

3/29 Wesleyan at Midd.....1 PM

4/2 Hamilton at Midd.....4 PM

4/5 Colby at Midd.....1 PM

Baseball

3/28 Midd at Amherst.....4 PM

3/29 Midd at Amherst (2).....Noon

4/1 Midd at Union.....3:30 PM

4/4 Midd at Wesleyan.....4 PM

4/5 Midd at Wesleyan (2).....Noon

Softball

3/29 Amherst at Midd (2).....Noon

4/5 Midd at Bates (2).....Noon

4/6 Midd at Bowdoin (2).....Noon



EAGLE FORWARD MACKENZIE Griner, right, and Tiger forward Solstice Binder both work for a rebound during a game this month. Both players earned postseason recognition.

Independent file photo/Steve James

Womens’ lax picks up two more wins

One-sided victories protect top NCAA D-III ranking

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College women’s lacrosse team picked up two more one-sided victories in the past week to improve to 6-0 and protect their No. 1 ranking in NCAA Division III.

The Panthers will hit the road this weekend for games vs. two NESCAC foes, Wesleyan on Saturday and Hamilton on Sunday, with both games starting at noon.

On March 19 the Panthers thumped No. 12 The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), 17-6, after spotting the Lions a 5-4 first-quarter lead.

Hope Shue scored a career-high eight goals for Middlebury and the Panther defense and goalie Gina Driscoll (four saves, seven goals against) limited the 4-1 Lions to three goals over the game’s final 49:25 and no shots on target in the fourth quarter.

Caroline Adams (two goals, two assists), Maggie Coughlin (two goals, four assists), Skylar Lach (three goals, two assists), and Sophia Lee (two goals) added multiple scores for the Panthers. Middlebury finished with a 33-11 advantage in shots on goal and committed only eight turnovers to 19 for the Lions. Defender Kylie Wilson caused a pair of turnovers, pushing her into a third-place tie in the Panther career record book with 96.

Ally Tobler scored four goals for TCNJ, and Lion goalie Julia Charest made 15 saves.

On Saturday the Panthers defeated visiting NESCAC rival Connecticut, 12-3. The game was closer than most of the Panthers’ games this season, but Middlebury led all the way and closed the game with a 5-0 edge in the fourth quarter to win going away.

Shue again led the scoring, this time with five goals, three ground balls and four draw controls. Anna Spehr scored three goals; Caroline Adams had a goal and an assist and controlled five draws; Coughlin scored one goal and set up three; and Lach and Lee chipped in a goal apiece. Driscoll had a big game, stopping 13 shots, and Camel goalie Ava Virga made eight saves for her 5-2 team.

Baseball

(Continued from Page 1B)

Slaughter’s bunt single then loaded the bases. Chi scored on a Samii groundout, and Slaughter scored on a wild pitch.

Leading the offense were McCausland, who doubled twice and drove in two runs; Ashley, who singled, doubled, drove in a run and scored a run; and Fox, who scored twice.

In the nightcap the Panthers broke open a 6-4 game with a four-run fifth on the way to the 10-5 victory. Christian Zebrowski

allowed five runs in six innings and earned the win, and Skylar Platt and Stefano Yozzo combined for three scoreless relief innings.

Pacing the offense were Samii (three hits, two runs, three RBI), McCausland (hit, two RBI), Basso (two hits, run), Pellegrini (homer, single, two runs, three RBI), and Ashley (three hits, run, RBI).

HOME VS. PLATTSBURGH

On Tuesday vs. Plattsburgh, seven Panther pitchers limited the Cardinals to two runs on five hits and eight walks in the 10-inning,

3-2 Middlebury victory. Pellegrini tossed a perfect top of the 10th inning to earn the pitching win.

Samii scored the winning run in the bottom of the 10th. He walked, stole second, moved to third on a wild pitch, and came home on a Fox grounder to shortstop.

Middlebury scored in the second inning on a Basso double and an Ashley RBI single, and in the fifth, when Chi walked, moved up on a Pablo Spielman-Rodriguez sacrifice bunt, and trotted home on a Samii single.

Mens’ lax

(Continued from Page 1B)

NESCAC foe Connecticut (3-3).

Patrick Jamin led a balanced attack with two goals and two assists, Cooper DeMallie had two goals and an assist, Russell Thorndike and Finn McCarthy each scored twice, Billy Curtis notched a goal and two assists, and James Faranacci and John McCarthy each tallied a goal and assist.

Logan White and goalie Hayden

Kern each scooped three ground balls, Drew Dummer caused two turnovers, and William Munroe won 13 of 18 faceoffs. Kern made eight saves, and Al Noyes made one in less than a minute of action for the Panthers. Camel goalie Will Vivian made nine saves.

On Tuesday the Panthers took an 11-2 halftime lead on the way to a 20-6 victory over visiting Springfield (3-5).

Curtis paced the rout with five

goals and six assists, tying a 1983 program record for most points in a game in the process. Jamin and White added three goals and two assists apiece, and Thorndike and Finn McCarthy each scored twice. Kern played 52 minutes and made nine saves and allowed five goals, and Noyes allowed one goal and made two saves the rest of the way. Cosmo goalie Kaden Quirk made 13 saves.

Women’s softball improves to 13-3

Panthers win nine of last 12 games; Amherst up next

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College softball team improved to 13-3 by winning nine of 12 games between March 13 and Tuesday. That included a 7-3 record on their annual trip to Clermont, Fla., and a doubleheader sweep on this Tuesday in their return to their home field.

The Panthers begin NESCAC play on Saturday, when they are scheduled to host Amherst for a doubleheader beginning at noon.

At the start of their Florida run, Middlebury on March 15 outlasted Southern Maine, 12-7, in the first game. In their second game that day, Montclair State roughed up four Panther pitchers in a 12-0, five inning victory.

The Panthers split two games on March 16, falling to University of Chicago, 9-3, and defeating Endicott, 11-8.

That pattern continued on March 18, when Middlebury opened with an 8-5 loss to Framingham State, but won their second against Knox, 11-4.

The winning ways continued on March 19 when the Panthers defeated Salem State, 10-2, in five innings, and Nazareth University, 5-3.

In defeating 3-4 Salem State the Panthers pounded out 15 hits and got five innings of four-hit work from winning pitcher Samantha Hausman.

Kristyn Carroll was three-for-three and scored three runs; Cate Viola had two hits, score a run and drove in one; Olivia Scholes poked three hits, scored twice and drove in a run; Uma Corcoran finished with two hits and two runs; Schultz plated three runs with a pair of hits, including the game-ending walk-off hit in the fifth; and Hausman

stroked two hits and scored a run.

Against Nazareth (3-4) in the second game, the Panthers took a 4-0 lead in the top of the first, scoring two run on a couple Nazareth miscues, an Olivia Schulz single, McKenna Lont RBI groundout and Corcoran RBI double.

Nazareth cut into the deficit with two runs in the bottom of the third off Emily Ye in the third, before Abigail Jankowski came in to quell the rally. Ye returned later to the mound and hurled four innings, allowing three runs in all, and earning the win.

Middlebury added another run in the sixth on a Viola sacrifice fly by Viola. Nazareth added a run in the ninth on a sac fly before Ye shut the door.

March 21 in CLERMONT

On Friday the Panthers closed out their successful stay in Florida by defeating Wellesley, 7-6, and Plattsburgh, 6-4, to leave Florida with an 11-3 record.

In the opener, Wellesley jumped on Hausman for four runs in the first inning, but Ye (4-0) came on to earn the win with 6.2 innings of relief, allowing two runs, one earned, on six hits while striking out six.

Middlebury scored two in the first on Corcoran’s two-run single, and Ye homered in the second to make it 4-3. Corcoran drove in runs in the fourth (sac fly) and fifth (single) to knot the game at 5-5, but Wellesley (4-2) retook the lead in the bottom of the fifth on an unearned run. Westphal cranked a two-run homer in the sixth to provide Middlebury’s winning margin.

In the second game, Plattsburgh (2-6) also scored four early runs off Hausman to take a 4-0 lead

after the top of the second, but the Panthers rallied for the win as Jankowski (2-0) and Lont (who earned the save) combined to shut down the Cardinals the rest of the way.

Middlebury started its rally in the second with an unearned run, and then added two more in the third on a Viola groundout and a Scholes sac fly. The Panthers took the lead with three more runs in the fourth. Carroll doubled home a pair and scored on a Viola single.

HOME TWIN BILL

Back in Middlebury on Tuesday the Panthers swept a doubleheader from visiting Skidmore, 2-1 and 10-2.

In game one, Hausman and Ye teamed up to outduel Skidmore’s Natalie Mayne. Hausman went five innings for the win, allowing one earned run on four hits, and Ye threw two innings of scoreless and hitless relief for the save. Mayne allowed one earned run on six hits.

Middlebury took a 1-0 lead in the first, when Westphal singled home Carroll. Skidmore tied it in the fourth on a Mayne RBI it. Middlebury eked out the winning run in the fifth. Fleming and Hausman singled, and Fleming eventually scored on a throwing error on a stolen base attempt.

Lont pitched the six-inning distance for the win in the second game, which was shortened due to the mercy rule. She allowed two hits and two earned runs.

The Panthers pounded out 13 hits in five innings. Leading the way were Carroll (two hits, run, RBI), Scholes (three hits, run RBI), and Schultz (two hits, two RBI, run). Nine Panthers had at least one hit, 10 scored at least one run, and eight drove in at least one run.

Buy Again Alley offers scholarships

MIDDLEBURY — Buy Again Alley, the downtown Middlebury clothing retail shop, grants scholarships each year to young people in Addison County who seek work training and education outside the traditional four-year college pathway, such as post high school vocational courses, technical training, certifications, and gap year travel.

Examples of past scholarships awarded include: mindfulness course for at-home daycare, cooking

class equipment, work clothes, small business seed money and training for artificial insemination of dairy cattle.

Awards range from \$350-\$750. Applications are available from local high school guidance offices (MUHS, OUVHS, MAUHS, PAHCC, VUHS), at the shop during open hours, or by emailing buyagainalley@gmail.com.

Completed applications are due by May 15, 2025.

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NCAA

(Continued from Page 1B)
“We’re 1-1-1 with them. They’re really good ... They’re really well coached, one of the top four teams in the country,” Mandigo said. “We’re going to go out there and play and see what happens.”

Middlebury will bring defense and goaltending that allows only a goal a game and an offense that averages 2.8 goals per outing.

SATURDAY GAME

Chances were few early on in this past Saturday’s quarterfinal as the teams felt each other out. In the first eight minutes Nazareth goalie McKinley Hoff (30 saves) stopped Panther Olivia McManus, while Will denied Alexis Jones, both on bids from right-wing circles.

Then the Panthers began to heat up midway through the period. Hoff gloved Britt Nawrocki’s bid from between the circles and denied the best chance, Molly MacQueen’s one-timer from the doorstep. Soon afterward Alison Giebler’s one-timer from close range sailed just wide, and two minutes after that Nawrocki’s rebound bid also just missed.

Then Nazareth countered, and Will had to be alert to block away Ivey Lyden’s close-range backhand with 5:30 on the clock. Will also stopped Nikki Sharp from between the circles three minutes later. With a minute remaining, McManus whistled a forehand just past the upper right corner. The Panthers outshot Nazareth, 11-6, in the period.

“We had good scoring chances in the first period,” Mandigo said. “We had pressure and kind of knew something was eventually going to fall our way.”



PANTHER SOPHOMORE KATE Flynn smiles broadly as she skates toward the bench after scoring during Saturday’s women’s hockey NCAA D-III quarterfinal. Jordan Hower, left, and Alison Giebler happily trail Flynn.

Independent photo/Steve James

The Panthers came out hard in the second period, and Hoff stood strong in a third-minute scramble. After Will made a save on Brooke Judkiewicz on a three-on-two counter, the Panthers went back to work. Hoff stopped defender Sabrina Kim at the right post minutes in, and then Rachel Neyman on a feed from Kim shortly afterward. Play evened for a little while, although defender Cece Ziegler had a bid that missed just wide 11 minutes in.

With 6:40 left in the period the Panthers broke through. Kim chipped the puck up the right side, and Hower won it below the right circle and moved the puck to Flynn at the top of the circle with a little skating room. Flynn dusted one defender, and before another defender could interfere whipped a forehand from the inside of the circle exactly into the upper far corner.

“Jordan had the puck, and she was able to whack it back to me, and I was coming in, and I saw the D was heading out, so I just pulled it back and let it rip,” Flynn said.

Mandigo said the shot had to be incredibly hard and accurate to beat Hoff from that angle.

With 5:22 to go, the Panthers were assessed the game’s only penalty, but held Nazareth without a shot. Flynn called that sequence pivotal.

“It was an amazing penalty kill by all the girls on our team, and it really meant a lot going forward,” Flynn said.

The Panthers outshot Nazareth, 11-7 in the period, but Nazareth came out hard in the third period, earning a 10-9 advantage in shots,

many coming early on. One bid by the visitors’ Sydney Gurley, appeared to hit the left post, and Will gloved Amy Laskowski’s bullet from the left circle seven minutes in.

The Panthers then reasserted themselves. Hoff had to block a McManus bid ticketed for a top corner a minute later, and she held the short side on Kylie Quinlan with nine minutes left. Callia Ferraris set up Cat Appleyard for a one-timer that Hoff denied, and then Hoff had to stone Ferraris shortly afterward.

As time wound down Will made one strong save on Nazareth’s Brooke Terry with about three minutes to go. Nazareth pulled Hoff with 1:17 remaining, but were unable to generate a shot. Soon the Panthers were mobbing Will and posing for pictures.

Flynn credited grit and preparation for the result.

“Every play we battled. They were physical,” she said. “Everything that we worked on in practice really showed today. Everything that we worked on all year, really.”

The Panthers have made a habit of playing in close games this season, and winning most of them. Would that help them in the final four?

“Playoffs is a whole other season, and I know going into these games a lot of them are going to be 1-0 games, or 2-1 games,” Will said. “I just think having confidence, and having fun out there, and doing what we know we can do is a big contributor to getting it done.”

A year ago, the Panthers outplayed Elmira in an NCAA semifinal, but lost, 1-0, in a game also played at River Falls. Flynn referenced that game when asked about the final four.

“For a lot of us, we feel that we left something out there last year in Wisconsin,” she said. “And we’re all excited and fired up to get back out there and get the job done this time.”



MIDDLEBURY JUNIOR FORWARD Callia Ferraris powers across the Nazareth blue line on Saturday during the Panther women’s hockey team’s 1-0 NCAA D-III quarterfinal win.

Independent photo/Steve James



PANTHER CO-CAPTAIN Cat Appleyard displays the Saturday postgame evidence that the Middlebury women’s hockey team is going back to the NCAA Division III Final Four this coming weekend.

Independent photo/Steve James



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Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — The bone builders class at the library is marking its six-month anniversary of building stronger bones and improving balance. The class meets every Wednesday from 9 to 10 a.m. and you're invited to join the fun! Whether you're looking for a low- impact way to strengthen your bones or improve your balance, RSVP Bone Builders can help you out. This free program focuses on weight training with dumbbells and ankle weights (though weights are optional). Equipment is available for you to use or feel free to bring your own. The exercises are designed to prevent and reverse the effects of osteoporosis in adults and are a fantastic way to incorporate resistance training into your routine.

Attention Lincoln Community School fourth, fifth and sixth graders. Lincoln Sports is starting a running club on Tuesday, April 1. The club will meet at LCS on Tuesdays and Thursdays during April and May from 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. To register for the club or if you're interested in being a coach, please visit lincolnsports.org/registration-runclub.

REMINDER: The LCS performance of Robin Hood will be held at Burnham Hall on Friday, April 4 with showtimes at 1 and 6 p.m.

of Robin Hood will be held at Burnham Hall on Friday, April 4 with showtimes at 1 and 6 p.m. Until next time ... Make Time For What Matters.

Monkton

Have a news tip? Contact Liz Pecor at rascal0406@gmavt.net

NEWS

MONKTON — The Monkton Poetry Club is starting up again! Join others at the Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge, on Saturday, March 29, from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. for the first meeting. Bring a poem to share, written by yourself or another author to discuss with other welcoming poetry lovers. Whether you enjoy reading or writing poetry, this will be a time to share with other enthusiasts. Refreshments will be served. This event will continue through June on the last Saturday of the month. Contact Melanie Cote via the library if you have questions; 803-453-4471. Free and fun for all.

Also continuing at the library is Community Yoga from 8 to 9 a.m. on Saturdays. Connect with yourself in this peaceful class with meditation and movement to music.

Open to all ages and abilities. All are welcome.

If you still would like to purchase a Monkton flag, check in with town clerk Sharon Gomez to see if they are still available. 802-453-3800.

It's time to register your dog(s) again. Register your dog by April 1 or you will need to pay \$5 more for your pet. Prices are; by April 1, \$14 for spayed or neutered dogs, and \$17 for un-neutered; and \$19 and \$22 respectively after April 1. The town clerk is available from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. She is also available on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4 to 7 p.m. The office is closed on Wednesday. Or call 802-453-3800 for more information. Please bring a copy of the most recent rabies vaccination for each pet that you are registering.



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Helping Young Families Get The Right Start



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Reader Comments

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

A subscriber from Crown Point, NY writes:

"We enjoy the Addison Independent very much."

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

community

calendar

mar 27

THURSDAY

Astrology group in Bristol. Thursday, March 27, 5 Mountain St. Retrogrades, equinox and eclipses — oh my! We're in the thick of the planetary weather, and it shows no signs of stopping. Meeting monthly, we'll discuss the ongoing planetary transits and how these archetypal energies are showing up in our lives, relationships and the world stage. For beginners and seasoned astrology buffs alike. Pay-what-you-like, proceeds are donated to Pathways Vermont to end homelessness. Please RSVP: welcome@home-body.co.

"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.

Maiden Vermont rehearsal in Salisbury. Thursday, March 27, 6:30-8:45 p.m., Salisbury Community School, 286 Kelly Cross Rd. Do you love to sing? Maiden Vermont, a women's close-harmony chorus, always welcomes new singers. We are a group of about 30 women who have a great time singing under the direction of the creative Tim Guiles. If you are interested in learning more, please come to a rehearsal. We are now learning music for our November show at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. More info at www.maidenvermont.com or call Barbara Marlow at 802-989-0355. Rehearsals meet weekly.

mar 28

FRIDAY

Lenten fish fry in Bristol. Friday, March 28, 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.

mar 29

SATURDAY

March Madness crafters market in Middlebury. Saturday, March 29, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Join the members of the Middlebury Farmers Market: Foggy Meadows, Twin Maple, Breadloaf Kitchen, Frog Hollow, Mellow Brook Unlimited, Green Acres Homestead, and Samosaman. Live music performed by Soop Spoons. Raffles to support our music series. Interested in being a guest vendor, crafter or small business to showcase and sell your wares, goods, and services? Contact mfm.membership@gmail.com.

Abenaki and the Endangered Alphabet Project in Salisbury. Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m., Salisbury Free Public Library, 918 Maple St. Join us in welcoming Tim Brookes, accomplished woodworker and linguist, as he describes his work promoting endangered alphabets from around the globe, including one of Vermont's first languages, Abenaki. He will present the library with a beautiful "welcome" sign in Abenaki.

Chicken 'n' biscuit dinner fundraiser in Bristol. Saturday, March 29, 5 p.m., 2 Elm St. Bristol Libanus Lodge is raising funds for lifelong Bristol resident Robbie Blaise, a stroke survivor in need of a new kidney. All proceeds will go to Robbie and his family. Reservations at 802-453-4877 or cecil@gmavt.net.

mar 30

SUNDAY

Sign-making and Activism Get-together in Bristol. Sunday, March 30, 9 a.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. Come to a family-friendly intergenerational gathering to make signs for the April 5th National Day of Action. We will also sign petitions, send emails, make phone calls and strategize about what we can do to help our country as our government is being dismantled. We will provide some sign-making supplies, but bring your own as well. Get more information about the Montpelier action, "Montpelier Hands Off! April 5, noon-3 p.m.," at www.mobilize.us/handsoff/event/765733.

5 Town Friends of the Arts Awards in Bristol. Sunday, March 30, 1-3 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. Join 5 Town Friends of the Arts as they honor Jen Allred, for her remarkable devotion of time and talent, combining her love of music and theater with her love of working with young people. There will be an opportunity for folks to share their appreciation, and how they have benefited from her generosity. There will be cake and excellent snacks.

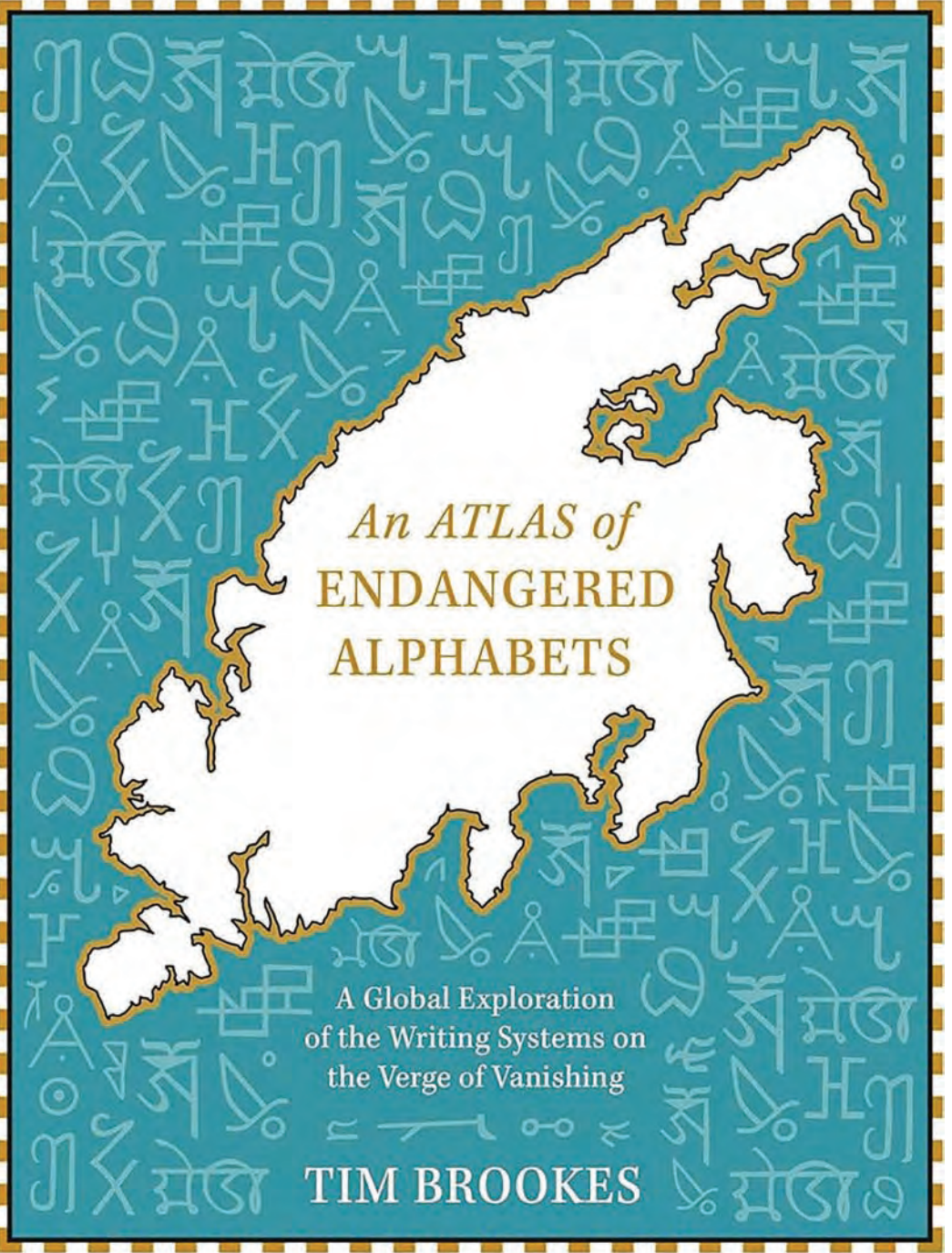
Thinking about Sticks in Ripton. Sunday, March 30, 1 p.m., Sacred Circle, Spirit-in-Nature Trail, Goshen Rd. Sit around a fire with Lorraine Besser to think about sticks and talk about how noticing things, and bringing curiosity and creativity to your experiences, adds psychological richness to your life. As long as the roads are safe enough to drive up the mountain, and there is not a downpour, this event is happening! Dress weather appropriate and bring a chair/blanket if you like; limited bench seating is available.

mar 31

MONDAY

"Gardening with Climate Change" in Middlebury. Monday, March 31, 1 p.m., the Residence at Otter Creek, 50 Lodge Rd. As our climate continues to change, we expect our summers to be hotter and drier. Quickly falling rain can cause damaging runoff rather than slowly soaking into the soil. Join Sarah Salantino of Full Circle Gardens in Essex for this Middlebury Garden Club program to explore ways we can prepare for droughts. Her talk will give you water-wise ideas, practices, and perennial varieties to keep your gardens gorgeous under drier conditions. Free and open to the public.

Cribbage night in Bristol. Monday, March 31, 7-8:15 p.m., Libanus Lodge, corner of North and Elm streets.



An ATLAS of ENDANGERED ALPHABETS

A Global Exploration of the Writing Systems on the Verge of Vanishing

TIM BROOKES

Vermont's endangered alphabet

AUTHOR TIM BROOKES will be at the Salisbury Free Public Library to discuss Abenaki and the Endangered Alphabet Project on Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m. Brookes, an accomplished woodworker and linguist, will describe his work promoting endangered alphabets from around the globe, including one of Vermont's first languages, Abenaki.

apr 2

WEDNESDAY

"The Black Presence at the Battle of Bennington" in Shoreham. Wednesday, April 2, 7 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Join the Shoreham Historical Society for this illustrated talk by teacher and author Phil Holland, who will explore military records and early town histories to present a more diverse picture of Vermont's iconic battle and its Green Mountain Boys than typically depicted. Holland will also reflect on historical memory and how it is preserved and constructed.

Eli Clare "Making and Unmaking Categories: Queer/Trans/Disabled Resistance and Joy" in Middlebury. Wednesday, April 2, 7:30 p.m., Franklin Environmental Center, Hillcrest Room 103. White, disabled, and genderqueer, Eli Clare lives near Lake Champlain in unceded Abenaki territory (also known as Vermont) where he writes and proudly claims a penchant for rabble-rousing. He has written two books of essays, the award-winning "Brilliant Imperfection: Grappling with Cure" and "Exile and Pride: Disability, Queerness, and Liberation," and a collection of poetry, "The Marrow's Telling: Words in Motion."

apr 3

THURSDAY

VEEP home energy use workshop in Orwell. Thursday, April 3, 6 p.m., Orwell Free Library 473 Main St. Energy Navigators presents a workshop in partnership with the Vermont Energy Education Program on home energy use. Come learn how to use less energy, save money, and reduce our impact on the environment. This is a free hands-on workshop that will explore how to reduce your energy bills and carbon footprint. Spring into action with the Energy Navigators.

apr 4

FRIDAY

Mom-to-mom group in Bristol. Friday, April 4, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Lawrence Memorial Library, 40 North St. Come to the first meeting of this mom-to-mom support group, a peer-to-peer and open to mamas of all ages and stages of their motherhood journey. A safe space to talk openly and honestly about your feelings, gain feedback from other moms, and learn about local resources. Connect with other local mamas and to share in a safe space. More info contact kbessette09@gmail.com.

Lenten fish dinner in Vergennes. Friday, April 4, 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.

apr 5

SATURDAY

Repair Fair in Middlebury. Saturday, April 5, 10 a.m., American Legion, 49 Wilson Rd. Do you have a lamp that just won't light? A sweater that needs a little love? Give your item a second chance at the Addison County Solid Waste Management District's Repair Fair, a free community event dedicated to fixing items,

sharing knowledge, and building a culture of repair. Refreshments, raffle prizes, workshops, kids' activities and more. Preregistration required at www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org, eco@acswmd.org or 802-388-2333.

Used book sale in Middlebury. Saturday, April 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., lower level, Middlebury United Methodist Church, 43 N. Pleasant St. The Friends of the Ilsley Library will offer a lot of sports-related books, especially some nice baseball books.

Run into Spring 5K walk/run in Vergennes. Saturday, April 5, 11 a.m., Vergennes Union High School, 50 Monkton Rd. Join us for a 5K walk/run benefiting Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports. Registration \$15. Post-race snacks and prizes. Organized through the non-profit Better Tomorrow Projects. Email stroup.maddie@gmail.com or bettertomorrowprojectsvt@gmail.com for more information and sign-ups.

Chicken and biscuits dinner in Brandon. Saturday, April 5, 5-7 p.m., Brandon Congregational Church, 1 Carver St. Brandon Congregational Church is offering its first supper since COVID. There will be an assortment of brownies for dessert and lemonade, water or coffee for beverages. Free will offering.

apr 6

SUNDAY

Move. Stretch. Give. - A Fundraiser for Bread Loaf Mountain Zen Community in Middlebury. Sunday, April 6, 1:30-3 p.m., Otter Creek Yoga, Marble Works, and online. Support Gather, a community living room where everyone belongs, and The Grove, a home where people in transition reconnect through neighborliness, at this yoga session led by Joanna Colwell. All donations go to the Bread Loaf Mountain Zen Community. Every dollar builds connection. All levels are warmly welcomed and encouraged to join!

apr 7

MONDAY

Legislative breakfast in TBD. Monday, April 7, 7-8:45 a.m., TBD. 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. RSVP for meal by donation to Bill Scott at wjscottjr@comcast.net.

2017 Nobel Peace Prize Campaigners on Peacebuilding, Activism and Social Change in Middlebury. Monday, April 7, 7 p.m., Dana Auditorium, 356 Colleg St. Emily Welty and Matthew Breay Bolton are scholars, activists and members of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. They will share their interdisciplinary approaches to environmental research, playwriting, and activism. Free and open to the public

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**HEARING NOTICE
TOWN OF ORWELL
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

The Orwell Development Review Board will meet in person on Wednesday, April 16th, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Orwell Town Clerk's Office located at 436 Main Street, Orwell, VT.

By Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88129886127>
or phone 1-646-558-8656

use meeting ID: #881 2988 6127 to conduct the following business:

1. Permit #3-10-25: 662 Sunset Lake Road, LLC/Kate Herbst, for a Conditional Use to change listing from seasonal to year-round located at 662 Sunset Lake Road, Orwell, VT.
2. Permit #3-11-25: Timothy G LaDuc/Mary & Steven Barnes for a 2 lot Subdivision located at 372 Fisher Road, Orwell, VT.

Information pertaining to this matter may be viewed M, T, Th 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-4:00, W 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:30 & Fri 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-6:00 at the Orwell Town Clerk's Office located at 436 Main Street, Orwell, VT.

Daniel Redondo, Chair
Orwell Development Review Board

**STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT
DOCKET NO.: 24-PR-06705
IN RE ESTATE OF: MADELYN LAFOUNTAIN
NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

To the Creditors of: Madelyn LaFountain, late of Bridport, Vermont.

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. **The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.**

Dated: 03/18/25

Linda LaFountain
% Duprey Law, PLLC
11 Main Street, Suite B110F, Vergennes, VT 05491
(802) 870-6563
anthony@dupreylaw.com

Publication: Addison Independent

Publication Date: 03/27/25

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-00650
IN RE ESTATE OF: GRAYDON STEVENS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

To the Creditors of: Graydon Stevens, late of Monkton.

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: 03/25/25

Cassandra Townshend
1867 Charlotte Road, Hinesburg, VT 05461
(802) 249-0102
cassandra.townshend@gmail.com

Publication: Addison Independent

Publication Date: 03/27/25

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division

Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

Never Forget garden to be installed in Cornwall

CORNWALL — The members of the Ethan and Mary Baker Allen Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution are on a mission to remember and celebrate Cornwall's rich history. The Daughters of the American Revolution has become an open and affirming organization, and the Mary Baker Allen chapter's membership is growing, continuing its work to document and preserve local and national history.

The group's chapter house, the Samson Memorial Building, is part of that history. It was built in 1915, and will soon be designated a National Historic site. Cornwall's original Mary Baker Allen Chapter, the name seen on the building, merged with Middlebury's Ethan Allen Chapter in 2004, and the

Samson Memorial building is the only remaining chapter house owned by a DAR chapter in the state.

Addison County residents live in the cradle of America's Revolutionary War, with Hubbardton Battlefield, Fort Ticonderoga, Crown Point, and Mount Independence in close proximity. The chapter is preparing for the semiquincentennial in 2026, and has been working with Cornwall's Historical Society, Friends of Ann Story, and others to document and remember local patriots' involvement in the Revolutionary War.

The chapter has also discovered several old documents in its safe written by residents of Cornwall, telling of its past: these are being printed for public access. The chapter is cataloguing the Samson Memorial



A PROJECT TO install a Never Forget memorial garden at the Samson Memorial Building in Cornwall, home to the Ethan and Mary Baker Allen Chapter of the DAR, will soon get under way.

Photo courtesy of Cynthia Bushey

Library's collection, which contains many historical books from and about Cornwall, and has begun adding to the collection. They also do work in the area of remembering local veterans and their service, participating in Wreaths Across America and providing holiday gifts for veterans at the Bennington Soldiers' Home.

The Samson Memorial building sat vacant for several decades. The group is in the process of restoring the building to make it accessible to everyone and available for year-round use. The Town of Cornwall has become a partner in this effort by giving them access to \$25,000 in ARPA funding to help with installation of a heating and cooling system. They will be opening doors for public events so that all can see this beautiful jewel in the community.

Beginning in the spring hold both public and private events and fundraisers will take place at the Samson Memorial building. Last year it was open on Memorial Day for an Ice Cream Social; the 4th of July for a Strawberry Social; and Veterans Day, when a wreath-laying ceremony was also held at the Cornwall Remembers war memorial on the town green. The building was open for a memorial service for the annual meeting of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association, and for a Vermont Sons of the American Revolution luncheon. The group also participated in a genealogy day that drew visitors from around the state, and participated in Cornwall History Day, hosting a presentation

by the Friends of Ann Story and having costumed reenactors offering punched tin ornament making, quill pen writing, and beeswax candle dipping. Anyone interested in using the Samson Memorial building for an event or in joining our chapter can call Paula Sargent at 802-735-5334.

Other projects for the chapter include the creation of a "Never Forget" Memorial Garden with a large brick patio and pollinator garden. Groundbreaking for the garden will occur later in the spring. Anyone wishing to support the effort can order a memorial brick for the patio. Proceeds will go to maintain the century-old Samson Memorial building, and the project itself will help connect the chapter building to the newly designated Cornwall Village Center. Bricks may be personalized with the name of a loved one, a veteran, a Revolutionary War or other ancestor, a business, a pet. There are several different sizes of bricks, which are guaranteed for life. Once the garden is complete there will be a dedication. This area will be open to the public, and provide a beautiful, peaceful place for reflection for all to use.

To order go to: <https://donate.brickmarkers.com/dar>. The web address is also on the Mary Baker Allen DAR Facebook page. Payment is by check or PayPal. If by check, please make it payable to "EMBA DAR" and mail to Cynthia Bushey, 536 York St, Poultney, VT 05764.

For any questions contact Cindy: Bushgillsleigh14@gmail.com

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Middlebury Union High School

Emma Morrissey

Middlebury Union High School introduces Emma Morrissey as our next Student of the Week. She is the daughter of David and Bethany Morrissey. Her younger sister, Julia, is a sophomore at MUHS. The family has two dogs, Sandie and Razzie, and they reside in Salisbury.

Emma finds it hard to believe how quickly the last four years have passed. Her advice to other students is to "get involved in anything that is of interest to you and take full advantage of every opportunity." She captains the volleyball team and has been part of the program since its infancy. Emma has loved seeing the growth of the sport since starting as a club team and ultimately achieving JV and then varsity status. Emma and a group of her teammates serve as volunteer mentors to younger players at MUMS.

She rounds out her time as a member of the Student Council and Environmental Club and worked last summer at a candy store and ice cream shop in York, Maine. Emma served as a Peer Leader last fall and helped welcome a group of 9th-graders as they transitioned into the high school. Emma was chosen by a group of MUHS coaches to represent our school at the Vermont Principal Association's Leadership Conference.

Academically, Emma has challenged herself by enrolling in the full International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. Her teachers appreciate her dedication to her studies and contributions in the classroom. She especially enjoys science and thanks Mr. Harrington for his encouragement in Physics class. Ms. Brigger's English classes are another of Emma's favorites. Each candidate in the Diploma Program writes a 4,000-word paper, offering a chance to explore a topic of interest through research of the subject. Emma's essay was a comparison of two dystopian texts: "Parable of the Sower" by Octavia Butler and "Blindness" by Jose Saramago.

Emma is looking forward to graduation in June and is excited about pursuing further education in college. She plans on studying engineering and would like to attend an institution relatively close to home. We are certain that a bright future awaits Emma and look forward to seeing what lies in store.



Emma Morrissey
MUHS

Vergennes Union High School

Rory Couture

Rory Couture has been selected as Vergennes Union High School's latest Student of the Week. Rory is a talented student, with consistent appearances on the VUHS high honor roll, numerous underclass awards in both Spanish and STEM subjects, and membership in the National Honor Society at VUHS. She was also chosen for the Endicott College Book Award in 11th grade. Rory says her favorite classes definitely fall under the STEM umbrella, particularly AP Calculus, Chemistry, Physics and Statistics.

Outside of class Rory has been a key member of the VUHS softball team, serving as captain both her junior and senior years. She has been chosen as an honorable mention in 9th grade and second-team Lake Division player in 11th grade for her performance on the diamond. She doesn't limit her involvement in softball to VUHS. She has played in multiple summer seasons and winter leagues. Rory is also involved with the VUHS Green team and Math team, has performed in the VUHS Musical, plays soccer, and runs track.

Rory works summers at Olsen's Ice Cream and Rocker's restaurant, both in Vergennes. She makes a point of setting aside time to do volunteer work for her local church.

When not at school or working, Rory likes to spend free time hanging out with friends, listening to music, traveling, being with her family — mom, dad, brother Tucker, great-grandma and Nana — and spending time outdoors.

She says the most important thing she has learned throughout high school is to always believe in herself. "Even when doing something new or unfamiliar, you should always go in with the mindset that you will succeed," she says. "I think that every underclassman should consider trying new things even if you are unsure about your talent, whether that be in sports, school or in their day to day life. Everyone has the potential to succeed in everything they do."

Though exactly where has yet to be decided, Rory plans on attending college in the fall, with the hopes of completing a degree in STEM. She also hopes to do some traveling. All of us at VUHS wish her the best of luck.



Rory Couture
VUHS

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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!

If you are interested in advertising in Student of the Week contact advertising@addisonindependent.com



Keep up the great work,
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Public Meetings

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3 BEDROOM APARTMENT in Brandon Village. All inclusive, no pets, no smoking. Security required. \$1,000 monthly. 802-247-6829.

5,000 SQUARE FEET available. Exchange Street, Middlebury, VT. 802-349-8544.

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

BRIDPORT: Share beautiful views of Lake Champlain with senior man interested in farming and rural life. Provide assistance with a few meals/week and upkeep of the home in exchange for reduced rent of \$200/month. A well-behaved pet would be considered! 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

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

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

ORWELL: Outdoorsy retiree who enjoys landscaping, hiking, swimming seeking companionable dog-friendly housemate to share her rural home. \$350/month. Shared bath. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Teaching Co-Director

Quarry Hill School seeks a passionate Teaching Co-Director to support our preschool program. This full-time role includes school-year teaching and year-round administration. Responsibilities include program development, teacher support, and parent engagement. Competitive salary and PTO. Join our collaborative team!

Learn more at www.quarryhillsschool.org.



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.



ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The Town of Bridport seeks a Zoning Administrator. Responsibilities include issuing building permits within town regulations and assisting with conditional use and variances in conjunction with the Development Review Board. The ZA works in conjunction with the Selectboard to enforce zoning regulations. Strong communication through telephone and email, organization, and computer skills required. Site visits during and following completion of permitted projects also a requirement. Prior zoning or local government experience a plus. Successful candidate need not be a resident of Bridport to apply. Number of hours vary during the year dependent on volume of permit applications. Hourly rate based on experience.

Send resumes to Town of Bridport, PO Box 27, Bridport VT, 05734.

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.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Full-Time Positions Available
including small equipment operator,
roadside mowing & landscaping

Seasonal Positions Available
including lawn care & landscaping

Immediate positions available working Monday – Friday and some Saturdays.
Paid Holidays, partial uniforms
new bonuses available, & competitive pay.

To apply, call 802-352-9088
307 Kelly Cross Road
Salisbury, 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. Paid holidays and sign on bonus for experienced workers. 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.



FINISHER

Addison Residential is seeking to hire a full-time finisher for our busy paint shop. Finisher will be responsible for spraying a variety of projects – cabinetry, siding, trim, etc. along with using a variety of finish products. The ideal candidate will have previous experience with finishing. The job requires repetitive motion and ability to lift-up to 65lbs. The candidate should be able to work independently, as well as be part of a team, and have a keen eye for detail.

Benefits package available.
Pay is based on experience/skill level.
Apply by emailing resume to:
info@addisonresidential.com.

No phone calls or walk-ins.

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



addisonindependent.com/help-wanted

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT



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.

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.

Wood Heat

DRY OR GREEN firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-349-4212.

Real Estate



BUILDING LOT approximately 1/2 acre Daisy Lane, East Middlebury, village water, underground utilities, designed septic. Established neighborhood with Little League field. \$105,000. Tel 802-388-2502. Jack Brown.

HOME AVAILABLE \$129K – Owner Financing! 3 bed, 2 bath fixer-upper in Crown Point, NY, just 1 hour from Lake George, Lake Placid & Gore Mountain. New furnace, updated plumbing, workshop basement. Great vacation home or rental! Email: 12928house@gmail.com

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.

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

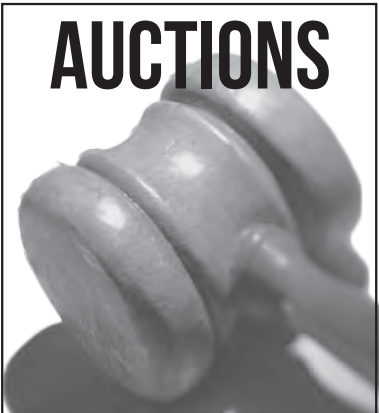
HAY FOR SALE Over 1500 square bales of 1st cut hay for sale. \$4 per bale. Also 300+/- bales of 2nd cut hay on tarped wagons - \$4 per bale. Located at 864 Smead Rd, Salisbury, VT. First come, first serve. Call 802-352-4686.

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

Cars

SUBARU SPORTS LEGACY only 52,000 mi. 2017 and perfect mechanically. \$8,500 or best offer. 802-388-2812.

Help Wanted



MARKET REPORT

ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT

Sales for 3/20/25 & 3/24/25

			COST	
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$	
Westminster	1715	1.64	\$2812.60	
Sunderland	1740	1.62	\$2818.80	
K. Rousseau	1975	1.50	\$2962.50	
Robeth	1995	1.46	\$2912.70	
Nop Bros	1605	1.45	\$2327.25	
Goodrich	1595	1.45	\$2312.75	

			COST	
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$	
Sunderland	88	11.40	\$1003.20	
Barnes B&W	94	11.00	\$1034.00	
Elysian Fields	119	10.00	\$1190.00	
Vorsteveld	90	10.20	\$918.00	
M+L Quesnel	92	9.50	\$874.00	
A. Brisson	108	8.00 (H)	\$864.00	

Total Beef - 140 Total Calves - 190

We value our faithful customers.

Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

ANWSD BOARD

MEETING NOTICES FOR APRIL 2025

Monday, April 7	3:50 PM	Policy Committee Mtg. VUMHS Library
	4:50 PM	Facilities Committee Mtg. VUMHS Library
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting VUMHS Library
Monday, April 14	4:50 PM	Finance Committee Mtg. VUMHS Library
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting VUMHS Library
Wednesday, April 16	5:30 PM	CEC Meeting
Monday, April 28	3:30 PM	Negotiations Committee Mtg. ANWSD Conference room

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.

TOWN OF SHOREHAM INVITATION TO BID: LAWN MOWING

The Town of Shoreham is accepting proposals for mowing and lawn maintenance. The scope of work includes mowing, weed-whacking, and cleaning off all sidewalks at the following locations: strip in front of the Shoreham Inn; town commons by Shoreham School, conservatory, and tennis courts; town commons by ballfields, Town Office, and library; Russell Cemetery on Route 74E; lawns by Shoreham Wastewater facilities; lawn by Stone Schoolhouse on Route 22A. The awardee must be able to provide proof of insurance.

The duration of the contract is 2 years. Bids are due by 4:00 PM on Monday, April 7. Mail or deliver bid to:

Shoreham Town Office
297 Main Street
Shoreham, VT 05770

Questions? (802) 897-5841 or email shorehamtown@shorehamvt.us.

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH NOTICE OF HEARING

The Planning Commission will hold the following public hearing on **Wednesday April 16, 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 included in the agenda posted on the Town's website (ferrisburghvt.org) at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Application Number 25-021: Two-lot subdivision; Applicant: Michele Racine; 399 & 327 Quaker Street; Parcel ID number 05/01/48; Rural Residential District (RR-2); Final Plat 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 GOSHEN REQUEST FOR BIDS & BUDGETARY ESTIMATES

The Town of Goshen, Vermont is accepting Bids & Budgetary Estimates for various scopes of work for **MULTIPLE EXCAVATION PROJECTS**
MULTIPLE PAVING PROJECTS
ROADSIDE MOWING

ON-SITE INSPECTION for Excavation & Paving Projects

April 1, 2025 at the Goshen Town Office.

10 AM for Excavation Contractors & **2 PM** for Paving Contractors.

Bids & Estimates will be received at the Goshen Town Office until 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2025. Bids will be opened at the special Selectboard meeting, April 22, 2025, at 6:30 PM.

Complete Project Documents are available online:
<http://goshenvt.org/goshen-road-projects-2025/>

**Please note: Contractors are to direct all inquiries to Jeff Cathcart, Project Manager, Town of Goshen. joathcart@goshenvt.org or (802) 345-9736.

TRITOWN WATER DISTRICT NO. 1
NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF
QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES

TriTown Water District No. 1 (The District) is in the process of obtaining Statements of Qualifications from qualified engineering firms, detailing the firms' qualifications, technical expertise, management and staffing capabilities, references, and related prior experience related to municipal water distribution, storage and treatment. Requested professional services will include, but are not necessarily limited to, preliminary engineering, design, preparation of bidding and contract documents, participation in the evaluation of bids and award of contracts and the administration and observation of construction activities to ensure compliance with plans and specifications associated with improvements to the District's treatment facility, Storage Facilities, and Distribution Networks, including pump stations.

Procurement of said services will be in accordance with elements of the procurement process in 40 U.S.C. § 1101-1104. Qualified firms/candidates interested in being considered for this project must submit **one electronic** copy of:

- letter of interest;
- general information on the firm's history, client base and experience;
- qualifications and experience of key staff persons (project manager, principal designer, resident engineer) who will likely be directly involved with District's projects, including client contacts;
- descriptions and client contacts for projects of related scope completed by the firm.

Submit the requested information to Trish Gordon. Clerk at tritownwater@gmavt.net; no later than the close of business on **Thursday, April 3, 2025**, to receive consideration.

Attention is directed to the fact that the proposed project(s) may be undertaken with a variety of Federal and State funds, including Congressionally Designated Spending and the Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Loan Program, and that all work will be performed in accordance with the regulations issued by such agencies and the State of Vermont pertaining thereto.

The District shall evaluate the Statements of Qualifications and references submitted by interested firms and select a minimum of three firms which, in the District's opinion, are best qualified to perform the desired services. The District shall rank, in order of preference, the firms deemed to be the most highly qualified to provide the specific requested services and shall commence scope of services and price negotiations with the highest qualified professional firm for engineering services. Should such negotiations not be favorable, the District will commence negotiations with the next highest qualified firm. Prior engineering planning, design and construction experience related to the District's infrastructure will be considered in the selection. For each proposed project, interviews may be conducted prior to selection of a firm. Interviews may include discussions regarding potential design concepts and proposed methods of approach to the project.

PROPOSED STATE RULES

By law, public notice of proposed rules must be given by publication in newspapers of record. The purpose of these notices is to give the public a chance to respond to the proposals. The public notices for administrative rules are now also available online at <https://secure.vermont.gov/SOS/rules/>. The law requires an agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed rule, if requested to do so in writing by 25 persons or an association having at least 25 members.

To make special arrangements for individuals with disabilities or special needs please call or write the contact person listed below as soon as possible.

To obtain further information concerning any scheduled hearing(s), obtain copies of proposed rule(s) or submit comments regarding proposed rule(s), please call or write the contact person listed below. You may also submit comments in writing to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, State House, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802-828-2231).

10 V.S.A. App. § 17, Rule governing the importation and possession of cervids from chronic wasting disease endemic areas and captive hunt or farm facilities.
Vermont Proposed Rule: 25P011
AGENCY: Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board
CONCISE SUMMARY: The proposed rule change is a minor amendment amending every reference to "deer and elk" to "cervids."
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Hannah Smith, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, 1 National Life Drive, Davis 2 Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3208 Tel: 802-461-8187 Fax: 802-828-1250
E-Mail: hannah.smith@vermont.gov
URL:<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/about-us/fish-and-wildlife-board/board-rules>.
FOR COPIES: Nick Fortin, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, Agency of Natural Resources, 271 North Main Street, Suite 215, Rutland, VT 05701 Tel: 802-786-0040 Fax: 802-828- 1250 Email: nick.fortin@vermont.gov

10 V.S.A. App. § 22, Turkey Seasons Rule.
Vermont Proposed Rule: 25P012
AGENCY: Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board
CONCISE SUMMARY: The proposed rule amendments extend the fall archery season to begin on October 1 and extend until the Friday prior to the regular deer season. The rule also makes technical corrections to clarify the type of license required during each turkey season.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Hannah Smith, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, Agency of Natural Resources, 1 National Life Drive, Davis 2 Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3208 Tel: 802-461-8187 Fax: 802-828-1250 E-Mail: hannah.smith@vermont.gov
URL: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/about-us/fish-and-wildlife-board/board-rules>.
FOR COPIES: David Sausville, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, Agency of Natural Resources, 111 West Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 Tel: 802-897-5699 Fax: 802-828-1250 Email: david.sausville@vermont.gov

10 V.S.A. App. § 33, Moose Management Rule.
Vermont Proposed Rule: 25P013
AGENCY: Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board
CONCISE SUMMARY: The proposed rule amendments include technical and substantive changes, including updated language related to moose permit allocation through the auction to bring the rule language in compliance with statute, the creation of a Special Opportunity Season concurrent with the current archery season to allow Special Opportunity permit holders to hunt with a gun during this time period, the extension of the regular season from six to nine days, and technical changes for consistency and clarity.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Hannah Smith, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, Agency of Natural Resources, 1 National Life Drive, Davis 2 Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3208 Tel: 802-461-8187 Fax: 802-828-1250 E-Mail: hannah.smith@vermont.gov
URL: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/about-us/fish-and-wildlife-board/board-rules>.
FOR COPIES: Nick Fortin, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, Agency of Natural Resources, 271 North Main Street, Suite 215, Rutland, VT 05701 Tel: 802-786-0040 Fax: 802-828-1250 Email: nick.fortin@vermont.gov

10 V.S.A. App. § 37 Deer Management Rule.
Vermont Proposed Rule: 25P014
AGENCY: Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board
CONCISE SUMMARY: The proposed rule amendments include substantive changes to the current deer management rule including establishing expanded archery zones, moving youth weekend back to the weekend before the regular season, reinstating the antler point restriction in Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) D1, allowing antlerless permits to be used during the regular season, removing the archery season closure during the regular season, allowing hunters to hold two antlerless permits in different WMUs, and allowing hunters to take a conditional second buck.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Hannah Smith, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, Agency of Natural Resources, 1 National Life Drive, Davis 2 Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3208 Tel: 802-461-8187 Fax: 802-828-1250 E-Mail: hannah.smith@vermont.gov
URL: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/about-us/fish-and-wildlife-board/board-rules>.
FOR COPIES: Nick Fortin, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, Agency of Natural Resources, 271 North Main Street, Suite 215, Rutland, VT 05701 Tel: 802-786-0040 Fax: 802-828-1250 Email: nick.fortin@vermont.gov

STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT
DOCKET NO.: 25-PR-01354
IN RE ESTATE OF: CHARLES ROBINSON
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Charles Robinson, 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: 03/20/25

Robbie R. Corriss
% Kevin L. Kite, Esq.
Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C.
64 Court Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 03/27/25
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

TOWN OF BRIDPORT
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The Bridport Developmental Review Board will hold a public hearing on April 16, 2025 at 7pm in the Bridport Town Office, at 82 Crown Point Rd., on each of the following applications:

- At 7:05 PM on Application (#25-06) by John and Karen Moriarity. Applicant requests Variance for an addition to existing garage which was built with variance due to insufficient setback requirements
- At 7:10 PM on Application (#25-07) by Champlainside Properties LLC. Applicant requests Variance to install a standby generator with insufficient road setbacks.

Plans and additional information regarding any such application may be viewed at said Town Office or by calling 802-758-2483, Ext. 2. Participation in the Bridport Developmental Review Board proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal on any decision of it on an application

Dinah Bain, Chair
Al Zaccor, Secretary
Tim Howlett, Acting Zoning Administrator

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY
BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

Each year at this time the Town of Middlebury Select Board makes its annual appointments to volunteer positions required by State Statute, and local and regional boards and commissions. If you are interested in any of the following positions, please submit an Application for Appointment available on the Town's website https://www.townofmiddlebury.org/government/boards_and_commissions/index.php, or by contacting Beth Dow at bdow@townofmiddlebury.org. Please submit Applications for Appointment to the Manager's Office, 77 Main Street, Middlebury, or e-mail to bdow@townofmiddlebury.org, by Tuesday, April 1, 2025. If you would like to find out more about any of these positions, please contact Beth Dow at 388-8100, Ext 202.

Four Year Term

Conservation Commission

Three Year Terms

Planning Commission
Design Advisory Committee
Development Review Board
Downtown Improvement District Committee (Must own or represent a business in the district.)
Deputy Health Officer (Will require Vermont Health Dept training.)
Parks & Recreation Committee
Infrastructure Committee
Energy Committee

One Year Term

Addison County Regional Planning Commission Delegates
Addison County Regional Planning Commission Alternate
Addison County Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee Delegate
Addison County Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee Alternate
Fence Viewer
Maple Broadband Communications District Delegate
Maple Broadband Communications District Delegate Alternate
Town Agent
Town Grand Juror
Town Service Officer
Tree Warden

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY
MOSQUITO ADULTICIDES

On or after April 20th, 2025, the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) may be making ground applications of adulticides along the public and private roads in the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Proctor, and Salisbury to control adult mosquito populations. Applications of PermaSease (a family of synthetic pyrethroid insecticides) will be made with ultra-low volume truck-mounted sprayers. Zenivex E-4 RTU (a non-ester pyrethroid) may be substituted for PermaSease.

At least six hours in advance of spraying to control adult mosquitoes, specific route information and the pesticide(s) to be used will be posted to <https://ocwcid.com/public-notice>. The OCW also provides email notifications of all planned spraying. To subscribe to the spraying notification email list, please send a request to: ocwcid@gmail.com.

The OCW's published spray routes can be viewed at: <https://ocwcid.com/route-maps>.

The OCW call center phone number is (802) 247-6779; the call center will take requests for treatment during the season.

If you wish to opt out of all adult mosquito treatment and not have the road(s) abutting your property sprayed, please send a written request to the OCW. If you submitted an opt out (No Spray Zone) request for your property last year AND there have been no changes in ownership, contact information, or property boundaries, an email to the OCW containing your 911 address and requesting No Spray Zone status again this year will suffice. If you did not submit an opt out request last year and/or there have been changes in ownership, contact information, or property boundaries, please send a letter to the OCW address given below listing the name(s) of the property owner(s), his/her/their contact telephone number(s), the 911 address of the property, and a property map which clearly shows the property boundaries along the public right of way. Property maps can be obtained from Town Clerks or online at <https://maps.vcgi.vermont.gov/ParcelViewer>. Upon receipt of your request an OCW employee will contact you and then will mark your property as a No Spray Zone. Opt-out requests must be renewed annually.

In accordance with paragraph 6.07 (a) of the Vermont Rule for the Control of Pesticides, the OCW has applied for a permit to conduct truck-mounted mosquito adulticide applications from the Secretary, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets.

Further information can be obtained from:
Jeff Schumann, OCW Board of Trustees Chair
Or questions mailed or emailed to:

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
P.O. Box 188
Brandon, VT 05733
(802) 247-6779
ocwcid@gmail.com
<https://ocwcid.com>

Comments or complaints about OCW adulticide spraying operations should be addressed to:

Director, Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management Division
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets
116 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901
(802) 522-6973
steve.dwinell@vermont.gov

Public Notices can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 5B, 9B and 10B.

TOWN OF LINCOLN
WARNING
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Lincoln are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Town Office at 62 Quaker St in Lincoln on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. to discuss and transact business not warned in time for the March 3, 2025, Town Meeting.

Agenda for Meeting at Lincoln Town Office on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Article 1: Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to exempt the Lincoln Volunteer Fire Company from municipal and state property taxes, per 32 V.S.A. 5404a(a)(4)?

Article 2: Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to exempt the Lincoln Cooperative Preschool from paying municipal taxes for a period of 5 years and to pay the state education tax due as a voted exemption, per 32 V.S.A. 5404a(d)?

Article 3: To transact any other legal and proper business when met.

Dated this 25th day of February, 2025.

/S/ Town of Lincoln Selectboard

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.

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC HEARING
TRI-VALLEY TRANSIT INC.

Tri-Valley Transit Inc. gives notice that, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 5311 Non-Urbanized Transportation Program, Preventive Maintenance Program, Rural Technical Assistance Program and Marketing; Vermont State Operating Assistance Program, Capital Program and RTAP Program; 49 U.S.C. § 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program; 49 U.S.C. § 5304 Statewide Transportation Planning; 49 U.S.C. Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities, the opportunity is offered for a public hearing on a proposed Public Transit Program throughout the Counties of Addison, Orange and Northern Windsor.

Projects are described as follows: General public deviated-fixed-route and commuter bus services within Addison, Orange and Northern Windsor Counties and connecting to major employment and medical centers in Burlington, Rutland and the Upper Valley, and to provide transportation services for elders and persons with disabilities living in Addison, Orange and Northern Windsor Counties. TVT would also administer State/Federal capital funds to purchase public transportation buses, spare parts, office equipment, and other capital items.

Persons desiring a hearing to be held should submit written requests to Tri-Valley Transit and to the Vermont Agency of Transportation at the addresses below within 14 days of publication of this notice. Upon a receipt of a request, a date will be scheduled and a notice of hearing will be published. A copy of the proposal may be seen at the Project Manager's Office. Persons desiring to make written comments should forward to the addresses below within 14 days of publication of this notice.

Project Manager:
Jim Moulton
Executive Director
Tri-Valley Transit
Public Transit Section
297 Creek Road
Middlebury, VT 05753
jim@trivalleytransit.org

State Agency:
Dan Currier
Public Transit Program Coordinator
Vermont Agency of Transportation

219 North Main Street
Barre, VT 05641
Dan.J.Currier@vermont.gov

Dated at Middlebury, County of Addison and State of Vermont this 27th day of March, 2025.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT OF OIL, GAS AND
MINERAL LEASE PURSUANT TO
29 V.S.A. §563(g) and (h)

Name of Record Owners of Interest:

Cambrian Corporation
RD No. 1
Fowler, Ohio 44418

Cambrian Associates, Ltd.
c/o Anthony F. Abatiell, President
One Justice Square
Rutland, Vermont 05701

Name of Property Owner: Randall L. Brisson and Kathleen A. Brisson

Description of the Land: A parcel of land consisting of 161 acres, more or less, being a PORTION of all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Randall L. Brisson and Kathleen A. Brisson by Warranty Deed of Robert W. Brisson and Doris E. Brisson dated December 31, 1993, and recorded in the Shoreham Land Records in Book 43 at Page 14. The lands are a portion of those lands described therein as "Parcel 1" of "PARCEL A", excepting and excluding the 10.01-acre parcel retained and reserved from "PARCEL A" as noted in the Warranty Deed.

Nature of the Interest:

Oil, Gas and Mineral Lease of Robert M. Brisson and Doris Brisson to Cambrian Corporation dated November 7, 1964 and recorded in Book 26 at Page 629 of the Shoreham Land Records.

Assignment of Royalty Interest from Cambrian Corporation to Cambrian Associates, Ltd., dated October 16, 1981, and recorded in Book 32 at Page 302 of the Shoreham Land Records.

Preservation Notice of Cambrian Corporation dated June 15, 1983, and recorded in Book 33 at Page 378A of the Shoreham Land Records.

Name and Address of Person Giving Notice:

Kevin L. Kite, Esq.
Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C.
64 Court Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

It is presumed that this Oil, Gas and Mineral Lease is abandoned.

Dated at Middlebury, Vermont, on this 19th day of March, 2025.

Kevin L.Kite, Esq.,
Agent for Randall L. Brisson and
Kathleen A. Brisson

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

March 27, 2025



CHOPS!

JAZZ TRIO SWINGS FOR HAVURAH

Jeff Nottonson, Ron White and Rob Zollman will perform a jazz trio concert at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society in Middlebury on Sunday, March 30, from 3-4:30 p.m., to benefit Havurah of Addison County's future campaign.

COURTESY PHOTOS

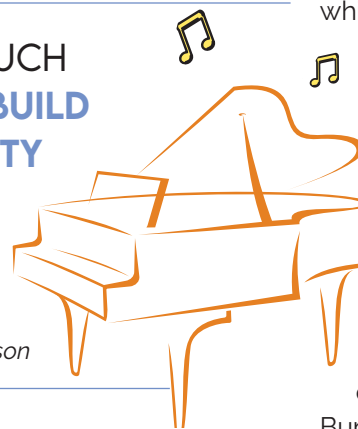
Havurah of Addison County will present an unforgettable afternoon of jazz this Sunday, March 30, from 3-4:30 p.m. at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society in Middlebury. The concert will feature local musicians Jeff Nottonson on piano, Ron White on bass, and Rob Zollman on drums. A suggested donation of \$25 at the door will benefit Havurah of Addison County's future campaign.

BY **ELSIE**
LYNN PARINI

Havurah has hosted several events to raise funds and bring community together this fiscal year (which is coming to a close in July). Some of those events included a talk by Middlebury College Professor of Religion Shalom Goldman, a research presentation on the Lazarus family by David Rosenberg (Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Middlebury College), a raffle and social gathering at Notte in Middlebury, and a boat trip on Lake Champlain.

"WE ARE AS MUCH TRYING TO **REBUILD THE COMMUNITY** AS WE ARE THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN."

— Emily Joselson



"It's with a little anxiety that we're being more public now," said longtime Havurah member and board secretary Emily Joselson. "After Covid, we are realizing anew the responsibility of this lovely old beautiful house we were given, the need to come back together to meet more regularly... We are as much trying to rebuild the community as we are the capital campaign."

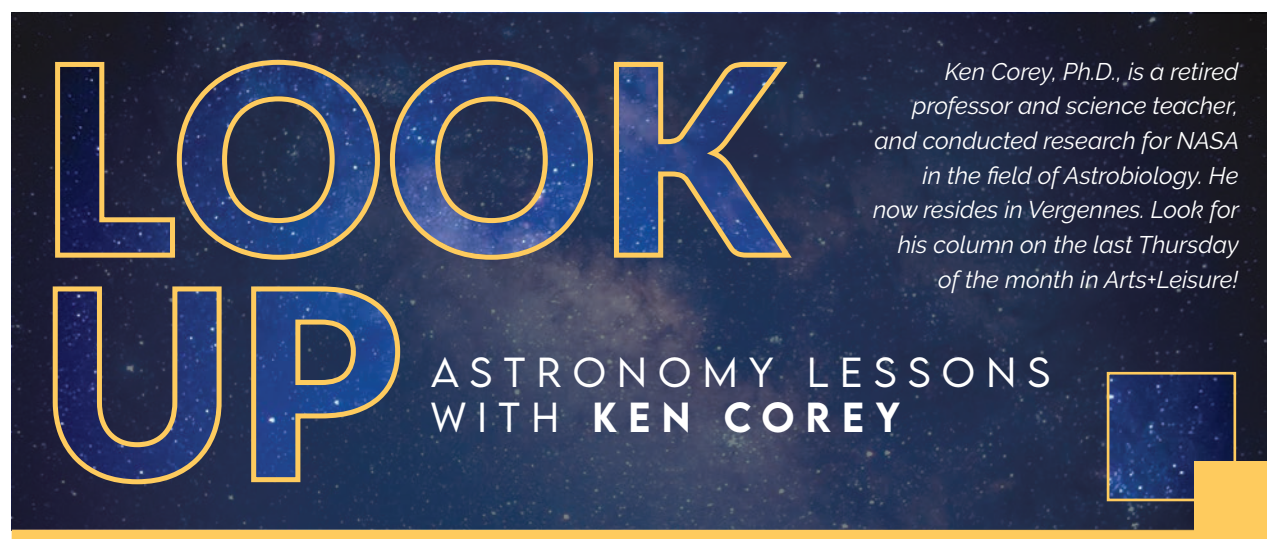
Havurah of Addison County occupies the

white house with the wrap around porch at 56 North Pleasant St. in Middlebury. In case it's been a while since you remembered what Havurah means, the group's website defines Havurah as "(noun, Hebrew: cha-voo-rah), a small group of like-minded Jews who assemble for shared communal experiences, learning, and vibrant programming for kids of all ages." The community is "an inclusive, volunteer-driven, non-denominational Jewish community serving Vermont towns between Burlington and Rutland."

Joselson reported that they have exceeded their modest fundraising goals this fiscal year, but acknowledged that with "the level of needs of an old house and growing community... we always need more." She added, "We're hoping for good participation at the jazz concert and our last events."

The trio performing on Sunday is sure to

SEE TRIO ON PAGE 3



How is it we are here?

Joni Mitchell in the last verse of her song Woodstock writes: "We are stardust, billion-year-old carbon." Our solar system along with distant stars brimming with exoplanets were formed from gases and dust. Gravitationally-driven contraction of nebulae consisting of gases and dust ultimately led to swirling masses of hydrogen and other elements. When the density and temperature of the center of a swirling mass is high enough to support nuclear fusion, a star is born. The type of star that forms depends upon the mass and composition of material from which it formed. In the February and March columns, there was a focus on star forming regions in Orion and the Pleiades. Like those in Orion and throughout the universe, countless stars have been through cycles of birth and death. Estimates of stars in the known Universe are on the order of 10 to the 22nd power, given the assumptions of about 100 billion galaxies and an average of 100 billion stars per galaxy; truly incomprehensible numbers. Many of those stars are of a second or third generation. After 13 plus billion years from the beginning of the universe, imagine how much recycling has occurred.



Image of the Crab Nebula by NASA's James Webb Space Telescope's NIRCам (Near-Infrared Camera) and MIRI (Mid-Infrared Instrument) reveals new details in infrared light.

NASA, ESA, CSA, STSCI, T. TEMIM (PRINCETON UNIVERSITY).



A side-by-side view of the Ring Nebula, imaged by the JWST in two different infra-red wavebands.

ESA/WEBB, NASA, CSA, M. BARLOW, N. COX, R. WESSON

Birth, growth, death, and decay are universals; whether it is the life cycle of a star or of a corn plant going through its life cycle from to seed to seed. Relatively low mass stars like our sun, die "quiet" deaths after they evolve into red giants, and their hydrogen fuel has been exhausted. The leftovers from the death of smallish stars form some of the most beautiful cloud formations in the Universe, planetary nebulae (Note: Planetary nebula is a misnomer that derives from 19th century observers who thought the objects looked like planets, but are really nothing of the sort.) (See image of Ring Nebula). When a star such as our Sun nears the end of its life, it swells into a red giant and then sheds its outer layers, leaving a planetary nebula. At the center of planetary nebulae is what remains of the star; a very dense, hot white dwarf, the source of illumination of the cloud of dust and gas. Check out the many examples of planetary nebulae at the following Hubble and JWST websites (esahubble.org/images/?search=%22planetary+nebula%22 and webbtelescope.org/images?Tag=Planetary%20Nebulas.) Each planetary nebula is a stunning work of abstract art.

There is an issue regarding the fate of stars that is relevant to our very existence. Low mass stars like our sun cannot fuse elements with atomic numbers greater than iron, because

more energy is required to fuse them than is released. Trace elements such as zinc, copper, and molybdenum are all heavier than iron and are essential for humans and many other forms of life. Even though trace elements only make up about 0.5% of all the elements essential to life, they perform vital functions. For example, zinc is essential for functioning of the immune system, wound healing, and DNA synthesis. Copper is needed for energy production, iron absorption, and nerve function.

Fusion of heavy elements essential to our existence require the gargantuan energies released by supernovae. Supernovas come in a variety of forms, depending on their mass and type of star system. I will only mention one here and leave those that form pulsars and black holes for another column. Type Ia supernovas result from a binary system where a white dwarf cannibalizes its companion star of hydrogen fuel. When the star reaches a critical mass of 1.4 times the mass of the sun, the ensuing gravitational collapse leads to a rapid implosion, followed by a rebound explosion of unfathomable proportions. The resultant supernova can briefly outshine the sum of all the stars in a galaxy. A simple demonstration of the collapse-rebound effect is to hold a tennis ball with a ping pong ball on top. If you carefully drop the two, you will see the ping pong ball be flung off the tennis ball for quite a distance after they hit the floor.

Since 185 A.D., Chinese astronomers have observed several supernovas. The guest star of the first one was visible for eight months. The most famous of the discoveries by the Chinese was the one in 1054 which left a remnant called the Crab Nebula (see image). Astronomers in our lifetime are still observing the expansion of the cloud of dust and gases resulting from that supernova. In 1572, the Danish astronomer, Tycho Brahe discovered and studied a supernova that was visible to the naked eye in 1575 in the constellation Cassiopeia. Tycho's supernova demonstrated that the stars are not fixed and eternal as previously held by Aristotelean dogma. In the opening scene of Shakespeare's Hamlet, there is reference by the character Bernardo of the bright star westward from the pole that scholars think may have referred to Tycho's supernova.

In recent history, the type II supernova 1987a was observed in the Large Magellanic cloud, an irregular satellite galaxy of the Milky Way visible from the southern hemisphere. This was the closest one observed in centuries and enabled astronomers to study the progenitor blue giant star before, during, and after the explosion. In the 1990s, astronomers used supernova brightness and distance data to make inferences leading to the current views of an accelerating expansion of the universe.

SEE LOOK UP ON PAGE 12

TRIO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

impress. Not only do these three performers have chops, but surprisingly they have never played all together before.

Here's a little more about each of the performers:

Jeff Nottonson began piano lessons at age 6 in Newton, Mass. He followed this with clarinet lessons and then proceeded to teach himself to play saxophone, flute, trumpet, guitar, bass guitar and vibraphone. After receiving a liberal arts education from Colby College in Waterville, Maine, he attended Boston's Berklee College of Music, majoring in Song Writing and Jazz Performance. He founded Musique Makers, a Boston-area music agency specializing in live music for private functions and in the same year began a private teaching practice in Acton and Lexington, Mass. Upon moving to Vermont in 2017, he became an innkeeper in Addison, and recently "came out of retirement" to play saxophone, flute and trumpet.

Ron White, former Principal Bassist of the SMU Chamber Orchestra and Associate Principal Bassist of the Dallas Civic Symphony, spent 26 years directing award-winning student orchestras in Texas. Since moving to Vermont in 2010, he has been heard in the Vermont Jazz Ensemble and in productions at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury and the Burlington Discover Jazz Festival. Most Thursday nights, White can be heard with the Jazz Collective at

the Middlebury Inn. He has been conducting Burlington's Amateur Musicians Orchestra since 2018. White is also an instructor at the Middlebury Community Music Center.

Rob Zollman has been a professional set and hand drummer and percussionist for over 40 years. Zollman regularly performs jazz, blues, rock, classical, Brazilian and other ethnic music. An affiliate of the Middlebury Music Center, he teaches percussion at Hands-On Music in his Brandon studio and at Otter Valley Union High School. With a BA in percussion from the School of the Arts, he studied with the Philadelphia Orchestra principal percussionist as well as noted music theorists and drum circle enthusiasts.

"We're going to play jazz standards," Nottonson said. "I've never played with Rob before, but I've heard great things... Ron and I

played together once for an opening at 51 Main St., when Bethanie [Farrell] opened her shop [Everything Nice and the Giving Fridgel]."

White and Zollman both point Nottonson as the leader of the trio.

"Every once in a while, I like to do something nice," said Nottonson, who is also a board member of Havurah. "I offered to help out with the fundraising and thought this jazz trio might be a nice way."

Editor's Note: For more information about Havurah of Addison County visit havurahaddisoncounty.org.

WHEN:

Sunday, March 30, 3-4:30 p.m.

WHERE:

Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society in Middlebury

COST:

\$25 suggested donation

BENEFIT:

Havurah of Addison County



MIDDLEBURY
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ARTS SERIES



Steven Osborne, Piano

Friday, April 4 • 7:30 PM
Mahaney Arts Center, Robison Hall
Tickets: \$25/20/10/5



go.middlebury.edu/pas

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Human Rights & Democracy Promotion
with Sarah Stroup

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American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads
with Russ Leng

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After Gaza: American Policy in the Middle East
with Russ Leng
April 2, 3:00 PM



U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy
with David Rosenberg
April 17, 3:00 PM



The Future of NATO
with Elizabeth Shackelford
April 24, 3:00 PM



India: Between China, the West & Global South
with Ajay Verghese
May 7, 3:00 PM



U.S. - China Relations
with John Berninghausen
May 14, 3:00 PM

For Zoom link or link for recording, please call (802) 989-7501



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INDEPENDENT LIVING * RESIDENTIAL CARE * MEMORY CARE

UPCOMING MUSIC

Amanda King Trio plays 'Ella' for lounge-style performance

The Town Hall Theater and Middlebury's House of Jazz Series will welcome the Amanda King Trio on Saturday, April 5, at 7:30 p.m., for an evening of "Ella Fitzgerald, The Early Years."

"ELLA The Early Years" focuses on the formative time Fitzgerald spent with the pioneering drummer, Chick Webb, and his orchestra. Webb's orchestra also served as the musical foundation for many legendary sidemen, many of whom Fitzgerald would go on to work with for decades. This early partnership of Fitzgerald and Webb catapulted both their careers to new heights and is the backdrop for a heartwarming, joy-filled celebration of an American icon by a voice that was born to sing Fitzgerald.

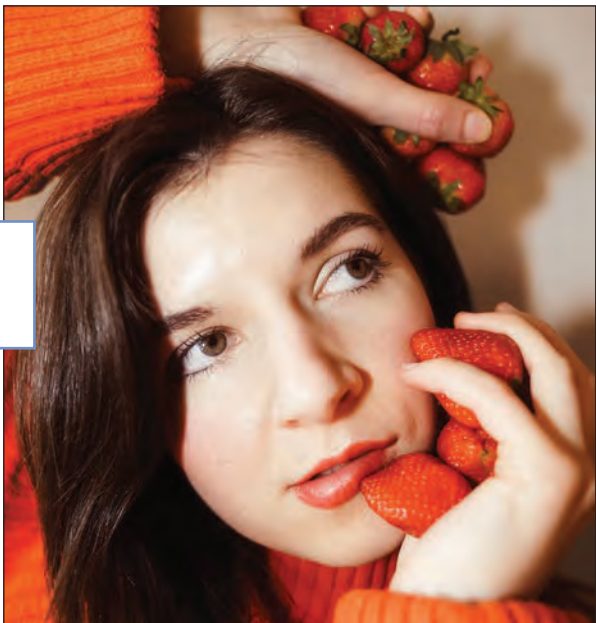
King performs standards and jazz, and is an avid preservationist of the music and performers of the early 20th century. King has been hailed by The New York Times critic Stephen Holden as one of the nightclub world's "exceptional rising talents" and is a repeat performer at

the Mabel Mercer Cabaret Convention. A long-time San Francisco resident, she moved to Las Vegas in 2017 and has quickly become one of its top jazz performers. The Las Vegas Review Journal says, "King is Queen."

Combining the best of the jazz and cabaret worlds by focusing on the words, the music, and the swing, King masterfully interprets the music she performs. She relishes diving into history by sharing the stories, songs and people that make up the treasure trove of pre-1950s American Popular Music. A knowledgeable educator, she teaches jazz history classes for OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) at UNLV and has presented workshops for the SFJAZZ Discover Jazz series.

Tickets are \$15-\$40 and are available at townhalltheater.org, by calling 802-382-9222, or by visiting the THT box office Monday-Friday from 12-5 p.m. THT will be configured in its lounge formation with a cash bar available throughout the show

MORE TUNES



Abigayle Kompst will perform at 3345 Quaker Village Road in Weybridge, on April 2, at 7:30 p.m.

COURTESY PHOTO

Indi-folk singer coming to living room near you

Abigayle Kompst will perform a living room concert at the home of Don Sheldon, at 3345 Quaker Village Road in Weybridge, on April 2, at 7:30 p.m.

Indie-folker Kompst is writing songs that blend the melodic richness of folk pioneers with honest, intimate lyrics found in today's confessional songwriter scene. Hailing from the city of neon lights, she found her artistic home in Nashville after leaving the glamour of Las Vegas behind. Kompst's songs have been recorded by Nashville artists such as Kate Yeager, Chloe Collins, Molly Frances, and more.

SEE MUSIC ON PAGE 8



JESSICA'S
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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.

"Translations" presents a collection from painter Dale Najarian and encaustic mixed media artist Dietlind Vander Schaaf. Using photography as a guide to her oil paintings, Najarian depicts the patterns of shadow and light. These highly contrasted images depict the rhythm in quiet moments, much like the encaustic wax paintings of Vander Schaaf. On view March 21-April 26.

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. On view Feb. 28-April 5.

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.

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-

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 15

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, a burst of energy propels you to move forward. It feels like everything is clicking, and you are full of ideas and brimming with contagious enthusiasm.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. You are in the mood to get down to business this week, Taurus. It's a great time to focus on your career or finances. Pay attention to all of the little details as you go along.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Curiosity takes control this week, Gemini. Opportunities for learning are all around you. You just need to look for them. It may be a new class or a trip that you take with friends.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Cancer, this week you may have a lot of emotional processing going on, particularly regarding relationships or past experiences. Embrace these deeper feelings.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Your social energy could be off the charts this week, Leo. Others will be drawn to your magnetism and self-confidence. It is a great time to network or collaborate.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Efficiency and productivity are the name of the game right now, Virgo. When it comes to organizing and planning, you will be all about getting things done in a timely manner.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, this week is a time for self-expression. You may find yourself pulled toward hobbies or artistic endeavors that enable you to showcase your talents.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. This is a time to dive deep into your home and family life, Scorpio. You want to create a sense of stability at home and address anything that might compromise that. Trust your gut with how to move forward.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Communication is the key this week, Sagittarius. Initiating important conversations and speaking directly with others is a great way to clear the air and get to the root of these issues.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Capricorn, you are focused on your financial well-being this week, but other issues may fall by the wayside. You might have to bring in someone else to keep the balance.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Personal goals and ambitions are front and center this week, Aquarius. This could put you in the spotlight and showcase what you want to accomplish to those around you.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Pisces, this week invites you to slow down and recharge your batteries as much as possible. You might feel pulled to spend time alone or simply get away for a few days.

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 28 — Mario Vargas Llosa, writer, Nobel Laureate (89)
MARCH 29 — Astrud Gilberto, singer (d)

MARCH 30 — Tracy Chapman, singer (61)
MARCH 31 — Octavio Paz, writer, Nobel laureate (d)
APRIL 1 — Toshiro Mifune, actor (d)
APRIL 2 — Pedro Pascal, actor (50)
APRIL 3 — Eddie Murphy, comedian (64)

CALENDAR

MARCH 27-APRIL 6
2025

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

TRUE CRIME PODCAST CLUB IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, March 27, 6 p.m., back room, Mini IIsley, 30 Main St. This month's podcast is S-Town, an investigative look at a man named John who despises his Alabama town and decides to do something about it. Join fellow amateur sleuths for the discussion. Listen to this month's podcast on your own before the discussion. For participants 18+.

MAIDEN VERMONT REHEARSAL IN SALISBURY. Thursday, March 27, 6:30-8:45 p.m., Salisbury Community School, 286 Kelly Cross Rd. Do you love to sing? Maiden Vermont, a women's close-harmony chorus, always welcomes new singers. We are a group of about 30 women who have a great time singing under the direction of the creative Tim Guiles. If you are interested in learning more, please come to a rehearsal. We are now learning music for our November show at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. More info at maidenvermont.com or call Barbara Marlow at 802-989-0355. Rehearsals meet weekly.

"PELIKAN BLUE" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, March 27, 7-9:30 p.m., Dana Auditorium, 356 College St. Wild, fluid and surreal animation tells the true story of Ákos, Laci and Petya as they begin to forge international train tickets that are easily manipulated due to an easy-to-remove ink: Pelican Blue. Matters turn dangerous for the youngsters when they unwittingly establish an underground crime syndicate and outrun the slow churn of the Hungarian Police.

Free and open to the public. A Hirschfeld International Film Series offering.

FRIDAY, MARCH, 28

MUHS STUDENT ART EXHIBITION RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, March 28, 5-6:30 p.m., Jackson Gallery, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Come meet IB Visual Arts students as they showcase their artwork from Middlebury Union High School developed over two years. Live music and light refreshments.

BLOOM & GROW: MCMC STUDENT BENEFIT CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, March 28, 6:30 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Welcome the season of renewal with an inspiring performance by the students of the Middlebury Community Music Center. Part of a year-long celebration of MCMC's 10th Anniversary. Pay-What-You-Can Tickets, available at tinyurl.com/23mu9wk7.

ISIDORE STRING QUARTET IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, March 28, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Making their Middlebury debut, the Isidore String Quartet are winners of a 2023 Avery Fisher Career Grant and the 14th Banff International String Quartet Competition. Their concert program "Unrequited" explores the intersection of treasured classics and contemporary perspectives, providing a winding path into the complicated labyrinth of human compassion and love, featuring works by Mozart, Beethoven and Billy Childs. Free, live and streaming. More info at go.middlebury.edu.

BILLY + THE JETS: AN ELTON JOHN & BILLY JOEL TRIBUTE IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, March 28, 7:30-10 p.m., Main Stage, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Billy + The Jets performs greatest hits of two songwriting and piano-playing legends that will have audience members dancing and singing along (though sitting and observing is welcome too!). This Massachusetts-based band has developed an enthusiastic following for good reason. Don't miss the band's Vermont premiere! Cash bar available throughout the event. Tickets \$20 adult/\$15 student, available at townhalltheater.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

ABENAKI AND THE ENDANGERED ALPHABET PROJECT IN SALISBURY. Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m., Salisbury Free Public Library, 918 Maple St. Join us in welcoming Tim Brookes, accomplished woodworker and linguist, as he describes his work promoting endangered alphabets from around the globe, including one of Vermont's first languages, Abenaki. He will present the library with a beautiful "welcome" sign in Abenaki.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATORY CONCERT IN WEYBRIDGE. Saturday, March 29, 1 p.m., Weybridge Congregational Church, 2790 Weybridge Rd. The Vermont Symphony Orchestra presents a special concert series featuring works exclusively by female composers. Performances highlight the stories and challenges of women who overcame societal barriers to share their music with the world. Young

female musicians from local middle schools will introduce each piece, sharing the history and significance of the works performed. Free and open to the public. Audiences are encouraged to pre-register via Eventbrite.

THE WHISKEY RIVER BAND IN BRANDON. Saturday, March 29, 6-8 p.m., American Legion, 550 Franklin St. If you like country music — such as favorite songs from Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson, Alan Jackson, Johnny Cash, Zac Brown and more — you won't want to miss this show. Free.

CHAMPLAIN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA WITH DIANA FANNING IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, March 29, 7:30 p.m., Main Stage, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. The Champlain Philharmonic Celebrates its 20th-anniversary season with pianist Diana Fanning, who will perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3. Tickets, \$5-\$15, available at townhalltheater.org., 802-382-9222, or in person at the THT box office, Monday-Friday, noon-5 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

5 TOWN FRIENDS OF THE ARTS AWARDS IN BRISTOL. Sunday, March 30, 1-3 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. Join 5 Town Friends of the Arts as they honor Jen Allred, for her remarkable devotion of time and talent, combining her love of music and theater with her love of working with young people. There will be an opportunity for folks to share their appreciation, and how they have benefited from her generosity. There will be cake and excellent snacks.

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 802-388-3062.	
Channel 1071 Through the Night: State House, Public Affairs Friday, March 28 4 a.m. Energy Week 5:05 a.m. Under the Dome 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week Saturday, March 29 6:30 a.m. Energy Week 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. State House Budget Hearing 11 p.m. Energy Week Sunday, March 30 6:05 a.m. Affordability in VT 6:30 a.m. Energy Week 7:30 a.m. Press Conf. 9 a.m. Catholic Mass	11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 12:30 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass Monday, March 31 4:30 a.m. Energy Week 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6:05 a.m. State House Budget Hearing 10 a.m. Selectboard 12:23 p.m. VT State House 5:30 p.m. Youth Lobby, Civic Health Index Tuesday, April 1 5 a.m. Public Affairs 8:30 a.m. Affordability in VT 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard 12:23 p.m. State House, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs Wednesday, April 2 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass	10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Selectboard 10 p.m. Energy Week, Public Affairs Thursday, April 3 8 a.m. Congregational Service 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 8 p.m. Energy Week 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs Channel 1091 Through the Night: Culture & Nature Friday, March 28 4 a.m. State House - Education 6:15 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. Jamtones 8 a.m. All Brains Belong 9 a.m. Sharpe Takes 10 a.m. NEK History - Scott Wheeler 11p.m. AAUW- Arts Today 5 p.m. School Board Meeting/s Saturday, March 29 5 a.m. Foltz Studio	6 a.m. Gardens 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 5 p.m. NEK History - Scott Wheeler 6 p.m. State House - Education 8:20 p.m. Sharpe Takes Sunday, March 30 4 a.m. Montpelier Community Gospel Choir 5:37 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. Foltz Studio 9 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 5 p.m. NEK History - Scott Wheeler 6 p.m. Sharpe Takes 7 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 8 p.m. Montpelier Gospel Choir Monday, March 31 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Sharpe Takes 6:45 a.m. Tai Chi 7:10 a.m. Chair Yoga 9 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 5 p.m. Foltz Studio 6:05 p.m. Montpelier Gospel Choir 8 p.m. AAUW - Arts Today	Tuesday, April 1 5 a.m. AAUW - Arts Today 5:37 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 5 p.m. Sharpe Takes 5:35 p.m. VT State House-Education 8 p.m. NEK History- Scott Wheeler 9 p.m. Ira Allen Wednesday, April 2 4 a.m. State House-Education 6:35 a.m. Tai Chi 7 a.m. Chair Yoga 4 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 5 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 10 p.m. Sharpe Takes Thursday, April 3 5:30 a.m. Foltz Studio 6:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6:55 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 9 p.m. AAUW - Arts Today 10 p.m. State House-Education	

TOP PICK

On Wednesday, April 2, from 7:30-8:30 p.m., Eli Clare will give a presentation about "Making and Unmaking Categories: Queer/Trans/Disabled Resistance and Joy" at the Franklin Environmental Center, The Orchard-Hillcrest room 103, 531 College Street on the Middlebury College campus.

Clare works as a traveling poet, storyteller, and social justice educator. Since 2008, he has spoken, taught, trained, and consulted (both in-person and remotely) at well over 150 conferences, community events, and colleges across the United States and Canada.

Free and open to the public.



ELI CLARE

JAZZ TRIO IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, March 30, 3-4:30 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society. Jeff Nottonson, Ron White and Rob Zollman will perform a jazz trio concert to benefit Havurah of Addison County's future campaign.

ZIG ZAG LIT MAG RELEASE PARTY IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, March 30, 4 to 6 p.m., Jean's Place, Town Hall Theater, 72 Merchants Row. Come to Zig Zag Lit Mag's Issue 18 Release Party. Free and open to the public and will be hosted at Jean's Place in the newly constructed Town Hall Theater extension. Cash bar and mingling, followed by a reading from the issue at 4:30 p.m. The featured artist for the Spring 25 issue is David Weinstock of Middlebury, founder of the Otter Creek Poets.

MONDAY, MARCH 31

SAMSON AKANNI - MOVEMENT MATTERS IN MIDDLEBURY. Monday, March 31, 4:30 p.m., Dance theater, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Join us for an electrifying dance workshop that takes you on a rhythmic journey from Africa to the Americas. "Dancing Bridges: From Ancestral Steps to Contemporary Beats" explores the dynamic evolution of African dance, weaving together the storytelling of Yoruba Diasporic Dance, the expressive fluidity of Contemporary Dance, and the vibrant energy of Afro-Pop Dance. Open to the Public.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

"CLOCKING IN: TIME AND PAINTING" AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE. Wednesday, April 2, 4:30 p.m., Franklin Environmental Center, The Orchard-Hillcrest 103. Since 2019, Visiting Assistant Professor Roger White has been making a series of "Calendar Paintings" that explore variations of conventional time-keeping formats. In this lecture, White will present this body of work in the context of its art-historical precursors — from medieval books of hours to the "Date Paintings" of

conceptual artist On Kawara — and his broader interest in art and the everyday. Free and open to the public.

ABIGAYLE KOMPST IN WEYBRIDGE. Wednesday, April 2, 7:30 p.m., 3345 Quaker Village Rd. A "What About Wednesday" performance. Indie-folker Kompst blends melodic richness with honest, intimate lyrics. \$25 suggested donation. Limited seating. All proceeds go to the artists. More info at don@valleystage.net or 802-557-7589.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

"REIMAGINING MY ANCESTORS: A JOURNEY TO DECOLONISE THE GAZE" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, April 3, 4:30 p.m., Room 125, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. A public lecture by artist Sara Sallam. Open to the Public.

"THE VIRTUOUS FALL OF THE GIRLS FROM OUR LADY OF SORROWS" AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE. Thursday, April 3, 7:30 p.m., Wright Memorial Theater, 96 Chateau Rd. At a Catholic girls school in Brooklyn, six students work on an adaptation of Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure," while evaluating the moral complexities of their own lives. As the Catholic nuns who run the school attempt to straitjacket them into denying their own identities, the girls must decide what they stand for and who they stand with in a complicated, post-9/11 landscape. Tickets \$15/\$10/\$8/\$5, available at 802-443-6433 or middlebury.edu/college/box-office.

FACULTY DANCE CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, April 3, 7:30-9 p.m., Dance Theater, Mahaney Art Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. An evening of dance, movement and creativity as the Middlebury Dance Faculty come together to share their work. This special evening will feature a dynamic mix of performances, including a Newcomers Piece led by faculty member Kari Borni, showcasing individuals who have never performed in this department. Witness new and original works, celebrate the

power of movement, and connect with our vibrant dance community. Tickets \$15/10/8/5. Open to the public.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

ART EXHIBIT OPENING RECEPTION IN BRANDON. Friday April 4, 6-8 p.m., Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center St. Come to "All Things Great and Small" to see how BAG artists play with the theme large and small in dimension and beyond.

STEVEN OSBORNE, PIANO, IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, April 4, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney

Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Pianist Steven Osborne, OBE, is one of the U.K.'s most treasured musicians. His performances exude an immense depth of musicality and exceptional refinement of expression across diverse repertoire, be it in Beethoven or Messiaen, Schubert or Ravel, Prokofiev or jazz improvisations. Tickets: \$25/20/10/5, available at go.middlebury.edu/box-office.

"THE VIRTUOUS FALL OF THE GIRLS FROM OUR LADY OF SORROWS" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, April 4, 7:30 p.m., Wright Memorial Theater, 96 Chateau Rd. See April 3 listing. Post-show talkback and discussion following Friday performance.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

SPRING CLEANING SATURDAY ON THE TAM IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 5, 8:30 a.m., location TBD. MALT's Trails & Volunteer Manager, Liam, will be awaiting volunteers at the trailhead in the mornings with donuts, coffee, and tea for about an hour or so. Enjoy a warm drink and chat, then head out to work, either hiking the section of trail yourself as a group with Liam. Work includes clearing dead branches and small fallen trees, pruning new growth, and picking up trash. More info and registration at maltvt.org/events.

RUN INTO SPRING 5K WALK/RUN IN VERGENNES. Saturday, April 5, 11 a.m., Vergennes Union High School, 50 Monkton Rd. Join us for a 5k walk/run benefiting Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports. Registration \$15. Post-race snacks and prizes. Organized through the non-profit Better Tomorrow Projects. Email stroup.maddie@gmail.com or bettertomorrowprojectsvt@gmail.com for more information and sign-ups.

AMANDA KING TRIO: "ELLA FITZGERALD, THE EARLY YEARS" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 5, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Before she became the First Lady of Song, Ella Fitzgerald was a young girl with a dream and determination who overcame extraordinary odds. Acclaimed chanteuse and music historian Amanda King shares Ella Fitzgerald's origins, inspirations, and music from the 1930s and her time with the Chick Webb Orchestra. Tickets \$40 Table

Seat/\$30 adult/\$20 student, available at townhalltheater.org.

KEITH MURPHY AND THE BAND OF AMBER IN LINCOLN. Saturday, April 5, 7:30 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. Murphy has a direct and intimate style of traditional singing in English and French, infusing old ballads and songs with a powerful immediacy while his rhythmic and percussive finger style of guitar playing brings new shape and color to his songs. In this performance Murphy brings his new expanded full-band sound to our stage. Doors open at 7 p.m. Homemade refreshments available. Tickets \$20-\$25 sliding scale. More info at burnhampresents.org.

FULL-FRONTAL FAIRY TALES '25 IN ROCHESTER. Saturday, April 5, 7:30 p.m., Spice Studio, 482 S. Main St. Experience what our core of writers have created this year as Bald Mountain Theater presents Full Frontal Fairy Tales '25. This live performance of original short stories, inspired by fairy tales, read aloud as only our performers can, will deliver an evening you would expect from Bald Mountain: irreverent, unexpected, intense, and fun. Tickets \$15, available at the door or at baldmountaintickets.ludus.com. Available for streaming. More info at baldmountaintheater.org.

"THE VIRTUOUS FALL OF THE GIRLS FROM OUR LADY OF SORROWS" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 5, 7:30 p.m., Wright Memorial Theater, 96 Chateau Rd. See April 3 listing.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

"TRAD TALK" WITH THE EAST POINTERS VIRTUAL PRESENTATION. Sunday, April 6, noon, ZOOM. Join the Middlebury Community Music Center for its ongoing Zoom-based "Trad Talk" series, this time joined by Canada's The East Pointers. JUNO Award-winners, The East Pointers, are redefining the ever-evolving genre – modern folk – with dancefloor-shaking, ceiling-rattling, electro-trad breakdowns, and a glorious combination of folk, pop and dance music. Free. Space is limited. Advance registration at mcmcv.org/trad-talk.

MEET A KESTREL! With VINS and Middlebury-Area Vermont Master Naturalist in Middlebury. Sunday, April 6, 3-4 p.m., Cornwall Town Hall, 2629 Route 30. Meet North America's smallest falcon, the kestrel, and learn how you can save its habitat help by installing a nest box and/or becoming a Nest Box Monitor. Middlebury-Area Vermont Master Naturalists are teaming with VINS to increase the number of boxes in Addison County (prime kestrel habitat!) and collecting data on breeding pair usage and fledging success. Free. Light snacks provided. More info and registration at maltvt.org/events.

FULL-FRONTAL FAIRY TALES '25 IN ROCHESTER. Sunday, April 6, 2 p.m., Spice Studio, 482 S. Main St. See April 5 listing.

Famed Scottish pianist Steven Osborne returns to the Mahaney Arts Center, April 4

Scottish pianist Steven Osborne, OBE (Order of the British Empire) is one of Britain's most treasured musicians, and a world-class musician of widespread international acclaim. His performances exude an immense depth of musicality and exceptional refinement of expression across diverse repertoire, be it in Beethoven or Messiaen, Schubert or Ravel, Prokofiev or jazz improvisations. Osborne returns to Middlebury's Performing Arts Series on Friday, April 4, with a program that showcases his extraordinary range.

The first half of the concert features classical work, with two pieces each by Debussy and Schumann. After intermission, Osborne pivots to contemporary programming with works by Marion Bauer, Meredith Monk, and Frederic Rzewski, plus his own improvisations and transcriptions of works by jazz greats Keith Jarrett, Bill Evans, and Oscar Peterson.

"My view of classical music has been deeply affected by my improvising experiences: they helped me feel viscerally how much the mainstream classical repertoire comes out of improvisatory traditions," Osborne shared. "I found that when I opened up to the process of improvising, I suddenly kept seeing implicit spontaneity in the composed pieces I was playing, and that in turn helped me find a much deeper sense of drama, of shape, and of freedom."



Famed Scottish pianist Steven Osborne returns to the Mahaney Arts Center on Friday, April 4.

PHOTO / BEN EALOVEGA

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Steven Osborne's many honors include The Royal Philharmonic Society's Instrumentalist of the Year, two BBC Music Magazine Awards, and two Gramophone Awards. A thoughtful and curious musician, he is often invited to curate festivals, including Antwerp's DeSingel, Bath International Music Festival, and Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, and he has served as Artist-in-Residence at Wigmore Hall. Osborne is Visiting Professor at the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Patron of the Lammermuir Festival, and a 2014 Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He was appointed an Officer of the

Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to music in the 2022 Queen's New Year Honors.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Pianist Steven Osborne will perform at the Mahaney Arts Center's Olin C. Robison Concert Hall on Friday, April 4, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for the general public, \$20 for Middlebury faculty/staff and alumni, \$10 for youth, and \$5 for Middlebury College students (information on free and discounted ticket programs at go.middlebury.edu/freetickets.) For tickets or information, call 802-443-MIDD (6433) or visit middlebury.edu/arts.

'The Virtuous Fall' takes center stage at Wright Memorial Theater

For three performances only, "The Virtuous Fall from our Lady of Sorrows" by Gina Femia, will be presented in Wright Memorial Theatre on the Middlebury College campus, April 3, 4 and 5, at 7:30 p.m. Taking place at a Catholic girls school in Brooklyn,

six students work on an adaptation of Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure," while evaluating the moral complexities of their own lives. As the Catholic Nuns who run the school attempt to straightjacket them into denying their own identities, the girls must decide what they stand for and who they stand with in a complicated, post-9/11 landscape. Funny, poignant and at times downright bawdy, "The Virtuous Fall of the Girls from our Lady of Sorrows" is a contemporary play with a timeless and timely message.

The production features choreography by Middlebury alumnus Miguel Alejandro Castillo, recently named one of Dance Magazine's "25 to watch" and is supported by the design team of guest artists Todd Canedy (sets), Sophia Lidz (costumes) and Dan Ribaudo (sound).

A post-show talkback and discussion will follow the Friday evening performance.

Tickets are \$15 for the general public; \$10 for Middlebury College faculty, staff, alumni, emeriti, and other ID card holders; \$8 for youth (under 21); and \$5 for Middlebury College students. For tickets or information, call 802-443-6433 or visit middlebury.edu/college/box-office. Wright Memorial Theatre is located at 96 Chateau Road in Middlebury, with free parking available just off Shannon Street.

MUSIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Additionally, she collaborates with Challenge America, a non-profit that connects songwriters with U.S. veterans to share their stories

through song, as well as The Sing Me A Story Foundation, which pairs families in need with songwriters to bring stories written by children in hospital care to life. In 2022, Kompst was brought in to write and co-produce five original songs for the feature film "Love is Life," directed by Jon Lee. When not writing, practicing, or performing, you can find Kompst hiking the beautiful hills of Tennessee.

Sheldon's mini-series "What about Wednesdays" has featured several intimate concerts. There's space for about 35 people. A \$25 donation is recommended with all proceeds going to the artist. If you'd like to make a reservation call 802-557-7589 or email don@valleystage.net. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. You may start arriving at 7 p.m. Please bring a second pair of indoor shoes or slippers. BYOB. Light refreshments will be provided.

PUZZLES

sponsored by SPARROW ART SUPPLY

ACROSS

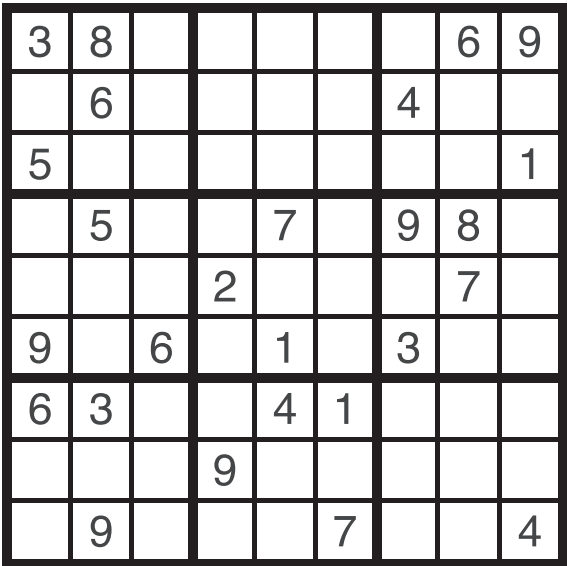
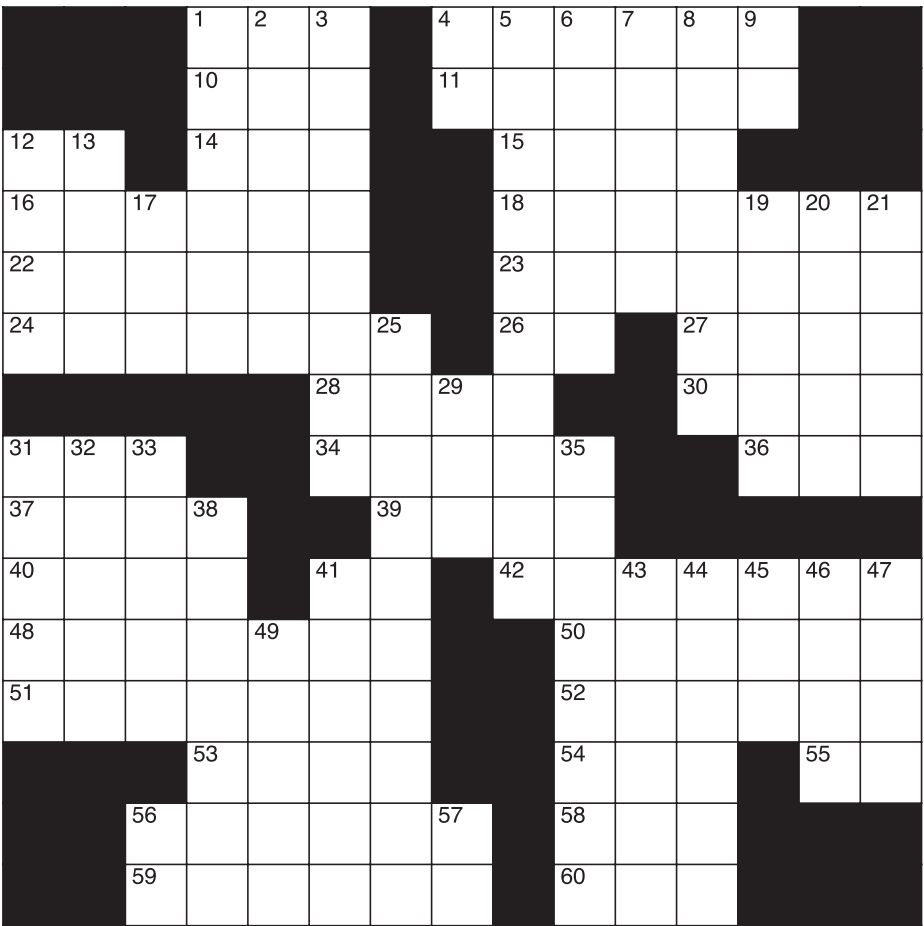
- 1. State in southwestern India
- 4. Pashto
- 10. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 11. Supervised release from prison
- 12. Greeting
- 14. Type of drug
- 15. __ Sagan, astronomer
- 16. Every year
- 18. Nasal cavities
- 22. Nova __, province
- 23. In an inactive way
- 24. Cream-colored root
- 26. Nervous system disease

- 27. Guitarist Clapton
- 28. Three came to see Baby Jesus
- 30. Lebowsky's nickname
- 31. Play a role
- 34. Not fresh
- 36. Where golfers begin
- 37. Negatives
- 39. Wild goat
- 40. Releasing hormone
- 41. Makes up
- 42. Fastens
- 48. Exists in large numbers
- 50. A connecting word
- 51. A phase of the heartbeat

- 52. Northern Ireland county
- 53. An independent ruler or chieftain
- 54. Pacific sea bream
- 55. Commercial
- 56. Azure
- 58. Doctor of Education
- 59. Protected oneself against loss
- 60. Car mechanics group

DOWN

- 1. Pastes for filling crevices
- 2. Acquire
- 3. Heralds
- 4. News group



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

- 5. Exact copies
- 6. Particles
- 7. Noted 20th C. performer Lena
- 8. Tempted
- 9. Midway between north and east
- 12. Slotted, hinged metal plate
- 13. South American hummingbird
- 17. Neither
- 19. Walk with confidence
- 20. Omit when speaking
- 21. Imperial Chinese currency
- 25. A bakery specializing in French pastry
- 29. Talk incessantly
- 31. Ethnic group of Nigeria
- 32. Longtime NY Times film critic
- 33. Beginners
- 35. Makes a trade
- 38. Sleep
- 41. Not moving
- 43. Popular drink: Pina __
- 44. Potential benefits
- 45. A place you can get stuck in
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 47. Chalcedony
- 49. Rover
- 56. Digraph
- 57. Investment vehicle

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 12.



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ASK A MASTER GARDENER

INDOOR HERB GARDENING

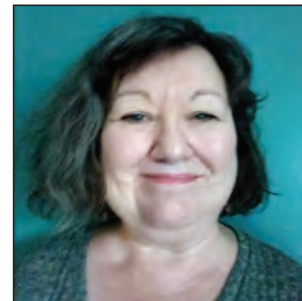
Winter weather may be on the wane, but it will still be a while before we can get outdoors and work in the soil. Even so, there's no reason not to enjoy fresh, homegrown herbs.

BY **DEBORAH J. BENOIT**

Herbs grown indoors don't care what the temperature

is outside, whether there's rain or snow or what season it is. Your indoor herb garden can be a pot of basil on a sunny windowsill or a collection of your favorite herbs grown under lights.

What herbs do you want to grow? Oregano (*Origanum vulgare*)? Sage (*Salvia officinalis*)? Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*)? Consider those you use most.



Deborah J. Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from North Adams, Mass., who is part of the Bennington County Chapter.

relaxing cup of tea. This member of the mint family can be grown in a sunny window in a hanging basket to keep it out of kitty's reach.

Once you've decided what herbs you want to grow, decide how you'll meet their basic needs. Most herbs need plenty of light. Do you have a window that receives direct sun for six to eight hours a day? If not, grow lights can help provide the light needed for healthy, productive plants. You can learn more about grow lights at go.uvm.edu/grow-lights.

If you're relying on a sunny window, turn the pot every few days to prevent one-sided growth.

Be sure to check the watering and fertilizing needs of individual herbs. Some will grow best if you keep the soil slightly moist, while others do better if you allow the soil to dry between watering. Avoid overwatering.

If the air in your home is dry, your indoor herb garden may need additional humidity. If you're

SEE GARDEN ON PAGE 11

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With proper light, water and care, an indoor herb garden will provide plenty of fresh, homegrown herbs in winter and year-round.

PHOTO / SIXTEENMILESOUT/UNSPLASH

GARDEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Alternatively, multiple plants can be placed on a layer of pebbles in a shallow tray filled with water. Keep the water below the top of the pebbles. As the water evaporates, it will raise the humidity around the plants.

Purchasing plants can provide instant satisfaction, but starting from seed will allow you a wider variety of choices.

If you grow herbs from seed, you'll need a container and potting soil. Follow recommendations for planting on the seed packet and cover the container with a plastic bag to increase humidity until the seeds sprout. For more information on starting seeds, see go.uvm.edu/seed-starting.

only growing a few herbs, mist the plants regularly.

If you have the room, a plant stand can provide a convenient home for a variety of herbs. If your available space is limited, consider a tabletop grow light to create a kitchen counter herb garden. What could be handier than fresh herbs within easy reach when you're cooking?

Another alternative is an all-in-one tabletop unit that combines a grow light and a hydroponic growing system. It provides an easy way to start seeds and grow herbs without the need for soil. Maintenance includes refreshing the water and adding a recommended fertilizer according to the system's instructions.

Whether you choose to grow a plant stand full of herbs or a single pot of rosemary, herbs will add fragrance and flavor to your indoor garden.

If you have questions about herbs or other gardening topics, contact the UVM Extension Master Gardener Helpline at go.uvm.edu/gardenquestion.



An indoor herb garden can be as simple as a pot of basil on a sunny windowsill or a collection of favorite herbs grown under lights.

PHOTO / MONIKA/PIXABAY



PET TRIBUTES

Honoring our beloved pets who have passed.

petobits@addisonindependent.com

Paws To Consider

with Dr. Bri Letaw, Medical Director,
Bristol Animal Hospital



Q: What should I do if my dog or cat ate something it shouldn't have?



A: The first thing I would recommend is calling the ASPCA Pet Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435. They have toxicologists on staff to help assess if what your animal ate would be harmful and make treatment recommendations to your veterinarian to allow for quick and efficient treatment of your pet. They do usually charge a consultation fee.

Bristol Animal Hospital, 167 Monkton Rd., Bristol
(802) 588-7387 • <https://bristolvtvet.com>

Pets In Need

HOMEWARD BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society



Campbell and Ramen

Campbell and **Ramen** are a bonded, brother and sister pair. They are around a year old and really enjoy spending all their time together. Campbell, the brother, is more shy than his sister but he is

also curious and is very treat motivated. Ra-

men is the more outgoing sister and is known as a door greeter. They both love to play and chase each other.



Eugene

Eugene came to Homeward Bound as a stray and is now available for adoption! He would be best suited as an indoor/outdoor cat or a working barn cat. Eugene can be friendly but also appreciates his space. He gets along with other cats but we are unsure about dogs.



Garth

Garth is the sweetest, mushy, hunky boy we estimate to be around 3-4 years old. He is a master of purring, kneading, and chowing down food. Garth was found as a stray and was nursed back to health in a foster home. He is now ready for adoption and is deemed healthy. Garth did well with the large dog in the home and has potential to be friends with other cats as well. Garth is FIV+ and would need to be an indoor-only cat. Positive cats typically have the same life expectancy as those who are negative.



Pepper

Pepper is a sweet and gentle girl. She is currently in a foster home and is coming out of her shell. She is almost 13 years old and is looking for a loving home to spend her golden years. Pepper has lived with other cats and with dogs.



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

Move it to Mahaney to dance

MOVEMENT MATTERS

Join Samson Akanni for an electrifying dance workshop that will take you on a rhythmic journey from Africa to the Americas on Monday, March 31, from 4:30-6 p.m. "Dancing Bridges: From Ancestral Steps to Contemporary Beats" explores the dynamic evolution of African dance, weaving together the storytelling of Yoruba Diasporic Dance, the expressive fluidity of Contemporary Dance, and the vibrant energy of Afro-Pop Dance.

Guided by expert instruction, participants will engage with ancestral movement vocabularies, discover the interplay between tradition and modernity, and experience the infectious joy of contemporary African rhythms. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or a curious beginner, this workshop welcomes all bodies and abilities to step into the rich, pulsating world of African dance. Come ready to sweat, connect, and celebrate movement as a living archive of history and culture.

Free and open to the public. Class will be held at the Mahaney Arts Center Dance Theatre, 72 Porter Field Road in Middlebury.

FACULTY DANCE CONCERT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE DANCE DEPARTMENT

Join the Middlebury Dance Faculty for an Evening of Dance on Thursday, April 3, from 7:30-9 p.m. Experience an inspiring night of movement and creativity as the Middlebury Dance Faculty come together to share their work. This special evening will feature a dynamic mix of performances, including a Newcomers Piece led by faculty member Kari Borni, showcasing individuals who have never performed in our department before. Witness new and original works, celebrate the power of movement, and connect with our vibrant dance community.

Held in the Mahaney Arts Center Dance Theatre, 72 Porter Field Road in Middlebury. Tickets: \$15-\$5. Open to the public.



LOOK UP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

its solar system are likely the result of multiple supernova explosions. We are born from the ashes of ancient explosions. Not only are we born from the ashes of a supernova, but we consist of atoms that have gone through countless cycles of transformations. Recycling is the universal way. Our species always has more to learn from what happens naturally and should, from our higher selves, seek to emulate the processes of nature out of respect for our very existence on this planet in this space-time. With all our "intelligence" and ability to manipulate our environment, humanity is at a tipping point of catastrophic change due to our not consistently emulating universal processes with sustainable practices.

Recycling also aligns with the Buddhist teachings of impermanence and interbeing. Change and material transformations are constants. You can't cross the same river more than once, an insight of the Greek philosopher Heraclitus. The law of conservation of matter states that matter is neither created nor destroyed, but transformed. We are the rocks, the soil, the clouds, the trees, the sun, the very universe, and ultimately the cosmic egg from which everything began.

Genesis 3:19 - By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.

Editor's Note: The title of this piece was inspired by a song written by the keyboard player Mike Pinder of the Moody Blues on the Question of Balance album. The song and the theme of the album was about the disrespectful relationship that the human race has with our one and only earth.

We owe our very existence to a supernova that occurred in the distant past. In fact, our sun and

APRIL SKY WATCH EVENTS

Featuring Lyrid Meteor Shower

- April 1**
Jupiter still shines brightly after sunset about 45 degrees above western horizon. By month's end, it will only be 24 degrees in altitude.
- Mars is at altitude 70 degrees above the southern horizon in the constellation of Gemini after sunset.
- Mercury, Venus, and Saturn will all appear in the early morning sky in the east before sunrise all month.

April 14 to 30
Lyrid Meteor shower peaks on the April 22 with a maximum rate of 18 per hour. The skies will be dark with only a waning crescent moon at peak activity. The radiant is near Vega, the brightest star in Lyra (look for a little trapezoid of stars next to Vega, the fifth brightest star in the sky). Look east about 30 degrees above the horizon (about 3 fists outstretched arm).

April 30
Be sure to check out Mars in the west at 10 p.m. as it is only 2 degrees away from the beautiful Beehive Star Cluster in the constellation Cancer. Binoculars or a low power eyepiece in a small telescope are sufficient to view this pair.

April 24 Column
Peering Clearly and Deeply Back in Time

Sept. 7
The blood moon on March 14 was a spectacular event lasting 6 hours during clear skies in Vermont. If you did not get to see this one, there will be another on Sept. 7.

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So much to love about this renovated cape in Rochester. Inside you'll be inspired around every corner, from the cozy sitting area with pellet stove and built-in bookcases to the eat-in kitchen with Verde green marble countertops, a generous island, and stainless appliances. Cathedral ceilings in the living room make the views feel that much more grand. Access a handsome stone patio and hot tub from the living area, too! A first floor bedroom can provide single-level living with an en suite bath. The upstairs bedroom has its own office and 3/4 bath. The large, three bay garage has room for your vehicles (and is ready for an EV charger) with its second level finished as an in-law suite—friends and family will enjoy the same great views including from their own balcony! Well-sited on over 25 acres with gorgeous mountain views, you'll love being able to hike, ski or bike right out your back door. A little farther afield you'll find you're positioned halfway between Sugarbush and Killington, with the Middlebury Snowbowl just 15 minutes away.

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EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

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

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"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.

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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.

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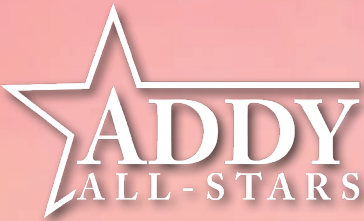


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Spring

Home Improvement



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SEAN FLYNN, CHIEF executive at Silver Maple Construction, surveys the back of a Weybridge home that his crew recently completed. Silver Maple, in collaboration with design from Joan Heaton Architects, transformed the profile on the back of the 1984 house in addition to some important structure work. Among the changes is a new wooden stairway in the front foyer.

Independent photos/John S. McCright

Old Weybridge home transformed for 2025

New tech reduces cost, improves living

By JOHN S. McCRIGHT

WEYBRIDGE — When it comes to the details, Silver Maple Construction has a lot of experience getting them right.

The New Haven company runs its own custom woodshop that creates custom cabinetry and woodworking elements that combines artistry and craftsmanship. The results are reflected in the home building and renovation projects that they undertake.

Co-owner Sean Flynn and his crew are also committed to the newest technologies that result in homes that are not just beautiful but also energy-efficient.

Recently Silver Maple finished a very big renovation of a home in Weybridge that touched on all of its strengths. There were lots

of custom elements that looked beautiful and many green elements that made the place much more energy efficient. The old heating system made way for a by-today's standards conventional heat pump, plus geothermal and solar power.

"It was a typical drafty 1980s house, now it costs next to nothing to heat it."

— Sean Flynn

"It was a 1986 fixer-upper," Flynn explained. "It was a typical drafty 1980s house, now it costs next to nothing to heat it."

A key element of that improved energy efficiency is the insulation.

"We spent a lot of years trying to figure out the perfect insulation," Flynn explained.

What they landed on for the Weybridge house is cork.

Cork is not only a natural, (See Flynn, Page 4C)




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Flynn

(Continued from Page 3C)
sustainable product, but also an effective insulator. It also resists moisture, rot and pests.

“And cork insulation is carbon negative,” Flynn said.

It’s also what Flynn called “vapor open,” meaning it lets vapor into and out so the house can breathe. This helps prevent moisture build up and the growth of mold.

“We were for a long time making houses tighter and tighter with spray foam,” Flynn said. But they came to realize that “there is not a house that we don’t introduce leaks into.” So it ended up that some parts of the house had vapor coming in, but where the vapor could not leave there was a chance for mold to grow.

And the movement of vapor did not mean that heat could move in and out.

“It’s the same R-value (as fiberglass insulation),” Flynn said. And a good value, he added.

Silver Maple complemented the cork insulation with wood fiber insulation, which comes in rolls like typical fiberglass, and fits tightly between studs in a wall or attic.

To do such extensive insulation installation required a major commitment.

“We gutted it to the studs,” Flynn said.

But starting with such an extreme makeover also gave them a chance to transform the home in other ways.

NEW ELEMENTS

The design for the rehab was collaboration between Silver Maple and Joan Heaton Architects of Bristol. The transformation was pretty substantial. Standing out front, you can see that they added a two-car garage and increased the floorspace in a big way — it went from 3,000 to 5,500 square feet.

Within that larger footprint many things were moved around or added.

The builders transformed the entry way, changing the orientation of the main stairway and opening up the space through to the kitchen in back. This gave



AN ADDITION ON the west side of the Weybridge house required installation of a new steel-frame staircase, above, lit by a masterfully installed “bent window” that follows the wall up above the roofline. Wood fiber insulation, shown below, along with cork insulation makes the house super energy efficient.

Independent photos/John S. McCright

the Silver Maple woodshop the job of creating a beautiful wooden staircase that includes the beauty of wood but doesn’t look like a

doughty, Victorian staircase. The vertical wooden strips on the wall under the stairs are not only attractive, but they feature a cleverly disguised entrance to the basement.

Opening up the foyer created the space for light to stream in from the big kitchen windows, making the space more inviting and comfortable on a recent winter day. Just off the foyer, the living

room was given a new fireplace with a glass door on the front that replaced the drafty, inefficient old fireplace.

“We spent a lot of years trying to figure out the perfect insulation.”

— Sean Flynn

Wandering around the back of the house, one can see another big change. One large dormer on the roof was traded for three smaller dormers that actually let more light into the house because there was more space for windows.

Off the end of the house it becomes clear where all the new square footage comes in. A two-story addition there provides space

for a new master bedroom with an accompanying bath. Upstairs are his and hers home offices. An unused mechanicals room on the end of the old house was turned into a little sauna in the addition.

The second floor in the new space necessitated the installation of a second stairway. A beautiful piece of work with wooden treads, the risers could remain open since the steps were attached on the outside to the walls and on the inside to a steel frame that doubled as a railing.

“It was actually easier to build than the front stairs,” Flynn noted.

Tucked in below the stairs was a cat-fancier’s dream — a circular (See The windows, Page 5C)



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SILVER MAPLE OPERATES its own woodshop that enables it to create beautiful wooden detail, like this stairway railing, that are custom made for each project.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

The windows

(Continued from Page 4C)
hole in the bottom of the wall that gives the homeowner's cats access to a private space for their litterbox. The new garage is under one of the new offices in the addition.

Outside in the back, the addition created a little niche that, when connected to the kitchen, was the perfect spot for a screened in porch.

One good element that came from the partnership with Joan Heaton was three stunning bent windows. Basically, the design calls for tall windows to stretch up a wall and then fold and continue up the metal roof. The result is airy, sun-filled rooms that invite

the outside world inside the house — visually.

A key to the success of the windows is that they are all triple-pane Marvin windows that keep the cold out in the winter and the heat out in the summer. Plus, Silver Maple took care to make sure that the window casing was waterproof, like they would with a skylight.

As with other Silver Maple projects, Flynn and his crew did the plumbing and heating as well as the detailed work on the cabinetry. Some of the things like electrical and driveway construction was performed by subcontractors.

Sounds like a big job, doesn't it.

The work took a little more than a year to complete — demolition work began just after Thanksgiving in 2023, and the family, who rented a home during reconstruction, moved into their “new” dream home shortly before Christmas 2024.

Flynn is happy to display the place and hopes to soon have photographs to show others the incredible design, craftsmanship and attention to detail that the Weybridge home boasts.

“It's going to be a real show piece,” he said.

What would we do with less lawn?

MIDDLEBURY — What if your yard could support more than just grass?

The organization Pollinator Pathways of Addison County next month will host a talk that will help homeowners answer that question.

“Less Lawn, More Life: Reimagining Yards as Wildlife Habitat” featuring Emily May will take place on Tuesday, April 8, at 7 p.m. in Unity Hall at the Congregational Church of Middlebury.

In this talk, May, a pollinator conservation biologist, will explore how to reimagine Addison County's acres of lawns as vibrant, sustainable habitats for pollinators, birds and other wildlife.

Learn practical steps to create wild and wonderful spaces that reduce maintenance and welcome nature home. From selecting native plants to designing for



EMILY MAY

year-round interest, we'll discuss impactful, manageable changes that make a big difference in

conservation — starting right in your own backyard.

Emily May is the agricultural conservation lead with the Xerces Society's pesticide program. While attending Middlebury College, May began a pollinator garden that is still blooming and attracting pollinators today.

She received a Master of Science in entomology from Michigan State University, and has studied pollinator habitat restoration, bee nesting habits, and the effects of pest management practices on wild bee communities. Her work with Xerces since 2015 has focused on supporting crop pollinators through habitat creation and protecting bees and other beneficial insects from pesticides.

There is a \$5 suggested donation for the talk. For more information, email pollinatorpathway.addisoncty@gmail.com.

How to renovate on a tight budget

Renovations around the house require an investment of time and often considerable amounts of money. Findings from the 2024 U.S. Houzz & Home Study show that home renovations are becoming more expensive. The median renovation spending for homeowners has gone up 60% since 2020. Angi, a home services website, reports the average renovation cost for homes between 1,250 and 1,600 square feet is \$51,772, but the final cost of home renovations depends on the scope of the project.

Homeowners who are conserving funds can rest assured that it is possible to make meaningful changes both inside and outside a home without breaking the bank. Here are some ways to renovate a home on a budget.

• **Create a budget and don't waver.** Figure out exactly what you can afford for a renovation and then make that your maximum dollars spent. Research comparable projects in your area and be honest about whether you can afford the renovation as-is or if you must adapt ideas to fit your price. Make sure to build in a cushion of around 15 to

20% for any unforeseen expenses that may arise once a renovation is underway.

• **Maximize an existing floor plan.** This Old House suggests looking for ways to maximize your current layout before you invest in major renovations like an expansion. Bring in a designer with an eye for utilizing space. For example, see how you might be able to replace shelves with pull-out drawers in the kitchen. Moving furniture around or rethinking floor plans also can help to lower costs.

• **Balance DIY with hiring contractors.** You can save money by tackling some projects yourself, but only if you are confident in your renovation skills. Rather than risk making costly mistakes and having to redo things, hire well-vetted professionals but ask if there's any DIY work you can do to cut costs.

• **Check clearance and resale stores.** Shop discount stores for building materials to save money. For example, if a builder ordered too many cabinets they may offer them to Habitat for Humanity ReStores, which are nonprofit home improvement stores and donation centers. Checking the clearance and

markdown sections of other stores may yield considerable savings on items needed for a renovation. Warehouse retailers like Costco or Sam's Club also can be great places to find certain home improvement materials and furnishings.

• **Take advantage of free services.** Certain stores may offer things like free consultations with designers who can show you what a renovation can look like. This is advantageous to the stores because once you see the potential you're more likely to buy the products, even if it's not mandatory.

• **Resurface instead of redo.** Certain items can be made to look new with minimal effort. Paint is a relatively inexpensive tool that can transform walls and more. A good hardwood flooring company can buff out a floor and put a new coating instead of an entirely new floor. Kitchen cabinets can be resurfaced instead of replaced as well.

Finding ways to perform home renovations on a budget may require some creative thinking, but it's possible to get results at the right price point.

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Navigating energy options at home

Shoreham woman gets help figuring out green options

By ADAYLIAH LEY

In August 2024 Linda Larrabee, a lifelong Shoreham resident, spoke about feeling stumped about how to address her heating and cooling needs at home.

She found out about the Addison County Energy Navigators, an initiative of the Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County. The program offers free, one-on-one support for local renters and homeowners in identifying ways to reduce their homes' carbon footprint.

Since she tapped into the expertise of an Energy Navigator, Larrabee has seen her home energy project come to fruition.

"I was aware that (solutions and funding for insulation and air sealing work) were out there and the Heat Squad (of NeighborWorks of Western Vermont) was there, but it was a matter of not knowing where to start," Larrabee said. "I wouldn't have a clue of what was reasonable to ask."

"And that not knowing where to start is key," she continued. "You don't want to approach one of these things (a home energy project) with a lack of knowledge."

After she installed heat pumps a few years ago, Larrabee felt her project was incomplete. But she discovered that, without adequate insulation in her basement and attic, Larrabee was heating and cooling the outdoors. Through gaps in her basement rim joists cold air was able to infiltrate her home. And in her attic, warm air was able to leak out causing an increase in spending on her heating efforts to account for that heat loss.

Unsure of who to contact about her home energy questions and



personal goals, Larrabee made the timely acquaintance of Jean Terwilliger, a local helper with Energy Navigators, a program offered by the Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County, or CEAC.

Before making this connection, Larrabee had managed to live with what she thought would be her permanent reality. A year later,

Larrabee's situation is wholly different. All winter long, she's noted the changes.

"I have noticed a savings in the fuel consumption just with the insulation of the basement. It's actually usable now in the winter, it's quite warm down there," Larrabee said.

Not only does it mean that her basement is usable, but she is also noticing differences within the main living area. Insulating at the base of her home allows the rest of the home to reap the benefits as well.

Funded by the Municipal Energy Resilience Program and Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity, Energy Navigators launched in spring of 2024 and

have since worked up and down Addison County conversing with homeowners and renters about how to plug into the program's mission of connecting residents to a clean energy future. By referring clients to state and federal funds for their home energy projects with

the long-term goal of reducing the county's residential carbon footprint as stated in CEAC's Greenhouse Gas Inventory, the navigators have completed dozens of consultations and aim to continue providing guidance for homeowners and renters of all income levels and living situations.

In conversation with Terwilliger, a running list of potential upgrades began to form for Larrabee's home. From improving the home's insulation and air-sealing work (weatherization) to adding a heat pump water heater, the opportunities seemed endless.

Though Larrabee was a little overwhelmed by these options, Terwilliger provided a project plan that allowed the homeowner to pick and choose what would work best for her situation.

"I think that the important part for Energy Navigators is just to reinforce that you're there to help," Larrabee said. "There's not a hard sell... The energy navigation is free. You don't have to do everything, you don't have to do anything. It's just for your information to know what your options are."

While there were some hiccups throughout the project, like a delay in receiving her rebate, Larrabee was able to get it all done in a year. Like anything, it takes time to perform an audit or secure a contractor to do the work. But having the information you need to get the project done is a great first step.

Whether you are planning a small-scale project for home comfort or diving into a whole home retrofit, Energy Navigators can provide the guidance you need to understand your next steps.

Learn more online at ceacac.org/energy-navigators.

Adayliah Ley is an ECO AmeriCorps member and the Energy Navigator Program Outreach Partner for CEAC.



A place for everything

A CREW CAN be so much more efficient if it keeps all of its construction components in one place, like on this staging. It helps that the shelves also have casters for easy moving across the worksite. Independent photo/John S. McCright

Personalized report helps homeowner save

Since retiring, a certain Addison County homeowner started to notice some pressing issues, including high energy bills, draftiness, and humidity in the bedroom and basement, despite existing weatherization efforts and the installation of a heat pump. They asked a helper from the Addison County Climate Economy Action Center's Energy Navigator program to visit.

The visit revealed some of the key places where more could be done, including a vapor barrier in the basement and improved air sealing and insulation in the basement and around the entirety of the home. There were also some easy behavioral shifts that

would make a difference.

The Energy Navigator identified financial assistance programs that the client was eligible for, based on their income falling under 80% of Vermont median income.

Following the visit, CEAC provided a detailed report of goals and recommendations to help the client move forward in home electrification and improvement projects.

Since the visit, the client has received proposals regarding electric panel upgrades and weatherization work. These come with high price tags. After completing an initial review, the Energy Navigator team recommended approximately

\$49,500 worth of work to be done in the client's home. With help from Efficiency Vermont, Green Mountain Power, and Inflation Reduction Act rebates and incentives and tax credits, the client's out-of-pocket cost could amount to as little as \$4,500!

Navigating these programs can still pose challenges even when money is available, so the Energy Navigators will continue to stay in touch with the client to help them access these funds while addressing their home energy upgrades.

Editor's note: This story was provided by the Addison County Climate Economy Action Center.

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CEAC energy guide to financing

The Addison County Climate Economy Action Center’s Energy Navigators program has lots of useful energy-saving information on its website. One important tool is a “Guide to Financing.”

Here is the important information it contains.

Paying for weatherization, electrification, and new appliances is an obstacle for many. While energy savings over time can cover a significant portion of the upfront costs, what are the options for paying for these projects? Luckily, there are federal and state incentives available to all income levels including tax credits, rebates, on-bill financing, and low interest loans. If you find this all overwhelming and bewildering, you aren’t alone. Everyone agrees it is too complicated — we’re here to help!

Big Ideas:

- Start with an energy audit and use the audit to create a plan to reduce your energy costs.
- See what rebates, tax credits and/or free programs are available for your income.
- Refine plan to take advantage of available resources. This could mean grouping work to take advantage of loan programs, or spreading work out over a number of years to maximize tax credits.

- Decide how much work to do and arrange financing if needed.
- Arrange work with Efficiency Vermont’s Efficiency Excellence Network (EEN) contractors if you plan to take advantage of rebate and/or loan programs.

A few Addison County energy cost facts:

- The median annual spending on energy costs across the county is about \$7,400 (about 9.8% of a median household’s budget), including \$1,583 for electricity, \$2,415 for home fuels, and \$3,400 for transportation fuels. Annual energy spending is pretty consistent across Addison County towns, despite a variety of median incomes. Percent of income spent on energy varies town to town from 6.7% to 14.3%.
- While electricity costs through Green Mountain Power are pretty stable and rising only slowly, delivered fuel and gas costs have jumped around wildly in the

Other useful explainers and tools:

LOAN INFO ONLINE:

- efficiencyvermont.com/services/financing/homes/home-energy-loan
- Efficiency Vermont Guide to Financing Clean Energy Projects at tinyurl.com/EfficiencyVtCleanFinancing

GENERAL INFO:

- Efficiency Vermont Clean Energy Incentives Calculator at tinyurl.com/EnergyIncentivesCalculator
- One Page Summary at tinyurl.com/EnergyFinanceOnePager

past 10 years, creating budget uncertainty. The cost of piped gas (only available in Middlebury and Vergennes) is more consistent, but still has significant greenhouse gas emissions.

- Electrifying heating systems with heat pumps typically saves money on heating costs compared to oil and propane. Winter electricity bills will increase, while oil or propane bills will decrease.

- Weatherization/energy retrofit work (particularly air-sealing and providing consistent insulation) can save 10% to 50% of heating/cooling costs, depending on the extent of the work.

- Heat pump water heaters have one of the best returns on investment, and are currently eligible for large Efficiency Vermont rebates (income dependent), and save an average of 1 ton of carbon per year.

Financial resources available:

Efficiency Vermont and power company (GMP, VGS) rebates:

- For weatherization and efficient electric equipment and appliances.
- Bonuses are available for low/moderate income (under 120% of median income).
- Efficiency Excellence Network contractors required.

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP):

- Free weatherization available if income qualified.

- Available through community service agencies like the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO).

Federal 25C Tax Credits (smaller tax credits for equipment):

- Up to \$2,000 available each year.

- May make sense to phase projects to take advantage of this over a number of years.

Federal 25D Tax Credits (for renewable energy projects):

- Tax credit of 30% of project cost, no limit.

- Covers solar and battery systems, and ground source heat pump systems.

- Credit can be carried over to reduce taxes in future years.

Federal Rebates from Inflation Reduction Act: (these are not yet available — expected by early 2025)

- Income qualified, supports equipment electrification and some weatherization.

- Up to \$14,000 per household, covers up to 50% or 100% of cost depending on income.

Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP): on bill financing (through GMP or VGS):

- Can cover remaining costs of weatherization and electrification after rebates and tax credits.
- 2% loan rate, up to 15-year term, carries with home if sold.

- Limited contractors for this program — Efficiency Excellence Network contractors required.

Home Energy Loans (\$20,000 max.):

- 0%-7% loan rates available depending on income and term length (between 5 and 15 yrs).

- Efficiency Excellence Network contractors required.

See CEAC’s guide to options, organized by household income and home type, in the deep dive section. Head online to energynavigators.org/actions/3481.



Attention to detail

WORKS ORGANIZE AND measure the space around some windows being installed in the new Town Hall Theater addition this winter before installing the jambs and casing.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Keep kids safe during a home renovation

Home renovation projects are significant undertakings. Some projects are simple and do not require residents to adjust much, if at all. But larger projects can take several weeks or even months, and such renovations pose a unique challenge, particularly for homeowners who have young children.

Children are curious by nature, and that curiosity can be dangerous during home renovations. Homeowners preparing to renovate their homes can keep these safety strategies in mind to protect their children during the project.

- Let contractors know there are children in the house. Keeping kids safe can be a collective effort that involves homeowners and the contractors working in their homes. On the day contractors arrive, remind the project leader there are kids in the house and request that he or she let staff know there will be curious youngsters around. Contractors can seal off rooms being worked on at the start of each day, and then do so again before leaving for the night. Many contractors have children of their

own at home, so if they know youngsters are in the house they might be especially mindful of safety and less likely to leave tools or potentially harmful debris out overnight.

- Inform children certain areas are now off limits. Parents can inform and routinely remind children that spaces being renovated are off limits until the project is complete. Explain why it’s important that everyone in the house, including adults, must respect this rule. Of course, kids don’t always listen to Mom and Dad, so this step likely won’t guarantee kids will steer clear of sealed off areas. But explaining to kids why they need to avoid the areas can be more effective than just telling them to avoid project spaces.

- Set a good example. It can be tempting to peak in on spaces being renovated when contractors go home for the day, but parents should know children may be watching them. If you’re curious about the progress, ask the project manager to see a space during the day while children are at school. If it’s summertime and kids are

home, you can still ask, but do so with your children so they won’t think you’re being sneaky, which will only add to their curiosity.

- Turn off electricity in rooms being renovated when contractors go home. Speak with your contractor and ask if it’s alright to turn off the power to rooms being worked on at the end of each day. If so, this can remove the risk of kids sneaking into spaces and turning on power tools at night or getting hurt while poking around exposed electrical wires.

- Hire a cleaning service once the project is complete. Once the job is finished, hire a professional cleaning service to clean all areas that were worked on. This increases the chances that small but potentially harmful remnants, such as nails or staples, are gone before kids start using the renovated spaces.

Renovation projects can last for weeks. Parents of small children must take steps to keep curious kids safe while a home is being renovated.

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Getting 'er done

AN INSTALLER TAPS the wooden floorboards into place in the Town Hall Theater addition, above, as crews neared the completion of several beautiful new performance and rehearsal spaces in the Middlebury institution. At left, the work required many, many feet of corrugated tubing like this through which electrical wires were threaded.

Independent photos/John S. McCright

Efficiency incentives offered to Vermonters

WINOOSKI — Income-eligible Vermont households can embrace efficiency in 2025 and get more than \$30,000 cash back through a combination of rebates and incentives for multiple home energy projects.

The savings come from bundling rebates for weatherization, heating systems, and other efficient appliances from Efficiency Vermont and your electric utility. These rebates can be combined with limited-time funding for weatherization and electrification initiatives from the Vermont Department of Public Service for programs expected to last into 2026.

Qualified contractors in Efficiency Vermont's Efficiency Excellence Network can help homeowners get started on projects that save more than \$30,000 by combining some of the following offers:

Up to \$24,500 back for weatherization (and for repairs needed to weatherize): Save on your energy bills with air sealing and insulation that will help your home use less energy to stay warm in winter or cool in summer. Income-eligible households can get up to \$9,500 for comprehensive weatherization. Need to make repairs before you can weatherize? Get up to \$15,000 through our Home Repair Program. (Home Repair is not available in areas served by Burlington Electric or Vermont Gas.)

Up to \$5,000 cash back for

buying and installing a heat pump 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 (See Vt. households, Page 9C)


March Madness is for energy, too!

Efficiency Vermont has a message for Addison County residents: This March, the only madness more exciting than basketball is getting up to \$24,500 to weatherize and repair your home. This is the largest incentive Efficiency Vermont has ever offered.

Get your head in the (weatherization) game to make your home cozier and start spending less on energy bills.




Eligible households can get up to \$15,000 cash back for home repair projects that are necessary before weatherizing your home. Then you can get up to \$9,500 off the cost of insulating and air sealing your home. Efficiency Vermont also offers low- or no-interest payment options to help break down the project costs into monthly payments.

Find out how to win at www.efficiencyvermont.com/wx.



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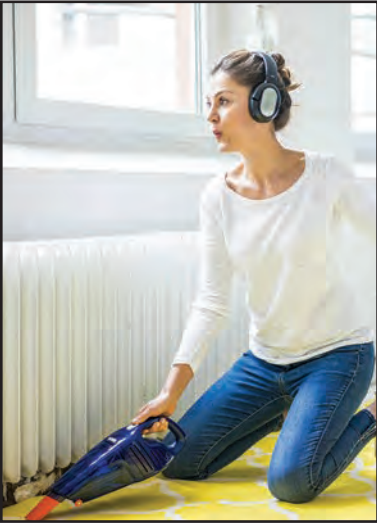
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Keep indoor air clean in allergy season

Seasonal allergies can turn a warm and welcoming spring or summer day into something else entirely. Congestion, runny nose, sneezing, and itchy eyes are just some of the unpleasant symptoms of seasonal allergies, which are most often triggered by high pollen counts during spring and summer.

The Mayo Clinic advises seasonal allergy sufferers to stay indoors when pollen counts are high. But what about indoor air quality? The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) reports that eight out of 10 people are exposed to dust mites and six out of 10 are exposed to cat or dog dander. Dust mites and pet dander can each trigger allergic reactions. Pair those two triggers with higher pollen counts common in spring and summer and it's no wonder that many seasonal allergy sufferers are ambivalent about the warm weather seasons. Fortunately, steps can be taken to keep indoor air clean during allergy season.

• Close windows and doors. Many people embrace opportunities to open their windows and doors on warm days, but doing so allows outdoor allergens like pollen to



Metro Creative photo

get inside. Pollen can attach to furniture and clothing, and that can make time indoors unpleasant for allergy sufferers. Maintain indoor air quality by closing windows and doors on windy days and/or days when pollen counts are high.

• Employ air cleaning devices. The AAFA notes that certified air cleaners can filter nearly 98% of allergen particles in the air.

• Keep a clean home. The Mayo Clinic notes that, in most homes, items such as bedding, upholstered

furniture and carpeting provide an ideal environment for dust mites, which are microscopic bugs that trigger allergic reactions in many people. The AAFA recommends keeping surfaces in a home clean and uncluttered to control dust mites. Washing bedding and uncovered pillows in hot water each week also can help to corral dust mites and improve indoor air quality.

• Vacuum frequently. Frequent vacuuming is another way to improve indoor air quality.

• Prevent mold and treat areas where infestations have occurred. Mold also contributes to poor indoor air quality. Dehumidifiers can be used to reduce mold and dust mites, making these beneficial additions to allergy sufferers' homes. Minimizing house plants around the house and addressing leaky fixtures immediately are some additional measures to prevent mold infestations.

It may not be enough to simply stay indoors to avoid allergic reactions on spring and summer days. Embracing measures to improve indoor air quality can be vital for allergy sufferers as well.

— Metro Creative

Vt. households

(Continued from Page 8C)

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.

Learn more online at www.encyvermont.com.

Year-Round Hazardous Waste Collection

The HazWaste Center at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury is open to residents from any of the District's member towns.

Most items are accepted from residents free of charge. Businesses must pay for disposal and must call 388-2333 for an appointment. Common items include:

Acetone	Drainer opener/cleaner	Mercury thermometers	Primers or shellacs
Acids	Driveway sealer	Mercury thermostats	Rechargeable batteries
Adhesives	Dry cleaning solvents	Mineral spirits	Roach traps/poison
Algaecides	Flea & tick killer	Mothballs	Rug/upholstery cleaner
Aerosols	Fluorescent bulbs*	Motor oil	Solvent-based Glues
Antifreeze	Fly killer	Mouse/rat poison	Stains
Ant killer	Formaldehyde	Nail polish	Stump remover
Ammonia	Fuel additives	Nail polish remover	Tars or resins
Auto body filler	Fungicides	Naphtha	Transmission fluid
Automotive fluids	Furniture polish	Oil-based paint	Tub & tile cleaner
Chlorine bleach	Gasoline	Oily waste	Varnish
Brake fluid	Hair dyes	Oven cleaner	Weed killer/fertilizer
Bug spray	Kerosene	Paint thinner/turpentine	Wood preservative
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Contact cement	Lead paint chips	Pesticides/herbicides	
Deck sealer	Lead-acid batteries	Photographic chemicals	
Diesel fuel	Lime/rust remover	Pool chemicals	



Household hazardous waste includes any unused product that is poisonous, reactive, corrosive, or flammable.

You can easily identify hazardous products by reading packaging labels. Look for key words such as **Warning! Danger! Poison! Caution!**

Improper disposal of these products poses a risk to human health and the environment.

*All compact fluorescents (CFLs) are accepted at no cost; other types of general purpose fluorescent bulbs are free to recycle in quantities of 10 or fewer per day. A per-bulb nominal fee applies for more than 10.



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Lighting the way
THE 40-YEAR-OLD HOME in Weybridge redesigned by Silver Maple and Joan Heaton Architects features sightlines punctuated by light coming in from windows on the sides.
Independent photo/John S. McCright



Metro Creative photo

Be on the look-out for electrical hazards

Homeowners know that the work of maintaining a home is never done. Cleaning is a daily task associated with homeownership, and such sessions can reveal more than dust buildup or dirty walls and surfaces.

When cleaning a home, homeowners can pull double duty and look for potentially hazardous situations. For example, vacuuming and dusting sessions can present a great opportunity to spot electrical hazards that might otherwise go unseen. With that in mind, homeowners can keep an eye out for these four signs of potential electrical hazards when working around the house.

1. Tingling when touching an electrical appliance: The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) advises homeowners to call a qualified electrician immediately if they experience a tingling feeling when touching an electrical appliance. The Electrical Safety Office notes experiencing a tingle or the feeling of being shocked is not normal. Homeowners who experience such a feeling should avoid the location and warn others in the home to do the same.
2. Wall outlets that look or feel unusual: Wall outlets do not garner much attention, as many are low enough to be out of sight or even behind furniture. So a cleaning session might be the only time homeowners will notice issues with wall outlets. The NFPA notes discolored outlets or outlets that feel warm to the touch is a sign of an electrical problem. Various issues can cause outlets to look or feel unusual. An outlet could be short-circuiting or wires could be damaged, and each issue merits the attention of a qualified electrician.
3. Foul odors: An odor that calls to mind burning rubber is another indicator of an electrical problem. Various electrical experts indicate such odors can be indicative of damaged wiring, an overloaded circuit or loose connections, each of which poses a significant safety hazard. The NFPA urges homeowners to contact a qualified electrician immediately if they sense a smell of burning rubber in their homes.
4. Flickering lights: Homeowners won't need to wait until cleaning sessions to notice flickering lights.

Such flickering is hard to miss regardless of what residents are doing inside a home. Sometimes lights flicker because of a loose bulb, so homeowners who notice flickering should first turn off the light, let the bulb cool down if need be and then check to make sure it isn't loose. If the bulb isn't loose, then lights could be flickering for a multitude of reasons. A loose connection can cause flickering, as can an overloaded circuit. Homeowners also may not realize that not all bulbs and dimmer switches are designed to work together. For example, modern LED light bulbs often require the installation of specific dimmer switches or the lights won't operate properly. Flickering can result if these products are not compatible. If a home is old, then flickering lights could be due to old wiring that needs to be replaced.

Daily and weekly cleaning sessions can be a good time for homeowners to perform a quick audit of electrical outlets and lights to ensure everything is safe and working properly.

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WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to working from home.

F E C O I F

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Answer: Office

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to building safety.

P E R R I A

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Repair

Think about a basement conversion

Space is a sought-after commodity in real estate. Buyers prioritize numerous variables when searching for a new home, and square footage is often near the top of their lists.

The real estate market has been highly competitive in recent years, and home prices have remained high as a result. That reality has prompted some current homeowners who feel they have outgrown their homes to look for ways to increase the usable space in their existing properties. Basement conversions are one way to add more space. Homeowners mulling a basement conversion project can learn the basics of the project as they try to determine if such renovations are right for them.

• Basement conversion projects can be costly. Though the final cost of a conversion project can vary widely depending on the condition and accessibility of the existing space, estimates range from around \$45,000 to as much as \$150,000. The home renovation experts at

Angi.com note that the average price for excavation is \$37,000. Of course, homeowners who are simply hoping to repurpose an existing basement likely won't need to pay for excavation. Accessibility is another notable variable that can affect the final cost. If the current space is a crawl space, potentially costly structural changes may be necessary to ensure contractors and eventually residents can access the area. Basements that are already easily accessible won't require such expenditures.

• Ventilation is a must. Finished basements must be adequately ventilated so moisture can be controlled. Without sufficient ventilation, the damp conditions common in many basements can foster the growth of mold. The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America notes that inhaled mold spores can trigger allergic reactions in some people, potentially leading to runny nose, postnasal drip, red and watery eyes, and itchy eyes, nose, ears, and mouth, among

other symptoms. Waterproofing systems and adequate ventilation can prevent mold growth in a basement, and these should be integral components of the design.

• Permits are part of the process. Basement conversions are considered major projects, and thus typically require homeowners and contractors to secure permits before any work is done. Permits may be necessary at various stages of the project. Homeowners who ignore laws regarding permits will have trouble selling their homes down the road, as it can be difficult if not impossible to secure a certificate of occupancy if renovations were made without securing the proper permits. In addition, securing necessary permits for each phase of the project can ensure final approval of the project. If permits are not secured along the way, local officials may insist work be redone to adhere to local laws, which can make the project even more costly.

• Basement conversions take time. The time a project takes



Metro Creative photo

will depend on the condition of the space at the start of the project and various details unique to each conversion. However, various contractors indicate projects take about two to three months once they begin. That timeline does not

include the pre-project process of finding a contractor, soliciting design plans or preparing the rest of the home for such a significant and lengthy undertaking. Basement conversion projects can add significant square footage

to a home. Recognition of what such projects entail can help homeowners decide if this is the best way for them to increase livable space in their homes.

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Inside and out

BUILDER SEAN FLYNN, above, points out the many south-facing windows on the Weybridge house that opened up the interior to wonderful views of the Vermont landscape. Turns out the resident cats also enjoy the views.

Independent photos/
John S. McCright

Boost value of your home before selling

People considering buying or selling a home are facing a unique market. The real estate market has been in flux for several years, and high interest rates have made it more expensive to borrow.

The Mortgage Bankers Association is projecting that 30-year mortgage rates will level out to 6.5% for the foreseeable future, although it's hard to say for sure. That means that people who have been waiting for changes in the real estate market could be disappointed, and hesitant buyers may finally just bite the bullet and buy even if mortgage rates are not where they hoped they'd be in 2025. Homeowners with properties they are considering listing for sale would be wise to make certain changes that will help garner the best prices from buyers.

Make kitchen and bath improvements

The kitchen is the heart of many homes. Real estate agents may recommend that homeowners make minor to moderate kitchen upgrades like resurfacing cabinets, upgrading countertops and changing fixtures or hardware to give the room an overhaul.

Homeowners also should look to bathroom updates as smart investments that can improve home value. Katie Severance, author of *The Brilliant Home Buyer*, characterizes kitchens and baths as "money rooms" that add the most value to a home.

Declutter the home

Homeowners should clean out items they no longer need.

Decluttering can make a space feel bigger, which is beneficial in a market where open concept floor plans remain popular among home buyers.

When buyers walk through a prospective home, they want to envision themselves living there, something that is more easily done if the home isn't overrun with the current homeowner's belongings.

Get to painting

Painting a home is a cost-effective renovation with a lot of oomph. Freshly painted rooms appear clean and updated, says HGTV, and that can appeal to buyers. Homeowners should choose neutral colors to accommodate the widest array of potential buyers.

Improve the landscaping

The exterior of a home is the first thing potential buyers will see as they roll up to view a property or look at a listing online. Homeowners should start by evaluating and enhancing the landscaping. Ensure the lawn is well-maintained and add plants that provide color without a lot of maintenance.

Expand usable space

Homeowners can think about adding to the usable space in a home. This translates into finishing basements or attics or even converting garages to rooms. Or it may involve adding a three-season room.

Homeowners can consider a number of improvements to increase the resale value of their properties.

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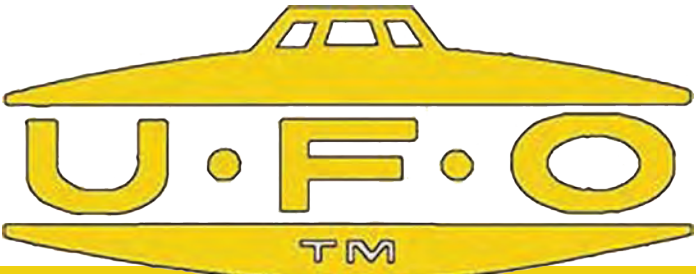
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See the trends in home interiors

Trends that seem ubiquitous one day can seemingly vanish before the sun rises again just 24 hours later. That's especially true in the digital age, when overnight celebrities and viral videos can be on the tips of everyone's tongue before being forgotten entirely when the next online sensation emerges in an increasingly rapid news cycle.

Home trends typically benefit from a longer shelf life than viral videos and other fads that originate on the internet, and that's something renovation-minded homeowners should consider when improving their homes. Homeowners preparing to do just that can consider these notable trends, which the online renovation experts at Houzz suggest will be particularly popular in the year

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ahead.

- **Rounded furnishings:** Houzz noted that gentle curves and rounded edges embody the organic modern styles that many current homeowners love. Rounded dining tables and similarly circular coffee tables may merit consideration among homeowners who want to embrace popular trends.
- **Arches:** Houzz cites arches among the more popular modern trends, and the experts at Better Homes & Gardens note this unique, eye-catching style has been gaining popularity for several years. Better Homes & Gardens suggests that part of the appeal of arched doorways could be their deviation from a more traditional door shape. That uniqueness draws the attention of residents and visitors alike, and Houzz notes that

arched windows, cabinets and even millwork details are part of the pivot toward arches.

- **Stove alcoves:** If it's a touch of history homeowners want, kitchen range alcoves might be just the project for them. Range alcoves call an earlier time to mind when wood burning stoves were commonplace. The report from Houzz notes range alcoves immediately draw attention, which undoubtedly adds to their appeal.
- **Wood for warmth:** Homeowners who hear "wood and warmth" might think fireplaces, but Houzz reports that wood elements are being incorporated into interior designs as a means to giving homes a more cozy vibe. Ceiling beams, trim, wall paneling, and cabinetry are utilizing wood to add warmth to a home.

Trends come and go, but home trends typically have more staying power than styles that emerge in other arenas. Homeowners who want to upgrade their home interiors can consider the latest trends and choose those that align with their own personal tastes.

— Metro Creative

Lighting helps set the mood

Many components come together to create a home interior that is welcoming and comfortable. Lighting is an important part of any design and plays a key role in home decor. Lighting can change the atmosphere of a room with the flip of a switch. Through lighting, one can make a space seem more cozy, or even make small spaces seem more expansive.

Homeowners should not underestimate the power of lighting in their homes. In addition to making spaces functional and more attractive, lighting can affect personal well-being, as a well-lit room can benefit mental health. The following are various types of lighting and how they can work best in a home.

Ambient

Ambient lighting is blanket lighting that is used to evenly illuminate a room. Some home improvement pros say this is the general lighting that every home needs. Fixtures like overhead lights, floor lamps and more provide enough light for people to function safely indoors. Ambient lighting is the foundation for every interior lighting scenario, and ambient lighting fixtures should be featured toward the center of the room and closer to the ceiling to disperse light more efficiently.

Task lighting

The home improvement firm Hiller describes task lighting as lighting directed toward a specific area to give more detail to objects. Close-range work such as crafting,

Accent lighting

Lowes indicates that accent



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reading, cooking, and desk work requires task lighting so projects are effectively illuminated. Task lighting can be installed anywhere a person requires direct, intense light to see details. This means lights can be under cabinetry or on a desk for reading mail or homework.

lighting balances lighting and spotlights certain points in a space. For example, accent lighting can be utilized to highlight collectibles or artwork. Accent lighting may call attention to entryways, plants, fireplaces, or other points. Accent lighting typically adds character to a room and is not necessarily bright enough to sufficiently

(See Lighting, Page 15C)

What sells houses? Apparently 'cozy' does

Wood could be having a moment among modern home buyers. According to the real estate experts at Zillow, the term "cozy" appeared in 35% more real estate listings in 2024 than in 2023.

Though various components can help to create a cozy vibe inside a home, wood has long

been a go-to material when interior designers attempt to add warmth to a property. The home renovation experts at Houzz also cite wood-infused architectural warmth among its 10 most popular home trends in the coming year.

Homeowners who want to capitalize on this trend before

putting their homes on the market or those who simply love the idea of adding more wood-based warmth in their homes can consider installing ceiling beams, wood wall paneling or even wood trim throughout their homes.

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Experience the benefits of neutral colors

Homeowners make many notable decisions when designing their home interiors, with some choices proving more bold than others. The decision to decorate with neutral colors might not be the boldest move homeowners can make, but there are numerous reasons to stay neutral with a color scheme.

- **Versatility:** Neutral colors afford homeowners endless opportunities to play around with textures, patterns, furnishings, and more. For example, a neutral color on a living room wall can ensure a boldly colored couch or chair won't contrast with its surroundings. In fact, there's no end to the options homeowners have to customize the look of a room with bold features or furnishings when neutral colors feature prominently in the space.

- **Flexibility:** Neutral colors

are more flexible than bolder alternatives because they likely won't require a complete overhaul of a room when homeowners want to spice things up with new features and furnishings. That flexibility will be appreciated by homeowners who every so often like to experiment with a new vibe or look in their homes.

- **Trendy:** Neutral colors are not as vulnerable to trends as other design choices. In fact, neutral colors are effectively their own trend and won't get in the way of homeowners who want to change things up. But unlike other trends that must be replaced when homeowners grow tired of them, neutral colors can remain thanks to their compatibility with so many styles.

- **Tranquility:** Homes are often characterized as their owners'

private sanctuaries from the hustle and bustle that goes on outside those walls, and neutral colors are often lauded for the tranquil vibe they help to create in a space. Neutral colors are soft, and that can lend a serene and calming atmosphere to the interior spaces of a home.

- **Brightness:** Neutral colors are lighter in tone and thus pair well with natural light. That mixture can amplify brightness within a home and give it an uplifting vibe that residents and guests alike will appreciate.

Neutral colors are not bold, but the benefits they provide open doors to an array of design styles and decor choices that enable homeowners to go in various directions with the interior spaces in their homes.

— Metro Creative

Lighting

(Continued from Page 14C)
illuminate a space.

Decorative lighting
Decorative lighting is used exclusively for aesthetic purposes. It adds style and drama to spaces. Decorative lighting fixtures include

pendants, sconces, chandeliers, and more. Decorative lighting also may be whimsical, such as fairy lights strung in a child's bedroom or neon lights in a home bar or sports room.

Separately, these lighting options may not be enough to suit your

needs. But when combined, these types of lighting help to establish an interesting and functional home interior design that fits with a person's lifestyle and needs.

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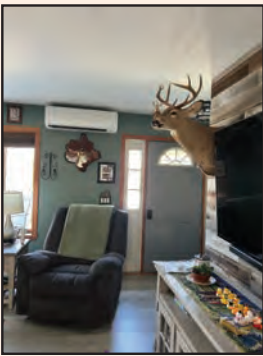
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We received quotes from Bristol Electronics and another well-known Vermont solar company, and were pleasantly surprised that Bristol had the better price, and we preferred Bristol's microinverter approach. Additionally, we were very pleased to learn that the panels and racking system were made in the USA with some components manufactured by a Vermont company. On top of this, the folks at Bristol were such a pleasure to work with. We can't remember a more pleasant experience when making a major investment.

We had a variety of questions which they happily addressed. Their knowledgeable staff was well versed with applicable regulations and requirements, building codes and even wind loading concerns. They truly went out of their way to make sure we were educated on the system and pleased with the installation.

This was a very rewarding experience which began with a goal of wanting to make our home fully renewably powered by working with a local team and culminated with meeting great members of our community, keeping our dollars local while also supporting other American renewable technology manufacturers. We found kindred spirits at BE and we can't recommend them highly enough!

Megan Nedzinski and Joshua Faulkner – South Starksboro, VT

We had Bristol Electronics install three heat pump systems for us in November of 2023. One system covers our bedroom. The other two systems cover the front side of our home.

We have saved money and we feel more comfortable. During our first winter, our heating bill went down by \$200 - \$300 per month while our electricity costs only went up by \$100 per month, saving us \$100 - \$200 per month.

During our first summer, we sold the three window air conditioners we had been using. We can see out the windows and won't have to put the a/c units in and out when the seasons change. The heat pumps have only needed to be on "low" to keep the temperatures comfortable. We notice we can hear each other better and we don't have to turn the television up to get over the loud air conditioners like we did before. These systems are so quiet.

The heat pumps have provided more consistent heating and cooling than our old heating and cooling equipment. We are saving money, are more comfortable, can hear each other and can see out of our windows.

Wayne & Diane Smith, Salisbury, VT



"It's not just that we are using our heat pumps and solar system, it's the fact that we are not contributing to the world's craziness. If everybody does this in their own back yard, we can all make a huge impact."

John & Mary Howard, Monkton, VT

